

**RESOLUTION No. 715**

**THE AGRICULTURAL TRADE SITUATION – GLOBALLY AND IN THE  
HEMISPHERE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-fourth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The document “Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Americas: Concept Note on the Agricultural Trade Situation – Globally and in the Hemisphere”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 545 (XXII-O/23), acknowledged that international and regional trade strengthens sustainable development and food security, and urged the countries to undertake joint efforts to safeguard against the introduction of rules, regulations and actions with the potential to restrict the agrifood trade of the countries of the region, and to assist in increasing intraregional trade;

That international trade is extremely important for global food security, as it helps to create a balance between food deficits and food surpluses among countries; redistributes food production; increases the variety of available food; improves the affordability of food; facilitates the consumption of safe food; and creates opportunities to improve agricultural productivity and boost the income of farmers, while ensuring the efficient allocation of global resources, including natural resources;

That the Americas, despite being the major net food exporting region of agrifood products, is home to both net food exporting and net food importing countries, such as the Caribbean nations;

That, in the current international trade climate, the countries of the Americas must insist on the need to foster free, open, transparent trade that is governed by science-based rules, as a means of improving market access and consolidating the role of trade in ensuring global food security;

That, even while pursuing legitimate objectives to protect the environment, some countries are introducing measures that could potentially restrict trade; and

That, during this Executive Committee meeting, the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have engaged in productive

discussion, exchanging ideas on the policy actions needed to enhance the strategic role of agrifood trade of the Americas in food security and sustainable development,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the collective actions of the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the area of international trade, aimed at strengthening the contribution of agrifood trade in the Americas to sustainable development and regional and global food security.
2. To urge the governments of IICA Member States to foster more transparent, open, science-based, equitable and sustainable trade within the framework of the World Trade Organization (WTO), by increasing the participation of the ministries of agriculture in decision-making within the multilateral trade system and fostering inter-ministerial cooperation to promote the adoption of joint positions on issues of common interest.
3. To instruct the Institute to continue to advocate for actions that facilitate intraregional trade and the leveraging of trade opportunities arising from existing trade agreements to benefit all the stakeholders in the agrifood sector.
4. To request that IICA work with its Member States to spearhead actions that will showcase successful efforts by agriculture in the region to improve sustainability and strengthen coordinated action to overcome barriers to international trade imposed for environmental reasons, as well as to increase participation in international and regional markets by capitalizing on the productive competitiveness the region has achieved through efficient and environmentally sustainable practices.