



## *Executive Committee*

*Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee  
14-16 July 2009*

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### **STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**San José, Costa Rica**



## I. General Information

The Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on July 22-24, 2008. The Member States sitting on the Committee were: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia, United States of America and Venezuela. Not present were Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Venezuela. Participating as observer Member States were: Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Haiti, Mexico, Panama and Peru. Germany and Israel attended as Permanent Observers.

Mr. Ezequiel Joseph, Representative of Saint Lucia served as Chair of the meeting, and Mrs. Johanne M. Massiah, Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, as Rapporteur.

## II. Status of the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee in 2008

RESOLUTION AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	STATUS	OBSERVATIONS
<b>1. Resolution No. 481, "2007 IICA Annual Report"</b>  To approve the 2007 IICA Annual Report.	<b>Resolution implemented</b>	Resolution 481 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008, and shared with the units of the Institute in memorandum SC/DG-655, dated August 11, 2008.
<b>2 Resolution No 482 "Action taken in the face of the food security situation in the Americas"</b>  To instruct IICA to: a) monitor and expeditiously inform Member countries about the food security situation as it evolves, including the determining factors and impacts; b) provide, upon request, support and advice to Member States related to food security; c) revise and adjust accordingly the Institute's hemispheric, regional and national technical cooperation agendas through the	Annex 1 of this document contains a summary of the actions taken by the Institute in compliance with Resolution 482. <sup>1</sup>	

<sup>1</sup> See Annex 1 at the end of the document

RESOLUTION AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	STATUS	OBSERVATIONS
<p>appropriate IICA governing bodies to provide cooperation to all Member States in their efforts to confront the crisis; d) provide technical cooperation and collaborate with the OAS and other strategic institutions on food security issues in the region to support the governments, the civil society and the private services sector to increase access to financial resources; e) promote and collaborate with strategic institutions to support training and technology transfer as one of the key mechanisms to increase food production particularly to the small and medium sized farmers.</p> <p>That IICA will take into account the programs of other international, regional, government development organizations in order to promote cooperation and avoid duplication of efforts.</p>		
<p><b>3 Resolution No 483 “<i>Status of the Assessment of technical expertise at IICA</i>”</b></p> <p>To accept the report of IICA on progress with the implementation of actions aimed at improving technical expertise at IICA in order to meet the cooperation needs of Member States contained in the technical cooperation agendas and the resolutions adopted by the governing bodies of IICA.</p>	<p><b><i>Resolution implemented</i></b></p>	<p>Resolution 483 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008, and shared with the units of the Institute in memorandum SC/DG-655, dated August 12, 2008.</p>

RESOLUTION AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	STATUS	OBSERVATIONS
<p>To instruct the Director General to continue to implement the actions aimed at improving technical expertise at IICA in 2008 and 2009 that can be implemented by decision of the Director General and that do not require the allocation of additional resources.</p> <p>To instruct the Director General to present to the Executive Committee at its next meeting a report on progress with implementing the recommendations to improve technical expertise at IICA.</p>	<p>A report on progress in the implementation of the recommendations was presented to the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) at its regular meeting held in 2009.</p> <p>An updated report on progress in the implementation of the recommendations will be presented to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, to be held on July 14-16, 2009.</p>	
<p><b>4</b> <b>Resolution No 484 “<i>Coordination mechanism for the development of organic agriculture in the Americas</i>”</b></p> <p>To establish the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas as the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture, with responsibility for coordinating the standards and procedures for promoting and regulating the production of organic food in the hemisphere, as well as trade in those products, and to serve as a technical body for knowledge management in the area of organic agriculture and as a mechanism for consultation, liaison and reciprocal cooperation with the competent governmental bodies that promote and establish standards for the development of organic agriculture in each country.</p>	<p><b>Resolution being implemented</b></p> <p><b>Operative paragraph implemented</b></p>	<p>Resolution 484 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008, and forwarded to the Technical Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture in memorandum SC/DG-655, of August 11, 2008.</p>

RESOLUTION AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	STATUS	OBSERVATIONS
<p>To instruct IICA to prepare, in conjunction with the competent governmental authorities that promote, regulate and establish standards to govern the development of organic agriculture, the bylaws and rules of procedure of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture, and to submit them to the Executive Committee for consideration at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, to be held in 2009.</p> <p>To entrust the General Directorate of IICA with providing services as Technical Secretariat to the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture, using the resources allocated for that purpose in the Institute's current Program Budget, and with considering also any financial and technical contributions that Member States, technical and financial cooperation agencies, other institutions and individuals might make to the operation of that Commission and the achievement of its purpose.</p> <p>To urge the Member States of IICA that do not have competent governmental bodies to promote, regulate and establish standards to govern the development of organic agriculture, to establish them so that they may join the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas and be part of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture. Countries that do have such a governmental body are urged</p>	<p><b>Operative paragraph being implemented</b> Proposed bylaws for the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture have been drawn up.</p> <p><b>Operative paragraph implemented</b> The resources needed to operate the Secretariat have been included in the current Budget (2009) and in the proposed 2010 Program Budget that will be submitted to the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting.</p> <p><b>Operative paragraph being implemented</b></p>	<p>The proposed bylaws for the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture will be submitted to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting for consideration.</p>

RESOLUTION AND OPERATIVE PARAGRAPHS	STATUS	OBSERVATIONS
to reinforce their institutional structure.		
<p><b>5 Resolution No. 485 “Center for Leadership in Agriculture”.</b></p> <p>To state that IICA should give high priority to consolidating the Center for Leadership in Agriculture.</p> <p>To urge the Ministers of Agriculture and other leaders to participate in the activities of IICA’s Center for Leadership in Agriculture so that they may analyze the current state of agriculture in the global context and learn about the Institute’s true ability to support the implementation of the agricultural and rural development agendas in Member States.</p>	<p><b>Resolution being implemented</b></p> <p>The Center for Leadership is operating at the hemispheric, regional, national and territorial levels.</p> <p>Relations have been strengthened with nine Ministers of Agriculture and their high-level teams that participated in an equal number of fora, which include strategic conversations between IICA technical personnel and the Minister and his/her team, as well as field trips to visit successful agricultural operations of interest to them.</p> <p>As a result of the leadership fora, training events have been held in specific subject areas, for technical personnel from the ministries and for farmers, such as sustainable agriculture, hydroponics, biogas production and construction of biodigestors using animal waste, etc.</p>	<p>Resolution 485 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008, and forwarded to the Center for Leadership in memorandum SC/DG655, of August 11, 2008.</p> <p>The closer relations forged as a result of the interaction between IICA personnel and the representatives of the ministries after three days of conversations and field trips lead to the development of synergies, the identification of opportunities for cooperation, the creation of mutual trust and to recognize one another’s capabilities, leading to more mutually satisfactory interpersonal relations, which facilitates technical cooperation.</p>

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<p>To instruct the Director General to reinforce the efforts of the Center for Leadership to shape the future young leaders that agriculture in the region will require.</p> <p>To urge the Ministers of Agriculture to promote training in their respective countries and to facilitate the personal development of the young leaders who will have future responsibility for agricultural and rural development and to extend to them the necessary facilities and support to enable them to participate in the activities of IICA's Center for Leadership in Agriculture.</p>	<p>The visits of two ministers of agriculture have been confirmed and invitations have been extended to the ministries of agriculture of all the Member States to participate in the fora on leadership in agriculture.</p> <p>The leadership capabilities of young people in the agricultural sector who have demonstrated potential have been enhanced thanks to training they have received in current agricultural issues and their trends, and to efforts to underscore the importance of basing work on values, working as a team, instilling trust, knowing how to listen, improving negotiating skills, and other leadership tools.</p> <p>Fora have been held for young leaders in the agricultural sector at the hemispheric, regional, national and territorial levels. These young people also serve as facilitators in expanding the inter-American network of young leaders in agriculture, which is linked by a virtual community of practice that offers business and work opportunities and makes it possible to share techniques and tools that are working well in different countries of the hemisphere. It is important to point out that the fora have received support from the ministries of agriculture in the countries where they have</p>	<p>Several of the young people trained in the fora occupy high-level positions in the agricultural sector of their respective countries. For example, Henry Silva, from Venezuela, is now the manager of a major rural development project in Maracaibo, and Carlos Sanchez, from Panama, is regional director of the Social Investment Fund of Panama.</p>



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<p>To instruct the Director General: (i) to report to future regular meetings of the Executive Committee on the activities of the Center for Leadership in Agriculture; and (ii) to report on implementation of the provisions of this resolution.</p>	<p>been held. The number of leaders that have trained throughout the year and a half the Center has been in operation exceeds 600.</p> <p>A group of young leaders are currently participating in internships in countries other than their own for periods of three to twelve months, supporting agricultural projects with assistance from the IICA Office in the corresponding country. By the end of this year, at least 12 young people will have had this experience and will have a global vision of agriculture.</p> <p>Reports have been presented on the results achieved by the Center for Leadership. The Center produces a magazine entitled "Leadership in Agriculture," distributed throughout the hemisphere, which reports on the activities of the Center, discusses leadership tools and shares experiences on how effective leadership in the sector has made a difference in many successful sustainable agricultural production projects.</p>	
<p><b>6 Resolution 486 "2007 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditor"</b></p> <p>To approve the 2007 Financial Statements of the</p>	<p><b>Resolution implemented</b></p>	<p>Resolution 486 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008, and shared with the corresponding units of the Institute in memorandum SC/DG-655, of</p>

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<p>Institute and the Report of the External Auditors on said Financial Statements.</p>		<p>August 11, 2008, and with the external auditors in communication SC/DG-811, of September 19, 2008.</p>
<p><b>7. Resolution 487 “<i>Fourteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)</i>”</b>  To approve the Fourteenth Annual Report of the ARC and to instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations contained in that report. Also, to thank the members of the ARC for the effective work accomplished.</p>	<p><b>Resolution implemented</b></p>	<p>Resolution 487 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008, and sent to the members of the ARC in communication SC/DG-864, of October 1, 2008, and to the Directorate of Administration and Finance in SC/DG-655, of August 11, 2008,</p>
<p><b>8 Resolution 488 “<i>Progress with the collection of quotas owed to IICA as of June 15, 2008</i>”</b>  To thank the Ministers of Agriculture, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and other high-level government officials in the Member States of IICA for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.</p> <p>To acknowledge the importance of maintaining in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage Member States to make their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion and to pay quota arrearages for previous years.</p> <p>To instruct the Director General to: a) continue efforts to collect quotas for the current year and those in arrears for previous years and b) to keep</p>	<p><b>Resolution implemented</b></p> <p>A report on progress in the collection of quotas owed to IICA as of March 31, 2009, was presented to the SACMI at its regular meeting held on May 1-2, 2009.</p> <p>The working document “Progress in the collection of quotas owed to IICA as of May 30, 2009” will be submitted to the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting, to be held on July 14-16, 2009.</p>	<p>Resolution 488 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008, and sent to the Directorate of Administration and Finance in SC/DG-655, of August 11, 2008,</p>

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the Member States informed of progress in this area		
<p><b>9. Resolution 489 “2008-2009 Special Budget financed with resources form the General Subfund”</b></p> <p>To approve the distribution of funds of the Special Budget included as the sole appendix to this resolution, for execution during the 2008-2009 biennium, and to be financed exclusively with such resources as IICA may obtain from the collection of quota arrearages.</p> <p>To instruct the Director General to adopt the appropriate measures to ensure that the execution of the Special Budget does not negatively affect the normal execution of the Institute’s Program Budget for the period 2008-2009</p>	<p><b>Resolution implemented</b></p> <p>The 2008-2009 Special Budget is being executed as programmed.</p> <p>To date, the execution of the Special Budget has not affected the normal execution of the 2008-2009 Program Budget approved by the IABA.</p>	<p>Resolution 489 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008, and sent to the Directorate of Administration and Finance in communication SC/DG-655, of August 12, 2008.</p>
<p><b>10. Resolution 490 “Report of the Special Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”</b></p> <p>To thank the SACMI and the members of the Steering Committee for the work accomplished.</p>	<p><b>Resolution being implemented</b></p> <p><b>Operative paragraph implemented</b></p>	<p>Resolution 490 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008, and shared with both the Directors of Headquarters units and the IICA Representatives in the countries, in a letter from the Director General, SC/DG-661, of August 14, 2008.</p>

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<p>To approve the recommendations for improving technical expertise at IICA contained in the Report of the Special Meeting of the SACMI, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on April 22, 2008.</p>	<p><b>Operative paragraph implemented</b> Those recommendations under the responsibility of the Director General are being implemented or have been implemented.</p>	
<p>To instruct the General Directorate to: (i) continue to implement the recommendations of the SACMI that do not require additional resources; (ii) continue to provide the necessary support for the operations of the Steering Committee; and (iii) include in the proposed Program Budget for 2010-2011 the necessary financial resources for implementing the provisions of operative paragraph 2 of this resolution and thus give continuity to the work of the Steering Committee.</p> <p>To expand the Steering Committee to include Brazil, Chile and the United States of America.</p>	<p><b>Operative paragraph being implemented.</b> (i) The Director General reported to the Regular Meeting of the SACMI, held on April 1-2, on progress in the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Advisory Commission and will do the same at the Twenty-ninth Meeting of the Executive Committee; (ii) The General Directorate provided technical and logistic support for the operation of the Steering Committee; (iii) the required resources were included in the Program Budget for 2010. The resources for 2011 have not yet been allocated, considering that such decision will be up to the new administration that will take office on January 15, 2009.</p> <p><b>Operative paragraph implemented</b> Representatives of Brazil, Chile and the United States of America have joined the Steering Committee</p>	

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<p><b>11. Resolution 491 “<i>Report of the 2008 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)</i>”</b></p> <p>To accept the Report of the 2008 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.</p>	<p><b>Resolution implemented.</b></p> <p>The report was posted on the IICA Web site and on the on-line system of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, as an informational document.</p>	<p>Resolution 491 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008.</p> <p>This resolution was sent to the members of the SACMI in communication SC/DG-655, of August 11, 2008.</p>
<p><b>12. Resolution 492 “<i>Status of the Resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of agriculture (IABA) and the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC)</i>”</b></p> <p>To accept the reports: (i) “Status of the Resolutions of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture”, and (ii) “Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”</p> <p>To express satisfaction with the progress achieved in complying with the resolutions issued by IICA’s governing bodies referred to in operative paragraph 1.</p>	<p><b>Resolution implemented.</b></p>	<p>Resolution 492 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 11, 2008, and distributed internally in memorandum SC/DG- 655, of August 11, 2008.</p>
<p><b>13. Resolution 493 “<i>2008 Titles of Emeritus</i>”</b></p> <p>To confer the title of “Emeritus” of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on</p>	<p><b>Resolution implemented</b></p> <p>These former staff members were formally notified by the Director General in</p>	<p>Resolution 493 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008.</p>

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<p>Agriculture, with all the privileges and prerogatives that that title implies, on Mrs. M. Susana Dancourt Iriarte and Messrs. H. Arlington D. Chesney, P. Lizardo de las Casas, Ernani M. da C. Fiori, Guillermo Grajales, Victor Manuel Tunarosa Murcia.</p>	<p>communication 658, of August 11, 2008</p>	
<p><b>14. Resolution 494 “Amendments to the regulations for conferring Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector”</b></p> <p>To approve the amendments to the current Regulations for Conferring Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector proposed in document IICA/CE/Doc.528 (08) Rev. 2, attached to this Resolution.</p> <p>To authorize the Director General to put into effect, as of this date, the version of the regulations that includes the approved amendments as the basis for the process for conferring Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.</p> <p>To urge Member States, with the support of the IICA offices, to promote the selection of candidates and the granting of national awards that recognize individuals, groups and institutions for their outstanding contributions to the development of sustainable agriculture and rural life.</p>	<p><b>Resolution implemented</b></p>	<p>Resolution 494 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008, and distributed internally in memorandum SC/DG- 655, of August 12, 2008.</p>

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<p>To establish as a transitory provision, only for the present biennium, that the members of the Awards Selection Commission be selected in the preparatory session of the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee</p>		
<p><b>15. Resolution 495 “Date and site of the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”</b>  To hold the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in Mexico during the first half of 2009.</p> <p>To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation to the Member States to participate in the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.</p> <p>To thank the Government of Mexico for its generous offer</p>	<p><b>Resolution implemented in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee</b>  Official letter 100-000030 was received in the Office of the Director General on January 22, 2009. In it, the Mexican government informed the Institute that it would not be able to host the meeting.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, inasmuch as the meeting could not be held in Mexico, the decision was made to hold the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters on July 14-16, 2009.</p>	<p>Resolution 495 was posted on the IICA Web site on August 8, 2008.</p>
<p><b>16. Resolution 496 “IICA-CATIE Strategic Partnership”</b></p> <p>To congratulate both the Director General of CATIE and the Director General of IICA on progress achieved in the execution of joint activities in aid of Member States.</p>		

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<p>To instruct the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE to prepare and submit to the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, a joint program of action for 2009 and 2010. That program should: a) attach priority to the execution of joint activities in the following areas: (i) territorial rural development, natural resource management, the environment, climate change, and (ii) technological innovation, value chains and competitiveness; b) define a strategy and more appropriate management, administrative and operating mechanisms to ensure the necessary continuity and enhance the results of joint action.</p>	<p>At the end of 2008, a task force was set up to monitor relations between IICA and CATIE, and placed under the joint coordination of the Deputy Director Generals of both institutions. The task force has met every two months since then (it held its third meeting for this year in June), providing an opportunity to study in detail and continue initiatives under way, and to reach agreement on institutional priorities for the 2009-2010 biennium.</p> <p>At the end of April 2009, a draft work plan was drawn up for complying with Executive Committee Resolution 496. This plan integrates current initiatives and defines priority areas for cooperation between the two institutions, as called for in the aforementioned Executive Committee resolution, to wit: territorial rural development, natural resource management, environment and climate change; innovation, technology, value chains and competitiveness; management of information and knowledge.</p>	



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	<p>In order to facilitate the implementation of initiatives in these areas, the work plan calls for the creation of a mechanism for ongoing coordination, encourages the development of strategic alliances with other universities and distance education programs, and promotes a comprehensive approach to food security.</p> <p>In addition, progress has been made in updating the regulatory framework that governs the relations between IICA and CATIE. The task force is in the process of preparing a new cooperation agreement between the two institutions because, in October 2000, a decree approved by the Legislative Assembly of the Republic of Costa Rica, in which the modification of the contract signed between the Republic of Costa Rica and IICA on CATIE (Law 6873 of June 17, 1983) was approved, took effect. As a result, it is necessary to replace the agreement signed by IICA and CATIE on August 30, 1984.</p>	<p>It is hoped that a draft of the new agreement between the two institutions will be available no later than September 30, 2009, prior to the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA (Jamaica, 2009).</p>

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<p>To mandate both the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE to build a common knowledge management platform so as to facilitate access for all professionals, institutions and individuals working for agricultural and rural development in the Americas, as well as students pursuing professional and technical degrees related to agriculture, to the information and knowledge of both institutions.</p>	<p>As part of the actions promoted by the task force, efforts are under way to create links on the web pages of both institutions in order to facilitate a continual flow of information among users, and to encourage the creation of networks with information in different technical areas.</p> <p>In addition, progress has been made in the digitization of technical information, in conjunction with the Orton Memorial Library, including initiatives such as the Agricultural Information and Documentation Service of the Americas (SIDALC). This information service has 265 data bases, 2,155,266 entries and more than 88,000 full text electronic resources. The digitization project has been able to include some 37,755 scanned pages in its repository.</p>	

## **Annex 1**

### **Actions taken by IICA in response to the food security situation**

As soon as it became apparent that instability in the supply and volatility in the prices of the major food crops for human consumption would affect the countries of the Americas, the Institute began to monitor closely the food security situation throughout the hemisphere. The Institute stated its position on the situation and underscored the need to attach top priority to agriculture and food security on the development agendas of the countries. It also stated its willingness to collaborate with the Member States in facing the situation as effectively as possible, and insisted on the need to formulate and implement strategies and policies aimed at coming up with sustainable medium- and long-term solutions to the food security problems of the countries.

#### *Strategic lines of action in food security for IICA*

Based on the 2006-2010 MTP and Resolution No. 482 of the Executive Committee, and following a thorough internal discussion of the areas of action for IICA, and limitations for same, during the 2008 Representatives' Meeting, three strategic lines of action were defined on which to focus the Institute's actions at the hemispheric, regional and national levels. The lines and their general objectives are:

- a. Institutional innovation for a new paradigm of technological change for food production and diversification. Objective: To improve the institutional framework related to research, "extension" and development of agricultural technology, with a view to increasing the availability and variety of foods produced by small- and medium-scale farmers.
- b. Institutional framework and services to better able small- and medium-scale farmers and family agriculture to become involved in the market. Objective: To contribute to increasing the incomes of small- and medium-scale farmers and those in the family agriculture sector, in order to ensure access to food and contribute to increasing the food supply.
- c. Analysis, monitoring and dissemination of policies and information on the state of and outlook for food security. Objective: To monitor and report on the state of and outlook for food security in IICA's member countries and facilitate hemispheric dialogue on this topic.

For each strategic line of action, a coordinator was named and tasked with drawing up an institutional proposal and ensuring that regional and national initiatives were consistent with Institute guidelines for each strategic line of action. To date, comprehensive proposals have been presented that include strategies, expected results, specific products, activities, budgets and strategic partners to be involved.

The Institute has placed emphasis on the consolidation of the first two strategic lines of action, with an eye to making sure that the actions intended to improve the competitiveness and the incomes of small- and medium-scale farmers and those in the family agriculture sector are both

comprehensive and cross-cutting, by helping to develop and strengthen institutional frameworks that will facilitate their access to appropriate technologies and to services needed for agricultural production.

The regional programming meetings (first semester 2009) provided an opportunity to present the strategic lines of action, provide the Representatives and regional and local specialists with guidance on the preparation of proposals and food security projects, and to adjust the national and regional agendas to address emerging needs in this area. As a result, a number of projects and initiatives now exist for all three lines, many of which are being implemented or will be implemented in the coming months.

### *Monitoring and disseminating information on the situation*

One of the needs identified by the countries is that of having access to accurate and timely information on the food security situation and to policy options for addressing it. In response, Food Security was included as a “hot technical topic” on IICA’s Web page. Included in this section is the Director General’s position on the issue, as well as the definition of food security from the Institute’s perspective. It also presents research and analyses conducted by the Institute, the actions undertaken by the Institute and its partners to address this issue at the hemispheric and regional levels, news and international events, links to the sites of other hemispheric and global organizations, and research and documents of other organizations and people that offer different perspectives on food security.

Progress has been made in developing an “Observatory of policies on and the state of food security” which will link the efforts of FAO and IICA with those of the CAS and the CAC. Units at Headquarters and in the Offices periodically update information on food security on their Web pages, and the September 2008 edition of the COMUNIICA magazine devoted three articles to this issue.

### *Technical cooperation in the countries and regions*

In response to requests from the countries, support has been provided for actions they have undertaken to address food security emergencies and to develop sustainable medium-and long-term strategies and policies that will make it possible to achieve or guarantee an adequate level of food security. In addition, field research has been conducted in five countries (two regions per country) to estimate the true impact of the volatility of prices on the incomes of farmers.

At the regional level, the IICA Offices in the Andean countries, the Directorate of Operations and Integration for the Andean Region and the respective regional specialists have provided collaboration to the MoAs and the research and technology transfer institutions of the region to encourage the cultivation of ancestral crops with great potential for contributing to food security. The objective is to diversify the foods offered by vulnerable populations, applying technology to native crops. IICA supports proposals to take advantage of the government food distribution programs in the region to improve the incomes of small- and medium-scale farmers.

In the Southern region, IICA supports the operation of a platform of institutional innovations for technological innovation (NARIs, PROCISUR-IICA); the dialogue on “rural extension” from the

perspective of knowledge management and the incorporation of technologies into family agriculture; and the “professionalization” of farmers through the development of the capabilities needed to incorporate technology into different production chains. IICA aims to improve the income of family agriculture by having them supply of local markets.

In the Caribbean Region, efforts are under way to compile and disseminate information and knowledge related to agricultural technologies and good practices that can be adopted and applied by small- and medium-scale farmers to increase productivity and improve food security, with emphasis on greenhouse systems. Another area of action is the development and consolidation of production-trade links between farmers and the tourism sector. Of particular note is the direct support provided to Haiti in coordination with other countries and cooperating organizations (Prohuerta).

In the Central Region, a regional program dealing with institutional innovation and knowledge management in support of small- and medium-scale agriculture, which comprises two projects, will be launched: one on the development of innovations, capabilities and competences in technical assistance and extension, and the other on determining the availability of technology and the level of technology transfer in priority food production chains. Currently, we are working with the WFP in the implementation of a regional project aimed at improving the incomes of staple grain producers.

In the Northern Region, IICA is promoting the sharing of information on technology with the other countries of the Americas, via “e-extension.” It is also encouraging large companies to play a more active social role, through the development of programs in which small- and medium-scale farmers and producers supply food.

#### *Search for external resources*

IICA’s limited resources are insufficient to have a true impact on the food security situation. Therefore, in addition to allocating internal resources to fund activities in the area of food security, special emphasis has been placed on preparing project proposals and profiles aimed at seeking resources for the implementation of comprehensive and sustainable projects. This search for resources has been undertaken by the Directorate of External Financing and Investment Projects, and by the Offices and our hemispheric and regional specialists.

#### *Coordination with other organizations and agencies*

Aware that the demands of the countries far exceed its capabilities, of the need to avoid a duplication of efforts and of the multiplier effect of joint actions with other organizations, IICA has discussed and reached agreement with strategic partners and has coordinated with them policies, projects and joint activities at the hemispheric, regional and national levels. These partners include WFP, FAO, ECLAC, World Bank, OAS, USDA, CAS, CAC, ODEPA, FORAGRO, PROCIs, SICTA, Cornell University, University of Florida, other universities in LAC, INTA-Argentina, NARIs, GFAR, INFOTEC partners and a number of national and local organizations.