



REPORT OF THE MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2013 AND OF THE SEVENTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Buenos Aires, Argentina
24-27 September, 2013



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What is IICA?

We are the specialized agency of the Inter-American System for the promotion of agriculture and rural well-being, and our efforts are fully focused on making **agriculture competitive and sustainable in the Americas**.

We have a modern vision of the challenges facing agriculture, which range from the effects of climate change on agricultural production to the urgent need to feed a growing world population; while at the same time, creating opportunities and jobs for the men and women of the rural areas of our member countries.

Faced with such extraordinary challenges, we propose a **new paradigm for agriculture**: one in which the sector will improve national revenues and individual incomes, play a key role in making food security a reality, and is a line of defense in mitigating the impacts of climate change. We are committed to making agriculture more productive, **more inclusive and more sustainable**.

Since our founding, in 1942, we have acquired a wealth of experience in the provision of technical cooperation in the areas of technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development and training.

More recently, the Institute has become involved in the relationship between agriculture and the environment, natural resources and climate change. It has also helped the countries to meet new challenges in areas such as biotechnology and biosafety, agroenergy, agrotourism, organic agriculture, agricultural insurance, rural agroindustry and rural development from a territorial perspective.

In our **34 Member States**, we work very closely with the ministries of agriculture. Our governing body is the **Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)**, comprising the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere. In addition, we serve as the secretariat of the **Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture** in the Context of the Summit of the Americas Process.



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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). 2013



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INAUGURAL SESSION

INAUGURAL SESSION

The inaugural session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 17:40 hours on September 24, 2013 at Le Dome I and II Meeting Rooms of the Hotel Sofitel La Reserva Cardales, in Campana, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the presence of the Vice President of the Republic of Argentina, Mr. Amado Boudou, and the country's Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Mr. Norberto Yauhar.

Address by the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

In his opening address, Mr. Victor M. Villalobos A., Director General of IICA, focused on the issue of water and agriculture. He emphasized the importance of water for the agricultural sector, for other economic activities and for human survival, in a context of increased demand for that resource and the emergence of several challenges imposed by climate change.

He said he believed that the meeting of ministers was the ideal forum for unifying positions and efforts in order to reach agreements on the issue of water, in line with the concept expressed in the motto of the meeting, "Water to feed the land." He emphasized that factors such as population growth, increased demand for water for agricultural and non-agricultural activities and the effects of climate change and climate variability had affected the availability of the resource.

He emphasized that, given the current competition for water, it was essential to use it in an integrated and efficient manner, and therefore it would be necessary to: a) strengthen institutional policy frameworks for the sustainable use of water; b) strengthen the capacities of the ministries of agriculture in water management and allow them to play a leading role in that area; c) promote and adopt sustainable methods of water use that take into account climate variability and support efforts to adapt agriculture to climate change; d) promote innovative ways of using water, both in agriculture and in other sectors; and e) develop a new agricultural paradigm, based on the notion of agricultural output per unit of water used.

The Director General of IICA warned that progress on food security and rural development could only be achieved through the efficient use of water. He reiterated the urgent need

to establish commitments to that end, commitments that then had to be honored. It would be necessary to adopt a hemispheric agenda on water for agriculture, he said. The first step in this regard would be the declaration that ministers would issue at the meeting. He pointed out that the Institute expected to receive a specific mandate that would provide the framework and guidelines for its work on the issues of water and agriculture, in the context of its competencies.

He emphasized that agriculture was vital for the future, not only for the production of food and raw materials, but also because of its important contribution to the conservation of natural resources and biodiversity. He called on the ministers to reach agreements at the meeting that responded to the concerns of producers. Finally, he said he was convinced that the participants' wish was to reach agreements that would allow water to continue to "feed the land."

Address by the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina

Mr. Norberto Yauhar, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, began by saying that the future of water had to be analyzed from a technical and political perspective, since governments would need to define policies to promote the implementation of technical programs aimed at resolving problems in the management and use of water.

He added that three themes would dominate the 21st century: a) science and technology, b) energy generation and c) food and water. In relation to the latter, he stressed that the countries of the Americas faced the challenge of becoming more competitive in their management and use of water for food production, so that they could produce more with fewer resources and guarantee the food supply for the population of the Americas and other continents.

He then noted that governments had been forced to mitigate the effects of climate change related to rainfall patterns through innovative programs based on science and technology. He explained that his country was making major investments in canal infrastructure and pressurized irrigation systems, in order to deliver water to arid areas and improve the quality of irrigation.

Finally, he emphasized the importance of the discussions that would take place during the 2013 Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, which would serve to identify areas of cooperation to improve water management in agriculture and provide access

to the resource for those sectors that do not yet have it, giving them an opportunity to increase production, generate more income and thereby improve their general well-being.

Address by the Vice President of the Republic of Argentina

Mr. Amado Boudou, Vice President of the Republic of Argentina, extended a warm welcome to all the participants at the meeting and urged them to hold frank and productive discussions that would lead to excellent results in the field of agriculture.

He then referred to the challenges and opportunities facing countries in the area of food security, noting the importance given to the issue in international forums, including the Group of 20 (G20).

Mr. Boudou explained that he regarded agriculture as a tool for improving income distribution, and mentioned the importance of technology transfer and capacity building as a means to enable small-scale farmers achieve greater equity. He also considered that agriculture should be seen as part of a value chain and emphasized its contribution to job creation and to the food supply.

He emphasized the important role played by water in boosting agricultural productivity, and mentioned the need to design policies for its efficient management and also to allocate resources for that purpose, particularly in the area of infrastructure, which is deficient in the majority of the countries.

Finally, he wished the participants an enjoyable stay and every success in the conduct of the meeting.

Close of the Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 16:22 hours on September 24, 2013.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MINISTERS OF
AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2013 AND SEVENTEENTH
REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE**

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the Session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 08:25 on September 25, 2013 in the Luis Leloir Meeting Room of Hotel Sofitel La Reserva Cardales, in Campana, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

0.1.2 The session was chaired by Ms. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica and Chair of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

0.1.3 The Representatives of 33 of the 34 Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) attended the session.

0.2 *Agreements*

0.2.1 *Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting*

0.2.1.1 The Representative of Mexico proposed that Mr. Lorenzo Basso, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, be elected to chair the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. Mr. Basso was elected by acclamation.

0.2.1.2 The Representative of Argentina then proposed that Ms. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, serve as Rapporteur. The motion was unanimously approved.

0.2.1.3 The officers of the meeting were elected as follows:

Chair:	Lorenzo Basso
Rapporteur:	Gloria Abraham
Secretary <i>ex officio</i> :	Víctor M. Villalobos

0.3 *Agenda for the Meeting*

0.3.1 The Representative of Argentina requested a change in the order of business contained in document IICA/JIA/Doc. 356 (13), so that issues related to the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas could be discussed during the morning session on Thursday, September 26. The agenda for the meeting was approved with the proposed amendment.

0.4 *Duration of the Meeting*

0.4.1 The Plenary agreed to hold the Closing Session of the 2013 Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA on Thursday, September 26 at 18:00 hours.

0.5 *Working Committees*

0.5.1 The Chair recalled that in accordance with Article 52 of its Rules of Procedure, the IABA could establish temporary or special committees to examine matters related to the nature and purposes of the Institute. Given that no proposals had been received for the establishment of committees, the Chair announced that that these could be set up during the course of the meeting, if the representatives of the Member States so wished.

0.6 *Deadline for Submitting Proposals*

0.6.1 September 25 at 17:00 was set as the deadline for submitting draft resolutions.

0.7 *Countries' Right to Vote at Meetings of the IABA*

0.7.1 The Director General of IICA asked the Legal Adviser to explain the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote at meetings of the IABA.

- 0.7.2 The Legal Adviser explained that, in accordance with Article 24 of the Convention on IICA, the cases of Member States owing more than two annual quotas to the Institute had to be reviewed in order to determine whether their right to vote should be suspended. He added that, based on information provided by the Administration of the Institute, all the Member States present at the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA were eligible to exercise their right to vote.
- 0.7.3 The Director General thanked all the Member States for their extraordinary efforts to support the Institute since the last meeting of the IABA.
- 0.8 *Order of precedence of Member States*
- 0.8.1 In the event of the temporary or permanent absence of the Chair, he would be replaced by the Regular Representatives of the Member States, who serve as *ex officio* Vice Chairs of the meeting, in accordance with Articles 34 and 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA. For those purposes the alphabetical order of the names of the countries in Spanish would be followed, beginning with Argentina, the country elected to chair the meeting.
- 0.9 *Procedure for the Election of the Director General of IICA*
- 0.9.1 The Chair suggested that since only one candidate had been nominated, the Director General should be elected by acclamation, a motion that was supported by all the Regular Representatives of the Member States present at the meeting.
- 0.10 *Situation of IICA in Colombia*
- 0.10.1 The report on the situation of IICA in Colombia was distributed to delegates, in compliance with the mandate issued by the IABA in this regard at its previous Regular Meeting.
- 0.11 *Close of the Session*
- 0.11.1 The Preparatory Session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 09:10 hours on September 25, 2013.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 Opening of the Session

- 1.1.1 The first plenary session of the 2013 Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 09:20 hours on September 25, 2013 in the Luis Leloir Meeting Room of the Hotel Sofitel La Reserva Cardales, in Campana, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lorenzo Basso, the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina.

1.2 Election of the Director General of IICA for 2014-2018

- 1.2.1 The Chair of the meeting welcomed the ministers, heads of delegation, authorities and guests to the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and to the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. He proposed that the delegates immediately proceed to elect the Director General of IICA for the period 2014-2018, a responsibility that was the preserve of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). He then asked the Technical Secretary of the meeting to explain the procedure and background of the process.
- 1.2.2 The Technical Secretary outlined the existing regulations and protocol, as well as the background to the election of the Director General of IICA.
- 1.2.3 He reported that during the Preparatory Session, Mexico, through its Head of Delegation, Mr. Ricardo Aguilar, had reaffirmed its support for the candidacy of Dr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula for the post of Director General of IICA for 2014-2018.
- 1.2.4 The Chair informed the representatives of the Institute's member countries that no other candidate had been nominated, and therefore invited the members of the IABA to ratify by acclamation the election of Dr. Villalobos as Director General of the Institute for 2014-2018.
- 1.2.5 The Representatives of the 33 Member States present elected Dr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula by general acclamation as Director General of IICA for 2014-2018.

1.3 Acceptance Speech by the Director General

- 1.3.1 The Director General-elect stated that he considered himself a very fortunate person, since he had always known what he wanted to do in life, even as a young man: to devote himself to agriculture. He said he believed that the sector offered a fascinating future, full of possibilities, opportunities and challenges, particularly that of guaranteeing each person the right to food. For that reason, he said, it was a privilege to lead IICA, an institution that could help achieve that objective.
- 1.3.2 He thanked everyone for having offered him the opportunity to lead the Institute for a new term. In return, he vowed to continue with his commitment to make the Institute a stronger, more effective and relevant institution. He expressed his special thanks to the Government of Mexico, in particular to President Enrique Peña Nieto, for having presented his candidacy to the post of Director General of IICA for 2014-2018. He also thanked the staff of the Institute, the team of men and women of different nationalities and professions who, for the past four years, had worked hard to serve the Member States in the best way possible.
- 1.3.3 Next the Director General-elect recalled that during the IABA meeting held in 2009 in Jamaica, he had expressed optimism regarding the future of agriculture in the Americas; although at that time the continent had faced various challenges, he had full confidence in its enormous potential to move forward. He added that those challenges –improving productivity and competitiveness, achieving inclusion and sustainability in the social sphere, ensuring food security, acting with environmental responsibility, promoting innovation in agriculture and strengthening investment in that field– still remained.
- 1.3.4 He then referred to the type of context in which the agricultural sector was expected to develop. He considered that from 2014 onwards, the economic conditions would favor the growth of regional agricultural production and trade; these trends would be supported by policies aimed at improving productivity and the competitiveness of commercial agriculture and at enhancing the output and performance of family agriculture and its successful inclusion in value chains.
- 1.3.5 In anticipation of that scenario, the Director General-elect considered it necessary to make the following changes in IICA's future areas of action: a) strengthen the

dissemination of knowledge on innovative approaches that boost productivity, taking full advantage of new technologies; b) enhance agribusiness capabilities by strengthening family agriculture; c) protect agricultural production against pests and diseases generated by changes in climate patterns; d) pay greater attention to the issue of social inclusion by incorporating producers into value chains; e) include the topic of women in agriculture and rural development on the Institute's agenda; and f) integrate water resources management into agriculture –the theme of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013– and into institutional technical programs related to climate change, environment and natural resources.

- 1.3.6 He then emphasized the need to strengthen innovation. He said there was no better moment for a change in agriculture than the present, and that no other institution had the capacity that IICA had to meet that challenge. He added that during the next four years the Member States would receive timely and relevant responses from the Institute, since they would have a transparent institution, devoid of unnecessary bureaucracy, producing results that would continuously be placed at their disposal, and that would help them develop national capabilities and facilitate access to information, knowledge and innovation.
- 1.3.7 The Director General-elect thanked the representatives of the member countries for having given him the opportunity to continue serving them. He also thanked his family for its unconditional support. He concluded by sharing a Zapotecan poem that embodies the essence of what will be done at the Meeting:

*Therefore, now that we are together,
let us behave like the rock:
we will make the grass grow at our side,
we will pave the way for the people,
let us keep moisture for the earth.*

1.4 Comments of the Representatives of the Member States

- 1.4.1 The Chair thanked the Director General-elect for his comments and gave the floor to the Representatives of the Member States.
- 1.4.2 The Representative of Mexico congratulated the Director General-elect. He pointed out that agriculture was facing enormous challenges, for example

population growth and climate change, which obliged countries to forge closer ties of cooperation in different spheres, such as the exchange of technology. He believed that under Dr. Villalobos' leadership, IICA would remain a bastion on issues of interest to hemispheric agriculture. Finally, on behalf of the Government of Mexico, he thanked the other Member States of the Institute for their confidence in reelecting him as Director General.

- 1.4.3 The Representative of the United States of America congratulated the Director General-elect and stated that his country shared the vision outlined in his speech, particularly with regard to supporting small-scale farmers and women and promoting the responsible use of water.
- 1.4.4 The Representative of Guyana wished the Director General-elect every success. He considered that the countries of the region should work together with IICA to improve the management and use of water in agriculture and address the weaknesses in agricultural production.
- 1.4.5 The Representative of the Bahamas congratulated the Director General-elect, expressed his support for the comments made by the representatives who spoke before him and said he hoped that IICA would help his country access technologies to improve its agriculture.
- 1.4.6 The Representative of Dominica congratulated the Director General and emphasized that his reelection would contribute to alleviating poverty in the hemisphere.
- 1.4.7 The Representative of Guatemala thanked the Government of Argentina for its hospitality. He then congratulated Dr. Villalobos on his reelection and for having made the commitment to lead the Institute for another four years. He agreed that when the Director General used phrases like "IICA is always willing to help" and "We are all IICA," it showed that the Institute was willing to take on the commitment to address the challenges facing agriculture in the 21st century. He added that rural development, the capitalization of the countryside, food security and effective water management were some of the issues that IICA should prioritize. He concluded by stressing the importance of promoting sustainable and equitable development and supporting the progress of the poorest groups.

- 1.4.8 The Representative of Panama, in his capacity as President *pro tempore* of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), added his congratulations to Dr. Villalobos, whose experience and work, he said, had made him deserving of reelection as Director General of IICA. He emphasized the importance of working together, of moving toward precision agriculture and of shaping leaders who would spearhead changes in the agriculture of tomorrow and promote innovation and technology as essential tools to meet the food needs of the future world population. He concluded his remarks by pledging to provide IICA with every possible assistance.
- 1.4.9 The Representative of the Dominican Republic congratulated Dr. Villalobos on continuing in the post of Director General of IICA for four more years and on the topics he proposed to promote during his second term. She stressed that the Institute not only provided direct support and transfers knowledge, but also facilitated synergies and partnerships to move forward into new areas, helping to turn farmers into agro-entrepreneurs and guiding them along a path toward the transformation of agriculture.
- 1.4.10 The Representative of Jamaica welcomed the reelection of Dr. Villalobos and said he was the right man, in the right place and at the right time. He said that in future it would be necessary to strengthen efforts to improve water management and use, promote the design of policies in the areas of food and nutrition and foster continuous cooperation through joint work.
- 1.4.11 The Representative of Bolivia, speaking on behalf of the Minister of Rural Development and Land and President of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), thanked IICA for its work to benefit hemispheric agriculture and wished Dr. Villalobos another term as successful as the first.
- 1.4.12 The Representative of St. Vincent and the Grenadines thanked the Government of Argentina for its hospitality in hosting the meeting of the IABA. He congratulated Dr. Villalobos for his technical excellence and wished him every success in his new term at the helm of IICA. He emphasized that the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) considered it of vital importance to establish a strategic platform to work together and attract people to become involved in agriculture, especially women and youth.

- 1.4.13 The Representative of Peru conveyed the greetings of her country's Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation and expressed her satisfaction at Dr. Villalobos reelection as Director General of IICA. She stressed the importance of having a clear strategy for the management of water, a key resource for the region in order to address climate change and food security.
- 1.4.14 The Chair thanked the Representatives for their comments and summarized the main aspects of their interventions, such as the need to train young people and ensure they remained in rural territories, and to achieve efficient water management. He added his congratulations to those offered to Dr. Villalobos upon his reelection.
- 1.5 *Forum: Water to feed the land*
- 1.5.1 Introduction to the Forum
- 1.5.1.1 Mr. Miguel García, Manager of IICA's Agribusiness and Commercialization Program, explained that the purpose of the Forum was to offer key inputs to support the development of an agenda based on consensus, with specific commitments to improve water management in agriculture in the Americas. He reported on the joint process of organizing the forum by the Government of Argentina and IICA, which included the following four tasks: a) drafting the preparatory document "Water to feed the land"; b) implementing a database containing information on water management for agriculture; c) holding the "Water Talks," an institutional dialogue on different aspects of the topic; and d) organizing the forum "Water to feed the land."
- 1.5.2 Presentation "Challenges for water use in agriculture and the impact of climate change"
- 1.5.2.1 Mr. Gertjan B. Beekman, an expert in planning, development and water resources management at IICA, outlined the future precipitation scenarios developed by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He then described different sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the agricultural sector and explained the main challenges facing Latin America's agricultural sector in addressing the effects of climate change/variability on food security, particularly the reduction of areas suitable for farming and the appearance of pests and diseases.

- 1.5.2.2 He then went on to describe different technologies that would enable the production sector to mitigate the effects of climate change and/or adapt to it, particularly technologies for efficient water use and shade management, agroforestry and agro-silvopastoral systems, anti-drought technologies (stone walls, desalination plants and capture of groundwater, etc.) and low carbon technologies (for example, those that reduce methane emissions in livestock).
- 1.5.2.3 Mr. Beekman referred to the importance of promoting sustainable agricultural practices in order to boost productivity and incomes, improve soil health, increase efficacy in the use and conservation of water for irrigation, promote bioenergy, encourage precision agriculture and reduce the water footprint. All these actions, he noted, had positive implications for economic development, poverty reduction and food security.
- 1.5.2.4 In conclusion, he reported on the results of a survey on the status of water resources management on the American continent, which had enabled countries to formulate demands in relation to water resources management.
- 1.5.3 Presentation “The role of water for food production and trade in the Americas”
- 1.5.3.1 Ms. Claudia Ringler, of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), explained that water availability and food production were being adversely affected by population growth, urbanization, economic growth, changing diets (increased consumption of calories), high energy prices, growing demand for crops for non-food uses (biofuels), growing demand for water for domestic, industrial and environmental uses, declining water quality, the degradation of natural resources, climate change and climate variability, a slowing of investment in agriculture and water management and, finally, by poor management of water resources.
- 1.5.3.2 She noted that the supply of water resources was currently declining, while demand for these was growing. Moreover, food prices had risen and levels of food insecurity had increased. Faced with that scenario, she stressed the need for closer coordination between policy guidelines related to food security, energy security and water supply security.
- 1.5.3.3 Next, she emphasized the importance of improving crop yields and water use efficiency by using biotechnology, incorporating physiological and agronomic

knowledge, improving water productivity and soil management systems, using only the amount of water really needed by plants, reducing water evaporation in the soil and using advanced irrigation technologies (drip, micro-sprinkler, real-time management).

1.5.3.4 In conclusion, she underscored the need to invest more in agricultural research and development targeted increasingly at improving water productivity, not simply land productivity. She added that efforts were required to improve domestic water supply and sanitation but also irrigation water. These were some of the measures that the countries of the Americas could take to meet the growing demand for water to increase food production.

1.5.4 Presentation “Opportunities for adopting and accessing new technologies and for improving irrigation management”

1.5.4.1 Mr. Joan Girona, of the Institute for Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA) of Spain, thanked IICA for inviting him to participate in the forum and expressed the conviction that water management was an issue of global interest that had to be addressed with specific actions for each country and context. He explained the trend toward a growing demand for water, which would go from 56% at present to 128% toward 2050. The challenge therefore, would be to produce more food with less water. He then referred to the processes of water absorption and evapotranspiration in plants, necessary for them to produce. He said the need to increase food production to satisfy future demand would increase the amount of water that crops absorbed and evapotranspired, but that would be conditioned by limited water availability for agricultural production resulting from climate change. Hence, he said, water was clearly a factor of growing strategic value.

1.5.4.2 Mr. Girona then referred to some basic aspects in the use of irrigation water. He explained that ideally plants should use water in the most effective way possible, but that several factors prevented their roots from absorbing all the rainwater or irrigation water applied, including runoff, percolation, plant transpiration and evaporation. Another factor to be considered was the seasonal sensitivity of plants to water restrictions and differences in water use effectiveness between the various irrigation techniques. For example, the rate of effectiveness of irrigation by flooding was 40%-60%; for sprinkler irrigation the effectiveness was 65% -80%; and for localized

irrigation (by drip or micro-sprinkler systems), it was 90%-95%. However, the more effective irrigation was, the bigger the amount of energy that would be required.

- 1.5.4.3 He then explained that, under the conditions described, knowledge of good irrigation practices was essential and that the greater the effectiveness sought, the greater the capabilities that irrigators would need to have in dissimilar and complementary areas, ranging from physiology and climatology to informatics and telecommunications. He added that automated processes made it possible to manage an entire irrigation system with a minimum of knowledge, but that irrigators would have to be trained in different fields and would need access to packaged technologies that were easily used and assimilated.
- 1.5.4.4 He described a successful example of the transfer of knowledge between IRTA and the Codorniu wine making company, through an initiative to establish a research and development team with technicians from both organizations, based on the premise of “learning together.” He then mentioned the “Integrated program for saving water and improving irrigation water productivity in Spanish horticulture,” which included a project to map the specific water needs of each crop area using thermal identification technologies, so that irrigators could effectively control the differentiated water stress in each area.
- 1.5.4.5 He said he believed that improvements could not be obtained by simply developing new infrastructure systems; these were certainly essential but the important thing was to know how to use them effectively. Otherwise, the result would be the situation described at the start of the presentation: there would not be a sufficient supply of water to cover growing demand for human, agricultural and non-agricultural needs. He emphasized that applying water to crops was easy, but learning to irrigate was difficult. Productive water was just one part of what was traditionally provided through irrigation: the opportunities lay in accessing and adopting new technologies and improving irrigation management. He reiterated that technology transfer should apply the “learning together” approach and called for the development of special technologies for managing irrigation.

1.5.5 Presentation: “Soft technologies for irrigation systems management and water management in rainfed agriculture”

1.5.5.1 Mr. Daniel Prieto Garra, a facilitator of the National Water Program of the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA) of Argentina, referred to two topics: a) water management in rainfed agriculture, and b) soft technologies for managing collective and multi-site irrigation systems. He considered that neither topic had received the attention it deserved on institutional and governmental agendas.

1.5.5.2 He argued that rainfed agricultural production systems were important because of the volume of water used and their increased vulnerability to climate change. He explained that technologies aimed at boosting the productivity of these systems reduced their vulnerability and increased their resilience. He considered it very important that the ministerial agendas and innovation institutions incorporate the issue of water use and management in rainfed production.

1.5.5.3 With respect to the use of soft technologies in collective risk management, he argued that in order to improve efficiency in water use and productivity in multi-site irrigation systems, it was necessary to distribute water to the different users in a reliable, equitable way, making adjustments for time and volume. It was also essential to improve institutional and organizational aspects, establish clear roles, eliminate structural and cultural obstacles, promote training for all stakeholders and implement participatory learning processes.

1.5.6 Presentation “Managing water resources and irrigation as a productive tool in investment and development programs”

1.5.6.1 Mr. Luis Loyola, an Investment Officer at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), pointed out that by 2050 the world population would have risen to 9200 million people, resulting in growing demand for food and the intensification of production, which would also boost demand for water. In that context, he said, competition for land and water would increase, along with the prices of fuel and fertilizers. Climate change and variability would intensify as would the pressure to reduce salinization and nitrate contamination in aquifers.

- 1.5.6.2 He explained that the new paradigm for agriculture involved the sustainable intensification of agricultural production, according to which, in order to achieve growth in the agricultural sector, its stakeholders would need to learn how to use fewer resources more efficiently. He said one of the approaches promoted by the new model was conservation agriculture using irrigation, with the aim of increasing agricultural production using less water and fewer fertilizers and insecticides.
- 1.5.6.3 Mr. Loyola explained that the sustainable intensification of agricultural production was promoting agricultural practices based on ecosystemic approaches, which sought more efficient use of water in economic, social and environmental terms, and for which different production systems could be used (rainfed agriculture and agriculture with complementary and comprehensive irrigation) in order to increase agricultural output. He added that climate change and climate variability threatened rainfed production and that to counteract its effects, it was necessary to improve seasonal and annual forecasts on precipitation patterns, water availability, flood management and ground water management, among other aspects.
- 1.5.6.4 He then referred to the situation of irrigation in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), a region that, together with Sub-Saharan Africa, had the greatest potential in the world to expand irrigation. He added that integrated and technified irrigation, along with the reutilization of wastewater, were ideal methods to take full advantage of productive land. He also mentioned the importance of having policies aimed at improving water management and water use in irrigation and implementing comprehensive investment projects for that purpose.
- 1.5.6.5 He then explained that, when designing and implementing investment projects in irrigation, four basic aspects had to be considered: a) the changing demands of agricultural production, in which irrigation contributes to increase yields and improve the quality of production; b) increased competition for the use of water for irrigation with other uses of greater value (environmental, industries, supply); c) addressing issues related to water use rights and the protection of traditional rights; and d) the effects of climate change, such as reductions in the water supply, decreased storage capacity of snow and increased flooding, which results in lower yields.

1.5.6.6 In future, efficient water management in the agriculture of LAC would depend on maintaining investment levels in key areas of the production chain. In addition, faced with a deficit of water infrastructure systems in the region, the challenge would be to move from rehabilitating and improving irrigation systems to modernizing them. Mr. Loyola added that investment in irrigation should be aimed at promoting the use of new technologies, modernizing infrastructure, strengthening water users associations, promoting integrated management of water resources, the economic sustainability of systems and the formulation and application of irrigation policies in the countries, among other aspects.

1.6 *Close of the Session*

1.6.1 The first plenary session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 12:06 hours on September 25, 2013.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 *Opening of the session*

2.1.1 The second plenary session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 15:00 hours on September 25 in the Luis Leloir meeting room of the Hotel Sofitel La Reserva Cardales, in Campana, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was chaired by Mr. Lorenzo Basso, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina.

2.2 *Continuation of the forum, “Water to feed the land”*

2.2.1 Mr. Miguel García, Manager of the Agribusiness and Commercialization Program of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and moderator of the forum “Water to feed the land” gave a presentation on IICA’s contributions to the construction of a hemispheric agenda to improve the sustainable use of water in agriculture.

2.2.2 He began by pointing out the lessons learned from the process carried out by the Institute to contribute to the ministerial dialogue on water. The general lessons learned included the fact that the economic and social implications of the issue made it highly sensitive, that there were many initiatives on water under way in the hemisphere, that there was increasing awareness of the impact of climate change on water resources, that information systems on water resources were inadequate and that the holistic concept of “integrated water resources management” needed to be incorporated into public policies.

2.2.3 Mr. García then referred to lessons learned that were specific to agriculture, which included the negative perception of the relationship between agriculture and water, the tendency to think only about irrigation when the issue of water in agriculture was addressed, the inefficiency of water use in the agricultural sector, the potential impact of innovation to improve water management in the short and medium terms, and the need to invest in water infrastructure. Finally, he highlighted three lessons learned with regard to water management and public policies: the ministries of agriculture needed to recover their leadership on the issue, a wide variety of management models and institutional arrangements existed, and there were critical issues on which the international community needed to focus and reach agreement.

- 2.2.4 He went on to suggest three key ways of improving the management and use of water in agriculture: by adopting a holistic approach based on the concept of integrated water resources management, by improving the productivity of water in agriculture and by integrating practices and processes aimed at promoting climate change adaptation and integrated water management.
- 2.2.5 He presented four priority recommendations. The first was to strengthen the capabilities of the ministries of agriculture by means of an inter-American program aimed at sharing experiences and supporting the existing regional mechanisms. The second was to promote integrated water resources management by strengthening or developing hydrometeorological information systems, the integration of those systems at the regional level, the revitalization of the irrigation infrastructure, the strengthening of investment in new projects, and the promotion of the organization of irrigators and the planning of processes designed to adapt agriculture to climate change.
- 2.2.6 Mr. García's third recommendation concerned the need to boost innovation in order to increase the productivity of water in food production by identifying and disseminating innovations that would contribute to the efficient use of water in agriculture, promoting the development of public-private partnerships and continuing to work on strengthening and improving agricultural innovation systems. The fourth recommendation was to promote human resources training at all levels, to develop a new generation of agricultural specialists steeped in the application of new paradigms and producers with improved capabilities for innovation. This work should be informed by recognition of the rights of rural women and their role as vital agents in water resource management.
- 2.2.7 In conclusion, he suggested that the leaders of agriculture in the hemisphere should endorse IICA as the agency responsible for coordinating the hemispheric agenda on the management of water in agriculture, and provide financing and other resources for that purpose, since the success of the agenda would depend on the ministers' commitment and leadership.
- 2.2.8 When the floor was thrown open for comments from the Member States, special guest Mr. Nathan Guy, Minister for Primary Industries of New Zealand, described the most important actions that his country had taken in relation to water resources management, including investment of more than USD 80 million in water storage projects. He informed the meeting that, with a

population of 4.5 million, his country exported to over 200 countries, made the use of technology to improve productivity a priority and was a member of the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases.

- 2.2.9 Mr. Guy highlighted the need for the countries to undertake joint efforts to ensure that they had the amount of water required to respond to the burgeoning demand for food due to the growth of the world's population and to attenuate the negative effects of climate change. In conclusion, he referred to the importance of the countries having a frame of reference for decision-making related to water management, ensuring they had sufficient water of good quality, and strengthening technical capabilities for proper and sustainable water management.
- 2.2.10 The Representative of Brazil emphasized the need to use genetic engineering to ensure that seeds adapted better and more quickly to climate change, and to promote the transfer of technology for direct seeding and rainfed agriculture, which would help guarantee the food and water security of the planet's 9200 million inhabitants in 2050.
- 2.2.11 The Representative of Guyana underscored the importance of incorporating the subject of water security into discussion forums and high-level summits. He called upon IICA and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to work together to strengthen hydrometeorology systems and facilitate the calculation of the water footprint.
- 2.2.12 The Representative of Costa Rica congratulated the speakers on painting a complete picture of the situation and the challenges involved in the efficient use of water in agricultural production, as well as the course of action required to address them. She said it was vital to promote an understanding of the interactions among production, trade and the demand for water. She mentioned that, with support from Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), the Central American countries and the Dominican Republic were implementing the Central American Program on Integrated Water Resources Management. Approved by the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), the initiative was being carried out via the IICA Offices in the participating countries with assistance from Mexico's Coordinadora Nacional de Fundaciones Produce (COFUPRO). She pointed out that more than 70 technical officers in Central America and the Dominican

Republic had been trained, national teams had been set up to implement the activities called for under the Program and a strategy was in place to improve training, infrastructure and access to efficient irrigation technologies.

- 2.2.13 She added that water governance was a critical and complex issue in Costa Rica as several institutions shared responsibility for it, hence, the need for an appropriate legal framework to address the situation. She informed the meeting that her country's Legislative Assembly was discussing new legislation on water resources management that included aspects of technological innovation, interagency coordination, and stakeholder participation. She believed that the issues of water management and food security had to be considered together. She concluded her remarks by emphasizing that joint efforts were essential to advance toward efficient and integrated water use.
- 2.2.14 The Representative of Canada agreed on the need to tackle the issue of water as a matter of priority in the Americas. She emphasized that water was a vital resource that was under threat and that agriculture used 70% of the world's fresh water. She pointed out that the demand for water for agriculture would rise due to a 60% increase in the demand for food by the year 2050, with climate change exerting a growing impact. She noted that access to water was already a problem in several parts of the Americas. In Canada, for example, the resource was poorly distributed. It was abundant in the north of the country but in the south, where most of the population was concentrated, reserves were dwindling.
- 2.2.15 She added that integrated management of the resource was a complex issue in her country, because federal, provincial and local authorities were all involved. She emphasized the importance of sharing information and knowledge on efficient water use. She informed the meeting that that the Federal Government of Canada was carrying out research with a view to improving water use, evaluating the impact of climate change and producing varieties resistant to adverse climatic conditions.
- 2.2.16 In the field of adaptation to climate change and its connection with more efficient water use, the Representative of Canada highlighted the important role that biotechnology and genetically modified organisms (GMOs) could play in reducing water consumption and pollution and in increasing production. She remarked that her country respected other nations' opinions on the subject of

GMOs and would continue to engage in dialogue and work with the countries on biotechnology and GMOs, raising awareness of their impact on agricultural production and trade. In that regard, IICA was a useful intermediary for discussing positions and resolving differences.

- 2.2.17 She was pleased to see what the Institute had planned and expressed her willingness to continue to collaborate on projects and programs designed to increase production and improve food security. She reiterated her support for the forum of ministers and said Canada would be delighted to share with the Institute's other member countries what it had achieved by applying best practices for the efficient use of water.
- 2.2.18 The Representative of Mexico emphasized the importance of water as the most valuable natural resource for human beings. He remarked that the great challenge for Mexico and the world was to make better use of water. He pointed out that one of the main problems facing his country where water was concerned was its inadequate distribution, since the country had insufficient water in the north and an overabundance in the south.
- 2.2.19 He observed that Mexico had assumed five commitments with regard to water management: a) construction of five water supply systems for the biggest cities and infrastructure to democratize access to and the use of water; b) development of water infrastructure to increase the availability of water and croplands, thereby contributing to the attainment of food security; c) application of measures for efficient and sustainable water management; d) promotion of water security by improving over 100 high-risk dams and rehabilitating irrigation channels; and e) adoption of a responsible approach to the question of efficient water management.
- 2.2.20 He added that SAGARPA was providing support for training and the sharing of experiences under a cooperation agreement coordinated through IICA, which in his opinion was the best communication channel and means to channel cooperation toward other countries, such as those of Central America and the Caribbean. He concluded by seconding the remarks of the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina regarding the importance of the Member States being willing and committed to sharing resources with other countries.

- 2.2.21 The Representative of Jamaica said the interventions had been interesting and the information provided about water important. He remarked that his country had forests and water, so one of its main challenges was to manage those resources efficiently; however, there were problems that had to be resolved as a matter of urgency, such as the salinization of rivers, the lack of water in aquifers and the high cost of the energy required to pump water for irrigation and for household use. He added that the Government was promoting the use of drip irrigation to reduce costs, but it was carried out on a small scale. Finally, he expressed interest in tapping the capabilities and knowledge of other countries in the Americas in relation to the efficient management of water resources and endorsed all the ideas presented in the forum.
- 2.2.22 The Chair announced the distribution of copies of the book *Agricultura inteligente: la iniciativa de Argentina para la sustentabilidad en la producción de alimentos y energía*. Produced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina with IICA's support, it dealt with the issues addressed in the forum. A version would be available shortly in English that would be sent to the representatives of the English-speaking countries who had participated in the forum.
- 2.2.23 The Representative of Barbados thanked the Government of Argentina for its hospitality and congratulated Dr. Villalobos on his reelection. He remarked that water was a limited and key resource in Barbados and that the Government of the country had made efforts to meet the need for water, both for the population and the different sectors that required it. He added that Barbados had a water desalination plant that had made it possible to meet the water needs of the agricultural sector, which consumed 60%-70% of the water used in the country. Water management was in need of further improvement, however, since most irrigation water was distributed inefficiently and there were no storage systems for the dry season. It could be very useful for his country to provide farmers with climate-resistant seeds and seeds tolerant to changes in salinity. Finally, he asked the FAO, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and IICA to assist the Meteorological Institute of Barbados in solving the country's water use problems.
- 2.2.24 The Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis congratulated the Director General on his reelection and said he agreed with his colleague from Guyana on the importance of water for food security. He explained that his country comprised

two islands that had little agricultural land and no forests or permanent rivers that could be used for irrigation. He added that attempts to use rainwater had not been successful and the drilling of wells, while a good option, was very expensive. He also commented that the country faced the challenge of meeting its needs with locally produced food, but that would only be possible through horizontal cooperation. The forum had provided an opportunity for him to learn about new technologies and, in particular, to pinpoint experiences that could help his country to tackle future challenges related to efficient water management.

- 2.2.25 The Representative of Dominica thanked the organizers of the forum and the speakers for their presentations. He also expressed gratitude to the Government and people of Argentina for their hospitality. He felt it was necessary to define measures that would make it possible to achieve a drastic reduction in global poverty and afford all people access to food. One such measure would be to promote efficient water management, and the declaration that would be signed in the forum by all the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere was a crucial step in that direction.
- 2.2.26 He added that 60% of the territory of Dominica was covered by protected forests and that the country had 366 unpolluted rivers. Every community had access to piped water, four irrigation systems had been installed encompassing more than 800 acres of productive land and smallholders who set up irrigation systems received subsidies. Innovation, competitiveness, productivity and technology transfer were essential if the agricultural sector was to be sustainable, productive and socially inclusive.
- 2.2.27 The Representative of United States of America expressed his delegation's gratitude to the Government of Argentina for hosting the event, and commented that the participation of so many delegations from the countries headed by the most senior agricultural authorities was a testimony to the work of IICA and reflected the importance of the issue of water. He added that proper management of water resources called for cooperation at the global level, to ensure that sufficient water was available where and when it was needed.
- 2.2.28 He then shared three examples of cooperation actions related to water management in which the United States was involved: a) the joint public-private US Water Partnership, established to mobilize resources and experts to

address water challenges across the globe, especially in the developing world; b) an international watershed management seminar held each year by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which afforded an opportunity to learn about and exchange best practices for tackling the challenges involved in watershed management; and c) the establishment by the USDA of seven new regional climate centers in the United States that would offer farmers advice on climate change.

- 2.2.29 The Representative added that one of the principal factors to be considered with regard to water was the challenge of climate change, which governments, producers, researchers and businesspeople had to address together. To meet that challenge, and achieve sustainable development and food security, the countries needed to continue to work together and share the lessons they had learned. IICA was in a position to offer its Member States the opportunity to work together and make a real difference. It was time to share water management experiences, and he offered his government's cooperation on the issue.
- 2.2.30 The Representative of Nicaragua thanked the Government of Argentina for its hospitality and congratulated Dr. Villalobos on his reelection. She felt that certain aspects needed to be incorporated into the Institute's proposal on water resources management, and other parts of the document strengthened. Specifically, she mentioned the need to focus on the unequal availability and distribution of the resource, address the pollution of water resources in industrial agriculture, determine what should be done to decontaminate and recover water and how to set about doing it, and incorporate issues such as mining, forestry, watershed management and livestock farming.
- 2.2.31 The Representative of Peru congratulated the Government of Argentina on having organized the event with IICA. She pointed out that her country's Ministry of Agriculture had recently been reorganized and was now called the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. It had also been decided that water should be the springboard for the work of the institution, coordinating efforts closely with others in the sector. She mentioned that the focus of the ministry's actions had also changed, from the improvement of agriculture to the well-being of the population, especially in rural areas, where inequities abounded. She added that the ministry allotted 50% of its budget to irrigation; that the Programa Fondo Mi Riego had been created to finance water infrastructure in poor areas (Andean highlands) in which annual precipitation was 1500 mm

or more; and that the government was providing packages that included the provision of inputs, technical assistance in irrigation and health services under the *Programa Buena Siembra*.

- 2.2.32 With respect to water resources, she observed that Peru had 159 watersheds, placing it among the world's 20 richest countries in terms of water resources. Turning to climate change, she commented that her country had set itself the challenge of producing more food per unit of water, to cope with the pressures created by population growth, pollution and inefficient water use. She added that 64% of her country's cropland was rainfed and the remaining 36% was under irrigation. All of the things she had mentioned showed why food security and efficient water management were high-priority issues for Peru. Finally, she remarked that, since that the Government could not single-handedly promote social development, it had entered into public-private partnerships that included interventions in agriculture, water and mining.
- 2.2.33 The Representative of Panama congratulated the main speakers in the forum. He suggested that it would have been very useful to have had leaders of other political groupings take part, since ministers spent only a short time in their posts and overcoming poverty and food insecurity and tackling the challenges of agriculture called for State policies with a longer-term horizon that were not limited to specific administrations. He underscored the importance of addressing issues such as the modernization of production and associative undertakings, especially cooperatives.
- 2.2.34 He mentioned that there were many obstacles to the promotion of innovation and improvements in his country's agricultural sector, such as resistance to change, even among some producers; the media's lack of interest in agriculture; the shortage of leaders in the sector; and the need for generational change, among others.
- 2.2.35 He suggested two actions that could be undertaken in the countries with the support of IICA and others institutions: a) organize conferences with some of the experts who had participated in the forum for an audience that included political leaders; and b) establish, with the participation of specialized agencies like IICA and FAO, demonstration plots with state-of-the-art technology.

- 2.2.36 The Chair, in his capacity as the Representative of Argentina, commented that he shared many of the opinions expressed by the Representative of Panama. He agreed that without true State policies that continued after governments left office it would not be possible to incorporate the issues mentioned into the national agendas.
- 2.2.37 The Representative of Suriname thanked the Government of Argentina for hosting the meeting of the IABA and congratulated Dr. Víctor Villalobos on his reelection. He remarked that his country's average precipitation was 2200 mm per year and that the principal crops under irrigation were rice (irrigation with water from rivers and swamps) and bananas (drip irrigation). Given the high cost of maintaining the irrigation infrastructure, however, Suriname used a small proportion of the water resources at its disposal. He also informed the meeting that the ministries of agriculture and regional development had set up water councils. Finally, he noted that his country was interested in developing an integrated plan for sustainable water management, working with IICA or FAO, as a mechanism to guarantee food security.
- 2.2.38 The Representative of Haiti commented that the Institute's initiative of focusing on the subject of "Water to feed the land" was very pertinent for his country. He pointed out that 40 million cubic meters of rain fell in Haiti each year but there were serious droughts. Water was poorly managed in his country, since only 10% was used correctly and the rest was lost through evaporation and runoff. He believed the sharing of experiences and technologies among countries could be important to improve management of the resource and tackle poverty. He further noted that agriculture was a very important activity in Haiti, with 60% of the population involved in the activity even though the sector only accounted for 25% of GDP. Finally, he said his government had adopted certain measures to improve management of the resource but required the support of IICA and other specialized institutions.
- 2.2.39 The Representative of Bolivia informed the meeting that the subject of water was being incorporated into the agenda of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS). In his country, access to water and food security were considered basic human rights, so the Government's agenda included actions on a range of important issues related to the full exercise of those rights, such as land, water, seeds, production infrastructure, agricultural insurance, processing, industrialization and marketing. Finally, he invited the other countries to assume the challenge of making water a basic human right.

- 2.2.40 The Representative of Chile pointed out that some areas of his country had experienced four years of drought, and the figure in other parts was as high as eight years. The situation had forced the country to devise a national water resource strategy that included improvements to infrastructure and to water management. He indicated that information campaigns were also being used to raise awareness of the importance of looking after water resources and using them properly.
- 2.2.41 The Representative of Colombia mentioned the importance that her country attached to the adoption of integrated, cross-cutting policies that took into account the links among the issues of water, land, food security and climate change. She remarked that her country was willing to collaborate in the sharing of experiences, good practices and knowledge related to water management, and expressed interest in negotiating agreements on cross-border water resource management.
- 2.2.42 The Chair highlighted the importance of using technology to achieve more efficient management of the water used in food production. He commented that in his country (Argentina) technology had helped to bring about improvements in crops. He added that technology also was important to improve water management, and therefore suggested work on that subject.
- 2.2.43 The Representative of El Salvador emphasized the importance of the rational use of water in agriculture. He noted that his country had achieved significant progress on the issue by implementing a family farming plan for the cultivation of corn and beans that included actions on water. Finally, he thanked IICA for its support in developing the plan.
- 2.2.44 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda commented that access to water in his country was limited, as there were desert areas and others near the coast where salt water filtered into wells. A water management committee had been set up to deal with the situation and an integrated plan drawn up for the management and allocation of water to the different sectors.
- 2.2.45 The Representative of The Bahamas pointed out that, compared to banking and tourism, agriculture accounted for only a small part of his country's economic activity. The country imported over 90% of its food but the Ministry of Agriculture had begun to make efforts to increase local food production. A

school of agriculture had also been set up, which in his opinion demonstrated the seriousness with which the Government of Bahamas was addressing the issue of agriculture. He hoped that, following this and other efforts, at the next meeting of the IABA he would be able to announce that agriculture's share of his country's economy had increased substantially. He added that water was not yet a problem for The Bahamas, but the forum had made his country more aware of the importance of the resource and he was sure his government would take decisions and implement actions to move toward integrated water management.

- 2.2.46 The Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines observed that in 2013 no one could question the importance of the integrated and sustainable management of water; the facts spoke for themselves. He believed what was needed was a historical and prospective analysis of the use of water with a strategic approach. He pointed out that although his country had some 6000 hectares of farmland, the irrigation system had been closed down due to the lack of policies and poor operational management of the system at a reasonable cost. Furthermore, donations that the country had expected to receive from the European Union had not been forthcoming. The decision had affected agricultural activities in the country but it was difficult to persuade the Ministry of Finance of the need to allocate resources to get the irrigation system up and running again. He added that recent developments had highlighted the need for policies that promoted investment in irrigation systems.
- 2.2.47 The Chair congratulated the Representatives on their interventions and announced that the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture Argentina 2013, would be signed on September 26.
- 2.2.48 The Director General congratulated and thanked the speakers and Representatives for their contributions, which would provide valuable input for addressing the issue of integrated water management. He observed that the lessons learned during the forum had confirmed the need for an approach that combined water management with actions designed to adapt agriculture to climate change. The issue required further analysis and discussion, for which a great deal of information was needed that involved many different stakeholders. He thanked the meeting for the expressions of support for its administration, and the individuals who had been involved in the discussion and preparation of the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture Argentina 2013.

2.2.49 The Director General emphasized the need for more training and educational programs for agrifood professionals, on issues that included integrated water resources management and the adaptation of agriculture to climate change. He lamented the loss of life and material assets in the recent extreme climatic events, which only underlined the need for more hard work and joint and integrated efforts on water management, the adaptation of agriculture to climate change and natural resources management in general. He reiterated that IICA was putting forth its best efforts to develop national, regional and hemispheric agendas integrating all the issues mentioned.

2.3 *Close of the Session*

2.3.1 The second plenary session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 18:20 hours on September 25, 2013.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 *Opening of the Session*

3.1.1 The third plenary session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 09:00 hours on September 26, 2013, in the Luis Leloir Meeting Room of the Hotel Sofitel La Reserva Cardales, in Campana, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lorenzo Basso, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina.

3.1.2 The Chair gave the floor to the Technical Secretary, who announced that he would proceed to confirm the names of those who would be signing the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas Argentina 2013 once it had been approved by the plenary.

3.2 *Presentation of the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture Argentina 2013*

3.2.1 The Chair of the Meeting of Ministerial Delegates, held on September 23 and 24, 2013, was then invited to give a brief outline of the main points of the agreed draft Declaration, following its review and the amendments introduced by the delegates.

3.2.2 The Chair of the Meeting of Ministerial Delegates thanked the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for their continuous support throughout the preparation of the draft Declaration. He pointed out that it would contribute to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and that it reflected the delegates' main concerns on the issue of integrated and efficient water management. He emphasized the delegates' acknowledgement that water was crucial for agriculture and that the only way that food security could be guaranteed in the American continent across the globe was by using it efficiently. He then outlined the main aspects considered in its formulation and the commitments agreed to by the ministers of agriculture, particularly the following:

- To promote long-term public policies to ensure the integrated management of water and grant the ministries of agriculture a leading role in defining those policies.
- To strengthen the institutional frameworks and capabilities of the public and private sectors for the integrated and sustainable management of water resources.
- To consider integrated water management in relation to its direct connection with the effects of climate change.
- To increasingly adopt technological and non-technological innovations in order to improve water use and water productivity.
- To substantially increase investment in water infrastructure, research, agro-meteorology and cutting-edge technologies, among other areas.
- To improve water quality and prevent water contamination.
- To promote national and international cooperation on the issue of water which, given its complexity and implications for all aspects of life in our societies, exceeds the competencies and capabilities of the ministries of agriculture and the public institutions traditionally involved in its management.

3.2.3 The Chair thanked the Chair of the Meeting of Ministerial Delegates for his presentation and invited the representatives to comment on it. In the absence of any comments, he said he would consider the draft Declaration of the Ministers of Agriculture Argentina 2013 as approved, and invited the Representatives of the countries to sign it.

3.3 *Adoption and signing of the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture Argentina 2013*

3.3.1 The Chair invited the Representatives of the countries to sign four copies of the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture Argentina 2013, in the four official languages of the Institute, as evidence of their agreement with its content. All the Representatives present signed the Declaration, starting at 09:40 hours on September 26, 2013.

3.4 *Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) 2014*

3.4.1 Mr. Rafael Trejos, Director of IICA's Center for Strategic Analysis for Agriculture (CAESPA), announced that Mr. Adrián Rodríguez, of the Economic

Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and Mr. Salomón Salcedo, of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), would be presenting the report.

- 3.4.2 The Director of CAESPA began by explaining that, with regard to the macroeconomic and sectoral context, the report revealed that the global economy had decelerated and that the prospects for regional growth had been revised downwards, due mainly to the weak performance of the economies of Brazil and Mexico. He added that agrifood trade had also slowed, with falling prices and increasing price instability.
- 3.4.3 The Director of CAESPA pointed out that the agricultural sector of LAC had been adversely affected by the world context, although the impact on growth in the different subregions had been uneven. He noted that in 2012, trade in commodities had slowed and that climatic conditions had encouraged the appearance of pests that affected agriculture. Livestock production had grown rapidly during the previous decade, due mainly to the positive performance of the poultry subsector as well as the growth of production, productivity and per capita consumption of meat and milk.
- 3.4.4 With regard to the forestry sector, he said the variation in forest cover during the period 2005-2010 had been negative, except in the Caribbean, where it had increased. The fisheries and aquaculture sector had seen an increase in demand, especially in the developing countries; however, he stated that it would be difficult to satisfy that demand, and that would result in higher and more volatile fish prices, compounded by uncertainty over the effects of climate change.
- 3.4.5 Mr. Adrián Rodríguez, of ECLAC, then unpacked the issue of rural well-being. He provided the following information: a) the incidence of rural poverty had fallen, although it remained high in agricultural households; b) the relative importance of rural households engaged in family agriculture had decreased, although in many countries they still constituted the largest single group; c) the number of family farming households headed by women was low but had increased during the previous decade and was more prevalent in urban areas; d) in nearly all the countries, the heads of family farming households had the highest average ages; and e) heads of households engaged in family agriculture had the lowest levels of education. With respect to policies and institutional frameworks, he emphasized that changes would be needed in policies and

institutions, that family agriculture had positioned itself as a priority on the countries' agendas and that public administration needed to be modernized and become more inclusive.

- 3.4.6 Next, Mr. Salomón Salcedo, of FAO, referred to the situation of and outlook for family agriculture in LAC. He began by noting that it had been forecast that small-scale farmers would disappear as an outcome of the trade agreements; however, they now constituted an important sector, although their production was more limited and their yields were lower than those of commercial farmers.
- 3.4.7 He emphasized the potential of family agriculture, pointing out that it contributed to a more efficient, sustainable and equitable use of productive resources, increased the food supply and improved the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations in rural areas. He added that the production of family agriculture would not expand through the incorporation of new farmland. In order to achieve this, he said, it would be necessary to adapt production methods to new market demands, increase the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in the rural milieu and apply multidimensional strategies based on policies that took into account the specific needs of family agriculture and proposed comprehensive and timely solutions.
- 3.4.8 The floor was then opened for comments and questions from the Member States. The Representative of Brazil praised the joint work undertaken by ECLAC, FAO and IICA in drafting the report. He referred to the data presented on LAC and stated that, although he had not seen the final document, he hoped he would find specific information for each country, which would be useful for decision-making. He mentioned that it would be interesting to have information on each country, product and value chain. He pointed out that family agriculture was a very important issue in which Governments should become more involved (by formulating policies, providing incentives and introducing new technologies, etc.). Finally, he emphasized the importance of addressing the issue of trade barriers.
- 3.4.9 Mr. Trejos responded to the comments made by the Representative of Brazil by explaining that the report addressed the issue of trade barriers and associativity, and also provided disaggregated information for the subregions. As to the harmonization of specific chains or commodities, he pointed out that with the resources available it was not possible to do so.

- 3.4.10 The Representative of Panama thanked the speakers for presenting the report. He referred to the difficulties of introducing changes in small-scale agriculture and considered that promoting associativity in family agriculture was the correct way to reduce poverty. He agreed on the importance of identifying market opportunities for family agriculture and announced that his country was currently implementing the Rural Productivity Project (PRORURAL) for that purpose, with the support of the World Bank. He stressed the importance of developing business plans in order to effectively guide the actions of small-scale producers. He concluded by mentioning that two types of agriculture coexisted in his country: rural agriculture, which should continue to be strengthened and technified agriculture, which should be promoted.
- 3.4.11 The Representative of Saint Lucia expressed her satisfaction with the policy recommendations contained in the report, which were urgently needed in the Caribbean region. However, she pointed out that the Executive Summary presented did not contain specific policy recommendations for the Caribbean region.
- 3.4.12 The Representative of Nicaragua suggested that the topic of rural tourism be included in future reports, as it offered an important alternative for family farmers in some countries, including her own.
- 3.4.13 Mr. Salomón Salcedo explained that the full document contained specific sections on the Caribbean, Central America and South America. Mr. Adrián Rodríguez pointed out that, given that the document would be published after the meeting, there was still time to receive suggestions for improving it.
- 3.4.14 The Chair of the meeting, in his capacity as Representative of Argentina, praised the report and noted that it was the result of a process of coordination between three international cooperation organizations in the Americas.
- 3.5 *IICA Management Report for 2010-2013*
- 3.5.1 The Director General of IICA, Dr. Victor M. Villalobos, presented a report on the main results of the current administration. He explained that he would present the final report at the next meeting of the Executive Committee, upon completion of his four-year term. Dr. Villalobos began by recalling that when he was initially elected, he had made a commitment to strengthen the Institute's

technical capacity in order to support the Member States in their efforts to develop a competitive and sustainable agriculture, in accordance with IICA's 2010-2020 Strategic Plan and with the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan (MTP).

- 3.5.2 He went on to explain that both plans ensured the continuity of institutional efforts and increased the possibilities of accomplishing IICA's four strategic objectives: a) to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector, b) to strengthen agriculture's contribution to the development of territories and rural well-being, c) to improve agriculture's capacity to mitigate the effects of, and adapt to climate change and make better use of natural resources, and d) to improve agriculture's contribution to food security.
- 3.5.3 The Director General reported that the Institute's six programs had been implemented in each of the Member States through the respective IICA Country Strategy, which was the result of a convergence between each country's specific needs and IICA's available cooperation services. He added that the work carried out over the previous four years was reflected in 525 projects and cooperation actions, more than half of which were projects financed with external resources, for an average annual total of nearly USD 160 million.
- 3.5.4 The Director General summarized the main results of his administration as follows: a) strengthening of the Institute's technical efforts, b) placing of innovation at the forefront of its actions as a means to develop a new paradigm for agriculture, c) implementation of area-based (territorial) management models that had empowered rural communities, d) strengthening of producers' links to value chains, e) support for national capacity-building efforts and reinforcing of the public sector in the areas of business management, research, extension and agricultural innovation, f) promotion of harmonized standards or clear conceptual frameworks, thereby enabling countries to take advantage of modern technologies, as well as new and traditional markets, g) introduction of a cross-cutting perspective into cooperation efforts aimed at contributing to food security and sustainable agriculture, and h) an institutional reengineering process, enabling IICA to make better use of available resources, identify new forms of cooperation that do not imply an increase in quotas, exercise a more transparent management and promote a culture of accountability.
- 3.5.5 In concluding, he emphasized that the success achieved was due in large measure to the confidence placed in the Institute by the Member States, expressed

among other things, in the new financial contributions and resources that they had provided to IICA, enabling it to effectively continue serving the countries. Finally, he acknowledged the commitment shown by the Institute's 479 staff members at Headquarters and in its 34 offices in the member countries.

3.6 Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation of IICA

3.6.1 Main areas of progress and results of corporate management

3.6.1.1 IICA's Secretary of Corporate Services, Mr. Carlos O'Farrill, presented the following strategic guidelines for corporate management: a) strengthen the institutional financial structure and technical cooperation services, b) apply a policy of continuous improvement of corporate processes, and c) promote high standards of quality in corporate management and in the delivery of cooperation services, based on principles of austerity, equity and transparency in the use of resources.

3.6.1.2 The main progress and results achieved in the sphere of corporate management were the following: a) more efficient procurement and contracting processes, b) implementation of the SAP accounting-financial system at IICA Headquarters and in the 33 IICA Offices in the member countries, c) results-based programming of resources, d) restructuring of the Division of Management and Human Talent, e) redesign of the personnel evaluation system, f) equipping of all the Institute's units for electronic communications, g) implementation of the Administrative Knowledge Network (RedCA), h) renewal of 38% of IICA's vehicle fleet, i) securing of the use of premises for two offices in usufruct (Paraguay and Peru), j) a 6% increase in resources allocated to offices in the Member States, and k) financial savings on specific items of expenditure such as rent, insurance, publication, travel and public utilities, among others.

3.6.1.3 In conclusion, he explained that IICA would reinforce its austerity measures and budgetary discipline so as to counter the decline in the purchasing power of the resources of the Regular Fund, but without affecting the Institute's operational viability. He added that IICA would continue to improve coordination between its corporate services and its technical cooperation efforts, in order to enhance the value of the results provided to member countries and respond to their demands with the highest standards of quality, timeliness and relevance.

3.6.2 Progress in the Collection of Quotas

3.6.2.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services of IICA reported that, as at December 31, 2012, the Institute had collected quotas totaling USD 27.3 million, which were used to finance 98.86% of the 2012 annual budget. With respect to 2013, the amount collected as at September 24 totaled USD 24.0 million, with the sum of USD 6.4 million still pending collection. He reported that 18 countries were up to date with their quotas, 14 were in regular status, one was in special status and one was in arrears. He thanked the countries for their efforts to pay their quotas.

3.6.3 Proposed 2014-2015 Program Budget

3.6.3.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services presented the proposed 2014-2015 Program Budget, which incorporated the recommendations made by the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) and the Executive Committee. The following elements were taken into account in preparing the budget: a) the 2010-2014 Medium Term Plan (MTP), b) zero growth in the 2014-2015 income budget, c) the detailed expenditures for 2014, d) the quotas have been based on the scale approved for 2013 by the Organization of American States (OAS), and e) the need to absorb an estimated USD 1.4 million increase, in real terms, of Regular Fund costs (quotas and miscellaneous) in 2014. He added that the quota allocations to the Regular Fund had remained at zero growth from 1995 to 2013, with only nominal increases based on special temporary budgets (recovery of quotas from previous years), some contributions from over-quotas, and the authorized use of miscellaneous income. He pointed out that during this period IICA had faced an accumulated inflation index of more than 40%, representing an average loss of purchasing power of 4.1% annually.

3.6.3.2 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that the total annual amount of the Program Budget for 2014-2015 was USD 33,910,000.00, broken down by funding source as follows: USD 27,810,000.00 annually from quotas paid by Member States and USD 6,100,000.00 annually from miscellaneous income. He added that the distribution by chapter of the Program Budget was as follows: Chapter I – Direct Technical Cooperation Services: USD 30,644,538.00, representing 90.4% of the total; Chapter II – Management Costs: USD 1,658,321.00, representing 4.9% of the total; Chapter III – General Costs and

Provisions: USD 1,250,000.00, representing 3.7% of the total; and Chapter IV – Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment: USD 357,142.00, representing 1.1% of the total.

- 3.6.3.3 He mentioned that the institutional measures aimed at reducing expenses had been exhausted. He stated that the Institute would continue to operate under financial austerity measures, in a constant effort to make savings through the reorientation of expenditures and restrictions on personnel posts in order to continue strengthening the funding of cooperation services to member countries.
- 3.6.3.4 The floor was then opened for comments and questions from the Member States. The Representative of Argentina offered to support IICA in identifying external sources of funding in order to strengthen its technical cooperation.
- 3.6.3.5 The Chair acknowledged IICA's efforts to maintain and improve its technical cooperation services, despite budget limitations. He said it was essential that member countries review the freeze on quotas and update their contributions.
- 3.6.3.6 The Representative of Guyana congratulated the Director General on the preparation of the budget. He acknowledged that the quotas had been frozen for a long time, and that the Institute received increasing requests for cooperation. He reminded delegates that the Declaration to be signed at the meeting would imply new commitments, including efforts to address issues such as family agriculture, agricultural health and others. He also recognized that IICA had exhausted its options in terms of austerity measures, and mentioned that his country had voluntarily increased its quota contributions to IICA. He called on the Director General to draft a proposal for a reasonable increase in budget allocations.
- 3.6.3.7 The Representative of Dominica stated that he supported the proposal of the Representative of Guyana to increase quotas.
- 3.6.3.8 The Representative of Honduras congratulated the Institute's Administration, endorsed the position of those who advocated unfreezing the quota contributions and stated that he would support an analysis of a proposal of that nature.
- 3.6.3.9 The Representative of Costa Rica congratulated the Director General and the Secretary of Corporate Services of IICA for their impeccable management of

the Institute's finances. She recognized that significant efforts had been made to accomplish the objectives established in the MTP, despite the fact that quota resources had been frozen for 19 years. She emphasized the importance of the technical cooperation provided by IICA, which was always assigned new responsibilities in each MTP, without at the same time being provided with more resources. She considered that, in view of the challenges facing inter-American agriculture in the coming years, the role that the ministries of agriculture would have to take on and the need to strengthen their technical management, the Institute's support to Member States would be extremely important, and therefore she supported the proposal made by the Representative of Guyana to increase the quotas.

- 3.6.3.10 The Representative of Mexico considered that the arguments presented in favor of adjusting the quotas were valid. He emphasized that, based on the report presented, the Institute had adhered to the principles of transparency, efficiency and austerity, which should be applied in the use of public funds. He said he believed that IICA should be provided with more resources, given the increasing demands received and the expectation of even better management.
- 3.6.3.11 The Representative of the United States of America congratulated the Director General for his efforts. He noted that, as a result of these efforts, all the Member States, with one exception, were up to date with their quotas. He agreed with the general consensus regarding IICA's good performance. However, he made it clear that the United States could not increase its quota contribution and might even have to reduce it, in the interest of a greater equilibrium, as his country was also facing financial problems and the federal budget had been frozen. He added that the proposal was not a matter upon which a decision could be taken at the meeting, and that it would require further discussion.
- 3.6.3.12 The Representative of Barbados explained that his country was facing budgetary problems, to the point where his own salary had been frozen. He considered that the Institute could not be asked to provide more cooperation and, at the same time, reduce its costs. He noted that the quotas of international institutions had increased and asked why the inter-American organizations could not do the same. He expressed interest in consolidating a more balanced approach to the amounts of the quotas paid by different Member States, which might even imply increasing or reducing them.

- 3.6.3.13 The Representative of Brazil explained that the issue of quotas was a sensitive one and that he was not authorized to comment on it. He asked the other representatives to understand his position. He stated that he was fully aware that rising inflation had affected the Institute's financial situation, but pointed out that the issue of quotas was something on which he had to consult other authorities in his government.
- 3.6.3.14 The Representative of Jamaica promised to lobby his country's authorities in favor of adjusting the quotas, although he said it was a complicated matter, because even his ministry had faced budget cuts. He agreed that the Institute's authorities had made every effort to use innovative mechanisms to continue operating in a viable way, despite having a budget based on quotas that were not increased. Finally he acknowledged that IICA deserved an increase in the quotas of its member countries.
- 3.6.3.15 The Representative of Canada agreed with the representatives who felt it was impossible for their countries to take on a commitment to an increase in quotas at that time. He recalled that Canada was the Institute's second largest donor in terms of the amount of the quotas paid, and thanked the Representatives for the clear manner in which they had discussed the matter, which should be analyzed in a cooperative manner.
- 3.6.3.16 The Representative of Guatemala mentioned that, despite the fact that his country had also faced economic difficulties, it had paid over-quotas, showing that his government valued IICA's contributions and sound management. He referred to the comments of the main contributors and applauded Mexico's position with respect to adjusting the quota. He felt it was important that the Institute draft a proposal aimed at achieving the equilibrium mentioned by some of the representatives, which should be analyzed at the meetings scheduled for next year. He praised the Institute for its efficient management of its financial resources and for the products and support offered to its member countries. For that reason, he said, his country would be willing to consider a review of the quotas.
- 3.6.3.17 The Representative of the Bahamas said he would be willing to do everything possible to ensure that his government supported the Institute on the issue of quotas and called for further discussions on the matter.

- 3.6.3.18 The Representative of Suriname acknowledged the importance of adjusting the quotas, but pointed out that he would have to consult the relevant authorities in his country.
- 3.6.3.19 The Director General thanked the Representatives for having openly debated the budget issue and for having expressed support for IICA. He admitted that concerns had been repeatedly voiced over the issue and that any decisions adopted would imply a significant change in the Institute's budget. He explained that the problem involved more than a budget based on quotas that had been nominally frozen – the real value of the budget decreased each year, compromising IICA's efforts to discharge its responsibilities.
- 3.6.3.20 He asked for an opportunity to submit a reasonable and well-founded proposal to justify an increase in the quotas that would effectively guarantee the Institute's viability. He assured the delegates that any increase in quota resources would not be used to increase the bureaucracy, but rather to benefit the countries, whose priorities in the areas of agrifood and rural development would be addressed, along with priorities established on the issue of water. He considered that there was no better time than the present to promote agriculture and stated that he was fully convinced that IICA could play an important role in strengthening agriculture in the Americas. However, to do so it would be necessary to invest more in the Institute. The Director General emphasized that the possibilities of further savings and improvements in institutional management had been practically exhausted and that any additional cuts would affect the level of response to requests from the countries.
- 3.6.3.21 The Chair suggested that IICA submit a proposal, within three months, for an increase in quotas that could then be discussed by the Member States.
- 3.6.3.22 The Representative of Canada agreed with the Director General's request to prepare a proposal to increase the quotas, but felt that a period of three months was too short a time to take a decision. He therefore proposed that the countries take a decision on the budget at the next regular meeting of the IABA (2015). He considered that the proposal should include several scenarios, such as zero growth, a gradual increase in quotas and a specific percentage increase.
- 3.6.3.23 The Chair welcomed the proposal by the Representative of Canada and called on the Director General to prepare a proposal for increasing quotas, which

should contemplate several options, as well as how to use the forthcoming meetings of IICA's governing bodies to analyze and discuss the proposal, in order to reach agreement on the Institute's future budget.

3.7 *IICA Financial Statements for 2012 and Report of the External Auditors*

3.7.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services referred to the Institute's financial statements for 2012. He noted that, according to the report submitted by the external audit firm Ernst & Young, the Institute had presented in a reasonable manner, all important aspects of its financial position up to December 31, 2012, in accordance with US generally accepted accounting principles (US GAAP). He also reported that the external auditors had highlighted the importance of IICA conducting actuarial studies on the reserves needed to pay for staff benefits, in the event of termination of services. He recalled that the Institute had already analyzed the matter some time ago, and had concluded that the cost of conducting such studies was too high.

3.8 *Reading and Approval of Draft Resolutions*

3.8.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "2014-2015 Program Budget," which was approved as read.

3.9 *Date and Venue of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA*

3.9.1 The Representative of Mexico thanked the Government, the people and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina for their gracious hospitality. He also took the opportunity to extend a cordial invitation, on behalf of the Government of Mexico, to hold the next regular meeting of the IABA in his country.

3.10 *Close of the Session*

3.10.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 12:45 hours on September 26, 2013.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

4.1 Opening of the Session

4.1.1 The fourth plenary session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 14:40 hours on September 26, 2013, in the Luis Leloir Meeting Room of the Hotel Sofitel La Reserva Cardales, in Campana, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lorenzo Basso, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina.

4.2 Report of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2011-2012

4.2.1 The Technical Secretary reported that, in compliance with the task entrusted to him, Mr. Matthew Walter, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Dominica, had submitted a report in his capacity as Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE during the 2011-2012 period. He explained that the report had been presented to the Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee held in October 2012, and had been made available through the IABA's online information system.

4.3 Proposed amendment to the rotation mechanism of countries that represent the IABA on the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of CATIE

4.3.1 The Technical Secretary reported that the proposal had been completed so that, beginning in 2015, there would be a new rotation of the Member States representing the IABA on the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of CATIE. He added that, in accordance with the proposal made at the Regular Meeting of the IABA in 2011 to allow the same country to represent the IABA on CATIE's two governing bodies, the proposal for the appointment and rotation, contained in Working Document No. 363, could be found in the IABA's online information system. If it was considered acceptable, it would be included in a draft resolution.

4.4 *Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and of the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee*

4.4.1 The Technical Secretary referred to the report on the status of the resolutions adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA (2011) and at the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee (2012 and 2013). He recalled that previous meetings of the IABA had spent a substantial amount of time analyzing those reports. He explained that in order to deal with the matter more efficiently during the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, these reports had been made available to Member States in advance, via the IICA website. He added that the reports contained details of the progress made in complying with each of the resolutions adopted at those meetings and, therefore, if any Representatives of the Member States had concerns or comments regarding the status of the resolutions, they could make these privately.

4.5 *Date and venue of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA*

4.5.1 The Technical Secretary announced that, in response to the Government of Mexico's offer to hold the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA in that country, it would only be necessary to approve a resolution on the decision taken by the IABA regarding that offer.

4.5.2 The Director General thanked the Government of Mexico for offering to host the next meeting of the IABA in that country. He also thanked the Government of Argentina for its hospitality and for the diligence displayed in hosting the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

4.6 *Reading and Approval of Draft Resolutions*

4.6.1 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: a) Authorization for the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee to approve the Medium-term Plan (MTP) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for 2014-2018; b) General Power of Attorney of the Director General-elect of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for 2014-2018; c) Report on The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas 2014; d) Management Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the period

2010-2013; e) Report on the Collection of Quotas; f) 2011-2012 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Report of the External Auditors and Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC); g) Proposed amendment to the mechanism for appointing the Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE); h) Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee; i) Strengthening of the capabilities for managing water for agriculture in the Americas; and j) Date and venue of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). All the draft resolutions were approved as read.

- 4.6.2 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Restoration of the financial health of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.” The Chair then gave the floor to the Representatives of the member countries of IICA and invited them to comment on it.
- 4.6.2.1 The Representative of Canada voiced concern over the content of the operative paragraphs, since he was worried that the first paragraph established the commitment to “strengthen IICA’s financial situation,” which could imply the commitment to increase the budget. He also requested the elimination of the phrase “financial recovery” from the second operative paragraph. In addition, he suggested that the last whereas clause state: “That according to the IICA report, the Institute has exhausted all possibilities for realizing further savings” and that, instead of “the Member States,” it should read “some Member States.”
- 4.6.2.2 The Chair suggested omitting the word “increase” from the text of the operative paragraphs and proposed that the draft resolution state that several proposals or options would be prepared for the Institute’s financial strengthening.
- 4.6.2.3 The Legal Adviser proposed the following wording for the second operative paragraph: “To ask the Director General to submit to the consideration of the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, different proposals for the financial strengthening of the Institute, including the possibility of a budget increase.”

- 4.6.2.4 The Representative of Canada said he agreed with the wording proposed by the Legal Adviser and suggested eliminating the first operative paragraph.
- 4.6.2.5 The Chair suggested that the Representative of Canada, together with the Legal Adviser, draft a proposal with alternative wording. He also suggested combining any paragraphs that might be considered redundant into a single paragraph.
- 4.6.2.6 The Representative of Nicaragua suggested that the draft resolution specify that several proposals would be prepared to update the Institute's budget.
- 4.6.2.7 The Representative of Brazil recommended that the second operative paragraph indicate that the proposals would be "aimed at strengthening the Institute." He stated he could not make a commitment to approve a draft resolution that would have financial implications for his country.
- 4.6.2.8 The Representative of El Salvador stated his willingness to support the Director General in analyzing the Institute's financial strengthening, as well as in the formulation of a proposal to be presented at the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee, specifying and justifying the amount of the budget increase required to cover institutional needs.
- 4.6.2.9 The Representative of Argentina recalled that at the IABA's regular meeting in 2011, IICA had presented a proposal, based on a study by an ad hoc committee, containing several options for increasing the budget, in view of the need to restore the loss of purchasing power of the quotas and to strengthen technical cooperation efforts.
- 4.6.2.10 The Director General suggested withdrawing the draft resolution and offered to prepare a proposal, properly documented with several scenarios, to be submitted to the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting. He said he would seek advice from the SACMI in formulating it and would take into account the contributions made by the representatives, including those offered at the previous IABA meeting, as mentioned by the Representative of Argentina.
- 4.6.2.11 The Representative of Costa Rica acknowledged that the quotas had remained unchanged for 19 years. She agreed that many representatives were aware of the need to strengthen the institutional budget. She therefore argued that the draft resolution should not be set aside and that the Director General's proposals

should be included in it, so that the resolution provides a clear mandate enabling the General Directorate to prepare, with support from the SACMI, a proposal on the different budgetary scenarios of the Institute, to be submitted to the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting.

- 4.6.2.12 The Representative of Peru and the Representative of the United States of America supported the Director General's proposal. The second representative added that it was of interest to strengthen the Institute and not undermine its good work.
- 4.6.2.13 The Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas and Nicaragua agreed that the IABA should issue a resolution granting the General Directorate a mandate to carry out the aforementioned analysis.
- 4.6.2.14 The Representative of Guyana stated that although the historical facts that led to the freezing of IICA's budget were clearly understood, during the previous session it had been agreed that the time had come to examine the possibility of increasing the quotas. He pointed out that the General Directorate of IICA had respected the policy of zero growth in preparing the budgets. He explained that the idea was that the resolution should authorize the Director General to formulate proposals for IICA's financial strengthening, which might include the possibility of proposing a change in the amount of the quotas, but that there was no intention of issuing a resolution approving changes in those amounts. He concluded by saying that the minutes should record the agreement to reexamine the possibility of making changes to the budget.
- 4.6.2.15 The Representative of El Salvador considered that the Director General's remarks were reasonable. He said that the needs had to be taken into account and then the amount required to cover them determined. He added that the exercise should be undertaken regardless of whether a resolution existed.
- 4.6.2.16 The Representative of Canada supported the proposal to withdraw the resolution. He asked which countries would form part of the next Executive Committee and inquired about the date of its next meeting.
- 4.6.2.17 The Technical Secretary replied that the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee would very likely take place during the first half of 2014. He also promised a report on the Member States that comprise it, and said that a list

of these countries would be circulated to the delegates. He explained that the Committee comprised 12 Member States with the right to participate and vote, although other Member States could participate in its discussions.

4.6.2.18 The Representative of Barbados stated that he had no objection to a resolution granting the Director General a mandate to formulate proposals for the Institute's financial strengthening, to be submitted to that governing body.

4.6.2.19 The Director General thanked all the representatives for their interest in strengthening IICA. In order to reconcile the different opinions, he proposed amending the draft resolution, so that it would contain only one operative paragraph with the following text: "To ask the Director General to submit to the consideration of the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, subsequent to consultation with the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), different proposals that reflect the current financial situation of the Institute as well as recommendations for its financial strengthening."

4.6.2.20 The draft resolution "Restoration of the financial health of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)" was approved with the amendment.

4.6.3 The Rapporteur then read out the draft resolution "Vote of thanks to the Government of Argentina," which was approved as read.

4.7 Close of the Session

4.7.1 The Fourth Plenary Session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 16:15 hours on September 26, 2013.

CLOSING SESSION

5.1 *Opening of the Session*

- 5.1.1 The Closing Session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 16:15 hours on September 26, 2013, in the Luis Leloir Meeting Room of the Hotel Sofitel La Reserva Cardales, in Campana, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, under the chairmanship of Mr. Lorenzo Basso, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina.

5.2 *Address by the Director General of IICA*

- 5.2.1 The Director General of IICA thanked all the Representatives for their support and reaffirmed the Institute's commitment to continue working as agreed. With respect to the topic of water, he stated that IICA had received a clear mandate and had taken note of some possibilities to address the issue efficiently. He emphasized that global agriculture was going through a period of change and that the agricultural sector of the Americas could play an important role in achieving food security at the global level, given the wealth of its natural resources and the possibility of expanding the agricultural frontier and water resources.
- 5.2.2 He thanked the Government and the people of Argentina for their warm welcome; Mr. Lorenzo Basso, Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, who served as Chair of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013, for his excellent conduct of the meeting; and the Representative of Costa Rica, for her efficiency as Rapporteur of the meeting.
- 5.2.3 He then acknowledged the support offered by the Directors Emeritus of IICA during the meeting and throughout his term. He thanked Mr. Norberto Yauhar, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, and the staff of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina and IICA, for their work in organizing the meeting. He also thanked the press, the interpreters and the artist who provided illustrations for the presentations and discussions of the Forum "Water to feed the land." Finally, he thanked the Government of Mexico for having offered to host the next meeting of the IABA.

5.3 Remarks by the Chair of the IABA

5.3.1 The Chair of the IABA expressed his satisfaction at having had the opportunity to organize the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 in Argentina. He thanked the representatives of the Member States for their attendance and for their contributions, which had enriched the discussions to the benefit of agriculture in the Americas.

5.3.2 He thanked the Government of Mexico for its offer to host the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. Finally, he expressed his gratitude to the Director General, to the Secretary of the IABA and to all members of IICA's logistical and technical support team and staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina.

5.4 Close of the Session

5.4.1 The Closing Session of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 16:25 hours on September 26, 2013.

ARGENTINA DECLARATION



**MEETING OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE
OF THE AMERICAS 2013
“Water to feed the land”**

**DECLARATION OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE
ARGENTINA 2013**

1. We, the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture of the Americas, in accordance with our remit, meeting in the City of Campana, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina from 25 to 26 September 2013 to engage in dialogue, make commitments and request the support of international cooperation agencies in order to promote the development of competitive, sustainable and socially inclusive agriculture; advance toward the attainment of hemispheric food security¹ achieve rural well-being and poverty reduction; encourage the adaptation of agriculture to climate change; and improve the conditions for access to and the use of water in agriculture, endeavoring to implement integrated water management.

Considering that:

2. At the hemispheric level, this Declaration is consistent with the agreements and the mandates adopted by the Heads of State and Government in the Summits of the Americas, including the Summit of the Americas on Sustainable Development (Bolivia 1996) in which the countries issued the Declaration of Santa Cruz de la Sierra and the Plan of Action for the Sustainable Development of the Americas, and the resolutions of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) on the subject of water, namely, AG/RES. 2760 (Bolivia 2012) and AG/RES. 2349 (Panama 2007).

¹ Bolivia understands this to mean food security and food sovereignty.

3. The Declaration provides follow-up to the agreements of the hemispheric ministerial meetings on agriculture and the rural milieu held previously, in accordance with the objectives of competitiveness, sustainability, equity, and governance set forth in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action and the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture San Jose 2011.
4. This Declaration contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and supports the efforts of the United Nations on behalf of the integrated management of water resources set out in initiatives such as the *International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015*; the *Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020)*; the *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*; resolutions 66/288 and 64/292 of the General Assembly of the United Nations, "*The Future We Want*" and "*The Human Right to Water and Sanitation*"; and the *International Year of Water Cooperation, 2013*.
5. Principle 2 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development recognizes sovereign right of the states over their own resources.

Mindful that:

6. In order to strengthen food security, it is necessary to increase agricultural productivity and, at the same time, use resources sustainably; and, in that regard, agriculture in the Americas is called to play a major role in the current international context characterized by the constant growth in the demand for food.
7. In order to contribute to the sustainable development of the countries, with social inclusion, agriculture faces major challenges, including the need to increase production and productivity with a view to meeting the rising demand for food of a continually growing population; the loss of fertility of farmland caused by soil degradation; the competition from growing urbanization; the effects of climate change; the pressure on the use of water exerted by different sectors of the economy and society, and inequitable access to water.
8. Water availability and affordability are key factors for improving agricultural productivity and, therefore, development. Improved soil quality often equates to increased available water for crops and improved production during periods of drought.

9. Freshwater is a finite, vulnerable, essential and strategic resource for sustainable development.
10. Our hemisphere has abundant water resources, but their distribution and availability are highly uneven and vary significantly between regions and countries, as reflected in the fact that vast territories of the Americas consist of arid and semiarid land.
11. Climate change and its resultant effect of climate variability are modifying the spatial and temporal patterns of the water cycle.
12. The countries are engaged in efforts of different kinds to improve integrated water resource management, the adaptation of agriculture to climate variability and the fight against desertification and drought.
13. The integrated management of water in agriculture in each country calls for a multidimensional and participatory approach that takes into account the economic, social, environmental, and political-institutional aspects of territories and the national context.
14. Agriculture is an important user of water, therefore its different stakeholders are faced with the challenge of using the resource efficiently and promoting its conservation, while keeping the pollution of surface and groundwater to a minimum. Agriculture, therefore, must make more efficient and productive use of water in order to obtain larger quantities of food and other agricultural products and byproducts with less water and fewer social and environmental effects.
15. Smallholders, in particular women farmers, face inequalities in access to and use of water resources in parts of the Americas, and are often entirely dependent on rainfall for agricultural activities.
16. Innovation contributes to optimizing the integrated management and sustainable use of water resources in agriculture, since it makes it possible to raise productivity and thereby free up water for other uses, reduce environmental degradation and improve the food security and well-being of the population.

Bearing in mind that:

17. The demand for water is multi-sectoral in nature, as it is needed for different purposes especially agriculture, it is therefore essential for there to be integrated and coordinated water management.
18. Integrated water resource management should be done in accordance with public policies implemented through integrated programs and projects that promote development within the framework of international conventions and agreements that have been signed in each country.
19. The existence of a multi-sectoral institutional framework to address the needs of numerous users and various aspects of integrated water management poses a challenge for the activities of the ministries of agriculture, in particular, and of the agrifood sector, in general.
20. Devising and implementation of national public policies for integrated water management calls for a multi-sectoral and participatory approach to meet the needs of the different groups of users in an equitable manner.

Urge:

21. The donor countries to support agriculture projects in the Hemisphere, the international financing and cooperation agencies, the research centers and the regional agricultural research and innovation mechanisms to foster the implementation of national and regional programs designed to increase national capabilities, innovation and transfer of technology, the adoption of innovative practices and products and sharing of know-how for the sustainable use of water in agriculture and the rural milieu.
22. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) (Canada), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-ROLAC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and other, related agencies to spearhead, coordinate and support a technical cooperation program designed to promote the integrated management of water in agriculture

that necessarily includes the strengthening of the capabilities of the ministries of agriculture and other institutions in the sector.

Request:

23. That the Secretariat of the Summit of the Americas of the OAS and the Chair of the VII Summit of the Americas, Panama 2015, consider including on the agenda of that Summit topics related to the comprehensive management of water, in general, and to the agreements adopted in the present Declaration, in particular.

Commit:

Public policies

24. 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.
25. To promote long-term agricultural policies based on solid technical and scientific principles which take into account the sustainable use of water resources, as well as the new challenges arising from climate change.
26. To devise policies that enable the development, commercialization and use of products from innovation including biotechnology, that can reduce agriculture's consumption of water, improve its adaptation to climate change and increase agricultural productivity.

Institutional strengthening and capacity building

27. To foster the strengthening of capacities within the ministries of agriculture, related public institutions and producers' organizations in the following areas: i) design and implementation of policies and instruments for the integrated management of water in agriculture and the rural environment, within the framework of the national policy on this topic, ii) dialogue and consensus-building with the other national economic and social sectors, and iii) coordination of efforts with international organizations to strengthen local capacities and meet national objectives.

28. To promote the participation of representatives of agriculture in the national multi-sectoral institutional mechanisms that deal with matters relating to the integrated management of water and its governance, as well as the preparation and execution of national plans for adaptation of agriculture to climate change and for combating desertification and drought.
29. To encourage, jointly with the educational institutions in each country, renewal and strengthening of the agricultural education systems, including water management in both teaching and research, and adoption of a comprehensive vision.
30. To carry out, without affecting the competitiveness of agriculture, capacity development programs to improve the management and use of water, in agriculture, directed at entrepreneurs, producers, rural folk, women as well as young people and their organizations, ensuring that these programs take into account the different productive systems and conditions of the users, so as to build awareness of the need for efficient utilization of water.
31. To adopt measures to promote agricultural research, extension services, training and education, so that each one of our countries can advance towards the identification and characterization of the uses of water in the different production systems, and by the different types of producers, so that the appropriate actions can be taken in each case.
32. To promote the development and transfer of technologies, for collection as well as productive and efficient use of water, prioritizing the identification of appropriate and attainable technologies for the different types of producers, in particular for effective irrigation, recycling of treated wastewater, as well as water collection, storage and distribution.

Integrated management of water and climate change

33. To promote integrated management of water in agriculture that contributes to its adaptation to climate change, based on scientific principles and in keeping with the legal framework of each country as well as the culture and traditions of the nations, and the knowledge of communities and indigenous peoples.
34. To strengthen and modernize agricultural information systems so that they are interlinked with the national systems responsible for water management, so that

there is timely information on the volume of water used by this sector, information that will facilitate decision-making regarding its use.

35. To initiate or strengthen the processes of agricultural planning, implementation of programs and use of technologies that facilitate their adaptation to climate change and availability of water, including, among others, projects relating to diversification, transformation, direct seeding, irrigation systems and relocation of production.
36. To strengthen the public and private inter-sectoral work aimed at risk management for agriculture and the rural milieu caused by meteorological events such as recurrent flooding and drought, taking into account the needs of the most vulnerable economic and social sectors, and/or those located in the areas of greatest impact.
37. To facilitate, in collaboration with the national institutions and regional mechanisms and, as needed, with the assistance of relevant international organizations and the strengthening of:
 - a. The systems for hydro-meteorological information, early warning, risk management, climatic scenarios, forecast and prevention of extreme events, as a basis for the design and implementation of strategies for adapting agriculture to climate change and for the use of management tools on farms, in production areas, territories, and watersheds.
 - b. The coordination and integration of hydro-meteorological and early warning information systems and the incorporation of new technologies for satellite and telemetry, geo-processing and geo-referencing.

Innovation and productivity of water

38. To strengthen innovation in production systems throughout the agrifood chain in order to improve the management of water in rainfed and irrigated agriculture.
39. To reinforce the information and dissemination systems on innovations that enable countries to make better use of water in agriculture.
40. To focus efforts on the promotion of innovations designed to increase the productivity of water in the following priority areas:

- a. Identification, assessment, and dissemination of techniques and/or technologies for the sustainable use of water in agriculture including, those derived from local and indigenous knowledge.
 - b. Development and strengthening of precision agriculture (precision irrigation, drip irrigation and sub-irrigation) and other technologies that make more efficient use of water, such as fertigation and hydroponics.
 - c. Strengthening the capacities of national science and technology and extension systems, and organizations and, in order to increase knowledge and education related to the sustainable use of surface water and groundwater, harvesting of water and the utilization of recycled water in agriculture.
 - d. Development of biotechnological innovations in agricultural production that would improve efficient management of water such as bioremediation and the development of varieties tolerant to water stress.
 - e. Improvement of knowledge of watershed management to gain a better understanding of the water cycle for the productive use of water.
41. To improve the interlinking of agricultural innovation systems and exercise proactive leadership in the allocation of human, financial and material resources for conducting research on the efficient use of water in agriculture.

Investment

42. To foster investments in water infrastructure (especially irrigation and drainage) agrometeorology and the incorporation of spatial and communication technologies in the efficient management of water, in consonance with national policies.

Water quality: pollution and food safety

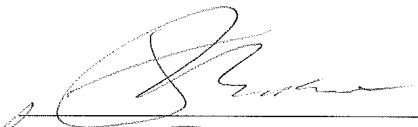
43. To strengthen technical assistance programs to improve the quality of the water used in irrigation and throughout the productive agrifood chains, to contribute to food safety.

National and international cooperation

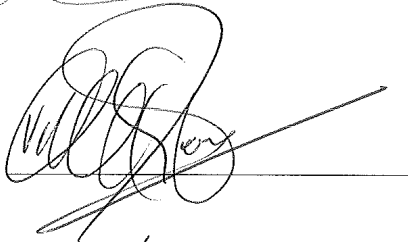
44. To promote public-private partnerships within the agricultural sector and with other sectors that contributes to more efficient management of water in agriculture.
45. To promote South-South and North-South cooperation designed to strengthen the capabilities of the ministries of agriculture and other public institutions related to integrated water management, with the support of all the international organizations that operate in the hemisphere.
46. To promote and strengthen the existing regional mechanisms for the analysis and establishment of strategies with regard to the integrated management of water resources for agriculture.
47. To continue to support IICA's efforts to improve its capabilities for working with its member countries on a hemispheric agenda for water in agriculture, in accordance with the present Declaration.

Signed in the City of Campana, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina on the twenty-six day of September, two thousand and thirteen.

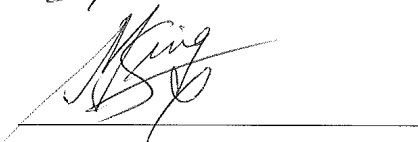
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Nathaniel Hilson Baptiste



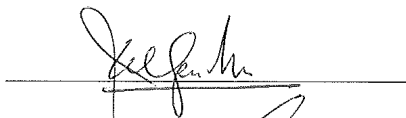
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V. Alfred Gray



Barbados
Michael I. King



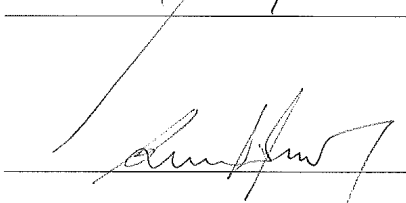
Belize
José Alpuche



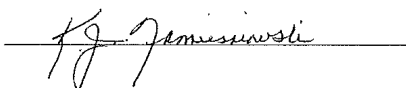
Bolivia
Víctor Hugo Vásquez Mamani



Brazil
Antonio Eustáquio Andrade Ferreiro



Canada
Kristina J. Namiesniowski



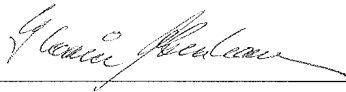
Chile
Felipe Martin Cuadrado



Colombia
Carlos Rodado Noriega




Costa Rica
Gloria Abraham Peralta



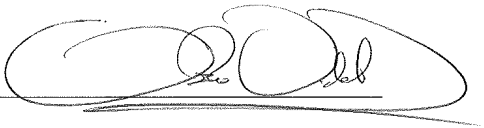
Dominica
Matthew J. Walter



Dominican Republic
Agnes Cishek Herrera



Ecuador
Gloria Vidal



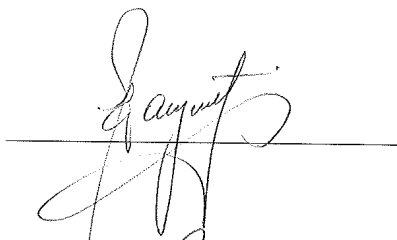
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Pablo Ochoa Quinteros



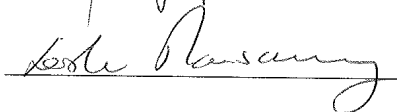
Grenada
Roland Bhola



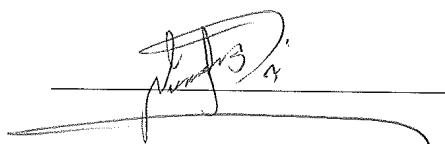
Guatemala
Carlos Alfonso Anzueto del Valle



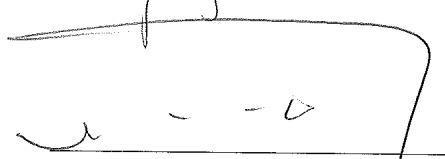
Guyana
Leslie Ramsammy



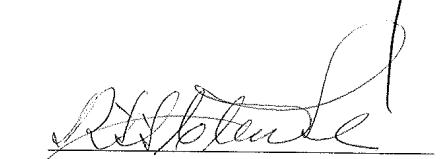
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Joseph Vernet



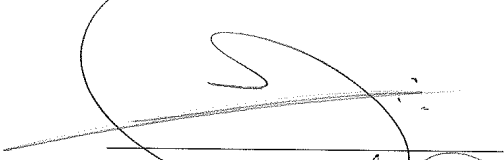
Honduras
Jacobo José Regalado Weizemblut



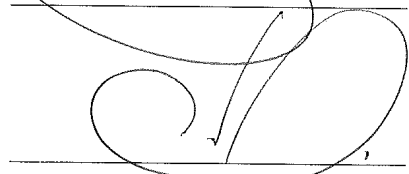
Jamaica
Roger Clarke



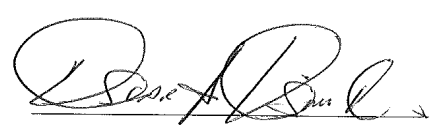
Mexico
Ricardo Aguilar Castillo



Nicaragua
Amanda Lorio Arana




Panama
Oscar A. Osorio Casal



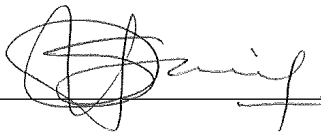
Paraguay
Jorge Raul Gattini Ferrerira



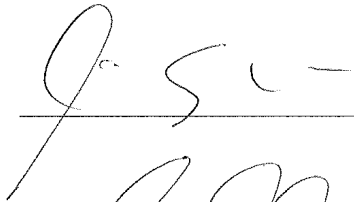
Peru
Ana Isabel Domínguez del Aguila



Saint Lucia
Sunita Daniel



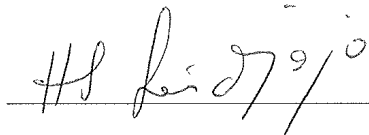
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Nigel Alexis Carty



Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saboto Scofield Caesar



Suriname
Hendrik Soerat Setrowidjojo



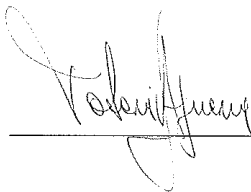
Trinidad and Tobago
Ann Marie Dardaine



United States of America
Michael T. Scuse



Uruguay
Tabaré Aguerre





SECRETARIO DE AGRICULTURA, GANADERIA Y PESCA

Por

Norberto Yahuar
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina

Chairperson of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/JIA/Res. 479 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 479

**MANAGEMENT REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA) FOR THE PERIOD 2010-2013**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by the Director General of IICA on the work of his administration during the period 2010-2013,

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 565 (XXXIII-O/13) resolved to: a) accept the 2010-2013 Management Report; b) congratulate the Director General and the staff of the Institute on the work performed and results achieved, which were possible thanks to the support received from the Member States; and, c) urge the Member States to undertake initiatives to strengthen the technical-administrative and financial situation of the Institute, in order to properly equip IICA to carry out its mandates; and,

That the report presented by the Director General contains an adequate summary of the work of the Institute during the period 2010-2013,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2010-2013 Management Report.
2. To congratulate the Director General and the staff of the Institute on the results achieved during the period 2010-2013 in relation to both technical cooperation and the process of financial strengthening and modernization of the Institute.

IICA/JIA/Res. 480 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 480**REPORT ON THE OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS 2014**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The report, “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas 2014,”

CONSIDERING:

That, in the Ministerial Declaration Bávaro 2001, the countries of the Americas pledged to target the problem of rural poverty and make significant progress in its reduction;

That Article 3.a of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA establishes that this highest-level governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to take note of the report of the Director General on the status of the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas; and,

That the General Directorate has presented to the Member States of IICA the report, “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas 2014,” which highlights the role played by agriculture in contributing to the creation of employment and the reduction of rural poverty,

RESOLVES:

To accept the report, “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas 2014,” and underscore its importance for the governments of the region as an extremely useful tool for the task of analysis and policy making.

IICA/JIA/Res. 481 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 481

**AUTHORIZATION FOR THE THIRTY-FOURTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE TO APPROVE THE MEDIUM-TERM PLAN OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)
FOR 2014-2018**

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

CONSIDERING:

That Article 2.a of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA states that a function of this highest-level governing body of IICA is to adopt measures related to the policies and actions of the Institute and, consequently, to approve IICA's medium-term plans (MTPs);

That the Director General-elect, with the participation of the Member States, is required to prepare a proposed IICA MTP for the period 2014-2018, based on the guidelines contained in the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan and in the mandates issued by the Executive Committee and the IABA;

That, to facilitate implementation of the MTP for 2014-2018, consistency must be ensured between the mandates of the Plan and the Institute's budget, and that, therefore, it is advisable to ensure that said Plan establishes the financial requirements for its implementation in the period 2014-2018; and,

That, inasmuch as the IABA will not hold a regular meeting in 2014, authority must be delegated to the Executive Committee at its Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting authority to review and approve the proposed IICA MTP for 2010-2014 and the adjustments required in the 2014-2015 Program Budget for its implementation,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Director General to prepare IICA's MTP for 2014-2018 in consultation with the Member States, considering as basic guidelines: (i) the resolutions in force of the IABA and of the Executive Committee, and (ii) the guidelines for the actions of the Institute contained in IICA's 2010-2020 Strategic Plan.
2. To authorize the Executive Committee to approve, at its Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting, IICA's MTP for 2014-2018, as well as the required adjustments to the Institute's 2014-2015 Program Budget in order to implement it.

IICA/JIA/Res. 482 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 482

**STRENGTHENING OF THE CAPABILITIES FOR MANAGING
WATER RESOURCES FOR AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Technical document IICA/JIA/Doc. 357 (13), “Water to feed the land” and the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture Argentina 2013,

MINDFUL THAT:

Agriculture requires a stable and sufficient supply of fresh water, which is a finite and vulnerable resource, to achieve its production objectives;

The Americas have a relative abundance of water resources, and their integrated management is essential and strategically important to improve the productivity of agriculture and to meet the demand for water for other purposes; and

Climate change creates threats, since it alters the general patterns of distribution of fresh water and makes efforts to combat desertification and drought more complex and difficult,

BEARING IN MIND:

The agreements and commitments adopted by the countries of the Americas to improve the management of water for agriculture, including the Declaration on the Use of Water in Agriculture, adopted by the ministers of agriculture who make up the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), and the Strategy and Plan of Action for Integrated Water Resources Management in Central America,

CONSIDERING:

That one of the foremost challenges facing the nations of the Americas is to develop sustainable and competitive agricultural sectors that are adapted to the new conditions that will be imposed by climate change, and are capable of increasing production to meet the growing demand for food, fibers and raw materials for the production of renewable energy, and to improve the living conditions of rural dwellers;

That integrated water resources management is one of the tools available to producers and governments for ensuring the sustainability of the resource for future generations, tackling the threats and negative effects of climate variability and climate change, raising agricultural productivity and combating soil degradation, desertification and drought;

That it is of strategic importance to strengthen the national capabilities for the formulation and implementation of State policies for integrated water resources management, and to boost the technical, operating and financial capabilities of national and regional organizations, entities in charge of watershed management, productive parcels and companies for the efficient and integrated management of those resources; and

That it is necessary for the ministries of agriculture to strengthen their participation in the institutional framework that is being created to advance toward integrated water resources management,

RESOLVES:

1. To request that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), within the framework of the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture Argentina 2013, assist the ministers of agriculture with the design and adoption of an inter-American agenda on water for agriculture, with integrated water resources management as its central element.
2. To instruct the Director General of IICA to incorporate integrated water resources management into the priorities of the Institute's Medium-term Plan for 2014-2018, with emphasis on improving the use of water in agriculture, as well on participation and contribution by other technical and

financial institutions in support of the implementation of the Inter-American Agenda on Water for Agriculture.

3. To request that IICA submit for consideration by the Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee a proposal for incorporating the issue of water in agriculture into its technical cooperation program, including the budget required to implement the component in question.

IICA/JIA/Res. 483 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 483**REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 361 (13), “Report on the Collection of Quotas,”

CONSIDERING:

That the financing of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the implementation of its technical cooperation programs and projects can be achieved if Member States remain current with the payment of their annual quota contributions;

That the IABA, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 414 (XIII-O/05), adopted the document “Revised measures for collecting quotas owed to the Institute”; and

That, thanks to the support of the Ministers of Agriculture and other authorities in the Member States, the measures adopted and the efforts of the General Directorate, the collection of quotas has been more stable, which has contributed to the satisfactory implementation of the technical cooperation services established in the 2012-2013 Program Budget of the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, as well as other high-level government officials in IICA’s Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.

2. To maintain in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage the Member States to make their annual quota payments in a timely fashion and to pay arrears for previous years.
3. To instruct the Director General to continue efforts to collect the quotas of the Member States, both for the current year and previous years, and to keep the Member States informed of progress in this area.
4. To strengthen the commitment of the Member States to remain current with the payment of their annual quotas, especially those countries that have agreed plans with the Institute for the payment of quotas owed for previous years.

IICA/JIA/Res. 484 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 484**2011-2012 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND EIGHTEENTH AND NINETEENTH REPORTS OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The documents IICA/JIA/Doc. 359 (13), “2011 and 2012 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Report of the External Auditors” and IICA/JIA/Doc. 360 (13), “Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),”

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, pursuant to articles 3.c and 4.d of its Rules of Procedure, studied, at its Thirty-second and Thirty-third Regular Meetings, the financial statements of the Institute and the reports of the external auditors for 2011 and 2012, and, as a result, by means of resolutions IICA/CE/Res. 554 (XXXII-O/12) and IICA/CE/Res. 568 (XXXIII-O/13), recommended that the documents in question be submitted to the consideration of the IABA;

That, in its Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports, the ARC states that it studied the reports of the external auditors and found that the General Directorate had properly administered IICA’s financial resources, in accordance with the rules of the Institute and with generally accepted auditing standards; and

That, the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-second and Thirty-third Regular Meetings, resolved to approve said reports by means of resolutions IICA/CE/Res. 554 (XXXII-O/12) and IICA/CE/Res. 568 (XXXIII-O/13),

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the 2011 and 2012 financial statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as well as the reports of the external auditors.
2. To accept the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports of the ARC.
3. To express to the members of the ARC the satisfaction and appreciation of the Member States of IICA for the work accomplished.

IICA/JIA/Res. 485 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 485**2014-2015 PROGRAM BUDGET**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 362 (13), “2014-2015 Program Budget,”

CONSIDERING:

That the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) establishes:

- i. In Article 8.b, that a function of the IABA is to “approve the biennial Program Budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States,”
- ii. In Article 23, that “the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States,”
- iii. In Article 14.b, that a function of the Executive Committee is “To examine the proposed biennial Program Budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate”; and

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2014-2015 Program Budget to the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting, in a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect, and that, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 569 (XXXIII-O/13), the Committee recommended that the IABA approve it,

RESOLVES:

1. Approve the amount of USD33,910,000 per year from the Regular Fund as the 2014-2015 Program Budget of the Institute, financed with quota contributions from the Member States totaling USD27,810,000 per year, according to the amounts indicated in the Quota Scale attached hereto as “Annex A,” including the quotas allocated and over-quota contributions, and USD6,100,000 per year in miscellaneous income, consisting of USD3,500,000 estimated to be generated annually and the use of up to USD2,600,000 per year of the resources of the Miscellaneous Income Fund.
2. Approve the use of resources for the 2014 Program Budget in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, headings and programs specified in Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 362 (13), “2014-2015 Program Budget.” The summary of allocations by Chapter is attached as “Annex B” to this resolution.
3. Instruct the Director General to present to the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Thirty-fourth Regular Meeting, a draft budget of expenditures of the funds approved for the 2015 Program Budget, consistent with the priorities of the new Medium-term Plan of the Institute.
4. Authorize the Director General to effect transfers among chapters of the Program Budget, provided that the total transfers do not increase or reduce the chapters by more than fifteen per cent and do not significantly affect the priorities approved.
5. Authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for each of the fiscal years 2014 and 2015 fall below estimated levels for the biennium in question and inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.

ANNEX A
2014-2015 Program Budget

Quota Scale of the Member States, Over-quotas Contributions and Miscellaneous Income (USD)

MEMBER STATES	2013	2014				2015			
	OAS ¹	IICA				IICA			
	%	%	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS	%	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS
			USD ³	USD ³	USD ³		USD ³	USD ³	USD ³
Antigua and Barbuda	0,022	0,022	6.100	0	6.100	0,022	6.100	0	6.100
Argentina	2,408	2,408	662.400	220.900	883.300	2,408	662.400	220.900	883.300
Bahamas	0,062	0,062	17.100	0	17.100	0,062	17.100	0	17.100
Barbados	0,045	0,045	12.400	0	12.400	0,045	12.400	0	12.400
Belize	0,022	0,022	6.100	0	6.100	0,022	6.100	0	6.100
Bolivia	0,049	0,049	13.500	0	13.500	0,049	13.500	0	13.500
Brazil	9,941	9,941	2.734.600	0	2.734.600	9,941	2.734.600	0	2.734.600
Canada	11,972	11,972	3.293.300	0	3.293.300	11,972	3.293.300	0	3.293.300
Chile	1,189	1,189	327.100	0	327.100	1,189	327.100	0	327.100
Colombia	1,049	1,049	288.600	0	288.600	1,049	288.600	0	288.600
Costa Rica	0,221	0,221	60.800	0	60.800	0,221	60.800	0	60.800
Dominica	0,022	0,022	6.100	0	6.100	0,022	6.100	0	6.100
Dominican Republic	0,257	0,257	70.700	0	70.700	0,257	70.700	0	70.700
Ecuador	0,258	0,258	71.000	0	71.000	0,258	71.000	0	71.000
El Salvador	0,114	0,114	31.400	3.000	34.400	0,114	31.400	3.000	34.400
Grenada	0,022	0,022	6.100	0	6.100	0,022	6.100	0	6.100
Guatemala	0,168	0,168	46.200	5.200	51.400	0,168	46.200	5.200	51.400
Guyana	0,022	0,022	6.100	600	6.700	0,022	6.100	600	6.700
Haiti	0,034	0,034	9.400	0	9.400	0,034	9.400	0	9.400
Honduras	0,051	0,051	14.000	0	14.000	0,051	14.000	0	14.000
Jamaica	0,093	0,093	25.600	0	25.600	0,093	25.600	0	25.600
Mexico	8,281	8,281	2.278.000	217.300	2.495.300	8,281	2.278.000	217.300	2.495.300
Nicaragua	0,034	0,034	9.400	0	9.400	0,034	9.400	0	9.400
Panama	0,158	0,158	43.500	4.100	47.600	0,158	43.500	4.100	47.600
Paraguay	0,093	0,093	25.600	2.500	28.100	0,093	25.600	2.500	28.100
Peru	0,688	0,688	189.300	0	189.300	0,688	189.300	0	189.300
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0,022	0,022	6.100	0	6.100	0,022	6.100	0	6.100
Saint Lucia	0,022	0,022	6.100	0	6.100	0,022	6.100	0	6.100
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0,022	0,022	6.100	0	6.100	0,022	6.100	0	6.100
Suriname	0,034	0,034	9.400	0	9.400	0,034	9.400	0	9.400
Trinidad and Tobago	0,180	0,180	49.500	0	49.500	0,180	49.500	0	49.500
United States of America	59,470	59,470	16.359.400	0	16.359.400	59,470	16.359.400	0	16.359.400
Uruguay	0,214	0,214	58.900	5.200	64.100	0,214	58.900	5.200	64.100
Venezuela	2,186	2,186	601.300	0	601.300	2,186	601.300	0	601.300
SUB TOTAL	99,425	99,425	27.351.200	458.800	27.810.000	99,425	27.351.200	458.800	27.810.000
Cuba	0,575	0,575	158.200	0	158.200	0,575	158.200	0	158.200
TOTAL QUOTAS	100,000	100,000	27.509.400	458.800	27.968.200	100,000	27.509.400	458.800	27.968.200
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME ²					6.100.000				6.100.000
TOTAL REGULAR FUND⁴					33.910.000				33.910.000

Notes: 1) The Kingdom of Spain contributes and annual quota of USD 60,000 as an Associate State, as per an agreement reached in the First Plenary Session of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, held on November 26, 2001, in Bávaro, Dominican Republic; 2) The 2013 quotas include Guyana's over-quota.

1/ As per Resolution AG/RES. 2762 (XLII-O/12), of the OAS General Assembly of June 4th, 2012.

2/ In 2014 and 2015 miscellaneous income will comprise USD 3,500,000 to be generated and USD 2,600,000 from the Miscellaneous Income Fund.

3/ Rounded off to the nearest one hundred.

4/ The total of the Regular Fund does not include Cuba.

ANNEX B
Allocation of the Regular Fund by Chapter for 2014
(USD)

CHAPTER	2014			
	QUOTAS	MISC.	REGULAR FUND	
			USD	%
CHAPTER I: Direct Technical Cooperation Services	24,891,719	5,752,818	30,644,538	90.4%
Innovation for Productivity and Competitiveness Program	7,482,392	1,474,454	8,956,846	29.2%
Agricultural Health and Food Safety Program	6,087,075	1,517,992	7,605,067	24.8%
Agribusiness and Commercialization Program	6,286,932	1,298,838	7,585,771	24.8%
Agriculture, Territories and Rural Well-being Program	5,035,320	1,461,534	6,496,854	21.2%
CHAPTER II: Management Costs	1,589,883	68,438	1,658,321	4.9%
Office of the Director General	630,423	19,700	650,123	39.2%
Secretariat of Corporate Services	959,460	48,738	1,008,198	60.8%
CHAPTER III: General Costs and Provisions	1,230,000	20,000	1,250,000	3.7%
Governing Bodies	400,000	0	400,000	32.0%
Insurance	420,000	0	420,000	33.6%
Pensions of Former Directors	280,000	0	280,000	22.4%
Contribution to Administration of Retirement and Pension Fund	25,000	0	25,000	2.0%
Contribution to OAS Administrative Tribunal	25,000	0	25,000	2.0%
External Audit	80,000	0	80,000	6.4%
Emergency Assistance Program for Staff	0	20,000	20,000	1.6%
CHAPTER IV: Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment	98,398	258,744	357,142	1.1%
TOTAL	27,810,000	6,100,000	33,910,000	100.0%

IICA/JIA/Res. 486 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 486**GENERAL POWER OF ATTORNEY OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL-ELECT OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE
(IICA) FOR THE PERIOD 2014-2018**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 368 (13), “General Power of Attorney of the Director General-elect for the period 2014-2018,”

CONSIDERING:

That in the first plenary session of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA held on September 25, 2013, Dr. Victor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula was elected Director General of IICA for the period 2014-2018;

That this election was conducted in accordance with the provisions of articles 8.f and 19 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (the Convention), and articles 2.f, 103 and 106 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA;

That during the 2014-2018 period, which begins on January 15, 2014 and ends on January 15, 2018, the Director General-elect shall legally represent the Institute;

That pursuant to Article 20 of the Convention, the Director General is the legal representative of the Institute and is also responsible for administering the General Directorate; and

That in accordance with Costa Rican legislation, all general powers of attorney must be recorded in the Public Registry of Costa Rica, the host country of IICA,

RESOLVES:

1. To grant to the Director General-elect general power of attorney for a period of four years, beginning January 15, 2014, so that he may faithfully fulfill the responsibilities of Director General conferred upon him under Article 20 of the Convention and Chapter II of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.
2. To confer this general power of attorney pursuant to the general stipulations of the Civil Code of the Republic of Costa Rica, the host country of the Institute and, in particular, to Article 1253 of said Code.
3. To authorize the Director General-elect, Dr. Víctor Manuel Villalobos Arámbula, to grant and revoke powers of attorney of all kinds, and to register the power of attorney conferred upon him, where indicated.
4. To request that the Director General-elect carry out the other legal procedures required to comply with this resolution.

IICA/JIA/Res. 487 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 487**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MECHANISM FOR APPOINTING THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) TO THE GOVERNING COUNCIL AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 363 (13), “Proposed amendment to the mechanism for appointing the Representatives of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE),”

CONSIDERING:

That the Contract of CATIE stipulates that the IABA is to appoint one Member State of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) that is not a member of CATIE as its Representative to the Center’s Board of Directors (Clause 10) and one as its Representative to CATIE’s Governing Council (Clause 16);

That, in Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 397 (XII-O/03), the IABA established a rotation mechanism under which, every three years, a given Member State was to appoint one of its citizens to represent the IABA on CATIE’s Board of Directors and, every two years, another country was to designate the IABA representative to CATIE’s Governing Council;

That the rotation proposed for appointing the Representative to the Board of Directors has been exhausted, so that a new rotation needs to be proposed;

That, on October 21, 2011, the IABA established the responsibilities of its Representative to CATIE's Governing Council by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 473 (XVI-O/11); and,

That, at the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, Argentina drew attention to the need: (a) for the duties of the IABA Representative to CATIE's Board of Directors to be defined based on those established for the IABA Representative to the Center's Governing Council; and (b) for a single country to represent the IABA on the two governing bodies of CATIE, in order to facilitate follow-up to agreements and the presentation of results; and,

That the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-third Regular Meeting, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 575 (XXXIII-O/13), recommended that the IABA establish a new rotation for its Representative to the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE beginning in 2015, and modify the responsibilities of its Representative to the Governing Council of CATIE that were approved in 2011,

RESOLVES:

1. To establish that, beginning in 2015, the person who represents the IABA on the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE be appointed by a single IICA Member State, in accordance with the following table:

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IABA TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND GOVERNING COUNCIL OF CATIE		
Region	Country	Period
Southern	Chile	2015-2017
Andean	Ecuador	2018-2020
Caribbean	Grenada	2021-2023
Northern	Canada	2024-2026

2. Instruct the Director General of IICA to adhere to the rotation mechanism established in the above table and, at the appointed time, to request that the corresponding Member State appoint the person who will represent the IABA on the aforementioned governing bodies of CATIE; and

3. Amend the annex of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 473 (XVI-O/11) so that:
 - i. The title reads, “*Responsibilities of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE*”;
 - ii. The text of subparagraph 2 reads:

To coordinate with the Director General of IICA and with the Member States to establish the IABA’s position on matters dealt with by the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of CATIE, especially with respect to any decisions taken to expand the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action and strengthen the mechanisms for implementing joint activities; and
 - iii. The text of subparagraph 4 reads:

To confer with the Member States and the Director General of IICA regarding any matters on the agenda of the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of CATIE that might relate to IICA, or its assets, in particular any such matters requiring a vote of the Council or the Board of Directors.

IICA/JIA/Res. 488 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 488

**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) AND THE THIRTY-
SECOND AND THIRTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Documents: a) IICA/JIA/Doc. 365 (13), “Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA,” and b) IICA/JIA/Doc. 366 (13), “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee,”

CONSIDERING:

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and has carried out satisfactorily the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports: a) “Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA” and b) “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee.”

IICA/JIA/Res. 489 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 489**DATE AND VENUE OF THE EIGHTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 367 (13), “Date and Venue of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),”

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA: (a) regular meetings of this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) are to be held every two years, preferably in the second half of the second year of the biennium; and (b) at each regular meeting of the IABA, a tentative date and place for the next meeting is to be determined, in accordance with written offers addressed by the governments of the Member States to the Director General of IICA;

That, pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention on IICA and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Board is to choose from among the offers of the Member States to host regular meetings of the IABA, in accordance with the principles of rotation and geographic distribution; and

That, by written communication, the Government of Mexico has offered its country as the venue of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

1. To express deep appreciation to Mexico for its offer, which demonstrates its exceptional interest in the affairs of the Institute.
2. To provide, based on the provisions of the Convention and the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, that the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Board shall be held in Mexico in the second half of 2015.

IICA/JIA/Res. 490 (XVII-O/13)

26 September 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 490**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA**

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

CONSIDERING:

That, thanks to the hospitality of the Government of Argentina, the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from September 24-27, 2013,

RESOLVES:

1. To express its sincere appreciation to H.E. Mr. Norberto Yahuar, Minister of Agriculture of Argentina, for his support in the organization and implementation of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013 and the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, events of great importance for agriculture in the Americas.
2. To express appreciation to the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship and other public and private institutions of Argentina for their warm welcome and their collaboration in the implementation of the two events, which have been determining factors in the success of both.

IICA/JIA/Res. 491 (XVII-O/13)

September 26, 2013

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 491

**RESTORATION OF THE FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

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

CONSIDERING:

That since 1995, the year in which the contributions of quotas to the Regular Fund were frozen, the capacity of the Institute to provide cooperation to its Member States has steadily declined;

That some Member States have stated their commitment to improving the budgetary situation and have asked the Director General to present a proposal on the matter;

That the Member States have recognized the importance of the technical cooperation IICA provides to them, and the excellent manner in which it has administered the limited resources with imagination, austerity, efficiency and transparency;

That according to the IICA report, the Institute has exhausted all possibilities for realizing further savings without jeopardizing the types and quality of the technical cooperation services provided to the Member States,

RESOLVES:

To ask the Director General to submit to the consideration of the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, subsequent to consultation with the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), different proposals that reflect the current financial situation of the Institute as well as recommendations for its financial strengthening.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

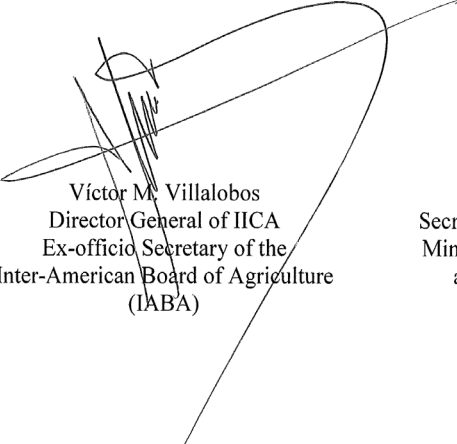
SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE SEVENTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Pursuant to Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Report of the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA is hereby signed in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese, the official languages of that meeting, at 14:00 hrs on the 26th day of September of the year two thousand and thirteen.


This report will be edited by the Secretariat and changes adopted during the Closing Session will also be included before its publication in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretary shall file the original texts in the archives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the General Directorate shall send copies of the official version of this report to the Governments of the Member States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

Buenos Aires, Argentina



Víctor M. Villalobos
Director General of IICA
Ex-officio Secretary of the
Inter-American Board of Agriculture
(IABA)



Lorenzo Basso
Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries
and Chair of the Inter-American Board of
Agriculture (IABA)

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: AGENDA

(IICA/JIA/Doc. 355 (13))

- 1. Provisional Schedule of the Meeting** IICA/JIA/Doc. 356 (13)
- 2. Message from the Director General**
 - 2.1 Management Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for the period 2010-2013 (Unnumbered)
- 3. Forum: Water to feed the land**
 - 3.1 Technical document: Water to feed the land IICA/JIA/Doc. 357 (13)
- 4. IICA Strategic Alliances**
 - 4.1 Progress made in strengthening of strategic partnerships with other institutions (No document)
 - 4.2 The Outlook for agriculture and rural development in the Americas: A perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2014 IICA/JIA/Doc. 358 (13)
- 5. Budgetary and Financial Matters**
 - 5.1 IICA's Financial Statements for 2011 and 2012 and Reports of the External Auditors IICA/JIA/Doc. 359 (13)
 - 5.2 Eighteenth and Nineteenth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) IICA/JIA/Doc. 360 (13)
 - 5.3 Report on the Collection of Quotas IICA/JIA/Doc. 361 (13)
 - 5.4 Proposed 2014-2015 Program Budget IICA/JIA/Doc. 362 (13)

6. Rules, Procedures and other Administrative Matters

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|-----|---|------------------------|
| 6.1 | Proposed amendment to the mechanism for appointing the representatives of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Governing Council and the Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) | IICA/JIA/Doc. 363 (13) |
|-----|---|------------------------|

7. Matters Pertaining to the Governing Bodies of IICA

- | | | |
|-----|---|----------------------------------|
| 7.1 | Election of the Director General of IICA for the period 2014-2018 | (No document) |
| 7.2 | General Power of Attorney of the Director General-elect for the Period 2014-2018 | (IICA/JIA/Doc. 364 (13) |
| 7.3 | Report of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE for the period 2011-2012 (Dominica) | Information Document No. 01 (13) |
| 7.4 | Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA | IICA/JIA/Doc. 365 (13) |
| 7.5 | Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-second and Thirty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee | IICA/JIA/Doc. 366 (13) |
| 7.6 | Date and Venue of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA | IICA/JIA/Doc. 367 (13) |

8. Other Business

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