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The Agendas for Technical Cooperation

Executive Summary

Document for Discussion

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THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENDAS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document summarizes the National Agendas submitted by IICA's Offices in the countries to comply with Executive Order 001/2002, dated January 16, 2002, regarding the preparation of national technical cooperation agendas.

Preparation of the national technical agendas follows a business decision by IICA's new administration to open the discussion on the redefinition of the roles of the IICA Offices at country level, vis-à-vis the Institute's new vision, mission, and goals.

In Executive Order 001/2002, it was pointed out that, in line with the proposed new vision for the Institute, the IICA national offices would begin a process of renewal, reflection, redefinition and evaluation to ensure that their work programs are consistent with national objectives. National authorities and representatives from both the public and private sectors should be given the opportunity to participate fully in the conceptualization, implementation and evaluation of agreed strategic actions within the context of a National Technical Cooperation Agenda. It was also emphasized that the national agenda should highlight a corporate strategy that prioritizes food security, building national trade capacities and agribusiness development, and sustainable rural community development, and ensures that the Offices provide technical support, training, and information to the organizations and associations of the sector for promoting increased competitiveness of their products and services.

The National Technical Cooperation Agendas represent the first responses to concerns raised by Member States regarding the actions previously implemented by the Institute at the country and regional levels, and their dissociation from the national priorities and programs implemented by their governments. Some of the concerns were:

- The need to have a clear and recognizable linkage between the Medium Term Plan and the programs funded, from Headquarters all the way through to the IICA Offices in the Member States.**
- The need to report to the Member States on planned versus actual accomplishments, both in the budget and in the programs. This should be clear, frequent and serve as a feedback mechanism so that Member States are more attuned to what IICA is doing and the Institute is more attuned to what the Institute's stakeholders expect.**

This administration is aware of and prepared to address these concerns.

The 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan is being prepared to ensure that there is a clear linkage between the national, regional and hemispheric agendas. Preparation of these agendas represents a new approach to technical cooperation, in which the concepts of partnership, cooperation and demand-driven efforts is emphasized and which will constitute important inputs for the preparation of the Institute's Medium Term Plan for 2002-2006.

This document summarizes the contents of all the National Agendas prepared and submitted to IICA Headquarters, and, based upon them, the priorities for the future regional agendas. They place emphasis on six strategic areas of action:

- Trade and Agribusiness Development
- Sustainable Rural Development
- Agricultural Health and Food Safety
- Technology Innovation
- Education and Training
- Information and Communication

Preparation of the national agendas recognizes the unique nature of each of the Institute's Member States and aims to fulfill the mandate of greater participation of the Member States in the design and implementation of actions at the national level. In addition, these agendas will promote transparency, accountability and cooperation at the national level and ongoing dialogue with our stakeholders.

The technical cooperation that the Institute is asked to provide often goes beyond the national level and calls for a regional, and even hemispheric, approach. A Regional Agenda is needed to meet these technical cooperation needs, designed to support the efforts of the countries to solve problems that, due to their nature and characteristics, can only be addressed successfully by the Member States working together.

The document thus outlines the results of the consultations undertaken in developing the strategy. It focuses on identifying the changes taking place and their implications, matching IICA's strengths with the areas of interest within the Americas, and setting a preliminary list of priority actions for discussion.

2. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS

2.1. Methodology Adopted

The process of building a strategy for IICA Offices in line with its Member States priorities and expectations is based on an extensive consultation process. This process consisted of both formal interviews with representatives of key stakeholders to identify specific areas where IICA could focus its attention in the future, and informal discussions with individuals to ascertain perceptions and interpretations of IICA's work to date.

A number of principles were envisioned to guide the proposed consultations, which must be expanded as the work is undertaken.

- The strategy needs to be built on the interests of each individual country and seeks to have a concrete impact on each one of them as soon as possible.
- The strategy needs to take into account IICA's mandates, new vision, mission, and priorities, as well as internal constraints, combining them with the countries' priorities.
- Development of the strategy should be seen as an evolving process, one that is based on consultation with and the participation of partners, and that does not dictate an outcome or make commitments. The strategy should reflect what IICA believes it can deliver effectively in each individual country and region.
- The strategy must define overlapping areas where both interest and potential funds are available. Recognition of funding constraints on both sides is a key consideration.

2.2. Purpose and Stages of the Preparation of the National Agenda

A consultative approach was implemented to involve as many public and private organizations and associations at the federal, provincial (or state) and municipal levels as possible, including universities and agricultural colleges, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties. The expected short-term results were a redefinition of the new role for IICA at the country level, a clarification of the countries' priorities and expectations, a proposal of consistent annual and medium-term plans of action, and a structuring of future relations between the Institute and its member countries.

The following stages and corresponding initial activities are involved:

➤ **Stage One – The Consultative Process**

- a. A review of pertinent documentation from IICA and other sources at the national level, including current activities.
- b. The conducting of interviews with different groups of IICA stakeholders at the country level to ascertain their priorities, their assessment of IICA's current approach and ideas for mutual collaboration, and their potential for funding.
- c. On the basis of the interviews, the review of documentation and the feedback received on past IICA experiences, the Offices developed an outline of possible options for collaboration and discussed these with the stakeholders. Opportunities for securing financial resources at the national or international levels to support the actions of the agenda were to be explored.

➤ **Stage Two – Approval of the Draft Document**

- a. The draft document will be reviewed and, once approved, it will form the basis for the national 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan. The Offices will be responsible for coordinating the process of revision and approval of the national agenda.
- b. The national agenda should be communicated to targeted national authorities at the federal, provincial (or state) and municipal levels, and to representatives of the private sector, universities, agricultural colleges, research centers, other interested parties, and the IICA network.

➤ **Stage Three – Preparation of the Regional Agenda**

- a. Based on the national agendas, a summary of which is provided in Section 3 of this document, a set of priorities and strategic actions has been established for each of the regions in which the Institute operates, within the framework of the corporate strategic areas and lines of action. The distinguishing feature of these regional actions is that they address problems that cannot be solved by individual Member States. These regional agendas are to be found in Section 4.

➤ **Stage Four - Preparation of the Annual Plans**

- a. The IICA Offices will prepare their draft Annual Action Plans which will constitute the basis for their actions for each consecutive year. The initial draft version is to be

submitted to and discussed with targeted national authorities. Once approved by IICA Headquarters, the final version will include all targeted and budgeted activities to be implemented in each given year.

- b. This document is to be shared with targeted national authorities at the federal, provincial (or state) and municipal levels, and with representatives of the private sector, universities, agricultural colleges, research centers and other interested parties.

➤ **Stage Five – Preparation of Annual Reports**

- a. An annual report containing both the national and regional components will be prepared and submitted to the national authorities at the federal, provincial (or state) and municipal levels, and to representatives of the private sector, universities, agricultural colleges, research centres and other interested parties, and the IICA network.
- b. The report should be reviewed with national authorities in an annual meeting convened for that purpose.

➤ **Stage Six – Ongoing Review of the National and Regional Agenda**

- a. Over the long term, it can be expected that priorities will shift to reflect new opportunities. This will require that the Offices revise their strategy on an ongoing basis to ensure that it reflects opportunities for promoting its goals. To effectively implement this strategy, IICA proposes a system of performance management and evaluation to measure the progress made.
- b. Any strategy adopted by the IICA Offices must meet the requirements of both the national authorities and IICA. Redefining the role of IICA's Offices in each individual Member State will require a number of adaptations, both within the Offices and within the IICA network. It is envisioned that a more organized, focused and integrated Institute will be better positioned to explore innovative partnerships in the Americas.

The strategic planning process followed by all IICA Offices is dynamic and ongoing. This is only the initial stage of a process aimed at progressively expanding the notion of the importance of IICA as a reliable partner for implementing the Member States' international agri-food activities in the hemisphere.

The following chapters present a summary of the proposed priorities and actions of each IICA Office in the hemisphere and for each Region. The intention is to circulate this document within the IICA network and all its stakeholders and to obtain the necessary feedback on the effectiveness of the overall approach and focus areas identified, and specific suggestions for implementation.

3 THE NATIONAL AGENDAS, BY REGION AND BY COUNTRY

3.1 ANDEAN REGION

3.1.1 BOLIVIA

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Bolivia, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

- **Trade and Agribusiness Development**
 - **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Support the incorporation of Bolivian agriculture into the integration processes, in particular those of the WTO, the FTAA, the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) and the expanded MERCOSUR.
 - Train and update the negotiators of several public and private institutions, and ensure a permanent supply of up-to-date information on the international agricultural negotiations.
 - Prepare regular studies on the current status and outlook for Bolivian agriculture and the opportunities open to it at the international level.
 - Organize forums to discuss and study emerging issues of national concern, with public and private sector professionals and officials, in order to support the design of policies and provide input for the government's positions regarding the integration mechanisms.
 - **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Help consolidate the new institutional organization of the Ministry of Agriculture and strengthen other public institutions, such as the National Council on Productivity and Competitiveness.
 - Help strengthen and modernize agroindustry associations and producers' organizations, so that they can provide better services to their members and consolidate their financial stability over the long term.

- Disseminate concepts and methodologies on competitiveness and agricultural production chains, and assist with studies to characterize the situation in the chains, with a view to raising productivity and opening up export lines.
- Support efforts to establish agreements on competitiveness for the priority agricultural production chains.
- Support organizations and associations of medium- and small-scale producers, to improve their business management skills and sensitize them to the structure of the production chains.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Consolidation of the Regional Innovation System**
 - Help facilitate access for researchers and institutions to cutting-edge technology and the latest research, through PROCISUR, PROCIANDINO, PROCITROPICOS and FORAGRO.
- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Collaborate in the process of discussing and analyzing the strategic orientation of the Bolivian Agricultural Technology System.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Implement and further develop a continuous learning program for the managerial, professional, technical and administrative staff of the National Agricultural Health Service.
 - Support the design, implementation and development of a program for the accreditation of private sector professionals and institutions.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Assist producers' organizations and local authorities in the Los Yungas area in identifying lines of action for the implementation of projects designed to foster the production of crops as an alternative to illicit crops.
 - Cooperate with enterprises in the Chapare region to identify new markets for their agricultural products.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Support small-scale producers with regard to topics such as Technology Innovation, natural resource management, access to market mechanisms, technical

improvements to local productive resources, promotion of new modes of business-oriented organization and training for young rural leaders.

- Collaborate in the creation and organization of agroindustries and rural microenterprises, and in the development of strategic alliances of small-scale producers and rural micro-entrepreneurs.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Strengthen the National Agricultural Information and Documentation Network of Bolivia.
- **Topic: Consolidation of the INFOAGRO Thematic Information System**
 - Strengthen the operation of the Information System for Agricultural Production Chains (INFOAGRO-Bolivia).

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
 - Support the efforts of technological and higher agricultural education institutions to provide updating training for their teaching staffs and improve the infrastructure of schools and faculties.
- **Topic: Integration of University Education**
 - Foster dialogue and the exchange of experiences through the Permanent Forum for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Forestry Education.

3.1.2 COLOMBIA

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Colombia, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Provide assistance in drafting the Agriculture Act and designing the institutional framework for Agro Vision Colombia 2025.
 - Prepare policy proposals on trade negotiations.
 - Train trade negotiators.

- **Topic: Development of Internal Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
 - Support the establishment and operation of the Agricultural Products Marketing Fund.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Strengthen the observatory on competitiveness and expand its coverage to include the users.
 - Organize and implement new agricultural production chains.
 - Organize agribusiness clusters, an agribusiness network and technical support for the development of institutional mechanisms to support agribusiness activities.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Support the development of Technology Innovation consortia.
 - Design a proposed strategy and policies for PRONATA.
 - Prepare the proposal for the Dynamic Agriculture Program.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Expand and strengthen the National AHFS Network.
 - Provide advisory assistance with risk analysis, related to the handling of foods and agricultural practices.
 - Support the promotion of new phytosanitary legislation.
 - Train staff of the Colombian Agricultural Institute.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Support the formulation and implementation of policies, programs and projects to alleviate poverty.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Prepare proposed strategies for the development of agribusinesses, agroindustry and marketing.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
 - Strengthen the institutions and mechanisms linked to rural development.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Provide technical support for national information systems and efforts to integrate them with international systems.
- **Topic: Consolidation of the INFOAGRO Thematic Information System**
 - Consolidate the CA's Information and Documentation Center and strengthen its capacity for service and information management.
 - Gather, systematize and disseminate information on successful experiences.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Provide training in topics that are a priority for the country, for the development of agriculture and the rural milieu.
- **Topic: Integration of University Education**
 - Establish forums and meetings for strategic thinking and action regarding the agricultural sector and the rural milieu.
 - Promote alliances and technical-scientific exchanges among universities on priority topics of the agricultural and rural sector.

3.1.3 ECUADOR

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Ecuador, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Support the development of systems of information and analysis related to trade, innovation and regional integration.
 - Support the analysis and formulation of policies for agriculture and rural life.
- **Topic: Development of Internal Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
 - Promote improvements in the quality of agricultural and agroindustrial products, as a key element of agribusiness activities.
 - Participate in the development of product-specific marketing systems.

- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Support the design and implementation of a market intelligence system.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Assist in strengthening producers' organizations.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Promote public-private consortia for Technology Innovation.
 - Help establish links among actors in specific agricultural and agroindustrial chains.
 - Assist in formulating regulations governing technological aspects of competitiveness.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Promote private agricultural health service systems, including the development of human resources in this area.
 - Assist in implementing a new structure for the Ecuadorian Agricultural Health Service, related to food safety.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Participate in the development of a range of financial services, such as competitive funds and micro-credits.
 - Participate in the development of a range of services to support production and agricultural trade.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
 - Contribute to the process of decentralizing responsibilities, to improve the services provided to agribusiness entrepreneurs, producers, exporters and importers.
 - Promote the development of the market of services for agriculture and rural life.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Cooperate in developing information systems for services for agriculture, trade, Technology Innovation and agricultural health.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Train and evaluate human resources working in the areas of health and safety, agribusiness management and the management of knowledge.

3.1.4 PERU

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Peru, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Establish a program designed to provide training in, and analyze, strategic issues that affect agriculture (trade negotiations, WTO, FTAA, CAN, Mercosur).
 - Support the country's gradual incorporation into the FTAA, the negotiations with other LAC countries and the creation of the WTO Commission/Peru.
 - Support a process of consultation and dialogue aimed at creating an agribusiness forum, within the framework of the Business Forum established as part of the FTAA process.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Establish a system whereby the General Directorate for the Promotion of Agriculture can consult with other government agencies and coordinate its work with them.
 - Promote an agribusiness forum, within the framework of the Business Forum established as part of the FTAA process.
 - Establish a permanent training program on competitiveness and agricultural production chains.
 - Design and operate a system for monitoring agricultural production chains.
 - Design and implement an electronic system for promoting the agribusiness activities and business initiatives of the different agricultural production chains.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Provide advisory assistance to the NARI concerning organizational and operating aspects of agricultural research and technology transfer.
 - Organize training events and courses on agricultural research and the production techniques used in organic agriculture.

- Document and disseminate successful experiences of organic farming with minimum intervention.
- Foster the characterization, valuation, development and use of Peru's native and non-native genetic resources.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
 - Help ensure that the WTO's sanitary and phytosanitary measures are gradually applied more correctly in Peru.
- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Support the programs aimed at modernizing the institutional framework of the National Agricultural Health Service, preventing and controlling pests and diseases, overcoming sanitary and phytosanitary barriers, harmonizing agrifood safety standards, and involving civil society more in health and food safety issues.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Prepare alternative development profiles and projects, as well as guidelines on the scope and content of the different actions to be incorporated into the work program, to support the Rural Development in Amazonia program.
 - Formulate a development proposal for the four border districts that make up the binational association of municipalities of southern Ecuador and northern Peru.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Support the Rural Agroindustry Network of Peru (REDAR), especially as regards: financial management, to enhance its administrative capabilities and bolster its decentralized operations; the updating of information on the status of rural agroindustry; the construction of institutional alliances, to meet the demand for training; the exchange of regional experiences; the development of institutional networks; and the establishment of mechanisms for the shared management of funds.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Cooperate in developing information systems on services for agriculture, trade, Technology Innovation and agricultural health.
 - Implement a system of technological information for national agriculture.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
 - Provide assistance in the fields of self-evaluation and accreditation to agricultural universities that request it.
 - Promote the chains analysis approach and the concept of organizing agricultural producers into chains in academic circles.

3.1.5 VENEZUELA

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Venezuela, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Develop capabilities and skills for trade negotiations and planning, by means of raining and advisory assistance.
- **Topic: Development of Internal Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
 - Support the consolidation of BOLPRIAVEN and its articulation with the exchanges in the Andean Region.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Assist the Ministry of Agriculture and the agencies created under the Land Act in technical and operating matters, in order to develop implementing regulations for the law.
 - Promote dialogue and establish permanent consensus-building mechanisms, and organize the main agricultural production chains.
 - Support and complement the development of the Program to Strengthen the Regional Clusters.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Consolidation of the Regional Innovation System**
 - Foster the integration of national and regional efforts, through mechanisms such as the PROCIs, FORAGRO and FONTAGRO, to draw up a regional work agenda.
- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Support the consolidation of the institutional reforms implemented and of the INA's financial sustainability.

- Support the formulation of projects aimed at consolidating the National Technology Innovation System.
- Identify mechanisms for improving interaction between institutions in the public and private sectors, to boost and increase scientific and technological capabilities.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Strengthen the institutional framework of the SASA.
- Support and assume the coordination of a project aimed at modernizing and strengthening the agricultural health system that will be submitted to the IDB.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Strengthen the public sector's capacity to design and implement policies, strategies and methods to promote sustainable rural development.

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Foster and consolidate rural enterprises, the organization of producers and marketing.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- Promote the adjustment of institutional architectures so that they can perform the role assigned to them efficiently and effectively.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Implement a technological information system for the nation's agricultural sector.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- Collaborate in establishing the areas of expertise and skills required to train human resources in aspects of the coverage and usefulness of Technology Innovation, and support the training of public and private sector professionals.

▪ **Topic: Integration of University Education**

- Promote and strengthen the mechanisms for dialogue and exchange among educational and training institutions.

3.2 CARIBBEAN REGION

3.2.1 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Antigua and Barbuda, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Increase the knowledge and capacity of agricultural stakeholders to assess the impact of trade policies on agriculture; to participate effectively in discussions and consultations on proposals related to trade policy and negotiations; and to subsequently prepare them.
 - Support the design and implementation of a planning unit to support the government in the areas of trade policies and negotiations.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Increase the productivity and profitability of agribusinesses by providing training in the operation of such enterprises and access to new technological options, facilitating the transfer of experiences from other Caribbean nations, etc.

➤ Technology Innovation

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Meet the technological innovation needs of commercial-scale agricultural producers, including packing, labeling and brand differentiation technologies.
 - Transfer technologies via horizontal cooperation with other countries, especially those in the Caribbean.

➤ Agricultural Health and Food Safety

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Continue to help modernize the AHFS system, especially as regards quarantine measures.
- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Adopt systems that will make it possible to improve significantly the quality and safety of foods in order to ensure the availability of safe foods for the tourism sector.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Assist the government in drawing up proposals on policies for the sustainable management of water used in agriculture.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Assist the government in promoting rural micro-enterprises and organizations of microenterprises.
 - Improve the management capabilities of agribusinesses, especially agricultural micro-enterprises.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Provide support for training in the areas of foreign trade, plant quarantine, disease and pest control, rural development capabilities, and the use of information systems.

3.2.2 BAHAMAS

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in The Bahamas, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Support the creation of a trade facilitation unit to identify opportunities for expanding trade.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Prepare status reports on the economy and the agricultural sector.
 - Conduct analyses of the chains of selected commodities (guava, plantain and others) for the purposes of marketing.
 - Support agroindustrial development for priority products, including broccoli, citrus fruits and tomatoes.
 - Support the efforts of agroindustries to formulate a protocol for natural disaster preparedness.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Support development of the orchid industry.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Promote the use of integrated pest and disease management systems.
- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Develop an HACCP program for the poultry and meat industries.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Support programs aimed at diversifying rural incomes.
 - Identify options for the management of water consumption and waste water, taking into account the height of the water table and the fact that most water comes from the subsoil.
 - Provide assistance in developing a regulatory framework for the sustainable use of water in agriculture, under the Water and Sewage Act.
 - Assess the credit situation in the agricultural sector and recommend options for increasing credit availability in the rural community.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Analyze the performance of producer/supplier cooperatives in order to recommend ways to upgrade them.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Continue to develop the MOAF/IICA communications center under the SIDALC program.
 - Develop an electronic database to capture the value of investments and assets in the sector.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Provide training on risk assessment and analysis, including the database development and management and staff training.
 - Provide training in the identification and control of pests and diseases, especially hibiscus pink mealy bug and black sigatoka.
 - Promote distance-learning programs tailored to the needs of producers.

3.2.3 BARBADOS

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Barbados, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Work with the MAR, BHTA, CTO, the Chef's Federation, suppliers and funding agencies to support the existing linkages studied throughout the Farm-to-Table Chain, to quantify the intensity of the linkage between agriculture and tourism sectors, and develop a data base of information reflecting demand and provides information on trade.
 - Facilitate commercial relations between agriculture and other sectors, especially tourism, hotels, restaurants, commercial processors and commercial distributors.
 - Assist the FAO, CDB, UWI and other institutions in conducting a study on competitiveness to help identify leading food products for research and commercial development.
 - Assist the UWI, CTA, CDE, FAO and the Secretariat of the Republic in facilitating and coordinating a project on medicinal plant research and the commercial development thereof.
 - Assist the MAR in improving local production of selected articles to meet projected demand.
 - Collaborate with the BADMC, CEDA, CTO and CDB in preparing a feasibility study on calabash handicrafts in the Scotland District.
 - Prepare studies on competitiveness in collaboration with other international organizations to identify competitive products and possible areas for diversifying production.
 - Strengthen the capabilities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development vis-à-vis the compilation, analysis and dissemination of production and trade information.
 - Promote and coordinate a program to sensitize the public on food preservation and storage.

- o Work with the BIDC, SBA, BMA, RNM and the private sector to gather information and expand the MAR's database on topics including agricultural production processes and agreements with the food and handicrafts sectors.
- o Work with national, regional and international organizations to increase farmers' competitiveness and the efficiency of production and operating processes.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
 - o Improve the capacity of government institutions to comply with WTO standards and to provide effective services to the sector as regards agricultural health and food safety.
- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - o With funding agencies, the GOB, UNDP and CDB, acquire better and newer equipment for analyses.
 - o Support efforts to strengthen veterinary laboratory services and the Government Analytical Services Laboratory.
 - o Promote public awareness of food safety and agricultural health issues via the press and television.
 - o Develop distance education courses, in collaboration with the PAHO, FAO, UWI, BCC and the QTC project of the CTO, for farmers, extension agents and food handlers.
 - o Work with the MAR to increase the public's awareness of the importance of veterinary laboratory services vis-à-vis public health and the safety of animal-based foods.
 - o Work with the USAID, CIDA and CDE to support the development of QA systems for laboratories, so that they meet ISO 17025 standards.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - o Facilitate joint efforts among the agricultural and tourism sectors, especially in relation to investments for heritage tourism, health and ecology, with emphasis on the integration of rural communities.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - o Support institutional building in selected groups in the Scotland District, through distance education courses, exchanges and administrative backup.
 - o Work with the BADMC to implement training courses for extension agents and farmers.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Train extension agents and producers by means of distance training, practical field courses, and the exchange of technology, documents and experiences.

3.2.4 DOMINICA

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Dominica, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Support the establishment of technical teams made up of decision makers, specialists and agribusiness operators having a sound knowledge of policies, trade and integration, and who are capable of addressing the demands of local, regional and international markets.
 - Improve the capacity of the Agricultural Information and Communications Technology Unit for monitoring, analysis and support for trade.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Facilitate access to new agricultural production technologies, in particular for organic production and for sustainable conventional agricultural practices.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Support the establishment of a single unit to coordinate AHFS services at the national level, create confidence in the AHFS system and facilitate agricultural trade.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Formulate a policy to support a changeover to organic agriculture.

- o Support the formulation of sustainable rural development policies for the production of fresh foods and for promoting agro-tourism.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - o Modernize and improve management capabilities at existing microenterprises.
 - o Strengthen the capacity of selected rural sectors to make better use of external aid, both for modernizing attitudes and business practices, and for creating new rural employment opportunities.
- **Information and Communication**
 - **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - o Provide support in the form of information to efforts to convert to organic agriculture and to adopt market-driven agricultural health and safety measures.
- **Education and Training**
 - **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - o Provide training and education on topics including trade negotiations, agribusiness management, food safety and natural resource protection, at all levels of the agrifood chain.

3.2.5 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in the Dominican Republic, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

- **Trade and Agribusiness Development**
 - **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - o Support initiatives to develop negotiating policies for the FTAA process, aiming for a regional trade system that is fair, free from barriers limiting market access, and with anti-dumping regulations that encourage producers and increase their confidence.
 - o Assist national authorities in formulating policies for WTO negotiations, aimed at consolidating support for producers to offset export subsidies and barriers that hinder access to international markets.

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Foster a program to replace non-competitive crops, working to achieve an orderly transfer of agricultural activities to profitable areas of agriculture or the economy as a whole.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Strengthen the Direct Technological Support Program in order to foster the modernization and transformation of agricultural production, with a view to boosting productivity.
 - Support integrated pest management in order to reduce damage caused by pests and achieve sustained and sustainable productivity.
 - Create technology networks for cooperation among producers, to foster the exchange and flow of information and experiences as part of a philosophy of collaboration in technology generation and transfer.
 - Strengthen the national technology generation, validation and transfer system.
 - Promote cooperation in the field of science and technology in order to upgrade national capabilities to overcome problems related to investments and commercial partnerships in technology transfer.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Help establish an income support program for agricultural producers.
 - Identify mechanisms for supporting and assisting producers whose income levels exclude them from competition.
 - Support specific actions to increase real work and employment opportunities in the rural milieu, with a view to alleviating poverty and reducing environmental degradation.
 - Help define land titling and marketing policies so as to establish clear, stable and predictable rules on land ownership and land transactions, and thereby encourage investment.
 - Encourage implementation of financing policies that support producers' efforts to raise production, improve quality and increase competitiveness.
 - Boost programs to improve agriculture and rural life and promote agroindustry as an essential contribution to poverty reduction and integrated development.
 - Support projects in the rural sector for providing environmental services to society and that ensure viable environmental sustainability and a new and alternative source of income for rural communities.

- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Promote a program to strengthen technical/management capabilities for increasing agricultural modernization and competitiveness, in order to foster growth in agriculture and stimulate human development.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
 - For the SEA, design and implement PRODEFRUD's monitoring and evaluation system.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Support the dissemination of information on health and safety among extension agents and producers.
 - Foster information policies on agricultural technology via a system that accesses and distributes technological information.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in Strategic Areas**
 - Support the CIARA/IFAD-sponsored National Rural Development Training Network in implementing the program approved by the member institutions and the regional program based in Caracas, Venezuela.
 - Provide training in the areas of self-management, leadership, rural organization, health and others, with the aim of contributing to increasing the levels of sustainable rural development.
 - Under an agreement with the SEA, implement the training component of the Special Program for the Development of Dominican Fruit Crop Production (PRODEFRUD), for participating fruit growers and technicians.
 - Hold courses on project formulation and evaluation, strategic planning and agricultural policies, to upgrade the technical capabilities of public and private sector agricultural agencies.

3.2.6 GRENADA

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Grenada, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Promote the implementation of the produce inspection and certification program, in order to standardize production processes of selected articles (hot sauce, condiments, honey).

➤ **Technology Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Promote and facilitate greater use of technology in the marketing of agricultural products and the acquisition of production inputs.
- Support the development of a commercial agricultural sector that uses improved technology for local products and promotes industrial development thereof.
- Collaborate with CARDI in introducing and validating new varieties of spices, condiments, sweet potato and cassava in order to increase the competitiveness of agricultural products.
- Collaborate with other institutions in conducting research on appropriate technologies and technical assistance for areas including organic cocoa production.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Support the establishment an effective quarantine mechanism to prevent the spread of harmful pests and diseases to and from Grenada, and the use of dangerous pesticides.

▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Collaborate in organizing a workshop to review food and drug legislation.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Support the preparation of a strategic plan to improve the formulation of poverty alleviation projects.
- Support the establishment of a national chapter of the alliance for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.
- Help enhance technicians' and farmers' production planning capabilities, with a view to improving food security.
- Support the formulation of a plan of action to link the agriculture, tourism and education sectors.
- Support the formulation of land-use policies.

- o Provide technical support and group dynamics training to farmers and other small-scale agricultural entrepreneurs, to foster productivity increases.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - o Support the introduction of new technology, credit facilities and training for young people, to upgrade their agribusiness capabilities.
- **Information and Communication**
 - **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - o Assist rural groups and organizations in formulating projects for acquiring equipment to improve information and communications systems.
 - o Promote institutionalization of the use of modern information and communications systems for administering the public and private agricultural sectors.
- **Education and Training**
 - **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - o Organize seminars and workshops to provide training in the development of agribusinesses, agricultural production processes and other aspects of the agrifood chain.

3.2.7 GUYANA

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Guyana, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

- **Trade and Agribusiness Development**
 - **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - o Conduct systematic analyses of specific agricultural products and their positions in overseas markets.
 - o Continue and increase support for agribusinesses (in particular, the Caribbean AgriBusiness Association -CABA-), by preparing agricultural producers to become agricultural entrepreneurs, training technicians and producers, disseminating important information for agribusiness activities, assisting with the adoption of quality and safety standards, etc.

- **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**
 - **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Support more widespread adoption of Good Agricultural Practices in agricultural production and Good Manufacturing Practices in the processing industry.
 - Support the adoption of HACCP, especially in the fisheries sector, with a view to facilitating improving its position in the local market (tourism sector) and the overseas market.

- **Sustainable Rural Development**
 - **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Improve the management capabilities of small-scale rural producers.
 - Step up the activities of the Regional Tropical Fruits Project in Guyana.
 - **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
 - Provide linkages between donors and beneficiaries of rural and agricultural development aid, to increase efficiency.

- **Information and Communication**
 - **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Establish a system for capturing and disseminating information, to facilitate the adoption of new technologies and promote agricultural trade.
 - **Topic: Publishing and Electronic and Texts**
 - Produce practical handbooks on agribusiness, agricultural health and food safety.

3.2.8 HAITI

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Haiti, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Develop plans, programs and projects on food security.
 - Organize and institutionalize agri-food chains targeting the export market.
 - Foster the establishment and consolidation of chambers of agriculture.
 - Support the bodies responsible for introducing standards and laws to stimulate growth in the agricultural sector.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Promote seminars, workshops and other events to acquaint small-scale producers and technicians with and to foster the adoption of new technologies for agricultural production and environmental conservation.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Support national authorities in preparing and implementing health regulations consistent with international standards, and in training groups of technicians to apply them.
 - Help draft and adopt laws and standards to regulate the sanitary aspects of agricultural imports and the establishment of quarantine stations at border posts and airports.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Promote the creation of employment- and income-generating agricultural enterprises in the rural milieu.
 - Encourage the adoption of environmental protection policies, actions and measures in rural communities.
 - Contribute to formulating policies that will encourage the population to remain in rural areas.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Develop services for providing important information to agricultural enterprises.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Establish education and training programs for agricultural entrepreneurs.
- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
 - Support and foster the modernization of the agricultural education system and the updating of the curricula of schools of agronomy and agricultural sciences.

3.2.9 JAMAICA

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Jamaica, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Strengthen the sector's capacity to participate effectively in trade and in trade negotiations.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Continue to provide assistance to the process to modernize the agricultural sector.
 - Promote the development of agribusinesses as a means of increasing the competitiveness of agricultural products and as a key mechanism of sustainable rural development.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Support measures to ensure the production and availability of safe foods, through improvements in sanitary and safety measures and a more competitive agricultural sector.

- o Participate in and support the development of a national agricultural health and food safety program, with a view to facilitating and increasing trade.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - o Support and promote a natural resource management program.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - o Contribute to measures seeking to increase productivity and market access for rural microenterprises.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
 - o Support and facilitate a multisectoral, integrated approach to rural development through the coordination of on- and off-farm activities.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - o Supply information and communication technologies, through the consolidation of IICA's present information and documentation program.
 - o Link Jamaican institutions with information sources in the Caribbean and Latin America.
- **Topic: Consolidation of the INFOAGRO Thematic Information System**
 - o Facilitate access to the market and trade information of CORECA and other regional institutions; disseminate important information among the clients of the sector.
 - o Facilitate links between the AGROINFO database and network and institutions in Latin America.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - o Provide training to human resources in policy approaches and instruments, trade and integration, sustainable rural development, agribusiness development, agricultural health and food safety.
 - o Provide training to human resources by increasing the number of participants in and offering relevant courses through the ADLTC; facilitate links with CACHE and the regional distance agricultural education center based in Barbados.

3.2.10 ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in St. Kitts and Nevis, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Sponsor the organization of training forums and events with governmental and private-sector agencies, on trade policies, international and regional trade agreements, trade liberalization, market access and the application of trade regulations.
 - Establish national alliances to define and articulate the role of agriculture in sustainable development and other matters of common interest.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Support the establishment and operation of a food security committee.

➤ Technology Innovation

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Develop proposals for projects on peanut production, onion drying facilities, and irrigation.
 - Organize training courses and exchanges for farmers and technicians, at both the regional and national levels, on topics including soil and water conservation, technological advances and information.

➤ Agricultural Health and Food Safety

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Assist governmental, regional and international organizations in modernizing AHFS systems.
- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Support the institutionalization of good agricultural practices, to ensure that agricultural products are not harmful to human health.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Support the development of an agro-tourism plan that will improve the financial situation of small- and medium-scale producers and rural enterprises.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Support the establishment of a community informatics laboratory in order to promote the exchange of experiences with similar groups in other member countries.
 - Support the implementation of workshops in rural communities to upgrade their management and leadership capabilities, and to improve agricultural production processes, risk management and technological advances.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Establish a documentation and information center to upgrade the knowledge and skills of the clientele, with a view to contributing to modernizing and transforming the sector.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Establish a Distance Education Center, with the aim of raising productivity and increasing competitiveness in the sector.

3.2.11 ST. LUCIA

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in St. Lucia, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Create teams of personnel with expertise in the area of policy, negotiations and other trade-related issues.
 - Design, develop and support the implementation of programs to create international trade capabilities.

- **Topic: Access to International Markets**
 - Support the development of viable and sustainable intra-regional trade in selected agricultural goods.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Conduct feasibility studies on two proposed institutions: the National Agricultural Company and the Chamber of Agriculture.
 - Support change in the agricultural sector, moving away from the present focus on the production of raw materials to the creation of more value added, through agroindustry.
 - Support training for agribusiness operators, to help modernize and diversify the sector's income base.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Identify and disseminate appropriate production technologies for each link of the chain, in order to develop more productive and profitable agribusinesses.
 - Strengthen linkages with international and regional agencies that can support the application of appropriate technologies, especially vis-à-vis milk and meat products and byproducts.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Enlist the assistance of the competent international organizations regarding the adoption of AHFS quality standards and measures.
 - Support measures to improve the quality of agricultural quarantine and the planning and implementation of measures for the surveillance, control and eradication of endemic pests and diseases.
- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Encourage the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices by agribusiness operators.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Promote policies for diversifying the economic activities of the rural population, to include the sustainable use of natural resources.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Support the development of a reliable information system that is capable of capturing, analyzing and disseminating in an expeditious manner critical information needed both for the management of agribusinesses and for decision making by state-run enterprises.

3.2.12 SURINAME

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Suriname, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Promote the design and adaptation of regulations and policies that ensure transparency in negotiations.
- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Support the promotion and development of hemispheric alliances that facilitate access to the global agricultural market.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Support the formulation of feasibility studies, analyses of competitiveness and marketing studies in priority fields such as harvests, processing, and marketing enterprises.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Support the design of a technology development program for priority products.
 - Support the establishment of a national information system to facilitate the gathering, transfer and exchange of technology, in order to boost the competitiveness of agricultural production processes.

- Support efforts to improve the country's capacity to evaluate, adapt, promote and transfer appropriate technology from other sources.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
 - Assist public and private institutions in adopting the international sanitary and phytosanitary standards of the WTO (WTO/SPS).
- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Assist public and private institutions in adopting HACCP processes for agricultural products, to ensure their acceptance and competitiveness on markets.
 - Provide training to technicians and producers, processors, exporters and importers on international standards (GAP, HACCP and the WTO's SPS).
 - Provide advisory assistance for designing policies and legal controls that ensure correct handling of foods and a monitoring and surveillance system.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Support the preparation of the National Agricultural Program, with the participation of public and private agencies.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Help strengthen food security systems and upgrade capabilities in rural communities.
 - Assist in efforts to increase participation of rural communities, through a work program that involving the private and public sectors and NGOs.
 - Coordinate efforts to provide training to rural microenterprises through the exchange of experiences.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Create a national network linked to national and international institutions and other reference centers, to promote and operate information, documentation and communication for developing agriculture and agribusinesses.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Provide training to producers, processors and consumers on the international regulations governing free access to markets.
 - Provide training to technicians and farmers on agricultural production, administration and markets.
 - Prepare training manuals on the organization of rural communities, rural extension, HACCP and the WTO/SPS regulations, good agricultural practices, technological processes, agroforestry, organic agriculture, agricultural administration, and technological improvements to production.
- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
 - Assist public and private institutions in evaluating and making recommendations, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of education and training for agribusiness.

3.2.13 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Trinidad and Tobago, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Support the establishment of a Virtual Trade Academy, to upgrade the skills of the human resources involved in agricultural trade.
- **Topic: Access to International Markets**
 - Support national organizations and the CABA in developing and implementing plans to boost domestic trade and exports.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - In collaboration with CARDI, support the efforts of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago to develop marketing systems.
 - Conduct analyses of production and trade, and simulations of the trade in certain agricultural goods in a context of open markets, with a view to identifying opportunities for increasing trade and competitiveness.
 - Disseminate research findings on the impact of international trade policies on the production of certain products in the country.

- Adopt the Jamaican approach to case studies, designed to determine the contribution of selected activities to the economy of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Support policy makers through the preparation of policy proposals to facilitate investment.
- Support the identification, establishment and expansion of rural agro-tourism and agro-processing enterprises.
- Conduct, with and through the Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA), competitiveness studies for selected products (hog farming, dairy products, citrus fruits, oils and fats) and support implementation of the corresponding recommendations.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Consolidation of the Regional Innovation System**
 - Strengthen the research capabilities of T&T and relevant agencies such as PROCICARIBE, Clawrenet and NFC, by contributing to improving coordination and network research mechanisms.
 - Promote linkages between research and development institutions and their clients, to improve management and the identification of priorities.
- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Support actions to gain access to and transfer technology for dairy products, fruits, hog farming, oils and fats.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
 - Strengthen national AHFS systems, with a view to meeting the requirements of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (CSPS).
- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Support efforts to modernize AHFS institutions and systems.
- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Promote the use of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), both to help reduce the damage caused by pests and diseases and to achieve sustainable agriculture and conserve the environment.
 - Provide technical support to the national committees on GMP and organic production, through the development of policy frameworks and legislation.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Conduct analyses to determine agriculture's role in, and capacity for, alleviating rural poverty.
 - Strengthen national organizations whose objective is to foster rural development and to improve incomes and living conditions in rural areas. Facilitate these organizations' access to the regional umbrella organization.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Support the development of rural enterprises through market development.
 - Develop revolving credit mechanisms for rural women and dairy farmers.
 - Facilitate the organization of national workshops to ascertain the value of biodiversity and traditional knowledge, sharing access and benefits, in particular with regard to medicinal herbs.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
 - Support the consolidation of the National Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
 - Consolidate and expand the network of agricultural libraries through the SIDALC project.
 - Support, maintain and update the Caribbean Region's web site.
- **Topic: Publishing and Electronic and Texts**
 - Support the following publications: IICA Caribbean News, Tropical Fruit Newsletter, CARAPHIN News, In a Nutshell, AgriView.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Implement specific training through the Agricultural Distance Learning Center (ADLC), placing emphasis on the development of programs structured for specific clients and allies, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, the Network of Rural Women Producers, the Caribbean Agricultural Institute and Foresta.

- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
 - Support the efforts of educational institutions to review and modernize their agricultural curricula.

3.3 CENTRAL REGION

3.3.1 BELIZE

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Belize, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Coordinate technical assistance with BELTRAIDE to provide information on agreements and regulations of the WTO, the FTAA, SICA and CARICOM
 - Collaborate with regional integration initiatives (CORECA/SICA).
- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Facilitate access to international markets and to information on the international commodities market
 - Collaborate with the initiatives of regional agribusiness organizations of Central America and the Caribbean
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Provide training on financial analysis (investment returns) in the citrus and sugar industries
 - Contribute to policy design at the Ministry of Agriculture
 - Support small-scale producers in moving to organic agriculture (especially organic rice)

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Provide technical assistance to the technical committee of the Citrus Research and Extension Institute (CREI)
 - Collaborate with the ministry in converting the Central Farm into an autonomous institution
 - Participate as a member of the Research and Development Committee for creating the Belize Agricultural Research and Development Council, Belize Commodities Secretariat, Ministry of Works
 - Provide technical literature on new crops in order to foster agricultural diversification, especially literature on fruit and root crop production techniques
 - Support the participation of local professionals in regional forums on technology innovation

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Support efforts to strengthen the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA).
 - Support the BAHA in developing a national plan of action to comply with the commitments assumed under the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures vis-à-vis animal and plant health, safety and quarantine
 - Monitor and provide technical assistance to the new quarantine station at Peninsula de Placencia.
 - Provide information on sanitary requirements for exporting tropical crops
- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Collaborate with regional training initiatives on food safety and the Codex Alimentarius

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Support the Belize Organic Producers' Association (BOPA) in obtaining external funds for improving the production, processing and marketing of organic products

- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Promote the participation of women and youth in rural development (business management)
 - Support the development of fruit and root crops (planting stock, organization of producers, training)

- **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**
 - Provide information on agricultural development and international trade through the CA's web site

- **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training on Strategic Topics**
 - Strengthen the responsiveness of some divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and producers' organizations in the area of projects, organic agriculture and financial analysis

- **Topic: Transformation of the Educational Supply**
 - Provide technical assistance to the ministries of education and agriculture for transferring the National 4-H School from Belmopan to Central Farm.

- **Topic: Integration of University Education**
 - Promote a region-wide organization of university institutions in Central America (regional initiative)

3.3.2 COSTA RICA

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Costa Rica, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
 - Contribute to the domestic marketing of agricultural commodities by supporting the government implement a pilot project "Regional Marketing Organizations"
 - Support the government and private sector representatives in preparing an agro-industrial development strategy, identifying market possibilities and domestic industries' capacity to participate in them

- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Improve the capacities of food industry enterprises to export through implementation of the program "Creating Exporters to Canada." Module three will be executed and a fourth module will be arranged.

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Support the main private-sector chambers and associations in creating a permanent forum for the analysis and formulation of proposals, and for their relations with the public sector. IICA will support this group by serving as Secretariat during the process to create the forum.
 - Support the government in designing a study on the hydro-biological products chain, which will provide an instrument for identifying the status of the national fisheries sector and for planning development actions.
 - Support the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock as well as sectoral authorities in formulating the new government's agricultural policy
 - Help review the focus and scope of the government's program to modernize production

➤ **Technological Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Strengthen the institutional framework that supports innovation and research in agricultural technology, cooperating with the government in implementing the INTA

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Support different public and private bodies in the strategic planning for the Inter-sectoral Commission for Food Safety (CIIA)
- Support efforts to formulate a project to create an institutional system for food safety that will strengthen the CIIA's actions in the future

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Strengthen relations with the PRODAR Program, coordinating the execution of rural agroindustry projects and studies funded by the program in the country, and work to link it effectively with the different agencies working in this area

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- Launch the project "National organic farming strategy" and take action to secure additional funds
- Respond to the demands of the Office of the Vice President of the Republic regarding the identification and formulation of production projects to be implemented under the project "Poverty Knows no Borders"
- Respond to the demands of the National Institute for Women (INAMU) by supporting an inter-ministerial commission to design a strategy for assisting a group of small- and medium-scale enterprises run by rural women

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**

- Support the government's efforts to strengthen its information services through preparation of a work plan for the INFOAGRO information system for the 2002-2006 period; this will be complemented with further efforts to reactivate REDNIA.

3.3.3 EL SALVADOR

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in El Salvador, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Area of Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Strengthen MAG's capacities to address the agricultural trade agenda and to participate directly in different rounds of trade negotiations
- **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
 - Develop 3 agroindustrial modules for rural, small-scale indigo and cashew enterprises (marketing, technology, management).
- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Diversify and increase the number of exporters, the destinations and value of agricultural exports, for 20 small-, medium- or large-scale enterprises of the agrifood sector
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Strengthen the institutional capabilities of MAG and of the private sector to foster agricultural and rural competitiveness
 - Contribute to diversifying production and to fostering the development of agrifood chains linked to the market (provide information, technical assistance)
 - Support fruit crop cultivation with the design and execution of a training program for producers, technicians and university students

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Consolidation of the Regional Innovation System**
 - Collaborate in disseminating and fostering the adoption of Technology Innovations for production, commerce and business for 2,300 producers of Persian lime, cashew, coconut and avocado

- o Provide advisory services for designing and implementing a system of partnerships to foster technology innovation in agriculture and forestry, under the MAG Agribusiness Modernization Project, financed by the IDB

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - o Support institutional modernization of agricultural health and food safety services

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - o Participate through projects in 20 of the country's municipalities, benefiting 9,200 farmers on a total surface area of 9,500 hectares (water and soil conservation; production capacity)
 - o Systematize experiences gained on sustainable rural development and extract lessons for providing feedback on processes underway and for improving the effectiveness of investments
 - o Contribute to tapping the environmental issue as a source of funding for fostering processes to reduce poverty and restore the environment (payment for environmental services)
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - o Strengthen efforts in the area of business management and market access; provide continuity for the execution of sustainable rural development projects (PAES, PRODERT, SEGEM)
 - o Upgrade the management capabilities of 160 rural leaders in 5 of the country's municipalities, with a view to tapping business opportunities offered on the regional basic grain and vegetable market, taking into account the agricultural characteristics of the territories

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Publishing and Electronic Texts**
 - o Publish the annual report of the status and outlook for agricultural and the rural milieu of El Salvador

3.3.4 GUATEMALA

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Guatemala, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

▪ Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration

- Support the organization of and provide training for the technical secretariat of the agricultural negotiations team.
- Provide training to public and private teams vis-à-vis markets and international agricultural trade

▪ Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness

- Provide training to the Technical Unit on Competitiveness, regarding the participatory approach for developing competitiveness in agrifood systems
- Develop and adopt methodologies for prioritizing products having competitive potential
- Conduct six research studies on agri-production chains; organize the technical secretariat and the sub-sectoral working groups for each.

➤ Technology Innovation

▪ Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies

- Conduct an assessment of technology transfer models used in and outside the country, including an assessment of existing capacities
- Provide technical cooperation for designing and validating the structures, organization and operations of technology transfer models, taking into account the different types of beneficiaries

➤ Agricultural Health and Food Safety

▪ Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

- Support the national information and notification system required for the SPSM agreements (cooperation agreement between IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Economy)

- Provide technical support for updating and publishing sanitary and phytosanitary records
- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Provide technical cooperation for preparing operating manuals for the sanitary and phytosanitary systems

3.3.5 HONDURAS

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Honduras, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
 - Support the process to reactivate the agricultural commodity exchange in Honduras
 - Provide technical cooperation to the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) for designing and establishing the Market Intelligence Institute
- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Support the SAG in promoting agribusinesses in Central America, the European Union and the United States
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Provide technical cooperation for restructuring the SAG's Planning and Performance Evaluation Unit (UPEG)
 - Provide technical support to UPEG/SAG in monitoring the commitments and agreements of the corn, coffee and dairy product agri-food chains
 - Support the SAG and the private and educational sectors in upgrading their capacity for analysis and for managing agrifood chains.
 - Support the private sector (COAGROH) in implementing a Business Training Program
 - Technical support for formulating the National Agrifood Program

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Provide technical cooperation for reorganizing the national agricultural research and technology transfer system so as to enable it to serve as a supplier of technology, know-how and information, in support of agricultural competitiveness in Honduras
 - Contribute to formulating and implementing the Small-scale Agriculture Program (PEAGRO)

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
 - Support SENASA in implementing the sanitary and phytosanitary agreements of the WTO and FTAA
- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Support the SAG/SENASA in implementing its institutional modernization plan
- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Provide information and conduct workshops for technicians of the public and private sectors regarding food safety and agricultural health
 - Support SENASA in creating the National Food Safety Commission

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
 - Conduct a technical audit of the new institutional framework for sustainable rural development, to determine progress made and the limitations of the model established for PRONADERS.
 - Provide technical support to PRONADERS for documenting the model of the new institutional framework for sustainable rural development in Honduras
 - Collaborate to include the experience of the IICA/Holland/Hillsides project into the PRONADERS process

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**
 - Coordinate and manage the training of human talent of information centers, with a view to introducing Technology Innovations to improve the services of the Honduran Agricultural Information Network (REDNIAH)

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Transformation of the Educational Supply**
 - Promote institutional change at two educational centers, to address new demands of Honduras' agricultural sector

3.3.6 NICARAGUA

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Nicaragua, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Strengthen the technical capabilities of the public and private sectors as well as of civil society vis-à-vis the formulation of proposals for trade negotiations and the administration of agreements
 - Cooperate in the areas of agricultural integration and the exchange of know-how and successful experiences among countries and regions, and through support to investment processes occurring within the framework of initiatives such as the Puebla-Panama Plan
- **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
 - Foster domestic market mechanisms, focusing on commercial transactions and price stabilization

- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Provide training for the management and development of agribusinesses, targeting the private sector as well as small- and medium-scale producers, and focusing on tapping market opportunities
 - Conduct market studies and market intelligence information to foster the development of agribusinesses
 - Cooperate in facilitating participation in field trips and fairs (national and international), as well as in trade rounds
 - Foster agro-exports and trade

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Strengthen the technical capabilities of the public and private sectors and of civil society in formulating proposals for macro-sectoral policies and scenario management
 - Promote dialogue, dispute settlement and agreements among the public and private sectors and civil society

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Support the design of policies and strategies for technology innovation, within the framework of innovation systems that include research, transfer, technical assistance and extension

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Cooperate in the area of agricultural health and food safety, focusing on training and information exchange with both the public and the private sectors
 - Conduct studies vis-à-vis institutional change and design institutional models for agricultural health

- **Topic: Emerging Issues**
 - Support preventive actions and fight specific diseases of significant impact

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Conduct studies and formulate territorially targeted sustainable rural development strategies, involving institutions and sectors of civil society in studies, and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sustainable rural development strategies

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- Formulate specific training programs for institutions involved in sustainable rural development (MARENA, FISE and IDR, stakeholders organized in executing units at the local level, i.e., mayor's offices, cooperatives, NGOs, etc.).

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**

- Strengthen information systems and promote linkages with national networks (i.e., RENIDA and SIA) and with international networks, such as those promoted by IICA (through SIDAL, CRIIA and other electronic forums)

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Transformation of the Educational Supply**

- Cooperate in modernizing the national agricultural education and training system

3.3.7 PANAMA

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Panama, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Increase MIDA's technical capabilities in the area of trade negotiations
 - Establish a body for consultation, information exchange and for involving the private sector in trade negotiations
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Support the Fund for Competitiveness and Agricultural Technology Innovation (COMPITA) with a view to increasing the competitiveness in agrifood chains
 - Develop strategic plans for different agrifood chains
 - Prepare operating plans for the agrifood chain studies (hog raising, rice, dairy)

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Contribute to strengthening government and private sector capabilities to preserve agricultural health, plant protection, as well as the quality and security of national foods, as essential elements for increasing competitiveness

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Provide support for agro-ecological zoning in the country, within the framework of the National Fund for Sustainable Rural Development (FONADERS).
 - Identify new irrigation, rural youth, rural tourism, rural agroindustry programs, foster non-agricultural activities as well as a masters' degree program in agro-eco-business
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Support the program to modernize the capabilities of professionals for the new rurality (PRO-GENTE).
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
 - Support the Program of Strategic Alliances for a New Rurality (PRO-ALIANZA).

- **Tema: Information System**

- Support the Panama Rural Information System (PANARURAL), with a view to facilitating decision making by small- and medium-scale producers and, in general, to support the entire public and private institutional framework in this subject area

3.4 NORTHERN REGION

3.4.1 CANADA

➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

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

- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**

- Promote Canadian agriculture, as well as associations serving agribusiness, services and food subsector
- Promote means for public and private organizations of Canada and the LAC countries to identify, develop and implement actions aiming to establish trade relations
- Promote strategic alliances among agribusiness associations of Canada and LAC.

➤ Agricultural Health and Food Safety

- **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

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

- **Topic: Modernization of National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- 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 (ASPM)
- Support training on the subjects of equivalencies, hazard analysis and emerging issues
- Facilitate an exchange of sanitary and phytosanitary information among Canada and LAC countries

- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Support the executive leadership series on food safety (CERES)

- **Sustainable Rural Development**
 - **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Contribute to preparing joint Canada-LAC projects to address the subject of sustainable development
 - Promote the exchange of information and collaboration between Canada and the LAC countries on the subject of sustainable rural development and natural resource management
 - Contribute to identifying and formulating projects of mutual interest to Canada and LAC on sustainable rural development and natural resource management

- **Education and Training**
 - **Topic: Training in strategic areas**
 - 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)

 - **Topic: Integration of University Education**
 - Strengthen ties among Canadian and LAC universities, research institutes and public and private institutions

3.4.2 MEXICO

- **Trade and Agribusiness Development**
 - **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Work with ASERCA's Unit for the Agrifood Sector and Support to International Trade Negotiations to monitor and analyze the performance of the agrifood sector in Mexico.
 - Support preparation of a technical document that covers Mexico's commitments under Mexico's free trade agreements with all the Central American countries.
 - Provide support in monitoring developments in the multilateral (WTO) and hemispheric (FTAA) negotiations, and identify negotiating positions for the agricultural sector for both.
 - Support Mexican authorities in exercising the FTAA Secretariat starting in 2003

- Support studies on the performance of the Mexican agrifood sector vis-à-vis trade agreements it has signed, and support advisory services and the dissemination of information on international trade negotiations.
- **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
 - Facilitate advisory and management services necessary for establishing for-profit producers' organizations that represent their interests
 - Implement the technical cooperation project to design and establish an agricultural commodity exchange in Mexico
 - Institution building for the programs that support marketing and the development of regional markets, as well as the price hedging program for agricultural products.
- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Contribute to preparing a project to modernize and diversify technology for the sugar cane agroindustry in Mexico, with support from the sugar sector in Guatemala
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Foster producers' participation and support their efforts to organize, and to design and implement programs to facilitate their participation in production chains.
 - Encourage and strengthen product-specific systems, supporting the creation of regional and national organizations that foster working relations between producers, state and municipal governments, and other associated agents.
 - Validate the "Short Production Chains Methodology" as a methodological tool for analyzing competitiveness and calculating protection at borders, key elements for designing programs to modernize production activities and developing trade negotiations positions.
 - Support the consolidation of the Mesoamerican Agribusiness Council

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Implement the technical cooperation agreement signed by IICA and INIFAP to coordinate actions and resources for implementing specific agricultural research and agricultural development projects, providing technical assistance and cooperating in areas of mutual interest pertaining to agriculture and forestry.
 - Support INIFAP's programs and the "Produce" Foundations to strengthen research and technology transfer conducted by sectoral agencies

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Establish phytosanitary requirements and specifications based on the official Mexican standards for the national and international transport of plant products and by-products
 - Improve and maintain the status of animal health in production areas through a control of movement, the operation of animal health campaigns and voluntary programs
 - Guarantee the efficient operation of CENAPA's technical and support areas through administrative support that ensures the timely provision of material goods and services. In addition, issue plant and animal health certificates, through official and government-authorized doctors, after fulfilling official and operating regulations for emergencies.
 - Support the National Technical Advisory Council for Animal Health (CONASA), as an advisory body of the SAGARPA for the area of animal health, in the identification, planning, programming, operation, monitoring, control and evaluation of animal health and production programs.
 - Provide staff at international points of entry and points of verification with the materials they need for improving the quality of inspection, certification services and the institutional image.
- **Topic: Emerging Issues**
 - Support the National Fruit Fly Eradication Campaign in order to create fly free zones or zones where fly prevalence is low.
- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Train and update professionals from SENASICA and from other public and private institutions regarding the application of sanitary systems and food production and management procedures; Good Production and Manufacturing Practices; operating procedures for standard sanitization and for hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP); as well as on the appropriate use of inputs for agricultural and aquaculture health and production, and the official regulations governing same.
 - Disseminate, inform and promote SENASICA's plans, programs and projects addressing agricultural health, food safety and quality in the agrifood, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry areas.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Cooperate in the design and implementation of the agricultural and rural development component of the Puebla-Panama Plan.
 - Collaborate and support the exchange of experiences with other LAC countries, reappraising the development and role of the Priority Groups, Territoriality and the

Development Strategy, within the framework of the new rurality and development in rural areas.

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
 - Support implementation of Mexico's agreements and commitments vis-à-vis the Steering Committee for Dialogue on Rural Development

Information and Communication

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**
 - Support SAGARPA in implementing the development strategy for agricultural and fisheries statistics called for in the 2001-2006 Sectoral Program; support implementation of projects on remote sensing applied to Mexican agriculture, and the application and processing of surveys for the base-line study.

➤ Education and Training

- **Topic: Transformation of Educational Supply**
 - Support "academic advancement, education and professional training; seminars; develop science and technology; and disseminate know-how," and take advantage of the possibility of extending the support the Directorate for Education and Training (DECAP) at IICA Headquarters provides to the Autonomous University of Chapingo.

3.5 SOUTHERN REGION

3.5.1 ARGENTINA

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Argentina, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Hold seminars on international trade and trade negotiations.

- **Topic: Development of Internal Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
 - Develop capital markets with new credit instruments for the agricultural sector.
- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Provide support for the SAGyP and the *Fundacion Exportar* under the federal export promotion program.
 - Provide cooperation to universities and the Senate on agribusiness matters.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Provide technical cooperation to the SAGyP related to its strategic planning process.
 - Support the modernization of small-scale wine growers in the Cuyo region (FECOVITA).
 - Support the SAGyP's program on the competitiveness of food chains.
 - Develop indicators on aspects of the agrifood system (e.g., agrifood multilateral exchange rate).

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Support the reorganization of agricultural health services in Uruguay (Horizontal coop.)
- **Topic: Emerging Issues**
 - Hold courses on exotic diseases.
 - Support projects designed to prevent bovine spongiform encephalopathy and exotic diseases.
- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Hold workshops on agrifood quality.
 - Support the development of systems of preserved identity (Traceability).

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Training in action: *De la Nada* Program

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Development of IICA's web page**
 - Publish special studies on the web page.
- **Topic: Publishing and Electronic Texts**
 - Conduct and disseminate the results of the Survey of Agrifood Entrepreneurs.

- Continue to produce the Quarterly Report on the Status of the Argentine Agrifood Sector and issue press releases.
- Produce and regularly update the Directory of Argentine Agrifood Enterprises.

3.5.2 CHILE

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Chile, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
 - Provide follow-up to and disseminate results of the agricultural negotiations and trade agreements.
- **Topic: Development of Internal Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
 - Support the operation of the agricultural commodity exchanges.
 - Cooperate in consolidating the Agricultural Insurance Program.
- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Promote access to international markets for Chilean exports.
 - Support the international articulation of agricultural producers.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Support the modernization of the Ministry of Agriculture
 - Analyze agrifood chains.
 - Apply the sectoral policy to the development of competitiveness in the macro-regions.
 - Support the consolidation of the product-specific networks in production-and trade-related matters (INDAP).
 - Support the efforts to strengthen producers' organizations, aimed at improving access to external and internal markets.
 - Enhance producers' expertise in the areas of management, information and technology innovation.

➤ Technology Innovation

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Support technology innovation in agricultural enterprises, by disseminating and discussing experiences involving innovation and change in higher education institutions.

- Support innovation in higher education institutions.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Support the implementation of agricultural health programs.
- Facilitate articulation of the SAG's actions with regional and hemispheric agricultural health bodies.
- Support the efforts of the public and private sectors to develop quality assurance, food safety and biosafety management programs.
- Evaluate environmental impact for "Clean Agriculture."

▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Train leaders in food safety issues.
- Support the dissemination of technologies related to food safety.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Design institutional models for sustainable rural development.
- Support the development of groups that require attention as a matter of priority.
- Help rural microenterprises penetrate markets of inputs, products and services.

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Enhance the management, information and technology innovation capabilities of rural producers and microenterprises.
- Support the business development process of rural women producers and their enterprises.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- Support water resource development and achieve institutional articulation on this matter.
- Perform tasks as the Executive Secretariat of the Water Meeting.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Support the operation of a system of information and documentation on agricultural development (SIDALC).
- Operate the electronic news and information system for different commodities.

- **Topic: Consolidation of the INFOAGRO Thematic Information System**
 - Support the articulation of the information systems of the IICA networks, to share information with strategic partners.
- **Topic: Development of IICA's web page**
 - Produce publications and maintain the institutional web page.
- **Topic: Publishing and Electronic Texts**
 - Produce electronic bulletin containing news from the Southern Cone.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Produce materials and hold events for updating training for agricultural and agroforestry vocational schools and educational institutions.
- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
 - Design and validate exploratory studies on the professional training of farmers.
 - Develop models for standardizing studies.
 - Provide technical support to postgraduate study programs (master's and doctoral degrees)
 - Publish development models for the accreditation of qualifications and curriculum modernization for agronomy and agricultural civil engineering courses.
- **Topic: Integration of University Education**
 - Develop a model for the standardization of veterinary medicine courses.
 - Disseminate and support master's and doctoral programs in agronomy and agricultural civil engineering.

3.5.3 PARAGUAY

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Paraguay, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Prepare and implement a proposal for strengthening the MAG's Special International Trade and Integration Commission (CECII).

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
 - Help strengthen the MAG's agricultural research agencies.
 - Coordinate agricultural research activities at the regional level and publish the technical reports produced.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
 - Cooperate with the MAG in updating and harmonizing national phytozoosanitary legislation with international legislation.
- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
 - Provide technical cooperation for the elaboration and implementation of projects for the creation of the SENAIVE and the modernization and strengthening of SENACSA.
 - Train the MAG's AHFS staff in risk analysis, traceability and integrated pest management.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Assist the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Business Development Council of Guara (CODEG) in preparing projects designed to bolster local agroindustry.
 - Provide technical cooperation in the form of projects and training, for the implementation and management of the Center for Farming Professionals (CEPROA).
 - Train MAG officials, producers and leaders of organizations in the basic principles of sustainable rural development, local development and business opportunities, so as to improve the management and administration of the Program to Support the Development of Small-scale Cotton Growing (PRODESAL).
 - Assist the National Agricultural Union (UAN) in implementing activities that promote local development, with emphasis on family farming.
 - Produce didactic materials to enhance the management capabilities of rural associative microenterprises.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Support the efforts to enhance the MAG's technical capacity for managing and administering programs for the modernization and diversification of small-farm production (MAG-IDB).

- Improve the management capabilities of rural associative microenterprises.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
- Create a monitoring and evaluation unit within the MAG's General Planning Directorate (DGP) to evaluate the programs and projects implemented by the Ministries in the field of sustainable rural development.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Publishing and Electronic Texts**
- Publish extension bulletins on animal health.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
- Implement a pilot project aimed at strengthening the management of the San Juan Bautista Agricultural School (in both the administrative and production-related areas).

3.5.4 URUGUAY

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Uruguay, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
- Hold seminars on the current status of and outlook for the international negotiations (WTO, FTAA, Mercosur, bilateral) and trends in international markets for Uruguay's exports.
- Support Uruguay's participation in the activities of the regional agenda related to Policies, Trade and Integration and, in particular, Uruguayan initiatives that are regional in scope (master's degree course in policies and trade).
- Support Uruguay's participation in activities related to the dissemination and communication of the Hemispheric and Regional Agenda on Policies, Trade and Integration.

- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**
 - Identify potential areas for reciprocal support with other IICA member countries in agribusiness issues.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
 - Support the development of technical capabilities for the analysis of sectoral and agricultural trade policies within producers' organizations.
 - Support Uruguay's participation in the institutional modernization activities of the Hemispheric and Regional Agenda on Policies, Trade and Integration, in particular with regard to Uruguayan initiatives.
 - Support the modernization of the Model Market in Montevideo as a mechanism for enhancing competitiveness at the international level.
 - Disseminate and promote new agribusiness strategies that will enhance competitiveness.
 - Assist the MGAP's International Affairs Unit in designing training and dissemination activities and in preparing analytical studies.
 - Support institutional modernization in regard to policies and international agricultural trade.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Food Safety**
 - Support Uruguay's participation in the activities of the Hemispheric and Regional Food Safety and Agricultural Health Agenda.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
 - Assist the Government in formulating rural development policies.
 - Implement the training component of MGAP programs such as Rural Uruguay and the Rural Family.
 - Encourage the use of new information and communication technologies to identify and promote rural or local development actions.
 - Support Uruguay's participation in components of the Hemispheric and Regional Agenda on Sustainable Rural Development, such as PROCODER and PROMER.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
 - Provide technical assistance to agents and actors in local development in the use of existing financial resources.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
 - Cooperate actively with the provincial governments in aspects of the decentralization process related to rural development.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
 - Design a "National Strategy for the Training of Human Resources for the Agricultural Sector." Permanent forum – 5 workshops to define a strategy.
 - Diagnostic study and valuation of the training programs of the MGAP, *Intendencias*, NGOs.
- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
 - Support for the development of the curriculum of the School of Agronomy, for topics related to Policies, Trade and Integration.
- **Topic: Integration of University Education**
 - Support for Uruguay's participation in the activities of the Regional Agenda for the Development of Human Resources, particularly Uruguayan initiatives such as the Regional Forum of Schools of Agronomy and the Regional Forum of Schools of Veterinary Medicine.

4 REGIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENDA

4.1 ANDEAN REGION

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- Advise the governments on the preparation of policy proposals for the development of agriculture and rural life, the trade negotiations and the drafting of legislation, including the institutional arrangements and discussion forums required for their implementation.
- Conduct periodic studies on the evolution, outlook and opportunities for agriculture.
- Provide continuous training for negotiators and officials of public and private institutions on the international agricultural negotiations.
- Support the consolidation and regional articulation of agricultural commodity and input exchanges, and the improvement of the quality of agroindustrial products.

- Promote the establishment of product-specific marketing systems and agricultural marketing funds.
- Support the design and implementation of market intelligence systems.
- Implement institution-building efforts for public institutions.
- Implement mechanisms that provide links with the private sector.
- Promote and consolidate chambers, associations and other agricultural and agroindustrial trade organizations.
- Promote the establishment of mechanisms for dialogue and consensus-building on agribusiness issues, in the context of agricultural production chains.
- Implement training actions on concepts and methods inherent to competitiveness and agricultural production chains.
- Provide support to studies for, and the monitoring of, new chains and clusters, the establishment of agreements on competitiveness for priority products, the promotion of agribusinesses and business initiatives.
- Strengthen the observatories of competitiveness that exist in the region.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- Facilitate the integration of national and regional efforts for the dissemination and exchange of technology and experiences, via mechanisms such as the cooperative technology innovation programs (PROCI), FORAGRO and FONTAGRO.
- Create a regional agenda for work among the different public and private institutions involved in the development of agricultural technology.
- Support the design and implementation of strategies, policies, programs and projects aimed at consolidating national technological innovation systems.
- Support the institutional strengthening of national agricultural technology organizations.
- Promote the development of institutional mechanisms to improve linkages between the public and private sectors, in order to enhance the scientific and technological capabilities of the countries.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- Support the modernization of national agricultural health and food safety systems, including the training and permanent updating of the respective managerial and technical personnel.
- Support the design and implementation of new AHFS organizational models.
- Expand and strengthen national agricultural health and food safety systems and provide advisory assistance for risk analysis.
- Develop mechanisms for the accreditation of private sector professionals and institutions.
- Provide assistance for the design and implementation of programs and projects aimed at the modernization of agricultural health services.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- Strengthen public sector capabilities in the Member States regarding the design and implementation of strategies, policies, programs, projects and institutional mechanisms for promoting sustainable rural development.
- Support the identification and implementation of alternative development projects, and the identification of new markets for the products promoted under the projects concerned.
- Promote the formation and consolidation of rural microenterprises.
- Support the integration and strengthening of networks of small-scale producers and rural microentrepreneurs.
- Promote the modernization of national institutions involved in rural development, with a view to making the services offered to producers more efficient and developing the market of services for agriculture and rural life.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- Provide assistance in developing and disseminating national information systems for agriculture, and their links with international systems.
- Help strengthen national networks of agricultural libraries.

- Reinforce the service and information management capabilities of the systems operated by IICA's cooperation agencies in the Andean Region.

➤ **Education and Training**

- Provide training to public and private-sector professionals and technicians on topics that are a priority for the development of agriculture and the rural milieu (research and agricultural production techniques, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness management and knowledge management).
- Support the efforts of agricultural higher and vocational education institutions to provide their teaching staff with updating training, and their work in the fields of self-evaluation and accreditation.
- Foster dialogue and the exchange of experiences through discussion forums and meetings, and the promotion of alliances among institutions involved in education and training.

4.2 CARIBBEAN REGION

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- Assist the national authorities in designing policies for the WTO and FTAA trade negotiations and in developing capabilities for meeting the commitments assumed under the WTO agreements.
- Sponsor the organization of forums and training events for public and private-sector officials on trade policy issues, international and regional trade agreements, market access and trade regulations.
- Support efforts to create a more favorable environment for agribusiness.
- Work with regional organizations (e.g., the CABA) to develop and implement plans designed to increase agricultural trade.
- Encourage greater use of technology in the marketing of agricultural products.
- Promote hemispheric-level strategic alliances to facilitate access to extra-regional agricultural markets and enhance competitiveness.

- Foster strategic alliances at the regional level, with academic, private-sector and international organizations, with a view to conducting studies on competitiveness to identify products with agricultural, agroindustrial and commercial potential.
- Foster activities aimed at identifying trading partners in the agricultural sector and in other sectors of the economy, primarily tourism.
- Promote training aimed at improving managerial and technical skills, in order to make the sector more competitive and increase the human development of agricultural entrepreneurs.

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- Support national and regional research networks and institutions, in order to evaluate both existing capabilities and the impact of research.
- Foster links among such organizations, to improve the definition and management of research priorities.
- Cooperate with CARDI in introducing and validating new varieties of products, with a view to making the sector more competitive.
- Strengthen national systems for technology generation, validation and transfer.
- Help strengthen the research capabilities of various regional bodies (PROCICARIBE, Clawrenet, NFC).
- Foster interagency cooperation for research on appropriate technologies and the creation of Technological Networks for Cooperation among Producers.
- Facilitate access to new technologies and promote effective transfer mechanisms.
- Organize and promote regional and national training courses, seminars and workshops, on topics such as soil and water conservation, technological advances and information.
- Organize and promote workshops on the evaluation of biodiversity and traditional knowledge, based on shared access and benefits.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- Provide technical support to public and private institutions for the adoption of the international regulations contained in the WTO Agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

- Implement actions aimed at incorporating into the productive sector topics such as risk analysis, Good Agricultural Practices and agricultural health and food safety, with a view to maintaining the sector's competitiveness in export markets.
- Work with international and regional, financial and technical organizations to improve national agricultural health systems and carry out training activities.
- Support actions aimed at improving the infrastructure and the service provided by agricultural health laboratories.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- Support training activities for rural communities designed to improve business administration, leadership and the use of new production technologies.
- Foster actions to promote the exchange of information and experiences among similar groups of countries in the region.
- Support actions to foster more employment opportunities and the diversification of income, through agroindustrial development, agro-tourism and the sale of environmental services.
- Implement activities aimed at assessing the credit situation of the agricultural sector, so as to recommend options that will make it easier for the rural community to obtain credit.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- Promote actions aimed at the development and utilization of information systems by private and public-sector organizations in the region.
- Facilitate links with databases and information networks of institutions in Latin America.
- Support information and documentation centers, through the SIDALC program.
- Disseminate technical information on all the topics on which IICA focuses its actions in the region.

➤ **Education and Training**

- Organize training courses, seminars and workshops on topics of strategic importance for agricultural and rural development: policy instruments, trade and integration, technology

innovation, sustainable rural development, agribusiness development, and agricultural health and food safety.

- Provide assistance for training in self-management, leadership, rural organization, health, risk assessment and analysis, and other issues involved in the attainment of higher levels of sustainable rural development.
- Support the implementation of courses on project formulation and evaluation, strategic planning and agricultural policies, to enhance the technical capabilities of agricultural public and private-sector organizations.

4.3 CENTRAL REGION

➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

- Enhance the technical capabilities of national public and private units with regard to the formulation of trade negotiation proposals, agricultural trade regulations and the administration of trade agreements.
- Establish forums for consultations and the exchange of information on the progress of the negotiations.
- Cooperate, in the area of agricultural integration, with the regional initiatives promoted by the regional organizations (the SICA and CORECA-CAC).
- Support the ministries of agriculture and the respective units in formulating strategic plans aimed at improving the agrifood sector.
- Foster domestic marketing mechanisms for agricultural products, supporting the establishment and strengthening of commodity exchanges and mechanisms aimed at stabilizing the prices of agrifood goods.
- Implement actions aimed at improving the management capabilities of the agricultural private sector; the development of agribusinesses; and the promotion of agricultural exports and trade.
- Support actions aimed at diversifying and increasing the number of exporters and export markets and the value of agricultural exports.
- Support the initiatives aimed at creating information systems on international markets (market intelligence), the dissemination of information and the adoption of technological innovations in production.

- Foster the exchange of technical literature, to contribute to agricultural diversification in the countries of the region.
- Orient actions designed to support the improvement of competitiveness and the development and adoption of methodologies for identifying products with competitive potential in the marketplace.
- Train public-sector units and private-sector organizations in the chains methodology, and support studies on products with definite potential.
- Support actions aimed to implementation of "Plan Puebla Panamá".

➤ **Technology Innovation**

- Cooperate with the governments in institution-building actions designed to support agricultural technology innovation and research.
- Support the design and validation of structures and organizational and operating arrangements for technology transfer models.
- Undertake actions to support the reorganization of technology innovation units, to enable them to perform their role as suppliers of technology, knowledge and information that will make agricultural production systems more competitive.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- Provide technical support to assist the countries in meeting the requirements of the WTO Agreement on the application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (ASPS) and those resulting from the negotiations of the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA).
- Support national information and notification systems in the area of AHFS.
- Train public and private technical personnel in the operation of the agricultural health and food safety systems and health regulations issued by the international organizations.
- Support activities aimed at institutional modernization, the objective of which is to preserve the plant and animal health patrimony and the quality and safety of national foods, as key elements for enhancing competitiveness.
- Cooperate with the countries in preventing and combating specific diseases and pests that have a major impact on the region's agrifood sector.
- Support actions aimed to implementation of "Plan Puebla Panamá".

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- Formulate studies and strategies rural development policies.
- Help make the environment a source of financial resources for promoting poverty alleviation and the recuperation of the environment.
- Systematize experiences to provide feedback on investments and make them more effective.
- Promote the training of rural leaders in topics such as business opportunities and management and market access, and formulate specific training programs for institutions that have an impact on sustainable rural development.
- Support the efforts of small farmers aimed at the redeployment of production, encouraging the adoption of new crops and the organization of producers.
- Take effective actions in supporting the implementation of Plan Puebla Panamá.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- Support actions designed to strengthen information systems, fostering links with national and international networks.
- Use information systems to disseminate technical documents and reports.
- Foster the training of the technical staff of information systems, so that they can implement technological innovations to improve the service they provide.

➤ **Education and Training**

- Meet the training needs of ministries of agriculture and producers' organizations in the different strategic topics.
- Cooperate with higher education centers in implementing institutional transformation activities intended to adapt the courses they offer to the needs of the agrifood sector.
- Foster the regional organization of university institutions in the Central Region.

4.4 NORTHERN REGION

➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

- **Promote the experience of the countries of the Northern Region in the areas of trade, trade negotiations and agricultural policies, in order to disseminate institutional models and experiences that could be used by public and private organizations in Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries.**
- **Support the Mexican authorities in operating the FTAA Secretariat as of 2003.**
- **Foster the organization of producers and the strengthening of programs in support of the marketing and development of regional markets.**
- **Promote alliances between producers' associations in the countries of the region (particularly, Mexico) and LAC.**
- **Encourage the implementation of the agricultural commodity exchange.**

➤ Technology Innovation

- **Implement, in Mexico, the technical cooperation programs signed with the INIFAP, which will coordinate actions and resources for the implementation of specific projects on research, agricultural development, technical assistance and cooperation in areas of mutual interest.**
- **Strengthen the technology research and transfer efforts of national organizations.**
- **Organize training events and the exchange of experiences, as a means of transferring to the LAC countries the experience in this area of producers' organizations and government agencies of the North American countries.**

➤ Agricultural Health and Food Safety

- **Facilitate the exchange of sanitary and phytosanitary information between the countries of the region and the LAC countries.**
- **Promote strategic alliances, with a view to identifying technical cooperation needed for the implementation of the agreement on SPS.**
- **Promote the institutional development of agricultural health and food safety services.**

- Foster cooperation between the sanitary authorities of the countries of the Northern Region and those of the LAC countries.
- Provide training in strategic topics such as Good Agricultural and Manufacturing Practices, risk analysis and critical control points, safety and quality.
- Disseminate information on these topics.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- Help identify and formulate projects of mutual interest to the countries of the Northern Region and the other countries of the western hemisphere, related to rural development and natural resource management.
- Cooperate in the design and implementation of the agricultural and rural development component of the Puebla – Panama Plan.
- Support the exchange of experiences with other LAC countries, on the implementation of rural development policies and the use of communication technologies to connect rural communities with the sources of information.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- Provide public and private officials with technical information in areas on which cooperation activities in the region will be focused.
- Support the SAGARPA (Mexico) in implementing strategies for the development of statistical information on agriculture and fisheries.

➤ **Education and Training**

- Establish internship programs for exchanges of professionals from institutions in the countries of the Northern Region and LAC countries.
- Promote strategic alliances involving higher education centers in the region and countries in Latin America.
- Continue to support higher agricultural education programs in Mexico.

4.5 SOUTHERN REGION

➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

- Give priority to the regional policy, trade and integration agenda, through the formation of the network of agricultural public policies, involving the advisory bodies of the ministries of agriculture.
- Train both public and private-sector specialists in topics related to international trade and the agricultural trade negotiations.
- Disseminate the results of the WTO and FTAA multilateral negotiations.
- Foster the development of domestic markets, supporting the creation of agricultural commodity exchanges and the development of new financial instruments to support the agrifood sector.
- Spur the development of agricultural insurance programs.
- Develop technical capabilities for the analysis of sectoral policies.
- Foster the development of programs to promote exports, the participation of producers in fairs, horizontal cooperation to promote agricultural products, and other activities that promote greater competitiveness for the agribusiness sector.

➤ Technology Innovation

- Promote the exchange of experiences, the articulation of actions and the dissemination of the findings of agricultural research among the specialized units of the ministries of agriculture and universities, to enhance their capacity for innovation and articulate the issues involved at the regional level.
- To achieve this, tap the capabilities and facilities of the cooperative technology innovation programs (PROCI) that operate in the Southern Region.

➤ Agricultural Health and Food Safety

- Continue supporting the efforts of the countries to harmonize public policies through COSAVE and the Animal Health Forum.
- Articulate national actions in the field of quality improvement and food safety.

- Support the preparation and implementation of projects aimed at creating national plant protection or animal health systems, and activities for their institutional modernization.
- Promote and support projects for the prevention of exotic diseases and activities aimed at alleviating the effects of emerging sanitary situations.
- Train public and private-sector staff responsible for topics such as risk analysis, traceability, integrated pest management, food safety and biosafety management.
- Foster institutional articulation at the national and intra- and extra-regional levels, for the implementation of events and the dissemination of the results.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- Foster the generation of national rural development strategies, the exchange of instruments for alleviating rural poverty and knowledge of important experiences.
- Strengthen the institutions that make up the Interagency Committee for Rural Development in the Southern Region, and its links with the Andean Region.
- Support the formulation of externally funded programs and projects designed to promote sustainable rural development.
- Train leaders of rural organizations and public-sector specialists in the concepts and basic principles of sustainable rural development, business opportunities, and administration of rural programs.
- Produce didactic material designed to enhance the management capabilities of associative rural microenterprises.
- Collaborate with activities related to the use of new information and communication technologies to identify and characterize problems that limit the development of rural communities, and the promotion of actions that help solve or alleviate such problems.
- Foster institutional articulation to meet the challenge of rural development.
- Support activities aimed at creating units for the monitoring and evaluation of programs and projects.
- Cooperate actively with the public agencies responsible for rural development.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- Foster the operation of library information and documentation systems related to agricultural development.
- Promote and articulate the Southern agricultural information networks and those that the countries establish to channel information between the public and private sectors.
- Foster the articulation of IICA's information networks.
- Support the production of national or regional status reports, regional news systems and directories of agrifood enterprises, disseminated using electronic media.

➤ **Education and Training**

- Implement projects designed to strengthen the management of education.
- Support the design of national and regional strategies for the training of human resources in the agricultural sector, and the creation of a regional master's degree program in policies and trade.
- Provide technical assistance, to create models for the development of the accreditation of qualifications and curriculum modernization.
- Implement actions designed to create better links between vocational and higher education, and to generate greater understanding of the market of higher education options available in the different countries, with emphasis on postgraduate and updating courses.
- Collaborate in assessments and evaluations of training programs implemented at the national and regional levels, and in the production of teaching materials.



