

RESOLUTION No. 546

HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVE ON “WATER AND AGRICULTURE”

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Information document IICA/JIA/DI-03 (23) “Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Americas has a wealth of water resources, whose integrated management plays a key and strategic role in improving agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability and food security;

That climate change has altered general patterns in the availability and distribution of fresh water, which renders the fight against desertification and droughts more complex and difficult, directly affecting agricultural and livestock production;

That the Declaration “Water to Feed the Land”, adopted at the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013, held in Argentina, established the commitment to “develop and consolidate participation by the ministries of Agriculture in defining and implementing national policies for the integrated management of water, with the aim of ensuring access to and supply of water in the quantity and quality necessary for facing the challenges of agriculture and rural development, dealing with diverse geographical conditions, different uses and various users”;

That, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 482 (XVII-O/13), of 26 September 2013, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) requested that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) assist the ministers of Agriculture to design and adopt an inter-American agenda on water for agriculture, with integrated water resources management as its central element;

That strengthening participation by the ministries of Agriculture in designing and implementing public policies for the integrated management of water resources is a matter of strategic importance;

That the “Living Soils of the Americas” initiative, spearheaded by IICA to improve soil health, is closely linked to the integrated management of water resources;

That the Director General of the Institute has proposed an initiative entitled “Water and Agriculture”, whose objective is to strengthen capacities and foster strategic public-private partnerships in IICA member countries, by providing support to ministries of Agriculture and lead agencies, in a bid to improve the integrated management and efficient use of water in agriculture; and

That, the Institute hosted the technical launch of the “Water and Agriculture” initiative on 27 September 2023, which featured the participation of the main water and agricultural authorities of the member countries, as well as strategic partners of the initiative, among them the University of Nebraska, the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF),

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the strategic importance of strengthening participation of the ministries of Agriculture in designing and implementing cross-cutting public policies for the integrated management of water resources.
2. To endorse the “Water and Agriculture” initiative proposed by IICA and to request that its Director General take the necessary actions to ensure its implementation, in collaboration with the Institute’s member countries, international organizations, donor agencies and other strategic partners.
3. To urge the governments of IICA Member States to strengthen actions that will facilitate increased production and storage of water, improve the efficiency of its use, strengthen governance for water management in agriculture and foster public-private investment for that purpose.
4. To support the appeals by ministers of Agriculture at various forums, requesting the full implementation of mechanisms that will enable countries to access the funding committed by the developed countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation, for which water management in agriculture will be a key factor.