

CANADA

2005 Annual Report

The Contribution of IICA-Canada
to the Development of Agriculture and
Rural Communities of the Americas



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

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FOREWORD AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the staff at IICA-Canada, I am pleased to present our 2005 Annual Report entitled “The Contribution of IICA-Canada to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities of the Americas”. The year 2005 was an important one, not only for Canada’s agriculture sector and rural communities, but also for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and for the IICA Office in Canada. Our annual report, like other annual reports being prepared by IICA Offices throughout the Americas, is a results-based account of our activities over the past year. It provides readers with a summary of the economic and social opportunities and challenges that the agriculture and rural communities in this country faced over the past twelve months as the backdrop against which we delivered on our commitment to provide high quality technical cooperation to our broader stakeholder community.

In terms of the Institute, 2005 was a period for reinforcing strategic relationships with Canada, for renewing the Administration’s mandate and for establishing new medium-term goals. Firstly, several key steps were taken in 2005 to strengthen ties between IICA and Canada. In February, the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Deputy Minister, Mr. Len Edwards, visited IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica. This visit, which followed on the heels of a visit by IICA Director General Dr. Chelston Brathwaite to Canada just two months prior, was the highest ranking visit of a Canadian delegation ever to IICA Headquarters. The visit included several meetings, presentations by the DG and other IICA Senior Officials, and visits to important field projects in Costa Rica which benefit from Canadian support and involvement. Then in June of 2005, Dr. Brathwaite returned to Canada to give one of the keynote addresses of the Economic Forum of the Americas’ 11th Conference of Montreal and used this opportunity to meet with Christiane Ouimet, Associate Deputy Minister of AAFC, and other senior Canadian authorities. Finally, during this same visit, the DG confirmed my appointment as official Representative for IICA in Canada.

Secondly, with 2005 being an election year for IICA, many high-level meetings took place, including the Executive Committee Meeting in Brazil in May, the meetings of the Forum of Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life in Costa Rica in July, meetings of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) in Costa Rica in March and October, and finally the Ministers of Agriculture and Inter-American Board of Agriculture meetings in Guayaquil, Ecuador, where Dr. Chelston Brathwaite was given a strong second mandate as Director General. The Canadian delegations, which included representation from AAFC, CFIA and FAC were very proactive and supportive in these meetings, benefiting from the leadership of the Honourable Wayne Easter, Parliamentary Secretary for Rural Development, and of Mr. Paul Murphy, Executive Director of Programs and Multilateral Affairs and Ms. Maureen Dolphin, Senior Multilateral Officer, both from AAFC.

Finally, during IICA’s annual Representative’s Week held this past year in October, a review was made of IICA’s achievements in institutional modernization and its new role in the Summit of the Americas process. Strategies to address future challenges and opportunities in a new Mid Term Plan were discussed and developed, based on new National, Regional and Hemispheric Agendas.

2005 also brought changes to the IICA Office in Canada, including stakeholder-approved reforms, a new addition to the staff, and most importantly in terms of moving forward, a new four year agenda. Beginning early in 2005, IICA-Canada committed to implement profound institutional reforms to

consolidate our relationship with stakeholders, improve our networking capacity, strengthen our program delivery and enhance our image as a world-class provider of technical cooperation of the highest standards. These reforms were mandated by IICA Administration's guidelines on transparency and accountability. The IICA-Canada reform process began with a stakeholders meeting in which IICA-Canada's 2004 Annual Report and 2005 Work Plan were presented and approved. The meeting was attended by representatives from all of the key government organizations (AAFC, CFIA, FAC, NFPC, and CIDA) in areas of trade, agribusiness, innovation, agricultural health and food safety, and agri-environmental policies. Specifically, the 2005 Work Plan included the development of a new National Agenda and the staffing of IICA-Canada's Technical Cooperation Specialist position.

In May, under an agreement between IICA and AAFC, Mr. Kimble Costain was selected to fill the Specialist position on a two-year basis. Kimble has a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Biology from the University of New Brunswick. Prior to coming on board here, he worked with AAFC's Canadian Food Safety and Quality Program and as a biotechnology policy advisor in Strategic Policy Integration and Development. He is fluent in English, French and Spanish and has extensive academic and field experience in Latin America and the Caribbean.

One of Kimble's first tasks was assisting with the development of the new 2006-2010 Agenda. The process began with a survey among key stakeholders from government agencies, academic institutions and private organizations. Based on a thorough review of relevant documents, the consultations and assessments carried out in 2004, and our experience during the implementation of the previous agenda, we developed a questionnaire which was delivered to almost 100 stakeholders by e-mail, telephone or in person. The results of the survey and the consultations were integrated into an agenda document which included priority areas, plans for improving IICA-Canada's performance and an alignment exercise between the new Agenda and Canada's various priorities, plans and policy documents. Based on these results, we developed a strategy to focus IICA-Canada's cooperation tools (internships, expertise exchanges, events, publications and other activities) on priority areas in order to increase the efficacy and impact of our program delivery. As a final critical step, the 2006-2010 Agenda was sent to key stakeholders and IICA Headquarters for its final review and validation.

The culmination of all of these actions and reforms was the new 2006-2010 National Agenda for IICA-Canada. The new National Agenda for Canada is a framework that will serve as a basis to improve IICA-Canada's performance by aligning our activities with the key priorities of our stakeholders to address issues of mutual interest, such as promoting Canada's image as a committed partner in international development and increasing its influence in Latin America and the Caribbean in such issues as animal health, food safety and environmentally sustainable rural development. This should provide increased opportunities for trade and agri-business with LAC for Canada's high quality agricultural products. In turn, it may better integrate Canadians into the hemispheric network of agriculture and environmental professionals, enabling them to assess the opportunities for collaboration in areas such as research, policy formulation, risk assessment, trade harmonization and agribusiness development.

Important changes have also occurred in key positions with many of our stakeholders in Canada that are worth mentioning here. At AAFC, Ms. Maureen Dolphin assumed the desk officer responsibilities for IICA, replacing Ms. Maria Lo with whom IICA-Canada had worked very successfully. Ms. Sarah Fountain Smith is the new Director of the Inter-American Relations Division

at Foreign Affairs Canada reporting to Mr. Jamal Khokhar, Director General at the Latin American and Caribbean Division. Canada named Renata Wielgosz as its new Ambassador in Venezuela. Finally, Ms. Suzanne Laporte is the new CIDA Vice-President for the Americas, replacing Guillermo Rischynski, who is now Canada's Ambassador in Brazil.

All told, 2005 saw many accomplishments for the IICA Office in Canada and these are fully detailed in this Annual Report. These accomplishments would not have been possible without the interest and support we receive from our stakeholder community. I speak for everyone here at IICA-Canada when I say we are thankful to our Canadian counterparts and partners from the federal government and from private and academic organizations for their proactive participation over the past year, particularly in the development and validation of our 2006-2010 Agenda. I would like to draw special attention to the unwavering support we received from Paul Murphy and Maureen Dolphin that was so vital to our success in 2005.

Our colleagues at IICA Headquarters also deserve much recognition. We are grateful to Linda Landry, Director of Human Resources, for her help and advice in the filling the Specialist position, to Robert Landmann, our Deputy Director General, for his continued support and advice, and to Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, our Director General, for his leadership, openness and support. I also want to thank my many colleagues at IICA offices throughout the Americas for their collaboration and support in 2005.

Finally, and of course, the level of accomplishment and performance IICA-Canada achieved in 2005 would not have been possible without the team efforts of the IICA-Canada staff. I would like to acknowledge Ms. Louisa Martel, Administrative Secretary, for her support and hard work over this and past years and I welcome Kimble Costain who brings great enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism to our team. I would also like to take the opportunity of the release of our 2005 Annual Report to bring special attention to the contribution of Ms. Anita Anderson, Executive Secretary. This past year, Ms. Anderson was nominated for and received the prestigious DG's Award. Anita has been part of this office since 1986, and during these years, she has worked with great dedication and flexibility, adapting to the diverse styles and demands of six different representatives and three specialists. As proof of her unconditional commitment, spirit of service and loyalty to our Institution, I must emphasize her outstanding job of "holding down the fort" during the times of difficulty and uncertainty at the IICA-Canada Office, such as the unfortunate illness and early retirement of the Representative in 2002.

I hope you will find this IICA-Canada 2005 Annual Report informative and enlightening and I look forward to 2006 with great expectations.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Bedoya, Representative
IICA in Canada

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ACRONYMS

AAFC	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
AEPLA	Agri-Environmental Policies in Latin America
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
AI	Avian Influenza
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (US)
ASERT	Animal Health, Surveillance, Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Team
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CAHC	Canadian Animal Health Coalition
CAL	Canadian Agriculture Library
CAPIA	Cámara Argentina de Productores Avícolas – Argentinian Chamber of Poultry Producers
CCAA	Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CISA	Inter-American Committee on Avian Health
CONASA	Consejo Nacional de Sanidad Animal – National Council on Animal Health (Mexico)
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPA	Comisión para la Prevención de la Aftosa – Commission for the Prevention of FMD (Mexico)
CPB	Cartagena Protocol for Biosafety
CSCFSC	Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition
CVP	Comité Veterinario Permanente (Cono Sur) - Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone
EC	Environment Canada
EMBRAPA	Emprese Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária – Brazilian Agri-Food and Seafood Agency
EPL	Environmental Protection Laboratories
FAC	Foreign Affairs Canada
FAD	Foreign Animal Diseases
FLACSO	Facultad Latinoamérica de Ciencias Sociales – Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences
FMD	Foot-And-Mouth Disease
FORAGRO	Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas
FTB	Food Tobacco and Beverages
GAS/MA	Government Analytical Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Barbados)
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IAI	Inter-American Institute for Research on Global Climate Change
ICAFE	Instituto del Café – Coffee Institute (Costa Rica)
IDIAP	Instituto de Investigación Agropecuaria de Panamá – Agriculture Research Institute of Panama
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
INIFAP	Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias – National Institute for Forestry Agriculture and Food Research (Mexico)
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention

ISPM	International Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measure
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LMO	Living Modified Organism
MIOA	Market Information Organization of the Americas
MOP	Meeting of the Parties
MPEG	Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi - Emilio Goeldi Museum of Parano (Brazil)
MPGA	Manitoba Pulse Growers Association
NABI	North American Biotechnology Initiative
NACS	North American Consulting School
NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
NAPPO	North American Plant Protection Organization
NCFAD	National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases (Canada)
NFPC	National Farm Products Council (Canada)
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PROCI	Program for Cooperation in Innovation
RSPM	Regional Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measure
SAGARPA	Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería, Desarrollo Rural, Pesca y Alimentación – Department of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (Mexico)
SOA	Summit of the Americas
UAAAN	Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro – Antonio Narro Autonomous Agriculture University (Mexico)
UBA	União Brasileira de Avicultura - Brazilian Poultry Association
UNAM	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México – National Autonomous University of Mexico
UNTRMA	Universidad Nacional Toribio Rodríguez de Mendoza de Amazonas - Toribio Rodríguez de Mendoza de Amazonas National University (Peru)
VSF	Vétérinaires sans frontières - Veterinarians Without Borders
WHO	World Health Organization
WTO	World Trade Organization

1. INTRODUCTION

Year after year, agriculture makes a significant contribution to the quality of life in Canada's rural communities and to the country's success domestically and abroad. More than 2 million Canadians are employed in agriculture and agri-food activities and more than 8% of the country's GDP comes from this sector. While agriculture trade is being increasingly concentrated within North America, the sector continues to be internationally competitive with Canada being a major player in world agri-food trade. The country is among the top 5 importers and exporters of agriculture products with growth being driven by value-added products. This year's recovery from the 2003 BSE crisis clearly demonstrates the sector's remarkable ability to adapt to crisis and to the challenges of changing consumer demands, new technologies, North American integration and globalization.

It is in this context and with a mandate to enhance the dialogue between Canada and the rest of the Americas in the areas of agricultural innovation, healthier environments, and rural life leading to a more equitable, sustainable and prosperous hemisphere, that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture in Canada took on cooperation activities and programs directly linked to its five main strategic areas:

- agriculture health and food safety (AHFS);
- trade and agribusiness development;
- technology and innovation;
- sustainable rural development; and
- training and education.

However, as the 2005 IICA-Canada Annual Report is meant to provide a result-based account of our technical cooperation activities, we have presented the results of our activities along the following six themes:

- facilitating competitiveness and global trade;
- promoting food safety and agricultural health;
- strengthening rural communities;
- hemispheric integration;
- environmental management; and
- institutional modernization.

To do this, we have mapped IICA-Canada's five strategic areas of technical cooperation onto the six themes as shown in Table 1. As an example, the IICA-Canada technical cooperation activities in Technology and Innovation can be found described in the Annual Report under Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade (Section 5.1) and Hemispheric Integration (section 5.4). Our activities in Sustainable Rural Development have had results in the lines of Strengthening Rural Communities (5.3) and Environmental Management (5.5).

Table 1. Results of IICA-Canada's 2005 activities in the five Strategic Areas of Technical Cooperation.

Strategic Area of Technical Cooperation	Results of Technical Cooperation					
	<i>Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade (5.1)</i>	<i>Promoting Food Safety & Agricultural Health (5.2)</i>	<i>Strengthening Rural Communities (5.3)</i>	<i>Hemispheric Integration (5.4)</i>	<i>Environmental Management (5.5)</i>	<i>Institutional Modernization (5.6)</i>
<i>Technology and Innovation</i>	✓			✓		
<i>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</i>		✓				
<i>Trade and Agri-Business Development</i>	✓			✓		
<i>Sustainable Rural Development</i>			✓		✓	
<i>Education and Training</i>			✓			✓

The Institute in Canada works with stakeholders from all levels in the agriculture and agri-food system, from primary producers through government departments to civil society, to establish strategic alliances within the Americas. In pursuing these goals in 2005, IICA-Canada was guided by a strategy supported by four Technical Cooperation Instruments:

- Internships – exchanges in agriculture sciences and research, agribusiness, farmer-to-farmer exchanges, rural youth and information and technology;
- Expertise Exchanges – experts working and networking with their counterparts throughout the Americas;
- Support to Events – sponsoring and facilitating national and international events linked to IICA-Canada's main priorities;
- Other activities – strengthening existing partnerships and establishing new alliances, developing project proposals, creating and publishing documents, among other things.

Since the Internships and Exchanges programs were begun a decade ago, more than 140 academics, producers, and experts from Canada and other IICA Member States have participated. This past year, IICA-Canada awarded 10 Internships; six to Canadians to carry out their programs of activity in countries in Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC), including Brazil, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Mexico, and four to Latin Americans to come to Canada (Table 2).

Table 2. IICA-Canada Internships for 2005

#	<i>Intern</i>	<i>Field of Study or Area of Work</i>	<i>Home Institution*</i>	<i>Counterpart Institution*</i>	<i>IICA Strategic Area (More info)</i>
1	Anne Beliveau	Impacts of deforestation on soil quality	Université du Québec, Canada	MPEG and EMBRAPA, Brazil	Sustainable Rural Development (5.5.2)
2	Andrew Dawe	Mapping food insecurity	Carleton University, Canada	FLACSO, Guatemala	Sustainable Rural Development (5.3.2)
3	Allison Henderson	Capacity building in rural community development	Simon Fraser University, Canada	Instituto del Café, Costa Rica	Sustainable Rural Development (5.3.3)
4	Donna Junk	Bean darkening and winter nurseries	U. of Saskatchewan, Canada	INIFAP, Mexico	Technology and Innovation (5.1.7)
5	Alejandro Marin	Agriculture library information systems	U. de Aguascalientes, Mexico	CAL, Canada	Education and Training (5.6.1)
6	Guadalupe Ramirez	Agriculture library information systems	UAAAN, Mexico	CAL, Canada	Education and Training (5.6.1)
7	Fabiola Rodriguez	Mite control in honey bees	UNAM, Mexico	University of Guelph, Canada	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.9)
8	Don Sissons	Collaboration on pulse production	MPGA, Canada	Mexican Bean Council, Mexico	Agribusiness Development (5.4.4)
9	Todd Stewart	Collaboration on pulse production	MPGA, Canada	Mexican Bean Council, Mexico	Agribusiness Development (5.4.4)
10	Lauro Velazquez	Tech transfer in foreign animal diseases	CPA/SAGARPA, Mexico	NCFAD, Canada	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.8)

* Refer to the list of acronyms for full name.

IICA-Canada's Internship Program facilitates the interaction between Canadian academics, researchers, producers, and youth and their counterparts from Latin America and the Caribbean. These internships, in many cases, result in concrete outcomes for the institutions and groups involved. Of the ten internships, two were in the area of agriculture health and food safety (AHFS), two in trade and agribusiness development, one in technology and innovation, three in sustainable rural development and two in education and training. In total, eight universities, three private sector organizations, five government departments or agencies, and one non-governmental organization were involved or benefited from the 2005 Internship program.

For more information on the interns and the results of the activities, refer to the sections of the Annual Report referenced in Table 2.

The Expertise Exchange program continues to promote networking among the key Canadian and LAC organizations in the priority areas. In many cases, the benefits from these exchanges continue to accrue long after the expert has returned. In 2005, IICA-Canada also awarded eight Expertise Exchanges; five involved experts from Canada going to LAC and three involved LAC experts coming to Canada (Table 3). Of the eight, two were in AHFS, two in trade and agribusiness development, three in technology and innovation, and one in education and training. Five of the experts were from government, one from academia, and two from the private sector. In total, eight countries, including Canada, were involved.

For more information on the expertise exchanges, refer to the sections of the Annual Report referenced in Table 3.

Table 3. IICA-Canada Expertise Exchanges for 2005

#	Expert	Area of Expertise	Home Institution*	Counterpart Institution*	IICA Strategic Area (More info)
1	Rodrigo Artunduaga	Agriculture Biotechnology	Private Consultant	IICA Headquarters, Costa Rica	Technology and Innovation (5.4.7)
2	Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar	Needs assessment in sustainable development	U. of Saskatchewan, Canada	UNTRMA, Peru	Education and Training (5.3.4)
3	Cynthia Currie	Agriculture products marketing	NFPC, Canada	CAPIA, Liniers, SIAL, Argentina	Agribusiness Development (5.1.6)
4	Campbell Davidson	International scientific cooperation	AAFC, Canada	FORAGRO and PROCINORTE, Panama	Technology and Innovation (5.4.6)
5	Sharon Lee	Pesticide residue analysis	GAS/MA, Barbados	EPL, Canada	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.10)
6	Sophia Marshall-Coppin	Pesticide residue analysis	GAS/MA, Barbados	EPL, Canada	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.10)
7	David Oomah	Pulse crop production	AAFC, Canada	Mexican Bean Council, Mexico	Technology and Innovation (5.4.5)
8	Sandra Vokaty	Consultant certification	Vokaty and Associates, Trinidad and Tobago	CCAA, Canada	Agribusiness Development (5.1.5)

* Refer to the list of acronyms for full name.

The year 2005 also saw its share of important national and international events. While IICA-Canada's support to events varies, from playing a facilitating role to providing logistical support or financial assistance, involvement in the events allows IICA to identify and discuss future opportunities for interaction and exchange between Canadian stakeholders and their counterparts in LAC.

All told, IICA-Canada provided direct or indirect support to 19 events in all five of its strategic areas. Five events were in the AHFS, four in trade and agribusiness development, seven in technology and innovation, one in sustainable rural development and two in education and training (Table 4). Twelve of the twenty events took place in Canada, the remainder in the US and countries in LAC, including Brazil, Argentina, Mexico and Panama. IICA-Canada provided support to or worked collaboratively with government agencies and initiatives, private sector organizations and international organizations throughout these events.

Table 4. IICA-Canada Events for 2005 (events which IICA-Canada supported or provided representation to)

#	Event*	Host Institution*	Location	Date	IICA Strategic Area (More info)
1-3	Pre-TEG / MOP Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety Meetings	AAFC	Argentina Canada Canada	February March May	Technology and Innovation (5.4.1)
4-5	NABI Meeting	NABI	Mexico Argentina	March October	Technology and Innovation (5.4.1)
6	MIOA Meeting	AAFC	Canada	March	Agribusiness Development (5.1.2)
7	North American Consulting School	CCAA / IICA	Canada	April	Agribusiness Development (5.1.1)
8	FORAGRO Meeting	IDIAP	Panama	April	Technology and Innovation (5.4.6)

#	<i>Event*</i>	<i>Host Institution*</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>IICA Strategic Area (More info)</i>
9	IAI For Research on Global Change General Meeting	IAI	Canada	May	Sustainable Rural Development (5.3.1)
10	Economic Forum of the Americas	Conference of Montreal	Canada	May/June	Agribusiness Development (5.1.3)
11-12	Agriculture Trade and International Development	CIDA / IICA	Canada Canada	August September	Education and Training (5.7.2)
13	ASERT / CFIA Meeting	CFIA	Canada	September	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.4)
14	PROCINORTE Meeting	INIFAP	Mexico	October	Technology and Innovation (5.4.2)
15	USAHA Annual Meeting	USAHA	US	November	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.3)
16	Food Safety Emergency Preparedness Workshop	CSCFSC & CFIA	Canada	November	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.5)
17	International Avian Influenza Conference	Gov. of Brazil / PAHO / IICA and others	Brazil	December	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.1)
18	Canada Mexico Bean Congress	Pulse Canada	Mexico	December	Agribusiness Development (5.4.3)
19	Canadian Animal Health and Emergency Management Conference	CAHC / CFIA	Canada	December	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.6)

* Refer to the list of acronyms for full name.

For more information on the events that IICA-Canada supported and/or provided representation to in 2005, refer to the sections mentioned in Table 4.

Throughout the past year, IICA-Canada was also involved in a number of other activities in Canada and LAC (Table 5). These activities permit IICA-Canada to fortify relationship with its existing stakeholders and to build new strategic alliances with organizations with which IICA-Canada is only just exploring avenues for collaboration.

For more information on these other activities, refer to the sections mentioned in Table 5.

Table 5. Other IICA Activities for 2005

#	<i>Activity*</i>	<i>Host Institution*</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>IICA Strategic Area (More info)</i>
1	Visit of AAFC DM to HQ	IICA	Costa Rica	January	All areas (5.7.1)
2	SPS Initiative Final Report	CFIA	Canada	March	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.7)
3	AEPLA Survey	AAFC & CIDA	Latin America (6 countries)	March	Sustainable Rural Development (5.5.1)
4	CCAA Training Modules	CCAA	Canada	May	Education and Training (5.7.3)
5	AEPLA Mission	AAFC & CIDA	Costa Rica & Peru	July	Sustainable Rural Development (5.5.1)
6	NCFAD / CFIA Meeting	NCFAD	Canada	July	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.2.2)

#	Activity*	Host Institution*	Location	Date	IICA Strategic Area (More info)
7	BMP Contact Meeting	Toma & Bouma Management Consultants	Canada	August and December	Agribusiness Development (5.1.4)
8	Veterinarians Without Borders Contact meeting	VSF	Canada	December	Agricultural Health & Food Safety (5.7.4)
9	University of Guelph Contact Meeting	University of Guelph	Canada	December	Education and Training (5.7.5)
10	McGill University Training Modules	McGill	Canada	Throughout the year	Education and Training (5.7.3)

* Refer to the list of acronyms for full name.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the course of 2005, IICA-Canada continued to focus efforts on five main priority areas: agriculture health and food safety; trade and agribusiness development; technology and innovation; sustainable rural development; and training and education. In pursuing these goals, the office was guided by a strategy supported by four Technical Cooperation Instruments: internships; expertise exchanges; support to events; and other activities.

IICA-Canada delivered on its commitment to provide technical cooperation of the highest quality. In total for 2005, ten internships and eight expertise exchanges were awarded and these were complimented by IICA-Canada involvement in nineteen events and another ten activities that together comprise the majority of this office's technical cooperation. With this, IICA-Canada also prepared ten publications on various topics in 2005.

Highlights of 2005:

- January – visit by AAFC Deputy Minister to IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica
- February – Canadian involvement in a CPB meeting in Argentina
- March – six-country survey on agri-environmental policy development in Latin America
- April – the 2005 North American Consulting School
- May/June – 11th Annual Conference of Montreal and Economic forum of the Americas
- July – AAFC mission to Costa Rica and Peru as part of the AEPLA Project
- August/September – Inter-American Board of Agriculture meetings in Guayaquil, Ecuador
- October – PROCINORTE meetings in Mexico
- November – Food Safety Emergency Preparedness Workshop
- December – 2005 Canada-Mexico Bean Congress

The past year, besides being one of many accomplishments, also presented opportunities for strategic reforms to the ways in which IICA does business. In particular, the new 2006-2010 Agenda will permit IICA-Canada to focus its technical cooperation instruments on the priority areas identified by stakeholders to build synergies and extract benefits from investments well beyond what might be possible otherwise.

2005 has also allowed IICA-Canada to build new relationships with stakeholders that will undoubtedly result in great rewards for the agriculture sector and rural communities in Canada and the Americas.

3. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN CANADA

3.1. RECENT PERFORMANCE IN THE EXPANDED AGRICULTURE SECTOR

3.1.1. The Canadian Economy

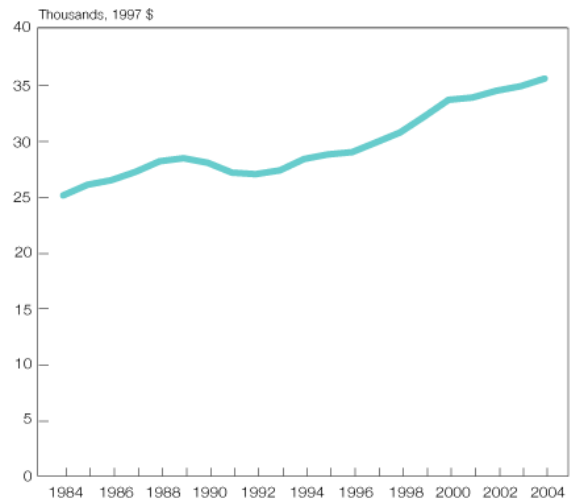
Global forces, such as rising energy prices, have had a positive impact on Canada's economic performance in 2005 but these have also led to a significant appreciation of the Canadian dollar. Despite this, the economy has been operating near full capacity and economic activity is expected to grow at rates close to potential over the next two years.

The President of the Treasury Board of Canada released the 2005 Annual Report to Parliament called "Canada's Performance". As described in the report, the Canadian economy is one of the strongest among the seven leading industrial countries of the G-7, which consists of the US, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada and Japan. For example, within the G-7, Canada has the second fastest growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita at 2.9% (2004), which stands at around \$35,000.

Employment rates in Canada also demonstrate the strength of the country's economy. Canada has the highest growth rate in employment among the G-7 countries.

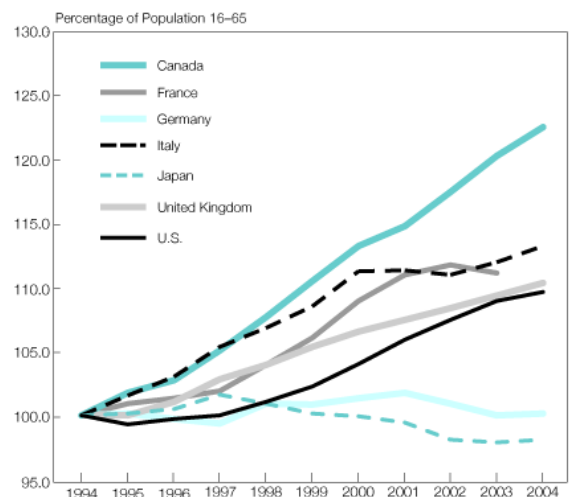
However, Canada's continued economic well-being depends on various factors, including the strength of the country's industries, the sustainability of natural resources, communications technologies, and dynamic trade relationships with other nations. For example, each day, Canada exports and imports more than \$2.5 billion worth of goods and services with the rest of the world. One quarter of all jobs are linked to international trade, which is valued at \$930 billion. Canada's main trading partners are the US, the European Union, Japan, China and Mexico.

Real GDP Per Capita, Canada, 1984–2004



Source: Statistics Canada, 2005

Employment Growth Among G-7 Countries, 1994 to 2004



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2005

3.1.2. The Canadian Agriculture Performance

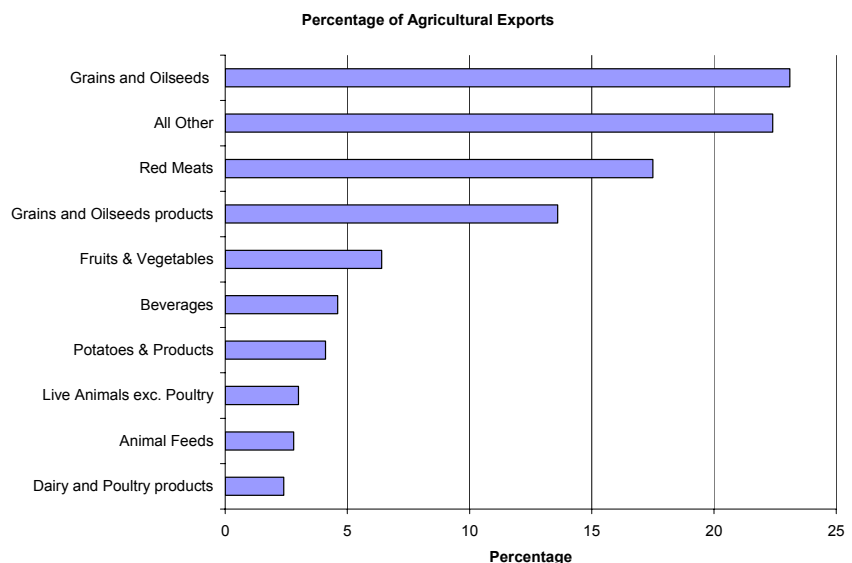
2005 was an important year for Canada's agriculture sector. This sector continued to make an important contribution to the country's economy, accounting for 8.3% of the country's total GDP and for one in eight jobs. Of course, Canadian agriculture goes beyond primary production. It is interwoven with other sectors of the economy. For example, Canadian agriculture and the country's food, beverages and tobacco industries are major purchasers of the end-products of other sectors, such as paper, fabricated metal products, plastic and glass products, and agriculture plays a role as a key supplier to other industries.

There are several key trends in the agriculture sector that are currently influencing annual performance:

- Increasing Scale and Vertical Coordination - producers are investing in businesses at other stages of the supply chain and are also working horizontally with other players at each stage of the supply chain;
- Value-Added Production - food retail, which encompasses processing and distribution, is the fastest growing component in the agriculture; in fact, food, beverage and tobacco (FTB) processing is the second largest contributor to manufacturing GDP and the largest employer;
- Productivity - productivity performance growth in agriculture is higher than all other sectors in the economy. Better management, industry restructuring and genetic and technological advances have been identified as some of the reasons for this success.

Significant progress was also made in 2005 toward normalizing the sector after the discovery of BSE in 2003 and an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in 2004. Canada's sanitary controls and rapid and effective responses to these issues have helped to restore the sector and exports at pre-incident levels. International markets have reopened and Canada remains among the most competitive countries in the world.

Grains, oilseeds, red meat, and fruits and vegetables are some of the most important trade-oriented agriculture products in Canada.



In 2005, Canada continued to maintain very strong economic ties and two-way trade with other IICA Member States in terms of agriculture products (Table 5).

Table 6. Canada's agriculture and agri-food trade with IICA countries (showing latest annual data).

IICA Region Country	Exports from Canada		Imports to Canada	
	Value (\$ million)	Top Ag Product	Value (\$ million)	Top Ag Product
Northern				
US	16,022.000	Boneless beef	12,260.000	Food preps.
Mexico	1,192.605	Canola	582.136	Beer
Southern				
Argentina	10.205	Lentils	99.776	Grape wines
Brazil	38.058	Canary seed	461.408	Raw cane sugar
Chile	57.570	Wheat	343.581	Grapes
Paraguay	0.140	Bovine semen	1.055	Refined sugar
Uruguay	4.671	Lentils	102.852	Boneless beef
Central				
Belize	1.403	Milk and cream	2.737	Papayas
Costa Rica	16.684	Frozen fries	173.485	Pineapples
El Salvador	9.843	Wheat	10.346	Coffee
Guatemala	51.522	Wheat	115.616	Coffee
Honduras	43.617	Skim milk powder	7.172	Bananas
Nicaragua	2.127	Animal fats	11.827	Peanuts
Panama	10.142	Frozen pork	2.630	Coffee
Caribbean				
Antigua and Barbuda	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bahamas	16.660	Cigarettes	2.836	Cut flowers
Barbados	10.963	Frozen Pork	5.528	Rum
Dominica	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dominican Republic	24.615	Wheat	23.940	Cocoa beans
Grenada	1.233	Milk and cream	0.898	Nutmeg
Guyana	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Haiti	17.025	Milk and cream	0.490	Mangoes
Jamaica	28.708	Wheat	36.902	Rum
St. Lucia	3.245	Milk and cream	0.154	Green tea
St. Kitts & Nevis	1.750	Milk and cream	0.014	Black tea
St. Vincent & Grenadines	0.899	Milk and cream	0.53	Nutmeg
Surinam	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Trinidad and Tobago	28.600	Potatoes	4.337	Mineral water
Andean				
Bolivia	1.201	Wheat	2.021	Brazil nuts
Colombia	178.812	Wheat	233.475	Coffee
Ecuador	56.535	Wheat	130.448	Bananas
Peru	77.896	Wheat	55.158	Asparagus
Venezuela	212.456	Wheat	1.357	Coffee

3.2. CRITICAL ISSUES IN THE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL CONTEXT THAT IMPACT AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN CANADA

3.2.1. Trade Issues

Canada is a trading nation. Seventy percent of gross domestic product and one in five jobs in Canada is linked to trade. This country's participation in the international trade forums and agreements, such as the World Trade Organization and North American Free Trade Agreement,

have improved the access of Canadian producers and agri-businesses to markets in the United States, Mexico, Europe, and Asia.

A. World Trade Organization

The World Trade Organization (WTO) is the global international organization dealing with the rules of trade between nations. The goal of the WTO is to help producers of goods and services, exporters, and importers conduct their business and this is achieved through WTO agreements, negotiated and signed by the bulk of the world's trading nations and ratified by their governments. The WTO has nearly 150 members, accounting for over 97% of world trade.

The topmost decision-making body of the WTO is the Ministerial Conference, which meets at least every two years. It brings together all members of the WTO. Recent Ministerial Conferences include Doha (9-13 November 2001), Cancun (10-14 September 2003) and, most recently, Hong Kong (13-18 December 2005).

Canada sees the WTO as the arena where transparency and predictability of rules for market access are defined. Canada intends to maintain a strong presence at the international negotiating table and identifies the advancement of the global trade agenda negotiated in Doha, Qatar, as the opportunity to advance global prosperity and development.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), along with the Department of International Trade, is actively engaged in negotiations at the WTO in support of the Doha Development Agenda. Canada seeks an ambitious outcome for this important round of trade talks. On the agriculture front, Canada's goal is to enhance its agricultural prosperity through the leveling of the international playing field, through substantial reduction of trade-distorting domestic support, the elimination of export subsidies and significant improvements in market access, while defending the ability of Canadian producers to choose how to market their products.

Following the Ministerial conference in Hong Kong, the WTO Member countries adopted a Declaration that reflects progress achieved on several issues important to Canada. The key agricultural elements of the Declaration were a renewed commitment to the mandate on agriculture of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, the elimination of all forms of export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect to be completed by the end of 2013, and to intensify work on all outstanding issues to fulfill the Doha objectives.

B. North American Free Trade Agreement

The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) is a regional agreement between the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States, which entered into force on January 1, 1994, forming the world's largest free trade area. The objectives of this Agreement, among other things, are to eliminate barriers to trade, facilitate the cross-border movement of goods and services between the three countries, and to promote conditions of fair competition in the free trade area. While the three parties endeavour to fully implement these objectives by 2008, NAFTA has already brought economic growth and rising standards of living for people in all

three countries. In addition, NAFTA has established a strong foundation for future growth and has set a valuable example of the benefits of trade liberalization.

C. Free Trade Area of the Americas

The Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) is an effort to unite the economies of the Americas into a single free trade area. The idea began at the Summit of the Americas (SOA) held in Miami in December 1994. Under the proposed FTAA, barriers to trade and investment will be progressively eliminated. The specific objectives of the FTAA with respect to agriculture are to eliminate agricultural export subsidies and other trade-distorting practices and to ensure that sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures are not applied in a manner which would restrict international trade. These SPS measures would only be applied to achieve the appropriate level of protection for human, animal or plant life or health and would be based on scientific principles.

Originally, negotiations were to be completed by 2005. However, in 2004, negotiations were suspended and progress has since been hindered. In August 2005, the Government of Mexico convened an informal meeting to discuss issues related to the Administrative Secretariat, where the majority of delegations, including Canada, expressed their full support for the resumption of the FTAA negotiations. Canada's negotiating position in the FTAA is fully consistent with its position in the WTO as it views the FTAA mainly as a market access negotiation, with the primary goal being to achieve access for Canadian agri-food products to FTAA markets on terms more favourable than is likely to be possible in the WTO. In Canada's view, the FTAA remains an integral element of the broader Summit of the Americas process and a vital instrument for promoting, *inter alia*, economic growth and job creation.

In spite of the slowed progress in negotiating the FTAA, there were important agricultural advances in 2005 in the related Summit of the Americas forum. In November 2005 at the Fourth Summit of the Americas in Mar del Plata, Argentina, the Heads of State and Government of the Americas recognized the strategic role agriculture and rural life play in generating employment, combating poverty, inequality, hunger and social exclusion, and strengthening democratic governance. Leaders urged the members of the Joint Summit Working Group, including IICA, to continue supporting through their respective activities and programs, the monitoring and implementation of the declarations and plans of action of the Summits of the Americas and to provide assistance in preparing for future summits. Leaders also endorsed the agreements reached previously by the Ministers of Agriculture during the Third Ministerial Meeting "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas" held in Guayaquil, Ecuador in August 2005. This Ministerial meeting marked another milestone in the renewal of agriculture and rural life, edging the region closer to the shared vision for 2015 approved in the AGRO 2003-2015 plan.

3.2.2. Innovation Issues

A. Cartagena Protocol

The Cartagena Protocol (CP) is a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity which seeks to protect biological diversity from the potential risks posed by transboundary movement of Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) resulting from modern biotechnology. It establishes an agreement procedure for ensuring that countries are provided with the information necessary to make informed decisions before agreeing to the import of such organisms into their country. The CP entered into force on September 11, 2003. However, most LMO-exporting countries have yet to ratify the Protocol, including Canada and the US.

While Canada supports the environmental objectives of the CP, a decision was made not to ratify the Protocol until further clarity was achieved on the implementation of key provisions. This decision was made following a broad stakeholder consultations to obtain views on the issue of ratification. In 2003, the Governments of Canada, Mexico and the United States signed a trilateral arrangement that provides clarity to exporters and importers of LMOs destined for food, feed or for processing. The trilateral arrangement was renewed in 2005.

From May 30 to June 3, 2005, the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP 2) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was held in Montreal. It was attended by 647 participants representing 101 Parties to the protocol. Some of the main decisions adopted during the COP/MOP 2 related to LMOs were: risk assessment and risk management; socio-economic considerations; and public awareness and participation. The COP/MOP2 also reiterated previous decisions taken on handling, transport, packaging and identification.

B. Innovation at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

One of Canada's greatest agricultural advantages over its international competitors is its science capabilities and its ability to innovate. Access to the most up-to-date agriculture technology and methods has allowed Canadian producers to become among the most effective and cost-efficient farmers in the world. This year, Canada's Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food was committed to maintaining this scientific advantage.

In 2005, AAFC budgeted close to \$300 million in research, making AAFC the most important player in agriculture research in Canada. Studies have shown that for every dollar spent on research, the payback to agriculture producers is \$20. Also in 2005, AAFC undertook a consultation-based review of its national science program to find ways to become even more effective in science innovation and research and also to ensure its research efforts are complementary with other players in the national research community, and ensure that the collective research investments by governments, universities, and the private sector are used to Canada's greatest advantage. AAFC organized 11 regional consultations with agriculture and rural communities, provincial and territorial governments, research institutes, industry representatives and partners, and also developed a Web-based consultation process to allow all

Canadians to participate. The consultations culminated in a two-day national symposium held in the National Capital Region late in November. While the final report has yet to be released, some of the research priorities identified are animal production and health, food safety and quality, bio-resources, and bio-agro products and processes.

In 2005, activities within AAFC's international research programs were realigned for advancing knowledge, creating wealth and improving quality of life, with major research areas being sustainable production, integrated pest management, biodiversity and biotechnology, among others. AAFC's international scientific research supports: collaboration and capacity building; markets and trade issues, such as functional foods and nutraceuticals; developing country issues, such as food safety, food security, and sustainable production; and AAFC's international obligations, such as cooperation with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and IICA.

3.2.3. Agriculture Health and Food Safety Issues

A. Health Hazards

The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is responsible for ensuring the safety of domestic and imported agricultural products. During 2005, the CFIA issued 45 Health Hazard Alerts on such products. Fourteen of these cases listed dangerous bacteria as the cause for alert; seven cases listed *Listeria*; four *E. coli*; *Salmonella* was cited three times; and there were 10 cases of suspected Sudan dye.

B. Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

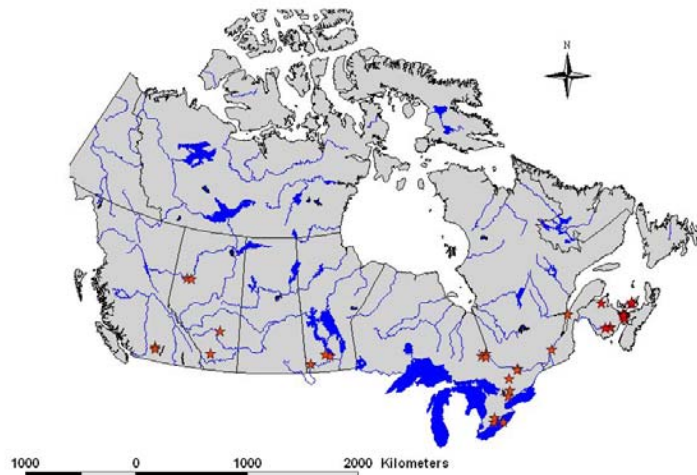
The discovery of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Canada in 2003 had a \$5.5 billion negative impact throughout the agriculture sector and the Canadian economy. However, 2005 saw some of Canada's most important trading partners reopen their markets to Canadian beef. In July, New Zealand lifted all remaining restrictions on the import of Canadian beef. Also in July, the US border re-opened to Canadian cattle under 30 months of age. In December, Japan opened its borders once again. Before the ban, Japan was the third largest importer of Canadian beef after the US and Mexico. Trade was reestablished in 15 additional international markets.

Also in 2005, AAFC continued to move forward with activities under its Repositioning Strategy to restructure the national agriculture and agri-food industry and reposition the country as a leading exporter of premium beef and reducing its dependence on the export of cattle. For example, AAFC announced the Farm Income Payment Program, which provided \$1 billion in federal assistance to the cattle and grain sectors. To help the industry establish or expand federally-inspected ruminant slaughter plants, AAFC created the Ruminant Slaughter Facility Assessment Assistance program to provide financial support of up to one half of producers' investments in the construction or expansion of federal slaughter facilities, up to a maximum of \$20,000 per producer. For small to medium-size slaughter facilities, AAFC established the Loan Loss Reserve Program to provide debt capital for the expansion or establishment of slaughter capacity. A 30% increase in domestic slaughter capacity over the pre-BSE levels is expected by 2006. Improving Canadian slaughter capacity will build on the efforts of the cattle industry to ensure the long-term sustainability and prosperity of the sector.

C. Avian Influenza

In January 2005, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) released its final report on its management of the 2004 Avian Influenza (AI) outbreak in British Columbia. The CFIA identified a series of commitments to respond to the findings, including reviewing regulations on replacement values of destroyed livestock. It also identified a number of areas where additional focus by the CFIA could bring about improvements in the effectiveness of future responses. The identified areas for improvement pertained primarily to emergency planning and preparedness, as well as strategies to improve data management and information flow.

Sample Collection Points for Canada's Inter-Agency Wildbird Influenza Survey - 2005.



Map of Canada showing the sample collection points for the 2005 Wildbird Influenza Survey (Source: Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre)

In August 2005, a national survey of migratory waterfowl was initiated by the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre with support from Environment Canada, the CFIA, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the provinces to provide Canadian animal disease authorities with a better understanding of the strains of AI currently carried by migratory birds flying through Canada. The national survey includes samples from migratory birds along six flyways.

All of the AI viruses identified in the Canadian testing to date have been confirmed to be low pathogenic North American strains.

On October 24 and 25, 2005, the Canadian Minister of Health hosted an international meeting of Ministers of Health to enhance global planning and collaboration on pandemic influenza. Delegations from 30 countries and representatives from nine international organizations met in Ottawa to discuss how best to work together to plan, prepare for and respond to a possible pandemic influenza.

A key outcome of the meeting was the



Health Ministers in Ottawa during the Global Influenza Pandemic Readiness conference in Ottawa. (Source: Health Canada)

commitment to ensure global engagement and collaboration on this issue - among developed and developing countries, as well as international organizations that deal with human health and animal health issues. The meeting concluded with unanimous support for the Ottawa Statement. It is anticipated that this meeting will support and contribute to other international initiatives related to pandemic influenza preparedness.

D. Plant Health Issues

Canada is a member of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), an international treaty to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products, and to promote appropriate measures for their control, which saw revised text come into effect in October 2005. IPPC, together with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), which includes Canada, the United States, and Mexico, works to protect plant health, and the environment with internationally approved principles; International Standards of Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) in the case of the IPPC, and Regional Standards of Phytosanitary Measures, (RSPMs) in the case of NAPPO.

Canadian participation has been very active in the IPPC and NAPPO, and some of the most recent developments include ISPM #15 (Guidelines for regulating wood packaging material in international trade) and RSPM #24 (Integrated pest risk management measures for the importation of plants for planting into NAPPO member countries).

Many exotic plant pests have been intercepted on wood dunnage, pallets, crating or other wood packaging materials. The introduction into Canada of both the Asian long-horned beetle and the emerald ash borer can be linked to international shipments containing wood packaging materials. ISPM #15 was approved by IPPC countries to harmonize treatment procedures in order to mitigate the pest risks associated with international movement of shipments that involve wood packing. The US, Mexico and Canada revised their implementation of ISPM #15 to a phased-in approach in order to allow additional time for the development of treatment and marking systems in exporting countries. From September 16, 2005 to February 1, 2006, NAPPO countries will continue notifying importers when non-compliant wood packaging is found. Starting on February 1, 2006, imports must comply with requirements of ISPM #15 or be subject to removal from the importing country.

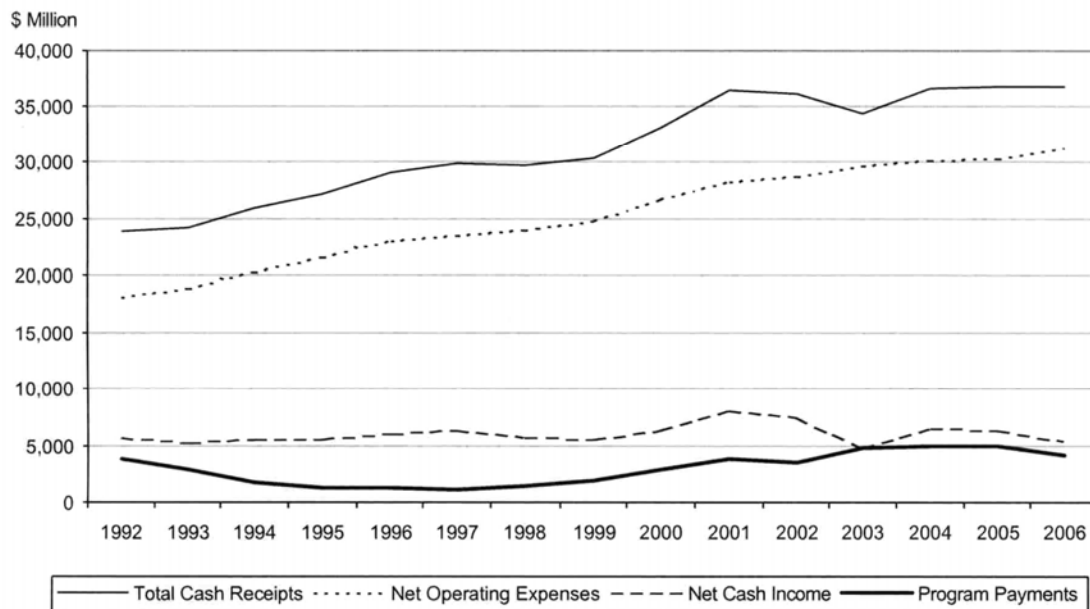
3.2.4. National Issues in Rural Development

Agriculture represents one of the key pillars of the rural economy, but it is not the only one. Many rural and remote communities have been built on other natural resource and primary sector activities, such as forestry, fishing, mining and energy, hunting and trapping. These sectors are major contributors to the national economy through resource extraction and value-added processing. Strong rural communities form much of the social fabric of the country and provide a solid foundation for all of Canada.

A. Farm Income

Canada's agriculture and agri-food sector paid much attention to the issue of farm income in 2005. Net cash income in Canada was forecasted to decrease by two percent in 2005 as the result of a five percent decrease in crop receipts and a one percent increase in expenses largely due to record high machinery fuel and very high fertilizer prices. Since prices of agricultural commodities are often times determined in US markets and priced in US dollars, the strong Canadian currency (US\$0.825 in 2005 vs. US\$0.768 in 2004) placed significant pressure on commodity prices.

**Farm Cash Receipts, Program Payments, Expenses
and Net Cash Income, 1992 to 2006**



Source: Farm Income Forecasts for 2005 and 2006, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 2006.

Early in 2005, at the request of the Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food, the Parliamentary Secretary for rural development led a series of consultations with producers in all provinces in Canada to hear first hand from farmers what they considered to be the root causes of the farm income crisis. Specifically, the consultations focused on approaches that the Federal Government could adopt to reverse the declining trend and help ensure farmers generate more profitable revenue. More than 450 producers attended the consultations. Following these national consultations, the Secretary also led a series of roundtables with representatives of commodity groups and farm organizations with a view of creating an action plan to address farm income. [For more information on these consultations and roundtables, please refer to section 3.3.1 Rural Canada Challenges.]

B. The National Rural Conference

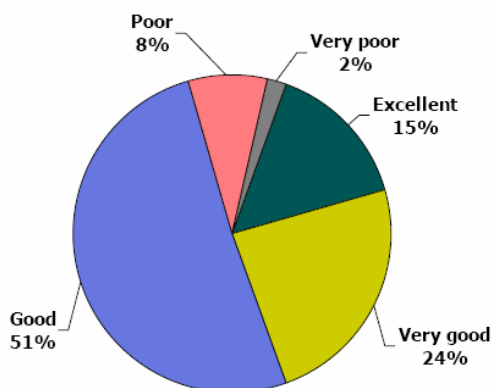
In 2005, the proceedings of the 2004 National Rural Conference were published. As described in these proceedings, the conference provided an opportunity for participants to explore what rural communities across Canada are doing to chart a future that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. Specifically, the conference addressed community capacity building, entrepreneurship, infrastructure, rural youth and Northern issues.

3.3. THE STATUS OF LIVING CONDITIONS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES IN CANADA

Rural Canadians face unique circumstances that include distance from urban markets, geography, low population density, and reliance on primary sector industries vulnerable to sharp, cyclical downturns. Access to education and health care and youth out-migration are significant challenges for rural and remote areas. While there are indications of a strengthening of the rural economy, significant challenges remain. Rural employment is growing more slowly than in urban Canada, and unemployment remains 1.7 percent higher. Diversification and value-added growth is occurring, but many rural communities still rely on a single industry – often agriculture, fishing, mining, energy, or forestry – for most of their employment and economic activity. However, there are significant regional and local differences in the industrial structure of rural economies. The remote and northern communities of Canada face very different realities than rural communities in Canada’s heartland or those near larger metropolitan areas.

3.3.1. The Rural Canada Challenges

The Parliamentary Secretary for rural development, Mr. Wayne Easter, released his final report on the Farm Income Consultations he led in 2005. “Drivers of farm income problems cited by participants included increased input costs including taxes and fees; rising costs of regulation that cannot be passed along the value chain; transportation and other infrastructure issues; processor and retailer concentration and consolidation; competition from foreign markets not subject to regulation as stringent as Canada’s; trade issues and monetary issues; and low consumer awareness.”



Question: How would you rate the standard of living of your household compared to people living in nearby urban centers?

Also from the final report, “Proposed solutions included a range of measures to reduce input costs; varying approaches to diminish the negative impact of regulation on the sector; changes to and supports for infrastructure and transportation systems; measures to increase the market power of producers; aggressive approaches to World Trade Organization negotiations; protection of supply management; and national and international marketing.”

Despite the challenges of agriculture, farm families rate their standard of living as high compared to

their urban neighbours. In fact, in 2003 (prior to the discovery of BSE), 90% of farm families in Canada believed their standard of living was as good or better than that of people living in nearby urban centres.

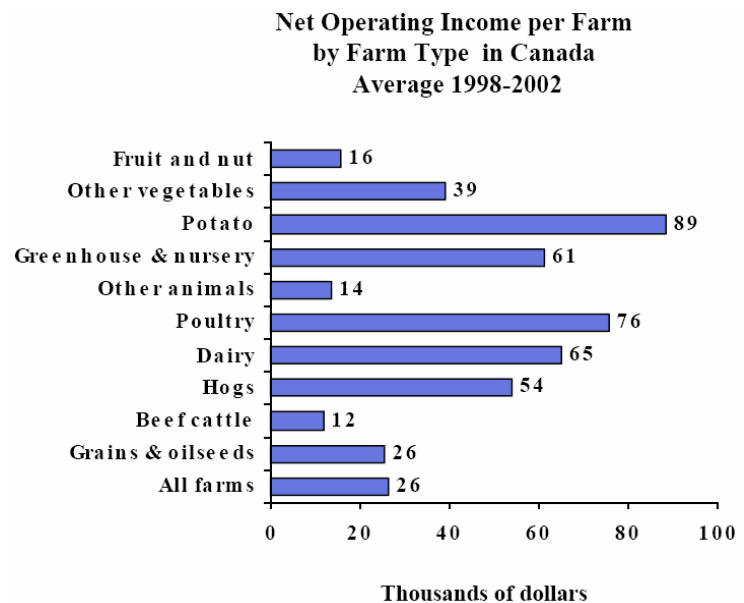
3.3.2. Farm Performance

In 2005, Agriculture and Agri-Food released its *Farm Income Issues Data Source Book*, a resource book of the most up-to-date statistics on the performance of Canadian farms (graphics presented in the section come from this document). Information from this document provides an important insight in the performance of Canadian farms. For example, while the number of farms in Canada has been decreasing over the past fifty years, the 2001 Census revealed that there are still almost 250,000 farms operating in Canada, of which 98% are family-owned and operated.

A. Farm Revenue and Net Operating Income

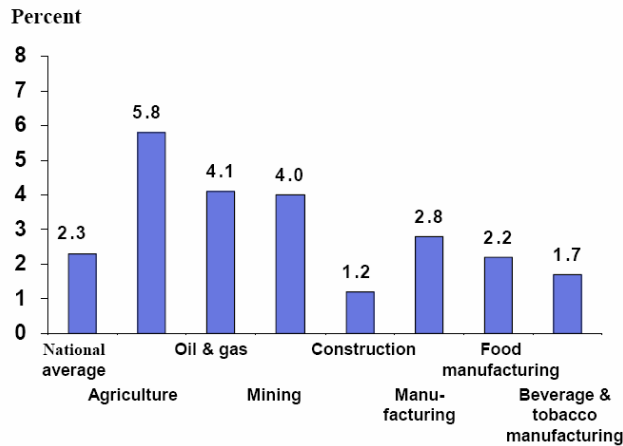
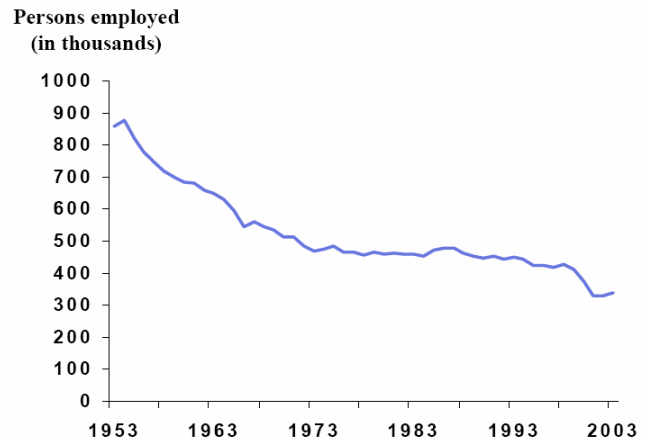
Canada's farms vary greatly in their annual revenue and net operating income. While almost one quarter of Canada's farms generate revenue of less than \$25,000, almost 60% generate revenue in excess of \$50,000 annually.

Operating income varies most importantly by farm type. Potato, poultry and dairy farms generate the highest net operating incomes while livestock farms and fruit and nut farms generate the lowest. On average, the net operating income per farm in Canada is around \$26,000.



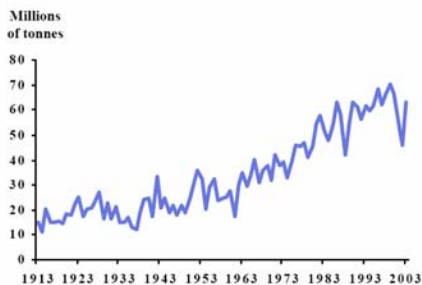
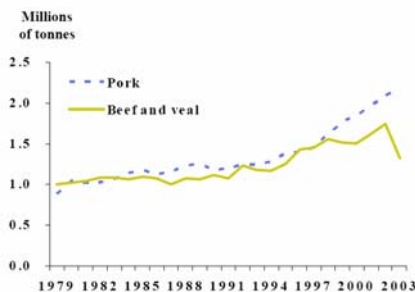
B. Labour Productivity

Increasing farm size and increasing production have resulted in larger labour productivity gains in agriculture. The agriculture sector labour productivity grew at an average rate of 5.8% from 1997 to 2002, nearly three times the economy-wide average of 2.3%. Increased productivity has enabled farms to increase their size while remaining family owned and operated. With increased agricultural productivity comes a decline in primary agricultural employment. About 340,000 Canadians are employed in agricultural production (2% of the labour force), half of what it was in the 1950s. The majority of Canadians employed in primary agriculture are self-employed and only 35% are employees of private sector firms.

Labour Productivity of Canadian Industries, 1997-2002
 (Average Annual Percent Growth Rate)

Employment in Agriculture in Canada, 1953-2003


C. Farm Output

Canadian farm output has been growing for some of the country's most important agriculture products. Technological improvements have contributed to a doubling of grain, oilseeds and special crop production in the past 50 years. Canadian pork production has grown rapidly in the past ten years, whereas beef production has seen only modest increases and a decrease since the discovery of BSE in 2003. Chicken production has increased more than 1000% since the 1940s and has reached one million tonnes a year.

Total Grain, Oilseed and Special Crops Production in Canada, 1913-2003

Farm Level Output of Beef and Pork in Canada, 1979-2003

Total Chicken Production in Canada, 1943-2003


Farms in Canada are also becoming increasingly specialized in production. In 2002, about two-thirds of Canada's agricultural production was produced on farms that had 90% or more of gross farm receipts derived from one commodity type.

4. SUMMARY OF THE 2005 NATIONAL AGENDA

4.1. TRADE AND AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

4.1.1. Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration

4.1.1.1. Promote, throughout the hemisphere, Canada's experience with institutional modernization and its expertise in the area of international trade agreements

4.1.2. Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)

4.1.2.1. Promote Canadian agriculture, as well as associations serving agribusiness services and food subsector

4.1.2.2. Promote means for public and private organizations of Canada and the LAC countries to identify, develop and implement actions aiming to establish trade relations

4.1.2.3. Promote strategic alliances among agri-business associations of Canada and LAC

4.2. AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

4.2.1. Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

4.2.1.1. Develop mechanisms for involving IICA's member countries in the committees on sanitary measures of the WTO, CODEX, OIE and IPPC

4.2.2. Topic: Modernization of National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

4.2.2.1. Promote alliances between agricultural health services and research organizations in order to identify technical cooperation that will contribute to implementing the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

4.2.2.2. Support training on the subjects of equivalencies, hazard analysis and emerging issues

4.2.2.3. Facilitate an exchange of sanitary and phytosanitary information among Canada and LAC countries

4.2.3. Topic: Food Safety

4.2.3.1. Support the executive leadership series on food safety

4.3. SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

4.3.1. Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development

4.3.1.1. Contribute to preparing joint Canada – LAC projects to address the subject of sustainable development

4.3.1.2. Promote the exchange of information and collaboration between Canada and the LAC countries on the subject of sustainable rural development and natural resource management

4.3.1.3. Contribute to identifying and formulating projects of mutual interest to Canada and LAC countries on the sustainable rural development and natural resource management

4.4. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

4.4.1. Topic: Training in strategic areas

4.4.1.1. Provide Canadian graduates with the opportunity to gain experience with technical cooperation and with implementing projects at IICA Headquarters and through its network of offices (Internship Program)

4.4.2. Topic: Integration of University Education

4.4.2.1. Strengthen ties among Canadian and LAC universities, research institutes and public and private institutions

5. RESULTS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR 2005

5.1 FACILITATING COMPETITIVENESS AND GLOBAL TRADE

5.1.1. IICA-Canada support and sponsorship to the 2005 North American Consulting School

During 2005, IICA-Canada continued to be a major sponsor of the North American Consulting School (NACS) which was held April 24 to 26 at the School of Agriculture facilities of the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. The 2005 NACS focussed on best practices, emerging opportunities and collaborative ventures providing continuing professional development to over 100 consultants. This effort provides the infrastructure for consultants to fulfill requirements of continued professional development, together with enhanced networking capacity, identification of emerging consulting opportunities both nationally and internationally, and business skills such as alliances and partnerships, ethics, contract law, and developing and maintaining good client relationships. In 2005, IICA's Representative in Canada was a key speaker at the "Going Global and Getting Results" session, where he addressed technical cooperation in agriculture in the Americas, highlighting experiences and opportunities and IICA's initiative to develop national, regional and hemispheric agendas to identify priorities and demands for cooperation.

The Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association (CCAA) is a member-driven organization of professional consultants, dedicated to providing consulting services to agricultural sectors across the world. Its mission



is to ensure its licensed professional members are recognized for their skills, experience and high standards in agricultural consulting. CCAA promotes competency standards, certification and professional development. The CCAA also provides a collective national voice and acts as an advocate for the profession of agriculture consulting, with a view to maximizing the exposure of CCAA members in the global agriculture industry.

IICA participated in a CCAA Board of Directors meeting to discuss future joint ventures such as the next NACS to be held in British Columbia in early 2006, CCAA's initiative to develop training modules and a survey and proposal to structure similar associations in the Caribbean and Latin America using the Canadian model.

5.1.2. IICA-Canada facilitation and joint support to the Market Information Organization of the Americas

The Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA) is a cooperation network comprised of government institutions or those institutions so delegated by the government, whose principal functions and aims is the collection, processing, analysis and dissemination of information relative to markets and agricultural commodities. The main purpose of MIOA is to promote markets' importance and transparency by means of timely and systematic information exchange. Within this process, the MIOA network defines standards and recommendations for the common use of terminology, methodology and technology. Finally, the MIOA seeks to

facilitate the application of technical assistance among the member institutions. Institution members of the MIOA are from 17 countries of America. All of them are directly linked to the agricultural market information generation in their own countries, at both the agricultural commodities prices issue level and market analysis and planning.



In 2005, AAFC hosted a MIOA meeting in Ottawa from May 9 to 11. The agenda included a report from the MIOA President, Pedro Martínez of Mexico, and the Technical Secretariat, Miguel García, from IICA; a Pan-American commodities dictionary; an evaluation study on agricultural market information systems in MIOA

member countries; impact of the recent US Bioterrorism Act; dispute resolutions; and presentations from country delegates on the advances of their market information systems.

The next MIOA regular meeting will be held in Colombia in 2006.

5.1.3. IICA-Canada sponsorship and support to the Economic Forum of the Americas and the 11th Annual Conference of Montreal

The Economic Forum of the Americas held its 11th Annual Conference of Montreal during 2005, which took place from May 30 to June 2, in Montreal. The theme chosen by the Board of Governors was “Thriving in Turbulent Times: Challenges and Prospects”. The Conference attracted 185 high-profile speakers and international experts and a record high 2,894 participants, including IICA Member State delegations from Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica, with subjects that included economy and finance, industrial development, the role of the State, information and communications technologies, energy and climate change, infrastructure financing, natural resources, integrative trade, agriculture and agri-food, education, immigration, health, development and the rule of law. In addition, the Conference offered several workshops and business meetings with the participation of five major development banks, namely the World Bank Group, the Inter-American Development Bank, the African Development Bank Group, the Asian Development Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Also at this year’s event, Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, IICA’s Director General, and Dr. Mario Seixas, Associate DG, who were accompanied by IICA-Canada’s Representative, participated in the Conference. Dr. Chelston was the key speaker at the “Health and Diet: Well-Being Through Agri-Food Safety” session of the “International Forum on Health and Globalization: The Challenge of Prevention”, organized with WHO, the Foundation Lucie et André Chagnon, McGill University and other organizations. His presentation was focussed on the impacts of globalization on agricultural production and agri-food quality and addressed specifically food safety in Latin America. He also introduced Dr. Jong-wook Lee, Director General, World Health Organization key speaker at the Conference Luncheon.

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada sponsored and organized the “Agriculture and International Trade: the Challenge of Understanding and Succeeding in Emerging Markets” forum dedicated

to China and other emerging agricultural and agri-food markets, which described global food trends and China's development strategies. The opening address was delivered by Christiane Ouimet, Associate Deputy Minister at AAFC and the session was chaired by Paul Murphy, Executive Director, Programs and Multilateral Affairs, also of AAFC.

IICA-Canada shared this experience throughout the IICA network by compiling the presentations made during these forums and the Conference's Final Report into a CD which was distributed to the IICA Offices.

5.1.4. IICA-Canada support to Best Management Practices

In this past year, IICA-Canada began working with Darrell Toma (Toma and Bouma Management Consultants) and Terry Betker (Meyers Norris Penny), two farm management specialists involved in the creation of "Learning From Leaders", a program designed to explore the best management practices of Canada's leading farmers. This program allows farmers to compare their own practices against those of leading farmers, in an effort to determine their strengths and weaknesses relative to Canada's farming leaders.



The key objectives of the Best Management Practices Project are: to identify practical business management models and mechanisms and approaches for enhanced profitability at the farmgate; and to establish a global network for leading Canadian farmers to maximize innovation, information transfer, market intelligence, improved competitiveness and promote models for active participation and partnership directly in the global food system.

There is mutual interest in adapting this program to Latin American and the Caribbean and "Learning from Leaders" has approached IICA-Canada for support in this regard. In 2005, IICA-Canada held contact sessions with Mr. Toma to explore options for moving forward as partners in disseminating this information.

5.1.5. Expertise Exchange on agronomy consultant certification in the Caribbean Region

Since 2000, IICA-Canada has been supporting the Canadian Consulting Agronomists Association, and since 2003 IICA-Canada has also facilitated the CCAA's annual North American Consulting School (NACS), financing the participation of international experts as speakers during the event (refer to Section 5.1.1 for more information). In the latter part of 2005, with the support of IICA-Canada, Sandra Vokaty of Vokaty & Associates, consultants in agriculture development from Trinidad and Tobago, undertook a study on expanding the NACS to include greater participation from Latin American and the Caribbean, and developed a proposal to expand the mandate and activities of the NACS to include quality management and control of agriculture consulting; accreditation and certification of agriculture consultants; and training in quality control and management. Ms. Vokaty also worked to establish strategic relationships with existing accreditation bodies in Latin American and the Caribbean, such as the Caribbean Regional Organization for Standards and Quality.

5.1.6. Expertise Exchange on food fairs, and livestock and vegetable

With the support of IICA Argentina, IICA-Canada facilitated the visit of Cynthia Currie, Chair of the National Farm Products Council (NFPC) to the 5th edition of SIAL Mercosur, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in August. SIAL Mercosur is one of the most renowned and acknowledged international food and beverage exhibitions in the industry with exhibitors that included the who's who of industry from Latin America and from around the world. As Chair of the NFPC, Ms. Currie also conducted official visits to important fruit, vegetable, and cattle wholesale markets, including Argentina's largest cattle wholesaler, the Liniers Market. Ms. Currie met with representatives of Argentina's poultry industry (CAPIA) and participated in discussions on strengthening collaboration between the Canadian and Argentine poultry industries. Ms. Currie was accompanied on this official visit by Terry Hayward, Executive Director of the Council.

Ms. Currie has been Chair of the NFPC since 1997. The NFPC promotes efficient, competitive Canadian agriculture and helps to improve farm-product marketing between Canadian provinces and territories and internationally. The NFPC supervises the operations of four national marketing agencies that manage the supply of Canadian chicken, turkey, eggs, and broiler-hatching eggs. Previously, Ms. Currie was General Manager of the Chicken Farmers of Canada and is a past member of the Canadian Agri-Food Marketing Council and the Agri-Food and Beverage Sectoral Advisory Group on International Trade.

5.1.7. Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchange on bean seed coat darkening and the establishment of winter nurseries in Mexico

Donna Junk, Research Assistant at the University of Saskatchewan's Pulse Breeding Program, was awarded one of the 2005 IICA-Canada Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchanges for



collaborative work between her institute and Mexico's *Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias* (INIFAP). Researchers from both institutions, including Dr. Jorge Acosta, a world-renowned bean researcher at INIFAP who served as Ms. Junk's Mexican supervisor, had expressed great interest in developing collaborative research programs in the area of pulse breeding and production and this exchange allowed for a joint study of mutual interest in bean seedcoat darkening. During her internship, Ms. Junk trained Mexican researchers in the use of a protocol she developed previously at the U. of Saskatchewan for accelerating the seedcoat darkening process. A second and equally important objective of the internship was to assess the viability of

using Mexico as a winter nursery for the U. of Saskatchewan's pulse crop breeding program, thereby accelerating the research advances and the benefits to the Canadian and Mexican bean industry.

Ms. Junk also participated in the 2005 Canada Mexico Bean Congress, which IICA-Canada supported, during which she and her supervisor, Dr. Acosta, presented the results of her work.

5.2. PROMOTING FOOD SAFETY AND AGRICULTURAL HEALTH

5.2.1. IICA-Canada support and sponsorship to the Joint Hemispheric Conference on Avian Influenza in Brasilia

The Hemispheric Conference on Surveillance and Prevention of Avian Influenza and the Ministerial Meeting of Agriculture and Health on National Plans for the Surveillance and Prevention of Avian Influenza were held in Brasilia, Brazil, on November 30 and December 1, 2005. This event was jointly organized between the Government of Brazil, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), IICA, the National Poultry Producers Union of Brazil (UBA), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The purpose of the meeting was to reach an agreement to support commitments to respond to zoonotic and public health risks posed by AI and develop common strategies and plans to address these risks. The Conference agenda included presentations by the Minister of Agriculture



Organizadores:



of Brazil on the potential health, production, economic and social impacts of a AI pandemic in the Americas; a briefing on world and regional poultry production, virologic and epidemiologic characteristics of AI, and preparing for a AI pandemic; and a report on surveillance and control measures in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Central America, US and Mexico.

During the conference, the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA) was established with representatives of the private, public, health, and agricultural sectors, international technical and financial cooperation organizations (PAHO, IICA, OIRSA, CVP, Andean Community, CARICOM, IADB, World Bank, and others), academic institutions, research centers and other organizations.

The action plans and strategies to be developed by CISA will include, among other things: strengthening and accreditation of veterinary service infrastructure; epidemiological surveillance; laboratory diagnosis, antigen production, and sample movement; reference laboratories; knowledge and control of the transport of birds and related products; research, dissemination,

and transfer of results; coordination of the health, agricultural, and other public and private sectors; compensatory mechanisms; simulations; and economic impact studies.

IICA-Canada, jointly with IICA Headquarters, was a sponsor and supporter of this important meeting during which “Canada’s Experiences with Avian Influenza (AI)” was distributed among the participants and electronically among other member countries. This CD publication compiles many of the most important documents published by the Government of Canada and others during the 2004 outbreak of AI in British Columbia, including an external committee report on the lessons learned by the Canadian poultry industry.

5.2.2. IICA-Canada support to the National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases and the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone

During 2005, IICA-Canada developed a proposal for the Permanent Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP) for an initiative on the exchange of laboratory diagnostic techniques in Foreign Animal Diseases (FAD) similar to the one carried out between Canada’s National Center of Foreign Animal Diseases (NCFAD) and the Mexican Foot-and-Mouth (FMD) Prevention Commission [Refer to Section 5.2.8 for more information]. This initiative included an offer for training, reagents and validation to set up molecular techniques routinely used in the NCFAD for the diagnosis of FMD, AI and Classical Swine Fever. This initiative was presented by the IICA Southern Cone Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) specialist during a CVP meeting in Bolivia. It is expected to begin with a seminar and workshop during 2006.

5.2.3. IICA-Canada participation in the United States Animal Health Association Meeting

In order to exchange ideas and identify potential initiatives of regional interest in North America in animal health issues, consultation meetings were carried out with the Mexican (CONASA, SAGARPA), US (APHIS, USDA) and Canadian (CFIA) participants during the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) meeting in Hershey, Pennsylvania in November 2005. Some of the potential initiatives of intra- and inter-regional interest in which IICA could play a role as an honest broker are Avian Influenza activities, compatibility among the traceability systems in the three countries and with other regions, regional risks assessments in key FAD.

IICA-Canada has supported and sponsored AHFS regional initiatives such as the SPS initiative in conjunction with CFIA. During the IICA Northern Region programming meeting held in Washington in October, it was agreed that consultations during the USAHA meeting could be beneficial in order to identify other potential initiatives of regional interest where IICA could collaborate.

5.2.4. IICA-Canada support to the Animal Health, Surveillance, Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Team / CFIA Meeting

On September 15, 2005 the IICA-Canada Representative was invited to participate as a key speaker in the Animal Health, Surveillance, Epidemiology and Risk Analysis Team (ASERT) meeting at the CFIA Ottawa Laboratory in Fallowfield. The ASERT group is made up of Canadian scientific professionals involved in animal health risk assessments, disease

surveillance, risk management, epidemiology and laboratories at the national level. Their meetings are held on a regular basis to promote discussion between scientists and those involved in formulating animal health policies in issues related to animal health scientific assessments and studies.

5.2.5. IICA-Canada participation on the Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition / CFIA Emergency Preparedness Workshop

On November 15, 2005, in Ottawa, the Canadian Supply Chain Food Safety Coalition (CSCFSC), the CFIA and Health Canada jointly presented the Emergency Preparedness Workshop. This one-day event allowed representatives of associations involved in the food business and their industry members to hear from outstanding speakers from industry, government and media on their own emergency management experiences, and to participate in a table-top exercise simulating a terrorist attack on the Canadian food supply. IICA-Canada was invited to participate in this important workshop as an observer.

The CSCFSC was formed in December 2000 by national associations representing all segments of the food chain from input suppliers through primary production, processing, manufacturing, transportation, distribution to final marketing at retail or in food service. It is open to all national, provincial and local industry associations with an interest in food safety. The CSCFSC was formed to foster an alternative Canadian approach to food safety policy development: one that emphasizes consultation, harmonization and transparency and is based on partnership within industry and between industry and all levels of government (national, provincial and local). The goal of this group is to ensure that Canada's agriculture, fisheries and food industry will have a world-class reputation for producing and selling safe food. The Food Safety Coalition facilitates, through dialogue within the food industry and with all levels of government, the development and implementation of a national, coordinated approach to food safety to ensure credibility in the domestic and international marketplaces.

5.2.6. IICA-Canada participation in the Canadian Animal Health Coalition / CFIA Canadian Animal Health and Emergency Management Conference

The Canadian Animal Health Coalition (CAHC) is a partnership of organizations committed to strengthening the Canadian Animal Health system by providing strategic leadership, meeting the specific needs of stakeholders, tackling and resolving multi-stakeholder animal health issues, balancing the interests of livestock, wildlife, human health and trade, utilizing all available resources to achieve these goals. Some of the stakeholders are the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency, Canadian Association of Veterinary Colleges, Canadian Cattlemen's Association, Canadian Pork Council, Dairy Farmers of Canada, Canadian Meat Council, Canadian Beef Breeds Council, Holstein Canada, Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, Canadian Egg Marketing Agency, Canadian Animal Health Institute, Equestrian Canada and provincial agriculture and food agencies. CAHC holds regular meetings with senior CFIA staff - and others as appropriate - to address industry initiatives and provide feedback on the work of



CANADIAN ANIMAL HEALTH COALITION
 COALITION CANADIENNE POUR LA SANTÉ DES ANIMAUX

CFIA's regulatory services, particularly with respect to the joint actions in response to animal health emergency management.

During 2005, IICA-Canada had consultation meetings with the CAHC authorities to identify potential areas of collaboration and to plan joint activities in issues of common interest. In December, the Representative participated at the Canadian Animal Health and Emergency Management Conference. The Conference agenda included financial risk management and vulnerability assessments, emergency planning and management, management components of a National Animal Health Strategy, traceability with key speakers such as the Chief Veterinary Officer and the President of CFIA. Parallel to the Conference, several specific committee meetings were held. A proposal for a collaboration agreement IICA – CAHC is being reviewed.

5.2.7. IICA-Canada support to SPS Initiative

In 2005, the AHFS Directorate at IICA Headquarters released the final report on the comprehensive review of the SPS Initiative. IICA-Canada supported this effort by providing comments and early drafts and distributing the final version to Canadian stakeholders. The report provided a review of the performance of the participating countries with a list of participants by region, the structuring of formal and informal national SPS coordinating committees, a comparison of their active participation in the SPS meetings, number of notifications to the SPS Committee, topics of greater interest for the countries and other data. A proposal for a second phase review was submitted to potential financing agencies in 2005.

Also of note in 2005, the CFIA provided support to the Capacity Building and Coordination Workshop held in March, as its International Affairs Executive Director participated as the workshop moderator.

5.2.8. Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchange on technology transfer in foreign animal diseases

IICA-Canada has been supporting the collaborative efforts underway between Canada's National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases (NCFAD) in Winnipeg, and Mexico's *Comisión para la Prevención de la Aftosa* (CPA) Laboratory, under their "Technology Transfer in Foot-And-Mouth Disease (FMD) Diagnosis" program. As part of this support, Lauro Velazquez, the technician responsible for the diagnosis of vesicular diseases at the CPA Lab, came to Canada to work with Dr. Alfonso Clavijo of the NCFAD. This followed on from the mission of NCFAD to CPA in 2004 and will be followed with a validation mission by NCFAD staff to CPA in 2006. This should permit a harmonization of diagnostics in FMD among Canada, US and Mexico.

FMD is considered as one of the most important animal diseases in terms of the economic losses that an outbreak can bring to the agriculture sector. Adequate surveillance systems and diagnostics are critical for dealing with outbreaks. Currently, the CPA lab is using internationally recognized protocols for diagnosing FMD; however, these protocols have technical disadvantages and new protocols, which address these disadvantages, have been developed and recognized, and these are the protocols being used at the NCFAD. During her internship at the

NCFAD, Ms. Velazquez underwent extensive training in the new protocols, and as a result, NCFAD has committed to continue to work with the CPA in developing the lab's capacity in the new protocols and in developing collaborative research programs in diagnostics of other foreign animal diseases.

5.2.9. Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchange on mite control in honey bees

Fabiola Rodriguez of the *Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia* of the *Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico* was awarded one of the 2005 IICA-Canada Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchanges for her work on developing environmentally-friendly methods of controlling parasitic mites of honey bees for the apiculture industry.

This exchange, carried out under the Canadian supervision of Dr. Ernesto Guzman of the University of Guelph, focused on the use of organic pesticides to reduce the risk of environmental contamination and chemical residues in honey and other bee products that typically accompany the use of more traditional pesticide and control measures, improving the food safety of honey and the health of apiculture workers. This IICA-Canada internship constituted the first step towards a stronger and more dynamic exchange program between these two institutions. The next steps are to formalize the exchange program between both institutions and to open the collaboration to other fields, including academic and technology transfer actions.



Fabiola Rodriguez of the UNAM carrying out experiments during her IICA-Canada internship to the University of Guelph, Canada.

5.2.10. Two Expertise Exchanges on pesticide residue analysis

With the financial support of the Expertise Exchange program and the collaboration of IICA Barbados, IICA-Canada facilitated collaboration between the Government Analytical Services (GAS) unit of the Barbados Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and Environment Canada's Environmental Protection Laboratory (EPL) in Edmonton, Alberta.

Two scientists from GAS, Sharon Lee and Sophia Marshall-Coppin, participated in extensive training on pesticide residue analysis in Edmonton. Beyond the technical training, the objectives were to expose these two scientists to the issues of quality assurance and quality control as part of the GAS strategy of becoming internationally accredited. Also during the training, Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Marshall-Coppin developed procedures for the GAS laboratory consistent with ISO standards, including documentation, audits and review, and internal quality control. Environment Canada's EPL has been collaborating with counterpart institutions in developing countries interested in learning state-of-the art techniques and in becoming

"The training obtained under this IICA Exchange has provided the GAS with the tools necessary for its journey to accreditation"
- S. Lee and S. Marshall-Coppin

internationally accredited, and has committed to continue to work with GAS as it moves forward with accreditation.

5.3. STRENGTHENING RURAL COMMUNITIES

5.3.1. IICA-Canada participation in the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research Scientific General Meeting

The Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) is an intergovernmental organization supported by 19 countries in the Americas dedicated to pursuing the principles of scientific excellence, international cooperation, and the open exchange of scientific information, to increase the understanding of global change phenomena and their socio-economic implications. Its mission is to develop the capacity to understand the integrated impact of present and future global change on regional and continental environments in the Americas and to promote collaborative research and informed action at all levels.



The IAI held its 20th Meeting of the Executive Council, Scientific Meeting and 12th meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Montreal, Canada, from May 5 to 6, 2005 with Environment Canada as the host organization. IICA as a sister Inter-American organization is a guest observer at these meetings and on this occasion IICA-Canada's Representative was designated to participate by the Director General. These meetings permitted a closer contact between IAI and IICA in order to identify potential areas of collaboration in issues of great relevance for Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Some of the issues of interest of the IAI, which are in line with IICA's goals for agriculture and rural life of the Americas are: building adaptive capacity to global environmental change, as the agriculture of the Americas must adapt to the current and future global environmental changes, which will affect the whole agri-food chain; climate change and diseases, as many emerging diseases in man and animals are associated with climatic changes that favor disease agents, vectors and reservoirs; disaster management and capacity building for natural disasters, as these are increasing their frequency and strength and the rural areas are very susceptible to these and rarely prepared.

During the meeting, Hohm Tiessen from Canada was elected IAI Director and Michael Brklacich, of Carleton University in Ottawa as members of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

5.3.2. Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchange on mapping food insecurities

Under IICA-Canada's Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchange program, Andrew Dawe of the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies at Carleton University, in Ottawa, traveled to Guatemala to work collaboratively with experts from the World Food Program and the *Facultad Latinoamérica de Ciencias Sociales* (FLACSO) on the mapping of current and future social distribution and human vulnerability to food insecurity in this country.

This project, an extension of an ongoing series of investigations into food insecurity in Central America, promoted information sharing and networking on vulnerability analysis and identified the local Guatemalan actors involved in vulnerability assessments. It also strengthened longer-term cooperation linkages between the various institutes and Carleton University.

5.3.3. Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchange on capacity building in rural community development

IICA-Canada awarded an Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchange to Allison Henderson of the Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, to work with the *Instituto del Café de Costa Rica* (ICAFE), an organization dedicated to protecting the interests of Costa Rica's coffee industry and ensuring fair treatment of coffee growers. Ms. Henderson, ICAFE and the *Asociación de Desarrollo Integral de Mollejones* worked together to improve the sustainability of rural development in the community of Mollejones, Costa Rica, by working to reduce poverty, enhance food security and build capacity for community development, and thereby have a direct positive effect on the lives of farmers in this coffee community. Over the course of the internship, Ms. Henderson explored several options for small agri-businesses for women, established a poultry project to increase the production of "patio chicken" and organized a workshop on producing and marketing handiworks for the tourist trade, including quilts, dolls and embroidery.

5.3.4. Expertise Exchange on needs assessment in sustainable development

Delgermaa Chuluunbaatar, of the University of Saskatchewan is a rural development specialist examining the introduction of new farming technologies on sustainable rural development. With the support of IICA-Canada, Ms. Chuluubaatar undertook an exchange to the Chachapoyas region of Peru to identify strategic activities leading to agriculture and socio-economic improvements in the region. These included developing a greater capacity for the development of innovative agriculture technologies and management systems appropriate for Peru and improving the extension networks through which these technologies are made available to Peru's rural people.

Her work, carried out in collaboration with the *Universidad Nacional Toribio Rodríguez de Mendoza de Amazonas* (UNTRMA), centered on community-based identification of priority training needs and on establishing baseline values of income, production and other indicators to allow for future planning of training and performance monitoring. Additionally, Ms. Chuluunbaatar provided training to her Peruvian counterparts on training needs assessment methods and on participatory workshops, conducted a gender analysis, and identified the opportunities, issues and priorities for future farmer-centered, demand-driven research and extension. This exchange also identified opportunities for the University of Saskatchewan and UNTRMA to collaborate on sustainable solutions for the region.

5.4. HEMISPHERIC INTEGRATION

5.4.1. IICA-Canada support to the CPB / NABI

IICA-Canada has been supporting the implementation of the CPB and the development of the North American Biotechnology Initiative (NABI) in the Northern Region, including the establishment of the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program. Also, IICA has been promoting in the links between NABI and the Consejo Agropecuario del Sur (CAS).

From May 30 to June 3, 2005, the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (COP/MOP 2) to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was held in Montreal. It was attended by 647 participants representing 101 Parties to the protocol. Some of the main decisions adopted during the COP/MOP 2 related to LMOs were: risk assessment and risk management; socio-economic considerations; and public awareness and participation. The COP/MOP 2 also reiterated previous decisions taken on handling, transport, packaging and identification. IICA-Canada provided support to this important meeting.

5.4.2. IICA-Canada support to PROCINORTE

PROCINORTE is a cooperative program in agricultural research and technology for the Northern Region (Canada, the United States and Mexico) dedicated to develop a regional mechanism for mutual cooperation in agricultural research and technology transfer. It is part of the five regional collaborative mechanisms called PROCIs (Cooperative Programs on Agricultural Research and Transfer of Technology) which have been established through joint efforts of IICA member countries. PROCINORTE has four task forces, namely Agricultural Library and Information Services, Genetic Resources (NORGEN), Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruits, and Animal and Plant Health Research. It is managed by an Executive Secretariat in Mexico and a Board of Directors in which Canada is represented by Dr. Johanne Boisvert, Director, Bilateral Relations, International Science Cooperation Bureau, Research Branch, AAFC.

Dr. Campbell G. Davidson from AAFC leads NORGEN, Dr. Gilles Doyon also from AAFC in Saint Hyacinthe leads the Tropical and Subtropical Fruits Task Force, and Ingrid Monasterios from the National Agriculture Library represents Canada in the Agricultural Libraries and Information Services Task Force. Dr. Gary Whitfield, Science Director, AAFC represent Canada in the Animal and Plant Health Research Task Force, dedicated to animal diseases, pests and control methods.

Under the NORGEN umbrella, the working group established a new collaborative research project on edible beans. The primary goal is to develop germplasm collection and exchange opportunities within the Northern tier members. This initiative also complements other efforts of IICA in bring together young researchers and Producers as well as the assistance provided for the Mexican Bean congress initiative.

The 7th Annual Meeting of The Board of Directors of PROCINORTE was held on October 26 and 27, 2005, at the Hotel Geneve in Mexico City, during which research priorities, budget,

action plans and progress reports from the four Task Forces were discussed. Dr. Sebastian Acosta Nuñez from INIFAP was re-elected as Chairman of the Board of Directors and Dr. Gustavo Cruz Bello was confirmed as Executive Secretary. IICA-Canada participated during the open meeting and was a special guest at the Board of Directors meeting. Canada has agreed to host the next PROCINORTE meeting in Ottawa in September 2006.

5.4.3. IICA-Canada support to the Canada Mexico Bean Congress

IICA-Canada, in collaboration with IICA Mexico, has been supporting the efforts of Pulse Canada and the Manitoba Pulse Growers Association to strengthen ties with their Mexican counterparts through the annual Canada Mexico Bean Congress. The objective of the Canada Mexico Bean Congress is to improve relations between the Canadian and Mexican bean industries by providing a forum to discuss issues of mutual benefit. The Congress targets the leaders of both the Canadian and Mexican bean grower associations and involves other members of the industry.

This year, the congress was held at the Hotel Nikko in Mexico City on December 15 and included presentations by producers, researchers, and industry and government representatives. Included among the presenters were Donna Junk, Don Sissons and Todd Stewart, all sponsored by IICA-Canada. Presentations were followed-up with a series of break-out groups, each focusing on a particular challenge facing the bean industries of Canada and Mexico.



The 2005 Congress was preceded by a pre-congress tour of bean production areas in several Mexican states, including Nayarit, San Luis Potosi, and Guanajuato. After the congress, the group also participated in a tour of Monterrey's main agriculture wholesale market after the congress. In total, 20 Canadians participated in the 2005 Canada Mexico Bean Congress.

IICA Mexico was actively involved in designing the activities in Mexico, specifically during the visits to Nayarit. IICA-Canada, apart from its support to four of the participants in the 2005



Canadian and Mexican participants during a stop at the INIFAP Station in Guanajuato prior to the 2005 Canada Mexico Bean Congress.

Congress (5.1.7; 5.4.4; and 5.4.5), also provided logistical support to the event organizers in terms of translation during working groups and met with Pulse Canada and MPGA officials in discussions on future collaborations with a view to ensuring sustainable results.

Pulse Canada is a national industry association representing pulse grower groups from Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario and the pulse trade from across Canada. The Government of

Canada provides funding under the Canadian Agriculture and Food International Program. Pulse crops include peas, lentils, and beans.

The objective of Pulse Canada is to provide its members with production and marketing support, through focused research, advocacy and linkages with industry partners. They accomplish this by facilitating the expansion of pulse export markets globally, acting as a network of market information and intelligence, acting on international market access and trade barrier issues, and by taking a leadership role in the coordination and expansion of pulse research on a national and international scale.

The Manitoba Pulse Growers Association is a provincial organization representing pulse producers that works to improve its members' profitability from pulses through broadened access to pulse markets, giving more leadership and focus to research and development, and representing Manitoba pulse producers in areas of government and industry policy affecting returns to pulse growers.

5.4.4. Two Farmer-to-Farmer Exchanges on Canada-Mexico collaboration on improvements in pulse production

As part of its ongoing support to the Canada Mexico Bean Congress, IICA-Canada awarded Farmer-to-Farmer Exchanges to two Canadian pulse producers, Don Sissons and Todd Stewart, to meet with Mexican counterparts at the Mexican Bean Council and the *Sistema Productivo Frijol* to improve the trading relationships between the two countries, improve the quality of production, and enhance the sustainability of the bean sectors in Canada and Mexico.

Mr. Sissons, a bean producer for the past 30 years, has been actively involved in the leadership of Canada's pulse industry, representing the sector at national and international forums, including NAFTA meetings. He has also been involved in discussions with Mexican counterparts at the Mexican Bean Council since 2001. Mr. Stewart, a young bean farmer, has recently joined the leadership of the sector, becoming a Director of the Manitoba Pulse Growers Association and chairing the MPGA Edible Bean Committee.

These two Farmer-to-Farmer exchanges supplemented other efforts underway in collaborative research projects on variety development and seed production, on developing effective grower organizations, facilitating interaction between grower organizations and government agencies, and increasing Canada-Mexico technology transfer and adoption of technologies in the



Don Sissons addressing the 2005 Canada Mexico Bean Congress on the value of his IICA-Canada Farmer-to-Farmer Exchange, as fellow Exchange recipient Todd Stewart looks on.

areas of production, irrigation and disease control.

5.4.5. Expertise Exchange on improving pulse production in Canada and Mexico

Also in support of the Canada Mexico Bean Congress, IICA-Canada facilitated the Expertise Exchange of Dr. David Oomah, Research Scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and expert in developing innovative strategies for the processing and production of functional foods and nutraceutical products from crops such as beans and other pulses. Dr. Oomah has been collaborating with Mexico since 2001 and has co-supervised a researcher from the *Universidad Autónoma de Querétaro*, which resulted in two major scientific publications and an increase in the awareness of pulses as functional foods. The IICA-Canada exchange allowed Dr. Oomah to establish initial linkages with Mexico's *Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias* (INIFAP) and to collect current information on pulse production in Mexico, which he has used to chart future research developments and collaborations significant to both Canada and Mexico, with a potential for the establishment of a permanent internship program for students from Mexico and other Latin American/Caribbean countries and AAFC.

5.4.6. Expertise Exchange on facilitating international scientific cooperation within the PROCINORTE and FORAGRO systems

IICA-Canada has been active in its support to regional research programs, such as PROCINORTE (Program for Cooperation in Innovation) and to hemispheric research programs, such as FORAGRO (Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development), where IICA serves as Technical Secretariat.

In 2005, IICA, in collaboration with the Global Crop Diversity Trust, organized a planning meeting of FORAGRO in Panama for the development of a regional conservation strategy for plant genetic resources in the Americas. IICA-Canada facilitated the participation of Dr. Campbell Davidson, Director of Inter-Governmental Relations, Scientific Cooperation Bureau with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada at this event, during which he spoke on AAFC's international role in science and innovation, such as sustainable production, integrated pest management, food, biodiversity and biotechnology. Dr. Davidson also detailed the conceptual framework of the Plant Genetic Resources working group of PROCINORTE. In a subsequent meeting of all the Americas, the NORGEN Chair, Dr. Davidson was selected as the hemispheric lead of a new initiative which is aimed at the development of a comprehensive strategy on plant conservation for food and agriculture. The FORAGRO meeting ended with the release of the Declaration of Panama 2005, outlining the commitments of FORAGRO participants among other things to conserve and characterize genetic resources, manage natural resources in a sustainable way, develop and use new agricultural biotechnologies and promote innovations applicable to agriculture.

5.4.7. Expertise Exchange on biotechnology in agriculture

IICA-Canada worked collaboratively with the Technology and Innovation unit of IICA Headquarters in facilitating the Expertise Exchange of Dr. Rodrigo Artunduaga, Biotechnology

and Biosafety Research and Regulatory Affairs Consultant, to work with this unit on preparing and editing a document on the agriculture-applied biotechnologies in Latin America and the Caribbean called “*Situación institucional de las Biotecnologías aplicadas a la agricultura en América Latina y el Caribe*”. Part of this work was also to identify the principal needs, opportunities, regional priorities and action lines as part of a regional agenda for FORAGRO. Dr. Artunduaga was also asked to prepare a summary of the recent Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety CoP/MoP 2 meetings held in Montreal, which IICA-Canada also supported, that would, among other things, present recommendations for future IICA technical cooperation.

5.5. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

5.5.1. IICA-Canada support to AAFC and IICA HQ on the AEPLA Project

Much progress was made in 2005 in advancing AAFC’s Agri-Environmental Policies in Latin America (AEPLA) project, being funded by CIDA and facilitated by IICA-Canada and the Sustainable Rural Development Team led by Sergio Sepulveda at IICA HQ in Costa Rica. Two important milestones were met this year. First, a six-country inventory of agri-environmental policies was completed. This inventory examined the state of development of such policies in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay. The second milestone was the successful completion of missions to Costa Rica and Peru which provided AAFC with important opportunities to meet the stakeholder community in these two countries.

IICA-Canada provided specific support to this initiative in facilitating the development of the Terms of reference and Statement of Work which guiding the work of consultants in preparing a generic learning workshop. As the project moves forward with the development of a country-specific learning workshop to develop capacity in creating agri-environmental policies, IICA will continue to play a supporting and guiding role as a member of the project’s Steering Committee.

5.5.2. Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchange on the impacts of deforestation on soil quality in the Amazon Basin of Brazil

Annie Béliveau, a graduate student from the Université du Quebec in Montreal working under the co-supervision of a researcher from the Montreal Biodome, received financial support from IICA-Canada to conduct research on the impacts of two methods of deforestation on soil characteristics which are important for agriculture, including nutrient and mercury content. Ms. Beliveau’s research was an integral component of a larger project called “Tipitamba” being supported by the *Emprese Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária* (EMBRAPA). In Brazil, Ms. Béliveau worked in collaboration with the *Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi* (MPEG), an important Brazilian institute focused on agriculture innovation and sustainable agriculture development and her work contributed important results to address knowledge gaps on the impacts of land transformation on natural ecosystems and on the health of people depending upon them for their livelihoods. Institutionally, this internship helped to strengthen the collaborative relationship between MPEG and the Montreal Biodome, a unique

“a reminder of the need to re-evaluate our relationships with our environment and resources.”
- A. Béliveau

museum and research centre which recreates four distinct North American ecosystems under one roof including a tropical forest and Arctic and Antarctic ecosystems.

5.6. INSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION

5.6.1. Two Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchanges on agriculture library information systems

In the area of Institutional Modernization, IICA-Canada awarded Agricultural Sciences Academic Exchanges to two Agriculture Library professionals from Mexico to come to the Canadian Agriculture Library (CAL), of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, with the objective of promoting capacity building and technology transfer in the areas of Information Management and Library Sciences within the field of agriculture.

Alejandro Marín, Librarian at the *Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes*, and Guadalupe Ramirez, Librarian at the *Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro*, undertook training on research techniques on scientific electronic resources and electronic journals management, worked side-by-side with CAL staff in delivering services, and visited other leading Canadian libraries, including the Canada Institute for Scientific and Technical Information and the Canadian Book Exchange administered by Library and Archives Canada. These exchanges allowed Mr. Marin and Mr. Ramirez to bring new ideas to their respective universities on improving management of information processes and techniques, and to propose new programs in different areas that are directly and indirectly connected to library and information management within their institutions. For the Canadian participants, these exchanges also permitted CAL staff to learn about the operations of agriculture libraries in Mexico, their challenges and their lessons learned, serving as a forum for information exchange for the benefit of all the libraries involved.



Alejandro Marin (far left) and Guadalupe Ramirez (far right) with Danielle Jacques and Ingrid Monasterios during their IICA-Canada Exchange at the CAL.

5.7. OTHER ACTIVITIES

5.7.1. Visit of Canadian Delegation to IICA Headquarters, Costa Rica

Canada's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Len Edwards, made an official visit to IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, to forge closer ties with the institution. Several senior officials from Agriculture and Agri-food Canada accompanied the Deputy Minister: the Executive Director of Programs and Multilateral Affairs, Paul Murphy; Senior International Market Development Office, Melanie Spenard; and the Director of the Events Secretariat, Adam Belyea. Chantal

Labelle, the counselor in charge of development-related matters at Canada's Embassy in Costa Rica, also took part.

Mr. Edwards' visit on January 26 followed a visit by IICA Director General Chelston Brathwaite to Canada to meet with the Minister of Agriculture, Andy Mitchell.



In addition to Dr. Brathwaite, the Canadian delegation met with Acting Deputy Director General Robert Landmann and Assistant Deputy Director General Mario Seixas. The visitors also met with IICA's technical directors to discuss new areas for joint cooperation. Finally, they spoke with Canadian citizens who work at IICA Headquarters.

The Director General explained the progress made in modernizing the Institute. One of the main changes has been IICA's technical cooperation model based on national, regional and hemispheric agendas in consultation with national and regional authorities, to respond better to the member countries' needs.

The delegation toured the facilities of the Association of Agricultural Development for Export (ADAPEX), comprising small and medium-scale producers, which markets nontraditional products such as carrots, green beans, zucchinis, corn on the cob, beets and tomatoes, all in the form of mini vegetables. ADAPEX has been exporting to Canada since 2001 thanks to the Program Export Platforms: Creating Exporters to Canada.

5.7.2. Agriculture Trade and International Development - Working with CIDA

IICA-Canada continued to have close contact with CIDA during 2005 with meetings with senior officials such as the Vice-Presidents for the Americas, Guillermo Rischynski and Suzanne Laporte, Paul McGinnis, Director of the Commonwealth Caribbean/Surinam Division, Jimmy Smith, Agriculture Advisor, and David Johnston, Agriculture Specialist, on several relevant issues, such as the follow up to CIDA's support in the reconstruction of agriculture in Grenada. Two informal seminars with open discussions on agricultural trade and international development in LAC were held at IICA-Canada with the participation of Hector Almendrades, Policy Analyst from CIDA and Their Excellencies, Carlos H. Jimenez Licon, Ambassador of Guatemala and Mauricio Rosales Rivera, Ambassador of El Salvador.

5.7.3. McGill & CCAA Training Modules

IICA Canada has been supporting the agreement between IICA and McGill University in Quebec which involves a Farm Management Distance Education Course for the Caribbean (in English) and Central American (in Spanish) countries. This course has been very successful with a continued demand from farm producers and managers in these countries.

Additionally, IICA supported CCAA in the proposal to develop training modules for its associates for the North American Consulting School. This proposal was submitted to several financing institutions in Canada. IICA Canada would be translating these modules to be used in training in IICA member countries interested in joint collaboration with CCAA.

5.7.4. Collaboration with Veterinarians Without Frontiers - Canada

In December 2005 IICA-Canada's Representative met with Dr. David Waltner-Toews President of the Board of Directors of Veterinarians Without Borders (VSF) in Canada to discuss potential avenues of collaboration between IICA and VSF. General presentations on the activities carried out by each organization were made, followed by a discussion to identify areas of common interest and possible future activities within this context.

As a result of these meetings it was agreed that IICA-Canada would develop a general proposal for activities that could be carried out jointly with an initial joint event in one or two IICA member countries in the Andean and Southern Regions focusing on issues of common interest.

5.7.5. Collaboration between IICA and the University of Guelph

A contact meeting with Dr. Alan Wildeman, Vice-President of Research of the University of Guelph was held in December. The meeting was focused on identifying areas of common interest and continued inter-institutional collaboration. An initial joint IICA-University of Guelph event on the situation of agriculture in LAC was agreed to, with a specific proposal to be discussed at the beginning of 2006.

This carries on from the relationship between IICA and the university which is founded on the support of IICA-Canada in providing expertise exchanges and internships, such as the Expertise Exchange of Professor Richard Heck with the University of Pernambuco, UFRPE, in Brazil, on mitigation of soil degradation, which resulted in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the University of Guelph and UFRPE (Brazil).

6. INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

In 2005, IICA-Canada worked collaboratively with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in supporting the Joint Hemispheric Conference on Avian Influenza in Brasilia.

The Hemispheric Conference on Surveillance and Prevention of Avian Influenza and the Ministerial Meeting of Agriculture and Health on National Plans for the Surveillance and Prevention of Avian Influenza were held in Brasilia, Brazil, on November 30 and December 1, 2005. The purpose of the meeting was to reach an agreement to support commitments to respond to zoonotic and public health risks posed by AI and develop common strategies and plans to address these risks. The Conference agenda included presentations by the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil on the potential health, production, economic and social impacts of a AI pandemic in the Americas; a briefing on world and regional poultry production, virologic and epidemiologic characteristics of AI, and preparing for a AI pandemic; and a report on surveillance and control measures in Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Central America, US and Mexico.

During the conference, the Inter-American Committee on Avian Health (CISA) was established with representatives of the private, public, health, and agricultural sectors, international technical and financial cooperation organizations (PAHO, IICA, OIRSA, CVP, Andean Community, CARICOM, IADB, World Bank, and others), academic institutions, research centers and other organizations.

The action plans and strategies to be developed by CISA will include, among other things: strengthening and accreditation of veterinary service infrastructure; epidemiological surveillance; laboratory diagnosis, antigen production, and sample movement; reference laboratories; knowledge and control of the transport of birds and related products; research, dissemination, and transfer of results; coordination of the health, agricultural, and other public and private sectors; compensatory mechanisms; simulations; and economic impact studies.

IICA-Canada, jointly with IICA Headquarters, was a sponsor and supporter of this important meeting during which “Canada’s Experiences with Avian Influenza (AI)” was distributed among the participants and electronically among other member countries. This CD publication compiles many of the most important documents published by the Government of Canada and others during the 2004 outbreak of AI in British Columbia, including an external committee report on the lessons learned by the Canadian poultry industry.

7. RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF INVESTMENT PROJECTS

2005 saw the continued implementation of the Agri-Environmental Policies in Latin America (AEPLA) project, being co-funded by AAFC and CIDA, with additional financial support from IICA-Canada. Two important milestones were met this year. First, a six-country inventory of agri-environmental policies was completed. This inventory examined the state of development of such policies in Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay. The second milestone was the successful completion of missions to Costa Rica and Peru which provided AAFC with important opportunities to meet the stakeholder community in these two countries.

IICA-Canada provided specific support to this initiative in facilitating the development of the Terms of Reference and Statement of Work which guiding the work of consultants in preparing a generic learning workshop. As the project moves forward with the development of a country-specific learning workshop to develop capacity in creating agri-environmental policies, IICA will continue to play a supporting and guiding role as a member of the project's Steering Committee.

8. FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

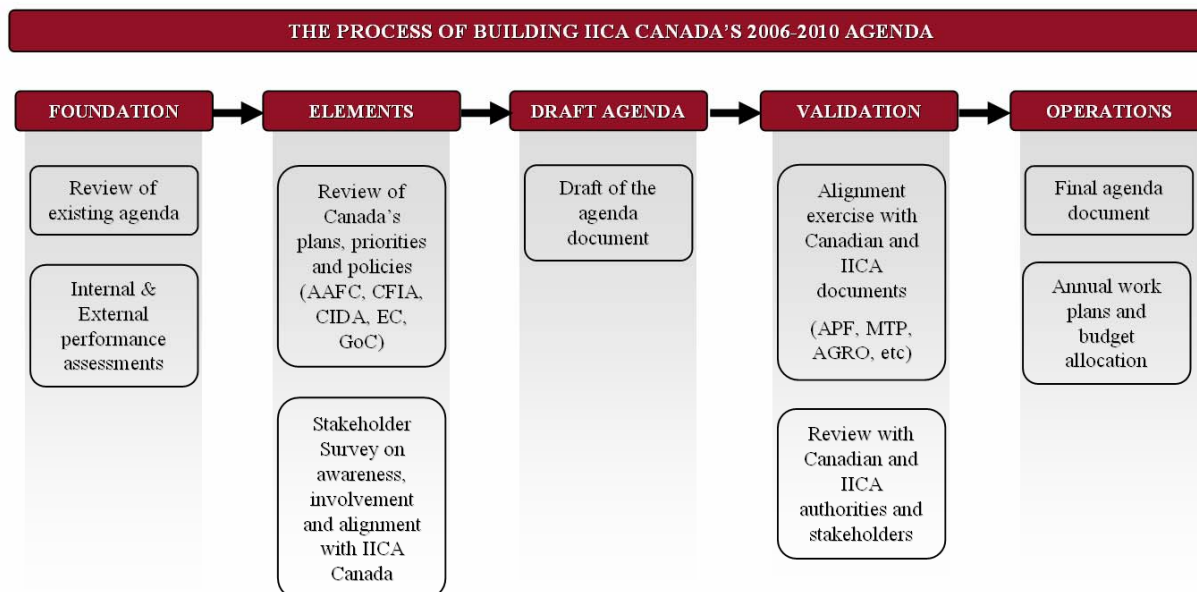
In 2005, IICA-Canada began the development of its 2006-2010 Technical Cooperation Agenda which, in general terms, outlines the priority actions in future cooperation to meet the needs of Canadian agriculture stakeholders for the next four years. IICA-Canada developed a new consultation-based process for establishing this agenda – a process guided by two elements. The first element was a review of Canada’s plans, priorities and policy documents and the second element was a survey of IICA stakeholders.

The First Element - Reviewing Government Plans and Priorities

The first element was a review of Canada’s plans, priorities and policy documents to determine strategic directions of IICA’s government stakeholders. The documents reviewed included AAFC’s *Agriculture Policy Framework*, CFIA’s *Report on Plans and Priorities 2005-2006*, CIDA’s *Canada Making a Difference in the World*, Environment Canada’s *2005-2006 Report on Plans and Priorities* and Canada’s recent *International Policy Statement*.

The Second Element - Consulting Stakeholders and Partners

The second element was a survey of government, academic, private sector and civil society agriculture and agri-food stakeholders. Using a structured questionnaire, these stakeholders and partners were invited to identify the most important national priorities and opportunities for increasing inter-institutional alignment over the next four years. Respondents were asked to prioritize and evaluate IICA-Canada’s strategic areas, geographical regions, and preferred cooperation and communication instruments vis-à-vis their respective organizations.



As a result of following this new process, IICA-Canada reconfirmed the validity of its four main Strategic Action Areas and developed a list, coming from the stakeholders, of specific areas within these areas for work in the coming four years.

Strategic Action Area	Suggested Focus
Agricultural Health and Food Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology transfer in Emerging Diseases • Harmonization of laboratory tests • Traceability • Agricultural best practices
Technology and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bio-fuels • Intellectual property rights
Sustainable Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate social responsibility • Conservation of genetic resources • Payments for ecological services • Human nutrition, health and wellness • Watershed protection • Access and benefits sharing • Government / civil society partnerships, participatory approaches • Global environmental change
Trade and Agribusiness Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardization and certification of agriculture consultants • Cooperatives and commodity associations

Using IICA-Canada's main objective of enhancing Canada's involvement in the Americas through interaction and exchange as the basis for moving forward, IICA-Canada prepared the 2006-2010 Technical Cooperation Agenda for Canada. IICA-Canada's 2006-2010 Agenda describes the Topics to which its efforts in interaction and exchange will be dedicated, specific subtopics within each, and the particular stakeholders with whom IICA-Canada will cooperate.

To enhance Canada's involvement in the Americas, IICA-Canada will...		
<i>Provide interaction and exchange in these Topics</i>	<i>With a specific focus on these Subtopics</i>	<i>In alliances with these Stakeholders and Partners</i>
1. Agricultural Health and Food Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPS issues and OIE, IPPC and CODEX standards • HACCP, Good Agricultural Practices and other practices • Foreign animal diseases and pest risk assessments • Traceability • Other related emerging issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFIA • AAFC • CFAVM • CAHC • NAPPO • CCAA • VSF • And others
2. Technology and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual Property • Biosafety • Biotechnology, pharming and biofuels • Other related emerging issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAFC • CFIA • NABI • PROCINORTE • BIOTECanada • And others

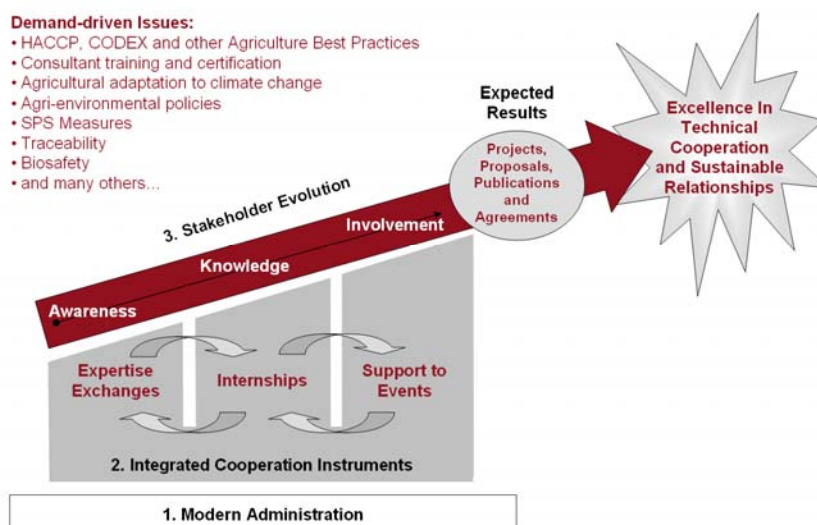
To enhance Canada's involvement in the Americas, IICA-Canada will...

<i>Provide interaction and exchange in these <u>Topics</u></i>	<i>With a specific focus on these <u>Subtopics</u></i>	<i>In alliances with these <u>Stakeholders and Partners</u></i>
3. Sustainable Rural Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-environmental policies • Environmentally friendly agriculture practices • Adaptation of agriculture to climate change • Producer cooperatives and community development • Other related emerging issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAFC • CIDA • EC • UPA • Universities • And others
4. Trade and Agribusiness Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural trade policies • Market information and market access • Training and certification of agriculture consultants • Other related emerging issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAFC • CFIA • FAC • NFPC • MIOA • Pulse Canada • Canada Grains Council • CCAA • Conference of Montreal • And others

...using the cross-linked Cooperation Instruments of Expertise Exchanges, Internships, and Support to Events which will result in proposals, projects, publications, and agreements between Canadian agriculture stakeholders and their counterparts in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA-Canada's main strategy in providing excellence in technical cooperation and in building sustainable relationships with its stakeholders and partners begins with modern administrative support reinforced with a suite of integrated cooperation instruments that result in the evolution of stakeholders from simply being aware of the important issues to becoming actively involved in their advancement.

IICA Canada Strategy



9. IICA-CANADA PUBLICATIONS IN 2005

- The Contribution of IICA-Canada to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities to the Americas 2004 Annual Report, IICA-Canada, Ottawa, Canada, 2005.
- The 2006-2010 Technical Cooperation Agenda for IICA-Canada, IICA-Canada, Ottawa, Canada, 2005.
- Canada's Experiences with Avian Influenza, IICA-Canada, Ottawa, Canada, 2005.
- Cattle Traceability in North America, IICA-Canada, Ottawa, Canada, 2005
- International Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measure # 15 Proceedings of Meetings in Mexico, Argentina and Vancouver, IICA-Canada – NAPPO, Ottawa, Canada, 2005.
- North America Consulting Schools 2004 and 2005, IICA-Canada - CCAA, Ottawa, Canada, 2005.
- Report on the Agri-Environmental Policies Survey in Latin America, IICA-Canada – AAFC, Ottawa, Canada, 2005.



IICA-Canada Representative Dr. Michael Bedoya cross-country skiing, a typical winter pastime, in Ottawa.