



Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

**IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action 2015–2018
Component 1: Technical Cooperation to the Countries
Status of the program as at June 4, 2015**

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IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action 2015–2018

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I. Background

The technical teams and management of the two institutions have been working on the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action for some time, taking into account the challenges faced by agriculture in the Americas and the opportunities presented by the current conditions. They have also borne in mind the missions and strategies of the two organizations, as well as their ongoing institution building efforts, capabilities, complementarities, and resources available for the actions agreed upon for the short term.

The program was prepared pursuant to the provisions of: i) the *General Bilateral Agreement for Inter-institutional Cooperation between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)* signed by the parties in July 2011; ii) Resolution 9-14/XLVII ROJD of September 2014, and iii) Resolution 7-15/48° ROJD of May 2015.

The main purpose of the Bilateral Agreement is “*To establish the general framework for cooperation between IICA and CATIE for the implementation of joint actions in technical areas of interest to both institutions, and to enhance the technical cooperation offered to the Member States, as set forth in the Contract between the Government of the Republic of Costa Rica and IICA on CATIE, Law No. 8028 of October 12, 2000.*” The agreement also establishes the coordination mechanisms to be used to facilitate joint action in the areas of technical cooperation and administrative, regulatory, and financial matters.

The Program of Joint Action is integrated in nature and covers the technical and administrative actions to be carried out by the parties during the period 2015-2018. However, the present document deals only with the actions related to the “Technical Cooperation to the Member States” component. The administrative-regulatory and financial component calls for continuous work and coordination between the parties.

The parties identified the **areas of technical cooperation** on which the joint collaboration efforts will focus under the technical component, based on IICA and CATIE’s priority areas of work, as established in IICA’s 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan and CATIE’s 2013-2020 Strategic Plan, and included in Clause Two of the Bilateral Agreement. They are:

- preparing the Member States to address climate change and to mitigate its effects;
- strengthening productive innovation processes;
- building institutional frameworks and capabilities for the sustainable management of rural territories; and,
- improving food security, particularly for small- and medium-scale producers, and family agriculture.

IICA and CATIE have been involved in joint technical cooperation work for a long time; at present, they are coordinating and carrying out actions framed within the guidelines mentioned above. The ongoing actions include the following: i) in the area of technology research and innovation, efforts are under way related to sustainable agriculture and adaptation to climate change; ii) in area-based management, synergies are being generated between the ECADERT and MAP programs; iii) with regard to technical capacity development, the two organizations are facilitating the institutionalization of the Henry A. Wallace Legacy Scholar (HWLS) Program; and, iv) work is being carried out on coffee within the framework of PROMECAFE's actions in the region.

The joint efforts have enabled the two institutions to collaborate with other partners that are important for the region, such as CIRAD, FONTAGRO, and the World Coffee Foundation, among others. Thus, joint work of this kind is a strategic element in securing fresh resources for the region.

II. General Objective of the Program of Joint Action

To establish the **strategic areas of collaboration** between IICA and CATIE for 2015-2018, and the operating mechanisms to be used for interaction and management to ensure effective coordination, implementation, and follow-up to the joint technical cooperation activities for the Member States.

III. Scope of the Program

3.1 Geographic area of intervention

The senior management of IICA and CATIE have decided that the Central American Dry Corridor should be the priority geographic area for the implementation of the Program for Joint Action. This will help create synergies and strengthen the results of both parties. There are threats associated with climate change in the Dry Corridor that could have a serious impact on water, agriculture, and natural resources. There are also high rates of poverty, accompanied by degradation of soils and land. Both IICA and CATIE carry out actions in this area and have a baseline that facilitates joint work. IICA is implementing the Central American Strategy for Rural Area-based Development (ECADERT), while CATIE is executing the Mesoamerican Environmental Program (MAP). However, other joint activities may be implemented outside of this geographical area.

For example, both institutions are interested in undertaking work on coffee (on rust, among other concerns) and other perennial crops (cacao etc.), and the two key territories of the MAP (North Central Nicaragua and Trifinio) offer them the opportunity to do so. Moreover, to cover the four priority issues indicated above, thus contributing to the construction of climate smart territories, the core goal of the MAP. ECADERT is considering implementing joint initiatives in these key territories of the MAP. Such an area-based approach would facilitate greater collaboration by both institutions with CIRAD and the CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs), which have also prioritized the key territories of the MAP as a platform for their actions in the region.

In the case of regional projects, such as the Central American Programme for Integrated Coffee Leaf Rust Management (PROCAGICA), the collaboration could encompass all the coffee-growing areas of Central America and the Dominican Republic.

Therefore, the initial geographical focus of the program should not be seen as a constraint to the many opportunities available for CATIE and IICA to work together in a win-win situation, add value through joint efforts, and expand the technical cooperation to the countries.

3.2 Strategic areas of collaboration and topics identified

Within the **areas of technical cooperation** established in the Bilateral Agreement, the Technical Working Groups established by the Parties identified **five strategic areas of collaboration** with a set of **topics** for each of them.

The topics for collaboration were identified based on the actions that the two institutions are carrying in the region or where a proposal for collaboration already exists.

For each strategic area of collaboration, the inter-institutional working groups have advanced toward the identification of the topics for collaboration, the activities to be implemented, the verification indicators, the completion date, and the individuals who would be responsible from IICA and CATIE. Full details of the progress made to date are presented in the matrices attached to this document.

An outline of the strategic areas of collaboration is presented below, indicating the subjects to be addressed and the staff members of each institution who will be responsible for the work. The matrices include details of the other professionals involved in each topic for collaboration, in addition to those responsible. Four of the five strategic areas of collaboration have programmed the participation of 40 professionals from the two institutions. The work on coffee is in the process of being organized.

3.2.1 Integrated soil and water resource management with a watershed approach in the Central American Dry Corridor

- Strengthening of national capabilities
- Strengthening of the institutional framework
- Management of projects

Individuals responsible. CATIE: Laura Benegas, Ney Ríos, Jorge Faustino. IICA: Karen Montiel, Jonathan Castro, Kathya Fajardo.

3.2.2 Promotion of resilient agrosilvopastoral systems in the Central American Dry Corridor

- Capacity building in national institutions
- Strengthening of the institutional framework for the scale-up of resilient agrosilvopastoral systems
- Management of projects

Individuals responsible. IICA: Mohammad Ibrahim. CATIE: Adriana Chacón

3.2.3 Adaptation of family agriculture to climate change with an area-based management approach

- Capacity creation and building for the adaptation of family agriculture to climate change
- Guidelines and technical support for the design and implementation of public policies to promote and facilitate the adaptation of family agriculture to climate change
- Knowledge management for the adaptation of family agriculture to climate change: local knowledge, systematization, learning, and good practices

Individuals responsible. CATIE: Bas Louman. IICA: Mario Samper.

3.2.4 Adaptation of coffee growing to climate change with an area-based management approach

- Strengthening of regional, national and local research and technical assistance institutions to promote climate smart agriculture (CFS) in coffee-growing regions
- Management of projects
- Development of an early warning system
- Adaptation of improved technologies to the conditions of smallholders, to increase the productivity and production of coffee farms, and contribute to the food security of the families concerned
- Guidelines and technical support for the design and implementation of public policies to promote and facilitate the adaptation of coffee growing to climate change

Individuals responsible. CATIE: John Beer. IICA: Mohammad Ibrahim.

The corresponding matrix is in the process of construction.

3.2.5 Development of Technical Capabilities and Leadership

- Development and strengthening of virtual education programs
- Strengthening of the management of courses currently available
- Institutionalization of the Henry A. Wallace Legacy Scholar (HWLS) Program
- Strengthening of the management area and transformational leadership

Individuals responsible. IICA: Franklin Marín. CATIE: Silvia Garro, Francisco Jiménez.

IV. Coordination and follow-up mechanisms

- 4.1 The Office of the Deputy Director General of IICA (SDG-IICA) and the Office of the Deputy Director General of CATIE (SDG-CATIE) are jointly responsible for the integrated coordination of the design of, and follow-up to, the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action 2015-2018. The two Deputy Director Generals will meet once every quarter (meetings may be on-line or on-site).
- 4.2 The SDG-IICA and the SDG-CATIE will designate officials from their respective institutions to serve as **Liaison Coordinators**. The officials in question will be responsible for overseeing the technical coordination tasks involved in designing and providing follow-up to the implementation of the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action 2015-2018. In IICA's case, the Directorate of Technical Cooperation (DCT-IICA) will coordinate this **Technical Cooperation Component**. As and when required, the two officials will coordinate the actions and support for their respective institutions' offices in the different countries.
- 4.3 The individuals responsible for each Strategic Area, and for carrying out the different activities under the program, are shown in each matrix.

Strategic Area of Collaboration: Integrated soil and water resource management

Subject matter of collaboration	Activities to be carried out	Verification indicator(s)	Completion date	Individuals Responsible CATIE: Laura Benegas Ney Río Jorge Faustino IICA: Karen Montiel Jonathan Castro Kathya Fajardo
1. Capacity building for integrated soil and water resource management				
Capacity Building	(2) Design a study program for training in extension processes related to water management (includes design of materials)	1 study program for extension processes designed and adapted to each country 1 training module developed	31/12/2016	Karen Montiel Ney Río
	(2) Training of technical officers for extension work in the use of educational tools and processes related to soil and water conservation management	At least 100 technical officers trained	31/07/2018	Laura Benegas Jonathan Castro
	(2) Implementation of water harvesting methodologies	At least 60 technical officers enhanced their expertise in water harvesting	31/12/2016	Laura Benegas Karen Montiel
	(1) Webinars to explore the subject of management and conservation of soils to make agriculture resilient to climate change	At least three Webinars carried out on the topic of soil management and conservation	31/09/2015	Karen Montiel Laura Benegas

2. Strengthening of the institutional framework for soil and water resource management				
Strengthening of the Institutional Framework	(2) Creation and/or strengthening of local platforms for the promotion of activities on management, efficient water use, and soil conservation	1 platform developed for coordinating efforts in each area of intervention Number of institutions strengthened	31/12/2017	Laura Benegas Jonathan Castro
	(1) Drafting of a policy brief for consideration by CAC bodies	1 document drafted	31/12/2017	Kathya Fajardo Laura Benegas
3. Soil and water resource project management				
Management of projects	(2) Area-based water management and water efficiency (water footprint) in the Central American Dry Corridor	2 proposals prepared	31/01/2017	Kathya Fajardo Ney Ríó
	(2) Drafting of a proposed strategy for restoring degraded soils in the Dry Corridor (using GIS tools)	1 document on strategy for rehabilitating degraded soils in the Dry Corridor	31/07/2017	Karen Montiel Ney Ríó

Strategic Area of Collaboration: Promotion of resilient agrosilvopastoral systems in the Central American Dry Corridor

Subject matter of collaboration	Activities to be carried out	Verification indicator(s)	Completion date	Individuals Responsible IICA: Muhammad Ibrahim CATIE: Adriana Chacón
1. Capacity building to promote resilient agrosilvopastoral systems				
Capacity Building	(1) Train decision makers in the design of policies for sustainable stock raising	At least 100 experts from 5 countries trained	31/12/2013	NZ Funds Miguel Arvelo Claudia Sepúlveda, Diego Tovar, Adriana Chacón, Cristóbal Villanueva
	(1) Develop and implement a diploma course on resilient agrosilvopastoral systems to enable technical officers to update their knowledge	1 diploma course held with the participation of at least 300 technical officers	30/06/2017	Adriana Chacón Muhammad Ibrahim Claudia Sepúlveda, Diego Tobar, Cristóbal Villanueva
	(1) Develop and implement a master's degree program on agrosilvopastoral systems	1 course held each year	31/12/2018	Claudia Sepúlveda
	(1) Organize 6 Webinars on important aspects of resilient agrosilvopastoral systems	6 Webinars organized	31/12/2018	Adriana Chacón Muhammad Ibrahim Claudia Sepúlveda, Diego Tovar, Cristóbal Villanueva

2. Strengthening of the institutional framework to promote resilient agrosilvopastoral systems				
Strengthening of the institutional framework for the scale-up of resilient agrosilvopastoral systems	(1) Draft policy guidelines to promote resilient agrosilvopastoral systems	1 document drafted and available for decision makers	31/12/2015	NZ Funds Miguel Arvelo, Claudia Sepúlveda Diego Tobar Adriana Chacón
	(1) Establish platforms at the national level to promote resilient agrosilvopastoral systems	At least 4 platforms established at the national level	31/12/2015	NZ Funds Miguel Arvelo, Claudia Sepúlveda, Diego Tobar
	(1) Prepare a regional strategy to promote resilient agrosilvopastoral systems	1 regional strategy document drafted and available for SECAC's technical groups	31/12/2015	NZ Funds M. Arvelo, Claudia Sepúlveda, Diego Tobar
	(1) Prepare a policy brief for decision makers on the economic, social and environmental benefits	1 policy brief document	31/12/2015	Adriana Chacón M. Ibrahim
	(1) Draw up a proposal for a NETWORK of sustainable forage systems.	1 Network proposal drawn up	30/06/2017	Cristóbal Villanueva Claudia Sepúlveda Adriana Chacón
3. Development of projects for the promotion of resilient agrosilvopastoral systems				
	(2) Draft a regional proposal with SECAC for the scale-up of resilient agrosilvopastoral systems	1 regional proposal prepared	To be decided	Adriana Chacon Muhammad Ibrahim

**Strategic Area of Collaboration: Adaptation of family agriculture to climate change
under an area-based management approach**

Subject matter of collaboration	Activities to be carried out	Verification indicators	Completion date	Individuals responsible
1. Capacity development and building				
Capacity development and building for the adaptation of family agriculture to climate change in the CADC	(1) Development of joint validated study programs geared to the CADC	A joint study program document	31/03/2016	IICA: Mario Samper CATIE: Bas Louman IICA: G Rivas with Family Agriculture FP, Resilience FP, Inclusion FP CATIE: Leida Mercado/ Mesoamerican Agro-environmental Program(MAP)
	(2) Development of virtual courses	Capacity development plan constructed	31/03/2016	IICA: G Rivas with Family Agriculture FP, Resilience FP, Inclusion FP. CATIE: To be decided
	(2) Production of didactic, conceptual and methodological materials on area-based systems for family agriculture in the CADC	Toolbox on Area-based Systems for Family Agriculture in the CADC	30/09/2015	IICA: M Samper with Inclusion FP; Galileo Rivas with Family Agriculture FP, Resilience FP CATIE: To be decided
(2) Knowledge management for the adaptation of family agriculture to climate change				
Knowledge management for the adaptation of family agriculture to climate change in the CADC: local knowledge,	(2) Development of methodologies for garnering local knowledge on adaptation of FA to CC	A methodological proposal constructed	30/06/2015	IICA: G Rivas with Family Agriculture FP, Resilience FP, Inclusion PF CATIE: To be decided
		Three booklets for families on: food security, climate change and gender	30/06/2017	IICA: To be decided CATIE: Felicia Ramírez

systematization, lessons learned and good practices		and equity (the material will be ready in June 2016 but funding will be needed to reproduce it. It could be a joint publication)		(MAP), O Matus, C Gutierrez, S Taleno (MAP)
	(2) Joint promotion of knowledge network on adaptation of FA to CC on the virtual platform of the System of Strategic Management for Area-based Development and Family Agriculture (SiGET)	A strategy for promoting the SIGET network	30/06/2015	IICA: M Samper with Inclusion FP, Family Agriculture FP, Resilience FP, SiGET Project CATIE: Ney Ríos
		1 forum on Area-based Systems for Family Agriculture in portalsiget.net	31/12/2015	IICA: M Samper / SiGET Project
	(1) Inventory of new and traditional technologies that improve income and the adaptation of FA to climate change	Inventory of technologies completed	30/09/2016	IICA: G Rivas with Family Agriculture FP, Resilience FP CATIE: R Villareina (MAP)
	(3) Systematization of experiences with new and traditional technologies that improve income and the adaptation of FA to climate change	Document for families showing better technologies adapted to the climate	30/09/2017	IICA: To be decided CATIE: R Cerda (MAP)
3. Design and implementation of public policies for promoting and facilitating the adaptation of family agriculture to climate change				
Guidelines and technical support for the design and implementation of public policies for promoting and facilitating the	(2) Development of summaries for decision makers (on topics such as family agriculture, food and nutritional security, water security and climate change)	Two policy briefs on family agriculture in the DC: one focusing on the current situation and another linked to its vulnerability to CC and the loss of ecosystem services	31/12/2016	IICA: G Rivas Family Agriculture FP with Resilience FP CATIE: Ney Ríos

adaptation of family agriculture to climate change in the CADC	(2) Symposium on public policies to promote and facilitate the adaptation of FA to climate change	At least 1 regional meeting and 2 Webinars	30/09/2015	IICA: A. Adib Family Agriculture FP with Resilience FP CATIE: To be decided
	(1) Technical support for the design and implementation of policies and interinstitutional coordination processes for area-based development in the CADC	At least 2 policy briefs produced (one is food and nutritional security)	30/09/2015	IICA: G. Rivas Family Agriculture FP with Resilience FP and inclusión FP CATIE: Cris Soto (MAP)

Strategic Area of Collaboration: Development of Technical Capabilities and Leadership

Subject matter of collaboration	Activities to be carried out	Verification indicator(s)	Completion date	Individuals Responsible IICA: Franklin Marín CATIE: Silvia Garro Francisco Jiménez
1. Development and strengthening of virtual education programs				
Strengthening of virtual education programs	Design and implement together the strategic courses of mutual interest in the areas of:			
	(1) 1.1 Climate change	R.1. At least three classes of 30 students trained through climate change course	31/12/2018	Bastian Louman Francisco Jiménez Silvia Garro
	(2) 1.2 Introduction to agroforestry systems	R.2 Assessment carried out of the actions implemented for the development of virtual courses on agroforestry systems	31/12/2015	Juan Caliva Lilliana Chang Olman Vargas Silvia Garro G. Detlefsen G. Robles E. Somarriba
(2) 1.3 Postgraduate Course in Senior Management in Agriculture (PAGA)	R.3 A first class of 30 Central American students trained (diploma or specialty - one month on-line and two on-site), to be carried out at CATIE with the participation of CATIE-IICA-UACH	31/12/2016	Juan Caliva Lilliana Chang Olman Vargas Silvia Garro	

Subject matter of collaboration	Activities to be carried out	Verification indicator(s)	Completion date	Individuals Responsible IICA: Franklin Marín CATIE: Silvia Garro Francisco Jiménez
2. Strengthening of the management of the education programs currently available				
Strengthening of the management of existing education programs	(2) 2.1. Establish protocols and manuals for the administration of the virtual campus, based on international standards	R.1 A teaching manual produced	31/12/2015	Juan Caliva Lilliana Chang Silvia Garro
		R.2 An academic assistant's manual produced	31/12/2015	Juan Caliva Lilliana Chang Silvia Garro
		R.3 Protocol/manual for the development of courses	31/12/2016	Juan Caliva Lilliana Chang Silvia Garro
		R.4 Manual for administration of the virtual campus	31/12/2016	Juan Caliva Lilliana Chang Silvia Garro
		R.5. A quality system designed together for CATIE's virtual education programs	31/12/2017	Juan Caliva Lilliana Chang Silvia Garro
3. Institutionalization of the Henry A. Wallace Legacy Scholars (HWLS) Program				
Promotion of the continuity of the Henry A. Wallace Legacy Scholar Program	(2) 3.1 Systematization and dissemination of the program's results	R.1 An annual promotional package that includes videos, interviews, and testimonials on the program prepared	31/12/2015	Franklin Marín Francisco Jiménez Annette Barboza Olmán Vargas
	(1) 3.3 Coordination of support for the Wallace program	R3. Students with support from Wallace funds graduate	31/12/2017	Franklin Marín Francisco Jiménez Annette Barboza

Subject matter of collaboration	Activities to be carried out	Verification indicator(s)	Completion date	Individuals Responsible IICA: Franklin Marín CATIE: Silvia Garro Francisco Jiménez
4. Strengthening of the management and transformational leadership area				IICA: Franklin Marín CATIE: Silvia Garro Francisco Jiménez
Strengthening of the management and transformational leadership area	(1) Strengthening of leadership capabilities of Wallace program and other students, incorporating a B-learning course that IICA has prepared and validated in the countries, in this case on transformational leadership	R.1. At least 50 CATIE students trained in transformational leadership	31/12/2015	Francisco Jiménez Juan Caliva Lilliana Chang Olman Vargas
	(1) Incorporation of virtual courses on management and transformational leadership into the study programs of CATIE's postgraduate courses	R2 A virtual course incorporating the curriculum map	31/12/2015	Francisco Jiménez
	(2) Establishment of a master's degree program on management and leadership that the two institutions can offer jointly in the form of B-learning	R.3 A master's degree program on management and leadership set up	31/12/2016	Francisco Jiménez Juan Caliva Lilliana Chang Olman Vargas
		R.4. First class of 30 students complete the master's degree program	31/12/2017	Francisco Jiménez Juan Caliva Lilliana Chang Olman Vargas