

**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.