



United States



Significant Achievements 2023

- At COP28, for a second year, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) led an international initiative geared towards increasing hemispheric participation in the UN COP processes to advance mitigation and adaptation in the agriculture sector of the Americas. The Institute obtained important external resources from partners to support the Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas pavilion at the meeting. At COP28, strategic partnerships were forged with Food Tank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), IDB Invest, the Department of Sustainable Development of the Organization of American States (OAS), and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR), among others.
- IICA supported external resource mobilization efforts for agricultural climate action and sustainability initiatives in the hemisphere, helping to secure resources from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for a multi-year grant.
- A new General Agreement between IICA and the World Food Prize Foundation and an extension of the General Agreement between IICA and the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) were finalized in 2023. The agreement with the World Food Prize Foundation advances our mutual work in the hemisphere, specifically with respect to food security and the mentoring of Borlaug-Ruan interns. The extension of the PADF agreement will allow for mobilizing resources for the Global Alliance Against TR4, of which IICA serves as Secretariat. A General Agreement between IICA and Virginia Tech University is also under final review with the university's legal department and will be finalized in early 2024. This agreement will enable IICA to collaborate with Virginia Tech on the GAP Report, the GAP Initiative and funding opportunities for agricultural research and innovation.
- At the 2023 Borlaug Dialogue in Des Moines, Iowa, IICA took part in three high-level events and projects aimed at addressing the challenges of climate change, increasing water for agriculture, and protecting important food crops such as banana from diseases. At the event, the Institute organized three panels on water, the Tropical Race 4 (TR4, or *Fusarium oxysporum*) banana disease, and regenerative agriculture. High-level visits between the Vice President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Minister of Agriculture of Guyana, as well as with private sector companies, were also held at the Borlaug Dialogue.
- The IICA Leaders of Rurality Awards gave visibility to individuals making a difference in rural areas of the Americas. Krysta Harden, current CEO and President of the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC), was recognized for her actions to promote sustainable dairy products and elevate the status of women in agriculture. Marilyn Hershey, in turn, was recognized as a Leader of Rurality of the Americas at the AIM for Climate Summit in Washington, D.C..
- IICA joined forces with global women's associations in New York City at the United Nations 67th Commission on the Status of Women, with a view to addressing the gender gaps faced by rural women and girls in the Americas. IICA participated in a side event entitled "Rural Women and Girls: Empowerment to Guarantee the Fu-

ture”, sharing examples of how rural women and girls are still excluded from many of the beneficial opportunities that could improve their lives, their communities, and the planet.

- The Institute has assumed a leading role in assisting the Secretariat of the Global Alliance Against TR4 in calling attention to and halting the spread of the banana disease through partnerships and resource mobilization. Specifically, it has united stakeholders from all regions and areas of specialization, who have contributed their knowledge and resources to protect bananas and, in turn, food security and farmer livelihoods. To that end, IICA organized an event at the Borlaug Dialogue to build awareness of the disease and attract new partnerships.
- IICA facilitated knowledge exchanges between participants in different activities at the AIM for Climate Summit in Washington, D.C., which included dialogues and panel discussions aimed at highlighting the benefits of sustainable agricultural practices. In a joint booth with FONTAGRO and Producer’s Market, IICA provided information on climate and innovation in the Americas. It also supported and advocated on behalf of IICA Member States at the event, representing nations of the Western Hemisphere, as well as the ministers of Agriculture of The Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and the U.S..
- IICA participated in the first ever Miami Impact Investors Conference 2023, with a view to fostering greater social impact investment in the hemisphere for women, youth and climate initiatives. A group of leading impact investors are now joining forces to create a movement

to achieve greater results, particularly in agriculture and food systems of the Americas. IICA is supporting these efforts and will serve as a key advisor and partner.

- The Institute supported youth leadership in agriculture by hosting the World Food Prize Foundation and Wallace-Carver Fellows during a leadership development week, providing an opportunity for the fellows to encourage and educate young scientists and humanitarian American leaders. Other institutions such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IFAD also took part in the event, held at the OAS Building.
- Together with Virginia Tech, IICA co-produced the first Spanish version of the GAP Report in 2023, which highlights sustainable productivity growth in the Americas and around the world. IICA has had a long-standing partnership with Virginia Tech and the GAP Report since 2013.
- Under the coordination of the U.S. Delegation, hemispheric cooperation with the following key partners, among others, was strengthened:
 - o *USDA (Secretary of Agriculture, Under Secretaries of Agriculture of FAS, APHIS and AMS)*
 - o *Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)*
 - o *IDB*
 - o *World Bank*
 - o *OAS*
 - o *Corteva Agriscience*
 - o *USDEC*
 - o *PepsiCo*
 - o *CropLife America.*