

**IICA**  **News**



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# IICA



# NEWS

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The Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñeiro, met with the President of Bolivia, Jaime Paz Zamora (center), at the Government Palace. Also in attendance were (from left to right): Benjamin Jara, IICA Representative in Bolivia; Mauro Bertero Diaz, Minister of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs; and Victor Palma, IICA Director of Andean Area Operations.

- IICA gears up for execution of PLANLAC
- Changes in Europe will have positive and negative impact
- Importance of reaching agreement with the agricultural private sector stressed
- IICA promotes Cooperative Program for South American Tropics

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**IICA**  **NEWS**

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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 the Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.



At the Government Palace, Piñeiro also spoke with the vice president of Bolivia, Dr. Luis Ossio Sanjinez (right). Accompanying them is the Minister of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs, Mauro Bertero Diaz.

## Piñeiro meets with Bolivian President

ICA's Director General, Martín E. Piñeiro, and the president of Bolivia, Jaime Paz Zamora, met on February 22, to analyze topics such as the role of the agricultural sector of Bolivia in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation, and Bolivia's "1990 National Alternative Development Strategy."

Also attending the meeting were Mauro Bertero, Minister of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs; IICA Representative in La Paz, Benjamin Jara; and IICA's Director of Andean Area Operations, Victor Palma.

In speaking with the Bolivian leader, Piñeiro explained the adjustments IICA has undertaken to implement the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), a proposal seeking to modernize the agricultural sector as a means of reactivating the economies of the region and achieving equitable and sustainable growth.

They also exchanged views on the changes taking place in

eastern Europe, and their possible implications for agriculture in the region. Piñeiro stated, "IICA is optimistic about the situation and we feel that the changes occurring in the world augur well for exports from all of Latin America."

For his part, the Bolivian president told the Director General about preparations being made to implement the "1990 National Alternative Development Strategy." This strategy proposes replacing coca production by offering a different type of economic development, which would substitute the employment, income and foreign exchange this activity currently generates. Piñeiro agreed with Paz Zamora that this is a topic of importance throughout the world.

While in La Paz, Piñeiro held several working sessions with Minister Bertero to analyze IICA's technical cooperation activities in Bolivia, which focus primarily on rural development, technology generation and transfer and institutional strengthening, and to discuss strategies for the 1990-1991 biennium.

# Latin America and the Caribbean: Changes in Europe will have positive and negative impact

**A**ccording to Martín E. Piñero, Director General of IICA, the wave of changes sweeping eastern Europe may lead to an expansion of world markets, to the advantage of Latin America and the Caribbean. However, in the short and medium term, there may be a decline in current levels of direct aid to and investments in the region.

Piñero added that, in an international context characterized by the formation of new blocs, the region should accelerate the process of regional integration in order to improve its position in trade negotiations and in defining the "rules of the game" that will govern the operations of the world economy.

The Director General made these



comments at a recent meeting of IICA Representatives from Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic, where he outlined IICA's priority actions in implementing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

### OUTLOOK

Piñero stated that the outlook for agriculture in the region may improve in the short term with the integration of the European Common Market in 1992, a progressively more open Japanese market, the stabilization of stocks of temperate-climate commodities, and the economic reforms and opening up of markets in eastern Europe.

In his opinion, this favorable combination of factors should lead to an overall increase in the demand for agricultural commodities, and, consequently, to "an increase in international prices and export opportunities for Latin America and the Caribbean." He pointed out, however, that in the short term, the capability of some eastern European countries for expanding their production of oil seeds and grains could put a damper on expectations for temperate-climate products from Latin America.

The Director General stated that the benefits the region will derive from improvements in the international market will depend on its short- and medium-term responses to the

situation. On this point, he stressed that the PLANLAC can make an important contribution, inasmuch as it is a strategy which emphasizes joint action among countries from different subregions and promotes integration.

A firm believer in the need to speed up the process of integration in the region as a means to improve the negotiating power of Latin America and the Caribbean within the changing international context, Piñero stated that concerted action would assist the region in its efforts to achieve improved conditions for increased participation in the world economy and markets.

In analyzing the drawbacks to the myriad changes occurring in eastern Europe, the Director General explained that one short-term consequence could be a reduction in direct aid to and private investment in the region.

In the judgement of international analysts, more and more assistance from the West will be earmarked to support the incipient processes of democratization and economic reform in countries such as Hungary, Poland, and the German Democratic Republic.

## IICA gears up to implement the PLANLAC

In response to a mandate issued by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, IICA has begun to make adjustments in its organization and operations for implementing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Meeting in San Jose in October 1989 to study and approve this proposal, which proposes modernizing the agricultural sector as a means of reactivating the economies of the region and achieving equitable and sustainable growth, the ministers entrusted IICA with developing its capacity for coordination to ensure follow-up on the Plan.

With this in mind, adjustments have been initiated which range from establishing new priorities for action beginning in 1990, to redefining the role of IICA's Offices in its 31 Member States. These adjustments are also being made in

*Because changes in the internal structure of IICA have created new responsibilities for IICA Representatives, separate meetings were held with Representatives and technical personnel from both the Central and the Caribbean Areas.*



response to the enormous changes occurring in the international scene, which will necessarily have an effect on IICA technical cooperation and will demand that the Institute be capable of providing quick and appropriate responses.

In order to implement the PLANLAC efficiently, the Directorate of Programming and Evaluation (DIPROE) has been assigned new responsibilities, the former Center for Investment Projects (CEPI) expanded its activities and became the Center for Investment Programs and Projects (CEPPI), a Dissemination and External Funding Committee was created, all units involved in communications were placed under the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA), and a new General Coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action was appointed.

### AN EXTREMELY POWERFUL MANDATE

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that "The approval of the PLANLAC provided us with an extremely powerful mandate, and the countries insisted that we be efficient in implementing the proposals it contains." He added that agricultural reactivation should be seen as a dynamic process subject to change and the inclusion of new topics. Among these topics are the conservation of natural resources, which "is more important politically now than it was just two years ago," institutional development, and training.

Training is closely linked to an initiative proposed by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias for the creation, at IICA Headquarters, of a training and conference center where "concrete ideas and projects leading to agricultural development based on peace, progress and social justice"

can flourish. The Director General of IICA explained that the first opportunity for evaluating the implementation of the PLANLAC will be during the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), to be held in Madrid, Spain in 1991. The IABA is IICA's governing body, and is made up of the ministers of agriculture of its Member States or their representatives.

It will be held concurrently with the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), the highest level agricultural forum in the hemisphere. This meeting is considered to be of utmost importance to the region as it will provide opportunities for ministers from the Americas and their counterparts from Europe to exchange views on key topics in agriculture, especially the opening up of the European Common Market in 1992 and the major changes taking place in eastern Europe.

## MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES

Because organizational and operational changes in the internal structure of IICA have created new responsibilities for IICA Representatives in its 31 Member States, separate meetings were held in February with Representatives and technical personnel from both the Central and Caribbean Areas. Similar meetings will be held in March with the Representatives and technical personnel from IICA's Andean and Southern Areas.

Representatives, technical personnel and Program Directors frankly exchanged views on the new institutional focus which will guide the execution of the PLANLAC, and discussed adjustments already made to carry it out.

For the Director General of IICA, the process of formulating and launching the Plan of Joint Action will involve defining a new institutional profile, not only because it provides opportunities for reflection on strategic topics in agriculture, but also because it establishes a new style of inter-institutional cooperation.

He stated, "The PLANLAC has had a tremendous impact on our capacity to interact and coordinate actions with other regional and international agencies."

The PLANLAC also calls for a change in the focus of multinational projects, which are given preference by funding agencies, donor countries and agencies because of their potential for promoting integration.

In this regard, Piñeiro feels that changes are needed in the relationship between the Institute's Programs and its Offices, which should be characterized by greater coordination and dialogue.

## INCREASED CAPACITY FOR STRATEGIC THINKING

Under these circumstances, Piñeiro feels that it is important to do more "thinking about strategy and the future, which will help us to understand the changes taking place in the world, especially those that will have an impact on agriculture in Latin America and, consequently, on IICA."

To expand this process of institutional reflection, a task force was established which consists of the Director General, the Deputy Director General, the Program Directors and the Director of CEPPI. The group will focus on inter-Program action, and its task will be to incorporate the topics of the environment, training and institutional development into the Medium Term Plan, the document which guides Institute action for specific periods of time.

One of the adjustments IICA has made to efficiently implement the PLANLAC has involved redefining the tasks assigned to CEPPI. This change also grows out of the belief that the funding of investments in agriculture, associated with the technical cooperation IICA provides, will make its action at the country level more efficient.

Along with its work connected with specific investment

projects, the new CEPPI will conduct sectoral diagnoses and studies, and will formulate complete sectoral adjustment programs (SAP).

To achieve these tasks, the working relationship between CEPPI and the Offices will be one of interaction, with shared responsibilities and different levels or degrees of participation, depending on the task to be carried out.

The aim of the sectoral diagnoses is to achieve a better understanding of the current situation in and evolution of the agricultural sector in the member countries. These diagnoses should identify the major problems affecting the sector and the adjustments needed in sectoral policies, priority areas for investment, as well as the most urgent reforms needed in pertinent institutions.

These diagnoses will serve as the foundation for formulating IICA's technical cooperation strategy and will enable the Offices to identify areas for technical cooperation and investment.

They will also give funding agencies a broader and more accurate view of the sector and provide them with a starting point for preparing complete SAPs. Lastly, they will serve to strengthen the Offices' technical and operating relations with the funding agencies.

## DISSEMINATION AND FUNDING

Another important activity at the moment is the dissemination of the ideas contained in the PLANLAC, both within the Institute and in the countries.

Organizational changes made to achieve greater efficiency in this area led to the establishment of the new CIDIA, which brings together all the IICA units that worked previously in communications and the media.

They range from the editing, design and printing of publications, to the classification, distribution and marketing of publications (Editorial Service, Print Shop, Documentary Information and Distribution) to work in radio, video and other visual media (Communications).

In this regard, the goal is to establish a channel of communication at different levels in the countries: ministries of agriculture, treasury, and planning; central banks, funding agencies, donor agencies and the society at large.

Dissemination activities and priorities will also be planned, to run parallel to efforts to secure external resources to finance PLANLAC programs and projects. The dissemination strategy gives an important role to the IICA Representatives in IICA's 31 member countries.

They will be responsible for disseminating the ideas that arise as a result of the execution, administration and coordination of the PLANLAC, as well as the general policies of the Institute concerning the new multilateral focus of technical cooperation.



*Representatives, technical personnel and Program Directors frankly exchanged views on the new institutional focus which will guide the execution of the PLANLAC, and discussed adjustments already made to carry it out.*

In this context, special emphasis has been given to strengthening relations between IICA Representatives and their counterparts in funding agencies and donor countries, who can make valuable contributions in the execution of the Plan of Joint Action. The Directors of Area Operations also have an important role to play in dissemination. Because they maintain ongoing contact with the Representatives, they can keep them up to date on current thinking at Headquarters. CIDIA will collaborate with dissemination activities by preparing videos on topics and activities connected with the PLANLAC. These videos will enable the Representatives and technical personnel to study the broad policy lines that are being defined. The Public Information Unit will also provide support for matters related to the press, and through the organization of technical activities that bring together different sectors.

In regard to funding, emphasis will be put on securing external resources with support from the countries, and through joint efforts with subregional integration forums. The European Economic Community and international funding agencies will receive special attention.

Several meetings will be held in the next few months with cooperating entities from the subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean. In Central America, the meetings will be held within the framework of the Special Program of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC). A meeting will be held with the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA) for the Andean Area and another with CARICOM for the Caribbean.

#### **OTHER CHANGES**

IICA's adjustment process also involves the establishment of subregional working groups, coordinated by the respective Area Directors and made up of specialists from the

programs and/or the heads of regional multinational projects. This group will help provide an overview of the problems that exist in the sector, and will also share its views with the specialists, who must carry out more specific, concrete tasks.

One of the most important activities soon to be undertaken by the Institute will be to complete the identification and preparation of projects included in the PLANLAC. This is a complex process through which agreement must be reached with the different subregions, and investment funds secured to put the final touches on the proposals. The Directorate of Programming and Evaluation (DIPROE) has been assigned new responsibilities for this purpose.

In DIPROE, a Division of Technical Cooperation Strategies and Projects was created, the main function of which is to coordinate the identification and formulation of technical cooperation projects, especially multinational projects. These projects, however, will not be limited to those reflecting the current strategic outlook, but will also include new proposals that may arise. The Division will also coordinate regional and national strategies by formulating new technical cooperation projects.

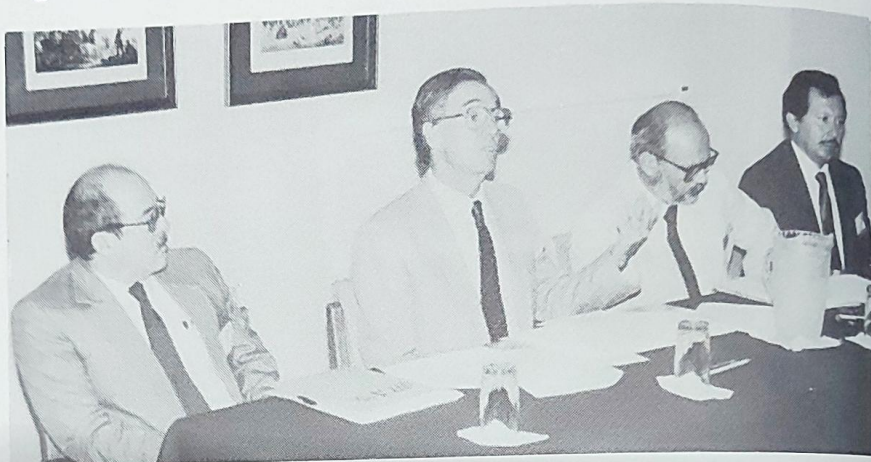
The adjustment process initiated by the Institute comes at a time when 18 PLANLAC projects covering the areas of policy and investment, technological development, rural development, animal health and plant protection are already under way. Three of these projects are hemispheric in scope, and the others are subregional: seven in the Central Area, one in the Andean Area, six in the Caribbean Area and one in the Southern Area. At the same time, 27 projects covering IICA's areas of concentration are being formulated. Negotiations are under way with bilateral and multilateral funding agencies to secure funds for the execution of these projects.



## Central America: Agricultural investment projects prepared

Central America moved forward in the preparation of a portfolio of agricultural investment projects that will soon be submitted to cooperation organizations and agencies for funding under the Special Economic Cooperation Plan (PEC). Fourteen organizations linked to the agricultural sector of the isthmus put the final touches on the portfolio during the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-institutional Group of the Agricultural Sector (GISA), held February 1-3 at IICA Headquarters. GISA brings together regional and international organizations working in the agricultural sector in Central America, in an effort to contribute to the modernization of agriculture, economic reactivation and development.

Among its members are the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the



*The Deputy Director General of IICA, Harlan Davis (center) stated that GISA is an efficient mechanism for interinstitutional coordination.*

Dominican Republic (CORECA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Roberto Matheu, in charge of the GISA Secretariat, indicated that the final details on projects will have to be worked out before the meeting of cooperation agencies and organizations to be held as part of the

PEC in September or October. The projects deal with food security, the organization of small-scale farmers, reactivation of agroindustry and the conservation of renewable natural resources, as called for in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation. The PEC comes under the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## Basic grains program begins



*Ambassador Fernando Cardesa and Deputy Director General, Harlan Davis, sign the contract for implementing the program.*

Ambassador Fernando Cardesa, Head of the Commission of the European Economic Community (EEC), announced in Costa Rica that a regional program to improve the production of basic grains in Central America and Panama, through research and the transfer of technology, will go into effect immediately with US\$12 million from the EEC. This program is one of the initiatives included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), approved last October.

## Director General stresses importance of reaching agreement with the agricultural private sector

During the First Andean Encounter for Agreement on Agriculture, held the first week of February in Caracas, Venezuela, Martin E. Piñero, Director General of IICA, indicated that in spite of the fact that PLANLAC projects are geared toward the public sector, the private sector must take a part in formulating and executing them.

He explained that progress has been made recently in recognizing that services rendered by the public sector in all the countries of the region must be adjusted to give the private sector the necessary economic incentives and security needed for making investments, as well as for incorporating new technology.

Piñero stated, "I believe that this is an important step forward in coming to grips with how the economy works, and with the urgent need to

Cardesa, during the signing of a contract which designates IICA as administrator of the resources of the program, stressed the fact that the program responds to a real need in Central America and "encourages the spirit of regional integration." He added that the EEC is interested in promoting this type of activity in the isthmus. On behalf of IICA, the Deputy Director General, Harlan Davis, thanked the EEC for its support to this Central American program.

coordinate the public sector with the activity of economic agents."

Participants in this unprecedented "agricultural encounter" of the Andean Group included ministers of agriculture of the region, leaders of farmers' and livestock ranchers' organizations, and representatives from organizations such as the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA) and IICA.

The goal of the meeting was to bring the public and private sectors of the Andean nations closer together with a view to reactivating the agricultural sector.

During the meeting, Piñero set forth the key points of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

The Plan includes specific programs and projects for the different subregions of the hemisphere, which, in the case of the Andean Area, were endorsed and adopted by the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, in Decision 251.

The Director General also called attention to the fact that this joint meeting represented a first step toward reaching agreement and establishing a dialogue between the public and private sectors at the subregional level. He added that this type of event could very well have already occurred in each country, but that this was the first time it was taking place at the subregional level.

Piñero pointed out that the meeting was just the first step in a long, compli-



cated process. Nevertheless, he was optimistic that it could develop into a strong, permanent mechanism that would serve as an example for other subregions.

The Andean meeting also served as a forum to discuss subregional mechanisms for institutionalizing closer ties between the public and private sectors. This is considered to be of major importance in reactivating agricultural activity and making it the driving force behind equitable, sustainable development.

The participants also studied formulas for subregional consensus on sectoral policies, as well as the mechanisms needed to reach agreement on levels of protection for agriculture, such as the control of subsidies and donations, and imports.

# Headquarters

## New officials

**A** number of new top-level officials have been stationed at IICA Headquarters, representing changes in the Office of the PLANLAC Coordinator, in the Office of the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, the Directorates of Programs III and V, the Directorate of Finances, the Division of International Cooperation and DIPROE's Division of Technical Cooperation Strategies and Projects.

Manuel Otero, from Argentina, has taken on the general coordination of the PLANLAC. He holds a master's degree in agricultural sciences.



Otero, who was the IICA Representative in Brazil, will serve as an advisor to the Director General and

replaces Felix Cirio, who was recently named president of the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA) in Argentina.

As of January 17, Jose Alfonso Cebrenros, from Mexico, was named Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations. Prior to joining IICA, Cebrenros, an economist, served as coordinator of advisors to the Secretariat of Agriculture in Mexico. He replaces Cassio Luisselli, who is the new Mexican ambassador to the Republic of Korea. Luisselli played a key role



in achieving inter-institutional agreement during the preparation of the PLANLAC. During his five years as Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, he represented the Insti-



tute in numerous agricultural forums for the Andean, Central, Caribbean and Southern Areas, in meetings with FAO, and with authorities of the IDB.

In mid-February, Manuel Chiriboga, from Ecuador, was named Director of Program III, Organization and Management for Rural Development.

Chiriboga is a sociologist and was formerly the coordinator of the CLACSO-CODESRIA program in Argentina. He replaces Fausto Jordan, an economist, who directed the Program for three and a half years.



On January 15, Gordon Mair took on the duties of Director of Finances at IICA Headquarters. He is an economist, and prior to joining IICA, he was manager of the Forestry Canada group of auditors. Gordon replaces Paul Sisk.



Victor Manuel Del Angel, an eco-

nomist from Mexico, is the new Head of the Division of International Cooperation of the Directorate of External Relations.

Del Angel is the former head of advisors for the Directorate of Credit of "Agravismo," in Mexico, D.F. He has vast experience in finances, a field in which he has worked in both the public and private sectors.



As of January 18, Gonzalo Estefanell, from Uruguay, has served as the Head of DIPROE's new Division of Technical Cooperation Strategies and Projects. Estefanell holds a master's degree in agricultural economics, and previously worked as a regional project specialist for IICA in Barbados.



Jerry L. Fowler, from the United States, is the new Director of Program V. He has a doctorate in biochemistry and previously worked for the Department of Agriculture.



## American artists depict rural setting

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the Commission of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America: Encounter of Two Worlds are offering more than US\$4,000 in prize money to the winners of the 1990 IICA Art Award.

The theme of the juried competition, which is open to all artists living in IICA's member countries, is the many faces of rural Latin America and the Caribbean: women and children, forms of production, small farmers, customs and traditions. Prizes will be awarded to those artists who best and most creatively depict the rural sector.

First prize is worth US\$2,000, second prize US\$1,000, third prize US\$750 and fourth prize US\$500. Contestants may submit works in the following media: oil, water-colour, tempera, acrylic and gouache.

All pieces must be submitted to the IICA Office or Spanish Embassy in the respective country by March 30th, 1990. Rules and regulations and selection criteria are also available at the above addresses. IICA and the Commission of the Quincentennial will appoint an international jury made up of three experts who will be responsible for the final selection. The Spanish Embassies and the IICA Offices in each country will also designate a jury of two local experts who will conduct a preliminary selection and send two pieces to the final competition in San Jose, Costa Rica, home to IICA Headquarters.

All artists chosen to take part in next May's final exhibition will receive a

certificate. Prize-winning pieces will become part of the permanent art collection of IICA and of the Commission of the Quincentennial.

This initiative will enable the two organizations to reach a larger audience in the rural and agricultural sector and to raise the awareness of the artistic community concerning the problems facing the small farmer. This will in turn enable artists to communicate, in their own special way, the concerns of the sector. This event also marks part of an effort to participate in the various preparatory activities of American and European institutions working to preserve the cultural heritage of this hemisphere, on the occasion of the five hundredth anniversary of the arrival of the Spaniards in America. Another major objective is to tap IICA's extensive and permanent resources in the region, while promoting the folk art which is quite common and highly developed in our countries.

### THE QUINCENTENNIAL

The Commission of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America, created by Royal Decree in 1981, is an organization operating under the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Commission promotes activi-

ties that encourage and strengthen cultural ties and exchanges with Latin America with the aim of contributing to the creation of a dynamic Ibero-American cultural community.

Every country in Latin America has set up its own National Commission, giving rise to an extensive network of institutions with a common goal: to make the commemorative events of 1992 a focal point for joint aspirations and achievements. The major objective of the Commission is to promote and coordinate these projects, collaborating in their development and implementation by public and private entities or individuals.



## CONCURSO DE PINTURA

**BASES:**  
Retiradas en las Oficinas del IICA o en las Embajadas de España en los países

**TECNICAS PICTORICAS:**  
óleo, acuarela, tempera, acrílico y gouache

**PARTICIPANTES:**  
Artistas residentes en los países miembros del IICA

**FECHA DE ENTREGA:**  
30 de Marzo de 1990

**TEMA:**  
El medio rural y todos los aspectos que el involucra: jóvenes y mujeres, formas de producción, pequeños productores, costumbres y tradiciones

**PREMIOS:**  
1º Premio US\$ 2.000  
2º Premio US\$ 1.000  
3º Premio US\$ 750  
4º Premio US\$ 500



INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE COOPERACION PARA LA AGRICULTURA

## Headquarters



Cecilia Lopez, Director General of PREALC, and Alfredo Alonso, IICA Representative in Chile, signing the protocol to the agreement.

### Agreements signed to promote rural well-being

The major objective of the two cooperation agreements signed by IICA, the Economic and Social Planning Institute for Latin America and the Caribbean (ILPES) and the Regional Employment Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC) is to contribute to improving the effectiveness of rural development policies, with emphasis on those policies which seek to generate employment in Latin America and the Caribbean. Both agreements will be in effect for a

period of three years and are basically concerned with promoting and carrying out activities to alleviate or eradicate rural poverty. Two separate ceremonies took place at the IICA Office in Chile. Present at the signing of the first agreement was Mr. Alfredo Costa, Director General of ILPES. In attendance at the signing of the second was Ms. Cecilia Lopez, Director General of PREALC. The documents had previously been signed by the Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñeiro.

### ISNAR Directors meet at IICA headquarters

The Board of Directors of the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) met at IICA Headquarters at the close of 1989.

This was the first meeting to take place outside the Hague, headquarters of this organization, which works to strengthen agricultural research systems in developing countries.

During the course of the meeting, Board members, representing all of

the regions of the world, in conjunction with IICA experts, analyzed the technical programs and cooperation actions carried out in ISNAR member countries.

Both the Chairman of the Board, Henri Carsalade, and the ad interim Chair, Howard Elliot, noted the similarity of ISNAR activities and those of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, "which explains why the two institutions complement one another so."

### A perfect example of coordination

"CIAT and IICA constitute a perfect example of the way in which two organizations linked in different ways to the agricultural sector can coordinate their actions to benefit the small farmer," stated John L. Nickel, outgoing Director of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture.

During a visit to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, at which time Nickel met with Director General Martín E. Piñeiro, Deputy Director General Harlan Davis and Director of the Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Eduardo Trigo, he added that both institutions had complemented one another's efforts over the years, producing excellent results for the region.

Within the framework of a general agreement to develop joint actions, CIAT and IICA, with the support of the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, conduct a cooperative program for bean research, as well as the subregional component of an international network for the evaluation of tropical pastures.



Martín E. Piñeiro presented Mr. John L. Nickel with a replica of the statue of a farm laborer.

# Decentralization and differentiated policies needed to achieve rural development

**A**t in-depth talks held at the end of January, specialists from across the hemisphere strengthened the conceptual and operational aspects of a proposal concerning differentiated policies and decentralization formulated by IICA Program III: Organization and Management for Rural Development.

Taking part in the talks were experts in rural development and in economic policy for the agricultural sector, technical experts involved in the implementation of the decentralization process in their respective countries, professionals affiliated with financial institutions or central banks and representatives from funding agencies.

"The document was strengthened as a result of our having systematized the experiences of the participants. This was used to complement the proposals concerning differentiated policies and decentralization. Now IICA can define a new sphere of action within the context of institutional strengthening and State modernization, which will serve to steer efficient and up-to-date technical cooperation processes," explained IICA expert and activity coordinator, Sergio Sepulveda.

Over the course of the year, seminars and workshops will



*The meeting served to systematize the experiences of its participants which should prove extremely useful in efforts to improve proposals concerning differentiated policies and decentralization.*

be conducted in several countries to i) systematize our analyses of the issue of decentralization, which is new to the region and ii) ratify the final version of the proposal which is currently being polished by IICA specialists.

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND REACTIVATION

According to experts, at a time when the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) is promoting modernization of the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean as a strategy for reactivating the economies of the region and achieving equitable development, initiatives designed for the rural sector ought to reconcile economic interests with the needs of small farmers.

This development model seeks to ensure rapid economic growth as well as mechanisms to guarantee sizeable distributive effects. "The structural changes which must accompany the launching of the new model," noted Sepulveda, "call for the

true civic participation of the grassroots community, which must have equal access to political power in order for the State to respond to its needs."

The tools available for achieving these aims include decentralization -- which must take place within a context of State modernization -- and differentiated policies, that is, those policies which take into account the characteristics of the different strata of rural producers and ensure their incorporation into the production process.

According to Sepulveda, it is a question of striking a balance between the agroexport model and activities designed to strengthen the small farmer economy which, with the exception of Uruguay and Argentina, is responsible for 60 percent of the production of basic grains in Latin America, and 40 percent of exports such as coffee and cacao in Central America and the Andean countries.

# Plant protection key to agricultural reactivation

In several meetings of regional technical committees, plant protection directors for the Central and Andean Areas agreed that support and consolidation of programs and projects which IICA and other international organizations promote in this area are vital to the agricultural reactivation process.

At meetings in Mexico City and Quito, directors undertook to support these proposals, which run the entire gamut from establishment in the short term of an international quarantine training center in the Central Area to implementation of an

similar meeting will be held for the Southern Area, bringing together the directors from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The plant protection directors of Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic, on the one hand, and their colleagues in Colombia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, on the other, reiterated their belief that integration of the agencies conducting activities in this field would improve agricultural production and marketing. The subject of plant protection is addressed in the Plan of Joint Action

complete project for the subsequent consideration and approval of the ministers of agriculture. In response to recommendations set forth during this meeting, IICA and SARH provided urgent technical assistance to Honduras, which entailed revising the organizational structure of the plant protection program and certifying that this Central American country was free of the disease known as lethal yellowing of coconut.

The participants furthermore requested the international agencies to design and mount a system for settling plant protection and quarantine controversies among the countries.



*The Plant Protection Technical Committee for the Central Area met in Mexico recently, attended by the highest local authorities on the subject.*

integrated fruit fly management project in the Andean Area. The Plant Protection Technical Committee for the Central Area met in Mexico recently, attended by the highest local authorities on the subject.

These subregional meetings are organized by IICA, in coordination with its member countries, to evaluate the progress of plant protection proposals. From March 19 to 23, a

for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). As for the international quarantine training center, the plant protection directors gathered in Mexico adopted a preliminary document which requests that IICA, FAO, the International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA) and the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) present, in the near future, a

### FRUIT FLY

At the meeting in Quito, participants reviewed the Integrated Fruit Fly Management Project prepared by IICA and described in the chapter of the PLANLAC document devoted to the Andean subregion. The proposal is designed to strengthen the development of fruit and vegetable production in these countries, which suffer annual losses in excess of 30 percent of the value of production.

Plant protection directors advised the countries to form national committees which should include among their members representatives from the public and private sectors linked to the production, industrialization, marketing and export of fruit and vegetables.

IICA sent the revised document to the ministers of agriculture for subsequent consideration by the Andean Technical Committee, scheduled to meet in Lima next May.

# IICA promotes Cooperative Program for the South American Tropics

In an attempt to contribute to the development of the vast South American tropics, IICA is backing an ambitious cooperative research and technology transfer program which promotes the rational use and conservation of natural resources as a formula for economic reactivation.

Based on this philosophy, the program seeks to generate alternative technologies to encourage long-term production, develop agroindustries which provide goods and services to the sector, and promote, support and strengthen inter-institutional cooperation both locally and among countries.

Covering a geographic area of roughly 10 million square kilometres -- 73.7 percent of the territory of the eight participating countries-- the Program will embrace three ecosystems with high

agricultural potential and a variety of characteristics which, according to experts, will also require a differentiated technical and scientific approach: tropical wet Amazon, plains, tropical savanna and piedmont.

The Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS) will involve Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela - countries which are currently considering a preliminary action proposal which will serve as the basis for the final version of the Program in the months ahead.

The issue of sustained development is a concern which takes on renewed relevance in IICA, since, according to Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, "we cannot ignore the fact that the deterioration of natural resources has become a concrete

problem that directly affects the agricultural production of the countries." PROCITROPICOS is, in fact, the result of the reformulation of a project which the Institute developed in the subregion in the fifties under the name IICATROPICOS, and which, according to its backers, "had to respond more effectively to the current

development needs and priorities of the participating countries." The Program seeks to establish an inter-institutional and intraregional cooperation framework which supports national efforts aimed at achieving sustainable agriculture which is sound from an ecological, agronomical, economic and social perspective.

According to experts, the pursuit and ultimate attainment of these goals is likely to occur because of the high potential of the agricultural sector to play a key role in food production, the acquisition of external resources from exports and import substitution, the generation of employment and the stabilization of production activity in the vast region addressed by the Program.

To that end, PROCITROPICOS will focus on cooperative research, technical-scientific and technological exchange, training of human resources from participating institutions, information and documentation, technical assistance, private sector studies, coordination and cooperation, external technical cooperation and creation of basic services for the population. In its initial stages, the Program will attach priority to projects concerned with soil management, sustainable production systems and management and conservation of genetic resources.



*Development which does not alter the environment is promoted.*



### Spain provides training in seed technology

**A**gronomists from 16 Latin American countries took part in a course on seed technology sponsored by the National Seed and Nursery Plant Institute of Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the National Agricultural Research Fund of Venezuela (FONAIAP) and IICA.

The main objective of the meeting,



which was held in Maracay, Venezuela from February 5 to 16, was to train technical personnel working in the field of seed technology to apply these experiences in their countries of origin.

The most important items on the agenda were seed research and improvement, recording of seed varieties, quality control and certification. Quality control in the laboratory and seed production and conditioning were also addressed.

The Counsellor for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food from the Spanish Embassy in Costa Rica, Jose Alvarez, explained that reactivation of the agricultural sector in Latin America calls for a thorough technological understanding of the inputs involved in the production process. He stressed the fact that of all these inputs, seeds are the most important in that they constitute the first link in the production chain. He noted that for the most part

the countries of the region enjoy appropriate technology in this domain, but could stand to improve some of their management techniques.

This course represents part of a strategy launched some years back by the National Seed and Nursery Plant Institute, which organizes and sponsors specific courses on the subject to promote an exchange of experiences between the Latin American countries and Spain.

IICA, through its Technology Generation and Transfer Program, supports, among other activities, country programs which pursue self-sufficiency and rational seed use.

Alvarez also reported that 15 courses will be held this year in the San Fernando Central Agricultural Training School in Madrid, with more than 400 Latin American specialists in different areas.

### Balanced approach proposed for biotechnology regulation

**D**eveloping countries must be prudent and not exercise undue control over biotechnology-related matters; rather they should promote investment and ensure access to technology, cautioned Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, at the Fourth Meeting of the Working Group on Biotechnology Security, held recently in Vienna, Austria.

Trigo was invited to attend this meeting organized by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Center for Ge-

netic Engineering and Biotechnology in his capacity as expert on the subject. The key item on the agenda was bio-security, specifically with regard to the management of new technologies in the realm of genetic engineering and biotechnology in general. Bio-security is defined as the regulation of research into and elaboration of products which are the outcome of genetic engineering, and, more specifically, the release of these products into the environment and ways to avoid negative effects on human health and the different ecosystems. Trigo indicated that this is a new field of study and that very

limited experience exists even in the developed world. At present, there are no definitive proposals regarding how to manage bio-security. However, according to Trigo, the major concern is to what extent bio-security can interfere with the development of new activities, adding that there are conflicting opinions on the matter. Regulations, he noted, must take into account that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean conduct limited research and will probably never have any great capacity or capital to generate their own technologies.

## Experts praise PROCISUR's achievements

According to a study conducted by experts from Yale University in the United States and EMBRAPA in Brazil, the activities of the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR) have had an extraordinary impact on the transfer of technology among member countries and on increasing the productivity and production of wheat, corn and soybeans.

The study entitled "The Impacts of the PROCISUR Program: An International Study" analyzes the effect of the Program from 1978 to the present day on the yields of these three products. It also contains an economic analysis

of Program benefits and compares its results with other studies in Latin America.

PROCISUR, which brings together agricultural research agencies from the Southern Cone in a mutual support effort, receives financing from the IDB, IICA and PROCISUR member countries.

The study identifies the significant economic impact of the Program's activities and, according to its authors, the results are extremely encouraging, particularly upon examination of the rate of return in terms of research dollars. Estimated rate of return figures, as a whole, are 191%

on corn, 110% on wheat and 179% on soybeans. These figures are even more impressive if one takes into account that the monies invested in PROCISUR in the countries represent less than 1% of what these same countries spend on their agricultural research programs annually.

PROCISUR is one of the projects for the Southern Area which figures in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). Last October, IICA's 31 member countries approved the PLANLAC as an overall strategy to reactivate and modernize agricultural and livestock activity in the region.

In addition to initiatives at the hemispheric level, the Plan includes specific programs and projects for the different subregions of the hemisphere.

### Action in the Countries

#### Trinidad and Tobago views photography exhibit of rural women

"Extremely successful" were the words Joan Wallace, IICA Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, used to describe the exhibition of photographs of rural women held recently in this Caribbean nation. The exhibition brought together the best works submitted to the competition organized by the Institute in conjunction with the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC).

Entitled "The Multifaceted Life of the Rural Woman," the exhibition included 58 color and 64 black-and-white photographs.

The IICA/RNTC photo contest sought to promote public interest in the role of an important sector of the rural population: rural women. It furthermore sought to depict the forms of work and the cultural, economic, educational and family life of women in the agricultural sector.

This same collection was previously shown at OAS (Organization of American States) Headquarters in Washington, D.C., where the exhibit was inaugurated by Secretary General, Joao Baena Soares and Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro.

Trinidadian Noel Norton won first prize for his color photograph entitled "Boiling the Christmas Ham." In the black-and-white category, first prize went to Julie Anne Coimbra of Brazil for her piece entitled "A caminho de casa" (The Road Home).

The exhibition in Trinidad and Tobago was displayed at the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine and the inaugural ceremony was attended by the First Lady of Trinidad and Tobago,



Zalayhar Hassanali, the Minister of Food Production and Marine Exploitation, Dr. Brinsley Samaroo, and the Minister of Social and Family Development, Gloria Henry.

### IICA provides support to rural women in Argentina

An innovative project to support the integration of rural women into the development process is under way in the northeastern region of Argentina, with the participation of the Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (SAGyP), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

The project, which involves the provinces of Salta, Jujuy, La Rioja, Catamarca, Santiago del Estero, and Tucuman, has three basic components: training, research and direct work with rural women's groups.

Project objectives include determining the participation of rural women in the agricultural production process and their perception of their role in the society; setting up in the six provinces



teams of specialists with expertise in working with rural women from an agricultural and rural development perspective; and promoting training activities for women's organizations in

different rural locations where projects to support the rural community are already under way.

Priority is given to those communities launching initiatives within the framework of the Rural Development Strategy for Northeastern Argentina (NOA) carried out by SAGyP and IICA.

The training component seeks to provide training for rural women, technicians, outreach workers and rural leaders in the such areas as work with women's groups and organizations, and formulation, follow-up and evaluation of projects for this target population.

The project provides financial support for training rural women's groups. One such group has already been selected in each province to assume responsibility for coordination at the provincial level; the groups themselves have already elected group leaders.

In the medium term, these groups should grow into women's organizations capable of generating and carrying out specific development projects and actions.

These groups are considered part of a pilot experiment whose methodology may be applied in other locations in each province. They should serve to promote and increase the integration of women into the agricultural and rural development process in the region, but under equal conditions with respect to the men. The third component of the project concerns research to study the integration and participation of women in the agricultural processes of northeastern Argentina. With the help of the consultant Pilar Campaña, a case study is being conducted in each of the six provinces.

### Argentina and Peru: Forums held on agricultural journalism

Two forums on agricultural and development journalism were held recently in Argentina and Peru to define the role of the press in the agricultural reactivation process.

Both events were sponsored by IICA, official agencies and entities

and enterprises linked to the sector. The purpose of these meetings was to conduct an indepth analysis of the role of agriculture in the development process and to underscore the role that agricultural journalism can play in this context. They also aimed at sparking interest

among journalists with a penchant for agricultural issues to promote a specialization in this field and to interest landowners, administrators and decision-making bodies alike in the subject. A total of by 150 people attended.



IICA Representative in Peru, Israel Tineo (standing), inaugurated the meeting of agricultural journalists.

## Action in the Countries

### New Representatives

Three specialists were appointed as IICA Representatives in Jamaica, Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago. Two of the three have already held similar posts in other member countries of the Institute. The third, joining IICA for the first time, was formerly with the United States Department of Agriculture.

#### Jamaica

Mr. Armando Reyes, of Honduran nationality, was named IICA Representative in Jamaica last Febru-



ary. Mr. Reyes holds a master's degree in agricultural and development economics and was Representative of the IICA Office in Guatemala.

#### GUATEMALA

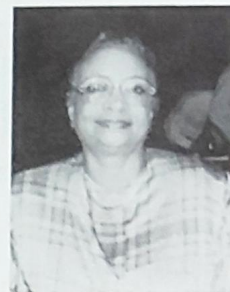
Dr. Mariano Segura holds a Ph. D. in Ecology with a specialization in evaluation of natural resources. He served formerly as IICA Representative in Venezuela and was transferred last March 5th to



Guatemala. Dr. Segura is of Peruvian nationality.

#### TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

On December 4, 1989, Joan Wallace, Doctor of Social Psychology with a specialization in African



Studies, was appointed IICA Representative in Trinidad and Tobago. Ms. Wallace is from the United States and was formerly with the Department of Agriculture in her country.

## Publications

### Work published on macroeconomic policy and agriculture

A diagnosis illustrating the performance of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean during the adjustment period was published recently in Spanish by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The work is entitled "Las Políticas Macroeconómicas y la Agricultura."

The book is part of a series of documents published by IICA which discuss the focus and development of the Institute's Programs. The publication comes about within the context of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) and was written by Program I: Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning. According

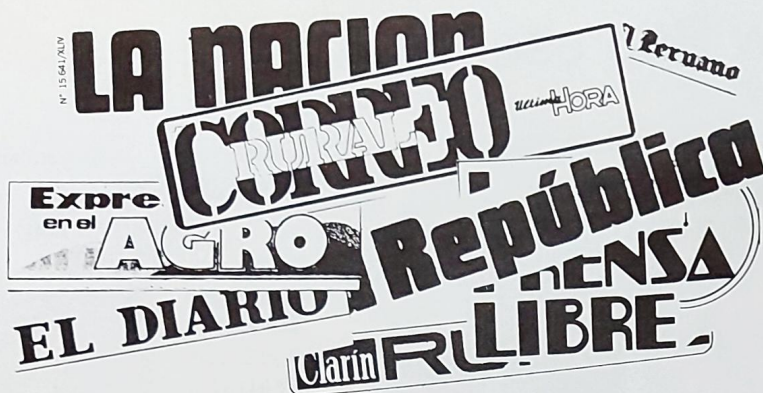
to experts, it marks a vital contribution, since it is presently impossible to either analyze the problems of the agricultural sector or propose solutions without thorough consideration of the national and international economic climate.

The document also analyzes the relationship between macroeconomic policy management and the micro-economic and sectoral processes. These relations must be recognized as a key component when proposing alternative overall policy management models. The publication also discusses the social differences in the region, with a view to emphasizing the relevance of differentiated policies. Also discussed is the need to harmonize future macroeconomic policy management, to

include addressing the political context, and strengthening institutional systems.



## IICA in the News



The support which IICA was offered by Italy, Spain, the Netherlands and Denmark for implementing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) was covered extensively by *El Excelsior* in Mexico, *El País* in Uruguay, *El Peruano* and other daily newspapers in the region.

The news referred to the outcome of a European tour conducted by IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, from November 17 to 29. Approved by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere in October 1989, the PLANLAC proposes modernization of the agricultural sector as a strategy for reactivating the economies of the region and achieving equitable and sustained development.

It includes specific strategies for the different subregions, joint action programs and projects and financial and institutional mechanisms at both the hemispheric and subregional levels. The press underscored the interest which the PLANLAC has sparked in several European nations willing to support such areas as IICA's efforts to train the human resources required to make agricultural reactivation viable in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Another important item highlighted by the Central American press was the US\$12 million in financing made available by the European Community for a regional program to improve basic grain production in Central America and Panama.

*La Nación*, *La Prensa Libre* and *La Republica* in Costa Rica explained that the program, which will be implemented by the countries, includes an agreement between IICA and the European Community's Commission for Central America and Panama concerning the administration of these funds. The program seeks to improve the efficiency of research institutions and those organizations involved in technology transfer systems for bean, corn, rice and sorghum. Also covered extensively in several papers in the region, notably in Paraguay, was the art competition cosponsored by IICA and the Spanish Government's Commission of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America: Encounter of Two Worlds.

The information was published in "*Patria*," "*Hoy*," "*Ultima Hora*" and "*El Diario*." The event also received considerable coverage in several Peruvian, Bolivian and Ecuadorian papers.

## Upcoming Activities

Regional Seminar on "The Economics of Cacao Production and Marketing." March 8 and 9.

This meeting, scheduled to take place at IICA Headquarters, will focus on "Public Policy, Cooperation and the Future of the Cacao Economy in the Nineties."

The seminar, organized by the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer, PROCACAO, will consist of three panels which will address the following issues: "The Economics of Cacao Production," "The Economics of Cacao Marketing," and "Prospective Policies and Planning."

**Workshop on Plant Health Information and Monitoring in Latin America and the Caribbean: Outlook for the Future. April 24 to 26.**

The purpose of this activity, also scheduled to take place at IICA Headquarters, is to define a strategy for mounting a plant protection information system in the countries of the hemisphere, and to link up with existing systems of common interest already operating in other countries and organizations.

Up-to-date information will be provided on actions being carried out in connection with plant protection information by different international organizations and groups in the Americas, and on a basic plan for the organization of national institutions and a plant protection information system for Latin America and the Caribbean. Among others, participants will include officials from FAO, IICA, OIRSA and the the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

# IICA



# NEWS

March - April 1990, Year VII, No. 38



*An official mission representing the government of Korea had the opportunity to analyze the work being done by different IICA units and programs, with a view to studying new areas for joint endeavors. In this case, they are meeting with the Director of the Center for Investment Programs and Projects, Fernando Dall'Acqua, and a specialist attached to the Center, Nelson Espinoza*

- IICA Establishes New Cooperation Links with France and Spain
- IICA's Programs and the Execution of the PLANLAC
- Saint Kitts and Nevis Joins IICA
- Rural Women: Outlook for Institutional Action in the 1990s

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### IICA in the News

In recent weeks, the activities of IICA and Institute officials were reported in the press throughout the region. **24**

### Upcoming Activities

A seminar on agricultural policies and rural women, a meeting of the international panel in the painting contest, and a meeting on new technologies in agriculture will be held in May and June. **24**

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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 32 member countries and 12 observer countries.



*Dr. Young Kun Shim delivers an address on the Korean development model. Next to him is Alfonso Cebrenos, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations*

## Korean Mission Analyzes Cooperation Possibilities with IICA

**D**uring a two-week visit to IICA Headquarters in April, a mission representing the government of the Republic of Korea studied new possibilities for technical cooperation within the framework of the regional strategy for agricultural reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The team of experts, headed by the Chief Advisor on Agriculture to the President of Korea, Dr. Young Kun Shim, had the opportunity to study and discuss the work being done by different programs and units at IICA, and to learn more about the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). The mission from Korea, which is an IICA observer country, generated considerable interest because of the high degree of technical and scientific development enjoyed by its agricultural sector, especially in the production of grains.

The visit of the experts came about as the result of an agreement between the Government of Korea and IICA, concluded during an official visit to that country by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, in May 1988. The goal of the visit of the Korean mission was to allow this group of experts to observe the operations of the Institute and identify areas of mutual interest.

In May, the Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein, will visit Korea to meet with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and representatives of cooperation agencies. The Korean mission was welcomed by IICA's Director General, the Deputy Director General, L. Harlan Davis and the Director of External Relations. The mission was accompanied by the Korean ambassador to Costa Rica, Chang-Keun, his advisor, Hong Jae Im and Institute officials.

During their stay, they had the opportunity to hold working meetings with the directors of IICA's five Programs, who explained the work being carried out by each. They also learned about the activities of the Center for Investment Programs and Projects, the Office of the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, the Directorate of Programming and Evaluation, the Directorate of Human Resources, and the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center. In an address to a large group of officials and specialists, Dr. Kun Shim described the Korean development model.

### INTEREST IN THE PLANLAC

The Korean specialists expressed interest in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) as a strategy to modernize the sector throughout the region, and offered to study and recommend areas for cooperation in which their government and institutions could participate.

Of singular importance to them was the multilateral approach of the programs and projects included in the PLANLAC to address problems common to agriculture throughout the region.

The experts praised the role the Institute plays, and explained that no such inter-regional organizations exist in Asia. Dr. Kun Shim stated, "Evidently, the goals, objectives and the plans of IICA are applicable."

He added that this is one of the experiences he will share with others upon his return to Korea, and that it would be interesting if organizations like IICA could be established in Asia in the near future.



Dr. Young Kun Shim is the chief advisor on agriculture to the President of Korea. He is also a professor

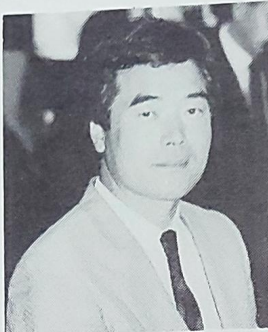


with the Department of Agricultural Economics at the National University of Korea, in Seoul.

Since 1958 he has been involved in research on consumption, production and sales, technification, processing and market equilibrium in different aspects of agriculture in Korea.

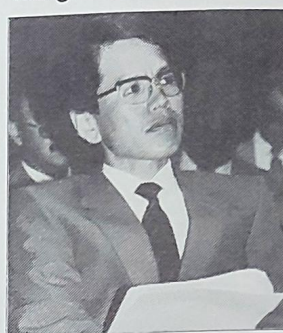
Dr. Moo Nam Chung is a specialist with the Division of Technical Cooperation for Rural Development in

Korea. The work of the Division is similar to that carried out by IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning



Program, especially as it pertains to the need to design an economic policy that contributes to improving the profitability and security of agriculture.

Dr. Jung Hwan Tee is an expert in agricultural planning and programming. Because it falls within his field



of expertise, he was especially interested in the work carried out by the Center for Investment Programs and Pro-

jects (CEPPI), which provides support to the countries in carrying out investment projects, sectoral diagnoses and complete sectoral programs (ASPs).

## Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic Define Areas of Immediate Action for Reactivation

**D**uring a meeting held in the Dominican Republic on April 18, the ministers of agriculture of Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic agreed to undertake immediate actions in connection with intra-regional and international trade, differentiated policies for the small-farm economy, biotechnology and agroindustrial development.

The Tenth Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) selected these "areas for immediate action" as the means to begin implementing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Prior to this meeting, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Pifheiro, made an official visit to the Dominican Republic for the purpose of analyzing and promoting, at the highest levels, the regional strategy for agricultural reactivation.

While in that country, he met with the Vice President of the Republic, Carlos Morales; the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Joaquin Ricardo Balaguer; the Minister of Agriculture, Manuel de Jesus Amezcuita; and with members of the monetary board of the central bank.

In one of the most important decisions reached during the meeting, the Council of Ministers agreed to request that Panama and the Dominican Republic be included in agricultural sector negotiations of the Special Program of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC), being carried out under the United Nations Development Programme, as an economic complement to the Esquipulas II regional peace initiatives.

The CORECA Secretary for Coordination, Reynaldo Perez, praised the "spirit of solidarity" that led the representatives of the Central American countries to approve this resolution. Another topic thoroughly discussed during the meeting was the

cooperation Mexico can provide in the strategy to reactivate agriculture in the rest of the CORECA countries.

A special commission made up of representatives from the Secretariat of Agriculture of Mexico, IICA and the Secretariat for Coordination will define areas of work and methods for carrying out joint actions in the framework of the PLANLAC.

The next meeting of the CORECA Council of Ministers will be held in Honduras in June.

At that time, they will discuss the preparation, development and follow-up of the Agricultural Sector Meeting to be held in September, which will bring together representatives of the governments of Central America and the organizations cooperating in the PEC.

# IICA Establishes New Cooperation Links with France and Spain

**D**uring a recent visit to France and Spain, Martin E. Piñeiro, the Director General of IICA, reached agreement with the governments of both countries on new types of cooperation for developing joint actions to contribute to the reactivation of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. Accompanied by Jorge Werthein, IICA's Director of External Relations, Piñeiro received support from political and agricultural authorities and the heads of cooperation agencies, with which IICA has signed agreements or letters of understanding, for the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

During his visit to Spain, Piñeiro met with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Carlos Romero, as part of preparatory meetings being held to organize the next Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), to take place in Madrid in 1991.

The government of Spain offered to host the meeting both to strengthen the traditional ties of cooperation between that country and IICA, and because the event will take place just prior to the opening of the single European market and the initiation of activities scheduled to commemorate the quincentennial of the arrival of Spanish explorers in America.

They also discussed joint efforts related to the Hispano-American

Symposia on agriculture and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean to be held in Madrid in June, the results of which will be used as inputs in the upcoming ICMA.

During the trip to Spain, Piñeiro and Fernando Valenzuela, the president of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), signed a letter of understanding for developing joint actions between the two organizations. Also attending the ceremony, held at AECI headquarters, was Carmelo Calvosa, Director General of the Ibero-American Cooperation Institute.

The legal instrument contains an annual work plan, including activities for 1990. Werthein drew special attention to the technical and financial support the Spanish government will give to PLANLAC projects in Central America, and its funding of the symposia mentioned above.

Spain also offered to provide assistance in the training of human resources. Such training would be the responsibility of the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA), whose director met with Piñeiro. Many IICA specialists will benefit from these courses, which will cover topics such as rural development and technology transfer.

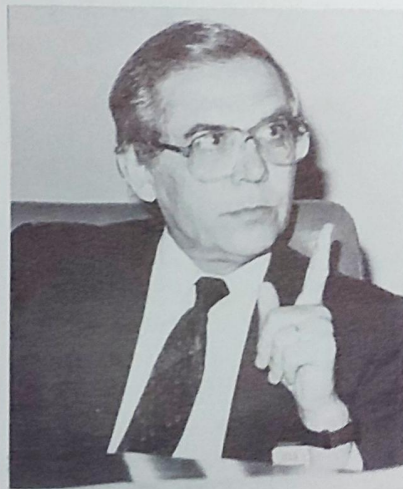
In a separate trip, Werthein visited Seville to meet with the organizers of EXPO '92 in order to work out the details of IICA's participation in the

event. IICA will share the Inter-American Pavilion with the OAS, the IDB and PAHO.

## IN FRANCE

Prior to his visit to Spain, Piñeiro was in Paris, where he met with senior officials of the Ministries of Foreign Relations and Agriculture, and with representatives of technical organizations such as the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) and the French Institute of Scientific Research for Development in Cooperation (ORSTOM).

While at the Quai D'Orsay (Ministry of Foreign Relations), Piñeiro met with officials responsible for cooperation with Latin America to discuss the formation of economic blocs, the opening of the European Common Market in 1992 and the reforms taking place in eastern Europe.



Martin E. Piñeiro



*In Uruguay, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, meets with the new Minister of Agriculture, Alvaro Ramos.*

## Piñeiro Attends Presidential Inaugurations in Uruguay and Chile

**M**artin E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), used the words "a true celebration of democracy for all of Latin America" to describe the March 1 inauguration of Luis Lacalle as president of Uruguay, and that of Patricio Aylwin in Chile on March 14. The events took place in Montevideo and Santiago, respectively.

During the events, the Director General stated that the election of both leaders strengthens the process of democratization in the region, at a time when "recent history has shown that economic growth and development are closely linked to the democratic system."

While in Montevideo, Piñeiro met with officials from the new government to discuss the strategy for agricultural reactivation in Uruguay, included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

This Plan, which was prepared by IICA in collaboration with its member

countries and other international organizations, is an effort to modernize agriculture through programs and projects at the hemispheric and subregional levels.

He also met with Enrique Iglesias, President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), to review efforts being carried out between the two organizations.

In addition to analyzing the technical cooperation the Institute is executing in Uruguay, the Director General also talked with political, economic and agricultural officials about reforms taking place in Europe, which, as he explained, could lead to an expansion of trade and increased demand for agricultural products.

During talks with the Minister of Agriculture, Alvaro Ramos, he stated that "for countries like Uruguay, this provides a great challenge and equally great opportunities. This is the time for the country to increase production, modernize its agricultural sector, produce more exports and penetrate these new markets."

In Santiago, Piñeiro met with the Minister and Vice Minister of Agriculture, Agustin Figueroa and Maximiliano Cox, and with the Director of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Carlos Portales.

Their discussions centered on the role of the agricultural sector of Chile in the execution of the PLANLAC, adjustment policies and sustained development.

Special attention was given to IICA's technical cooperation in Chile, which is aimed at defining agricultural sector policies through activities such as support to the National Agricultural Research Institute in the field of technology transfer.

IICA also cooperates with the Livestock and Agriculture Service in areas such as plant protection, and participates in projects on planning, agricultural marketing and animal health.

# Economic Crisis and Policies on Sustainability

In speaking to the Globe 90 Conference, held in Vancouver, Canada, L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), stated that the current economic crisis faced by the countries of Latin America has prevented the adoption of policies which will improve the sustainability of production.

According to Davis, sustainability can be considered as a process in which the needs of the present can be satisfied without compromising the ability of future generations to satisfy their own needs. This concept is also related to the protection of the environment and methods to be used to ensure its conservation.

Between 30 and 40 percent of the region's economically active families

are landless small farmers, and their numbers are growing. Unemployment and underemployment are chronic and rural poverty is increasing. He pointed out "In reality, poor farmers cannot afford sustainability in agriculture in the short run." However, Davis feels that the situation can be changed with sustainable systems which promote growth and development, and by changing erroneous public policies.

He highlighted the fact that in the countries of Latin America, an agricultural system promoting the sustainability of production is not being advocated, and that, frequently, inadequate public policies govern agricultural commodity prices, differentiated tax rates, exchange rates, agricultural credit, land tenancy, the development of border areas and technology.

## SURVIVAL OR SUSTAINABILITY

The Deputy Director General of IICA added that as a result of the crisis in the region, those living in rural areas do not have many alternatives and are forced to live in marginal areas, fragile hillsides, and land that is too wet or too dry, where it is impossible to adopt intensive agricultural systems. Limited access to land and modern intensive production services forces these rural people to engage in inefficient, unsustainable production practices.

In calling for a stop to the vicious circle of poverty and the destruction of natural resources, Davis stated that at this time, survival, rather than sustainability, is the primary concern of most small farmers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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## IICA Seeks New Agreements with U.S. Organizations

In an address delivered recently to the International Science and Educational Committee (ISEC), in Washington, D.C., the Deputy Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), L. Harlan Davis, stated that the Institute seeks to develop new agreements with U.S. institutions and universities in areas of common interest.

Davis' presentation, recently published by IICA, is entitled "Research Relations between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and United States Institutions."

According to Davis, it is very important that closer ties be established with U.S. institutions, especially universi-

ties, now that IICA is working intensively to implement the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Davis explained that there are numerous opportunities for joint efforts in agriculture in the region, which will be financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank and bilateral donor agencies. He added that the recovery of the agricultural sector, because of its importance in Latin America, will play a key role in economic growth.

Some of the areas in which IICA is working actively, and which are of interest to the United States, are the eradication and control of animal and

plant pests and diseases, training in the correct use and regulation of pesticides, and the introduction of new agricultural technology. As he explained, the United States can work with IICA in these activities, for example, by providing cooperation in the creation of new crop varieties, and designing and producing simple farm machinery.

The United States played a key role in the founding of IICA, and has been an active member country since 1942. It makes major contributions to the Institute in terms of resources and specialized personnel. Furthermore, IICA has signed numerous agreements with 11 U.S. universities, the most recent of which was with Iowa State University.

## IICA's Programs and the Execution of the PLANLAC

In line with institutional adjustments made necessary by the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), the Directors of IICA's five Programs have established priorities and introduced changes into the Programs' operations, in an effort to make execution of the Plan more efficient.

The Directors of IICA's five Programs (Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, Technology Generation and Transfer, Organization and Management for Rural Development, Marketing and Agroindustry, and Animal Health and Plant Protection) agreed that the approval of the PLANLAC challenges IICA to take a more active role in proposing joint actions aimed at making agricultural reactivation a reality in the region.

They stated that to participate in this process the Institute will have to make a concerted effort at improving the effectiveness of the cooperation it provides, and at adjusting conceptually the proposals included in the PLANLAC to a changing international context.

### STRENGTHENING OF PROPOSALS

Carlos Pomareda, Director of Program I (Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning), said that his Program has been assigned the task of encouraging the other programs to work even harder to strengthen new strategies and policies for agriculture. Both strategies and policies will have to be developed on the basis of a better understanding of international political, financial and trade conditions; national processes leading to a new role for the State and a redefinition of the responsibilities of public institutions; the need to place value on the future and, consequently, to put forth policies for sustained development which are consistent with the conservation of the environment; and the advisability of replacing the traditional concept of agriculture as the primary sector with that of an agricultural-industrial system.



Carlos Pomareda

With regard to operational aspects, the approval of the PLANLAC and the commitment to develop joint actions has implied three major changes in the way Program I operates. The first involves the initiation of multinational projects in

each of IICA's four working Areas (Central, Caribbean, Andean and Southern) for the purpose of coordinating actions at the hemispheric, subregional and national levels, and support to mechanisms designed to strengthen relations with organizations such as SIECA, CARICOM and the Board of the Cartagena Agreement.

Secondly, there will be closer cooperation with the Center for Investment Programs and Projects (CEPPI) and the IICA Offices in the countries in the preparation of agricultural sectoral programs (ASP) for each country, which will make it possible to identify needed political and institutional reforms and to establish priorities for investment. These programs will serve as the basis for the sectoral loans requested by the countries from the Inter-American Development Bank or the World Bank. Lastly, improvements will be made in fostering ongoing communications between IICA's five Programs, both at the level of the Directorates and the regional and national projects.

### CONSOLIDATING TRENDS

According to Eduardo Trigo, Director of Program II (Technology Generation and Transfer), the execution of the programs and projects included in the PLANLAC represents a consolidation of certain trends and gradual changes that were already under way, especially



Eduardo Trigo

with regard to new focuses and inter-institutional coordination. In the area of genetic resources, guidelines for the hemispheric program on the collection, conservation and use of genetic resources, which will guide IICA's actions and make closer cooperation with other institutions possible, will be available soon. The same is true in the area of biotechnology, an area reinforced and supported through a program dealing with the development and use of agrobiotechnologies. Another PLANLAC proposal which directly affects Program II relates to funding for technological innovation. The goal of this proposal is to lay the groundwork for the funding of investments in production. IICA will promote this effort, which calls for coordination with several other institutions. Trigo said, "The PLANLAC demands more dynamic action, and is characterized by the inclusion of a number of new topics. In this regard, it provides a political framework for interinstitutional collaboration which gives greater weight to IICA's activities."

## REDEFINITION OF THE CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

According to Manuel Chiriboga, Director of Program III (Organization and Management for Rural Development), the PLANLAC has oriented his Program to view its technical cooperation in terms of the whole agricultural sector and the relationship between it and the rest of the economy.



*Manuel Chiriboga*

Program III's goal is to design a rural development policy closely coordinated with macroeconomic and agricultural policies. In addition, microregions have been established which will serve as the basic units for planning action with groups of small

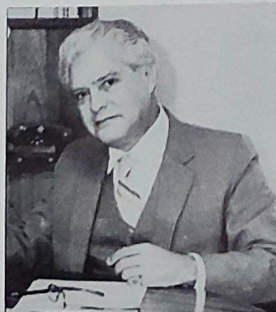
farmers involved in other activities and sectors. It also implies reforms in the State, political-administrative decentralization and increasing the participation of small farmers.

As an example of the efforts being carried out to ensure efficient execution of the PLANLAC, Chiriboga cited the updating of conceptual aspects of the Program, to respond to the new challenges.

He also referred to the "socialization" of the framework through discussions with the specialists involved in the programs and projects. He added that a subregional meeting is pending, to analyze the multinational projects included in the PLANLAC and their eventual implementation.

## MANDATE REINFORCED

According to Rodolfo Quiros, Director of Program IV (Marketing and Agroindustry), the execution of the PLANLAC reinforced the mandate issued when the 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan (MTP) - the instrument which orients IICA actions for specific periods of time- went into effect. The MTP placed emphasis on the importance of international trade of agricultural commodities, access to markets and trade negotiations aimed at agricultural reactivation.



*Rodolfo Quiros*

As an example, Quiros mentions the fact that the PLANLAC and the MTP agree on the need to develop and

strengthen rural agroindustry, as a means of contributing to agricultural diversification and international trade of agricultural and agroindustrial products. Within the framework of these priorities, the PLANLAC includes two hemispheric projects with subregional ramifications.

Quiros explained that the emphasis given to multinational actions in the PLANLAC led Program IV to establish new links with specialized agencies such as economic integration bodies, the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

He added that his Program is working closely with IICA's other Programs in a spirit of true interdependence among the national, subregional and hemispheric projects.

## COORDINATION IS THE KEY

According to Hector Campos, acting Director of Program V (Animal Health and Plant Protection), the PLANLAC provides excellent opportunities for coordinating efforts within the Institute and among the organizations and agencies operating in the region. He said that execution of the PLANLAC will serve to reinforce relations in the broadest sense of the word, for the purpose of ensuring the success of multinational programs and projects.



*Hector Campos*

He added that in each of the elements of the PLANLAC it is stated clearly that animal health and plant protection actions are fundamental and that they are closely linked to the work being carried out in other areas.

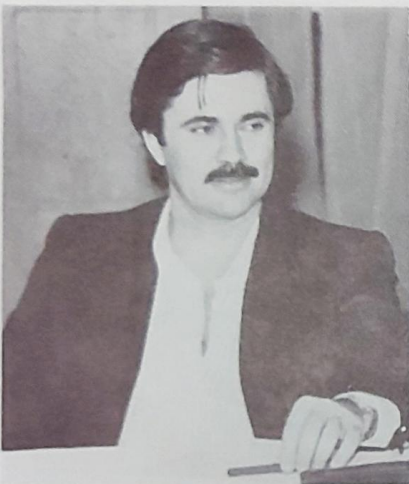
As an example, he mentioned that in establishing policies and incentives for investment, public and private investments can be guaranteed if actions in the field of animal health and plant protection are included.

Campos stated that this coordination was behind the successful implementation of the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information System, which has become an important mechanism for detecting and evaluating the impact of phytosanitary and zoonosanitary problems on trade and productivity in the subregion.

Similar projects are being developed for the Central, Andean and Southern Areas.

# Latin America and the Caribbean: PLANLAC Execution to Occur in Favorable International Context

According to Manuel Otero, from Argentina, and the new general coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), the execution of this Plan comes at a time when the medium-term international context is relatively favorable, which can help regional efforts to get back on the path to growth and economic development.



*Manuel Otero, Coordinator of the PLANLAC*

Otero, an advisor to the Director General of IICA, referred to several key aspects of the international context: the inclusion of the subject of agriculture in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which will end soon and may lead to a revision of policies that distort world trade; the process of reform sweeping eastern Europe, which may lead to increased demand for agricultural products; and the gradual formation of economic blocs in different parts of the world.

In Otero's opinion, these events are taking place at a time when the import-substitution model used throughout Latin America and the

Caribbean for several decades is being recognized as no longer applicable. Despite occasional successes, it failed as a means of ensuring economic development. Therefore, agriculture should be seen as the most viable alternative for development and equitable economic reactivation in the region. He stated, "The most important aspect of the PLANLAC is that it generated a body of ideas that led to the formulation of a proposal which clearly shows that agriculture, once it has been modernized and coordinated with agroindustry, can produce the growth the region needs to overcome the current crisis."

A firm believer in agricultural modernization with equity, Otero pointed out that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean produce and export many basic products and foods, so much so that "if we compare our production costs for commodities such as soy beans, meat and wheat, for example, with those of industrialized countries, it can be proven that we are comparatively more efficient."

Some factors that hurt the region's ability to compete are the industrialized countries' subsidies to production and exports, and tariff barriers that prevent Latin American and Caribbean products from entering those markets.

With regard to the latter point, Otero stated that integration is an effective tool to strengthen the region's position in negotiations. As an example, he cited the major role played by the Cairns Group-thirteen developed and developing nations, all of which are efficient food producers- in the Uruguay Round of GATT. This group has become an important participant

in what up to now has been basically a bilateral dialogue between the EEC and the United States of America.

In this regard, he highlighted the importance the PLANLAC places on integration, through the formulation and implementation of multinational projects that will bring countries together to work in finding viable and less costly solutions to common problems that hinder their development.

According to Otero, "Under the present circumstances, integration should be seen in a broader context, and not only in the area of trade." In his opinion, IICA, as a technical cooperation agency specializing in agriculture, can make valuable contributions in this field. He went on to say that the PLANLAC will be the most important strategic guideline for the Institute in coming years, and that its execution has made certain adjustments necessary. These adjustments do not imply that technical cooperation actions in the countries are to be abandoned. Rather, they will strengthen national actions and speed up the process of economic reactivation.

Otero feels that the overall success of the PLANLAC, and its contribution to agricultural reactivation, will be the result of successes in areas such as dissemination, program and project implementation, the securing of external resources, and of tackling topics which today represent new challenges for agriculture, including: sustained development, modernization of the public sector, and coordination with the private sector.

He concluded by saying, "Judging from the level of participation achieved, the PLANLAC represents an unprecedented interchange between countries and institutions. Therefore, it is up to us all, not just IICA, to put it into operation. The Plan, by its very nature, includes the concept of co-responsibility."

# IICA to Prepare Sectoral Diagnoses and Programs

In addition to preparing specific investment projects for the agricultural sector, which it has done for years, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will now offer its member countries a new type of technical assistance: the elaboration of sectoral diagnoses, studies and programs.

IICA's Center for Investment Programs and Projects (CEPPI) will provide coordination and will participate with other Institute units in preparing these diagnoses and programs, which will expand information available on the current situation and evolution of the agricultural sector in a given country. It is felt that these studies will be invaluable to the countries in negotiating adjustment or sectoral loans, and that they will give the funding agencies a clearer view of the sector.

### REASON FOR NEW EFFORTS

The Director of CEPPI, Fernando Dall'Acqua, explained that the decision to undertake this new type of activity is based on the belief that growth in Latin America and the Caribbean depends on renewing the private investment process, supported by strategic public investments. He added that mechanisms for mobilizing financial resources must be strengthened, with a view to encouraging savings and domestic investments aimed at production.

He added that in October 1989 the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere approved and called for the implementation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the

Caribbean (PLANLAC), a strategy promoting modernization of the agricultural sector.

IICA will undertake these new tasks not only because of the mandate issued by the ministers, but also because of the type of funding the World Bank has made available to agriculture since the beginning of the 1980s: Structural Adjustment Loans (SAL), and in the specific case of agriculture, Agricultural Sector Adjustment Loans (ASAL). This new type of financing responded, on the one hand, to the crisis in the balance of payments situation faced by many of the countries, and on the other, to the fact that the funding agencies felt it was no longer possible to promote sectoral and overall growth through investment projects of the type executed in the 1970s.

Specialists from IICA recognize that the SALs and ASALs are new instruments that can come to play an important part in the development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. They add that in the 1990s, sectoral loans should be a major line of funding, and that the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) should also make this type of financing available. In the seventh replenishment of capital, the IDB is scheduled to lend US\$22.5 billion during the 1990-1993 period, of which 75 per cent will be used for investment projects in traditional sectors. The remaining US\$5.625 billion will be applied to sectoral loans, with policies designed to improve the economic efficiency and performance of the sector.

As Dall'Acqua explained, IICA's proposal is for the countries to prepare their own agricultural sector programs



*Fernando Dall'Acqua*

(ASP) as part of their agricultural development strategies. He added that the purpose of an ASP is to "clearly define the nature of the policies, institutional reforms and investment requirements (project identification) that the country needs in its agricultural development strategy." The Institute would prepare the ASP with those countries requesting assistance, or it could be done as part of IICA's cooperation with the IDB, and eventually with the World Bank. In explaining their importance, he stated that agricultural sector programs will be the basis of negotiations on sectoral loans or sectoral components of structural adjustment loans, which may include the funding of public and private sector investments, through the provision of credit; funding to facilitate policy reforms; and funding for the modernization of institutions associated with the sector.



# Central America: Participation of Beneficiaries Recommended in Evaluation and Follow-up of Projects

According to specialists and technical personnel attending a meeting held at IICA Headquarters, the participation of beneficiaries of agricultural and rural development projects in the evaluation and follow-up of same would contribute to the success of such activities.

Meeting participants considered that small farmers can provide technical leaders of such projects with much valuable information, which will contribute to achieving the goals of agricultural reactivation and rural well-being in Central America.

Representatives of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the project on Technical Assistance for Agricultural Development in Central America (RUTA II) gathered to share experiences related to the follow-up and evaluation of

agricultural and rural development projects being executed by IFAD throughout the isthmus.

Analyses were conducted of nine regional projects, including ones on integrated rural development in northern Nicaragua, support for small farmers in northern Costa Rica, technology transfer for seed production in Guatemala, and rural development in Santa Barbara, Honduras.

RUTA II is funded by IFAD, the government of Japan and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with technical assistance provided by IICA.

It is part of the United Nations Special Program of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC) and is executed by the World Bank.

In general, the participants expressed satisfaction with the progress of the projects, and stated that the evaluation and follow-up systems are generating timely information that has made it possible to detect problems, correct errors and reorient activities.

As a means of reinforcing the work being carried out, they recommended that those involved in the execution of the projects receive further training, and that the ties between projects be strengthened, with a view to sharing successful experiences and incorporating them, unchanged or modified, into those projects affected by operating problems.

*Raquel Peña, an IFAD project officer for Latin America, explains that follow-up and evaluation are the key to the success of rural development programs and projects. With her are the Director of RUTA II, Arturo Cornejo (center), and Jorge Werthein, IICA's Director of External Relations.*





*As one of the first activities planned, the participants discussed topics such as the current situation of rural women in Central America.*

## Sweden to Finance Training in Communications for Women

**T**he Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) has funded a training program focusing on communications aimed at rural women, which began operations recently at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Sweden's support, US\$370,000 over two years, will expand the training in rural communications offered by IICA's Communications Division, which also receives professional and technical support from the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC).

Over the next two years, two international workshops lasting a total of 20 weeks, and six national follow-up workshops, will be held.

A group of 24 professionals, from governmental and non-governmental organizations working with rural women in Central America, participated in the first workshop, which lasted for five weeks, concluding on April 20.

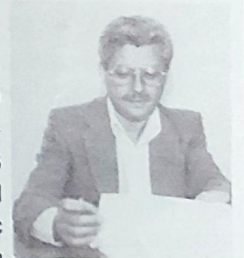
During this first event, the participants -most of them women- studied topics such as gender and sex, the situation of women in Central America, and communications as a means of facilitating training for rural women (research, message analysis, planning of communication).

The participants in this workshop, who were selected because of their contacts with other organizations, will organize similar events upon returning to their countries, to which they will invite other agencies working with women. By the end of the project, personnel from some 120 institutions in Central America will have benefitted from such training.

The participants will return to IICA in July, to receive specialized courses in radio, printed matter and video techniques. Once again, upon their return to their countries, they will conduct local courses to share the new information they have acquired.

## IICA Official Appointed Minister of Planning

**O**n May 8, Helio Fallas, an IICA official, will begin his duties as the Minister of Planning of the newly-elected government of Costa Rica.



He began his association with the Institute in 1976 as a financial and economic advisor in Haiti. In 1978, he carried out similar duties in Nicaragua. Beginning in 1982, he joined IICA's Headquarters team as a specialist in agricultural policy analysis and planning. His most recent publication deals with the impact of adjustment policies on agriculture in Central America.

Fallas, who left IICA upon his appointment to the cabinet of president-elect Rafael Angel Calderon, holds a master's degree in economics from the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia.

# Rural Women: Outlook for Institutional Action in the 1990s

*Diana Medrano*

In August 1988, IICA and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) signed an agreement for a project entitled "Agricultural Policies, Women and Agricultural Development."

The principal objective of the project was to provide IICA with technical support in formulating an institutional strategy that will encourage and allow for the incorporation of rural women, as both beneficiaries and executors, into development actions carried out as part of the technical cooperation the Institute provides throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

The project enabled IICA to design a conceptual, methodological and operating framework for increasing the role of women in its programs and projects, and to become more involved in the issue within the Institute and without.

The activities IICA proposes to carry out can be summarized briefly as follows:

1. The focus of IICA's proposed participation in programs and projects aimed at rural women is based on the twin principles of **equity and development**.

Equity and rural well-being have long been a concern of the Institute. "The results of IICA's Programs up to now have shown that the struggle against rural poverty can no longer be based on development strategies aimed solely at increasing production and productivity. Certain fundamental criteria must be used in responding to the problem: justice and equity in the distribution of economic power, and in the right to civic and political participation, which will strengthen the position of the rural poor in negotiations with other segments of society, and increase their involvement in institutional decisions to execute policies and provide necessary services."

Research findings reveal much about the historical and current participation of women in the rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, especially their incorporation into the economic and social processes of the countries. The problem lies not so much in how to incorporate women but rather how to effectively recognize the contribution women make to economic production and social reproduction, and to change their position in rural development, so

as to make their participation in the economic, social and cultural life of the countries equal with that of the rest of the population. The design of guidelines for actions to be carried out in programs and projects, within the context of equity and development, presents certain risks which must be considered from the perspective of gender. The objectives of both approaches are not necessarily compatible, as they apply to rural women.

For example, an improvement in women's access to income should be avoided if it means longer working hours, with no commensurate reduction in household responsibilities. To achieve a proper balance between the goals of equity and development is one of the major challenges involved in designing an operating strategy for programs aimed at rural women.

2. To understand as accurately as possible this particular concern for rural women, it is necessary to describe their role as a member of the family and of a broader sector, the rural population, and to determine the specific nature of their situation.

It should be noted that, given current levels of knowledge about the participation of women in rural life, the establishment of plans and programs for such women is not the result of caprice or a lack of conceptual clarity.

The conceptual framework that will orient IICA's participation contains elements which describe the situation of rural women, propose actions different from those aimed at other groups of women within society, and take a different approach to rural development and the small-farm family.

The specificity of the situation of rural women in LAC refers primarily to their involvement in an economic production system which operates on a model of "cooperation" based on family ties, production duties, family reproduction and consumption. As a result, no distinction is made between the contributions they make to production and those they make to reproduction. Both activities are seen in the same light in terms of time and space, and neither generates remuneration.

Also, since social and economic structures in the rural areas have traditionally focused on the activities of men, women have had only very limited participation in decision making and the managing and spending of family income.

This combination of factors has led to what some authors have called the "invisibility" of women's contributions to family life and the economy of rural areas, and a consequent lack of recognition for women as producers in rural areas.

3. The information and actions needed to change the current situation of rural women are not an isolated problem. To assume so would be to reduce the effectiveness required of the programs and projects aimed at rural women.

It is important, therefore, to point out the different ways in which aspects of the life of rural women are closely interrelated with the social sector of which they are members: the demographic structure of their families, their access to production resources such as land and technology, their role within the given culture, and even the specific geographic and ecological conditions of the areas where they live. These elements combine in myriad ways, which leads to a great variety of situations. Likewise, structural factors which affect the situation of small-scale farmers are reflected in and directly related to the position of rural women in general.

Regarding operating strategy, this web of interrelations must be given thorough consideration. Care must be taken not to separate programs and actions aimed at rural women from the rest of the Institute's activities, or to "water down," in more general components, the need for policies, programs and methodologies specifically designed to increase the participation of women in the development of agriculture.

4. As the result of evaluations of several projects which have used participatory methods, it has been established that the level, depth and scope of the participation of women can be greater than was originally thought.

This ensures the success of projects using this type of methodology, since the beneficiaries of same will be able to internalize the objectives and the technical and administrative procedures required during execution. However, this participation can be achieved only if women are seen as active and conscious agents of change in rural areas. This concept should be reflected in processes to identify, design, implement and evaluate the projects.

It must be kept in mind that Institute efforts aimed at mobilizing rural women will have to overcome tradition, which has kept them socially isolated and subordinated, and which has ignored their basic needs.

Therefore, methodologies must not be paternalistic and must give women a vital role in bringing about change.

This perspective is the only one that will lead to programs which no longer see rural women as mere recipients of goods and services which public institutions occasionally make available to them. Rather, rural women should be seen as equal partners in the project, and should be given an opportunity to work within society and the organization, expressing their own views of the different steps involved in beginning and developing a specific institutional program.

5. In summary, the operating strategy which guides IICA's participation in activities aimed at rural women is based on a general diagnosis and a series of elements which, in summarized form, are:

- a. The need for a complementary approach emphasizing equity and development to be included in the operative aspects of the proposed projects, with special consideration being given to the particular needs of rural women.
- b. A recognition of the specific nature, variety and differences which characterize the rural female population in LAC.
- c. A close interrelationship between the situation of rural women and the determining structural conditions affecting small farmers in the region, based on the variables of gender and class.
- d. The use of highly participatory methodologies, which are fundamental to the concept of rural women as active participants in the execution of policies intended to benefit them.

Between 1990 and 1992, IICA, with cooperation from UNIFEM, will undertake a series of activities aimed at upgrading its technical resources for identifying, designing, executing and evaluating policies, programs and projects involving rural women.

It is felt that these activities will reactivate what has been a substantial contribution to increasing the participation of women in the complex process of rural development in the countries of the region.

## Programs on the March



*Among the experts from Europe participating in the seminar were members of the French Institute for Coffee and Cacao Research.*

### Central America Seeks Financial Support from Europe for Coffee Research

**A**t the conclusion of a seminar held recently at IICA Headquarters, it was announced that in mid-May Central America will submit a portfolio of projects to the European Economic Community (EEC), for the purpose of securing funding and conducting joint research with scientists from Europe to improve coffee growing in the area.

The proposals, ten in all, which cover genetic resources and engineering, technology transfer, biotechnology, control of coffee-related diseases and pests, were prepared by researchers from Central America and technical personnel and specialists from Europe during a workshop on coffee research in Central America.

The week-long event brought together representatives of the

national coffee institutes of Central America, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Panama, and scientists and researchers from Belgium, England, France, Holland, Portugal and Spain. The meeting was organized by the EEC's International Scientific Cooperation Program and executed through the French Institute for Coffee and Cocoa Research.

The project proposals are designed to bolster research being conducted by IICA's Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (PROMECAFE), countries which account for nearly 15.5% of world coffee production.

Charles Kessner, a scientist with the EEC's General Directorate for

Science, Research and Development, stated that the meeting had laid the groundwork for new cooperation efforts with Central America, which will allow researchers and scientists from Europe and the isthmus to work together to improve coffee cultivation. He added that the EEC is prepared to finance part of the portfolio of projects, and insisted that the final proposal made in May must be of the "highest technical quality." Juan Jose Osorto, Director of PROMECAFE, explained that the proposals reflect the most urgent needs of the region, and that they are of good technical quality.

He said, "Between now and May, we will work very closely with the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) to fine tune the proposals related to biotechnology and genetic resources."

# Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic: Further Cacao-related Development Called For

International specialists attending a seminar held at IICA Headquarters agreed that despite temporarily unfavorable conditions on international markets, cacao-related activities in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic must continue to grow if this is to become an economically important activity.

According to experts participating in the seminar, entitled "Economics of Cacao Production and Marketing," efforts must be made in the subregion to improve capabilities in production -emphasizing technology generation and transfer- industrialization and marketing.

The event was organized by the Regional Network for Cacao

Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO), which is coordinated through IICA. The network was founded in 1987 with support from the Regional Office for Central American Programs (ROCAP) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and includes the countries of the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic.

As part of the discussion of the major theme of the meeting, "Public policy, cooperation and the future of the cacao economy in the 1990s," the participants studied the overall situation and analyzed specific aspects such as worldwide supply

and demand, marketing structure and operations, strategy for technology transfer, and research priorities, among others.

According to data provided during the seminar, 220,000 hectares of land in IICA's Central Area are planted in cacao. As a result, it exports some 96,700 metric tons of cacao and its by-products, worth some US\$190 million.

Despite the fact that these production figures represent only 4.5 per cent of cacao production worldwide, the participants declared that the subregion should move forward in its efforts to strengthen the development of this crop.

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## Central America: Technology Transfer Strategy to be Designed

During a seminar on the mobilization of agricultural technology, held recently at IICA Headquarters, officials from several public institutions and international and subregional organizations mapped out general guidelines for a strategy on technology transfer in Central America.

The objective of the meeting, according to Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, is to use the results of this seminar in designing a plan to facilitate technology transfer in the subregion.

He said that the groundwork has been laid for working in each country of

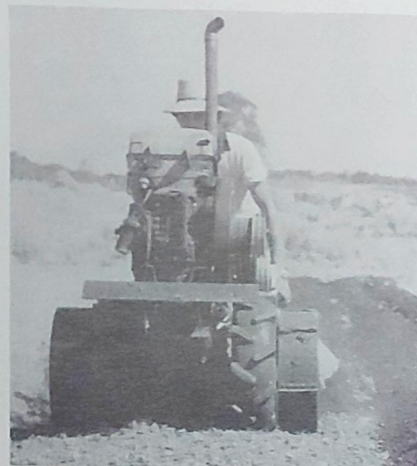
Central America, with clearer objectives and better operating mechanisms.

The specific nature of each country and of the different regions in each is one of the most important factors to be weighed in drawing up this strategy.

During the week-long meeting, discussions were held on topics such as technological change in agriculture in Central America, technological imperatives, sustainability, evolution of institutions and current problems in the region.

Participants in the meeting

included officials from the ministries of agriculture of the countries of Central America, as well as staff from IICA, universities in the United States and the Netherlands, and from specialized institutions in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, France, the United States of America and Panama.



# Cooperation in Plant Protection to Continue

International organizations, including IICA, which work with Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay in the execution of plant protection programs and projects, met recently in Montevideo and gave their support for the continuation of such initiatives, which are essential if exports are to increase and the economies of the region are to improve.

During several meetings sponsored by the Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Area (COSAVE), with support from IICA and the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), guidelines for technical cooperation related to the continuation of these initiatives were defined. Also discussed were

pesticide residues and their effect on sales to overseas markets, phytosanitary problems and quarantine restrictions relevant to the international trade of seeds.

At the conclusion of the second preparatory session of COSAVE's Steering Committee, the plant protection directors asked IICA and FAO to collaborate in actions designed to stop the spread of *Dacus cucurbitae* flies recently detected in Suriname, which represent a threat to citrus crops in the subregion.

At the ninth meeting of the Regional Technical Committee on Plant Protection, the countries expressed their gratitude for the "support and benefits" received from IICA through

different actions, and gave their support for proposals included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation for the Southern Area, which address this particular issue.

During the meeting on the problems of pesticides and their effects on fruit and vegetable exports, the recommendation was made to expand the application of the CODEX ALIMENTARIUS standards, currently in effect for the international trade of agricultural commodities, to the intraregional trade of same.

In the meeting on the current situation in and the outlook for the seed trade, the participants agreed to harmonize relevant procedures and quarantine regulations.

## Action in the Countries

### Round of Meetings with IICA Representatives Concludes

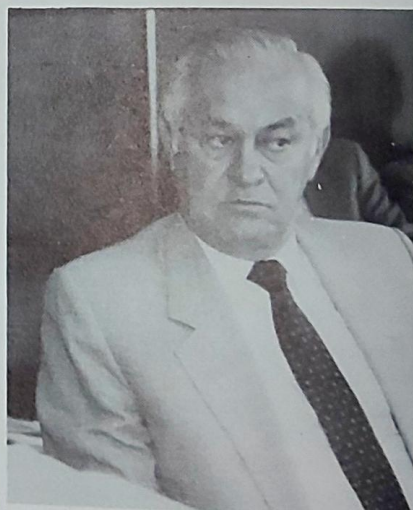
The series of meetings held between authorities from IICA Headquarters and its Representatives in the member countries, for the purpose of analyzing the adjustments undertaken by the Institute in order to implement the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), concluded on March 23 in Quito, Ecuador.

The meeting was attended by the Representatives from the Andean Area (which includes Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) and the Southern Area (which includes Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay). Specialists from IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development, and Marketing and

Agroindustry Programs also participated. As had been the case in meetings held earlier with IICA's Representatives from the Central and Caribbean Areas, details were provided on the adjustments undertaken by the Institute, which range from establishing new priorities for action as of this year, to redefining the role of the Offices in the Member States.

The meeting was opened by the Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, Mario Jalil, who reiterated his country's support for the PLANLAC, and pointed up the similarities between the agricultural policies of his government and the proposals contained in the Plan of Joint Action.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E.



Mario Jalil, Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador

Piñeiro, stated that the PLANLAC -prepared by IICA in conjunction with its member countries and other international organizations, and approved by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere- "is an extremely important mandate" since "the countries insisted on the importance of our being efficient in the implementation of its proposals."

# Saint Kitts and Nevis Joins IICA

The Caribbean state of Saint Kitts and Nevis has become the thirty-second Member State of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The government of Saint Kitts and Nevis, which has been interested in joining the Institute for several months, recently complied with all the requirements for membership established in the Convention on IICA.

For a member country of the Organization of American States (OAS) to become a member of IICA, it must deposit the instrument of ratification with the General Secretariat, and accept all the obligations included therein.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, expressed his pleasure with the decision, and welcomed Saint Kitts and Nevis to the Institute.

He added that the entry of Saint Kitts and Nevis comes at a time when IICA is working to bring about greater integration between Latin America and the Caribbean, a process which was given a boost recently with the signing of a general cooperation agreement between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

This agreement, which was ratified by IICA's member countries at the Octo-



*The Minister and Chargé d'Affaires of the Embassy of Saint Kitts and Nevis in Washington, Erstein Edwards, discusses his country's entry into IICA with IICA's Representative in the United States, David Black.*

ber 1989 meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), provides budgetary support for CARDI activities.

Saint Kitts and Nevis consists of two islands no more than two miles apart. Located 225 miles southeast of Puerto Rico, the two islands together have a land area of 269 km<sup>2</sup>.

The capital of Saint Kitts -the larger of the two islands- is Basseterre, and that of Nevis is Charlestown.

Each island has a population of approximately 48,000.

In addition to Saint Kitts and Nevis, the other members of IICA are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic,

Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, the United States of America, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

IICA's Permanent Observer Countries are: Austria, Belgium, Egypt, Federal Republic of Germany, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Korea, Portugal and Spain.



## IICA, IDB and PAHO: Project Being Prepared to Improve Nutrition in Haiti

**T**he objective of a project to be prepared in June by IICA and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is to improve food production and nutritional levels in Haiti.

Classified by international organizations as the poorest country in Latin America and Caribbean, Haiti has an economy based on agriculture, which, nonetheless, is its weakest sector.

According to specialized studies, arable land in Haiti is very unproductive and severely eroded. Forty percent of the urban and 78 percent of the rural population live in absolute poverty, which leads to insufficient food production and a grave nutritional crisis.

There are also serious problems with regard to land tenure; most farmers have small parcels to cultivate and the majority of farms are family-run. The strategy followed by most small farmers in Haiti for years has been to intensify land use and combine crops. Over a span of 30 years, the degradation of agricultural lands left them almost unproductive. At present, 60% of Haiti's land area is eroded and barren.

In light of this situation, IICA's Center for Investment Programs and Projects (CEPPI) and PAHO have undertaken the task of implementing a food and nutrition system which, at the farm level, will promote increased food production, which will raise self-sufficiency and increase surpluses.

The Institute's role, according to Freddy Revilla, a CEPPI specialist,



involves promoting rural development and the production and marketing of agricultural products. In the area of rural development, IICA will work in conjunction with PAHO, the agency that will be responsible for diagnosing and providing services in the area of protein-carbohydrate malnutrition.

IICA plans to draw up a special program aimed at increasing food and livestock productivity at the farm level. Activities related to marketing involve support to farmers in obtaining better prices and improving their economic strength.

First, a pilot project will be conducted in the northern part of the country. Parallel technical cooperation activities will include programming the second stage of the Food and Nutrition System in another part of the country.

According to Revilla, the Institute has the technical capacity to take responsibility for drawing up the project in close collaboration with PAHO. IICA, through CEPPI, has worked with the IDB for nine years on technical cooperation programs.

The last agreement signed by the two organizations includes the preparation of sectoral and specific investment

projects, and carrying out activities to support or complement the preparation of projects for the agricultural sector.

With the formalization of this operation, CEPPI will begin its first experience with food and nutrition projects. This is apparently the case with PAHO as well, and if the Government of Haiti seeks IDB funding to execute the project, it will also be the first time the Bank provides loans for this type of activity.

At present, IICA/CEPPI and PAHO are negotiating and examining the terms of reference for carrying out the project, which has received IDB funding through the agreements that exist between the organizations.

IICA/CEPPI's work in Haiti is part of the strategy of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

The PLANLAC includes a specific strategy for Haiti involving analysis of the problems of small farmers and the rural areas, and proposals for developing the small-farm economy.

# IICA to Support Peru in Control of Migratory Locust

**A**s part of its technical cooperation activities in Peru, IICA assisted government officials in the preparation of that country's 1990-1994 plan for the integrated management of the migratory locust, and offered its support in the execution and follow-up of this strategy at the Department level.

In a meeting in Lima, the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations of IICA, Alfonso Cebreros, met with the Peruvian Minister of Agriculture, Roberto Angeles Lazo. The minister expressed appreciation for support already received, and great interest in the coordinated efforts IICA plans in Peru and Chile to control fruit flies. Also attending the meeting were Victor Palma, Director of Andean Area Operations, and Israel Tineo, IICA Representative in Peru.

The minister of agriculture stated that in order to complement IICA's efforts, authorities had declared a state of emergency in the Departments of Cusco, Ayacucho, Apurimac and Huancavelica, in an effort to stop the spread of the migratory locust and the threat it represents for the national economy.

Angeles Lazo and IICA officials also discussed the work being done by the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Andean Subregion (PROCIANDINO), which is funded by IICA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the five countries of the subregion. The Steering Committee of the Program will meet in Quito, Ecuador in May.

During his visit to Lima, Cebreros met with the Coordinator of the Board of

the Cartagena Agreement, Ivan Gabaldon, to discuss the programs and projects of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) that apply to the Andean Area.

This proposal, prepared by IICA in conjunction with its member countries and other international organizations, includes programs and projects to be carried out at the hemispheric and subregional levels, as a means of modernizing the agricultural sector and strengthening the economies of the region.

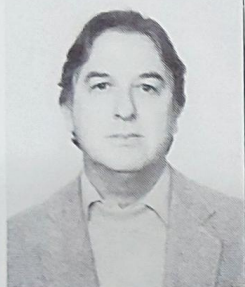
While in Peru, Cebreros attended a seminar on the reactivation and sustained development of the agricultural sector in Peru, held at the IICA Office and attended by 30 specialists and technical personnel. Topics discussed included the institutional framework of economic policies, strategic public investment designed to foster private investment in agriculture and agroindustry, and the advantages and disadvantages of alternative programs for immediate or gradual stabilization.



*The seminar-workshop on the reactivation and sustained development of the agricultural sector in Peru brought together 30 specialists and technical personnel.*

### Dr. Edmundo Gastal

The Brazilian specialist Edmundo Gastal, "framer and leader" of the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR),



passed away on February 5 in Riberão Preto, Brazil. He leaves behind more than 80 research papers and

numerous published works in the areas of agricultural economics, planning, administration of research and scientific methods. As Director of PROCISUR since its inception in

1980, he was responsible for the definitive integration of the agricultural research systems of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. The program has been carried out with support from IICA, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and PROCISUR member countries. Gastal earned a bachelor's degree in agronomy from the Universidad Federal de Pelotas, his birthplace; a master's degree in agricultural economics from the Universidad Federal de Viçosa, and then a doctorate in science. He began his association with IICA in 1973, and has held several posts. As a tribute to the memory of Edmundo Gastal, some of his thoughts on the subject of technological change in agriculture follow.

of natural resources and, in general, the means of production. A more equitable distribution of rural credit is required, as it represents a constant problem for most farmers.

Consistent price policies, increased availability of agricultural insurance and more effective and efficient structures for supplying inputs and processing and marketing agricultural products are also necessary.

Therefore, it is urgent that we seek innovations that will make it possible to design production systems that are truly compatible with the nature and needs of agriculture in the countries.

If this is to be achieved, it will be necessary to carry out programs for technological change, the scope and content of which will produce an agricultural sector that is more efficient, more productive and more in tune with the hopes of farmers and the realities of rural life.

Thus, the suggestion is that technological change be seen as a wide-ranging process of communication, or as a mechanism for achieving real social interaction, with a view to economic growth and the betterment of the social groups involved in same.

During the different stages or components (generation, dissemination and adoption of technology), the farmers and technical personnel grow as individuals and their ability to transform nature and the physical and social world that surrounds them also develops.

The process of technological change in agriculture must respect the nature of different farmers' groups, but, above all, it must reflect their true needs.

## The Process of Technological Change in Agriculture

Technology has become the key to the economic and social development of nations, not only because it is the chief means of increasing the productivity of all economic activity, but also because it affects the organization of production and brings about changes in the social structure.

Through the implementation of appropriate technological systems which are compatible with the ecological conditions and with the economic and sociocultural situation of the different strata of farmers, it will be possible to achieve productivity levels consonant with the growth rates demanded of agriculture, and

which are absolutely essential for economic and social development.

To achieve this, it is necessary to have not only technologies that increase the productivity of land and capital - while seeking fair wages for labor - but also production systems that will make it possible for areas not utilized, yet which have the necessary infrastructure and comparative advantages, to be effectively and profitably incorporated into the national economy.

In this context, agricultural development implies the need for comprehensive and far-reaching changes, including a more adequate distribution

# Publications

## Latin America and the Caribbean: Persistent Rural Poverty

Program III  
IICA Editorial Service  
Cost: US\$3.00

"**P**obreza Rural Persistente" (Spanish only) is an analysis which facilitates a systematic understanding of the social and economic structure of Latin America and the Caribbean. The work, published by IICA's Program III (Organization and Management for Rural Development), is aimed at politicians, planners, university students, professionals from all disciplines and scholars.

The document emphasizes the importance of considering the rural sector and the role of the small-scale farmers, small-scale landholders, and agricultural workers, in order to ascertain what social, political and economic differences may exist among them.

It is divided into three chapters. The first describes rural poverty; the second, structural changes, external constraints and their effect on policies to combat rural poverty; and the third, foundations for policies to combat rural poverty.

## Turrialba Journal: Coffee and Cacao

PROMECAFE and  
PROCACAO  
IICA Editorial Service  
Cost: US\$8 per copy

All of the articles in Numbers 3 and 4 of volume 39 of Turrialba, a technical journal specializing in agronomy and related disciplines, will deal with coffee and cacao. Topics in No. 3 include the

effects of drying temperatures and storage conditions on coffee quality; agroforestry systems including coffee; and the effect of processing on pesticide residues in coffee

beans. Number 4 of the journal, dedicated exclusively to cacao, includes articles on agronomic systems in the major cacao-producing areas; quantitative changes in proteins during cacao growth; and studies on meiosis, among others. These issues are being sponsored by the Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (PROMECAFE) and the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO).

## Compendium of Tropical Agriculture

Vol. II (693 p.)

Translation and adaptation  
of "Memento de l'Agro-  
nome"

Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
of France

IICA Editorial Service

Cost: US\$20.00

COMPENDIO DE  
AGRONOMIA TROPICAL

MINISTERIO DE ASUNTOS EXTERIORES DE FRANCIA  
REDES DE INVESTIGACION Y TRANSFERENCIA DE TECNOLOGIA

The objective of the book "Compendio de Agronomía Tropical: Tomo II" (only in Spanish) is to provide farmers in the tropical regions of Latin America and the Caribbean with suitable responses to problems related to agricultural practices and crops.

This volume offers essential information on different basic tropical food crops (rice, beans, corn, sorghum and others), and vegetables (sweet potatoes, potatoes, squash and others). It also covers fruits (soursop, pineapple, guava, citrus and others) and industrial crops (cotton, cacao, annatto, pepper, vanilla and others). The tropical crops discussed are studied in terms of plant production practices and fertilization; importance and ecology; propagation methods; agronomic practices; control of diseases and pests; harvest yields; and industrial processing. The first volume of this work, also prepared by IICA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, covered many topics, including agricultural economics, statistics, computer science, accounting, remote sensing, agrometeorology, topography, soils, agricultural risks, and rural machinery and construction.

## IICA in the News

In recent weeks, the activities of IICA and Institute officials were reported in the press throughout the region. Several newspapers gave broad coverage to activities such as the first Andean Meeting for



Agricultural Consensus, attended by the Director General of IICA; his recent visit to several South American countries; and an important event related to plant protection in the Southern Area.

The daily paper *El Nacional*, of Caracas, reported on the address Martin Piñero delivered to the meeting of representatives of the public and private sectors, aimed at reaching agreement on actions designed to revitalize the agricultural sector in the Andean Area. In his address, the Director General made reference to the strategy for the Andean Area set forth in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

International press agen-

**hoy**  
El Nacional

cies such as AFP and IPS provided their correspondents with information on the Director General's visit to South America, which included stops in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Uruguay. Piñero attended presidential inaugurations in Montevideo and Santiago. The Uruguayan daily papers *El País*, *El Día*, *Lea* and *La República* all reported on the trip, as did *Hoy* and *Ambito Financiero* in Argentina. In a statement to IPS, Piñero spoke of the favorable outlook for agriculture, in light of foreseeable improvements in conditions on international markets and of increased demand for food worldwide as a result of the opening up of the economies of eastern Europe.

The press also carried reports on regional plant protection meetings held in Uruguay. *La República*, *El Día* and *El País* provided details on the meeting, which was inaugurated by the new Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Alvaro Ramos. The goal of the meeting was to coordinate sanitary regulations related to the regional trade of agricultural products.

## Upcoming Activities

### ■ Seminar on Agricultural Policies and Rural Women, May 28-31

International experts in the subjects of rural development and women, and representatives of development agencies, will share their views and make recommendations on IICA's strategy on rural women. They will evaluate the conceptual, methodological and operating framework of IICA's strategy on the subject, which was designed to increase the participation of women in the process of agricultural reactivation. The meeting will take place at IICA Headquarters.

### ■ International Panel to Judge Painting Contest, May 25-30

This body, made up of renowned experts, will meet at IICA Headquarters to select the paintings which most accurately and creatively portray rural life in Latin America and the Caribbean. The contest is sponsored by IICA and the Commission of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America. The panel will judge works selected in national contests held in IICA's member countries.



### ■ Meeting of the Inter-American Study Group of the New Biotechnology in Agriculture and Health, May 29-June 1

The objective of this meeting, to be held in Brasilia, Brazil, is to prepare guidelines for Latin America and the Caribbean on the release into the environment of products and organisms obtained through or modified by genetic engineering.

The meeting is being organized by IICA, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the National Genetic Resource Center (CENARGEN), which is attached to the Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA). As a result of this meeting, the participants will make specific recommendations to IICA and PAHO for the development of biotechnologies in the region.

May - June 1990, Year VII, No. 39



*The Ministers of Agriculture of the Southern Cone agreed to found CONASUR, a permanent sectoral forum. This historic event was attended by (from left to right) Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; Antonio Cabrera Mano Filho of Brazil; Felipe C. Solá of Argentina; Juan Agustín Figueroa Yapar of Chile and Alvaro Ramos Trigo of Uruguay. The event was also attended by a delegation from Paraguay.*

- Meetings Held in Spain on Agriculture and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Director General Seeks Greater European Cooperation for the Region
- Japan and Korea See Role for IICA in Channeling Cooperation to the Region
- Experts Establish Basic Regulations for Release of Genetically Modified Products

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is 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 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

### Southern Area: Ministers of Agriculture Establish Permanent Sectoral Forum

**A**t the conclusion of a meeting held in Buenos Aires on June 8-9, the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay, as well as delegates from Paraguay and IICA, agreed to found a permanent sectoral forum. During the meeting, the countries committed themselves to "taking joint actions in the field of agriculture to respond to the protectionism of the developed countries."



*The agreement between Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Uruguay will play a major role in strengthening subregional integration.*

Participating in this event, which marked the creation of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR), were the Ministers of Agriculture of Brazil, Antonio Cabrera Filho; of Chile, Juan Agustín Figueroa; and of Uruguay, Alvaro Ramos; delegates from Paraguay; the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, Felipe Solá; and the Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñeiro. CONASUR represents the culmination of a subregional dialogue begun in 1988 and promoted by these countries and IICA, aimed at creating a permanent forum that would enable the ministers of agriculture to coordinate efforts related to rural development, agriculture and the conservation of natural resources.

In the opinion of Felipe Solá, CONASUR translates the political will for integration into concrete actions. He added that the multitude of problems facing agriculture in the countries is a sound reason for strengthening ties and for undertaking cooperative actions aimed at upgrading the efficiency of

production and the capacity for negotiating with third markets.

CONASUR is being founded at a time when increased emphasis is being placed on agriculture as a potential source of economic growth and a means of improving social conditions, under new development strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean. IICA is currently coordinating the execution of a Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which emphasizes multilateral efforts in the solution of common problems. Within the context of the PLANLAC, which proposes agriculture as the driving force behind equitable economic reactivation in the region, CONASUR will have a major role to play in coordinating PLANLAC actions in the Southern Area. The Minister from Brazil stated that the founding of CONASUR takes place at a time when there are "signs of true integration" in the world, among which he mentioned the opening of the Single European Common Market in 1992 and the recent trade agreement between the United States and Canada.

His opinion was shared by the ministers of Uruguay and Chile, who added that CONASUR will make it possible to "adopt joint positions" both in international agricultural input and product markets, and in forums "to strengthen the negotiating power of the region."

In Piñeiro's opinion, the creation of this institutional mechanism is a political decision of the utmost importance which will boost the integration process in the Southern Cone.

The agreement, approved originally by Argentina, Brazil and IICA - which will be in charge of the Secretariat for Coordination - stipulates that the creation of CONASUR must be ratified by the governments of Uruguay and Chile and approved by Paraguay. Each country will exercise the presidency of CONASUR for one year, beginning with Argentina, and then, in alphabetical order, the others. The IICA Representative in the corresponding country will serve as Secretary and will promote, along with the Chairman (the minister of agriculture of that country), frequent contacts with agencies linked to the agricultural sector, in search of technical and financial assistance.





*Diana Medrano, a specialist from IICA; Cecilia Lopez, Director of PREALC; Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; and Clara Ines Olaya, of UNIFEM in New York, analyzed the proposal for action with rural women.*

## Experts from the Hemisphere Discuss Strategy for Rural Women

**T**hirty women from the hemisphere met from May 28 to 30 in Costa Rica to draw up proposals and recommendations for a strategy prepared by IICA to strengthen the participation of rural women in agricultural reactivation and development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The specialists in women's affairs and rural development discussed a document offering new guidelines for IICA's technical cooperation on this subject with its 32 member countries.

With regard to research, the participants proposed doing away with approaches that see rural women as victims and emphasizing their positive contribution to production and the results of incorporating them into plans for rural development. They added that studies should analyze the impact of macroeconomic and adjustment policies on rural sectors, while establishing differences by gender. As to the design of policies for rural women, the participants pointed out that these policies should facilitate equal access to production re-

sources, promote public social investment geared specifically to women, and emphasize actions to modify the stereotypes of women. They insisted on the importance of proposing initiatives in fields such as technology generation and transfer, and marketing and agroindustry, which take into account the specific needs of rural women.

### WOMEN AND IICA

The topic of rural women is not new to IICA, although it has taken on greater importance in the past year as part of an effort sponsored by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that it was an "important challenge" for the Institute to design a strategy of action with rural women that has a multiplier effect and mobilizes and coordinates all the actors involved: international

agencies, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and, particularly, the public in general. Cecilia Lopez, from Colombia and the Director of the Regional Employment Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC) and former Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Colombia, highlighted the comparative advantages of an institution such as IICA in promoting actions aimed at rural women, given its "high degree of credibility among production sectors."

"The proposed conceptual framework is a step forward

which, because it comes from IICA, will open the door for serious work with rural women." Cornelia Butler Flora, from the United States and Director of the Department of Sociology at the Virginia Institute of Technology and Virginia State University, stated that the IICA proposal offers an excellent analysis of the agricultural situation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and clearly defines the position of women in agricultural production and development.

According to Maria Elena Cruz, of the Agricultural Research Group of Chile, any strategy on rural women must be very realistic with regard to the "harsh realities faced by small farmers, the cutbacks economic adjustments have forced on social programs and the export bias of production efforts."

Amparo Arango, a researcher from CIPAF, a Dominican NGO, highlighted the importance of using participatory methods in actions related to rural women, and of basing these methods on information that takes into account the important contributions made by working women that are usually not included in official statistics.

**B**razil was recently the site of a meeting of experts on biotechnology from the hemisphere. During the meeting, the groundwork was laid for providing the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with clear rules on the release of products generated through state-of-the-art genetic engineering techniques, with a view to protecting public health and the environment.

## In Latin America and the Caribbean: Experts Establish Basic Regulations on the Release of Genetically Modified Products

The meeting was especially important in view of the fact that these countries have no regulations governing the release into the environment of products modified or created through genetic engineering. Without such protection, the risk of abuse is considerable. The meeting, held from May 29 to June 1, was organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the National Genetic Resource Center (CENARGEN), which is attached to the Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA).

The Inter-American Study Group of the New Biotechnologies in Agriculture and Health, as the group of experts is called, urged national authorities to establish and, in some cases, expand rules and regulations on this subject in order to provide a legal foundation for research, industry, environmental protection, agriculture and health.

In this context, they gave their support to a work plan to assist interested countries in implementing regulations governing biotechnology. These countries would receive advice on legal matters, organization and

training related to biosafety and the application of regulations. This joint effort will be carried out by IICA, PAHO, the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the Regional Biotechnology Program of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The Director of IICA's Technology

Generation and Transfer Program, Eduardo Trigo, described the recent meeting in Brasilia as a first attempt at promoting the discussion of common proposals to facilitate regional integration and decision making in a field as new and important as biosafety. He added that it is urgent to attract investments to the region for the development of biotechnology. To do this, clear, but not excessive, rules should exist to protect health and the environment, which also ensure that

the region not be used as a testing ground, especially by multinational corporations.

This was the second meeting of specialists in the new biotechnologies. The first was held in Costa Rica in 1988, and produced guidelines on the use and safety of genetic engineering techniques, which have been circulated widely throughout the hemisphere. At the next meeting, scheduled for late 1990 or early 1991, the principal topic for discussion will be patents and intellectual property rights in biotechnology, an issue not yet solved in the region.





*The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, Carlos Romero (center); Delfín Colome Pujol, Director General of the Ibero-American Cooperation Institute (right), and Martín Piñero of IICA, during the inauguration of the Hispano-American Meetings.*

## Hispano-American Meetings Held on Agriculture and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

**T**he Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA), with support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI), sponsored a series of meetings on agriculture and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Madrid from June 13 to 15.

The goal of the meetings was to facilitate and promote the discussion of agricultural problems and policies by Spanish and Latin American experts. This high-level meeting provided an opportunity for discussing the major topics to be addressed during the Tenth Inter-American

Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA). The ICMA meeting will be held in 1991 in Spain, concurrently with that of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the governing body of IICA. These meetings will be held during the celebrations marking the fifth centennial of the arrival of the Spaniards to America, against the backdrop of the opening of the European Common Market, scheduled for 1992, and the wave of political and economic changes taking place in Eastern Europe.

It will provide a forum for analyzing progress made in implementing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the

Caribbean (PLANLAC). During the meetings, the experts from Spain and Latin America expressed their ideas on rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to making joint proposals.

Topics addressed included new agrarian policies for development; the European Economic Community (EEC), Latin America and the Caribbean and the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); Spanish economic cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean; the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC); the outlook for world trade in food, and financing rural development.

In addition to IICA, whose delegation was headed by Director General Martin E. Piñeiro, other international organizations represented at the meeting were: the EEC, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

Also attending were the deputy ministers of agriculture of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico and Venezuela, and authorities from the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), the Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

These meetings represent one of the joint actions agreed upon by MAPA, AECI and IICA in a letter of understanding signed recently by IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, and the president of the Agency, Fernando Valenzuela. This legal instrument calls for new cooperation between Spain and Latin America, in

the form of technical and financial support for some of the projects included under the PLANLAC, as well as in the training of human resources.

### Spain Seen as Link Between Europe and Latin America

During the inauguration of a series of meetings on agriculture and rural development in Latin America, the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, Carlos Romero, expressed his interest in having Spain serve as the link between Europe and Latin America. According to the Minister, at this particular political moment and within the context of the current world economic situation, it is urgent to break down isolationist tendencies and establish international relations at all levels. He stated that it is impossible to move forward in agricultural policies without taking into account what other countries are doing. The Minister pointed out that Spain's entry into the European Community has made it possible to further diversify agricultural policies, overcome isolation, and improve international relations. This, however, should not affect relations with other regions of the world, especially Latin America. Romero stated how pleased he was that Spain's invitation to host the meeting of the ICMA had been accepted.



Piñeiro discussed economic reforms underway in Latin America and the Caribbean and stressed the fact that it is the democratic governments that have had the courage and determination to execute economic adjustment programs which, in spite of support from the international community, had varying degrees of success and were not sufficient to reestablish economic growth.



*Felix Cirio, President of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology; and Martín E. Piñeiro, Carlos Pomareda and Manuel Otero, of IICA, analyzed the process to reactivate agriculture in the region.*



Experts from Latin America and Europe discussed the difficulties and opportunities facing the agricultural sector.

industry are being seen as a new hub of development in the countries of the region, which should base their industries on those sectors offering comparative advantages.

The governments are proposing new means to meet the challenges of growth with equity, in which the agricultural sector will be free to allocate freely any surpluses it generates, and thus make a real contribution to overall growth.

According to Piñeiro, "...this effort is at times painful and difficult and cannot succeed unless the industrialized countries take similar and complementary measures.

This is especially important for those economic areas where the countries of the region have natural comparative advantages, as in the case of agricultural and forestry production."

#### TRADE, FOOD SECTOR AND FUNDING

One of the topics discussed was the outlook for agricultural trade worldwide. The ways in which the agricultural policies of the developed countries distort this trade were analyzed, as was the need for the LAC countries to find new ways of participating in world markets, by granting greater importance to the agricultural sector.

Another key topic was the food sector, which, according to government and business sources, is central to the development of Spain's cooperation and foreign trade policies. Efforts in the food sector can combine advantages of the countries

where Spain invests with the technological know-how and experience Spain has gained in recent years.

Funding for the agricultural sector was another of the topics discussed by the participants.

The shortage of funds in Latin America and the Caribbean will be reduced if public investment programs give priority to the agricultural sector.

Emphasis was also placed on the need to move from recessive adjustments to adjustment with growth, to strengthen the democratic process.

#### AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION

In analyzing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), it was explained that agricultural reactivation and agro-



The Spanish Minister, Carlos Romero, seen here with Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that he was pleased that the upcoming ICMA meeting will be held in Spain.

In France:

## Director General Urges Greater European Cooperation for Region

**M**artin E. Piñero, Director General of IICA, stated in Paris that Western Europe has been a leader in the growing political support for a renewed Latin America. While recalling the negative effect some European policies have had on the region in the past, he urged that Western European support be turned into greater technical and financial cooperation.

Piñero, accompanied by IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, participated in a colloquium on food policies and the liberalization of economies and markets, attended by experts from different regions of the world. This meeting was convened by SOLAGRAL, a French non-governmental organization, and was sponsored by the Commission of the European Community and the French Ministries of Cooperation and Agriculture. During the meeting, Piñero analyzed different aspects of the international context that in one way or another affect the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

European support for Latin America has been offered in numerous international forums on such important matters as foreign debt and the conflict in Central America. The closer relations between the two continents are being forged at a time when most of the governments of Latin America are undertaking strategies similar to those initiated in Europe several decades ago. The formation of the European Economic Community (EEC) was a key element of post-war reconstruction in Western Europe, and the countries of

Latin America are trying to take steps in the same direction. As examples, he cited the integration agreements among Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay; the new Andean Pact agreement; and attempts to re-initiate the Central American Common Market.

He added that the consolidation of democratic regimes in Latin America and the Caribbean and the serious attempts at integration are coming about at a time when the structure of the world economy is undergoing profound change, such as European unification in 1992, reforms in Eastern Europe, the end of the East-West conflict and the rapid formation of economic blocs. These must be looked at not only for what they might mean in terms of supply and demand of agricultural products, but also within the context of their effect on international technical cooperation, as more countries compete for financial assistance.

In Piñero's judgement, the success achieved in the political and diplomatic aspects of relations between Europe and Latin America, has not been matched with specific support to economic development, which is essential if democracy is to survive in the region. Internal restrictions and inflexibility have prevented the EEC countries from changing certain policies that affect the development of the economies of Latin America. He

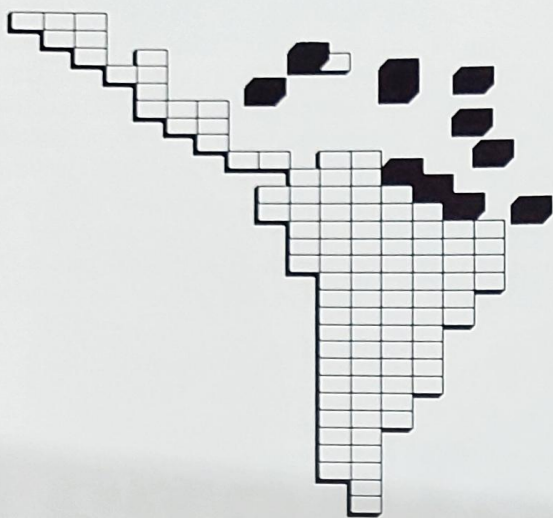
specified that in this regard, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has had the most serious impact on the economies of the region, and is at the heart of this apparent contradiction between the political determination to cooperate and the reality of negative economic influences. He pointed out that if agriculture in Latin America is to lead to economic

# Solagral

growth, market conditions must exist that favor competition.

He added that financial and technical cooperation to reactivate the economies of the region is an excellent means for Europe to support the consolidation of democracy in Latin America, and cited three key areas for channeling this cooperation to the agricultural sector: technological development, investment in production and market access. In referring to traditional bilateral cooperation, Piñero suggested that resources be redirected to multinational activities, in order to solve specific problems, and, at the same time, strengthen integration in Latin America.

# Director General of IICA Meets with Caribbean Ministers of Agriculture



**D**uring a meeting of CARICOM ministers responsible for agriculture in Jamaica, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that the wave of changes taking place in Eastern Europe and the growing trend to form trading and political blocs may, in the short term, lead to a new type of economic relations between the United States and Canada and Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addressing the thirteenth meeting of ministers responsible for agriculture of the thirteen member countries of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Piñeiro discussed problems and opportunities for agriculture in the new international context.

He said that these new relations may take the form of free trade agreements or some other type of economic arrangement and explained that the countries in the region must soon decide how these relations might develop and what specific mechanisms will be needed in the agricultural sector. Piñeiro offered IICA as a forum for the

discussion of these topics, especially those that will lead to greater cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America.

He also told the ministers that, in light of the current economic situation, it is necessary to study how the agricultural sector will be affected by the structural adjustment programs being implemented in most of the countries.

"This situation, combined with the scarcity of funds, a problem that will probably grow in the near future, suggests the need to carefully define investment priorities and closely relate technical cooperation efforts to these investments."

In focusing on IICA's initiatives in the Caribbean under the PLANLAC, he stated that they are based on the CARICOM Agricultural Programme. He said, "Our efforts will center on creating a bridge for transferring technology between Latin America and the Caribbean."

With regard to the latter point, he explained that recently IICA cooperated with the Brazilian Technical Cooperation Agency in preparing a diagnosis of the agricultural sector in the region.

During his address, the Director General explained the work IICA carries out in the Caribbean with regional organizations such as the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS). Among others, he

offered the example of the project headquartered in Barbados which cooperates with the Caribbean countries in developing agricultural projects for presentation to donor countries.

Piñeiro discussed other programs and projects for joint action included in the PLANLAC's chapter on the Caribbean, which are part of the efforts to reactivate the economies of the subregion. Among these is support for the establishment and operation of an agricultural research network in the Caribbean.

Over the last four years, more and more attention has been paid to IICA's work in the Caribbean. An example of this is the fact that three more Caribbean nations have joined the Institute during this period: Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In addition, the Director General discussed the work carried out by IICA in collaboration with the CARICOM secretariat, and expressed his satisfaction with the way this work has contributed to the Caribbean Community Programme for Agricultural Development (CCPAD) and the OECS Diversification Programme.

He declared that both of these initiatives show clearly that the region is politically and technically capable of identifying its priorities, and expressed hope that the international financial community would respond positively.

Piñeiro expressed the hope that IICA will be involved in new bilateral initiatives with cooperation institutions or agencies to prepare projects of benefit to the Caribbean.

# Japan and Korea See Role for IICA in Channeling Cooperation to the Region

Upon his return from a visit to Japan and Korea, the Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein, stated that the governments and agencies of both countries see IICA as a vehicle for channeling their aid to agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Werthein's visit to Tokyo and Seoul, from May 12-23, is part of the efforts of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture to seek support and resources from outside the region for agricultural reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. In his meetings with officials from the governments and cooperation agencies of Japan and Korea, he discussed several projects included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Werthein commented that Japan is interested in increasing its cooperation activities with IICA. The fact that the Institute has a Plan of Joint Action supported by 32 countries makes it an appropriate vehicle for channeling Japanese aid to development in the region, complementing that country's bilateral agreements.

In conversations with authorities from

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), progress was made in reaching agreement on new types of cooperation. Two examples are: increasing the number of Japanese experts associated with IICA projects, and using JICA experience in the training of technical personnel from Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Japanese Economic Development Institute, and its Latin America and Caribbean Division, expressed interest in carrying out joint activities with IICA to analyze, compare and share experiences on agrarian policies in Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia. The possibility of holding such activities was also discussed with the Koreans.

Japanese authorities promised to respond soon to requests for support of specific projects included in the PLANLAC. While in Tokyo, Werthein met with the ambassadors of Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica and the United States, all of which are member countries of IICA, to inform them of negotiations undertaken during his visit.

## In Korea

According to Werthein, "Korea is interested in increasing its coopera-

tion with Latin America and the Caribbean. It is very interested in the area, and feels that Korea's support to the region can be channeled more efficiently through IICA and other institutions of the inter-American system."

The visit of the Director of External Relations to Seoul came shortly after a high-level mission from the government of Korea that spent three weeks at IICA analyzing new possibilities for cooperation to support agricultural reactivation in the region. A second Korean mission will soon visit IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica to hold further discussions on proposals for cooperation presented by Werthein.

Government authorities recommended that IICA organize a visit to Seoul by ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, in order to discuss agriculture and the current state of agricultural technology in Korea. They are also studying the possibility of assigning agricultural specialists to IICA projects as associate experts. Werthein announced that the Korean Institute for Rural Development Management will offer training scholarships for technical personnel from the region.

In a meeting with IICA's Director of External Relations, ambassadors from Latin America in Seoul, as well as diplomats from Canada, Portugal and Spain, offered support for the agricultural reactivation strategy being promoted by IICA and for the negotiations being held with Korea. Werthein said, "For both visits, the participation of the embassies of several member countries (Argentina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and the United States) was very significant. They support IICA's efforts and made this very clear to the ministries of foreign relations of Japan and Korea."



*In Japan and Korea, the Director of External Relations sought support for agricultural reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.*



# Canada Studies New Types of Cooperation for Agriculture in the Region

The Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein, met with national and provincial officials from Canada to discuss new types of cooperation and Canada's connection with the plans and projects included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which is being coordinated by the Institute.

Accompanied by the IICA Representative in Canada, Ernani Fiori, Werthein met in Quebec with provincial representatives, and in Ottawa with national officials.

He was impressed with how favorably Canadian authorities have accepted IICA's proposals for reactivating agriculture in the Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Ottawa, he met with officials from the ministries of foreign relations and agriculture and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

While at the ministry of foreign affairs, he met with Louise Frechette, Assistant Deputy Minister for Latin America and the Caribbean, and with other high-ranking diplomats such as Richard Gorham, ambassador-at-large for Latin America, and S. Gooch.

At the ministry of agriculture he met with the associate deputy minister of agriculture, John McGowan and the director of international affairs of the same ministry, Allan Gratis. At CIDA headquarters he met with B. Ross and C. Lapointe.

With the national authorities, he discussed Canadian cooperation with IICA, especially the execution of the IICA/CIDA Project, the objective of which is to strengthen IICA's five Programs, through which it provides

technical assistance to its 32 member countries. An important item on the agenda is Canada's participation in the upcoming meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, to take place in Costa Rica from August 27-30.

He also visited the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), where he discussed new types of cooperation targeting rural women. A meeting was also

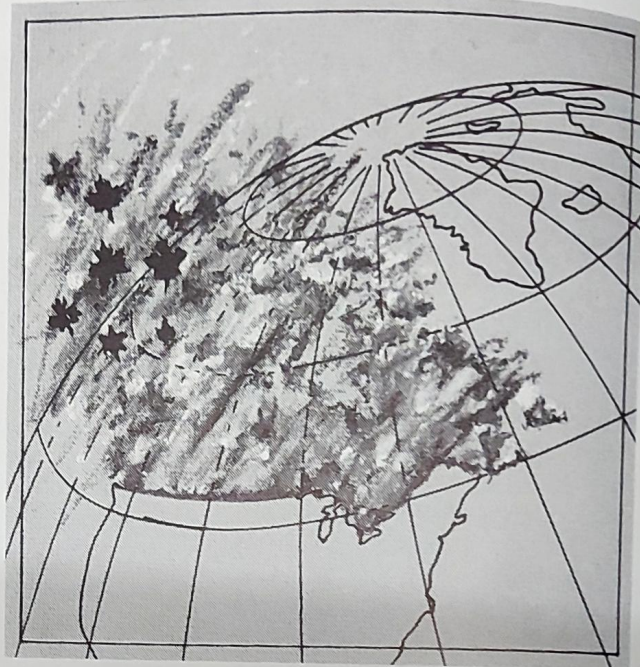
held with M. O'Neil, president of the North-South Institute, a non-governmental institution promoting development and peace, to discuss possible links with IICA.

## IN QUEBEC

While in Quebec, he visited the ministry of international relations, where he met with the Director General of the Bureau for Latin America and the Antilles, Dennis Garvis. At the ministry of agriculture and food, he met with Guy Beaudoin and Jean Hebert.

He also met with the deputy minister of higher education and science, Marcel Gilbert and other representatives of the academic community, including dean of the school of agriculture of the University of Laval, Marc Trudel; Marie Francis Labrecque, a specialist in the field of women's affairs and development; and with secretary general of the Inter-American University Organization, Pierre Van Der Donck.

The Director of External Relations reported that areas of cooperation



agreed upon include scholarships for post-graduate studies, as well as short-term scholarships lasting one to three months, for specialized refresher courses for technical personnel from Latin America and the Caribbean.

Consultants from the ministry of agriculture and Laval and McGill Universities will provide support to different projects included in the PLANLAC. Provincial agencies will provide support in the preparation of audiovisual materials related to agricultural reactivation.

The Inter-American University Organization will send a mission to IICA Headquarters soon to discuss future joint projects.

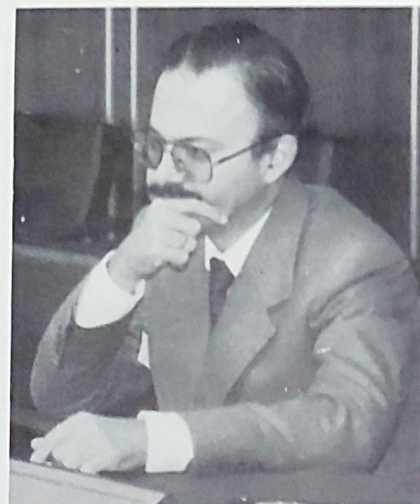
# Expectations and Optimism for Agriculture and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Carlos Pomareda (\*)

**T**he opportunities and difficulties involved in achieving development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are numerous, and increasing. We must face them with optimism, with trust in our capabilities, while calling for reciprocity in international relations. Optimism spurs us on to achieve economic development, based on a reactivation of production with special emphasis on agriculture. Agriculture is singled out not only because of its potential for generating economic activity through intersectoral relations, but also because the problems of rural poverty must be dealt with immediately and there is a critical need to establish an acceptable level of food security.

The countries are facing a considerable challenge and certain basic tasks must be addressed immediately. A careful examination is being made of the State structure and its capability to lead a viable and sustained development process. Most of the countries are currently involved in this process and are proceeding to adopt the necessary measures for change, as quickly and thoroughly as their social and economic conditions and the political juncture allow. The general trend in the region is towards a State that orients development, that interferes less than in the past and that is more able to mobilize the population. The task is monumental, particularly the endeavors to make public institutions efficient and to create new forms of organization with the full participation of those segments of the general population that are truly committed to achieving social objectives.

The reestablishment of democratic systems has been recognized as the first basic step for redefining the role of the State, for developing new means of participation for the population, and for reorienting public spending and investments. Greater equilibrium is being sought between defense spending and social security; general subsidies and protectionist measures that serve the interests of the private sector elite are being reduced; and strategic public investment programs, fundamentally geared to training human capital and encouraging private investment, are being designed. The emerging democratic processes,



however, must be based on firm action and run the risk of being temporarily unpopular, which happens when measures are taken to bring about the necessary and profound changes. The interesting alliances and social pacts growing out of this process deserve the highest praise.

Achieving sustained development requires financial resources that the countries have begun to secure in several ways: some progress has been made in reducing the external debt through the countries' individual negotiations and the collective pressure of LAC. A different spirit is already evident in the negotiations. Efforts have been made to trim public spending, as part of the painful commitment acquired by many countries in structural adjustment programs, which unfortunately have had a more negative impact on the poorest of the poor. Steps have been taken to reform tax systems to establish more equitable power structures based less on capital accumulation. There seems to be a more positive attitude toward the opening up of international trade, the elimination of barriers, primarily tariff barriers, and more efficient management of exchange rates. This process is carried out with a certain amount of skepticism, however, and rightfully so, because in order for it to work, there must be reciprocity among countries. This challenge is most evident in the operations of the financial transaction system, which must operate in such a way as to promote production investments, to make access to credit more democratic, and to stem capital flight, a problem of significant proportions in the region.

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(\*) Ph.D. Agricultural Economics. Director of IICA's Program I: Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning

It is apparent that very few, if any, countries of the region still expect to achieve development in economic and technological isolation. This has clearly become a thing of the past. Nevertheless, the dilemma still exists of how to strike a balance between the opening of trade and financial opportunities in international markets and growth with equity at home. Fortunately, progress is being made in designing a development style that can be adopted by each country, which allows for appropriate weight to be given to the two components of the model, in accordance with the needs and potential of each country.

This balance must be achieved in light of the risks that arise from not participating in the international transfer of technology; trade of commodities, inputs and services, and the growing flow of capital; and from the understanding that participation in international markets benefits only a limited few.

More needs to be known about social-entrepreneurial organization in the production sectors so that articulation of the two will lead to a politically sustainable domestic economic structure and competitiveness on international markets. With regard to articulation among production sectors as one of the pillars of the development model, the role of farmers is central, although more so in some countries and regions of the countries than in others.

Mention should be made of the fact that intersectoral relations have been strengthened as a result of the industrialization of the agricultural sector. In addition, important industries, principally food, beverages, leather, tobacco and timber, have been created. Although they have a large import component, they can contribute greatly to economic reactivation if agricultural and agroindustrial producers share a common platform in their trade relations. It is also necessary that changes in the agrarian structure include moving away from the two-tiered structure that characterizes the rural sector.

In spite of doubts and uncertainty, there is growing interest in participating in international markets. It should be kept in mind that behind good political intentions for achieving a more just international order, there lie private interests and business needs that can lead to political decisions with serious repercussions on enterprises and organizations most active in international markets.

Therefore, the challenge lies, once again, in adopting a strategy that is in tune with the modern times, that is, a business strategy and a national strategy for sustained growth, based on the capacity to change, to upgrade technology and to diversify and to spread out risks.

As far as expectations are concerned, recent changes in Eastern Europe, the unification of Western Europe in 1992, and the rapprochement among the countries of the Pacific

are, for the moment, the most obvious occurrences that will bring about changes in the international arena. Other unforeseen events can take place and redefine circumstances. For this reason, the recent changes are especially important: they constitute additional points of reference for adjusting the development style and for reaching a decision on the balance between domestic and international interests. Many other domestic and international changes can still occur, so we must have a development style that allows for adaptation, while not expecting that everything can be changed again.

The important thing to consider in the international context is that, in addition to considering the size of markets (the first interpretation following the opening up of Eastern European trade), the significance of technological, economical and financial interrelations should be assessed and understood within the framework of worldwide business and political relations.

Changes at the world level also imply that LAC is seen differently by the international community and that in a competitive world we may seem to be at a comparative disadvantage, as compared to other regions of interest to developed countries.

Finally, mention should be made of the political-trade alliances being formed among countries, with a view to complementing comparative advantages and strengthening their position in world negotiations. LAC must weigh and take measures that will enable it to act as a group since, in the long term, this will be more effective than individual actions. The process of integration in LAC and in the subregions is of critical importance and requires increased efforts. In order to achieve effective cooperation and integration, serious thought must be given to proposals that have been implemented previously, but with relatively little success.

We must achieve a real political commitment based on the conviction that technological, trade and financial relations are at the basis of agreements made by the private sectors of the countries to bring about effective integration. Similarly, the countries must harmonize their policies in an effort to foster private sector relations.

# In Central America and the Dominican Republic: IICA to Strengthen Rural Settlements

**T**hrough a multinational project, IICA will help strengthen and consolidate rural settlements in the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic.

The goal of the project is to make these settlements capable of meeting the challenges of a highly competitive economic context. It also seeks to modernize the public institutions and agrarian institutes involved in agriculture and associated with the settlements.

IICA's proposal is part of the efforts of the Training and Study Program on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic (PRACA). This is one of the multinational projects included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

The Project was approved by the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America,

Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), the Inter-Institutional Group of the Agricultural Sector and the U.N. Special Program of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC).

A PEC meeting is scheduled to be held in September, at which time the proposal will be submitted to donor countries, which have shown interest in funding it.

## Headquarters

### Deputy Director General Represents IICA at OAS Assembly

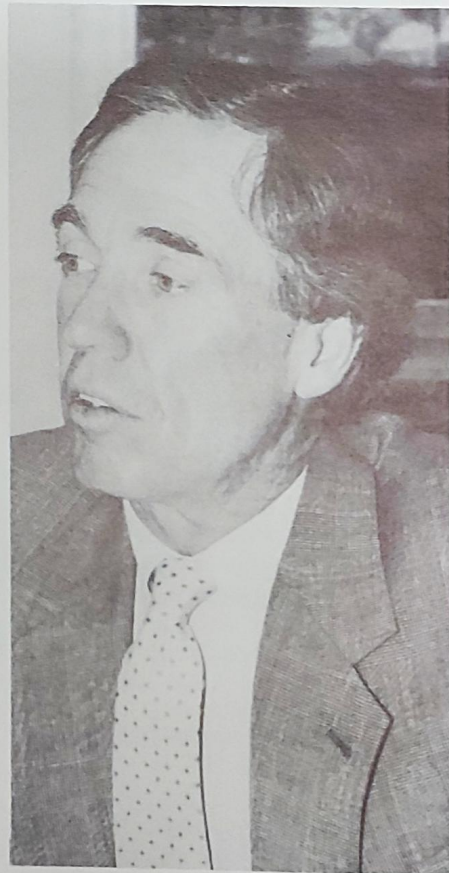
**T**he Deputy Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, L. Harlan Davis, attended the General Assembly of the Organization of American States, held in Paraguay from June 4-8, where he informed the Assembly of actions taken by IICA to revitalize the agricultural sector and reactivate the economies of the region.

Davis submitted IICA's Annual Report to the Assembly, emphasizing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which was approved by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere in October 1989.

In explaining the new proposals, which seek to revitalize and modernize the agricultural sector and thus reactivate the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, he stated

that the countries should give greater emphasis to the sector, considering the comparative advantages of agriculture and its impact on generating employment, improving per capita income and boosting exports.

In his address to the Assembly, Davis reported on progress being made in organizing the next Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which will be held concurrently with the next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture - IICA's highest governing body - in Spain in 1991. Davis focused on IICA's efforts to strengthen its relations with other agencies of the inter-American system, especially the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). IICA's projects with the government of Canada and the European Economic Community, especially in Central America, were also highlighted in the report to the Assembly.



L. Harlan Davis



Senior IICA officials meet with Chilean representatives attending the inauguration of Costa Rican President, Rafael A. Calderon.

## Chilean Delegation to Presidential Inauguration in Costa Rica Visits IICA

**T**he Minister of the Interior, Enrique Krauss Rusque, and the Deputy Secretary of Foreign Relations, Edmundo Vargas Carreño, who represented the government of Patricio Aylwin at the inauguration of Costa Rica's new government on May 8, visited IICA Headquarters along with the ambassador of Chile, Jaime Moreno Laval.

The Chilean delegation was wel-

comed by the Director General, Martin E. Piñero and other Institute officials, including the Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, and Manuel Otero, General Coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Krauss stressed the role of integration in solving agricultural

problems in the region, an opinion echoed by Vargas. Pointing out that Chile has a long tradition of working for integration, Krauss stated that "if there is to be integration in Latin America, in economic terms, the first thing we must do is achieve some degree of parity among the economies."

He was emphatic in saying that "this is the only way integration will ever really take place."

When he learned of IICA's efforts to strengthen agricultural integration in Latin America, through the PLANLAC, he said, "we feel that efforts made internationally to increase the level and quality of agricultural production are very important."

In regard to agriculture, he stated that Chile is very interested in phytosanitary regulations on exports. He emphasized the need to strengthen the small- and medium-size sectors of agroindustry "to see that they too benefit from exports."

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## IICA and CELATER Sign Agreement

**A** general technical cooperation agreement signed recently by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Latin American Center for Rural Technology and Education (CELATER) contains proposals for activities aimed at promoting the development of rural agroindustry in Latin America and the Caribbean.

One of the most important areas in which the organizations will work is in the preparation of studies on rural development in general, and rural agroindustry in particular.

According to the document signed by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, and the Director of CELATER, Enrique Castellanos, joint efforts will be made in conducting research, and in disseminating and transferring agro-industrial technology to boost rural development. The two-year agreement calls for training human resources in matters related to agroindustry, and disseminating training materials.

CELATER, headquartered in Colombia, is a non-governmental organization well known for its activities to

provide training and to disseminate rural technology. Together with IICA, it has been successful in publishing documents, holding technical consultation meetings and organizing courses related to agroindustry.

IICA and CELATER have been executing a project to strengthen the Appropriate Technology Network for Rural Agroindustrial Development (RETADAR), which facilitates the exchange of information, technology and food strategies, and promotes agroindustry.

## Vice President of Honduras Calls for Increased Integration

**D**uring a visit to IICA Headquarters in mid-May, the First Vice President of Honduras, Jacobo Hernandez, urged that the integration process in Central America be strengthened "now that the political climate is better for efforts to promote economic development and social well-being" in the region.

In a meeting with the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, the vice president added that there are excellent opportunities for integration in Central America, which should be promoted at the highest political and economic levels. Accompanied by the Honduran ambassador to Costa Rica, Edgardo Sevilla, Hernandez explained that agriculture can benefit greatly from integration, and that "joint and coordinated actions" will help develop the sector and contribute to economic reactivation in the region.

The Honduran vice president showed great interest in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which is being coordinated by IICA.

## Central America: Integration Strategy for Development Analyzed

**I**n May, the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) brought together Costa Ricans from the public and private sectors at IICA Headquarters to discuss an integration strategy for development in Central America.

The event was organized by SIECA, and was the last in a series of meetings held in the capitals of the countries of the region to study a strategy document produced by the Secretariat. Marco Antonio Villamar, Secretary General of SIECA, said, "We want to promote an open and frank dialogue among all the sectors which in one way or another are involved in the search

for economic and social development in our countries."

IICA's Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Alfonso Cebreros, agreed that the current context is favorable for working together to solve common problems, in an effort to facilitate economic reactivation in the region. Cebreros explained that IICA is coordinating the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which contains a component devoted specifically to Central America, and involves the execution of multinational programs and projects. It aims to help the countries to achieve equitable and sustainable economic development.



*An integration strategy for development in Central America was discussed in Costa Rica in the last of a series of meetings organized by SIECA.*

## Book on Technical Progress and Economic Structure Available at IICA

**I**n a meeting in early May which brought together Costa Rican economists from the public and private sectors, the book "Progreso Técnico y Estructura Económica: Dimensión Interna y Comercio Internacional" was officially released at IICA Headquarters.

Distinguished members of the academic community and the Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program,

Carlos Pomareda, participated in a panel moderated by Martin E. Piñero, the Director General of IICA.

The book contains 12 papers presented during the Seventh Latin American Meeting of the Econometrics Society, held from August 2-5, 1988 in Costa Rica where meeting participants presented more than 150 papers on different aspects of economics.

## Scholarships for IICA Officials

**T**he graduate school of the U.S. Department of Agriculture will grant scholarships to IICA officials on an annual basis to participate in the certificate program of the International Development Institute.

The programs available for next year concern project analysis, management of information systems and international administration of development. These scholarships are being offered as part of the technical cooperation agreement signed by IICA and this institution.

### PROCIANDINO Extended to 1995

In a decision reached by the governments of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Andean Subregion (PROCIANDINO) was extended to 1995.

PROCIANDINO, is headquartered in Quito and was created in 1987 as a program for scientific cooperation, technology generation and the exchange of experiences related to agriculture and livestock, aimed at increasing agricultural production in the Andean subregion.

Up to now, PROCIANDINO efforts were limited to supporting projects on pulses, corn, potatoes and edible oilseeds.

The Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR) entered a new stage in which it ceases to be a project and becomes an instrument for integration in the area of technology generation and transfer.

The Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Eduardo Trigo, stated that this new stage began on April 1, but that the first meeting of the PROCISUR Council of Directors did not take place until April 24-25 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

He added that one of the most important aspects of this change is that the PROCISUR countries will now be able to program and project their activities, which represents a step forward and brings the region into line with others where this type of mechanism already exists.

Involving Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, PROCISUR is one of the initiatives for the Southern Area contained in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Its objective is to foster ongoing cooperation, reciprocal support and integrated action among the national

In the 1990s, participating countries plan to expand cooperation to include the exchange of experiences on crops and livestock of the Andean highlands, dual-purpose livestock and soil conservation.

The Program operates through national agricultural research institutions, and has the support of the ministries of agriculture of the five countries, IICA, the Board of the Cartagena Agreement and other agencies involved in agriculture.



### PROCISUR Initiates a New Stage

agricultural research institutions of the countries.

It supports projects dealing with corn and rice, wheat, soybeans, beef cattle, biotechnology, fruit and vegetable production, technology transfer and technology for small farmers, human resource development, seed technology, forage evaluation, soil management and conservation, biological control, production systems and socioeconomics.

A document explaining all of the projects is currently being prepared for presentation to funding agencies.

IICA has already begun seeking support from institutions such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and the European Economic Community (EEC).

# Latin America and the Caribbean: Seminar on Agricultural Modernization

Officials from the public sectors of the region and representatives of international organizations attended a high-level seminar on the modernization of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, held from May 23-25 in Viña del Mar, Chile.

During the meeting, sponsored by IICA and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), a presentation was made on findings of eight studies on agricultural subsectors that achieved sustained growth as the result of the modernization efforts.

In an effort to understand factors contributing to the modernization of specific subsectors in Latin America and the Caribbean, IICA studied fruit growing in Chile; dairy farming and the dairy industry in Costa Rica; poultry farming in Peru; fruit and vegetable production in Mexico;

grains in Argentina; soybeans in Brazil; flowers in Colombia; and shrimp in Ecuador. Economic incentive policies, the structure of domestic and foreign markets, technology, the organization of associations, business management and funding were identified as key determining factors.

In addition to the studies, participants also analyzed intersectoral linkages and the multiplier effects of these processes on the rest of the economy. The subject of agricultural modernization is of special importance in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, which are trying to get back on the path of economic growth and development. To this end, IICA is coordinating the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). This proposal, the preparation of which was coordinated by IICA, emphasizes multilateral action as the means for solving common



problems of agriculture through hemispheric and subregional programs and projects.

The results of the seminar will be published in a document to be prepared by IICA's Program I: Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning.

A training seminar was held from May 28 - June 7 in Asuncion, Paraguay, attended by professionals from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay. The goal of the event was to study the impact of changes in the international context, national development strategies and macroeconomic policies on the performance of the agricultural sector.

The activity was organized by IICA and the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank, and brought together senior technical personnel from the ministries of agriculture, planning and finance, central banks, and semi-official institutions involved in the design, analysis and execution of policies affecting agriculture.

## Southern Area:

# Seminar on Macroeconomic and Sectoral Policies and Agriculture

Specialists from IICA's Program I (Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning), explained that the seminar improved the ability of the participants to prepare, execute and adjust economic policies and agricultural investment programs, at a time when the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are re-assessing the role agriculture can play in their development strategies.

The meeting was broken down into seven components, dealing with the following subjects: the international, regional and national economic outlook; elements of macroeconomic

analyses; agricultural policies; programming investments; economic policy analysis methods; and an operating framework for designing a national system to provide training on agricultural policy analysis.

It is hoped that the professionals will contribute to upgrading investment programs so that they respond to the current needs of the countries, and to evaluating the need for institutional changes in light of their countries' economic, social and environmental objectives.





*Eduardo Lindarte, an IICA specialist, participated in the seminar on strategic planning and management of agricultural research*

## In Southern and Andean Areas: Improved Management of Agricultural Research Sought

One of the objectives of a regional course-workshop held recently in Quito, Ecuador was to update and expand knowledge related to the management and administration of

agricultural research. This meeting, which was attended by officials of institutions from the countries of the Andean and Southern Areas, was organized by Ecuador's National Agri-

cultural Research Institute (INIAP), with technical and financial support from IICA, the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) and FAO.

Eduardo Lindarte, a technology generation and transfer specialist at IICA, underscored the importance of management in agricultural research as a means of improving institutional efficiency.

He stated that in recent decades there has been considerable growth in the region in terms of research and technology transfer, and that today there are some 10 to 15,000 agricultural researchers and between 20 and 30,000 people specializing in technology transfer.

Because of the crisis, however, governments have had to cut back their economic assistance, which means that such activities must become more efficient.

With the establishment of a committee and a council to direct its actions, an ambitious program to strengthen research on basic grains in Central America began operations in June.

With US\$12 million from the European Economic Community, the Regional Program to Strengthen Agricultural Research on Basic Grains aims to improve the efficiency of institutions working on research and technology generation related to corn, beans, rice and sorghum. Representatives from the countries of the area, meeting in Costa Rica from June 7-8 in the first joint meeting of the Program, officially established a committee that will coordinate agricultural research and extension services, and the scientific council.

The meeting, held at IICA Headquarters, was attended by the directors of the agricultural research and extension institutes of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras,

## Central America: EEC-funded Program on Basic Grains Begins Operations

Nicaragua and Panama. Also present were representatives from the EEC, the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), the Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama (INCAP), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and IICA.

IICA is responsible for the technical and financial administration of the program and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) is responsible for executing it. IICA also participates through its Technology Generation and Transfer Program.

Meeting participants decided that the Program should be directed at the owners of small family farms, who produce most of the basic grains, especially corn and beans, in the area.

One of the resolutions of the meeting calls for the creation of a committee to link research and agricultural extension. This committee is to be made up of one, or in some cases, two representatives of each country in Central America, and the Director of IICA's Program II, Eduardo Trigo. Members of the scientific council represent CATIE, IICA, INCAP, CIMMYT and CIAT.

## France to Train IICA Specialists in Harmonizing Agricultural Policies

On the basis of experience gained in applying the Common Agricultural Policy in Europe, the Ministry of Foreign Relations of France, through its Directorate of Scientific and Technical Cooperation for the Americas, will fund activities to train specialists from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in harmonizing agricultural policies.

A first group of experts from IICA's Program I (Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning) received grants to participate in a course taught by French experts at the headquarters of the European Economic Community in Brussels from June 17 to July 1.

The support offered to IICA by the French government comes under a cooperation agreement signed by both parties for improving agricultural and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Carlos Pomareda, Director of Program I, described the French support as "very valuable" because it provides the experts with know-how and experiences that will later be of great use in regional projects.

The specialists who received the training are involved in a project in Barbados to design strategies for policy analysis,

planning and the administration for agricultural development in the Caribbean. They also manage a project in Colombia on regional policies for agriculture in the Andean region, and one in Guatemala to operate a joint IICA/SIECA work unit.

## Officials Trained in Use of Data Base on Coffee

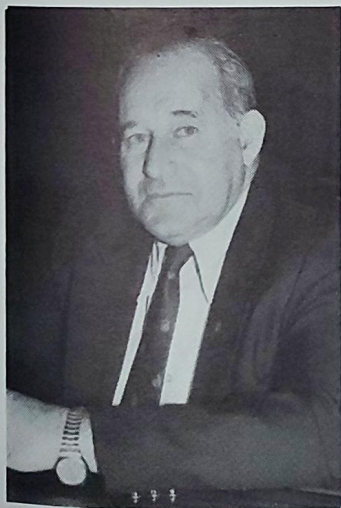
Officials from coffee-related institutions in the member countries of the Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (PROMECAFE) recently attended a course on the management and use of a data base on coffee (REDCAFE).

This activity, sponsored by PROMECAFE, was held at the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) in Turrialba, Costa Rica from April 23 - May 18.

At the conclusion of the course, the coordinators of coffee documentation centers in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua also met. Through these activities, PROMECAFE hopes to link REDCAFE up with other countries and institutions in order to tap the wealth of information on coffee stored in their information systems.

## Action in the Countries

### IICA Office in Grenada Celebrates Tenth Anniversary



Franz Alexander, IICA Representative in Grenada.

The IICA Office in Grenada recently celebrated its tenth anniversary by sponsoring several activities and publishing a brochure on IICA's work in this Caribbean nation.

In 1980, Grenada was the first nation of the eastern Caribbean to join IICA. Later, when more nations from the subregion joined, a strategy was formulated for developing multinational projects in the eastern Caribbean.

Grenada is currently involved in three projects for that subregion and in five for the Caribbean Area, under the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). The projects receive support from CARICOM's regional agricultural programme and from the agricultural diversification programme of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

On the occasion of the anniversary, Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, congratulated IICA's staff in Grenada and Franz Alexander, IICA Representative in the country. In his message, Piñeiro emphasized that the IICA, CARICOM and OECS initiatives are part of a strategy to modernize and reactivate agriculture in the Caribbean. He added that in the coming decade a new and dynamic program of technical cooperation will aim to improve the quality of life in Grenada and the rest of the region.

## Edmundo Gastal Library Inaugurated



In a ceremony held recently in Brasilia, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Agency (EMBRAPA) inaugurated a library bearing the name of the late director of the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR), Edmundo Gastal. Attending the ceremony were family members, authorities and representatives of IICA.

Gastal, who was known as the "framer and leader" of PROCISUR, passed away on February 5, leaving behind more than 80 research papers and numerous published articles on agricultural economics, planning, administration of research and scientific methods, which his family donated to the library.

The then president of EMBRAPA, Carlos Magno Campos da Rocha, called Gastal's contributions to agricultural research invaluable and praised the leadership he brought to PROCISUR.

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## Mexico and Guatemala Request IICA's Support for Bilateral Commission

Delegates from Mexico and Guatemala on the bilateral Agriculture and Forestry Subcommittee requested IICA's support in strengthening this integration instrument, the goal of which is to revitalize agricultural trade and technological relations among the two countries.

The request was made at the conclusion of a meeting held recently in Antigua, Guatemala, attended by representatives of the Secretariat for Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico (SARH) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala.

In making the request, the members of the subcommission indicated that IICA can make a valuable technical contribution to consolidating this newly created mechanism for integration, at a time when efforts are being made in the region to modernize and revitalize the agricultural sector. In the same vein, IICA is coordinating the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which contains strategies for Mexico and Central America, as well as for other regions.

In its first stage, the goal of this effort at integration between Mexico and Gua-

## Jamaica: IICA and CARDI Train Ministry of Agriculture Personnel

Specialists from the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and IICA recently offered a course on biometrics and agricultural economics to personnel of the Jamaican ministry of agriculture.

The ten-week course was aimed at upgrading the skills of ministry research personnel. CARDI has already offered three courses on biometrics; this was the first to include talks on agricultural economics. Course lecturers were William Fielding, an expert in biometrics with the Overseas Development Administration of the United Kingdom (an entity linked with CARDI), and Thomas Mulleady, an agricultural economist with IICA.

The course was held at the Bodles Agricultural Research Station in St. Catherine, and is one of the actions IICA and CARDI are carrying out as part of a cooperation agreement signed in 1989.

temala is to find common ground for devising a cooperation strategy to reactivate agriculture, improve the efficiency of production and strengthen inter-regional integration.

During the meeting, the delegates identified priority areas for action, including animal health and plant protection, the strengthening of production systems in settlements for repatriates, rural agroindustry and conservation of natural resources, to which resources from donor agencies and cooperation and funding agencies could be channelled.

# Panama Promotes Agricultural Reactivation

As part of the activities undertaken by the government of President Guillermo Endara to promote the reactivation of the agricultural sector, the Directorate for International Cooperation (DICOI) was created recently in Panama. The purpose of the directorate will be to coordinate actions with

international and other cooperation organizations in an effort to modernize the sector.

Aware of the contribution a modern and diversified agricultural sector can make to economic reactivation in the country, local authorities have devised a strategy for same, at a time when IICA is

coordinating the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

The Minister of Agricultural Development, Ezequiel Rodríguez, thanked IICA for the technical support it provided in designing and strengthening the DICOI,

and added that IICA's presence in Panama will provide opportunities for the agricultural sector to be integrated into efforts in the region to modernize the sector, reactivate the economies and ensure growth with equity.

## Publications

### New Book on Investments and Mechanisms for Mobilizing Financial Resources for Agriculture



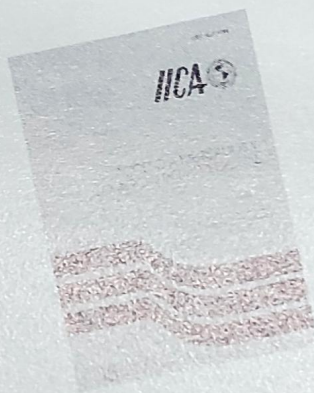
F. Cirio, C. Pomareda,  
R. Vázquez Platero  
& R. Weeb  
IICA Editorial Service  
US\$3.00

This publication analyzes the subject of investments and mechanisms for mobilizing instrumental capital, with emphasis on the types of financing used for agriculture by international banks and national systems.

The book (in Spanish only) consists of five chapters, in which a

brief analysis is made of the economic crisis and adjustment process in Latin America and the Caribbean in the 1980s, and of their impact on agriculture. It also includes an analysis of the funding mechanisms used by international development banks, against the backdrop of the foreign debt situation and stabilization and structural adjustment programs.

### Publication on Access to Markets and Intraregional Trade



A. de la Ossa &  
A. Guerra Borges  
IICA Editorial Service  
US\$3.00

The access of Latin American and Caribbean countries to international markets, as well as efforts aimed at strengthening intraregional trade, receive special attention in this book.

This work, published in Spanish, is part of the

Program Papers Series published by the IICA Editorial Service. It analyzes the responsibility of the countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) under the General Treaty of Tariffs and Trade (GATT), with regard to reducing protectionism, producing substitutes for natural products and developing and applying breakthroughs in biotechnology.

The conditions that should characterize the liberalization of international agricultural trade and the elimination of restrictive measures are discussed. Likewise, it is suggested that the revitalization of international trade will depend on the solution of problems hindering subregional integration. In addition, consideration is given to actions that can be taken within the context of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

## Viene director del IICA

El Director General del Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura, IICA, doctor Martín Piñero P., realizará una visita oficial al país del 17 al 21 de este mes, para informar a las autoridades nacionales y a los directivos y otras personalidades del sector agropecuario dominicano sobre el Plan de Acción Conjunta para la Reactivación de la Agricultura en América Latina y el Caribe, PLANALC.

Al mismo tiempo, el doctor Piñero sostendrá diálogos acerca de las acciones de cooperación técnica prioritarias con que el IICA apoyará al país en el corto y mediano plazos, en el marco de una acción estratégica que incluirá actividades a nivel nacional, regional y hemisférico.

El IICA es el organismo hemisférico especializado en agricultura del sistema latinoamericano y en la actualidad

cuenta con 32 países miembros.

Al ofrecer la información, el Secretario de Agricultura, agrónomo Manuel de Ja. Amézquita y el Representante de la Oficina local del IICA, encargado, Ingeniero Francisco Barea dijeron que el Plan de Reactivación que el organismo internacional promueve es el producto de un proceso sostenido de análisis, reflexión y consultas sobre la realidad latinoamericana y caribeña, que determina una nueva relación entre el IICA y los países.

Concuerdan con planeamientos hechos recientemente por el director general del IICA en el sentido de que con el PLANALC se inicia un nuevo estilo de trabajo que hará énfasis en la coordinación con otros organismos internacionales, incluyendo los financieros y la ejecución de acciones multinacionales que permitirán compartir más eficientemente los resultados de los esfuerzos realizados por los países en forma individual.



## The creation of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the

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## Genetic engineering laws needed

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (CAN)—The Inter-American Institute for Co-operation in Agriculture (IICA) has called for regulations in the region to control the release into the environment of products modified or created through genetic engineering.

Martin E. Piñero, Director General of IICA, has warned that such measures are needed in the Caribbean and Latin America in order to avoid abuses.

He said that the region would establish a clear legal framework for developing local capacities in the field of genetic engineering, the importance of technology, foreign investment and international trade.

Pinero reported the matter will be dealt with at a meeting of biotechnology experts in Brazil later this month.

The session which began yesterday and continues to date 1 is aimed at formulating regulations and establishing organizational structures to guarantee an acceptable level of safety in the field.

The IICA Director General said this new emphasis on biotechnology is the most developed countries out of the public's sensitivity to and fear of genetic engineering techniques.

This is the second meeting of such experts, the first being held in Costa Rica in 1986.



Southern Area (CONASUR) by the ministers of agriculture of the Southern Cone was given wide coverage in the press throughout the hemisphere. Also covered were the visit of the Director General of IICA to the Dominican Republic, as was a meeting of biotechnology experts in Brazil.

Coverage of the establishment of CONASUR was provided by the international news agencies Inter Press Service (IPS) and France Presse (AFP), and the Argentine newspapers La Nacion, La Prensa, El Cronista Comercial, Ambito Financiero, La Razon and El Clarin.

The meeting of the Inter-American Study Group of the New Biotechnologies in Agriculture and Health, organized by IICA, PAHO, and the National Genetic Resource Center, a center attached to the Brazilian Agricultural Research Agency (EMBRAPA), was covered by El Correo Braziliense of Brazil, La Republica of Uruguay, El Cronista Comercial of Argentina, La Estrella of Panama and Express of Trinidad and Tobago.

The press in the Dominican Republic gave wide coverage to the visit made by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, prior to the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of CORECA, held in Santo Domingo.

## La agricultura, mirando al Sur

El desarrollo de la agricultura de los países del Cono Sur de América se halla limitado por factores externos y características internas.

El subsecretario de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca, Felipe Solá afirmó hoy que el desarrollo de la agricultura de los países del Cono Sur de América, en la actualidad, enfrenta serios problemas que impiden su crecimiento sostenido.

El desarrollo de la agricultura de estos países se encuentra limitado hoy tanto por factores externos como por condiciones internas. A pesar de los importantes avances que las principales naciones en el sector de las regiones con que se está tratando a nivel del GATT se están en otros casos. Las países desarrollados continúan beneficiándose políticamente, lo que dificulta las medidas necesarias para alcanzar un desarrollo equitativo y sostenible en el sector agrícola de América Latina y el Caribe.



Felipe Solá denunció su "desprejuicio" por "los escasos recursos logrados en agricultura en nuestra región".

política que Argentina le otorga a la agricultura, dada además que "cuando existe la voluntad política se concretan las inversiones para mejorar el comercio entre nuestros países, reduciendo las barreras de distinto índole que los limitan y por ende nos corresponden a nosotros la responsabilidad de liberalizar el comercio de productos agrícolas y pecuarios, para permitir la libre circulación de bienes y servicios".

La comunidad de productores agrícolas de nuestros países continúa en búsqueda de nuevas vías para que los países latinoamericanos puedan competir en el mercado mundial. En este sentido, las empresas agropecuarias de nuestros países deben tener una visión clara de los mercados y de las oportunidades que se abren ante ellos.

## Meeting to Establish PROCITROPICOS July 10 - 11

A meeting will be held in Brasilia to found the Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), where directors of research and technology transfer institutions of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela will establish the technical bases of the program. The participants will reach agreement on procedures for cooperation between IICA and the countries for signing an agreement that will serve as the legal basis of the program. One goal of the meeting is to encourage the support of other international organizations and agencies.

## Tenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee August 27 - 30

Representatives of the 12 countries sitting on the 1990 Executive Committee will meet at IICA Headquarters to study progress made in complying with the resolutions of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, and to approve, among other things, adjustments made in and the extension of the 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan, which will govern the Institute's actions until 1993. The General Directorate will present reports on IICA's Programs, on the securing of external resources and a progress report on the PLANALC. Also to be discussed will be the topic of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, to be held in Spain in 1991, and the proposal to draw up a new Medium Term Plan. The Executive Committee is composed of twelve Member States, elected for a two-year term, according to the principles of partial rotation and equitable geographic distribution. The members of the Committee this year are: Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago.

July - August 1990, Year VII, No. 40



*In opening the First Meeting of the Special Commission of Ministers of Agriculture of Central America, the President of Honduras, Rafael Callejas (center), stated that the challenge of the 1990s is to make agriculture the driving force behind development in the isthmus. With Callejas (from left to right) are the Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñeiro, and the Ministers of Agriculture or Natural Resources of Panama, Ezequiel Rodríguez; of El Salvador, Antonio Cabrales; of Honduras, Mario Nuffo Gamero; of Costa Rica, Juan Rafael Lizano; of Nicaragua, Roberto Rondón; the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, Jorge Rijo; and Reynaldo Pérez, Secretary for Coordination of CORECA. Also in attendance was the minister of agriculture of Guatemala, Carlos de León Prera.*

- Central America:  
Ministers of Agriculture Set Priorities for Reactivation of Sector
- Germany Formalizes Support for the PLANLAC
- Tenth Regular Meeting of IICA Executive Committee
- "Women and Communications" Network to Link Central America

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**IICA**  **NEWS**

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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 32 member countries and 12 observer countries.



*During the inauguration, IICA's Director General, Martín E. Piñeiro, noted that the meeting of ministers was taking place against the backdrop of "transcendental" agreements reached at the last meeting of Central American presidents.*

## Central America: Ministers of Agriculture Set Priorities for Reactivation of Sector

**T**he ministers of agriculture of Central America, meeting in Honduras July 18-19, issued a call for the countries of the isthmus and the agencies working in the region to focus their attention on harmonizing policies, with a view to reactivating agriculture in the region, achieving food security and promoting intra- and inter-regional trade.

During the meeting, the ministers reached agreement on mechanisms for complying with the mandate of the Declaration of Antigua, signed by the Presidents of Central America this June. At that time, they called for coordination of policies to enable the agricultural sector to assume a greater role in the economic and social development of the region.

The meeting was called by the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), whose Secretariat for Coordination is located at IICA Headquarters. Participants included the ministers of agriculture of Guatemala, Carlos de Leon Prera; of Honduras, Mario Nufío Garnero; of El Salvador, Antonio Cabrales; of Costa Rica, Juan Rafael Lizano; of Nicaragua, Roberto Rondon Sacasa; of Panama, Ezequiel Rodríguez; the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, Julio Rijo Castillo, and the Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñeiro.

The ministers agreed that agriculture should play a major role in development in Central America in coming years, and that current efforts at integration should help the isthmus present a united front in its relations with the international community, especially as concerns markets for agricultural commodities.

The CORECA Secretariat for Coordination, which is headed by Reynaldo Perez, will call meetings of its Executive and Technical Committees to formalize agreements on harmonizing agricultural policies. The forthcoming ministerial meeting will be held in El Salvador. In the weeks following the meeting, technical commissions coordinated by the vice minister of agriculture of each country will analyze the topic of harmonization, using a document on the subject prepared by IICA and CORECA technical personnel. The vice ministers will also establish a mechanism for consultation and discussion with public sector officials in charge of integration and economic and industrial policies. To make this possible, close relations with the ministries of economy are being urged.

### The Role of Agencies

The ministers called upon the regional and international agencies working in the region to coordinate efforts and resources in support of projects related to the aforementioned priorities, indicating that these priorities should be kept in mind by the technical and financial agencies preparing a portfolio of projects to be submitted at the Agricultural Sector Meeting of the U.N. Special Program of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC), to be held in Nicaragua in late 1990.

In another decision, they requested an extension of the Project on Technical Assistance for Agricultural Development in Central America, known as RUTA II. The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has expressed interest in increasing its participation in the region through this project, which means that for the 1991-1992 period, it would work together with the governments of Central America.



Regarding the food security program for the isthmus, which receives support from the European Economic Community, the ministers instructed the Action Committee in Support of Economic and Social Development in Central America and Panama (CADESCA) Secretariat, in coordination with CORECA, to create a second program of this type.

In another decision, and considering the IDB's willingness to provide funding, they requested that IICA create a cooperative agricultural research program for Central America, similar to other such successful programs in the Andean countries (PROCIANDINO) and the Southern Cone (PROCISUR).

### POSITIVE RESULTS

The CORECA Secretary for Coordination, Reynaldo Perez, stated that the objectives of the ministerial meeting "were not only achieved, but also strengthened by the active participation of the ministers.

Their decision to adapt the PEC projects to the Plan for Economic Action in Central America (PAECA), formalized during the meeting of presidents in Antigua, shows that the relationship between agriculture and economic decisions is clearly understood." As it relates to efforts to harmonize agricultural policies in Central America, the decision of the ministers to link agricultural policies with macroeconomic policies is of the utmost importance.

Perez stated that CORECA made positive strides when the ministers decided to take a more active role in this forum, adding that it was almost as if CORECA had become a new mechanism.

He attributes this primarily to the fact that the thinking of participating ministers has become more homogeneous, and, for example, integration and the role of the public sector were given greater attention.

## IICA and CABEI Sign Agreement

Within the framework of the meeting of Central America ministers, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, and the Executive Vice President of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), Jose Miguel Gaitan, signed a cooperation agreement for identifying

and preparing agricultural sector investment programs and projects.

This instrument is intended to consolidate agricultural pre-investment and investment activities carried out by regional and extra-regional institutions, as well as those

proposed in the countries themselves. It will also support efforts to implement the programs and projects for Central America to be conducted under the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).



The signing ceremony was attended by the Vice President of the Republic of Honduras, Jacobo Hernandez Cruz, who stated that the agreement reflects the mandate of the Central American presidents, which seeks to promote regional integration and harmonize agricultural policies as a means of achieving economic and social development.

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*This instrument is intended to consolidate agricultural pre-investment and investment activities carried out by regional and extra-regional institutions*

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*In Tegucigalpa, the Director General of IICA and the Executive President of the CABEI, Rolando Ramirez, reviewed the joint efforts that will be possible under the agreement signed by both institutions.*

**A**t the close of this edition of IICA News, final preparations were being made for the Tenth Regular Meeting of the IICA Executive Committee, to be held from August 27-29 this year. Two of the major items on the agenda are the proposed topic for the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the proposal to update IICA's 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan (MTP).

The Committee, made up this year of

Member States and observer countries, as well as others from regional, subregional and international organizations and agencies are expected to attend the meeting.

#### TOPIC FOR THE ICMA

The Executive Committee will study a proposal offering "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the New International Context of the Nineties: New Strategy for the Close

the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

It would also allow for a re-examination of current international technical assistance, which is based on political and economic conditions that no longer exist. Funding sources, increased requests for assistance, the emphasis on new topics and a redefinition of the role of the State will have to be taken into account.

With regard to the proposal to update the 1987-1991 MTP, which involves extending it to 1993, IICA feels that this instrument must be brought into line not only with the priorities and changes arising from the mandate to coordinate the execution of the PLANLAC, but also with the desire to meet the countries' technical cooperation needs in the current context.

The new proposal contains a definition of objectives and strategies for the Institute, priority areas for technical cooperation activities, guidelines for organizing the Institute and an estimate of the resources needed for implementation.

## Tenth Regular Meeting of IICA Executive Committee

representatives of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago, will also review the status of the resolutions of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), especially those related to the mandate given the Institute by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere to coordinate the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

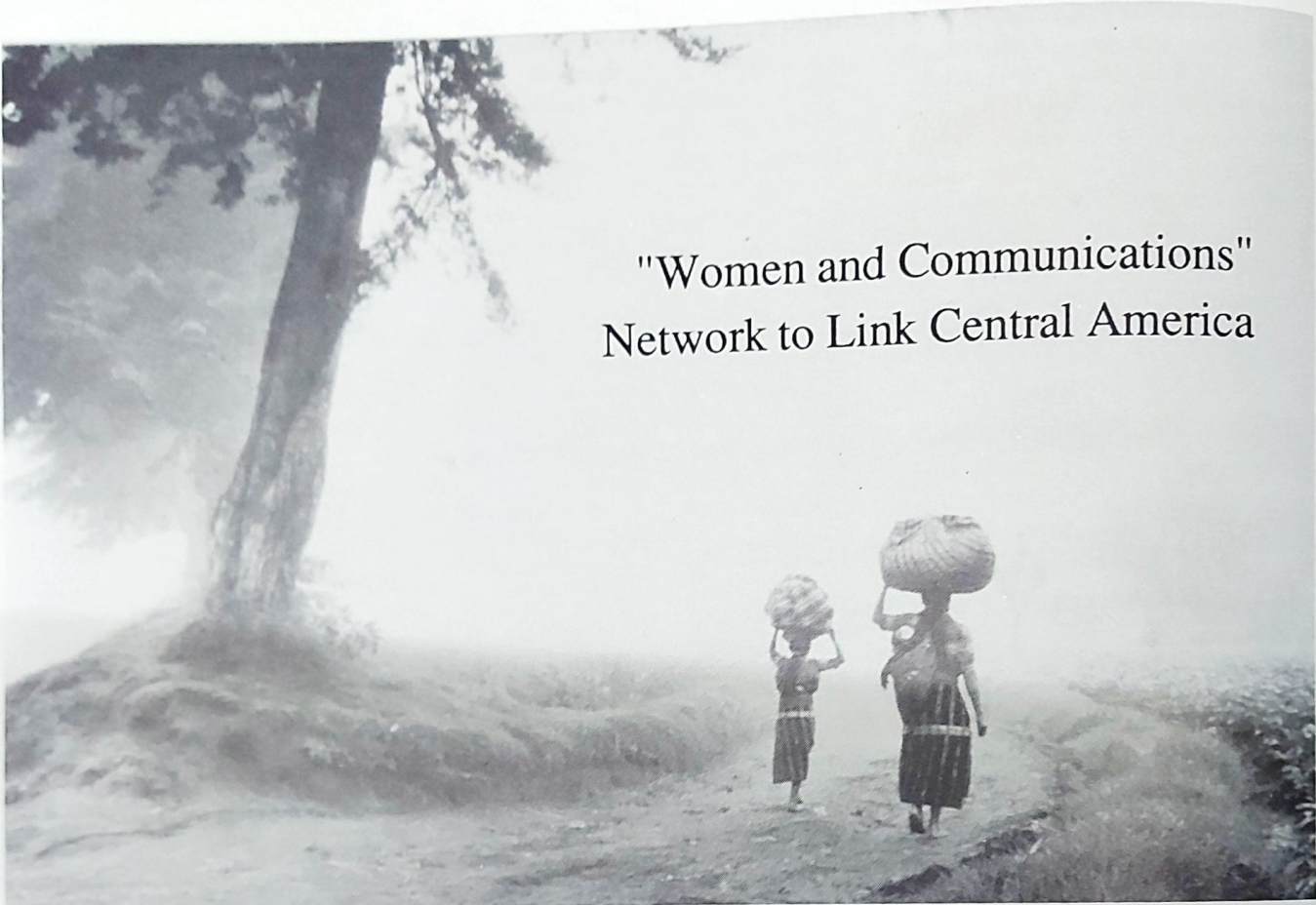
The Director General, Martin E. Pifeiro, will deliver a report on the PLANLAC, which proposes modernizing agriculture and linking it with agroindustry as a means of contributing to the reactivation of the economies of the region and fostering equitable and sustainable growth. Among others, reports on IICA activities carried out during 1989, IICA's Programs and the securing of external resources will also be submitted to the Committee. Some fifty representatives of IICA

of the Century" as the topic of the Tenth ICMA - the most important sectoral forum at the hemispheric level, made up of the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere -. The ICMA will be held in 1991 in Madrid, Spain, concurrent with the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

This topic, which is in complete consonance with the PLANLAC, will serve to stimulate discussion on the need to come up with a new model for modernizing agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean and linking it with industry. The aim is to achieve a more effective role in the international economy through products with greater value added.

Under this topic, consideration would also be given to the changes taking place worldwide such as the formation of economic blocs, the political reforms in Eastern Europe, the end of the East-West conflict, and the outlook for agricultural trade at the conclusion of the Uruguay Round of





## "Women and Communications" Network to Link Central America

**A** "Women and Communications" network will be established to link different public and private institutions in Central America working with rural women. This effort, the first of its kind in the region, is sponsored by IICA and the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA).

Under the terms of a project between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and SIDA, each country in Central America has a national team that has been trained in producing messages aimed at women and in effectively using the media and communication techniques.

IICA's Division of Communications will produce a monthly publication for the network, and the national teams, will produce similar materials, all of which will offer information on women and encourage the exchange of materials and experiences among the different Central American organizations.

### **A MATERIALS BANK**

The network will foster the creation of a materials bank (audiovisual materials, radio programs, booklets, slide/tape presentations, posters, etc.) to be used to facilitate the analy-

sis and discussion of the role of women in agriculture and agroindustry.

Divided into three groups of seven, the members of the national teams are currently finishing their training under the IICA-SIDA project. They are updating or improving their skills in the production of radio programs aimed at women, the design and production of printed materials and the preparation of audiovisual materials.

When they return to their countries, the participants will organize workshops where they will share the know-how they acquired during their stay at IICA with members of different organizations working with rural women. By the end of this year, some 120 Central American institutions will have benefitted from training.

The Coordinator of the IICA-SIDA project, Yolanda Ingianna, praised SIDA's contribution to the work IICA is carrying out with rural women in Central America. In her opinion, this is an excellent example of how a country in which women constitute an important political and social force can contribute to the efforts of institutions dedicated to seeking better overall conditions for women.

This opinion was shared by Omara Sequeira Garcia, head of the Office of Rural Women's Affairs of the Center for Research on Rural and Social Development (CIPRES) of Nicaragua. Sequeira said that because the courses offer both theoretical and practical information, she now has a clearer picture of the issues affecting women and has learned much about the use of printed materials, which will make the efforts of the Office of Rural Women's Affairs more effective.

Sara Iris Vargas, a rural sociologist from Costa Rica working in the area of training with the Latin American Institute for Education in Communications (ILPEC), called attention to IICA's commitment to working with rural women over the

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*Rural women, who make a vital, but anonymous, contribution to the economies of Central America, will soon be able to use communications not only as an instrument to participate in production under more favorable conditions, but also with the knowledge that their contribution to society is of great importance.*

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long term. In her opinion, this commitment recognizes the vital contribution these women have always made to agriculture and reflects the desire to have them participate in production under more favorable conditions.

Virginia Maribel Galdamez, from Guatemala's Human Resources Training Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, underscored the support the IICA-SIDA

project provides in strengthening integration among the organizations working with rural women in Central America. "In addition to providing us with know-how and techniques that will allow us to do a better job, the courses have provided an opportunity for men and women from Central America to meet and exchange experiences, and through the Women and Communications Network, to maintain contact with a source of information that will benefit all the organizations in the area."

A similar opinion was expressed by Norma Elisa Mejia, of Honduras, who is the coordinator of the Women's Education Program of the Christian Development Commission. "For Honduras, being able to share our thoughts with other countries that have worked with women for a long time, such as Costa Rica and Nicaragua, has been a very valuable experience. We can now apply new approaches to our work, and by combining this with the knowledge gained by the national teams through the training courses, we will be able to strengthen the efforts of our organizations over the short term."

Rural women, who make a vital, but anonymous, contribution to the economies of Central America, will soon be able to use communications not only as an instrument to participate in production under more favorable conditions, but also with the knowledge that their contribution to society is of great importance. The role of women in rural areas has long been underestimated. Their work is not limited to domestic chores: they are also involved in key aspects of agricultural production, which include caring for seedbeds, planting and raising crops, harvesting, and processing certain grains, such as coffee.

## Development Promoted for Rural Women in Paraguay

The principal objective of a cooperation agreement recently signed in Asuncion between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay is to facilitate the conditions that will make it possible for rural Paraguayan women to participate equitably in production.

The document was signed by the IICA Representative, Luis Carlos Pannunzio; the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations, Hans Kurz; the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Hernando Bertoni; the Minister of External Relations, Luis Maria Argaña; and the Executive Secretary

of the National Committee for External Coordination and Technical Assistance (CONCATE), Federico Mandelburger. The Director of Southern Area Operations, Carlos Rucks, also attended the ceremony.

The project will promote active and organized participation of rural women in the decision-making process and in the development of production activities. A training component is included which will equip rural women to develop know-how, capabilities and skills related to production techniques and food processing, as well as to the

administration and management of small production enterprises.

Through this agreement, IICA will expand its area of action with rural women to Paraguay, at a time when the Institute is developing similar activities in other countries, with support from UNIFEM. The Institute, through its Organization and Administration for Rural Development Program, has designed a conceptual and operating framework to boost the participation of rural women in its programs and projects.

## Rural life: Artists from Bolivia, Jamaica, Peru and Colombia winners in IICA Painting Contest



Members of the international panel (from left to right), Eduardo Faith, Guillermo Núñez and Elfrieda Bissember, judged 47 paintings from 25 Member States.

The winners of the painting contest on rural life, sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Commission of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America "The Meeting of Two Worlds," were Mario Coronado Orellana, of Bolivia; Leghorn Coghile, of Jamaica; Mauro Leandro Aquino, of Peru; and German Toloza Hernandez, of Colombia, who won first, second, third and fourth prize, respectively.

The members of the international panel, who judged 47 paintings selected earlier by national judges in IICA's 32 member countries, were Guillermo Núñez, of Chile; Elfrieda Bissember, of Guyana; and Eduardo Faith, of Costa Rica.

Núñez is a distinguished painter whose works can be found in museums in Europe, the United States, Latin America and Asia. In addition to being a professor, he was also the

director of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Santiago, Chile. Bissember, who is a graduate of English academies, teaches art history. Since 1983, Faith has been the director of the museums of Costa Rica's Central Bank: the Pre-Colombian Gold Museum, the Numismatic Museum and the Art and Pre-Colombian Ceramic Collections.

### THE WINNING PAINTINGS

Mario Coronado won the US\$2000 first prize for his oil painting entitled "La Riada." In the opinion of the judges, the painting is "a charming and poetic portrayal of the campesino's conflicts with nature."

They added that the work "is very authentic" and that "its spontaneity transmits a feeling of strength which breaks with the stereotypes typically associated with rural art."

Jamaican artist Leghorn Coghile was awarded the US\$1000 second prize for his painting entitled "Women: Traditions and Customs in Rural Life," which "expresses with confidence, lyricism and fantasy the importance of women in rural life."

The US\$750 third prize was awarded to Mauro Leandro Aquino, of Peru, for his work entitled "Cosecha de Maíz." According to the judges, the outstanding feature of this work is the "classic and allegorical treatment, rooted in the Latin American muralist tradition, which bestows a certain dignity upon the subject."

German Toloza Hernandez was awarded the US\$500 fourth prize for his painting entitled "Imágenes de mi Vereda: La Tachuela." This work "offers a more artistic view of rural life. By using symbolic elements rather than figurative ones, it re-creates the atmosphere of a country village from a contemporary point of view."

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

John Benjamin, of Grenada, received an honorable mention for his watercolor painting entitled "Height of Shango Ceremony." Leon Goring, of Guyana, and Joseph Gracia, of Haiti were also granted honorable mentions.

IICA and the Commission of the Quincentennial sponsored this contest, which involved artists from the entire hemisphere, in order to create greater interest on the part of the artistic community and the population as a whole in different aspects of rural life in Latin America and the Caribbean: small-scale farmers, young people and women, forms of production and customs and traditions.

## Headquarters

### Piñeiro Attends Presidential Inauguration in Colombia

On August 7, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, attended the ceremony in which Cesar Gaviria was sworn in as the new president of Colombia. While in Bogota, Piñeiro met with political and economic authorities to discuss the international context and how it will affect strategies for agricultural reactivation in the region.

Among other topics, they discussed reforms in Eastern Europe, the formation of trading blocs, renewed efforts at integration in Latin America and the Bush initiative for the Americas, which was the subject of discussion at a round table sponsored by the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI). Piñeiro was invited to attend the event along with other dignitaries including Enrique Iglesias, President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

In his meeting with newly installed authorities of the agricultural sector, the Director General reviewed IICA technical cooperation in Colombia, which for the past year focused on supporting agencies such as the Agricultural Sector Planning Office (OPSA), the National Renewable Natural Resources Institute (INDERENA) and the Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute (INCORA).

They also reviewed progress made in implementing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

The objectives of the Plan, which includes a specific strategy for the Andean subregion, are to consolidate integration among the agricultural and agroindustrial sectors; increase production and production efficiency, while



*During the Director General's visit to Colombia, a ceremony was held to present Dr. Pedro León Gómez with the Inter-American Agricultural Development Award.*

preserving natural resources and the environment; expand demand for products from the subregion, by replacing imports and increasing exports, and develop the small farm economy by enhancing its production capacity.

### IICA Seeks New Types of Cooperation with U.S. Organizations

Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), travelled to the United States in early August to reach agreement with different international agencies and organizations on new cooperation efforts and to strengthen existing ties.

In New York, he met with senior officials from the Rockefeller Foundation. IICA has a close relationship with the Foundation, and, there they analyzed possibilities for new joint actions.

In speaking with authorities from the Foundation, the Director of External Relations outlined the mandate given to IICA by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, to coordinate the execution of the Plan of Joint Action

for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which opens up many possibilities for working with organizations of this type.

In a meeting with the director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Sharron Capeling-Alakija, Werthein continued negotiations to expand the activities being carried out jointly by both institutions, which were strengthened in August 1989 with the project "Agricultural Policies, Women and Agricultural Development." With support from UNIFEM, the Institute prepared a conceptual, methodological and operating framework to increase the participation of rural women in its projects and to draw more attention to this subject within the Institute and without.

Later, he met with officials from the Kellogg Foundation to discuss the possibility of jointly executing social projects, especially related to women and communications, as well as actions aimed at training human resources as a means of contributing to agricultural reactivation, within the context of the PLANLAC.

In Washington, D.C., he met with authorities from the U.S. State Department, the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Joao Clemente Baena Soares, and representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank.

Representatives from renowned agricultural research centers of the region prepared a package of agricultural research projects for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will soon be submitted to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for funding.

Delegates from specialized centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) met for two days at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) with officials from the Bank and IICA to study a list of priority projects for the region.



of the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROGISUR), the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Andean Subregion (PROCIANDINO) and the Regional Program for Strengthening Agricultural Research on Basic Grains in Central America.

#### NEW PROPOSAL

The IDB's new proposal reflects the need to be "more specific in its funding of the CGIAR system in order to meet research goals that are more in tune with the needs of the region, in both the public and private sectors."

## Portfolio of Agricultural Research Projects Being Prepared for Presentation to IDB

A project on integrated pest management for rice (IPM-Rice), from the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and programs to generate corn germplasm for lowland tropical zones in Latin America, and aluminum-tolerant corn for acid soils, presented by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), are some of the initiatives considered by the participants as of vital interest for funding.

#### PROJECTS

The International Potato Center (CIP) presented a project on potato and sweet potato post-harvesting practices, and projects on crop-livestock systems,

natural resources and tropical pastures were proposed by officials of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). The International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) presented a project for training in the administration and management of agricultural research.

This was one of the first meetings with representatives from agricultural research centers from Latin America and the Caribbean since the IDB modified, as of this year, its form of funding for the CGIAR system.

The topic had already been studied at recent meetings



## New Director of Central Area Operations

As of June 15, Luis Arturo del Valle García, from Guatemala, is the new Director of Central Area Operations at IICA. Del Valle replaces Carlos Fernández, who is now in charge of the IICA Plan of Action in Costa Rica.

Del Valle will be responsible for the coordination of Institute operations in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. The new Director is an economist, specializing in agricultural planning and development who previously worked with



IICA as a consultant. He also worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

According to Del Valle, Central America is at a unique historical juncture, given the current emphasis on integration. In his opinion, an effort must be made "to ensure that the idea of integration is accepted by all social levels and that it lead effectively to a new style of development." The errors of the past must not be repeated, when integration was "taken over" by certain groups, he added, "without penetrating the mental and cultural structures of Central American society as a whole."

## PLANLAC

### IICA Supports Agricultural Reactivation in Panama

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Ministry of Agricultural Development of Panama signed an agreement to jointly administer the funds of the recently-established Special Fund for Agricultural Reactivation (FERA).

The document providing for the implementation of this agreement, which, according to agricultural authorities of Panama, will increase agriculture's role in the economic reactivation process, was signed by the Minister of Agricultural Development, Ezequiel Rodríguez, and the IICA Representative in Panama, Eduardo Salvadó.

FERA was established under the new policy guidelines for the agricultural sector, promoted by the government of President Guillermo Endara, which aim to modernize the sector and help reactivate the national economy. The Fund's main objective is to promote private sector participation in

agricultural development and to increase the public agricultural sector's role in the process.

According to Minister Rodríguez, "Our aim is to boost the quality, timeliness and coverage of all public agricultural support services offered to the private sector." FERA's benefits will focus on activities to develop specific projects to increase food production, and to improve the marketing of inputs and agricultural commodities. The operations will be funded with resources from the private sector, international organizations and grants.

Salvadó indicated that the Fund will complement national efforts to revitalize the agricultural sector at a time when IICA is coordinating the implementation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).



The Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama, Ezequiel Rodríguez (left), and the IICA Representative in that country, Eduardo Salvadó, sign the agreement.



**R**epresentatives of national research institutions and IICA recently signed a letter of intent in Brazil to accelerate the implementation of an agreement on agricultural cooperation in the South American tropics.

This document is a fundamental step in the creation of the Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), which will involve cooperative research activities, technical-scientific and technological exchanges, training of human resources of participating institutions, information and technical assistance, among others.

The document was signed in Brasilia during a meeting of specialists from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela, who met to discuss and contribute to improving the proposal to create PROCITROPICOS, which will serve as the legal foundation of the Program.

#### TECHNICAL ASPECTS

The technical aspects of the proposal will be reviewed by IICA officials, with the assistance of experts from each country so that the instrument may be signed as soon as possible.

The program seeks to establish the conditions and line up the resources needed for boosting reciprocal support and integrated action among national agricultural research and technology transfer institutions and IICA. It will cover the tropical Amazon subregions with potential for sustainable agricultural development.

The decision to upgrade the proposal was made by directors of national research and technology transfer institutions of the subregion, during their analysis of the future cooperation agreement between IICA and the participating institutions to establish the operating mechanisms of PROCITROPICOS.

## Implementation of Agreement on South American Tropics Accelerated

The organizational structure of PROCITROPICOS was approved at the meeting and will consist of a council of directors, an executive secretariat and a technical advisory committee. International coordinators will oversee the different subprograms, and national inter-institutional committees will also be established.

It was announced that initial funding contracts were signed with institutions from France, Japan and Korea, and IICA was requested to organize a meeting with donors to discuss ways of securing funding for the specific projects of the program.

PROCITROPICOS is the reformulation of a project the Institute conducted in the subregion in the 1950s, entitled IICA-TROPICOS, and which, according to the promoters of the project, had to be adjusted to "respond better to the current development needs and priorities of the countries."

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*This document is a fundamental step in the creation of the Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS)*

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They remarked that the South American tropics are the subject of growing worldwide attention and agricultural development actions there should balance the productive use of natural resources with measures to conserve the environment.

Sustainable production systems that can contribute to the socioeconomic development of the countries over time will also be developed. The program is part of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) and will be headquartered in Brasilia.



*Representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guayana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela attended the meeting, held in Brasilia.*

# Germany Formalizes Support for the PLANLAC

The Federal Republic of Germany has begun its support for the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

A technical cooperation agreement will soon be signed by IICA and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) for executing a number of pilot projects fostering sustained reactivation of agriculture in the region.



*As part of the IICA/GTZ agreement, an agricultural economist, Sabine Müller, recently began working at IICA Headquarters*

In August, Sabine Müller, an agricultural economist, began work at IICA Headquarters as part of this agreement. A second German expert will join IICA in the next few months. Müller joined the GTZ agro-economics team after working in African and Latin American nations such as Burundi, Congo, Costa Rica, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal and Togo.

One of the goals of the GTZ is to carry

out technical cooperation projects related to agriculture, health, rural development, science and technology, training and environmental protection.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, the GTZ gives special importance to projects concerned with environmental protection and alternative sources of energy.

## Upcoming Agreement

Germany's cooperation with IICA seeks to link the programs and projects of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) with sustainable development models being developed by that Agency, and with those that involve beneficiaries in protecting natural resources.

The agreement will also contribute to promoting the development of small rural farms, increasing the participation of small-scale producers and rural women, and training agricultural extension agents.

Likewise, the Agency will make a fund available to IICA for conducting studies on the protection of natural resources and on erosion in Central

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***The agreement will also contribute to promoting the development of small rural farms, increasing the participation of small-scale producers and rural women, and training agricultural extension agents.***

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America. It will also serve to promote discussion on the importance of conserving natural resources, as part of the formulation of regional and subregional strategies aimed at expanding and intensifying the use of agricultural lands.

## Activities

One of the initial activities will be a seminar on the importance of conserving natural resources, sustainable development and agroforestry in small-farm systems in tropical and subtropical areas of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The goal of this activity will be to stress the vital importance given to environmental concerns in cooperation strategies and programs carried out by IICA in its member countries.



# Agriculture at the Crossroads

Martín E. Piñeiro (\*)

Perhaps no other region in the world suffered as much as Latin America and the Caribbean during the 1980s. The steady decline of per capita income over thirteen years is only one indicator of the painful process of economic adjustment experienced by most of the countries.

This deterioration of the economic situation contrasts markedly with political events. Democratic systems have been strengthened, but their consolidation has been stunted by the persistent economic crisis.

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*The recently announced Initiative for the Americas, proposed by United States President George Bush, represents a new view of the region on the part of that country and opens up possibilities, at least in principle, for finding solutions to the foreign debt problem and revitalizing trade and investment, which would speed up integration throughout the hemisphere.*

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Economic adjustment programs are being implemented in the region at a time when major changes are taking place in the structure of international relations: the developments in Eastern Europe, which have had a profound effect on the economic model followed by these countries, the end of the Cold War, the increasingly important role played by countries in Southeast Asia, especially Japan, and the impending consolidation of the Group of Twelve of the European Economic Community.

In view of these changes, the countries of the hemisphere should be asking what they can do to benefit from the many opportunities and challenges provided by this new situation. First and foremost is the need to accelerate and expand the

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(\*) This article was published in El Clarín of Buenos Aires, Argentina on August 11, 1990.



process of regional integration. This will strengthen our presence in international fora, expand the base supplying domestic markets, permit us to more forcefully penetrate third markets and, in general, improve our position in dealing with developed countries. There are encouraging signs, especially in Central America and the Southern Cone.

In the Declaration of Antigua, adopted at the most recent summit meeting of Central American presidents in Guatemala, the first steps were taken to form an economic community in that subregion. The protocols of integration between Argentina and Brazil represent the beginning of an irreversible process. Both cases are examples of the path Latin America and the Caribbean should follow.

The recently announced Initiative for the Americas, proposed by United States President George Bush, represents a new view of the region on the part of that country and opens up possibilities, at least in principle, for finding solutions to the foreign debt problem and revitalizing trade and investment, which would speed up integration throughout the hemisphere.

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*The protocols of integration between Argentina and Brazil represent the beginning of an irreversible process. Both cases are examples of the path Latin America and the Caribbean should follow.*

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Secondly, in this new international context, the agricultural sector must assume a more active role than it has in the past. The development model followed by our countries did not produce the desired results and relegated agriculture to a secondary position, wasting the region's tremendous potential for production and causing a mass exodus from rural to urban areas.

It is becoming increasingly clear that agriculture must be modernized. To achieve this, intersectoral relations must be strengthened and agriculture must be seen not merely as a supplier of raw materials, but rather as a dynamic component of the agricultural-industrial complex.

There are numerous successful agroindustrial complexes in the region today which have stimulated economic activity,

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***The development model followed by our countries did not produce the desired results and relegated agriculture to a secondary position, wasting the region's tremendous potential for production and causing a mass exodus from rural to urban areas.***

---

generating employment and, as a result, improving the economies of areas outside the cities.

The goals of regional integration and a new role for agriculture are key elements of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), a plan ratified by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere and which seeks to make agriculture the basis of a new economic development model.

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The main idea of the PLANLAC, the execution of which is being coordinated by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), is that agriculture, if modernized and effectively linked with other sectors, can play a decisive role in overcoming the crisis faced by our countries. Its multinational programs and projects, aimed at solving problems affecting two or more countries, will help the region consolidate the production and export of agricultural and agroindustrial commodities.



In this vein, we hope and believe that the work carried out by the IICA Office in Argentina, in collaboration with the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, has been relevant and useful. Our cooperation with government authorities has included support for the National Grain Board and the National Meat Board, the decentralization of animal health and plant protection services and the formulation of projects for external funding.

Regional integration and concerted action, a longstanding topic of discussion in Latin America, is all the more relevant today in light of the serious economic crisis and the dizzying changes occurring worldwide, and provides opportunities for a modern and interconnected agriculture to achieve an effective position in an expanding international economy through products with high value added.

## Programs on the march

**A**t a meeting held recently at IICA Headquarters, representatives of agencies and organizations working in the field of plant protection throughout the Americas set, along with IICA, strategic guidelines for a hemispheric project on agricultural health information and monitoring.

This project, which is part of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), would provide the countries in the hemisphere with a system for gathering and disseminating information generated by international agencies and the countries, on the prevalence, economic impact and distribution of agricultural diseases and pests, as well as on the pesticides used for controlling them.

In general terms, the goal of the project is to make maximum use of information produced by interna-

## Plant Protection: Guidelines Set for Hemispheric Project

tional organizations such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International (CABI). IICA, acting as hemispheric coordinator, will distribute it to different subregional agricultural health organizations.

These agencies, in turn, will channel the information to national agencies for delivery to the target groups in the countries: farmer and export associations, universities, research centers and laboratories.

### COMPATIBLE SYSTEM

This information system would be similar to and compatible with those currently in operation in the region.

In an effort to maximize results, the exchange of data among countries, subregions and agencies will be encouraged.

Alberto Perdomo, with IICA's Agricultural Health Program, stated that the meeting had been "very valuable and useful" in that the participants had the opportunity to exchange and update information and to draw up initial plans for organizing national plant protection units. They also outlined points to be considered in implementing the plant protection information system and IICA's role in its development.

The meeting brought together delegates from, among others, FAO, CABI, the International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health (OIRSA), the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center



*Alberto Perdomo*

(CATIE), the Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Area (COSAVE), the Caribbean Plant Protection Committee (CPPC), the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA/APHIS).

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***In an effort to maximize results, the exchange of data among countries, subregions and agencies will be encouraged.***

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*The system will also include information on the use of pesticides*



## Action in the Countries

**A** project to boost the income of Haiti's small-scale coffee farmers by improving productivity will soon be launched by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide US\$8.5 million to fund the five-year project, which represents IICA's most ambitious technical cooperation effort in Haiti.

According to the IICA Representative in Haiti, Jan Hurwitch, 90% of Haiti's coffee is produced by small farmers whose crops have suffered seriously from coffee rust over the past two years. This has also caused significant problems for the national budget since coffee is one of the country's few agricultural export commodities.

IICA plans to introduce 5.5 million plants of new rust-resistant varieties of coffee in order to replace the current crop.

The project will initially cover two pilot zones in the south of Haiti, Jacmel and Beaumont, home to 7,000 small-scale coffee producers. Activities to be carried out include research, technology transfer, credit and small-farmer organization. In addition, training will be offered and seeds and fertilizers distributed throughout the entire country.

IICA's work in Haiti falls within the framework of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). The Plan contains a specific strategy for this Caribbean nation, which includes an in-depth study of the problems affecting rural

## IICA Seeks to Boost Coffee Production in Haiti

life, and proposes concrete actions to further develop the small-farm economy.

### IICA Action

Currently, at the request of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), a study is being made on rural credit in Haiti, to get a picture of the current financial situation of development banks and small-scale farmers. The IDB is interested in identifying potential credit beneficiaries, as well as the corresponding public and private institutions through which funds can be channelled.

Since 1989, the IICA Office in Haiti has been implementing a project to strengthen the ministry of agriculture, and promoting international cooperation with several specialized centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) System.

This year, Haiti joined the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network (CARAPHIN), an IICA initiative receiving financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The goal of CARAPHIN is to facilitate the exchange of information on the incidence of plant diseases and pests in this subregion.

Hurwitch also indicated that an important project, entitled Institutional Strengthening and Improvement of Agricultural Services for Rural Development (FIMSEDER), would be approved soon. The project may be launched in early 1991, with subprojects dealing with credit for small-scale rural enterprises, rural women, radio training, and agricultural education for rural youths.



*The IICA Office in Haiti explained that 5.5 million rust-resistant coffee plants will be introduced.*

# Caribbean Governments Call for Expansion of Agricultural Health Information Network

In light of the progress being made to achieve the objectives of the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network (CARAPHIN), several Caribbean governments have requested that the international financial community provide the additional resources needed to include Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Montserrat in the network.

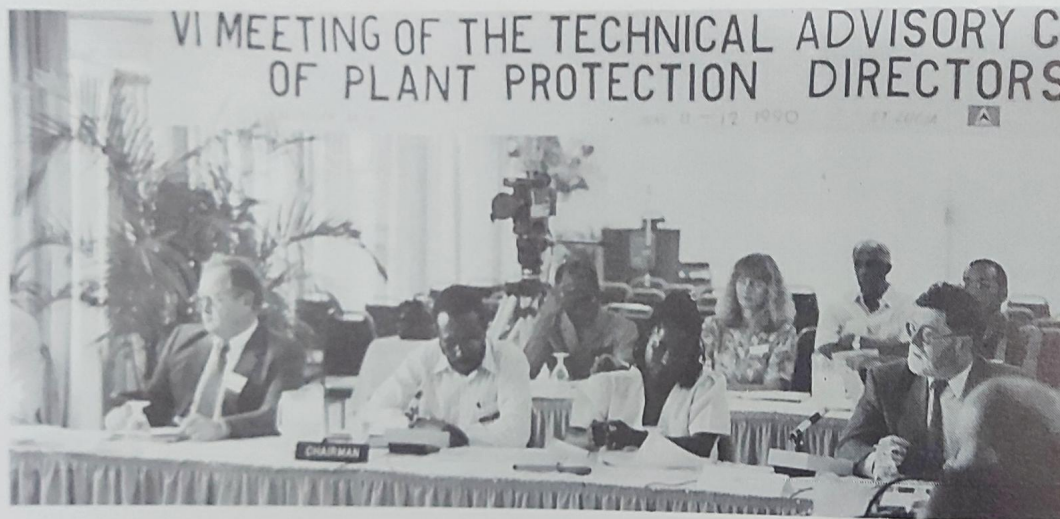
CARAPHIN, an initiative conducted by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency

operations, and the challenges for the future, were discussed during a meeting of the technical advisory committee of plant protection directors of the Caribbean, held recently in Saint Lucia.

During the meeting, sponsored by IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture of Saint Lucia, participants reviewed the plant protection activities of CARAPHIN in recent years, with a view to defining a strategy for the future.

Participants in the meeting included plant protection directors from the

(CARICOM) and the University of the West Indies (UWI), located in Trinidad and Tobago. They also outlined plant protection activities being conducted by IICA in the context of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), indicating that plant protection regulations should facilitate trade among nations and reduce the risk of the spread of pests. In addition to requesting more funds to increase the number of network members, the representatives of the governments also recommended that the program be extended beyond 1992.



*The success achieved so far by CARAPHIN, and challenges for the future, were discussed at a meeting of plant protection directors, held in Saint Lucia.*

(CIDA), facilitates the exchange of information related to the distribution and prevalence of plant pests and diseases in the Caribbean.

The network is headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago, and in each member country there is a computerized system to receive and transmit information on this subject of such great importance to agriculture.

The success achieved during the first two years of CARAPHIN's

ministries of agriculture of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as representatives of different regional organizations.

IICA officials explained that the meeting also provided an opportunity to coordinate plant protection activities of different international and regional organizations such as the Caribbean Community and Common Market

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*The success achieved during the first two years of CARAPHIN's operations, and the challenges for the future, were discussed during a meeting of the technical advisory committee of plant protection directors of the Caribbean, held recently in Saint Lucia.*

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1989 Annual Report:

# Success of PLANLAC Requires Sharing Responsibilities

The success of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which proposes modernizing agriculture and linking it with industry as a means

levels and describing the multinational actions carried out by each of IICA's five Programs, the Annual Report provides an updated view of the Institute, including actions it carried out in the member countries, relations with technical cooperation and funding agencies, and information on the structure of management and human and financial resources.

Piñero said that the Institute's new mandate - to coordinate execution of the PLANLAC - issued by the ministers of agri-

culture of the hemisphere in October 1989, required that IICA make certain organizational and functional changes. Greater emphasis has to be placed on promoting, designing and executing projects and on securing external resources, which "should be carried out in conjunction with the countries of the different subregions (through the corresponding institutional fora) and with specialized institutions which have shown an interest in participating in the Plan."

In his opinion, "The key to the Plan's success lies in this concept of shared responsibility."

The Director General went on to say that the implementation of the PLANLAC has given rise to a new institutional profile for IICA, which emphasizes the implementation of multinational actions designed to boost the efforts of the governments, with support from the

IICA Offices in their countries. "Equally important is the emphasis given to developing topics of strategic importance for the modernization of the agricultural sector. In this sense, inter-sectoral relations, the conservation of natural resources and the environment, training and institutional development, to mention just a few, take on new importance."

In referring to these topics, Piñero stated that they must be seen in the context of the extraordinary economic and political relations. Changes in Eastern Europe, the upcoming unification of the European Economic Community (EEC), Japan's consolidation as an industrial and financial power, and the end of the East-West conflict, have set the scene for a new international setting for Latin America and the Caribbean, full of challenges and opportunities.

The Annual Report also shows that external relations developed with a view to securing extra-quota resources, indispensable in executing the programs and projects identified as priorities by the countries, were successful in 1989. Relations were strengthened with the governments and institutions of observer and donor countries, agencies of the inter-American system, regional and subregional organizations and the agencies of the United Nations system, and initial offers to support agricultural reactivation in the region have been received.

ANNUAL REPORT 1989



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

of contributing to the reactivation of the economies of the region and fostering equitable and sustainable growth, requires a sharing of responsibilities. These thoughts are offered by Martin E. Piñero, the Director General of IICA, in its 1988 Annual Report, slated for distribution in August of this year.

Piñero stated that the PLANLAC "should be seen as the culmination of a dynamic, participatory process of discussion and agreement among the Member States and other international agencies, and arose as a result of agreements reached during the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Canada in 1987."

In addition to outlining, in the first and second chapters, the strategic guidelines of the PLANLAC at both the hemispheric and subregional



# IICA in the News

## Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic

Ministros tras propuesta conjunta  
Istmo busca financiar  
planes agropecuarios



■ A quick look through the pages of several Central American newspapers reveals that the topic of harmonization of agricultural policies was given considerable coverage, especially during the last two weeks of July. A meeting of the ministers of agriculture of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic - from July 18-20 in Tegucigalpa, Honduras - was the forum for the discussion of this topic, as reported in major newspapers and international news agencies (*La Prensa Libre* and *El Grafico* of Guatemala; *El Heraldo* and *La Tribuna* of Honduras; *La Nacion* and *La Republica* of Costa Rica; *La Estrella* of Panama; *AFP*, *ACAN-EFE*, *AP* and *IPS*).

The meeting, which was called by the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), and whose Secretariat for Coordination is located at IICA Headquarters (*IPS*),

produced "joint proposals for participating countries and organizations to fund agricultural development in the isthmus" (*La Nacion*). It was also an opportunity to discuss reinitiating the integration process, which will help the countries of the subregion come together and present "a united front in their dealings with other economic blocs" (*La Tribuna*).

## Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Uruguay

Director IICA cree industrializados  
deben aportar para ajustes en AL



■ Agriculture and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean, analyzed from a European and a regional point of view, were also given coverage in newspapers in Mexico, Uruguay, Argentina, Peru and Brazil. A series of Hispano-American meetings on these topics, sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA), with collaboration from IICA and the Spanish International Cooperation

Agency (AECI) (*Clarín*, *Argentina*), provided the forum for discussion between officials from both continents.

In this regard, IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, said that the democratic governments of Latin America and the Caribbean have begun to reform their economies in an effort to achieve greater effi-

ciency and competitive-ness. He warned, however, that this process is "... at times painful and difficult and cannot succeed unless the industrialized nations take similar and complementary measures." (*Revista del Quinto Centenario*, Spain; *La Republica*, Uruguay; and *El Siglo*, Dominican Republic)

## Upcoming Activities

### Seminar-Workshop on Implementation of IFAD Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean November 12-17

In a meeting at IICA Headquarters, authorities and technical personnel from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will analyze the major elements to be kept in mind in preparing programs and projects aimed at small farmers in the region.

During the event, which will be opened by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, the Institute will make several special presentations. The Organization and Management for Rural Development Program will present IICA's guidelines in this area, and the Center for Investment Programs and Projects (CEPPI) will

outline activities it currently has under way, especially its work through the IICA/IDB Project Preparation Unit.

### International Course-Workshop on the Media and Rural Development August 27-November 2

This is the second course of this type offered in 1990 as part of the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre (IICA/RNTC) project.

Of the fourteen participants in the course, one is from Argentina, another from Colombia and the rest from Central America. This intensive course will cover the planning of communication, message analysis, radio production and printed materials.

# IICA



# NEWS

September - October 1990, Year VII, No. 41



"Cane Harvesting," an oil painting by Guyanese artist Leon Goring, was among the works displayed at IICA Headquarters as part of the 1989 IICA Painting Contest on the theme of rural life.

This contest was sponsored by the Institute and the Commission of the Fifth Centennial of the Discovery of America "The Meeting of Two Worlds".

Hundreds of artists from the hemisphere participated in the contest. The final selection, consisting of 47 works, was evaluated by an international panel of judges.

Through this activity, both IICA and the Commission were able to create greater interest on the part of the artistic community and the population in general in different aspects of rural life in Latin America and the Caribbean: small-scale farmers, young people and women, types of production and customs and traditions.

Spain 1991:

- Ministers of Agriculture of the Hemisphere To Study Strategies for the Close of the Century

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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 32 member countries and 12 observer countries.

## IICA's Executive Committee Holds Tenth Regular Meeting

The IICA Executive Committee, one of the governing bodies of the Institute, held its Tenth Regular Meeting from August 27-29. During the meeting, the Committee approved the topic of the next meeting of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), to be held in Spain; updated the 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan (MTP) and extended it to 1993, and was informed of progress made in implementing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

The Committee, represented on this occasion by delegates of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominica, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Nicaragua and Trinidad and Tobago, heard a report from the Director of External Relations on external resources secured in the past year (see separate article), and reports on the actions of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning and Agricultural Health Programs (see separate article).

The meeting, which was chaired by the Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama, Ezequiel Rodríguez, brought together some 50 representatives of IICA's member and observer countries, and of regional, subregional and international agencies and organizations.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, said that the meeting had been a success "not only because of the progress made, but also because of the guidance received from IICA's Member States regarding the main items on the agenda."

In commenting on progress made in implementing the PLANLAC, Piñero stated that every effort was to be made to start executing its programs and projects as soon as possible and to secure external resources. To achieve this, he added, it is essential, as it has been in the past, for IICA

to be able to count on the support of its member countries in subregional fora and in dealings with potential donor countries (see separate article).

The Director General added that the adjustment and extension of the Medium Term Plan (MTP), the document which orients Institute actions for five-year periods, was timely because "the changes included are absolutely essential in light of new institutional priorities and changes in the international and regional scenes." (see separate article)

In referring to the theme of the ICMA meeting in Spain in September 1991, "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century," Piñero stated that IICA will prepare several issue papers for discussion during the meeting (see separate article).

As to the immediate future, it is his opinion that IICA will have the opportunity to grow and become even stronger as a technical cooperation agency. "The coming years will be difficult for the countries of the region, but they will be filled with opportunities and challenges. IICA is ready to assist the countries in identifying and taking full advantage of the opportunities."

For his part, the Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama and Chairman of the Executive Committee, Ezequiel Rodríguez, stated that the challenge in modernizing agriculture lies in opening up spaces where small-scale farmers can benefit from the growth with equity that is being proposed. With this in mind, he urged that rural women be incorporated into the production process under favorable conditions, not merely as recognition of their important contributions, but rather because it is their legitimate right. He also recommended finding ways to involve the private sector in agricultural reactivation.

On behalf of the delegates from the Caribbean, Maynard Joseph, the Minister of Agriculture of Dominica, called on IICA to continue its support for the Caribbean countries, which are currently going through a severe economic crisis.



The Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama, Ezequiel Rodríguez, presiding over the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee. Accompanying the Minister, from left to right, are IICA's Deputy Director General, L. Harlan Davis; the Director General, Martin E. Piñero; and the Technical Secretary of the meeting, J. Andre Ouellotte.

# IICA Outlines Main Actions Until 1993

**F**rom now to 1993, the technical cooperation IICA offers its 32 Member States will concentrate on the development of the agricultural sector, as a source of growth with equity, based on a process of modernization and increased efficiency which takes into consideration the conservation of natural resources and the environment.

These objectives, established during the Tenth Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, are in consonance with the implementation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). The Institute will also encourage the countries to increase their efforts to achieve regional integration, through multilateral initiatives

included in the PLANLAC. The PLANLAC, which proposes a modern agricultural sector fully linked to industry as the driving force behind development, was approved by the ministers of agriculture

of the hemisphere in 1989. This created the need for adjustments at the Institute to enable it to effectively implement the Plan.

In light of this, the Executive Committee agreed to extend the life of the 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan (MTP) to 1993, and to incorporate new guidelines into it. Both actions were taken in response to requirements resulting from the approval of the PLANLAC and the desire to satisfy more effectively the changing needs of the countries.

Currently, the Center for Investment Programs and Projects (CEPPI) and the five Programs through which IICA channels its actions in the hemisphere (Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning; Technology Generation and

Transfer; Organization and Management for Rural Development; Marketing and Agroindustry; and Agricultural Health), constitute the backbone of the strategy in the extended MTP.

Since the first quarter of this year, CEPPI has supported the countries in preparing assessments and sectoral studies and has also cooperated in the preparation of investment projects. The Programs have worked together in implementing multinational projects included in the PLANLAC.

During the meeting of the Executive Committee, the delegates and other participants commended the Committee for including the topics of sustainability and the conservation of natural resources among IICA's concerns for the coming years. They also voiced their support for modernizing agriculture as a means to effectively reactivate the economies of the countries.

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## More Sources Tapped for External Resources

**D**uring his presentation to the Tenth Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, the Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, indicated that over the past few years, IICA's Member States have benefitted from a steady increase in external resources, and that the number of sources of funding has grown as well.

The Executive Committee received the report with satisfaction and requested the Member States to continue to support IICA in its efforts to secure external resources, to be used to strengthen the actions of the Institute.

Werthein explained that the increase in external resources is the result of efforts made by each of IICA's Offices in the countries, its Programs and

IICA Headquarters. Since 1987, external resources have increased at an annual rate of 25 percent. These resources have played an increasingly important role in the Institute's Program-Budget: growing from 49.4% in 1987 to 54.33% in 1988, and to 58.6% in 1989. According to estimates, this figure should reach 62.6% in 1990.

Werthein also indicated that there have been increased efforts to diversify funding sources over the past year and "we are establishing priorities for identifying new and important sources with which we have not worked previously. Obviously, we will not forget those countries who have traditionally supported our efforts."

The Director of External Relations stated that these new sources include

Japan and Korea, the Scandinavian countries and Germany. Emphasis is also being placed on international and regional funding agencies. "We have obtained good results in our relations with the IDB, increased our activities with the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and established new cooperation actions with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)." Werthein highlighted the signing of a new agreement with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI) and efforts being made to find new opportunities to work with the Caribbean Regional Bank. Other initiatives to increase external resources include regional meetings with donors scheduled to take place in Central America and the Caribbean in the near future.

Spain 1991:

## Ministers of Agriculture of the Hemisphere To Study Strategies for the Close of the Century

The Executive Committee of IICA, during its Tenth Regular Meeting, approved the topic, "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the New International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century" for discussion by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere when they meet in Spain in 1991.

In response to an invitation by the government of Spain, the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), IICA's highest governing body, will be held concurrently next year in Spain.

One of the factors considered by the Executive Committee in approving the theme of the Conference, around which discussions will center during the Madrid meetings, was "That one of the challenges that the agricultural sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean must meet is to find a way to effectively participate in the changing world scenario."

In proposing this as the theme, the Institute recognized that the consolidation of a new model based on a modernized agriculture, in a context of adjustment with development, gives the sector an opportunity to play just such a role internationally, by producing a wide variety of products with greater value added.

Because of the dynamic structural changes taking place worldwide, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean will have to carefully follow these trends and their impact on economic, commercial and political relations with the rest of the world.

As indicated in the document studied by the Committee, this process of change may produce increased world demand for agricultural products, and the adjustment programs currently under way in the region should continue liberalizing trade and focus on establishing agroindustrial complexes.

To achieve the latter, it will be necessary to discard the outdated and limiting view of agriculture as a supplier of raw materials and replace it with one of a dynamic, modern sector with the intersectoral linkages needed to add maximum value to these raw materials.

### ANOTHER TOPIC

Another topic to be studied in Spain by the ministers is renewable natural resources. The challenge for the region is to achieve a balance between conservation and production, in such a way as to ensure the sustainability of production over the long term without preventing the sector from contributing now to economic and social development in the region.

Another challenge in the region is to expand rural development to include the small-farm economy in modernization and economic development.

Also to be studied in Spain are the current focus of international technical cooperation, which is based on political and economic conditions that no longer exist, and the need to design new mechanisms and models for cooperation.

## ICMA To Be Held at a Crucial Time



Javier Piernavieja

For the Spanish delegate to the Executive Committee meeting, Javier Piernavieja, the date for the agricultural summit is doubly important: first, because it will be held against the backdrop of the celebrations for the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America, and second, because it will coincide with the consolidation of the European Economic Community.

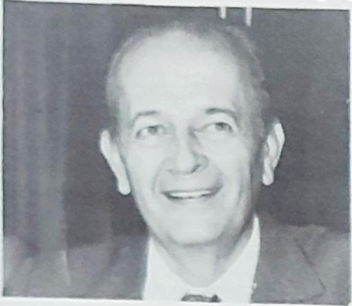
Piernavieja, Head of Relations with Developing Countries at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, indicated that IICA's Executive Committee had been absolutely right in identifying the importance of discussing at the 1991 meeting the substantial changes taking place on the international level and which have an impact on the world trade of agricultural commodities. In his opinion, the PLANLAC, as a proposal for action, and which was written into IICA's Medium Term Plan, provides the opportunity to analyze freely the changes currently taking place and their effects on the region. "The substantive elements of the PLANLAC," he added, "are appropriate for the circumstances."

# Delegates To Executive Committee Voice Opinions

## **Brazil:**

### **Adjustments at IICA Well-Taken**

According to Milciades Sa Freire, the Brazilian delegate to the Tenth Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, the adjustments made at IICA for executing the PLANLAC and in response to the changing international context are well-taken and "on the right track."



He stated, "In the opinion of the government of Brazil, IICA's decision to give development with equity and the conservation of natural resources special priority within the new focus of its technical

cooperation is very timely, inasmuch as both are topics of great importance and intimately linked to the modernization of agriculture."

Sa Freire also noted that the progress report on the implementation of the PLANLAC, especially the information that 80% of its proposals have been prepared, shows that IICA is complying with the mandate received from the ministers of agriculture, without diminishing its actions in the member countries, "the focus of which has altered in light of recent changes throughout the world."

## **Canada:**

### **Private Sector Must Help Modernize Agriculture**

According to John E. McGowan, Canadian delegate to IICA's Executive Committee Meeting, greater participation by the private sector in all the countries of the region is essential for achieving the goals of the PLANLAC.

He indicated that the private sector can even play an important role in financing the projects proposed in the PLANLAC, and can represent a possible source for overcoming the financial constraints on the public sector. He

added that the governments have an important role to play in developing the programs, but they cannot and should not be expected to do everything. It would be ideal for the governments and the private sector to work together to get better results.



McGowan went on to say that in addition to IICA's member countries, other organizations must also participate in executing the PLANLAC, because agricultural modernization can lead to development.

## **Chile:**

### **IICA's PLANLAC the Correct Course to Take**

Ivan Nazif, the Chilean delegate to the Tenth Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, stated that the PLANLAC is one of IICA's successes and a "very well-conceived and important" proposal for development, which coincides, in many ways, with the agricultural policies of his country.

He added that, before the PLANLAC came into being, Chile was already pursuing some of its objectives, especially those related to modernizing production and competing more effectively on international markets. However, with regard to others, Chile has some catching up to do and the PLANLAC will provide the vehicle.

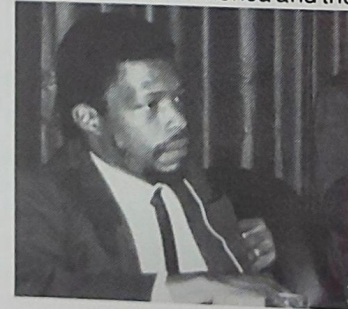


More specifically, Nazif referred to the concept of development with equity, "that is, involving as many small-scale farmers as possible and addressing the problem of poverty" and the conservation of natural resources, "which is essential if this new economic reactivation strategy is to survive in the long run."

## **Dominica:**

### **Region Must Give More Importance to Agriculture**

The Minister of Agriculture of Dominica, Maynard Joseph, stated that Latin America and the Caribbean must give more



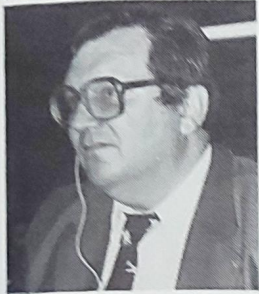
importance to agriculture and prepare themselves for the effects of the consolidation of Europe into a single market in 1992.

All of the countries of the region should participate in reactivating the agricultural sector, he added.

The Minister represented his country at the recent meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, at which time he highlighted the work being carried out by the Institute in the Caribbean. IICA, he explained, has specialists in the necessary fields as well as the ability to mobilize financial resources to respond to the needs of the Caribbean.

## United States: IICA is a Vital Instrument

According to Roger Lewis, the United States delegate to IICA's Executive Committee Meeting, the Institute is a vitally important instrument for coordinating agricultural activities carried out by the countries and organizations in the region. He stated that "We have great hopes for the future of agriculture because it is the foundation for development."



Lewis agreed with the Canadian delegation's position that the private sector must be involved in the goals for agricultural reactivation and should be approached for financial support, adding that the mobilization of the private sector

was probably the key to agricultural development. He reiterated the United States' call during the Meeting for IICA to explore different ways to enlist private collaboration.

## Mexico: Modernization Should be Expanded to Other Sectors

In the opinion of Evangelina Beltran, Mexican delegate to the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, the process of modernization should be expanded beyond agriculture to other sectors, as the cornerstone of a general development strategy.

Beltran stated that "Agricultural modernization, as proposed in the PLANLAC, is a valid proposal which the countries should apply to other sectors, in order to achieve better results." As an example, she said that current priorities in her country include modernizing not only agriculture, but also all aspects of institutional life.



She pointed out that Mexico had played a very important role in the process leading to the approval of the PLANLAC, and that this was "doubly beneficial" because it facilitated closer relations with regional organizations linked to the sector and strengthened integration among the countries.

The Mexican delegate described as "very sound" IICA's efforts to coordinate the PLANLAC, primarily because the experience the Institute has gained over the years has put it in a unique position to deal with multilateral issues. She suggested that, given the peculiar nature of the Mexican agricultural sector, "some of the PLANLAC proposals be adjusted to ensure their success."

## Panama: Harmonization of Policies Will Promote Integration

Ezequiel Rodriguez, the Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama, and Chairman of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the IICA Executive Committee, considers that the harmonization of agricultural policies promoted by he and his counterparts throughout Central America will do much for overall integration in the subregion.

In his judgement, this process will be a positive step forward in establishing a Central American economic community, which was outlined in the Declaration of Antigua, signed by the Presidents of Central America at their most recent summit meeting, in Guatemala.

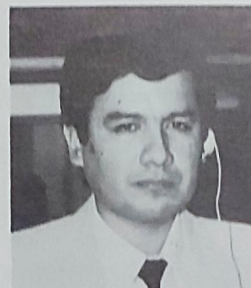
Rodriguez explained that at a recent meeting of ministers of agriculture of Central America in Honduras, called by the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), there was consensus on the need for the agricultural sector to become the hub of development in coming years.



He stated, "CORECA has become a very important forum in which the ministers of agriculture can reach agreement not only on matters of key importance, but also on guidelines for actions." Rodriguez also called attention to IICA's technical support, through the PLANLAC, of Panama's efforts to modernize the sector and improve production efficiency.

## Peru: PLANLAC, A Contribution to Overcoming the Crisis

During the meeting of the Executive Committee, the delegate from Peru, Jose Alfredo La Rosa, indicated that the PLANLAC is a "valuable contribution" that can help lead the region out of the crisis.



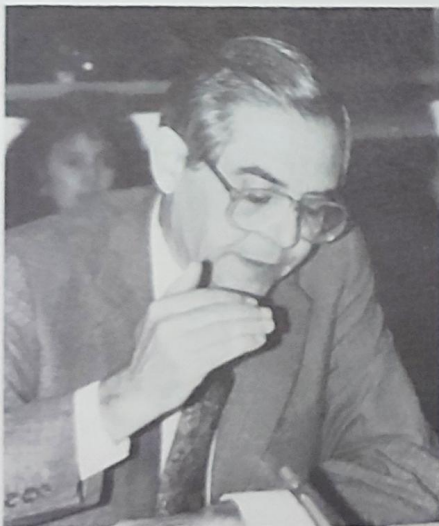
He pointed out that the programs and projects of the PLANLAC are beginning to bear fruit and stressed the new role agriculture must play in economic reactivation. He added that the proposals to modernize the sector have been accepted and incorporated by the countries and by subregional and regional integration forums. According to La Rosa, the new government of Peru has a very clear picture of the role of agriculture. In this first stage, "we are trying to stabilize our economy in the understanding that the adjustment process will favor the agricultural sector."



# Director General Highlights Potential of Agriculture in the "Bush Plan"

**D**uring a visit to the United States from September 24-28 to attend several international meetings and to meet with political and agricultural authorities from that country, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that President George Bush's Initiative for the Americas offers a wide range of alternatives for the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Piñeiro, together with IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, attended the annual joint assembly of the International



Martin E. Piñeiro

Monetary Fund and World Bank. He also participated in the Twenty-Second Conference of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the Forty-second Meeting of the Regional Committee of PAHO and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The Director General also attended a meeting of Latin American integration organizations, organized by the Inter-

American Development Bank (IDB), to study the Initiative for the Americas, which promotes the opening of a hemispheric free trade market, as a partial solution to the external debt problem and an investment program.

### Agriculture and the Bush Plan

During a press conference with international journalists in Washington D.C., the Director General of IICA indicated that the agricultural sector, more than any other economic sector, is in a position to negotiate with the United States on equal footing. It can benefit significantly in a free trade hemisphere, as proposed in the Initiative for the Americas.

He added that this initiative would have a favorable impact on Latin American and Caribbean agricultural trade, which is an enormously important sector for most of the countries of the hemisphere.

He added, however, that the magnitude of the impact of the Bush Plan will depend in part on the results of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). "If the Round is successful," he stated, "the impact will be much greater."

Among the reasons why Central America would benefit more from the Plan than any other region, he mentioned the proximity to the United States; its relatively limited economic activity, which would "probably lead Washington to make more concessions," and the fact that it complements the economic activity of the United States, since it produces commodities not grown in the United

States. This type of trade liberalization would cost little to the North Americans.

In a wire from the French press agency, AFP, Piñeiro is quoted as saying that the Bush Plan is of singular importance for the hemisphere and also places special importance for the region on a working group set up by the OAS, headed by the Argentine ambassador, Juan Pablo Lohle, to generate discussion and thought on the new possibilities for economic ties with North America.

The Director General added that the decade of the 1990s should be "the decade of agriculture," and the agricultural sector should benefit most from the Bush Plan, particularly since it is export oriented.

Piñeiro stated to the Spanish News agency EFE that "agriculture is the economic sector about which the United States and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean can sit down and talk on even footing." He recognized, however, that these conversations could be complicated by sanitary requirements, such as those pertaining to the use of pesticides and insecticides, which must be "closely observed."

Piñeiro indicated that the Initiative for the Americas "is a proposal for negotiation. The United States is not saying that it will grant concessions. It is saying that we are equal partners and as such we should sit down to negotiate mutually beneficial concessions that promote greater economic growth for the hemisphere. The plan is not a trade initiative. It is an initiative for growth and development. Herein lies the merit of the proposal."

## Painting Contest on Rural Life Inaugurated



The Ambassador of Spain in Costa Rica, Juan Alfonso Ortiz Ramos, and the Director General of the Institute, Martín E. Piñero, inaugurate the painting exhibition.

A painting contest on the theme of rural life, sponsored by the Commission of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of America "The Meeting of Two Worlds," was inaugurated on August 29 at IICA Headquarters, where it was on display until the end of October.

The ambassador of Spain to Costa Rica, Juan Alfonso Ortiz Ramos, and the Director General of IICA, Martín E.

Piñero, opened the exhibit as part of the scheduled activities of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the IICA Executive Committee.

After thanking the government of Spain for its collaboration, and praising the work of the participating artists and the panels of judges that selected the paintings in each country, Piñero explained that the primary objective of the contest was to promote the topic of

agriculture in a totally different forum. For his part, the ambassador of Spain highlighted the "ongoing and growing" collaboration between IICA and the government of his country, which has "gained momentum in recent years."

He added that IICA had shown "special sensitivity in choosing this medium to raise awareness and remind us all that the collaboration of all the governments and IICA is directed toward all the hard-working men and women who appear in these paintings."

Mario Coronado Orellana, of Bolivia, won first prize with his entry entitled "La Riada" and Jamaican artist Leghorn Coghile was awarded second prize for his painting "Women: Traditions and Customs in Rural Life." Third prize was awarded to Mauro Leandro Aquino, of Peru, and German Toloza Hernandez, of Colombia.

## Sweden Studies New Areas of Cooperation with IICA

In a recent visit to IICA, Elizabeth Lewin, a consultant from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), indicated that that organization is interested in increasing its cooperation with IICA, which began with a communications training project for rural women in Central America, currently under way. Lewin coordinates the cooperation offered by Sweden to Central America from her headquarters in Guatemala.

The specialist discussed with IICA officials support that Sweden could offer to other initiatives geared toward women, among which are credit, health, literacy or production programs for rural women.

Lewin met with the coordinators of the communications project, implemented with a contribution of US\$370,000 from the Swedish government. This project reinforces the training being carried out on rural communications by IICA's Communications Division, an initiative also receiving professional and technical support from the Radio Nederlands Training Centre (RNTC).

The objective of the IICA-SIDA project is to make more effective use of the media and the different communications techniques used by Central American entities working with rural populations. It also aims to increase production of

educational materials, to be used in studying and analyzing the situation of women in agricultural and agroindustrial production.

Lewin met with Carlos Pomareda, Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program; Yolanda Ingianna, coordinator of the SIDA-IICA Women and Communications Project; Diana Medrano, specialist in rural women, from IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program and with Kaarina Valtasaari, a specialist in international cooperation.



The Head of the International Cooperation Division, Víctor Del Ángel, presents a diploma to one of the participants in a course offered as part of the IICA-SIDA project.

# Closer Ties Forged Between Quebec and IICA

**R**epresentatives from the government of Quebec, Laval University and the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education recently visited IICA Headquarters to identify areas of cooperation and to strengthen ties with the Institute.

Jean Herbert, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Quebec, and Alfred Marquis from Laval University visited IICA last August where they met with IICA Program Directors. They were especially interested in the networks coordinated by IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program.

More recently, Penny Houghton, a representative from the Inter-American University Organization (OUI) and Marie France Lebreque, a specialist in rural women and development from Laval University, visited Costa Rica.

The missions to IICA followed a visit made to Quebec by IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, who was accompanied by Ermani Fiori, the IICA Representative in Canada.

## Exchange of Information

Marie France Lebreque and IICA officials studied the possibility of setting up a mechanism for the exchange of information and experiences on rural women and development.

Lebreque, who heads the anthropology laboratory of Laval University, indicated that the visit to IICA had been "very successful," since it enabled her to exchange ideas and experiences with that institution. The expert met with technical experts from IICA's unit on rural women and development and from the project on women and communications being implemented with support from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA).

She stated that during her visit the following possible areas of joint efforts were established; training methods for rural women and development; women and communications (including the production of audio-visual aides); and participatory research related to rural women.

These efforts will involve comparing methods used by different institutes in training personnel that work with women; facilitating the exchange of specialists in academic events and in projects carried out by Laval University and

IICA. According to IICA officials, an agreement between IICA and Laval University is currently being developed.

## Cooperation with the OUI

IICA is exploring the possibility of developing cooperation actions with the OUI which will make it possible to incorporate specialists from OUI member universities into technological networks administered by IICA. The cooperation will aim to provide training to professional personnel in agricultural matters and will aim to include the management of technology generation and transfer in their areas of academic training.

According to Houghton, a letter of understanding is being negotiated between the two agencies to define specific areas of action, and the types of initial activities to be executed.

The OUI, headquartered in Quebec, brings together 325 universities from the continent and promotes cooperation and the exchange of experiences among its members, 270 of which are in Latin America and the Caribbean; the



*Penny Houghton*

rest are in Canada and the United States. Its areas of work include training in university administration, information and communications, and the development of seminars on specific topics related to higher education. Houghton suggested the possibility of including as a seminar topic agriculture and support to technology transfer.

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*IICA is exploring the possibility of developing cooperation actions with the OUI which will make it possible to incorporate specialists from OUI member universities into technological networks administered by IICA.*

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## Barbadian Ambassador to the United States Visits IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica

On September 4, during a visit to the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Ambassador of Barbados to the United States, William Douglas, praised IICA's work in the Caribbean, especially its efforts to strengthen the ties between the countries of the Caribbean and Latin America.

The diplomat, who was in Costa Rica to study the technical cooperation IICA provides his country, was welcomed by the Deputy Director General of IICA, L. Harlan Davis, the Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, and the Director for Caribbean Area Operations, Reginald Pierre.

Ambassador Douglas stated that he was particularly interested in IICA's role in the Caribbean as concerns agroindustrial development, technology transfer and agricultural marketing. He referred to the cooperation agreement signed in 1989 by IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Develop-

ment Institute (CARDI) as an extremely "important step" in strengthening integration among the nations of the Caribbean and Latin America. Under this agreement, IICA provides CARDI with financial support to strengthen research and technological development in the Caribbean. Another objective of the agreement is to promote cooperation and links between CARDI and other institutions of the hemisphere to facilitate the transfer of agricultural technology.

In explaining progress made to boost economic integration in the Caribbean, the Ambassador indicated that it was now necessary to step up efforts even further, by coordinating with Latin American nations. Along the same lines, he emphasized the importance of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), the execution of which is being coordinated by IICA. Through multinational programs and projects, the PLANLAC seeks to promote a modern agriculture, linked to industry, and capable of becoming a dynamic

component of the economies of the region. In the Caribbean, the PLANLAC strategy was based on the proposals and objectives of the Agricultural Sector Programme (ASP) of CARICOM, approved by the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture (SCMA).

According to the Ambassador, the countries of the region must coordinate their efforts to develop agriculture, and the Caribbean must produce more food for its people, so as to reduce food imports.

### Turrialba Journal Celebrates 40 Years

Turrialba, which celebrates its fortieth anniversary this year, was described by Costa Rican educators as one of the most important tropical agricultural publications in the world.

Turrialba is financed by the publications fund of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and published quarterly in Costa Rica. It is one of the few journals of its type which has been in publication for forty years, without interruption.

A study on the history and content of this journal, conducted by members of the Zoology Museum of the School of Biology of the University of Costa Rica (UCR), will be included in the September edition of Turrialba.

The Turrialba staff indicated that it is not easy to develop successful agricultural journals in Latin America. Many of them fail after one or two years, mostly due to increasing publication costs.

Nevertheless, Turrialba has been an exception. By 1972, it ranked eleventh out of 681 specialized journals in the world, in a study conducted by the International Tropical Agriculture Institute of Ibadan, Nigeria.

## ORSTOM and IICA Study Areas for Joint Action

André Charrier, an expert from the French Institute of Scientific Research for Development in Cooperation (ORSTOM), recently visited IICA Headquarters to identify new areas of collaboration with IICA related to technology generation and transfer.

For two days, Charrier, in charge of ORSTOM's Genetic Resources Research Unit, met with specialists from IICA's Program II, Technology Generation and Transfer, responsible for networks and projects.

He met with the coordinators of PROCACAO, PROMECAFE,

PROCITROPICOS, PROFRUTAS and the Program on Strengthening Agronomic Research on Basic Grains. Each of these networks, in its specific field, promotes joint efforts in research and the exchange of experiences to help improve agricultural production.

IICA officials indicated that negotiations will continue with this prestigious French institute, and Simone Chandelier, ORSTOM's Assistant Head of the External Relations Service, expressed her satisfaction with the possibility of increasing collaboration between the two institutions.

Representatives of the 12 countries which made up the Executive Committee of IICA this year, welcomed "with satisfaction" progress made in implementing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

When Manuel Otero, Coordinator of the Plan, presented his report, he explained that efforts had been stepped up to prepare the 77 he-

System (SELA), a hemispheric program of institutional strengthening for international trade negotiations and for the promotion of exports is in operation. Its activities include follow-up on the Uruguay Round of GATT, specifically for negotiations on agricultural commodities.

Other PLANLAC programs under way to benefit all the countries of the region are the program of joint action to develop and utilize agrobiotechno-

## Executive Committee of IICA Praises Progress Made in Implementing the PLANLAC

mispheric and subregional proposals approved in profile form by the ministers of agriculture last October. At the present time, 59 proposals have been completed, which is 80% of those mentioned above. Of that total, 35 projects are now under way, while the procedure to obtain external funding for the remaining projects has been streamlined to speed up implementation.

Of the subregional projects under way, nine are in the Central Area, which includes the Central American countries, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Panama. Seven are being carried out in the Caribbean; six in the Southern Area (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay); and four in the Andean Area (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela).

Seven hemispheric projects, whose activities involve Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole, are under way. One of these, jointly funded by the Inter-American Development Bank and IICA, provides the countries with support in preparing Agricultural Sector Programs (IICA/IDB Technical Unit). In coordinated action with the Latin American Economic

logy, and the program to collect, conserve and utilize genetic resources. With the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Government of France, a program is also in operation to strengthen an institutional network to support the countries in promoting rural agroindustries.

In describing activities to publicize and finance the PLANLAC, the Coordinator of the Plan listed the seminars held in eight countries of the region and the donors' meetings to be held soon in Central America and Caribbean subregions. In his comments on the Plan, Martin E. Pifeiro, Director General of IICA, said that since the last Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Canada in 1987, thinking on the role of agriculture throughout the hemisphere "had changed drastically." In Ottawa, he explained, political consensus was reached on the important role agriculture could play in development strategies; on the obsolescence of the development model followed in the region in recent decades; on the concept of modern agriculture linked with other sectors, particularly with agroindustry; and on the importance of responding

together to the challenges faced by the sector, in order to strengthen hemispheric integration.

The PLANLAC has translated the political consensus reached at the Ottawa agricultural summit into concrete proposals for joint action. In Pifeiro's opinion, the Plan, prepared by IICA in close collaboration with its member countries and other regional organizations, "correctly interpreted the direction in which the world was moving and what the real options for our countries would be." He added that both the declaration issued by the ministers of agriculture in Ottawa and the PLANLAC have helped clarify thinking on the role of agriculture in the development strategies of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Government representatives sitting on the Executive Committee, particularly those from Canada, the United States and Jamaica, underlined the importance of efforts coordinated by IICA to contribute to reactivating the agricultural sector, and they encouraged the Institute to continue these efforts.

At the same time, they recommended increasing activities both to incorporate the private sector of the region into the strategies envisaged in the Plan of Joint Action and to evaluate, in close cooperation with the subregional agricultural forums, the progress made in executing the Plan's initiatives.

After thanking the government representatives for their views, the Coordinator of the PLANLAC reminded them that the Plan's implementation was a responsibility shared with the countries themselves, and with integration organizations and forums. The "PLANLAC is not IICA's alone," Otero stated.

**F**inland and IICA are currently negotiating that country's entry into the Trifinio Project, through an initiative aimed at conserving the environment in the border region of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.

The initiative, which is a component of the Integrated Development Plan in the Border Region of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala (TRIFINIO), was recently presented to the government of Finland by the Secretary General of the OAS, Joao Baena Soares. Finland not long ago became an OAS observer nation, and, since then has expressed interest in contributing to development and integration in Central America.

The Trifinio Plan is implemented by a trinational commission made up of the vice presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, with technical and administrative support from the OAS and IICA.

## Finland Considers Joining Trifinio Project Environmental Program

In September, a meeting was held at IICA Headquarters to study the proposal presented by the OAS. The meeting was attended by Ritva Jolkkonen, a specialist for Latin America and Asia from the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA), David Seligson, a member of the parliamentary commission on international cooperation and Pertti Majanen, the chargé d'affaires of the Finnish embassy in Costa Rica.

During their visit to IICA, the Finnish experts met with Institute officials to discuss proposals for several new areas of cooperation, such as the environment, rural women, etc. Conversations relevant to the Trifinio proposal will continue in the near

future, through the Finnish embassy in Costa Rica.



Ritva Jolkkonen

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## Dutch Institute Will Support Dissemination of PLANLAC in Europe

**T**he Institute of Social Studies of the Netherlands (ISS), a research and educational organization with many years of experience in the field of development, will support the discussion and dissemination of the strategy for agricultural reactivation being promoted by IICA.

Chris Kay, an ISS specialist, visited IICA Headquarters from August 12-16 to discuss alternatives for support to IICA. In particular, he studied the possibility of a high-level seminar that will be held in the Netherlands next year, with participants from the academic community and researchers from Europe, to discuss the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Kay indicated that the PLANLAC is of great value because it offers a "new strategic and long-term vision" of the

agricultural sector within an overall process of economic and social development. He added that "A meeting of ISS members and other European experts will be an excellent opportunity for IICA to present this new vision of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean to members of the academic and research communities of Europe."

He added that the ISS can be a valuable channel for making Europe aware that, in its dealings with Latin America, economic assistance alone will not be enough, and that it must be accompanied by concrete actions aimed, for example, at balancing international trade.

In presenting topics to be included on the agenda of the seminar, Kay underscored the interests shared by IICA and ISS. These include: major changes in the current international context and European unification in

1992-1993; the new role to be played by the State in the 1990s; technological change, particularly in biotechnology; and the need to promote a style of rural development that eases poverty in the region. Kay stated that "We are impressed by IICA's capability to coordinate the efforts of other institutions involved in development in the region and to generate strategies. We are interested in supporting organizations capable of analyzing and formulating valid alternatives for responding to the new international situation."

Initial contacts with ISS were made by IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, during an official visit last year to several European nations to seek support for the implementation of the PLANLAC.

# Latin America and the Caribbean: IICA Participates in Congress of Agricultural Economists

IICA participated in the Third Congress of Agricultural Economists of Latin America and the Caribbean, recently held in Cartagena, Colombia, together with representatives from 12 countries of the region, Canada and the United States.

The participants discussed the gradual opening up of international trade, the liberalization of the economies and the modernization of agriculture as requisites for development. The Congress was organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Association of Agricultural Economists (ALACEA), in collaboration with the Colombian Association of Agricultural Economists and public and private entities of this Andean country.

The Congress served as a forum for discussing the modernization process and the need for it to be carried out with equity, in order to involve more small farmers. The participants stressed that modernization should go hand in hand with sustainable development, so as to conserve the natural resource base.

The topic of agricultural modernization is closely linked to IICA's current mandate, handed down by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which promotes a modern agricultural sector linked with agroindustry, as the dynamic force behind

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*The Congress served as a forum for discussing the modernization process and the need for it to be carried out with equity, in order to involve more small farmers. The participants stressed that modernization should go hand in hand with sustainable development, so as to conserve the natural resource base.*

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development. Officials of ALACEA indicated that its main concern -shared by technical experts working in the public sector, union organizations, and private and international

organizations- is that in Latin America and the Caribbean the agricultural and agroindustrial sectors acquire the technological know-how and managerial and organizational capabilities that will allow them to participate actively in the international economy.

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*The work of the Association is fully consistent with the proposals included in the PLANLAC, a strategy "that strives to bring together public international organizations and private organizations."*

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According to the president-elect of ALACEA, Carlos Pomareda, from Peru, this concern focuses not only on individual and professional responsibilities, but also on the capability of the State and its institutions to ensure that agriculture will continue to have a viable role in the rapidly changing international scene. Pomareda



*President-elect of ALACEA, Carlos Pomareda, from Peru.*

added that a modern agricultural sector will enable the region to compete efficiently, and stressed the need for the sector to become a part of a development process that has a "strong commitment to equity in today's society and for future generations."

He added that the work of the Association is fully consistent with the proposals included in the PLANLAC, a strategy that "strives to bring together public international organizations and private organizations." Pomareda will take office as president of the Association in 1993. The participants also underscored the importance of gradually opening up the economies and liberalizing domestic economies. In support of this proposal, the participants recommended that public institutions responsible for pricing policies play a new role, less oriented toward intervention, and more toward ensuring that the benefits of free trade reach small-scale farmers directly.

Government officials, IICA officials and European consultants are currently studying priority actions for research in order to bring the program to strengthen research in basic grains into line with the food needs of the countries of the Central American isthmus.

This initiative aims to increase corn, bean, rice and sorghum production, and improve the socioeconomic

Central America:

## Priorities to be Established for Research in Basic Grains

situation of small- and medium-scale farmers of the Isthmus working with these crops.

The European Economic Community (EEC) has provided approximately US\$12 million to finance this four-year program.

The Executive Secretariat of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), headquartered at IICA in Costa Rica, will be in charge of managing the program.

One of the coordinators, Frederik Van Sluys, from the Netherlands, stated that the planning stage was under way and that the goal is to actively involve the countries in defining lines of action so as to ensure that these actions truly respond to the countries' needs.

Directors of research and agricultural extension services from each country of Central America and Panama will meet in Guatemala in early December to design the strategy for the next four years and the specific plan for 1991.

In January 1991, the ad hoc committee, a political body made up

of the deputy ministers of agriculture of CORECA member countries and the EEC, will meet to approve the strategy.

The Program is part of the PLANLAC strategy for Central America and resulted from the Food Security Program of the Action Committee in Support of Economic and Social Development in Central America and Panama (CADESCA), which was cre-

ated in 1986 and financed by the EEC and the government of France.

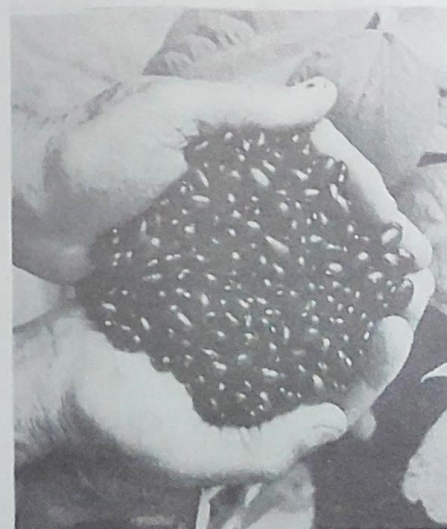
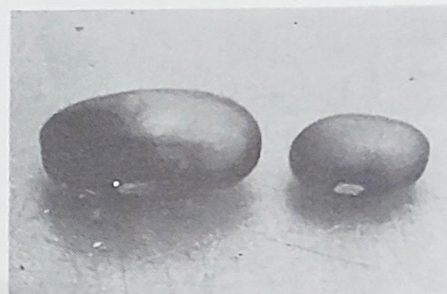
Profirio Masaya, from Guatemala, co-directs the Program, along with Van Sluys. Masaya explained that this initiative aims to set up a regional technology generation and transfer system for basic grains. He added that the goal of the Program is to identify "each country's comparative advantages vis-a-vis research and to set up an information exchange system."

Van Sluys indicated that the Program seeks to strengthen interaction among Central American research centers and, at the same time, serve as a link for cooperation with similar institutes in Europe, through the exchange of specialists from the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), headquartered in France, and the Royal Institute for the Tropics (KIT), located in the Netherlands, both of which currently provide technical assistance to the Program.

This set up will make it possible to benefit from existing capabilities in the Central American region and, when necessary, with support from European centers.

Officials from CORECA also indicated that the Basic Grains Program will be included in the process to harmonize policies on technology, in support of Central American economic integration.

This initiative, they added, is the first program to be executed by CORECA under the PLANLAC.



*The goal of the program is to increase corn, bean, rice and sorghum production and, as a result, the socioeconomic situation of small- and medium-scale farmers who farm these crops in the isthmus.*



Officials from different public entities and international agencies recently met in Nicaragua to conduct an in-depth study of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Participants at the meeting, organized by the IICA Office in Nicaragua, were the Coordinator of the PLANLAC and Advisor to the Director General, Manuel Otero, the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Alfonso Cebberos and the IICA Representative in Nicaragua, Jose Alfonso Chirinos.

Chirinos and Cebberos spoke on the process involved in preparing the PLANLAC and the importance of the Plan in modernizing agriculture in the region.

## Seminar on PLANLAC Brings Together Different Sectors in Nicaragua

Otero offered a detailed explanation of the strategy, its projects and programs, and the institutional and financial mechanisms to be used in implementing the PLANLAC. He also outlined the priority areas for programs and projects of joint action.

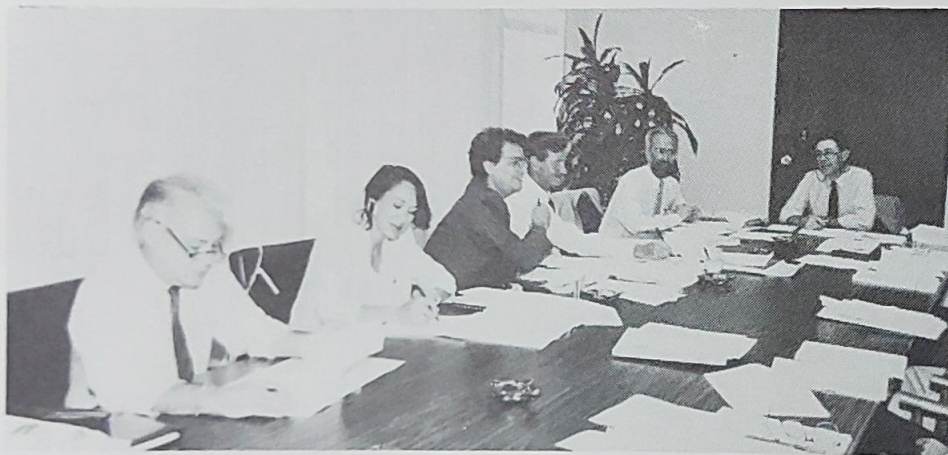
Approximately 30 specialists from the agricultural and economic sectors participated in the seminar. Among them were the Minister of Agriculture, Roberto Rondon and the Deputy Ministers of Agriculture and External Cooperation, Jorge Gransa and Noel Viduary, respectively.

Also present were officials from the

Ministry of External Relations, the Secretariat of Planning and the Budget, the National Development Bank, the Nicaraguan Investment Fund, the National Agricultural University, international agencies and the Central American Business Administration Institute (INCAE).

During the fruitful discussions, Minister Rondon stressed the importance of continuing to work to modernize the agricultural sector in his country, especially when the economy of Nicaragua is in a severe crisis.

## Canada Supports Implementation of the PLANLAC



*The project management committee is the highest technical and political authority of the IICA/CIDA project.*

Canada will support the implementation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), through the IICA/CIDA project to support Institute Programs.

Topics specifically to receive support include agricultural modernization, development with equity and conservation of natural resources. These areas were identified during a

recent meeting of the project management committee, made up of representatives from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Agriculture Canada and IICA.

It was also decided that the project will provide financial support to the preparation of studies that will serve as a basis for discussion and decision making at the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), to be held in

Spain next year. The first of these documents has already been prepared and concerns recommendations and strategies for the sustainable development of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Another important decision made by the project management committee will expedite the entry of three Caribbean countries -Belize, Montserrat and St. Kitts and Nevis- into the CARAPHIN network. The objective of this network is to strengthen national and regional capabilities for monitoring and evaluating the economic impact of diseases and pests that affect agricultural trade and production in the Caribbean.

The management committee is the highest technical and political authority of the IICA/CIDA project, and meets at least twice a year to discuss and decide on operating and administrative matters.

PLANLAC:

## Its Contribution to Regional Integration and Development

Alfonso Ceballos (\*)

During the decade of the eighties, the production capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean fell sharply, as did the standard of living, both of which were already in a serious situation. Many countries are currently facing a "wartime economy" and even in those where there has been some recovery in terms of employment and income, such levels are still far from satisfactory.

As we enter a new decade, the countries of the region are not only finding it difficult to undertake ambitious economic reactivation programs, but also are unable, to varying degrees, to keep up with the dramatic and unprecedented changes occurring in the international context, in which politics and economics intermingle to create an environment where "everything is possible" and "nothing can be anticipated." Uncertainty has become something we must learn to live with.

Integration processes, some of which were already beginning to produce positive results, were affected because priority had to be given to national problems, forcing many joint efforts to be cancelled, put on hold or postponed until better times. The protraction, and, in some cases, worsening of the economic crisis, has shown that an essential element of the formula for overcoming it is to harmonize policies as the foundation for a new stage of integration and multinational initiatives. The need for such harmonization is even more apparent if we consider the effects of the isolated policies and actions characterizing past efforts by the countries to avoid the collision course their economies were on.

Even though adjustment policies and measures taken to combat the economic crisis follow a general pattern, they were, and still are, adopted and implemented unilaterally by the countries. The net result has been a weakening of regional trade and economic integration because use was not made of political economies of scale and negotiating

power. Integration was also weakened by the preferential treatment given to certain sectors, with top priority being placed on liberalization of trade, less emphasis being given to industrial development and very little attention being paid to the role of agriculture in plans for economic reactivation.



### A NEW ROLE

In this regard, the PLANLAC has come along at just the right time to propose a new role for the agricultural sector in the development and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean, and in the relations of the sector with the world economy. The Plan demands a new approach in which agriculture is seen as part of an expanded sector that includes the agroindustrial complex and envisages intersectoral relations with services and tourism, for example.

The way to achieve this is through the execution of multinational projects which lay the bases for joint efforts among several countries or a subregion, or even the entire hemisphere, without imposing artificial limitations on national efforts. The efforts of individual countries would depend on the priority each assigns to the project and its access to resources, which can be enhanced through bilateral negotiations carried out by each country. Multinational projects require solid institutional support from established integration mechanisms such as the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Such a mechanism must be brought up to date and strengthened in the Andean Area, in Central America, to reflect the new situation there and the potential of the region, and another such mechanisms (Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CONASUR) is to be established in the Southern Cone.

(\*) IICA's Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations

Multinational projects generate and demand integration. They point up the strategic advantages of joint action in identifying priorities, translating them into concrete proposals, negotiating external resources and implementing projects in such a way as to improve the use of the human and institutional resources available and to create information, technology transfer and marketing networks which will further boost benefits.

Multinational or regional projects should be aimed at increasing production, developing and diversifying trade relations and improving the supply of inputs and raw materials, with a view to expanding considerably the production capacity of the agricultural sector.

The services that will be needed for such development can be obtained at a lower cost through regional actions including the promotion of the use of irrigation, linking the storage system with credit, research and technology transfer and the training and organization of differentiated groups of farmers.

All in all, this type of project is an effective instrument for increasing the region and the sector's competitiveness. Such projects can have a greater effect than that achieved by simply liberalizing the economy, and, in any case, they are absolutely essential if the different subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean are to take advantage of the new markets opening up.

Joint action will also be necessary if all the countries are to benefit from extra-regional negotiations and from the adoption of common stances in response to initiatives which will be difficult to come to grips with in any event, such as the search for a definitive solution to the problem of the external debt and the rapid and thorough liberalization of trade throughout the hemisphere. In the case of the latter, as was the case in the GATT, negotiations related to agriculture are expected to be especially complex.

## ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

Discussion of the ideas generated through the PLANLAC has done more than merely increase awareness as to the importance of reassessing and taking a new approach to the role of the agricultural sector in promoting economic growth and rural well-being. It has also contributed to the renewed emphasis being given to economic integration in strategies and policies aimed at providing a valid and lasting solution to the crisis besetting the region.

Thus, ALADI has taken steps to reduce tariffs; the

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*"IICA studies indicate it will be especially important to harmonize policies and actions, leading to strategic public and private investments to increase the intra- and extra-regional trade of inputs and products ..."*

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Presidents of Central America have given greater emphasis to economic issues in the integration process, which now includes Panama, and that was paralyzed during a decade of crisis; CARICOM is making plans that will accelerate unity among the Caribbean nations, which are of growing interest to Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia and Mexico; the Andean countries have strengthened their ties; Brazil and Argentina have announced the opening of a common market that will include Uruguay; in the Southern Cone, there is now a mechanism for coordination and consultation on agricultural issues, a topic gaining importance in the different subregions; and projects in border areas between two or more countries are becoming more numerous and more important.

While resources, efforts and sound decision making are indispensable for integration to become a reality and for the region to play a larger role in the world economy, progress must also be made in harmonizing policies. This will help to reduce imbalances, in terms of competitiveness, among natural partners, which complicates the implementation of coordinated actions.

IICA studies indicate it will be especially important to harmonize policies and actions, leading to strategic public and private investments to increase the intra- and extra-regional trade of inputs and products, more efficient production and distribution systems, the substitution of imports and the promotion of non-traditional exports, which will further integration and provide products with greater value added.

The strategy proposed in and the projects generated as a result of the PLANLAC are intended to achieve these goals, with a view to making the work carried out by the different countries in the field of agriculture more effective.

With the political support and concrete action of the countries, and coordinated through the subregional integration mechanisms, IICA will work to promote a modern and dynamic agricultural sector capable of having a multiplier effect on the economy and providing a worthwhile livelihood for farmers.

### Program I Supports Modernization of Regional Agriculture During 1989-90

During the 1989-1990 period, IICA's Program I, Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, concentrated its efforts on helping the countries design agricultural development strategies, strengthen their capabilities to manage appropriate economic policies for the sector, and develop mechanisms for harmonizing policies among the countries.

In a presentation to the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, the Director of Program I, Carlos Pomareda, indicated that, with regard to agricultural strategies, work has focused mainly on three aspects: acknowledging the need to cease to view agriculture as a primary sector and redefine it as an agricultural-agroindustrial complex; promoting a process to modernize the sector in order to equip it to compete in

domestic and international markets and; proposing strategic actions for the State that will encourage modernization with equity.

The second area in which Program I has been working deals with improving capabilities to analyze, provide advisory services, reach agreement on and manage policies that affect agriculture. It should be noted that the concept of agricultural policy has been superseded by the concept of policies for agriculture. In this respect, work is geared toward building up capabilities at the national level.

Pomareda explained that training events have been developed mainly at the regional level in courses conducted in Chile, Paraguay and Guatemala. These courses brought professionals from various sectors together to discuss

topics related to economic policy, making it possible for people involved in agriculture to enhance their knowledge of economics, while officials responsible for macroeconomic policies have become more aware of what is needed to improve relations among the sectors.

The third area in which the Program concentrated its efforts over the past year was in the establishment of regional projects in the Caribbean, Central, Andean and Southern Areas to harmonize policies among the countries. The aim is to harmonize policies so as to favor investments, intraregional trade and trade with third countries.

#### Program V:

### Agricultural Health Objectives Redefined

The new objectives of IICA's Program V, Agricultural Health, include the development of technical cooperation activities designed to facilitate the exportation of agricultural commodities, increase production and provide protection against exotic diseases and pests.

During IICA's last Executive Committee meeting, Jerry Fowler, Director of Program V, gave a presentation in which he indicated that one of the goals of the Program's new structure is to work closer with the private sector and, at the same time, to begin focusing on environmental protection and the quality of foodstuffs in all the Program's projects, as an important means for protecting the environment and public health.

In line with the PLANLAC, the Program will contribute to reactivating the agricultural sector by solving problems caused by diseases and pests that limit trade and reduce productivity. Activities will boost the exportation of agricultural commodities by helping the countries comply with the sanitary requirements of international trade.

The Program is also considering joint projects with the other IICA Programs: Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, Technology Generation and Transfer, Organization and Management for Rural Development and Marketing and Agroindustry.

As a result of the changes, the following multinational projects currently under

way were reformulated for implementation as of July:

- Inter-American Agricultural Health Monitoring and Information Network (RIMISA)
- Project to Facilitate the Trade of Agricultural Commodities in the Central Area
- Andean Fruit Fly Project
- Strengthening the Andean Animal Health Laboratories Network
- Project to Facilitate Trade of Agricultural Commodities in the Southern Area Through Joint Actions with COSAVE
- Project to Facilitate Trade of Livestock Products in the Southern Area
- Surveillance and Monitoring of Data and Information on Animal and Plant Diseases and Pests to Facilitate Increased Production Efficiency in the Caribbean (CARAPHIN)
- Animal Health and Plant Protection Emergency Fund.

## Action in the Countries

Central America:

### Coordination of Agricultural Policies Under Way

**D**uring a meeting held in El Salvador from September 11-13, the ministers of agriculture of Central America made progress in coordinating agricultural policies, in compliance with a mandate handed down by the presidents of the isthmus, and which was set forth in the Declaration of Antigua.

During the meeting of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), the ministers decided that the harmonization process should begin in the following areas: animal and plant health standards, regulations and procedures; quality control standards for intra- and extra-regional trade; technological development for agricul-

ture and market information systems.

Proposals will also be prepared to harmonize policies where there is an overlapping of responsibility among government agencies, such as agroindustrial development, promotion of exports and intraregional trade.

The Coordination Secretariat of CORECA, together with IICA, will be responsible for developing a methodology to guide the work of the national technical committees involved in the harmonization process. It will also work to coordinate other tasks required to guarantee the success of these integration efforts.

Pursuant to a resolution approved by the ministers, CORECA, with support from IICA, presented a proposal to the group of legal advisers who are studying a new legal and institutional framework for the integration of the subregion. Through this proposal, the institutions of the agricultural sector will be strengthened and given a role to play in the integrated development process of Central America.

The ministers reiterated their interest in having CORECA's Special Commission of Ministers of Agriculture of Central America serve as a representative body of the six countries in the new integration plan for the isthmus. The agreements approved last July in Honduras, as well as those approved in El Salvador, will be submitted to the Central American presidents during their next meeting, to be held in Puntarenas, Costa Rica in December. It was also agreed to start preparations for a regional summit on agriculture, to be held in early 1991.

### IICA Promotes Food Self-sufficiency in Argentina

**I**ICA and the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina (SAGyP) recently signed an agreement to implement a program on food self-sufficiency, geared toward families and communities located in greater Buenos Aires.

Felipe Sola, an official of the SAGyP, and Carlos Garramon, IICA Representative in Argentina, signed the documents to implement the Program for Urban Agriculture and Self-sufficiency. The initiative, to be implemented in several stages, will eventually involve other large cities located in the interior of the country. The aim of the program is to provide low-income families with food production techniques that will enable them to satisfy their basic needs.



**EXHIBITION OF RURAL PAINTINGS IN ARGENTINA.** The works of 20 Argentine painters, who competed for the 1989 IICA Painting Award, were exhibited in the Exhibition Hall of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Buenos Aires. The 1989 IICA Award for Painting, co-sponsored by the Quintennial Commission of the Discovery of America: Encounter of Two Worlds, was inaugurated by Representatives from the OAS and IICA, Benny Sander and Carlos Garramon, respectively.

# IICA To Conduct Study on Fisheries Sector in Uruguay

A study on the fisheries sector in Uruguay will be conducted by IICA over the next few months, at the request of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the government of Uruguay.

Using the proposals generated by this study, the government of Uruguay and the IDB will be able to establish a funding operation that will include a sectoral loan or investments program for 1991.

This type of regional technical cooperation mechanism is part of an agreement signed by the IDB and IICA, through which IICA's Center for Investment Programs and Projects (CEPPI) will prepare sectoral assessments, studies and programs for the Institute's member countries.

The objectives of the study are to conduct a sectoral assessment and formulate concrete proposals to restructure and reactivate the sector, with emphasis on strengthening private sector activities and opening up investment opportunities for entrepreneurs. It will also include measures to upgrade the institutional structure of State agencies involved in the fisheries subsector.

According to the report prepared by the fact-finding mission made up of specialists from the IDB, IICA and the government of Uruguay, the fisheries sector has been stagnant for the past five years, with production and export levels lower than during the first half of the 1980s.

Enterprises in the sector are heavily indebted and have not been able to solve their financial problems, in spite of having

rescheduled their debts. Most of them have been seriously affected by various national circumstances, among which are the inflexible administration of the fisheries plan, the exchange rate policies in effect in the early 1980s, and a lack of research leading to new investment opportunities.

Although there have been practically no private investments in the sector during the past five years, which has led to a scarcity of capital, the government of Uruguay has taken a series of macroeconomic measures that have helped create favorable conditions for production activities. In addition, it has committed itself to supporting the development of the fisheries sector.

## Review and restructuring

The study will evaluate information on fisheries resources and the geopolitical conditions that determine the exploitation of the resources; examine technologies used in catching and processing fish and in integrated fleet-industry operations; and study the possibilities of placing Uruguayan fisheries products on the international market.

The study will also review the debt problem and the financial viability of the enterprises; analyze the legal framework of the institutional structure, and propose recommendations for sectoral or economic policies that affect the sector, including a proposal for specific actions in critical areas.

## Uruguay: Training Provided to Members of Cooperatives and Government Technicians

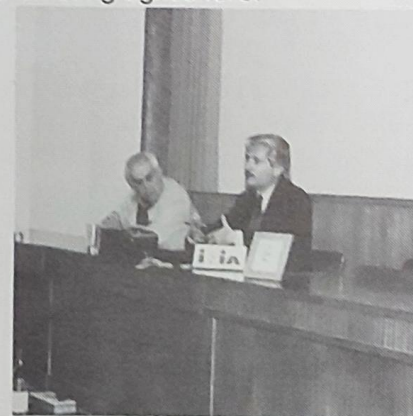
Two seminar-workshops were recently conducted in Uruguay: one to train members of cooperatives in production techniques for small farms (*granjas*) and the other to equip government technicians to work more effectively with small-scale farmers.

The challenges facing Uruguay's agroexport sector were discussed during the first meeting of the Federated Agrarian Cooperatives (CAF), held at the IICA Office in Montevideo. The objective of the seminar was to boost activities of the *granja* cooperatives and to strengthen the working capacity and

programming capabilities of the core group of leaders of grassroots cooperatives and CAF rural development societies. The meeting was conducted with support from the IDB and IICA, through the project "Institutional Support to the Granja Sector."

The second seminar was held at the "La Estanzuela" experimental station and sponsored by the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) and IICA. The goal of the seminar was to disseminate information on and help the participants better understand the principal roles played by institutions in joint, coordinated

actions with very low-income farmers. Participants in the seminar included technicians from the Directorate of Extension Services of the Ministry and personnel from municipal agencies in charge of promoting agriculture.



The Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, Alvaro Ramos (right), participated in the seminar held at "La Estanzuela".

# New Executive Secretary of PROCISUR Designated



*The PROCISUR Steering Committee analyzed the progress of ten projects under way and approved the 1991 work plan.*

In January 1991, Amelio Dall'Agnol, from Brazil, will take office as Executive Secretary of PROCISUR. Dall'Agnol is currently the international coordinator of the project on soybeans and other oilseeds.

The appointment was made by the Steering Committee of the Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR) during a meeting held in Uruguay early in October. Dell'Agnol will replace the

late Edmundo Gastal, considered to be the framer of PROCISUR.

The Committee, made up of the directors of agricultural research agencies in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, evaluated the progress of the Program's ten projects and approved the 1991 work plan.

PROCISUR maximizes the use given to the resources available in the countries and to the advantages offered by participating institutions, thus avoid the duplication of efforts. It

seeks to bridge the technology gap that exists in the region, as compared with developed countries.

It was also agreed to establish the "Edmundo Gastal Award," in memory of the man who led PROCISUR for so many years. This award will be conferred every two years, in recognition of outstanding work carried out in the participating countries related to horizontal cooperation or regional cooperation in agricultural technology. The award, a diploma and a gold medal, will be granted for the first time in 1991.

## Photos on Rural Women Exhibited in Brazil

The best photographs on rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean, chosen from the contest organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Radio Nederlands Training Centre (RNTC), were exhibited at the National Theater of Brasilia from September 27 to October 14.

The activity, which was carried out with the collaboration of the government of the Federal District of Brasilia



and IICA, included 58 color photographs and 64 in black and white.

Julie Anne Coimbra, from Brazil, was

awarded first prize in the black and white category for her photograph entitled "A caminho de casa" (The Way Home) and Noel Norton, from Trinidad, was awarded first prize in the color category.

The purpose of the contest was to raise society's awareness of the role of rural women: an important sector of the rural population. It also sought to promote a greater understanding of the type of work performed by rural women and the cultural, economic, educational and family aspects of their lives. These works were previously exhibited at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), in Washington, D.C. and in Trinidad and Tobago.

Peru:

## Funding for Agricultural Development Studied

Specialists meeting recently in Lima, Peru to discuss new types of funding for agricultural development recommended that public investment be directed toward highly productive projects that generate income quickly and facilitate subsequent investment.

The participants, 39 professionals from the public and private sectors and representatives of international cooperation organizations and agencies, underscored the complementarity of public and private investment and recommended redefining the State, to give it a greater role in promoting development.

The seminar-workshop, entitled "Strategic public sector investments in the development of agriculture," was organized by the IICA Office in Peru. Participants included vice

minister of agriculture of this Andean nation, Efrain Palti Solano.

This activity produced policy proposals and strategies for action related to public investment and is tied to IICA's efforts to coordinate the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). The PLANLAC has a

specific strategy for the Andean subregion, which promotes modernizing agriculture and linking it to industry as a means of reactivating the economies of the region. It contains multinational programs and projects aimed at solving problems common to two or more countries which affect the production and export of agricultural and agro-industrial products.



High-level officials from the agricultural sector of Peru participated in the seminar.

## Publications

### Book Published on the Situation in and Outlook for Agricultural Reactivation in Peru

IICA Office in Peru  
US\$3.00

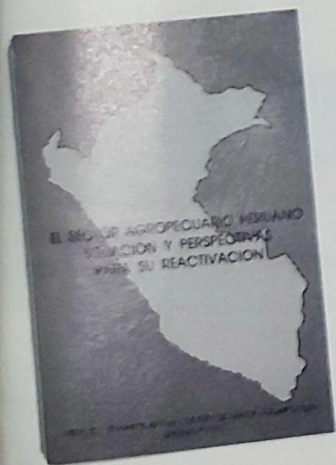
This publication, entitled "El Sector Agropecuario Peruano Situación y Perspectivas para su Reactivación" was based on four studies by national consultants and technical experts from the IICA Office in Peru which

aimed to identify the causes of agricultural stagnation in this Andean country, and to propose alternatives for the rational use of resources, as well as policies to help reactivate agriculture and boost rural development.

The research served as the foundation for two seminars which brought together representatives from professional organizations and unions, public and private institutions,

universities and political parties. Among the contributors are the current Prime Minister, Juan Carlos Hurtado, and the Vice Minister of Agriculture of the new government Efrain Palti.

The book is divided into five chapters, and describes the limited growth of Peru's economy and the agricultural sector over the last 20 years. It also mentions as the principal causes of this situation, the scarcity of arable land, the wide variety of agrarian problems affecting the country, and macroeconomic and sectoral policies that have depressed agricultural prices and discouraged agricultural-industrial linkages.





## IICA in the news

### Central America, Caribbean, South America

#### 'Satisfactory progress' of agriculture plan



■ During the month of September, the press highlighted the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, at which time progress in the execution of the PLANLAC was studied, the theme of the upcoming conference of ministers of agriculture was decided upon and the guidelines for the Institute's actions until 1993 were established.

International news agencies (IPS, AFP, ACAN-EFE, UPI) and newspapers from Mexico (Excelsior, La Jornada), Guatemala (El Grafico), Nicaragua (La Prensa, Nuevo Diario), Costa Rica (La Nacion), Panama (Panama America, EL Siglo, La Prensa), Barbados (Sunday Sun, Nation, Barbados Advocate), Peru (El Peruano), Chile (La Tercera), and Argentina (Cronista Comercial, Clarin), indicated that

this meeting contributed to forging the consensus on the need to modernize the agricultural sector with a view to helping reactivate the economies of the region.

They also highlighted statements made by the Director General, Martin E. Piñero, to the AFP and EFE in Washington, on President George Bush's plan, known as the Initiative for the Americas.

During a visit to Washington, D.C., Piñero indicated that, with regard to agriculture, Latin America is in a position to negotiate on equal footing with the United States. In his opinion, the region can reap important benefits from a large free trade zone, as



### EXCELSIOR

EL PERIÓDICO DE LA VIDA NACIONAL  
SECCION FINANCIERA  
Todo se Condiciona a la Ronda Uruguay  
Favorable Para la Agricultura de A. Latina la Propuesta de G. Bush

La agricultura latinoamericana se encuentra en una situación crítica, según se dijo en un informe presentado en la reunión de la Comisión Interamericana de Agricultura (CIA) que se celebró en Montevideo el pasado 15 de septiembre. El informe, elaborado por el Director General de IICA, Martín E. Piñero, y el Director General de la CIA, Juan Carlos Rodríguez Cordero, indica que el sector agrícola de la región enfrenta graves dificultades, tanto a nivel de producción como de comercialización. Se resalta la necesidad de implementar políticas que permitan mejorar la productividad y la competitividad del sector, así como de fortalecer los mecanismos de cooperación regional y con el exterior.

contemplated in the initiative (AFP). The Director General of IICA added, nevertheless, that the impact of this initiative will be determined to a certain extent by the results of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) (EFE).

## Upcoming activities

### Eighth Latin American Meeting on Agricultural Financing November 7-9 Caracas, Venezuela

Some 75 professionals from 17 countries will study the financing of technological innovations in agriculture and agroindustry. They will look into the dynamics of comparative advantages in the development of agroindustrial complexes; programs for financing innovations and technology transfer in agriculture and agroindustry; cooperative services and the modernization of development banks, among other topics.

The meeting is being organized by IICA, the Latin American Association of Animal Production (ALPA), the Center for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA) and the Agricultural Credit Fund of Venezuela (FCA).

### Seminar on Policies Related to Industrial Property Rights on Biotechnological Inventions, and on the Use of Germplasm in Latin America and the Caribbean.

November 27-29  
Caracas, Venezuela

The principal objective of the activity is

to review current thinking on the protection of intellectual property rights in technological and economic development, with emphasis on biotechnologies and the agricultural sector. Efforts will be made to establish general guidelines for a regional program on intellectual property rights for biotechnological inventions. The meeting is a joint activity of the Regional Biotechnology Program UNDP/UNIDO, UNESCO and IICA with the participation of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Polar Foundation Venezuela. It is funded by Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

