

IICA/CE/Res.366(XXII-O/02)

2 - 3 October 2002

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 366

**INTER-AMERICAN PROGRAM FOR THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL
TRADE, AGRIBUSINESS AND FOOD SAFETY**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document (IICA/CE/Doc.408(02), "Proposed Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety,"

CONSIDERING:

That the proposed Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety ("the Program") presented by the General Directorate, includes a number of cooperation actions aimed at increasing agricultural trade among the countries of the region and at developing agribusiness capabilities in the Member States of the Institute, especially in the relatively less-developed countries of Latin America and the Caribbean;

That the Member States have assigned a high priority to efforts to strengthen their mechanisms and capabilities for trade negotiations, their access to relevant information for facilitating trade transactions, and with this, their interest in participating increasingly in the processes of integration and market opening, under conditions that benefit the community of agriculture and rural life in their countries;

That the program takes on special importance in light of the mandates of the Third Summit of the Americas as they relate to agriculture and rural life, in the implementation of the Declaration of Bavaro and in the efforts of the governments to establish the Free Trade Area of the Americas ("FTAA");

That the Institute has allocated US\$1.2 million annually in quota resources to fund actions in the areas of agricultural trade, agribusiness and food safe, which, although they constitute a solid base, are insufficient to address the growing demands for cooperation from the Member States in those priority areas;

That it is necessary to enrich and complement the proposal presented by the General Directorate with the comments and suggestions made by the Member States in both the ad hoc Working Group ("the Working Group") and the plenary sessions,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the work being done by the General Directorate to promote agriculture trade, agribusiness and food safety, and the efforts to obtain additional resources in this field.
2. To instruct the Director General to incorporate into the proposed Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety the comments and suggestions of the Working Group (appended hereto) and other Member States during this meeting of the Executive Committee, and to transmit the revised proposal to the Member States of the Executive Committee by correspondence, in accordance with Articles 93 and 94 of the Rules of Procedures of the Executive Committee, in order to obtain approval of the proposal.

**INFORMAL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE “INTER-AMERICAN
PROGRAM FOR THE PROMOTION OF AGRICULTURAL TRADE,
AGRIBUSINESS AND FOOD SAFETY”**

- 1) After the presentation of the proposal on the “Inter American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety” (“the Proposal”), and in view of several of the concerns expressed during the discussion period, it was agreed to form an informal group (“the Group”) to further discuss in detail these concerns and to modify the Proposal, in accordance with those concerns.
- 2) The Group was established with the following Member States: Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and United States (alphabetical order). Dr. Miguel Garcia and Dr. Felipe Manteiga of the General Directorate attended the meeting.
- 3) As an initial matter, the General Directorate informed the Group of all the activities that are currently undertaken by the Directorate of Trade and Agribusiness and how the Proposal fits in with the general objectives and activities of the Directorate.
- 4) After several questions and extensive discussions, the Group arrived at the following recommendations and conclusions:
 - a) The Group fully supports the efforts of the General Directorate in the Area of Trade and Agribusiness and recognizes the importance of this area as vital for fulfillment of its mandates.
 - b) The Group has no reservations regarding the principle of the Proposal.
 - c) The Director of Trade and Agribusiness at IICA should hold meetings with the specialists of Canada, U.S.A., Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, Chile and, if requested, other member countries, with a view to preparing a revised proposal for consideration by Member States. For implementation, a more modest series of steps of a pilot nature should be considered as an option.
 - d) The revised proposal should be completed and circulated among the Member States by the end of November.