

# IICA



## REPORT OF THE TENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Salvador, Bahia, Brazil

October 26-29, 1999



OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SERIES No. 66

## **WHAT IS IICA?**

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system.

As a hemispheric technical cooperation agency, IICA can be flexible and creative in responding to needs for technical cooperation in the countries through its thirty-four Technical Cooperation Agencies, its five Regional Centers and Headquarters, which coordinate the implementation of strategies tailored to the needs of each Region.

The 1998-2002 Medium Term Plan (MTP) provides the strategic framework for orienting IICA's actions during this four-year period.

IICA's mission is to provide cooperation services for agriculture and to strengthen and facilitate inter-American dialogue. The first task aims to support its Member States in bringing about sustainable development in agriculture and rural areas; the second situates this development within the context of hemispheric integration.

The Institute's cooperation services are grouped into six Strategic Areas that are: Policies and Trade; Science, Technology and Natural Resources; Agricultural Health; Rural Development; Training and Education, and Information and Communications.

The Member States of IICA are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, The Bahamas (Commonwealth of), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. Its Permanent Observers are: Arab Republic of Egypt, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, European Communities, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Poland, Romania, Russian Federation and Spain.

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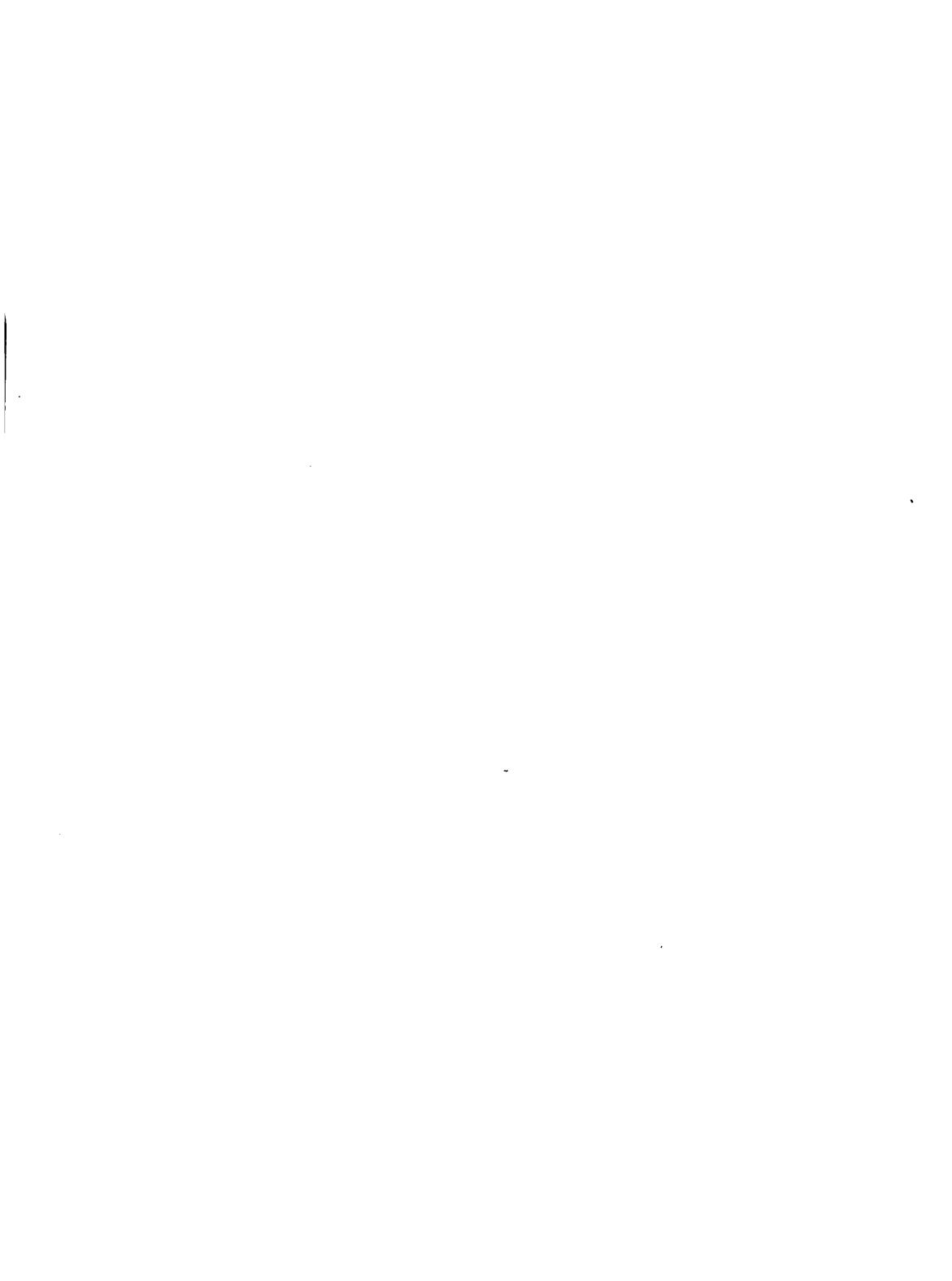
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**MINUTES OF THE TENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**



**MINUTES OF THE TENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**PREPARATORY SESSION**

- 0.1 The Preparatory Session of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 16:19 on October 26, 1999, in the Itapoan Room of the Hotel Othon, in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil. The meeting was chaired by the Representative of Chile, Mr. Angel Sartori Arellano, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, in his capacity as Chairman of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 0.2 In this session, the Heads of Delegation reached agreement on the following items:
- 0.2.1 Election of the Chairman and Rapporteur of the Meeting
- By acclamation, the Plenary elected Mr. Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes, Representative of Brazil and Minister of Agriculture and Supply of Brazil, as Chairman of the IABA.
- The Representative of Guatemala nominated Mr. Ricardo Jose Novo, Representative of Argentina and Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food, for the position of Rapporteur. The motion was approved.
- The two officials took their place at the head table.
- 0.2.2 Meeting Agenda
- The Agenda presented in document IICA/JIA/Doc.235(99) was approved.
- 0.2.3 Membership of the Credentials Committee
- The Representatives of Brazil, Canada, Guatemala and Haiti were appointed to make up this Committee.

**0.2.4 Membership of the Style Committee**

The Representatives of Brazil, Dominican Republic, Haiti and the United States of America were elected to make up the Style Committee for the Portuguese, Spanish, French, and English languages, respectively.

**0.2.5 Working Committees**

Only one working committee was established, to deal with matters related to the Third Ministerial Forum; other committees would be created as needed.

**0.2.6 Deadline for Submitting Proposals**

The Board set October 28 at 12:00 as the deadline for submitting proposals. The deadline did not apply to draft resolutions relevant to topics under discussion.

**0.2.7 Duration of the Meeting**

The Plenary agreed to hold the Closing Session of the meeting on October 29 at 08:00.

**0.2.8 Order of Precedence of the Member States**

The order of precedence was established following the Spanish alphabetical order, beginning with Brazil, the country elected to chair the meeting.

**0.2.9 Other Business**

The Technical Secretary recommended that the meeting adopt a flexible policy for dealing with additional matters, such as the IICA/FAO Agreement and the presentation by the Representative of Canada on 'The Globalization Game'.

The Director General explained that the issues addressed at the Third Ministerial Forum could also be discussed further during the subsequent sessions of the IABA.

**0.2.10 The Preparatory Session was adjourned at 16:44.**



## INAUGURAL SESSION

- 0.3 On October 26, 1999, at 18:00, Mr. Carlos E. Aquino Gonzalez, Director General of IICA, opened the inaugural session of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in the Itapoan Room of the Hotel Othon. He welcomed the Vice President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr. Marco Maciel, and the other participants, and expressed his appreciation to the delegations for attending the Third Ministerial Forum, entitled 'Agriculture and the Rural Milieu: a Matter of Strategic Importance for the Americas'. He stressed that this meeting, the last of the century at the hemispheric level, could mark a milestone in the history of IICA. In this regard, he shared some thoughts as to why agriculture and the rural milieu were of strategic importance to the development of the Americas. A new institutional framework was needed to ensure that the true importance of agriculture was duly recognized. A new institutional framework would make it possible to work together to meet the challenges more vigorously and to seize the increasingly complex and interdependent opportunities of the globalized world.
- 0.4 He first remarked on the fact that the Tenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was being held in the fascinating city of Salvador, Bahia, the old colonial capital and perhaps the most Brazilian of cities. He then said that agriculture and the rural milieu were of strategic importance because the relationship between population and resources was essential to the future of humankind. This relationship was closely linked to the rural milieu, where most natural resources were to be found and many different types of interconnected agricultural and non-agricultural activities were undertaken.
- 0.5 He added that the production of agricultural goods and food had been, was, and would continue to be a strategic issue for any State, a matter of survival, and a key issue. Globalization, the increasingly service-oriented economy, and the opening and interdependence of markets, were all major phenomena that had an impact on trade in agricultural and food products.
- 0.6 He pointed out that there was growing demand for agricultural and livestock products and potential niches existed for their development, but that the supply had to meet new standards in terms of both quantity and quality. It was also of vital importance to bring about a well-balanced settlement of rural areas from the standpoint of national strategy and the relationship between States and their neighbors.

- 0.7 The Director General then remarked that the strategic positioning of this sector required an institutional framework attuned to its mission and objectives that would foster the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies, and courses of action. This would provide effective support for the leaders of the forestry and agricultural systems in fulfilling the key roles assigned to them. These were precisely the actions that were being promoted and implemented gradually within the Institute. The basic goal of this process was to make IICA, led by the IABA, an institution that could provide leadership within the Inter-American system with regard to the strategic positioning and sweeping transformation of agriculture and the rural milieu in terms of its commercial, productive, institutional, and human dimensions. He added that there was a need for links, articulation, coordination, and solidarity among the countries to meet the challenges of globalization.
- 0.8 The Director General then referred to the importance of having a renewed institutional framework that would facilitate the identification of challenges and the implementation of strategies and courses of action aimed at making further progress in improving the position of agriculture and the rural milieu.
- 0.9 He then stressed the need to meet a number of important challenges, which included: providing education and training for human resources at every level; rethinking research and technological innovation; creating timely and pertinent access to information; developing competitiveness; achieving equity; preserving the environment, and adopting a holistic, rather than a fragmented, approach to the agricultural sector; and solidarity, linked to a concept of development that would incorporate processes for redistributing income and providing opportunities for everyone.
- 0.10 He ended by urging the Ministers and delegates to work together to forge a new institutional framework for IICA that would result in a stronger and restructured IABA in the twenty-first century, and contribute to positioning agriculture and the rural milieu.
- 0.11 Mr. Angel Sartori, Minister of Agriculture for Chile, thanked the participants for their confidence in nominating him chairman of the Ninth IABA and the Second Forum of Ministers of Agriculture. He pointed out that the agricultural sector and the rural areas aspired to contribute in the next few decades as active players in bringing about a more integrating and harmonious development for their peoples. He considered that this task requires a joint effort between the governments of the Americas. He added that IICA could contribute significantly both in the

positioning of agriculture and the rural milieu and with regard to other strategic matters, such as development and integration of the economies of the hemisphere.

- 0.12 He raised some points that had been considered in the IABA held in Santiago, Chile, on which his country had worked and that he considered noteworthy. He mentioned some of them, such as trade and the upcoming WTO negotiations. In this respect he mentioned a request made to IICA and FAO to create opportunities for consultation and the exchange of opinions between the agricultural negotiators of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as to contribute towards capacity building and support of relevant studies.
- 0.13 As a contribution to the discussion, he mentioned some ideas that his country considers important for IICA to give priority to and to focus its action on, in conjunction with the members countries, contributing: i) to modernizing the sectoral public administration in each of the countries; ii) to working on developing human resources, their management, and technology, linking the systems of each country's education, training, research, and technology transfer; iii) to advancing as fast as possible on matters of food safety and agricultural health; iv) to WTO negotiations and market integration and opening; and v) to supporting the incorporation of women and rural youth into the agrifood chains.
- 0.14 He also pointed out that, given the aforementioned, it would be essential to continue to move ahead in the modernization of IICA in order to incorporate new technical skills to support the governments.
- 0.15 Mr. Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes, Minister of Agriculture and Supply for Brazil and chairman of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, expressed his thanks for his election as the representative of the Government of Brazil. He commented that this Tenth IABA, before the upcoming World Trade Organization (WTO) Round to be held in Seattle, in late November, was an excellent opportunity for exchanging ideas on the importance of agricultural negotiations and their repercussions on the export sector of the IICA member countries. He mentioned that the sharp fluctuations in prices on the commodity markets and the harmful domestic support and export subsidy policies used by some wealthy countries have distorted the international markets and limited the development of the agro-export sector of the countries in the hemisphere.

- 0.16 He went on to show statistics that illustrated the importance of the Brazilian agricultural sector to the economy as a whole. Then he commented on the position that the Government of Brazil would take at the upcoming round of WTO negotiations. He highlighted some other topics such as the attempt to reduce subsidies and domestic support measures that distort exports. He maintained the importance of eliminating graduated tariffs, and to have a general tariff reduction, including the elimination of the Special Agricultural Safeguard. He also commented that it was necessary to avoid using credits for exports as a non-tariff barrier, and to improve discipline in handling food aids and purchases made by the State. He concluded by stressing how important the liberalization of international trade in agricultural products was for the countries that depend on their exports to meet their financial commitments. He proposed to take advantage of the type of ministerial forum to be held within the IABA framework to seek joint negotiating positions in view of the upcoming WTO round.
- 0.17 Finally, he expressed his thanks for the collaboration provided by IICA, especially that of the Director of the Southern Regional Center, the IICA Representative in Brazil, and his team.
- 0.18 Next, the Governor of the State of Bahia, Dr. Cesar Borges, spoke, thanking the authorities of the IABA for having chosen the city of Salvador as the site of their Tenth Regular Meeting and the Third Ministerial Forum.
- 0.19 He began by mentioning the historic importance of the state of Bahia and of the city of Salvador, its capital.
- 0.20 He emphasized the agricultural sector's importance in the fight against poverty, stressing that in urban areas poverty is increasing despite government policies attempting to alleviate it. The Governor added that the investment needed for generating urban jobs is considerably higher than that required to create a similar number of jobs in rural areas.
- 0.21 He then provided a series of statistics illustrating the importance and significant advances of the agricultural sector in Brazil and in the state of Bahia.
- 0.22 Following this, the Governor discussed a series of programs being implemented for addressing the processes of globalization and trade opening, highlighting the strengthening of trade relations with other states and countries.

- 0.23 He added that agriculture must seek greater competitiveness through the quality and safety of its products and the utilization of appropriate technologies.
- 0.24 In addition, the Governor spoke of the importance of seeking, for the next round of negotiations, a firm position among IICA's Member States in order to achieve a considerable reduction of domestic assistance and subsidies to exports that distort international agricultural markets.
- 0.25 Finally, the Vice-President of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Marco Maciel, welcomed the delegates on behalf of President Fernando Henrique Cardoso, as well as his own behalf. He thanked IICA authorities for making it possible for the principal leaders of the agricultural sector of the Americas to meet in his country.
- 0.26 Mentioning that agriculture has been a vehicle for economic development in many countries of the American hemisphere, he emphasized that, because of its dynamism and strategic importance in generating wealth and employment, as well as its role in protecting the environment and its importance in the fight against poverty, agriculture is an important area to be addressed in future Presidential Summits.
- 0.27 He also commented that, given the importance of the sector, the next round of negotiations of the WTO will have to consider authorizing trade norms similar to those already offered to industrial products. Finally, he reflected on the importance of developing closer ties among the American states so as to enable them to face together future challenges related to agricultural trade negotiations.
- 0.28 He reiterated the gratitude of the Government of Brazil for IICA's support and mentioned the work performed by the Director of the Southern Regional Center and his team.
- 0.29 The session was adjourned at 19:20.

### **FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

1. The First Plenary Session was called to order at 09:40 on Thursday, October 28, 1999, in the Itapoan Room of the Othon Hotel in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, and was chaired by the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture and Supply, Mr. Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes.

## **1.1 Presentation by the Director General**

- 1.1.1 The Director General stated that he would focus his comments on the main elements that have formed the basis of the Institute's work in the last two years. He stressed the role of Institute's staff as the element that carries out IICA's actions at the national level through Cooperation Agencies (CAs), at the regional level through Regional Centers, and at the hemispheric level.**
- 1.1.2 He observed that, throughout his administration, the crux of their work has been institutional change, which has resulted in a dynamic process of decentralization; he then added that, currently, 75% of the Institute's financial resources are directly allocated to Cooperation Agencies in member countries. He stated that the creation of the Consortiums had facilitated the coordination of cooperation activities from IICA headquarters.**
- 1.1.3 He then mentioned the main technical cooperation activities carried out at the regional and national levels in the Institute's areas of thematic concentration, including Policies and Trade; Science, Technology and Natural Resources; Agricultural Health and Food Safety; Sustainable Rural Development; Training and Education; and Information and Communications for Development. He also mentioned the Agribusiness Network of the Americas.**
- 1.1.4 After that, he stressed the importance of strategic alliances with regional and international institutions and organizations, which strengthen the actions of institutional resources (human, technical and financial) and therefore increase their ability to help the Member States. The alliances he mentioned as examples included those established with the FAO, IDB, OAS, World Bank, WTO, ECLAC, CIAT, GTZ, USDA, IFAD, CIRAD, ACEI, CIDA, IDRC of Canada, as well as CATIE and CARDI.**
- 1.1.5 He reiterated the importance of decentralization, the adaptation of IICA Headquarters and strategic planning, which has been incorporated in IICA's institutional culture, as well as the technological network that links all the CAs.**
- 1.1.6 He concluded his message by thanking the IICA Member States for their support, and made special mention of the contributions received through the use or donation of buildings or land for the operations of the TCAs; stressed the contribution of the Government of Bolivia to the operations of the "House of Agriculture" and other donations made by the Governments of Brazil, El Salvador, Jamaica, Honduras and Panama.**

- 1.2 The Chairman of the IABA welcomed Mr. Dilceu Seraphico, Chairman of the Agriculture Committee of the Brazilian House of Representatives
- 1.3 Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)
- 1.3.1 Mr. Waldemar W. Wirsig, Manager of the Sustainable Development Department of the IDB, expressed his thanks for the invitation to participate in the IABA meeting and communicated the special greetings of the Bank President, Mr. Enrique Iglesias, including his best wishes for the meeting's success.
- 1.3.2 Referring to comments regarding the IDB made during the Third Ministerial Forum on "Agriculture and the Rural Milieu, a Matter of Strategic Importance for the Americas," he said that the IDB had in fact reduced its funding for the agricultural sector in general. He explained that this was due to a lack of demand from the countries, as the treasury ministers, who are the IDB's counterparts, have other national priorities.
- 1.3.3 He believed that this funding "drought" has led the Bank to consider on a new approach to rural development and the agricultural sector, on the basis of two strategies: first, using a multi-sectoral focus for the reduction of rural poverty; and second, applying a concept of sustainable agri-food development with a modern vision that includes commercial agriculture, sustainable development, competitiveness, food safety, agricultural health and technology.
- 1.3.4 He then stated that the Bank's political will alone is not enough to allocate resources, as it merely constitutes an offer of financial cooperation. In this regard, he stressed the importance of: i) seeking a consensus within the agricultural sector regarding the priority measures to be taken; ii) improving dialogue with other sectors, for which purpose the Ministries of Agriculture should play a leading role to seek a consensus and produce a national rural development strategy; and finally iii) engaging in dialogue with economic decision makers, meaning the ministers of economy and finance.
- 1.3.5 On this last point, he feels that the IDB can help include rural development and the agricultural sector in the Bank's national agendas, but it is also important to establish a working agenda at the regional level, based on transparent cooperation principles that are shared among agencies that will make it possible to exploit the comparative advantages and synergies of these agencies.

- 1.3.6 He observed that he had made a note of the conclusions of the Report of the Third Ministerial Forum, "Agriculture and the Rural Milieu, a Matter of Strategic Importance for the Americas," and would present it for internal distribution at the IDB.
- 1.3.7 Finally, on behalf of the President of the IDB, he invited the members of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to attend the upcoming meeting of the Bank's Board of Governors, to be held in New Orleans in March of next year, as he believed that agreements on specific actions regarding the inter-American agenda for rural development could be established within that framework.
- 1.3.8 The Representative of Chile moved that IICA prepare a draft resolution to follow up on the IDB's offer, as he felt that the opportune establishment of an inter-American agenda for rural development could facilitate a broader working relationship with the IDB. He took the opportunity to express his thanks for the hospitality extended by the people of Brazil to the meeting's participants.
- 1.3.9 The Representatives of the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Bolivia approved and seconded the motion of the Representative of Chile. Also, the Representative of Bolivia stated that he was proud that his country had donated the facilities for the "House of Agriculture" mentioned in the Director General's speech, through which they hope to strengthen the agricultural sector, and thanked the IICA for its continued support of his country.
- 1.3.10 Finally, the Representative of Dominica expressed his gratitude for the IICA's strong and swift support for the biological control of the fruit fly, which had severely affected citrus fruit production in his country.
- 1.4 1997 and 1998 Annual Reports (IICA/JIA/Doc. 237(99))
- 1.4.1 The Technical Secretary indicated that the 1997 and 1998 Annual Reports had been approved by the Executive Committee in its Eighteenth and Nineteenth Regular Meetings, respectively.
- 1.4.2 Next, the Chair submitted Draft Resolution "1997 and 1998 Annual Reports" for discussion by the IABA. It was approved without changes.
- 1.5 Report by the Chairman of the Executive Committee on the 1998 and 1999 Meetings (IICA/JIA/Doc.239(99))



- 1.5.1 The Chairman of the Executive Committee, Mr. Carlos Antonio da Rocha Paranhos, Special Advisor for International Affairs of the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture and Supply, discussed the main subjects approved by the Executive Committee during 1998-1999. Highlights included the resolutions corresponding to: the New Institutional Dimension, the 1998-2002 Medium Term Plan (MTP) – Strategic Vision; the financing of the Regular Fund and resource distribution; the changes to the CATIE Contract, and the incorporation of a gender perspective into institutional policies.
- 1.6 Presentation by the Director General: “Facing the Twenty-first Century: The New Institutional Dimension” (IICA/JIA/Doc.240(99))
- 1.6.1 The Director General began his presentation indicating that this proposal was in answer to Resolution 316 of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, which sought to establish a new institutional dimension. He noted that the changes suggested in the governing bodies of IICA are oriented toward repositioning and reaffirming the value of agriculture and the rural environment, and toward increasing interaction among the ministers of agriculture and the mechanisms of the Summits of the Americas and the inter-American system.
- 1.6.2 He explained that it is hoped that IABA will take on a new role, permitting it to act as a body that reflects on and approves inter-American strategies on agriculture and development in the rural milieu. In the same way it will be able to act as the “Forum on Agriculture and the Rural Milieu of the Inter-American System.”
- 1.6.3 The Director General argued that the strategic underpinnings of the proposal for a IABA’s new role are: utilization of the existing institutional infra-structure in such a way that it becomes a high-level mechanism for agriculture and the rural milieu, with better coordination and a farther reach in both the private sector and civil society in the various countries, along with other institutional organizations related to agricultural development and the rural milieu.
- 1.6.4 He continued by adding that the IABA, in assuming the proposed new dimension, will have support from networks of existing and future forums. Likewise, he stressed that it will become a space for dialogue and discussion on crucial emerging issues, as well as a source of input for the Presidential Summits, while at the same time carrying out its mandates in the agricultural sector and the rural milieu.

- 1.6.5 Next, he compared the current functions of the IABA with the proposals. He emphasized that the new IABA will have a vision more aligned with globalization and processes of integration. Explaining further, he noted that more time will be taken in analyzing strategic and substantive issues for agriculture and the rural environment, and less in operating issues. He underscored this by observing that the IABA's new dimension will absorb the functions of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).
- 1.6.6 The Director General strengthened his point by adding that ideally the new institutional dimension will strengthen the other governing bodies of the Institute. He reiterated that there will be renewed vigor in the Executive Committee, since it will be carrying out technical functions through the analysis of important issues, whose conclusions will be submitted to the IABA in the form of recommendations. In this sense, it will be authorized to collect and transmit to the IABA the interests, concerns, and proposals of other organizations, both private and public, national and international, that are associated with the agrifood sector and the rural milieu.
- 1.6.7 He noted that the General Directorate would be strengthened through the proposed Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, the purpose of which is to provide regular advice to the Director General regarding the consolidation, modernization, and transformation of institutional management, and facilitating consultations among Member States and between them and the Director General on varying issues and initiatives.
- 1.6.8 The possible consequences of not implementing this proposal, the Director General said, include a continuing lack of relevance with regard to agriculture and the rural environment in the agendas of the organizations and political and financial forums; a maintenance and accentuation of the dispersion, duplication, and lack of coordination in the efforts of many institutional actors involved in agriculture and rural development; the failure to utilize the potential for synergy with the private sector and civil society; and the reduction of possibilities for taking advantage of and maximizing institutional capacity at the national, regional, and hemispheric levels.
- 1.6.9 A special point was made about the fact that the new institutional dimension does not imply additional resources to Member States, since its costs are covered by the budget of the Institute's Regular Fund. He further stated that it does not require amendment to the IICA Convention, only changes in the Rules of Procedure.

- 1.6.10** From the point of view of external relations, an advantage of the transformation of the organs of the Institute would be an increase in the political weight of advocates for agriculture and a greater coordination with networks of existing forums and specialists.
- 1.6.11** The Director General concluded his statement by inviting the Representatives of the IABA to become visionaries of the new millennium, working toward a new role for agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas.
- 1.6.12** The Chair submitted for discussion the Draft Resolution, "The New Institutional Dimension."
- 1.6.13** The Representative of Honduras complimented the Director General on this initiative, reflecting on the diverse regional forums of Ministers of Agriculture and their functional relationship with IICA's Regional Centers, and indicating that a higher degree of coordination among them would be desirable.
- 1.6.14** The Representatives of the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, El Salvador, Panama, and Guatemala showed their satisfaction with the proposal for a new institutional dimension.
- 1.6.15** The Representative of Bolivia asked the Director General to which other agencies he had referred in point 2 of the draft resolution. The Director General clarified that this point alluded to all agencies of the OAS that are linked in one way or another to rural development.
- 1.6.16** The Representative of Panama pointed out that given the reversion of the Panama Canal on December 31, 1999, his country would need the cooperation of the Inter-American System in satisfactorily managing the canal, and that IICA, in its new institutional dimension, and in its capacity as an organization specializing in the agriculture of the system, could offer invaluable cooperation in this area.
- 1.6.17** The Director General clarified a question by the Representative of Guatemala related to the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues. He stated that the idea of proposing the establishment of said commission was based on the need to facilitate consensus for the Executive Committee and the IABA.
- 1.6.18** There being no further comments, the resolution was approved.

- 1.6.19 The Chair of the IABA thanked the meeting for electing him to the post and said that he had been following the documents and resolutions submitted to the meeting carefully. He expressed concern at the declining importance being attached to agriculture and rural development, adding that, in his opinion, this was due to the fall in the profitability of agriculture in recent years. He felt that IICA should give priority to the question of agricultural profitability and proposed that efforts be concentrated on this issue, which was the cause of the problems and not a result of them.
- 1.6.20 The Director General thanked the Chairman for his suggestion and agreed that the topic of profitability should be considered the linchpin around which the other problems of the agricultural sector revolved.
- 1.7 Financing of the Regular Fund and Distribution of Resources for the Years 2000-2001 (Document IICA/IABA/Doc.241(99))
- 1.7.1 The Technical Secretary informed the meeting that the document "Financing of the Regular Fund and Distribution of Resources for the Years 2000-2001" (Document IICA/IABA/Doc.241(99)) had been distributed, along with Draft Resolution No. 4 of the same name, and noted that this had been discussed at the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and approved in Resolution No. 315.
- 1.7.2 The Chair opened the floor for comments.
- 1.7.3 The Delegate of Costa Rica pointed out that the Director General was empowered to make transfers of up to 10% among the chapters of the Program Budget, and asked him to consider the possibility of allocating more funds to the area of policy and trade, given the importance of the upcoming round of trade negotiations.
- 1.7.4 The Director General thanked the Delegate of Costa Rica for his suggestion and said that the Institute was already studying the question of the importance that trade and food safety were likely to assume in the short term.
- 1.7.5 The Chair announced the approval of Draft Resolution No. 4 "Financing of the Regular Fund and Distribution of Resources for the Years 2000-2001" (Document IICA/IABA/Doc.241(99)).

- 1.8 **Statement by Ambassador Juan Carlos R. Vignaud**
- 1.8.1 The Representative of Argentina asked the Chair to allow his country's Ambassador to Sweden, Mr. Juan Carlos R. Vignaud, to present some ideas on the possible joint work to be carried out by IICA and the FAO.
- 1.8.2 There being no objections, the Chair gave the floor to Mr. Vignaud.
- 1.8.3 Mr. Vignaud thanked the meeting for the opportunity to speak. He said that he had been nominated for the post of General Director of the FAO, and therefore wished to refer to possible joint activities between IICA and the FAO. He suggested that a mutual assistance pact be promoted among the countries of the hemisphere, in order to support policies aimed at alleviating and mitigating the effects of natural disasters in the regions where they occurred most often. He added that joint efforts were needed to try to mobilize the donor community, and promised the Caribbean and Central American countries that he would raise this matter personally at the next meeting of the G-77 Group.
- 1.8.4 The Chair adjourned the First Plenary Session at 11:55.

## **SECOND PLENARY SESSION**

2. The Second Plenary Session was called to order at 14:45 on Thursday, October 28, 1999, in the Itapoan Room of the Othon Hotel in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, by Mr. Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes, Chairman of the meeting and Minister of Agriculture and Supply of Brazil.
- 2.1 **Approval of the minutes of the Preparatory Session and Inaugural Session**
- 2.1.1 The Chairman opened the floor for comments on the minutes of the Preparatory Session, which were approved as read.
- 2.1.2 The Chairman submitted the minutes of the Inaugural Session for the consideration of the Representatives; they were approved as read.

## 2.2 Draft Resolutions of the Second Plenary Session

### 2.2.1 Draft Resolution: “1997 and 1998 Financial Reports of the Institute”

The Chairman opened the floor for the discussion of the Draft Resolution, which was approved as read.

### 2.2.2 Draft Resolution: “Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Audit Review Committee”

The Representative of Canada observed that the report of the Audit Review Committee drew attention to the identification of problems regarding internal controls and recommended that they be addressed by the new Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues.

The Director General considered the suggestion acceptable and the Draft Resolution was approved as read.

### 2.2.3 Draft Resolution: “1998-1999 Inter-American Agricultural Medal”

On behalf of his Government, the Representative of Mexico thanked the meeting for selecting Mr. José Domingo Molina, a citizen of Mexico, for the 1998-1999 Inter-American Agricultural Medal.

The Draft Resolution was approved as read.

### 2.2.4 Draft Resolutions: “1998-1999 Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development”; “Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture”

The Draft Resolutions were approved as read.

### 2.2.5 Draft Resolution: “Date and Site of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture”

The Representative of the Dominican Republic informed the meeting that his country could offer excellent facilities and human resources for the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, scheduled for 2001.

The Draft Resolution was approved as read.

### **2.3 Appointment of External Auditors for the 2000-2001 Biennium**

**2.3.1** The Technical Secretary explained that the appointment of external auditors could be extended for up to four years, and asked the Director of Finance to discuss the selection process for the firm that would conduct the external audit of IICA and CATIE.

**2.3.2** The Director of Finance explained that he had issued a call to auditing firms with representation in the member countries, so that they could participate in the public bidding process to select the firm that would audit the financial statements of IICA and CATIE for the 2000-2001 period. After analyzing bids from seven auditing firms, he recommended contracting Deloitte & Touche.

**2.3.2.1** The Chairman opened the floor so that the Representatives could comment on the above recommendation. The hiring of the recommended firm was approved.

### **2.4 Appointment of the Representatives of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to the Board of Directors and Governing Council of CATIE (IICA/JIA/Doc. 244 (99))**

**2.4.1** The Technical Secretary informed the meeting that the candidates to represent the Inter-American Board of Agriculture on the Board of Directors of CATIE were Richard Rortvedt, from the United States of America, Miguel Angel Bonilla Reyes, from Honduras, and Federico Dao Dao, from Venezuela.

**2.4.2** The Legal Advisor explained the voting procedure and reminded the meeting that the votes of at least 18 Representatives were required for one of the candidates to be elected

**2.4.3** The Representative of Honduras stated that his country's candidate had vast experience in areas related to the new role entrusted to the Board of Directors of CATIE, and informed the meeting that Mr. Bonilla had contributed to the creation of a private fund for agricultural research and promoted the institutional transformation of his country's Department of Natural Resources. He added that as the General Manager of the Federation of Agroexporters, he had close ties with CATIE.

**2.4.4** The Representative of the United States expressed his satisfaction with the candidates' qualifications. He said that the excellent credentials and character of Mr. Richard Rortvert qualified him to hold the position in question. He pointed out that Mr. Rortvert had 24 years of international professional experience, had worked for the USDA, had liaised between that agency and the IDB on matters of interest

to agriculture in the hemisphere, had served as Executive Secretary of the Agriculture Committee. and done professional work on topics that were relevant to the duties of the Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to the Board of Directors of CATIE.

- 2.5 **Election of the Representative of the IABA to the Board of Directors of CATIE**
- 2.5.1 The meeting agreed to appoint Mr. Richard Rortvedt as the Representative of the IABA to the Board of Directors of CATIE. The Representative of the United States thanked the meeting for electing Mr. Rortvedt and said that he was sure that his expertise and dedication would prove useful to CATIE.
- 2.6 **Election of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE**
- 2.6.1 The Chair gave the floor to the Technical Secretary, who reported that Ecuador was the only candidate. He pointed out that only those countries that were not members of CATIE could be nominated, and he read out the names of those countries.
- 2.6.2 The Chair opened the floor for other nominations. The delegate of Belize nominated Bolivia, and the delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, seconded by the delegate of Panama, nominated Jamaica.
- 2.6.3 Following two ballots, Jamaica was elected as the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE.
- 2.6.4 The Director General proposed a vote of recognition for Mr. Ruben Guevara Moncada, for his work as the Director General of CATIE, which had improved its level of excellence and facilitated closer ties with IICA.
- 2.7 **Draft Resolutions**
- 2.7.1 **Draft Resolution: "Appointment of External Auditors for the 2000-2001 Biennium"**
- The Chair opened the floor for comments on the draft resolution, which was approved without modifications.
- 2.7.2 **Draft Resolution: "Tribute to Dr. Oscar Hector Gheresi"**
- The Chair opened the floor for comments on the draft resolution, which was approved without modifications.



The Director General paid special tribute to Dr. Oscar Hector Gherzi and presented him with a gift. Dr. Gherzi received a round of applause from the Plenary.

## **2.8 Report on the Election of the Director General of CATIE**

2.8.1 The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Victor Manuel Villalobos who, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of CATIE, explained the process involved in electing the Director General of CATIE, and the outcome of same. He said that 27 applications had been received, five of which fulfilled the requirements. A list of three candidates was subsequently submitted to the Governing Council. These candidates were: Miguel A. Altieri of Chile, Pedro Emilio Ferreira Rossi of Uruguay, and Jorge E. Illueca of Panama/United States.

2.8.2 Mr. Pedro Emilio Ferreira Rossi was subsequently elected to the post of Director General of CATIE.

## **2.9 Biennial Report of CATIE**

2.9.1 Dr. Ruben Guevara, the Director General of CATIE, began his presentation by congratulating the Government of Jamaica on being elected to serve as the Representative to the Governing Council of CATIE. He was convinced that this election would facilitate closer ties with the countries of the Caribbean and with CARDI. He also congratulated Mr. Richard Rortvedt on his election as a member of the Board of Directors of CATIE. He would make a great contribution to the institution by facilitating closer ties with the US Department of Agriculture and the IDB, institutions with which he had been connected in recent years. Mr. Guevara then congratulated Dr. Pedro Ferreira on his recent election to the post of Director General of CATIE and offered to do everything in his power to ensure a smooth transition.

2.9.2 Dr. Guevara then referred to what he considered the major achievements of CATIE over the last few years. Firstly, important modifications to the Center's Contract had been negotiated and approved; the Contract had also been extended for a further twenty years. He underscored the strengthening of relations with IICA, which, he believed, would result in products and services of a higher quality for the member countries.

2.9.3 CATIE's present financial situation was another achievement of his administration. Although its level of revenues was not stable, they had increased in recent years. He then described the successes achieved in the Center's three main areas of action: research, postgraduate teaching and the external projection of CATIE. He

added that CATIE had undertaken work on issues that were of strategic importance to its member countries and its more than 30 partners. These strategic issues included: intellectual property rights and genetic modification; criteria for and indicators of the impact of research; criteria for and indicators of sustainable development and natural resources management; biodiversity; links between research and agricultural policies, and research and technology transfer.

- 2.9.4 He concluded his comments by thanking the cooperation entities that made CATIE's work possible, IICA's Director General, Deputy Director General and other officials for their support, and, especially, the member countries, without whose support his efforts as Director General of CATIE would not have been successful.
- 2.10 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) (IICA/JIA/Doc.249(99))
- 2.10.1 The Senior Resource Mobilization Officer of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Mr. Ronald Williams, thanked the Inter-American Board of Agriculture for the opportunity to present CARDI's report.
- 2.10.2 He began his presentation by pointing out that the operating budget of CARDI, 70% of which was made up of contributions from the member countries, had been adversely affected. This had resulted in a reduction in the Institute's capacity to respond to the demand for technical cooperation. In order to overcome the financial problem, CARDI had implemented a series of corrective measures, such as austerity programs and efforts to prioritize expenditure, a restructuring of the reorganization, and better and stronger ties with national, regional and international institutions.
- 2.10.3 He added that work had been done on seed research and development. The laboratory in Barbados had signed contracts with private companies for research on micro-propagation and germ plasm conservation techniques, with crops such as bananas, plantains, anthurium and pineapples.
- 2.10.4. He then described the work in the area of the integrated pest management, such as pink mealy bug, fruit worm and white fly, which affected the production systems of fruits, vegetables, cereals, grains, legumes, roots, ornamental plants and feed grains. He also described the work on animal production systems and natural resources management.

- 2.10.5 He then mentioned the cooperation agreement between IICA and CARDI, noting that this mode of collaboration had facilitated the joint development and implementation of a large number of agricultural development projects. He gave a brief description of these projects, highlighting PROCICARIBE III; the Communications and Information System; the reciprocal technical assistance activities for the development of systems for the marketing of commodities; market research for the regional agrifood sector; and the systems for the production and marketing of organic crops and small ruminants in Trinidad and Tobago.
- 2.10.6 He also mentioned the Caribbean Food Fair, which resulted in the establishment of strategic alliances between private-sector companies and the public sector.
- 2.10.7 He concluded his report by recommending that the IABA authorize IICA to support CARDI's efforts to identify alternative funding sources to solve the current budget deficit.
- 2.11 Statement by the Director Emeritus of IICA, Dr. José Emilio Araujo
- 2.11.1 Dr. Araujo expressed his pleasure at participating in the Tenth Regular Meeting of IABA. He mentioned that the emergence of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture as IICA's highest governing body and the institutionalization of the current Convention of the Institute occurred during his term as Director General.
- 2.11.2 He then gave special thanks to the Institute's Member States for having strongly supported the proposal made by the Director General for a new institutional dimension.
- 2.11 Statement by Director Emeritus of IICA, Dr. Francisco Morillo
- 2.11.1 Dr. Morillo congratulated the Director General and his staff, also recognizing the Member States' support for the proposal for a new institutional dimension. He drew attention to the fact that this transformation and modernization of IICA's agencies is occurring eighteen years after the First Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.
- 2.12.2 He emphasized that the new institutional dimension approved shows the effectiveness with which IICA faces the challenges posed by its broad concept of agriculture, which demands a higher degree of interaction between the Institute and other organizations and institutions whose activities affect the agricultural sector.

- 2.12.3 He ended his statement by pointing out the importance of education as a basis for promoting development in agriculture and the rural milieu. Because of this, he said, IICA should support the Member States in their efforts to improve agricultural education and update school curricula, as well as in their attempts to strengthen rural education, which will contribute to breaking the cycle of rural poverty.
- 2.13 **Draft Resolutions: “Remuneration of the Director General for the 2000-20001 Biennium”; “Biennial Report on the Activities of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”**
- 2.13.1 The Chair submitted the draft resolutions for discussion, which were approved without changes.
- 2.14 **Draft Resolution: “Biennial Report on the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI)”**
- 2.14.1 The Chair submitted the draft resolution for discussion. It was approved, changing the word “General” to “Executive” in the second conclusive paragraph, as suggested by the Representative of Barbados.
- 2.15 **Draft Resolution: “Agenda and Plan of Action for Financing the Rural Economy and the Struggle Against Poverty”**
- 2.15.1 The Chair submitted the draft resolution to the Plenary for approval.
- 2.15.2 The Representative of Dominica complimented IICA on the phrasing of the draft resolution, in that it reflects the sentiments of the Member States about rural development and the struggle against poverty.
- 2.15.3 The Representative of Honduras expressed his country’s satisfaction with the draft resolution and suggested including the World Bank in the second conclusive paragraph.
- 2.15.4 The draft resolution was approved with the suggested changes.
- 2.16 **Draft Resolution: “Adaptation of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu to Climatic Change”**
- 2.16.1 The Chair submitted the Draft Resolution to the Plenary.

- 2.16.2 The Representative of Costa Rica emphasized the importance of approving the draft resolution, given the recurrence of natural disasters linked to climatic change that have serious impacts on agriculture and the rural milieu in the nations of the hemisphere.
- 2.16.3 After various statements from delegates requesting interpretation of the draft resolution and corresponding clarifications made by the delegate of Costa Rica, the Director General, and the Technical Secretary, the draft resolution was approved without changes.
- 2.17 Draft Resolution: "Continuation of the Multilateral Agricultural Trade Reform Process"
- 2.17.1 The Director General informed the meeting that the draft resolution under consideration and the proposed "Salvador Declaration" had been distributed. He emphasized the importance of the subject matter of both documents and felt that it was of the utmost importance that this meeting produce a declaration for the next round of WTO negotiations.
- 2.17.2 The Chairman, in his capacity as the Representative of Brazil, stressed the importance of agriculture to his country's economy and mentioned that the protectionist conditions prevailing in some international markets of agricultural products were unacceptable. He stressed the need to take advantage of this Inter-American Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture to issue a clear and firm declaration that expressed the common concerns on the issue, in order to transmit them at the so-called Millennium Round.
- 2.17.3 The Representatives of Honduras, Chile, Guatemala, Panama, Mexico and Costa Rica agreed on the need to produce a document or declaration setting out the concerns surrounding the upcoming round of negotiations under the WTO, and suggested that a group be formed to draw up an alternative proposal that was more likely to be signed by this forum of ministers of agriculture.
- 2.17.4 The Representative of Jamaica, on behalf of the Caribbean countries, informed the meeting that, under the internal provisions of CARICOM, it was not possible to support these initiatives, since the ministers of agriculture in those countries did not have the authority to address the trade issue.
- 2.17.5 The Representatives of Grenada, Barbados, Saint Lucia and Dominica agreed with the statement of the Representative of Jamaica that they could not take decisions or sign documents that might fall within the purview of the ministries of trade.

- 2.17.6 The Representative of Guyana agreed with her colleagues from the Caribbean; she added that such a position should not be understood as contrary to the initiative of issuing a Declaration, but simply reflected the situation of the small countries, common to all the CARICOM countries, whose trade negotiations were carried out at a higher level.
- 2.17.7 Several other possible alternatives were then presented by a number of delegates, including those from Venezuela, Uruguay, Chile, Honduras, Panama, Guatemala, Colombia, the United States of America, and Argentina.
- 2.17.8 After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that a committee should be set up consisting of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico and the United States of America, to draw up a new draft Declaration.
- 2.17.9 The Second Plenary Session was called to order again at 23:30 under the chairmanship of the Representative of Colombia, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Mr. Rodrigo Villalba Mosquera. The Chair announced that the Director General and the Representative of Costa Rica would explain the amendments to the Salvador Declaration.
- 2.17.10 The Director General said that there was consensus regarding the wording of the Salvador Declaration, as the Representative of Costa Rica would explain. He added that the Draft Resolution "Continuation of the Multilateral Agricultural Trade Reform Process" had been discarded. The work would therefore focus on drafting the Declaration of the IABA that was under discussion.
- 2.17.11 The Representative of Costa Rica thanked all the members of the committee for their collaboration. He said that working with the CARICOM group of countries had been an especially satisfying experience, and highlighted the collaboration of the delegate of Jamaica. He explained that consensus had been achieved by adding the following paragraph at the end of the text originally proposed for the Declaration:

*"As small economies and/or net food importing developing countries, the CARICOM States have established a Regional Negotiating Machinery which, under the instructions of the heads of government of CARICOM States, carries out negotiations on behalf of the Group.*

*"Consequently, the CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture and Heads of Delegation present at the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture*

*are unable to participate in the drafting of any document emanating from the meeting under reference that pertains to negotiations for the upcoming WTO Ministerial meeting to be held in Seattle, Washington, in November 1999.”*

- 2.17.12 The Representatives of Jamaica, Venezuela, Mexico and Guatemala expressed their satisfaction at the results achieved during the consensus-building process and suggested that this was a good example of how the new institutional framework of IICA, in its capacity as a discussion forum, made it possible to reach agreement on issues that were important to agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas.
- 2.17.13 The Chair submitted the Declaration to the Plenary for approval. There being no further comments, the text was approved amidst applause.
- 2.18 Draft Resolutions: “Strengthening IICA Programs that Address the Development of the Processes of Dialogue, Modernization and Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education and Training” and “Incorporation of the Gender Perspective into Institutional Policies”
- 2.18.1 The Chair opened the floor for comments on the Draft Resolutions.
- 2.18.2 The Representative of Venezuela suggested that the wording be changed of operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution “Strengthening IICA Programs that Address the Development of the Processes of Dialogue, Modernization and Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education and Training.” He proposed that the word “focus” be changed to “strengthen,” and “combine” to “coordinate,” in order that the resolution reflect the spirit in which it was drawn up.
- 2.18.3 The Representative of Honduras expressed concern at the fact that the implementation of the two resolutions could call for financial resources in addition to those already obligated under the Program Budget as approved, and therefore suggested that both be referred to the Special Commission on Management Issues for analysis.
- 2.18.4 The Representative of Chile seconded the changes suggested by the Representative of Venezuela. With regard to the comments of the Representative of Honduras, he pointed out that the Draft Resolution “Strengthening IICA Programs that Address the Development of the Processes of Dialogue, Modernization and Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education and Training” was aimed at the establishment of strategic alliances rather than the use of additional operating resources.

- 2.18.5 The Director General explained that external resources would have to be secured and strategic alliances established to implement the resolutions that required financial resources, but for which there was no provision in the approved Program Budget.
- 2.18.6 The Technical Secretary read out the amended operative paragraph 2 of the draft resolution "Strengthening IICA Programs that Address the Development of the Processes of Dialogue, Modernization and Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education and Training." The draft resolution was then approved.
- 2.18.7 The Representative of Argentina noted that operative paragraph 1 of the Draft Resolution: "Incorporation of the Gender Perspective into Institutional Policies" should read as follows: "To incorporate the gender perspective into IICA's institutional system and request the Director General to make the legal, regulatory and operational changes needed to comply with this mandate."
- 2.18.8 The draft resolution "Incorporation of the Gender Perspective into Institutional Policies" was approved with the wording suggested by Representative of Argentina.
- 2.18.9 The Representative of Panama reiterated the national and international importance of maintaining and protecting the watershed of the Panama Canal, and urged the Plenary to support the Draft Resolution "Establishing a Fund for Maintaining the Water Sources Flowing into the Panama Canal."
- 2.18.10 The Representative of the Dominican Republic congratulated the delegations and IICA for the meeting and, on behalf of his country, thanked the Government of Brazil and the State of Bahia for their hospitality. He repeated that he hoped that all the delegations would attend the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the IABA that was scheduled to be held in the Dominican Republic in the year 2001.
- 2.18.11 The Second Plenary Session was adjourned at 00:10 on Friday, October 29, 1999.



## **CLOSING SESSION**

3. The Closing Session was called to order at 08:55 on Friday, October 29, 1999, in the Salon Itapoan of the Hotel Othon in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, Mr. Esteban Brenes.
- 3.1 **Draft Resolutions**
- 3.1.1 **Draft Resolutions: “Election of Members of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE); and “Third Ministerial Forum”**
- The Chairman submitted the draft resolutions to the consideration of the Representatives and they were approved as presented.
- 3.1.2 **Draft Resolution: “Support to the Government of Panama for the Maintenance of Water Sources Flowing into the Panama Canal”**
- 3.1.2.1 The Representative of Canada said that resolutions of this kind involved actions and implied new demands for IICA, but no financial resources had been allocated in the budget to address them. He suggested that the scope of the matter and the implications for IICA needed to be clearly spelt out.
- 3.1.2.2 The Representatives of Guatemala and Saint Lucia said that the problem of watershed management referred to in the draft resolution also existed in other countries, and therefore suggested that the resolution be reworded so that its scope was not limited the specific situation of a single country.
- 3.1.2.3 The Representative of Honduras suggested that reference should be made to CATIE in the draft resolution, since it was an organization that specialized in the topic in question.
- 3.1.2.4 The Director General informed the meeting that the Technical Secretary had taken note of the comments of the Representatives and would incorporate them into a new version of the draft resolution.
- 3.1.2.5 The Minister of Agriculture and Supply of Brazil, Marcos Vinicius Pratini de Moraes, took over the chair and submitted the draft resolution to a vote with the suggested changes. The draft resolution was duly approved.

- 3.1.2.6 The Representative of Panama thanked his colleagues for their support for the proposal. He said that his government would make every effort to secure the financial resources necessary for the conservation of the watershed, adding that the cooperation of the international community was needed if the watershed was to be managed successfully.
- 3.2 **Approval of Draft Resolutions**
- 3.2.1 **Draft Resolution: Vote of Thanks to the Government and People of Brazil**
- 3.2.2 The Technical Secretary read out the draft resolution.
- 3.2.3 The Chair submitted the draft resolution to the consideration of the Representatives and it was approved by acclamation.
- 3.2.4 On behalf of his government and its different authorities, the Chairman then thanked the meeting for approving the draft resolution in question and said that his country had been honored by the presence of all the participants at the Tenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 3.2.5 The Representative of El Salvador offered his country as the site of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA, scheduled to be held in 2003.
- 3.2.6 The Representative of Honduras thanked IICA and the technical and support personnel for their efforts to make the meeting a success.
- 3.3 **Approval of the Minutes**
- 3.3.1 The Technical Secretary informed the meeting that the minutes of the First and Second Plenary Sessions had been distributed.
- 3.3.2 The Chair submitted to the consideration of the Representatives the minutes of the First and Second Plenary Sessions, which were approved as presented.
- 3.4 **Signing of the Report of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture**
- 3.4.1 The Chairman of the IABA and the Director General of IICA, in his capacity as ex-officio Secretary of the IABA, signed the report of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

**3.5 Remarks by the Representative of Guatemala**

- 3.5.1** The Representative expressed his deep appreciation to the Government and people of Brazil for their hospitality, and supported El Salvador's proposal that the next meeting of the IABA be held in Central America.
- 3.5.2** He then thanked IICA for its efforts to ensure the success of the meeting. He said that, without wishing to minimize the importance of previous meetings, the topics addressed at this meeting were of greater significance.
- 3.5.3** He added that the day before a document had been distributed entitled "The Agricultural Policy of Guatemala" and urged the participants to read it, inasmuch as it presented an important aspect of his country's desire for peace, development, democracy and integration.
- 3.5.4** The Representative of Argentina said that this was the first time that he had taken part in a meeting of the IABA and that he was most satisfied with the spirit of teamwork he had seen. He thanked the people of Brazil, IICA and his colleagues for their efforts and support, which had made the meeting a success.
- 3.5.5** On behalf of the CARICOM States, the Representative of Jamaica thanked and congratulated the Chairman for his efficient handling of the meeting and congratulated the Director General on the leadership he had demonstrated and on his wisdom, equanimity and even-handedness at difficult moments.
- 3.5.6** He thanked the Government and people of Brazil for their hospitality and the assistance they had provided to the delegations of the CARICOM States. He added that, although a range of issues and positions had been addressed at the meeting, the memory that would long stand out in the minds of the participants was the discussion of the contents of the Salvador Declaration, in which the principles and democratic spirit of the delegates of the IABA member countries had prevailed. He thanked his colleagues from the Caribbean for the trust they had placed in him and stated that the Caribbean had been enriched with this meeting.
- 3.5.7** The Representative of Bolivia also thanked the Government and people of Brazil; IICA, for its efforts and the success of the meeting; and the delegates for the spirit of cooperation and respect they had shown.

### 3.6 Remarks by the Director General

- 3.6.1 The Director General said that this IABA had been historic for several reasons, including the degree of progress made. Although there were different ways of taking decisions, the important thing was that the principles of solidarity, respect, justice and equity had prevailed among the members, and had been demonstrated during the meeting. He added that it was necessary to continue to work together, because this was what the framework of globalization demanded, given the interdependence of the countries.
- 3.6.2 In concluding, he thanked the Government of Brazil and the Government of the State of Bahia, in particular the President and Vice-president of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the Minister of Agriculture and Supply of Brazil, and their respective teams. He also thanked the IICA personnel and support staff who had contributed to the success of the meeting.

### 3.7 Remarks by the Chairman

- 3.7.1 The Chairman of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the IABA expressed his delight and personal satisfaction at having chaired such an important meeting, which had been characterized by a stimulating and constructive dialogue through which points of agreement had been strengthened and the cleavage of views handled very wisely.
- 3.7.2 On behalf of the Government of Brazil and the Government of the State of Bahia, he thanked IICA for choosing Salvador, Bahia as the site of the meeting of the IABA, and stressed the importance of the city for his country.
- 3.7.3 He reiterated his thanks to all the delegates, singling out the Director General for special praise for his work, dedication and very efficient handling of the meeting.
- 3.8 The Closing Session was adjourned at 10:09.

## **RESOLUTIONS**



IICA/JIA/Res.336(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION N° 336**

**FINANCING OF THE REGULAR FUND AND DISTRIBUTION OF RESOURCES  
FOR THE YEARS 2000 AND 2001**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**HAVING SEEN:**

Document IICA/CE/Doc.241(99), "Financing of the Regular Fund and Distribution of Resources for the Years 2000 and 2001,"

Resolution IICA/CE/Res.315(XIX-O/99) of 30 July 1999, through which the Executive Committee recommended that the IABA approve the 2000-2001 Program Budget with the changes contained in said Resolution, as well as the financing of the Regular Fund for the biennium,

**CONSIDERING:**

That the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) states:

In Article 8.b that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) shall have as one of its functions "to approve the biennial Program Budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States;" and

In Article 23 that "the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States."

That the proposal included in Document IICA/JIA/Doc.241(99), "Financing of the Regular Fund and Distribution of Resources for the Years 2000 and 2001" includes the changes recommended at the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in Resolution No. 315, in regard to its contents, the allocation of resources and financing,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To approve the 2000-2001 Program Budget, in the amount of US\$30,000,000 annually for the Regular Fund, in accordance with the allocations for each of the Chapters and items detailed in Document IICA/JIA/Doc.241(99), "Financing of the Regular Fund and Distribution of Resources for the Years 2000 and 2001," a chapter-by-chapter summary of which is attached to this Resolution as "Appendix A".
2. To establish that for 2000 and 2001, to finance the Regular Fund, the Member States shall contribute quota funds in the amount of US\$27,508,680 in each year, as per the amounts indicated on the Quota Scale attached to this Resolution as "Appendix B", and the US\$2,491,320 in miscellaneous income which the Institute expects to receive annually.
3. To authorize the Director General to make transfers between the chapters of the Program Budget, provided total transfers neither increase nor reduce the amount allocated to the affected chapters by more than 10% and do not substantially affect the strategic areas approved.
4. To authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the distribution of resources recommended in this Resolution should income from each of the years fall below programmed levels. The Director General shall inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.
5. To instruct the Director General that any contribution of resources from the Regular Fund received that exceeds the total amount approved for the biennium and the balance of uncommitted, unspent appropriations shall be deposited in the Working Subfund of the Regular Fund.



## APPENDIX A

SUMMARY BY CHAPTER  
(US\$ x 000)

CHAPTER	2000			2001		
	QUOTAS	MISCEL.	TOTAL	QUOTAS	MISCEL.	TOTAL
<b>I: DIRECT COOPERATION SERVICES</b>	<b>24,304.5</b>	<b>2,367.7</b>	<b>26,672.2</b>	<b>24,308.6</b>	<b>2,365.7</b>	<b>26,674.3</b>
<i>Strategic Areas:</i>						
Policies and Trade	5,025.4	342.8	5,368.2	5,073.6	333.5	5,407.1
Science, Technology and Natural Resources	5,314.3	457.9	5,772.2	5,149.8	463.0	5,612.8
Agricultural Health and Food Safety	4,669.7	449.6	5,119.3	4,760.2	421.6	5,181.8
Rural Development	4,113.8	802.7	4,916.5	4,133.9	824.9	4,958.8
Training and Education	2,854.2	206.7	3,060.9	2,868.7	208.6	3,077.3
Information and Communication	2,327.1	108.0	2,435.1	2,322.4	114.1	2,436.4
<b>II: MANAGEMENT COSTS</b>	<b>1,829.8</b>	<b>123.6</b>	<b>1,953.4</b>	<b>1,825.8</b>	<b>125.5</b>	<b>1,951.3</b>
Senior Management	770.0		770.0	770.0		770.0
Management Unit for Planning and Coordination	215.1		215.1	215.6		215.6
Management Unit for Corporate Services	844.7	123.6	968.3	840.2	125.5	965.7
<b>III: GENERAL COSTS AND PROVISIONS</b>	<b>1,374.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,374.4</b>	<b>1,374.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,374.4</b>
Working Subfund <sup>1</sup>	341.1	0.0	341.1	341.1	0.0	341.1
Governing Bodies	400.0	0.0	400.0	400.0	0.0	400.0
Insurance	205.0	0.0	205.0	205.0	0.0	205.0
Pensions	301.3	0.0	301.3	301.3	0.0	301.3
OAS Administrative Tribunal	27.0	0.0	27.0	27.0	0.0	27.0
External Audit	100.0	0.0	100.0	100.0	0.0	100.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27,508.7</b>	<b>2,491.3</b>	<b>30,000.0</b>	<b>27,508.8</b>	<b>2,491.2</b>	<b>30,000.0</b>

<sup>1/</sup> Refers to the Cuban quota.

## APPENDIX B

**QUOTA SCALE**  
**2000-2001**  
**(US\$)**

MEMBER STATES*	% OAS		% IICA		AMOUNT IICA	
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001
Antigua and Barbuda	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,502	5,502
Argentina	4.90	4.90	4.90	4.90	1,347,925	1,347,925
Bahamas	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,443	19,443
Barbados	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	22,007	22,007
Belize	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	8,253	8,253
Bolivia	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Brazil	8.55	8.55	8.55	8.55	2,351,992	2,351,992
Canada	12.36	12.36	12.36	12.36	3,399,881	3,399,881
Chile	0.54	0.54	0.54	0.54	148,547	148,547
Colombia	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	258,582	258,582
Costa Rica	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	35,761	35,761
Dominica	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,502	5,502
Ecuador	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	49,516	49,516
El Salvador	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
United States of America	59.47	59.47	59.47	59.47	16,359,412	16,359,412
Grenada	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	8,253	8,253
Guatemala	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	35,761	35,761
Guyana	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,502	5,502
Haiti	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Honduras	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Jamaica	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	49,516	49,516
Mexico	6.08	6.08	6.08	6.08	1,672,528	1,672,528
Nicaragua	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Panama	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	35,761	35,761
Paraguay	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	49,516	49,516
Peru	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	112,786	112,786
Dominican Republic	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	49,516	49,516
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,502	5,502
St. Vincent & the Grenadines	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	5,502	5,502
St. Lucia	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	8,253	8,253
Suriname	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	19,256	19,256
Trinidad and Tobago	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	49,516	49,516
Uruguay	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	71,523	71,523
Venezuela	3.20	3.20	3.20	3.20	880,278	880,278
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>98.76</b>	<b>98.76</b>	<b>98.76</b>	<b>98.76</b>	<b>27,167,572</b>	<b>27,167,572</b>
Cuba <sup>1</sup>	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	341,108	341,108
<b>TOTAL QUOTAS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>27,508,680</b>	<b>27,508,680</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>					<b>2,491,320</b>	<b>2,491,320</b>
<b>TOTAL REGULAR FUND</b>					<b>30,000,000</b>	<b>30,000,000</b>

\* In Spanish alphabetical order.

<sup>1</sup> Included only for purposes of the distribution of quotas.

IICA/JIA/Res.337(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 337**

**1997 AND 1998 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE**

**The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,**

**HAVING SEEN:**

**Document IICA/JIA/Doc.242(99), "1997 and 1998 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors",**

**CONSIDERING:**

**That Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture establishes that the Board is responsible for approving the financial statements of the Institute for the previous biennium;**

**That the External Auditors attest to the sound management of the financial resources, pursuant to the regulations of the Institute;**

**That, in the opinion of the External Auditors, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial situation of IICA at December 31, 1997 and December 31, 1998, the results of its activities, the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years ending on those dates; likewise, that the accounting principles on which they are based are in full compliance with generally accepted accounting practices;**

**That, in its Fourth and Fifth Annual Reports, the Audit Review Committee states that it has reviewed the Reports of the External Auditors and found the work**

**performed to be thorough and in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of IICA and Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;**

**That the Executive Committee, at its Eighteenth and Nineteenth Regular Meetings, issued Resolutions No. 296 and No. 312, in which it recommends that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture approve the 1997 and 1998 Reports respectively,**

**RESOLVES:**

- 1. To approve Document IICA/JIA/Doc.242(99), "1997 and 1998 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors".**
- 2. To congratulate the firm KPMG Peat Marwick for its Report.**
- 3. To thank the Member States that have responded to the Director General's request concerning the payment of quotas, and to urge the others to follow their example.**

IICA/JIA/Res.338(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 338**

**FOURTH AND FIFTH REPORTS OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,**

**HAVING SEEN:**

**Document IICA/JIA/Doc.243(99) "Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)",**

**CONSIDERING:**

**That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), at its Seventh Regular Meeting, approved Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.231(VII-O/93), in which it creates the Audit Review Committee ("ARC") and approves its Statute;**

**That, in accordance with Article 2(k) of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture ("IABA"), it is the function of that entity "to review the reports of the Audit Review Committee and to evaluate periodically the results of the external auditing system, including the efficiency and effectiveness of that Committee";**

**That, in accordance with Article 3(k) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, it is the function of that Committee "to receive and approve the ARC's Reports and Recommendations, [and] to forward the Reports and Recommendations of the ARC to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture";**

**That the work of the ARC is vital in assisting the efforts of the Member States to obtain the budgetary support required by the Institute;**

**That the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee, by means of Resolutions No. 297 and No. 313 respectively, approved the Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Audit Review Committee,**

**RESOLVES:**

- 1. To accept the Fourth and Fifth Annual Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) contained in document IICA/JIA/Doc.243(99).**
- 2. To congratulate and thank the members of the Audit Review Committee for their work.**

IICA/JIA/Res.339(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 339**

**APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS FOR**  
**THE 2000-2001 BIENNIUM**

**The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,**

**HAVING SEEN:**

The report of the Commission designated by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), at its Tenth Regular Meeting, to appoint the External Auditors of the Institute for the 2000-2001 biennium,

**CONSIDERING:**

That Article 2.h of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and Article 94 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate state that it is the function of the Board to select and appoint the firm of External Auditors of the Institute on the basis of competitive tenders;

That the Commission appointed at the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) analyzed the documentation submitted and recommended the appointment of Deloitte & Touche, as the firm of External Auditors of the Institute and the CATIE for the 2000-2001 period,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To appoint Deloitte & Touche as the firm of External Auditors of the Institute and the CATIE for the 2000-2001 period, which may be extended by the Director General for up to two additional years in accordance with the amendment to article 2(h) of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA adopted by the IABA at its Ninth Regular Meeting.

2. **To charge the General Directorate with emphasizing in the contract signed with Deloitte & Touche the importance of ensuring that its reports are in compliance with the provisions of Articles 102 and 104 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.**



IICA/JIA/Res.340(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 340**

**REMUNERATION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL  
FOR THE 2000-2001 BIENNIUM**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**CONSIDERING:**

That Article 8.f of the Convention on the Institute and Article 2.f of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) state that it is a function of the Board to set the remuneration of the Director General of the Institute;

That the Ministers of Agriculture have acknowledged their satisfaction with the dedication, effort and innovation with which the Director General has worked on the transformation of IICA during his administration;

That the base salary of the Director General has not been modified since 1995,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To delegate to the Executive Committee, at its Twentieth Regular Meeting, the authorization to set the remuneration of the Director General for the 2000-2001 biennium.
2. To set the base salary of the Director General at the 1999 level for 2000 until the Executive Committee has made the corresponding decision.

IICA/JIA/Res.341(X-0/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: English

**RESOLUTION No. 341**

**THE NEW INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSION**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.240(99)rev. "The New Institutional Dimension",

CONSIDERING:

That Chapter V of IICA's 1998-2000 Medium-Term Plan proposed "Revising the rules and regulations of the governing bodies to take on a new role in response to the challenges and responsibilities arising from the Inter-American Agenda and the need to reposition agriculture in this context";

That in response to that mandate and Resolution IICA/CE/Res.301(XVIII-O/98), the Director General made specific proposals to the Executive Committee, at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting;

That the Executive Committee, by way of Resolution IICA/CE/Res.316(XIX-O/99), recommended that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) adopt those proposals, and instructed the Director General to prepare and submit for the IABA's approval at this meeting, the legal instruments necessary for implementing those proposals;

That those proposals include: (a) the transfer of the IABA's delegable functions to the Executive Committee; (b) the strengthening of the role of the Executive Committee as a vehicle for analyzing policy issues and strategic priorities for the IABA and for aggregating and transmitting to the IABA the pertinent proposals of governments, international organizations, and civil society; and (c) establishment of a Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, within the framework of Article 51 of the IABA's Rules of

**Procedures, to facilitate dialogue among the Member States and between the Director General and the Member States on administrative and financial initiatives;**

**That, also by Resolution IICA/CE/Res.316, the Executive Committee recommended, as proposed by the Director General, that the IABA ask the OAS General Assembly to approve a resolution that: (a) abolishes the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA); (b) recognizes the IABA as the principal ministerial forum within the OAS for analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, and (c) instructs IICA, the Inter-American Council for Integral Development, and the OAS General Secretariat to develop and strengthen cooperation and exchange mechanisms for proposing, coordinating, and executing policies and programs relating to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, within the framework of the inter-American system and the Summits of the Americas process;**

**That Document IICA/JIA/Doc.240(99)rev., “The New Institutional Dimension”, as amended to take into account the observations of the Member States, contains the proposed legal instruments required for implementing the Executive Committee’s recommendations, set out in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.316(XIX-0/99).**

#### **RESOLVES:**

- 1. To adopt the following proposed legal instruments set out in Document IICA/JIA/Doc.240(99)rev., “The New Institutional Dimension”, which is attached as Annex A of this Resolution: (a) Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, (b) Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee; (c) Proposed Modifications to the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate; and (d) Modifications of Other Rules of the Institute; and (e) the Statute of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues.**
- 2. To recommend that the OAS General Assembly adopt the draft resolution entitled “Strengthening and Revitalizing the Linkages Between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and Other Organs of the OAS for Addressing Issues of Hemispheric Concern Involving Agriculture”, which is set out in Document IICA/JIA Doc.240 (99) rev., and attached as part of Annex A hereto.**

3. **To instruct the Director General: (a) to include that recommended draft OAS General Assembly resolution in the Institute's Annual Report to the OAS General Assembly; (b) to take such other measures as may be appropriate to assure that the draft resolution is considered by the General Assembly at its next Regular Session, and (c) to report on the outcome to the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**APPROVED TEXT**

1. Article 2 shall be modified to state as follows:

**Article 2.** As stated in Article 8 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture ("IICA Convention"), the Board shall have the following functions:

- a. To adopt measures related to the policy and action of the Institute, taking into account the proposals of the Member States and the recommendations of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States and other organs of the Inter-American System;
- b. To approve the biennial program-budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States by the affirmative vote of two thirds of its members;
- c. To serve as a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, and experiences related to the improvement of agriculture and rural life;
- d. To decide on the admission of Member States in accordance with Article 5(b) of the IICA Convention;
- e. To elect the Member States that will compose the Executive Committee (hereinafter the Committee), in accordance with the principles of partial rotation and equitable geographic distribution;
- f. To elect the Director General and set his remuneration; to remove him by the vote of two thirds of the Member States, whenever the proper functioning of the Institute so demands;
- g. To consider the reports of the Executive Committee and of the Director General;
- h. To encourage cooperation between the Institute and other organizations, agencies and entities that pursue similar purposes;
- i. To adopt its Rules of Procedure and the agendas for its meetings, and also the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.

**2. Article 3 shall be modified as follows:**

**Article 3.** To achieve its purposes and carry out its functions, the Board shall be authorized:

- a. To take note of the report of the Director General on the status of the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas. To examine emerging topics of common interest with a view to establishing common ground on policies and agreeing to joint actions;
- b. To propose actions and policies designed to promote sustainable agricultural and rural development in the hemisphere, within the framework of the Inter-American System and the process of the Summits of the Americas.
- c. To facilitate implementation of and compliance with the guidelines established, and obligations and commitments assumed by the Member States, within the framework of the Summits of the Americas and the General Assembly of the OAS and other organs of the Inter-American System, to spur technical cooperation in agriculture and the rural milieu in the hemisphere;
- d. To serve as the principal forum of the Inter-American System for the discussion of the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu and other related issues, and to carry out other functions related to policy formulation. To make recommendations to the governments, the General Assembly of the OAS and other organs of the Inter-American System;
- e. In accordance with the Contract of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center ("CATIE"), to serve as the Constituent Assembly of CATIE;
- f. To propose to the Member States and international agencies that operate in the region, specific measures and actions to facilitate implementation of the technical cooperation of the OAS and of the decisions of the Summits of the Americas related to agricultural development and the rural milieu;
- g. To promote meetings aimed at facilitating consensus on and the commitment of the Member States to the analysis and adoption of national policies, for subsequent adoption at the regional and hemispheric levels, in order to promote the sustainable development of agriculture and its rural milieu;

- h. To task the Committee and the Director General with the analysis of the key issues to facilitate decision-making and consensus building within the framework of the IABA, the General Assembly of the OAS and the Summits of the Americas, that are consistent with the nature, structure and objectives of the Institute under the IICA Convention;**
- i. To take note of the report of the Director General on the status of the collection of quotas from the Member States and the general financial status of the Institute, and to adopt measures that facilitate the Director General's efforts to collect quotas and generate other income;**
- j. To entrust the Committee with such duties as it deems pertinent.**

Subparagraphs m, n and o were deleted.

**3. Replace Article 4 with the following text:**

**Article 4. The Board may delegate any function to the Executive Committee that does not require a vote of a majority or more of the Institute's Member States under the express terms of the IICA Convention.**

**Article 14. Public or private entities of civil society with which the Institute maintains institutional relations may attend the meeting of the Board as observers or special guests, whenever the Director General deems it advisable.**

**Article 22. The provisional agenda for each regular meeting of the Board shall be prepared by the Director General, taking into account decisions made at previous meetings, recommendations of the General Assembly, Councils and other organs of the Organization of American States, and proposals from the Member States. This provisional agenda shall be sent, together with the call to meeting, to the Member States, IICA Associates, the Permanent Observers, and other participants. The Director General shall send the necessary background documentation to the Member States, IICA Associates and Permanent Observers, at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the meeting.**

**Article 28. The Director General shall prepare the provisional agenda for each special meeting of the Board and send it to the Member States, IICA Associates, Permanent Observers and international organizations with which IICA maintains cooperation links, at least 30 days prior to the opening date set for the meeting. The necessary background documentation shall be sent to the Member States and IICA Associates at the same time.**

**Article 42.** The plenary sessions of the Board and of the special committees and working groups shall be public, unless the Board or the committee or working group in question decides otherwise.

Any representative may request that a public session or part thereof be declared private, and the request must be submitted to the Board or the respective committee or working group for approval.

**Article 43.** Prior to the first plenary session, the Board shall hold a private preparatory session to consider the following agenda:

- a. Agreement on the election of the Chairperson and the Rapporteur of the meeting;
- b. Agreement on the provisional agenda;
- c. Agreement on the working committees to be set up, and the topics, proposals and reports assigned to them.
- d. Agreement on the deadline for the presentation of proposals.
- e. Agreement on the approximate duration of the meeting.
- f. Other business.

**Article 43.A.** The Board may:

- a. Establish any committees it may deem necessary and assign agenda items to them.
- b. Coordinate the work of the committees, examine its progress and make pertinent recommendations.

**Article 44.** The Director General, through the Technical Secretariat, shall review and certify the credentials, in accordance with the provisions of the articles of these Rules of Procedure. The Technical Secretary shall make the credentials available for the review of any Member State that so requests.

**Article 45.** The elimination of Articles 45 and 46.A calls for the renumbering of the articles that follow.



**Article 45.** All Member States may participate in the committees. However, only those delegations formally registered on the committee concerned shall be counted for purposes of reaching a quorum.

**Article 46.** Each committee shall decide, pursuant to its specific mandate, the working methodology to be used, and shall assign responsibilities for the efficient conduct of its sessions.

**Article 47.** Each committee shall submit to the Board, in plenary session, a report on the items assigned to that committee and the conclusions reached.

**Article 85.** The Final Report shall contain all the resolutions passed by the Board, as well as the minutes and the appendices. Prior to publication, and taking into account the observations of interested Member States, the Technical Secretariat shall carefully review the Report to assure that the text is stylistically correct and consistent in all the official languages. The Chairperson of the Board and the *ex officio* Secretary shall sign the approved Final Report.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED TEXT**

**1. Article 3 shall be modified to state as follows:**

**Article 3. The Committee shall have the following functions:**

- a. To perform any functions that may be assigned to it by the Board;
- b. To examine the proposed biennial program budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate;
- c. To receive the annual report of the External Auditors and make any observations and recommendations it deems appropriate;
- d. To authorize the use of resources of the Working Subfund for special purposes;
- e. To act as the preparatory committee of the Board;
- f. To study and formulate comments and recommendations to the Board and to the General Directorate on matters of interest to the Institute;
- g. To recommend to the Board the approval of changes in the Rules of Procedure of the Board, Executive Committee and General Directorate, and any amendments thereto, and to the other rules of the Institute that require Board approval under the Convention;
- h. To approve or modify the Staff Rules, Financial Rules, the System for the Determination of Remuneration for IICA Personnel and the Classification Standards, the Statute of the Audit Review Committee, and the Regulations of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, provided that such approval or modification is consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, of the Executive Committee or of the General Directorate and would not require a change in a Program Budget resolution in force;
- i. To see that the Rules of Procedure and other rules of the General Directorate are observed;

- j. To review the reports of the General Directorate on extra-quota contracts with national and international agencies exceeding US\$500,000, in which the Institute will be providing staff services, including corresponding indirect administrative and technical costs and institutional net rate;
- k. To appoint the members of the Audit Review Committee ("ARC") and to receive and approve the ARC's reports and recommendations;
- l. To grant or withdraw, as the case may be, IICA Associate status for Permanent Observers, non-IICA Member States, and international, regional, and national organizations, in accordance with the Standards for IICA Associates in force at the Institute;
- m. To study important policy issues and strategic priorities for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, and to make the corresponding recommendations to the IABA;
- n. To gather and transmit to the IABA the interests, concerns and proposals of other governmental and international institutions, and other public and private organizations and entities;
- o. To amend provisionally its own Rules of Procedure and those of the General Directorate, and to put those provisional modifications into force, *ad referendum* the Board.

**Article 4.** To achieve its purposes and carry out its functions, the Committee is authorized:

(The text of sections a-c and e remains unchanged.)

- d. To examine the financial status of the Institute, and upon the Board's request or when a decision by the Board is required under the Convention, to send the corresponding report and recommendations to the Board;
- f. To receive, analyze, and approve the Annual Report on the activities of the General Directorate, and to take the corresponding action;
- g. To submit reports on its work to the Board;
- h. To take emergency measures, subject to the approval of the Board, in accordance with the functions and financial resources of the Institute;

- i. To determine any outstanding obligations of a Member State that withdraws from the Convention, if the Board is not in session;
- j. To recommend to the Board any requirements and conditions for appointment of the Director General;
- k. To analyze the provisional agenda for the meetings of the Board, submitting a report with its observations, comments, and recommendations to the Board or to the General Directorate

Former subparagraphs q and r are deleted.

**Article 17.** The public or private entities of civil society with which the Institute maintains institutional relations may also attend meetings of the Committee, as observers, whenever the Director General deems it advisable.

**Article 26.** The provisional agenda for each regular meeting of the Committee shall be prepared by the Director General, taking into account decisions made at previous meetings, recommendations of the Board, of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the Councils and other organs of the Inter-American System, and proposals from the Member States. This provisional agenda shall be sent, together with the call to meeting, to the members of the Executive Committee, to all other IICA Member States, IICA Associates, the Permanent Observers, and other participants. The Director General shall send the necessary background documentation to the Member States and IICA Associates 45 days prior to the opening date of the meeting.

**Article 31.** The Director General shall prepare the provisional agenda for each special meeting of the Committee and shall send it, at least 30 days prior to the opening date set for the meeting, to the Members of the Executive Committee, all other IICA Member States, IICA Associates, Permanent Observers and international organizations with whom IICA maintains cooperative relations. The documents necessary for analysis thereof shall be sent to the Member States and the Associates at the same time.

**Article 42.** The regular and special meetings of the Committee shall include a preparatory session and such plenary sessions as may be required.

**Article 43.** The plenary sessions and the meetings of the committees and working groups shall be called to order and shall conduct their work only when a quorum is present, consisting of a majority of their respective members. If the quorum is broken, the sessions may continue, but no vote or binding decision may be taken without a quorum present.

**Article 45.** The plenary sessions of the Committee shall be public, unless the Committee decides otherwise.

The preparatory session of the Committee and the sessions of committees and working groups shall be private, unless they determine otherwise.

**Article 47.** The Committee shall hold a private preparatory session with the regular representatives of the Member States, their alternates and advisors, and the necessary secretariat staff, to consider the following order of business:

- a. Agreement on the election of the Member State to preside over the Committee and of the Rapporteur of the meeting;
- b. Agreement on the provisional agenda;
- c. Agreement on the working committees to be established and the topics, proposals and reports to be assigned to them;
- d. Agreement on the deadline for submitting proposals;
- e. Agreement on the approximate duration of the meeting;
- f. Other business.

**Article 49.** The Director General, through the Technical Secretariat, shall review and certify the credentials in accordance with the provisions of Articles 7-9 of these Rules of Procedure. The Technical Secretary shall make the credentials available for review by any Member State that so requests it.

**Note:** The elimination of Articles 50, 51 and 51.A requires the re-arrangement of the following articles:

**Article 51.** All the Member States that attend the meeting of the Committee may participate in the committees. However, for the purposes of reaching a quorum, only those Member States that are formally registered in the committee concerned shall be counted.

**Article 52:** Each committee shall decide, pursuant to its specific mandate, the working methodology to be used, and shall assign responsibilities for the efficient conduct of its sessions.

**Article 53.** Each committee shall submit to the Executive Committee, in plenary session, a report on the items assigned to it and the conclusions reached.

**Article 89.** The Final Report shall contain all the resolutions passed by the Committee, as well as the minutes and the appendices. Prior to publication and taking into account the observations of the Member States, the Technical Secretariat shall carefully review the Report to assure that the text is stylistically correct and consistent in all the official languages of the Institute. The Chairperson of the Committee and the *ex officio* Secretary shall sign the approved Final Report.

**Article 95.** Amendments to these Rules of Procedure shall enter into force on a date specified by resolution of the Board, or if no date is so specified, on the day they are approved by the Board. Nonetheless, amendments to these Rules proposed by the Executive Committee, upon a two-thirds vote of its Members, shall provisionally enter into force immediately, *ad referendum* the Board.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE**

**APPROVED TEXT**

**Article 6.** It is the responsibility of the Director General to carry out the following specific functions, which shall be performed in accordance with the Rules of Procedure and other regulations of the Institute and its organs, and the corresponding budgetary provisions approved by the Board:

- a. To administer the financial resources of the Institute, and when deemed necessary, and at least every four years, to obtain proposals from external auditing firms and present them to the Committee.
  
- j. To conclude agreements on privileges and immunities with the Member States, in accordance with guidelines, if any, established by the Committee.

**Article 34.** The salary of the Director General shall be set by the Board or by the Executive Committee, *ad referendum* the Board. The Director General's pension upon leaving office shall be based upon the formula specified in the System for the Determination of Remuneration for IICA Personnel, as approved by the Board, or by the Executive Committee, *ad referendum* the Board.

**Article 35.** The salaries, allowances, and other benefits of the staff members in the International Professional category shall be set by the Director General in accordance with these Rules of Procedure, the System for the Determination of Remuneration for IICA Personnel, and the Staff Rules, taking into consideration the budgetary provisions approved by the Board.

**Article 66.** The proposed program-budget shall include all allocations necessary for carrying out the programs approved by the Board, and the mandates and resolutions in force. The requirements and priorities indicated when the programs were adopted shall be observed. The proposed program-budget shall be divided into chapters and sections and shall be presented by categories of activity, classified by object of expenditure, in such a manner as to:

- a. Allow for effective control over budgetary implementation in accordance with the decisions of the Board and the Committee.

**The other subparagraphs do not change.**

**Modify Article 82(b) (c) and (d) to state:**

- b. **SPECIAL FUNDS** – Made up of voluntary contributions by the Member States or received from other sources to finance special programs or projects approved by the Committee.
- c. **TRUST FUNDS** – Made up of voluntary contributions or bequests for specific purposes, and maintained in trust in accordance with the pertinent provisions and acts. The Director General may establish these funds, in accordance with the specific purposes set forth in each agreement and with resolutions approved by the Committee, and maintain them in separate accounts.
- d. **REVOLVING FUNDS** – Established with the approval of the Committee as "reimbursable funds" for accounting purposes connected with specific internal operations. With the prior authorization of the Committee, the Director General may establish these funds. Each will have its own account, in accordance with the specific standards approved by the Committee in each case.

**Article 84.** The Working Subfund may be used only on a temporary basis to meet:

- a. Budgeted expenditures financed by the Regular Fund pending full receipt of anticipated income, and
- b. Special expenditures authorized by the Committee and not provided for in the program-budget.

The amounts used for the purposes set forth in this article shall be restored to the Working Subfund as follows: in cases covered by subparagraph (a) above, as soon as the pending income permits; and in those covered by subparagraph (b), by means of equivalent appropriations in the program-budget for the next fiscal year, in such manner as may be determined by the Committee when it provides for use of the funds.

**Article 88.** The Director General may make short-term investments of funds not essential to meet immediate needs, and also short or long-term investments of resources from other funds or sub-funds. The interest received on these deposits shall be regarded as miscellaneous income of the General Subfund, unless the Committee stipulates otherwise.



**Article 90.** The Director General shall establish suitable provisions and procedures, in accordance with these Rules of Procedure, to ensure efficient and economical financial management, and shall inform the Committee thereof. These procedures shall include an accounting system, based on generally accepted principles, to ensure precise and timely information on the financial status of the Institute.

**Article 94.** The accounts of the General Directorate shall be examined through external auditing. External auditors shall be designated by the Executive Committee to perform the tasks described in detail in the following articles of this Chapter and to submit their observations. There shall also be an Audit Review Committee ("ARC"), appointed by the Executive Committee in accordance with the ARC's Statute, for the purpose of coordinating the examination of the accounts of the General Directorate by the Member States.

**Article 101.** The external auditors shall not be empowered to alter the accounts, but they shall report to the Committee any transaction about whose legality or correctness they are in doubt.

**Article 104.** In their report, the external auditors shall state the extent and nature of their examination of the certified financial statements and the accuracy and correctness thereof and they shall also note any other matters that should be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee, especially the following:

- a. Misuse of funds, notwithstanding the correctness of the bookkeeping;
- b. Cases of fraud or presumed fraud;
- c. Expenditures likely to lead to extensive further outlays;
- d. Expenditures that do not comply with the provisions authorizing them, or excessive expenditures;
- e. Expenditures that exceed the amount appropriated, taking into account changes resulting from transfers duly authorized by resolution of the Board in its approval of the program-budget; and
- f. Any shortcoming in the general system governing the management of income and expenditures or supplies and equipment, or in the corresponding administrative services.

**Article 105.** The external auditors shall submit copies of the annual audit report directly to the Audit Review Committee and the Executive Committee no later than June 30 of the year following the fiscal year audited, or at least sixty days prior to the next Executive Committee regular meeting, whichever is first. Copies of the report shall be provided at the same time to the Director General. The Committee shall review the report and take the appropriate action.

**Move Article 106 from Chapter VIII to Chapter VII and modify the text as follows:**

**Article 106.** The Audit Review Committee, in accordance with its Statute, shall review the work of the external auditors and all other aspects of the Institute's external auditing system and shall call to the attention of the Executive Committee anything that, in its judgment, may constitute a violation of the rules and procedures governing the operations of the General Directorate. The Statute of the Audit Review Committee shall be part of the Financial Rules of the Institute.

**Article 107.** These Rules of Procedure may be amended by a majority vote of the members of the Board, either on its own initiative, on the initiative of the Committee in a proposal approved by a majority of the Member States on the Committee, or on the initiative of the General Directorate, except for those items for which the Convention requires a vote of two thirds of the Member States.

Amendments to these Rules proposed by the Executive Committee, upon a two-thirds vote of its Members, shall provisionally enter into force immediately, *ad referendum* the Board.

**REGULATIONS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE  
RURAL SECTOR**

**APPROVED TEXT**

**1. Modify Article 6 to state:**

**Article 6.** The Executive Committee shall select the candidates for each award immediately prior to the biennial meeting of the Board.

**2. Modify Article 13 to state:**

**Article 13.** The Executive Committee, at its regular meeting in the year in which the Board will meet, shall study the report of the Awards Selection Committee and, based on the same, shall select the candidates who are to receive the awards. The Executive Committee may recommend, on the basis of the Committee's report or by *motu proprio*, to declare any or all of the awards void for the corresponding biennium. In this event, the competition shall be reopened for the following biennium and only new candidacies submitted by the governments shall be considered.

**3. Add Article 20, which shall state as follows:**

**Article 20.** These regulations may be amended or altogether revoked by the Executive Committee.

**STATUTE OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE**

**APPROVED TEXT**

**1. Modify Article 1.2 as follows:**

**Article 1.2.** The ARC shall review the work of the external auditors and all other aspects of the Institute's external auditing system and shall call to the attention of the Executive Committee anything that, in its judgment, may constitute a violation of the rules and procedures governing the operations of the General Directorate.

**2. Modify Article V to state:**

**V. Oversight**

The Executive Committee shall periodically evaluate the results of the external auditing system, including the efficiency and effectiveness of the ARC.

**3. Add a new Article VIII, which shall state:**

**VIII. Amendment**

This Statute may be amended or revoked by the Executive Committee.

**STATUTE FOR THE IICA PATRIMONIAL FUND****APPROVED TEXT**

- 1. Modify Articles 4.2, 4.3, and 4.6 to state:**
- 4.2 The Board has three members ("Members" or "Trustees"): the Director General of IICA; a member elected by the Executive Committee ("the Committee") from nominations presented by all the Member States; and a member selected by the other two members.
- 4.3 Each Member shall be elected for a term of four years and may be re-elected; however, if the member elected by the Committee resigns or is otherwise unable to complete his term, the Committee shall elect a replacement for a full four-year term. The Director General shall resign his position on the Board upon the end of his mandate, and the Director General who succeeds him will take his place. Each Member has the right to one vote and the right to speak in the Board's meetings.
- 4.6 The Director General shall serve as Chairperson of the Board; the member elected by the Executive Committee shall serve as Vice Chairperson; the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson shall appoint a Secretary/Treasurer from among the Board's permanent advisors.

**Modify Article 5.2(l) to state:**

- l. To report to the regular meetings of the Executive Committee on the management of the Fund, its income, its assets, its expenditures, the findings of its external auditors, and such other pertinent information requested by the Executive Committee.

## **STATUTE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

### **ARTICLE I. NATURE**

1.1. The Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (“the Advisory Commission”) is a special committee created by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (“IABA”), pursuant to Articles 3(m) and 51 of the IABA Rules of Procedure. It is subordinate to the Executive Committee, primarily advisory in nature, and has no authority to obligate the Institute.

### **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

2.1 The purpose of the Advisory Commission is to facilitate more regular discussion between the Director General and the Member States on administrative and financial initiatives and issues in order to facilitate the process of reaching consensus on those issues and initiatives in the Executive Committee and in the IABA.

### **ARTICLE III. FUNCTIONS**

- 3.1 The Advisory Commission shall:
- a. Advise and assist the Director General in developing, evaluating, and implementing proposals for improving, modernizing, and transforming the administration and financial management of the Institute;
  - b. Facilitate consultations among the Member States and with the Director General on financial and administrative issues and initiatives;
  - c. Adopt its own Rules of Procedure consistent with the provisions of this Statute; the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture; the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Executive Committee, the General Directorate; and other resolutions of the IABA and Executive Committee;
  - d. Report annually to the Executive Committee on its activities;

## **ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP**

- 4.1. There shall be nine Members of the Advisory Commission (“Members”). They are:
- a. The six Member States in Group I defined in Article 5.A of the Executive Committee's Rules of Procedure, to serve a term of two consecutive calendar years.
  - b. Three Members States selected from each of the three remaining Groups II-IV defined in Article 5.A of the Executive Committee's Rules of Procedure, to serve a term of one calendar year,
- 4.2. The Members from Groups II-IV shall be selected as follows:
- a. Each Group shall select its Member on the Advisory Commission by the means it considers appropriate. If a group fails to select its Member or fails to notify the Director General of the Member it has selected by February 15<sup>th</sup> of the corresponding calendar year, the Director General shall appoint the Member from that group by lot.
  - b. No Member State from Groups II-IV shall be entitled to serve again on the Advisory Commission until all other Member States of that group have had an equal opportunity to serve. This principal of rotation shall apply to the selection of Member States by lot, as well as to selections made directly by the corresponding group.
- 4.3. Each Member of the Advisory Commission shall appoint an individual as its representative on the Advisory Commission. Representatives so appointed must be knowledgeable and experienced in international organizations, technical cooperation (preferably with a focus on agriculture), personnel management, finance, budgetary management, and general administration, and they must have a solid working knowledge of Spanish or English. Each Member shall give due regard to the need for continuity in the work of the Advisory Commission. Accordingly, each Member selected from groups II-IV shall make every reasonable effort to assure that the individual it appoints as its representative continues to serve in that capacity for at least one calendar year, and each Group I Member shall make every reasonable effort to assure that the individual it appoints as its representative continues to serve in that capacity for at least two calendar years.

## **ARTICLE V. MEETINGS**

5.1. The Advisory Commission shall hold at least one regular meeting per year.

5.2. The Advisory Commission may hold special meetings, at the request of the Director General. Nonetheless, the total of special and regular meetings held each year shall not exceed three, unless the Director General certifies the availability of resources for those additional meetings.

5.3. To the extent feasible, the members of the Advisory Commission shall meet and otherwise consult with each other and the Director General through tele-video conferencing, and other electronic media.

5.4. All Advisory Commission meetings shall take place at IICA Headquarters; however, the Chairperson, with the approval of the other Members, may accept an invitation from a Member State to host the meeting in its territory, provided that the host Member State pays to IICA in advance all costs of the meeting over and above the cost to IICA of holding the meeting at IICA Headquarters.

## **ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS**

6.1. The Director General shall serve as Chairperson *ex officio*, shall be responsible for convoking and coordinating the Advisory Commission's meetings in consultation with its members, and shall present the Advisory Commission's Annual Report to the Executive Committee.

6.2. The Advisory Commission may elect such other officers as it deems necessary and may regulate their duties and term of office in its Rules of Procedure.

## **ARTICLE VII. SECRETARIAT**

7.1. The General Directorate shall provide secretariat services to the Advisory Commission in accordance with the availability of resources appropriated for that purpose in the Program Budget and such other contributions that may be made for its activities by the Member States and other institutions.



## **ARTICLE VIII. RESOURCES**

8.1 The funding for the meetings and other activities of the Advisory Commission shall be included in the Regular Fund budget of IICA's Program Budget. The amount budgeted shall include the cost of reasonable logistic and secretariat support, travel and per diem costs for participants, and communications costs.

## **ARTICLE IX. DURATION**

9.1 The Advisory Commission shall have a duration of two years. The Executive Committee, with the support of the Director General, will present a report on the Advisory Commission's performance to the IABA at its Eleventh Regular Meeting, which will decide on whether to renew or otherwise extend the Advisory Commission's mandate.

## **ARTICLE X. GENERAL PROVISIONS**

10.1. The working languages of the Advisory Commission shall be English and Spanish. Each member may present proposals and other documents for the consideration of the Advisory Commission in one of the working languages, and at any other member's request, the Secretariat shall translate those proposals and documents into the other working language. All final Advisory Commission documents presented to the Executive Committee shall be in the four official languages of the Institute.

10.2. This Statute may be modified by a majority vote of the Executive Committee, upon the recommendation of the Advisory Commission, of the Director General, or upon its own initiative.

10.3 This Statute shall enter into force upon the date it is approved by the IABA.

10.4 The IABA may abolish the Advisory Commission and derogate this Statute by a majority vote.

**DRAFT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION****STRENGTHENING AND REVITALIZING THE LINKAGES BETWEEN THE  
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE  
AND OTHER ORGANS OF THE OAS FOR ADDRESSING ISSUES  
OF HEMISPHERIC CONCERN INVOLVING AGRICULTURE**

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HAVING SEEN:

“The Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture,”  
AG/doc. \_\_\_\_\_ (XXX-O/00);

CONSIDERING.

That prior to the transformation of Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (“IICA”) under IICA’s 1979 Convention, the Specialized Inter-American Conference on Agriculture was established to serve as a forum for the discussion of agricultural issues and policies in the hemisphere;

That the establishment of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (“IABA”) under the 1979 Convention as a forum “for the exchange of ideas, information, and experience related to the improvement of agriculture and rural life” rendered the ICMA redundant;

That the ICMA has not convened since 1991, and the last two ICMA’s were held in conjunction with IABA regular meetings and attended by the very same delegations;

That the IABA, as IICA’s supreme organ under the Convention, has proposed the elimination of the ICMA and asked the General Assembly to adopt a Resolution recognizing the IABA as the primary ministerial forum within the OAS for analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu;

That the General Assembly, recognizing that the functions of many Specialized Inter-American Conferences can be more efficiently performed by other institutions, has in recent years abolished or otherwise not convoked Special Inter-American Conferences in the areas of Ports, Highways, Statistics, and Telecommunications;

**That agriculture is a critical component of many of the elements of the Strategic Plan for Partnership in Development and of the agenda of the Presidential Summits, particularly sustainable development and environment, education, the elimination of extreme poverty, and trade;**

**That there is a need to integrate IICA's expertise and experience as the specialized inter-American agency on agriculture into the policymaking and programming activities and issues relating to agriculture, within the framework of the Strategic Plan for Partnership in Development and the agenda of the Presidential Summits;**

**That during its twenty-ninth regular session, the OAS General Assembly adopted resolution AG/RES.1666(XXIX-0/99), which authorizes the creation of the Coordinating Committee for Cooperation Programs of the Inter-American System as a mechanism for improving information exchange and the coordination of inter-American programs, activities and resources;**

**That the IABA has directed IICA to develop and strengthen cooperation and exchange mechanisms with other OAS organs for proposing, coordinating, and executing policies and programs relating to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu within The Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development and the Presidential Summits process.**

**RESOLVES:**

- 1. To abolish the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture ("ICMA") and recognize the Inter-American Board of Agriculture ("IABA") as the principal ministerial forum within the OAS for analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu;**
- 2. To instruct IICA, CIDI, and the OAS General Secretariat to develop and strengthen cooperation and exchange mechanisms for proposing, coordinating, and executing policies and programs relating to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu within The Strategic Plan for Partnership for Development and the Presidential Summits process.**

IICA/JIA/Res.342(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 342**

**INCORPORATION OF THE GENDER PERSPECTIVE INTO  
INSTITUTIONAL POLICIES**

The INTER AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**CONSIDERING:**

That in the last two decades there has been a sequence of international agreements to make visible, promote the participation of, provide for access to and control of resources by, promote decision making by, and promote the enforcement of human rights in relation to women, a process culminating with the approval of the Platform for Action approved at the Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing, China in 1995;

That the Beijing Platform of Action clearly establishes, within special spheres F, G and H, and in its strategic objectives, the need for governments and institutions to adopt institutional measures to guarantee equal rights for men and women;

That the Declaration of Santiago, Chile, signed by the Heads of State and Government at the Second Summit of the Americas in April, 1998, clearly establishes in its Plan of Action, as a central unifying principle, the preservation and strengthening of democracy, justice and human rights, and within this context the eradication of poverty and discrimination as well as the promotion of equality of legal rights and other opportunities between women and men, with a focus on gender equity;

That the Eighth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, in item 10 of its Declaration, states "We reaffirm our support for strengthening the rights of women to participate in all areas of social, political, economic and cultural endeavors involving our peoples. We greatly value and support the initiatives taken to include rural women in this process."

That IICA has been promoting the gender perspective and rural women in its work plans since 1978 and that, according to the mandates of the IV World Conference of Women, has maintained a policy and plans of action in favor of rural women;

That on May 15, 1979, the Executive Committee, at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting, through Resolution 107 (18/79), later revised and confirmed by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, in its agreement number 5, created the "Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development;"

That in its institutional efforts to establish a gender policy, IICA produced in 1990 the document "Strengthening the Participation of Rural Women in the Agricultural Reactivation and Development Process in Latin America and the Caribbean: Guidelines for IICA General Strategy, Programs and Projects";

That in 1992, in the framework of the Program for the Analysis of Agricultural Policies vis-a-vis Women Food Producers in Latin America and the Caribbean, executed by IICA and financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), research was carried out on the role of rural women in food production;

That the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, in 1997 in Resolution 330, approved the implementation of the Program to Strengthen the Participation of Rural Women in Agricultural Production Chains. Economic and Social Democratization (PADEMUR), at the request of the Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas;

That the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), in its Resolution N° 8 of April 25, 1998, requested IICA's Sustainable Rural Development Directorate to continue its efforts to promote rural women and the gender perspective;

That the agreement signed with the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and IICA for the execution of the project "Gender in Sustainable Rural Development" states in its general objective that it seeks to institutionalize the gender-based approach level in IICA's policies, programs and projects;

That IICA's 1998-2002 Medium Term Plan, in section 3.1.4 on rural development, states that "transformations of production and trade must take place within a framework that promotes the participation of family farms and micro- and small-scale producers, including rural women and youths, in production /trade chains";

That since 1978 IICA has strengthened its relationship of cooperation and support with the Inter-American Commission of Women (IACW). In this context, IICA has assumed the commitment of carrying out progressive actions to improve the condition of women within the framework of the Institute as well as in its actions in support of rural women;

**That it is important for IICA to adopt the gender perspective as an institutional policy that nourishes and enriches the Institute's work;**

**That the Executive Committee, at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res.320(XIX-0/99), recommended that the IABA approve a resolution in order to move forward with this subject,**

**RESOLVES:**

- 1. To incorporate the gender perspective into IICA's institutional system and request the Director General to make the legal, regulatory and operational changes needed to comply with this mandate.**
- 2. To request the Director General of IICA to ensure that the Institute's gender policy is also expressed in the institution's action and instruments for technical cooperation.**

IICA/JIA/Res.343(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 343**

**DATE AND SITE OF THE ELEVENTH REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**CONSIDERING:**

That, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), regular meetings of the IABA shall be held every two years, preferably during the second half of the second year of the Institute's biennium, and that at each meeting, the Board is to decide on the provisional date and site of the subsequent regular meeting, in accordance with written offers submitted by the governments of the Member States to the Director General;

That in accordance with Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Board shall select a site for its regular meetings from among the offers received, and in accordance with the principle of rotation and geographic distribution;

That the Government of the Dominican Republic, at the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, offered that country as the site of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), an offer that was accepted in Resolution No. 319;

That the Government of the Dominican Republic has ratified the aforementioned offer in a written communiqué addressed to the Director General of the Institute,

**RESOLVES:**

1. **To thank the Government of the Dominican Republic and accept its generous offer to serve as the site of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).**
2. **To hold the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in the Dominican Republic in October 2001.**



IICA/JIA/Res.344(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 344**

**1997 AND 1998 ANNUAL REPORTS**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**HAVING SEEN:**

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.237(99), "1997 and 1998 Annual Reports",

**CONSIDERING:**

That Article 4.f. of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that that body is to analyze the Annual Report on the activities of the General Directorate;

That the contents of the 1997 and 1998 Annual Reports faithfully reflect the activities undertaken by the Institute during those years;

That the Institute, pursuant to the recommendations of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), has prepared and published summary reports for each year, to be used as instruments of dissemination, producing a limited number of copies of the full report for the information of the Member States;

That the 1998 Annual Report was restructured in compliance with Resolution 307 of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, to focus on substantive technical, programmatic, and financial issues, while strengthening analytical and evaluative aspects, and does not include detailed information on projects and extra-quota agreements and contracts, which is available on the Institute's Internet website;

That the Executive Committee, at its Eighteenth and Nineteenth Regular Meetings, recommended that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture approve the Annual Reports for 1997 and 1998 respectively,

**RESOLVES:**

1. **To approve the 1997 and 1998 Annual Reports presented by the Director General and contained in document IICA/JIA/Doc.237(99).**
2. **To congratulate the Director General for the contents and presentation of the Annual Reports.**

IICA/JIA/Res.345(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 345**

**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE NINTH REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting.**

**HAVING SEEN:**

**Document IICA/JIA/Doc.245(99), "Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)",**

**CONSIDERING:**

**That the Executive Committee, in its Eighteenth and Nineteenth Regular Meetings, studied reports presented by the Director General regarding the measures taken to carry out the resolutions of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA;**

**That at both meetings, after examining said reports, the Executive Committee noted that the General Directorate of the Institute has satisfactorily complied with the recommendations of the IABA,**

**RESOLVES:**

**To accept with satisfaction Document IICA/JIA/Doc.245(99), "Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)."**

IICA/JIA/Res.346(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 346**

**1998-1999 INTER-AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL MEDAL**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**HAVING SEEN:**

The report of the Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector and its recommendations concerning the bestowal of the corresponding awards for the 1998-1999 period, as presented at the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

**CONSIDERING:**

That, as shown in the aforementioned report, the Committee conducted an exhaustive study of the nominations received, taking into consideration the Regulations for conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, approved by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture at its Fifth Regular Meeting;

That these regulations stipulate that the Inter-American Agricultural Medal may be awarded on a biennial basis to only one person;

That Mr. José Domingo Molina was nominated by the Government of Mexico as a candidate for the 1998-1999 Inter-American Agricultural Medal, and that his nomination was submitted in compliance with all established requirements;

That all documentation examined indicates that the candidate is qualified to receive this honor;

That the Executive Committee, at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting, recommended in Resolution No. 325 that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, at its Tenth Regular Meeting, award the 1998-1999 Inter-American Agricultural Medal to Mr. José Domingo Molina in public international recognition of his outstanding contributions to agricultural development and the betterment of rural life,

**RESOLVES:**

**To grant the 1998-1999 Inter-American Agricultural Medal to Mr. José Domingo Molina, in public international recognition of his outstanding contributions to agricultural development and the betterment of rural life.**

IICA/JIA/Res.347(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 347**

**1998-1999 INTER-AMERICAN AWARD FOR THE PARTICIPATION  
OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**HAVING SEEN:**

The report submitted by the Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, and its recommendations concerning the conferring of the corresponding awards for the 1998-1999 period.

**CONSIDERING:**

That, as evidenced in the aforementioned report, the Committee conducted an exhaustive study of the nominations received, taking into consideration the Regulations for conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, approved by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, at its Fifth Regular Meeting;

That these regulations stipulate that the Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development may be awarded on a biennial basis to only one person;

That Mrs. Roberta Marie Davidson Williams, from Antigua and Barbuda, was nominated by her country as a candidate for the 1998-1999 Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development, and that her nomination was submitted in compliance with all established requirements;

That all documentation examined indicates that the candidate is qualified to receive this honor;

**That the Executive Committee, at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting, recommended in Resolution No. 327 that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, at its Tenth Regular Meeting, grant the Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development to Mrs. Roberta Marie Davidson Williams,**

**RESOLVES:**

**To grant the 1998-1999 Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development to Mrs. Roberta Marie Davidson Williams, as public international recognition of her outstanding contributions to agricultural development and the betterment of rural life.**

IICA/JIA/Res.348(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 348**

**THIRD MINISTERIAL FORUM**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**HAVING SEEN:**

The Minutes of the Third Ministerial Forum,

**CONSIDERING:**

That the different Panels of the Third Ministerial Forum provided for the presentation and discussion of issues of tremendous importance for the efforts being made by the Member States and civil society in stimulating agricultural and rural development, thus complying with IICA's 1998-2002 Medium Term Plan, which proposes the strengthening of the IABA's role as an Inter-American Ministerial Forum for exchange and consensus-building;

That the Minutes describe in a condensed way the main points discussed in each presentation and the respective conclusions arrived at, which have great importance as guiding principles for planning and action aimed at resolving problems and taking advantage of opportunities;

That the Forum demonstrates the importance of dialogue, exchange, consensus building, and mutual cooperation as tools for collective action among the Member States, and strengthen their capabilities to confront the enormous challenges and opportunities generated by the processes of globalization and the new rules of the game at play in international trade,



**RESOLVES:**

**To take note of the conclusions of the Third Ministerial Forum and entrust IICA, within the framework of the current Medium Term Plan and in accordance with the availability of the resources allocated, to follow up on the issues addressed at the Forum and keep both the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) informed of developments.**

**PANEL 1. AGRI-BUSINESS: CRITICAL FACTORS IN THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Demand

1. Over the medium term, significant growth is foreseen in global demands for foodstuffs and raw materials, prompted by a set of factors such as: a) the expansion of the world's population, which already tops six billion inhabitants; b) changes in consumer preferences; c) alterations in income structures; and d) the relative incapacity of large parts of the world such, as the Asia Pacific region (particularly China, as well as India in the near future) to produce foodstuffs in the necessary quality and quantities. An aspect warranting particular attention in the immediate future is the possibility of the People's Republic of China joining the WTO, which would have marked repercussions on agricultural product markets, particularly staples.
2. This situation represents a challenge and an opportunity for agriculture in the Americas, which could play a larger role in meeting the rising demand for foodstuffs, manufactured products and raw materials.

Investments and profitability

1. Agriculture must be profitable in order to offer sufficient incentives for allocating resources to this sector. Supported by investments and training, information and technology programs, transparency and profitability are key factors in achieving a competitive edge.
2. Rural infrastructure is a critical factor for encouraging competitive agriculture and fostering the development of the rural milieu. Society should assume part of the costs of installing the necessary basic services, such as electrification, telephony, water supplies and adequate means of access. It is also important to include environmental costs in the agricultural balance.
3. Access to funding with suitable terms is another requirement of the utmost importance for bringing out the full potential of agriculture. Not only should this be available, but it also important that it should be offered with suitable terms, including reasonable interest rates.

4. **Small and medium-scale agriculture need to be organized in order to make good use of economies of scale and hone its competitive edge. It is thus important to strengthen the organizations dedicated to agribusiness, as they can become key sources of information, training and market intelligence, and for strengthening negotiating capabilities.**
5. **Within the context of market opening and globalization, agricultural producers must reshape their thinking, changing from small farmers to agribusinessmen. Training and human development are vital aspects for the necessary process of change, which should lead to more a competitive agriculture that is more specialized, produces greater value added, and is less focused on self-sufficiency.**

#### **Institutional framework and the rules of the game**

1. **The institutional framework set up to provide support and services for agriculture (agricultural policy, research and development, education, and training, food safety, information, and other services) should be restructured in order to respond to the current demands of the production sector, with the private sector providing vital input for this process.**
2. **The agricultural sector needs clear, stable rules of the game. To this end, agricultural policies should be designed a lengthier time horizon, and should involve private sector participation in their preparation.**
3. **Every effort should be made to prevent rules (whether based on sanitary, technical, origin, environmental or labor considerations) from hampering the development of the agricultural sector. Incorrect use of legitimate instruments can hobble the development of agricultural production and trade, meaning that it is necessary to create capacities in the countries that will foster intelligent incursions into international markets.**
4. **The agricultural sector should seek to participate in the deliberations of broader fora which include the ministers of finance and foreign trade, in addition to the ministers of agriculture.**

### Exchange of Experiences and the Role of IICA

1. Promoting sustainable development for agriculture in the Americas. IICA also has an important role to play in providing support for agribusiness, as follows: i) support the countries in the transition and transformation processes; ii) support the countries in creating the new institutional framework needed by the agricultural sector; iii) facilitate and build new means for relations between the public and private sectors; iv) facilitate meetings between the ministers of agriculture with other portfolios (finance, education, environment and trade); and v) facilitate and channel the exchange of successful experiences among the countries and organizations.

### **PANEL 2. AGRIFOOD DEVELOPMENT AND RURAL POVERTY: THE MARKET AND THE ROLES OF THE STATE AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

1. Investing in the poor can be good business, both for the private sector and social entities. New opportunities to invest in rural development are arising as a result of: i) macroeconomic reforms and the reactivation of agriculture; ii) new technological options; iii) increasing sectoral integration in the rural milieu; iv) more participatory forms of government; and v) an increase in the number of civil organizations.
2. Solutions to the problems of rural development have a multi-sectoral nature that goes beyond production and technology, and the focus must be redirected towards alliances formed at the local and national levels, headed by the Ministers of Agriculture, who are charged with taking on more and more tasks while having fewer means at their disposal to perform them.
3. The identification of rural development measures must take into consideration some of the lessons already learned. These include the following:
  - a. The magnitude, complexity and persistence of rural poverty in the region are factors that have not been addressed with comprehensive approaches and strategies, or allocated sufficient and continuous funding.
  - b. Although for most countries in the region agriculture continues to be a substantial factor of the economy, and a major source of income for vast segments of the population, particularly the rural poor, commercial agriculture alone cannot generate enough benefits to reduce rural poverty significantly.

- c. Likewise, trade opening must be accompanied by an active process of investment in production, the development of infrastructure and adoption of technologies that will ensure greater economic efficiency and well-being for the rural population.
4. Furthermore, it is difficult to reduce problems in the rural milieu without considering the export subsidies and domestic support that developed countries provide to their agricultural sectors, which have a tendency to depress the prices of agricultural products in international markets. The developed countries must understand that such subsidies and support have a direct impact on worsening the problems of rural poverty in developing countries.
  5. Rural poverty is also related to environmental fragility and subsistence farming, which is practiced in most countries in this region.
  6. In this context, there are three important requisites for making successful investments in rural development: i) increased coordination of macro-sectoral policies in the rural milieu; ii) territorial integration at the regional level, and iii) the construction of new institutional relationships and mechanisms to support rural income.
  7. Alliances and increased coordination must be sought between the agricultural sector and other sectors, both public and private, for which purpose a number of mechanisms could be implemented, such as inter-sectoral governmental coordination boards for rural development and national rural development boards, involving the extensive participation of the public and private sectors. It is also important to increasingly strengthen the catalyzing role of the Ministers of Agriculture, as well as to strengthen opportunities for coordination and generating value added among the agencies of the international community, including technical cooperation and financial entities that support rural development.
  8. It is advisable to include in the negotiation phase an analysis of the impact of international trade agreements on rural development and formulate a proactive policy that will counterbalance the effects of opening economies and help close the gap between the rural economy and the market.
  9. In regard to the latter, rural development initiatives should work closer with the players involved, for which purpose it is recommended that they be decentralized, participatory, demand driven, and integrated and coordinated at the local/territorial level.

10. The establishment of new rural institutions to support rural income would aim to fill in the gaps in support of rural income in terms of financial services, service cooperatives and technical assistance.
11. The consolidation of reform programs, the modernization of the public sector, and investments in training and education, infrastructure and the quality of rural life, the development of financial services for the rural sector, contract agriculture, access to land markets, the reactivation of land-rental markets, payment for environmental services and the creation of social safety nets. will create the conditions for reducing rural poverty and offering a variety of escape routes.
12. The IICA is charged with continuing to provide support to the member countries through its six areas of concentration, helping them to: i) identify and systematize successful experiences in the fields of agri-food development and rural development; ii) analyze the results of the decentralization processes undertaken in the region's agricultural sector; iii) analyze the impact of macro-policies on agriculture and the rural milieu; iv) conceptualize and disseminate the new focus for rural development; and v) develop technical cooperation options and monitor the search for financial cooperation opportunities through dialogue and multilateral and inter-agency cooperation.

**PANEL 3: TECHNOLOGY: CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT ON COMPETITIVENESS, PRODUCTIVITY AND HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY**

1. The balanced development of agriculture requires synergy among the factors of political, institutional and technological change.
2. There is a clear correlation between greater relative development and investments in science and technology. A country that is completely dependent in terms of research and development will find its competitiveness compromised no matter how great its productive capacity it may be; therefore, it is important to increase funding for science and technology in Latin America and the Caribbean.
3. Countries are interdependent in regard to the development technology and the assurance of food safety.

4. In regard to technological development and food safety systems, countries must combat myths such as the following: the technological gap is so wide that investments are not justified; all technologies can be imported; the private sector and the phenomenon of globalization will solve all problems.
5. Investments in technology require a minimum scale, and it is therefore necessary to integrate countries and organizations, identify the most competitive sectors when allocating resources, and develop national capabilities to acquire technologies.
6. The above indicates that the countries and technical and financial cooperation institutions need to participate in and strengthen cooperation mechanisms such as cooperative research programs (PROCI), networks and regional undertakings such as FORAGRO and FONTAGRO that comprise an inter-American research system.
7. It is important for the IABA to address its attention again to a resolution proposing the development of eco-regional consortiums for technological innovation.
8. Biotechnology offers numerous benefits and possibilities. Nevertheless, it is associated with one of the greatest challenges facing products of agricultural origin from the standpoint of food safety, agricultural health and environmental protection. In order to facilitate trade in agriculture, the Agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Trade Barriers must be applied to genetically modified products.
9. Advances in production and marketing technologies have increased the variety of products and changed consumers' habits. This, in turn, has created fresh challenges and the need to address food safety as a whole, from the farm to the consumer, in other words, throughout the agri-food chain.
10. To surmount the hurdles of improving public health and guaranteeing market access it is necessary to establish an international food safety system. The components of this system are: the existence of strengthened national food safety systems; rules based upon international standards (CODEX/WTO); and mechanisms for establishing equivalencies and resolving differences to facilitate trade.
11. In regard to genetically modified food products, it is expected that growing consumer concerns and the fact that consumers are unwilling to accept these products will exacerbate trade tensions. Therefore, measures must be taken to inform and educate the public about these matters.

12. Major technological efforts must be made to satisfy the markets' requirements. The complementarity among countries, on the one hand, and their differences and relative sizes, on the other, justify the importance of scientific and technological cooperation between the countries in this region and world-wide, including support from international research centers.
13. Due to the increased market access resulting from tariff reductions, sanitary and phytosanitary and food safety measures could become the chief obstacles to trade. To prevent this, all countries must become involved in this subject, from the modernization of services to the implementation of the agreements on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and Technical Trade Barriers.
14. To ensure a proper assessment of scientific and technological development, suitable legal frameworks must be developed to justify investment, including management models that respond to the objectives of society while ensuring the involvement of the private sector.
15. With a view to creating favorable conditions for technological research and development, IICA should be charged with formulating a strategy that will help close the gap between developed and developing countries, particularly in regard to financing.
16. Problems arising from climatic change and how to mitigate its impacts must be included in the agenda for regional research, which should have a proactive approach to preventing damage, rather than being merely reactive. To some extent technologies, as well as relevant agricultural production management practices and infrastructure, exist that can be used to prevent climatic stress. In addition to the technology, countries must have the financial systems needed to apply it
17. The strengthening of technological development and food safety systems requires leadership, political determination and the decisive drive of the ministries and secretariats of agriculture.



**PANEL 4. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FORTHCOMING MULTILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS TALKS ON AGRICULTURE IN THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO)**

1. It is considered that free trade, agriculture and rural development are the three basic pillars underpinning the harmonious growth of society, which make possible a better allocation of resources and production factors, expansion of competitive advantages, generation of better job opportunities, with more headroom for the diversification of production and the development of sustainable agriculture.
2. The topics for the next round of trade negotiations include issues agreed to among the countries, such as reducing export subsidies, reducing distortive domestic assistance (linked to trade and production), improving access to markets for all products, particularly those of importance for the developing countries, eliminating peak and progressive tariffs, expansion of tariff quotas, and exercising discipline in its administration.
3. In addition, controversial issues arise among the countries, such as the introduction of multifunctionality in agriculture, trade in genetically modified products, timing of the reduction in subsidies and domestic assistance, topics addressed by the new round, and discrepancies regarding the outlook for their duration.
4. The principles for the forthcoming round of talks should be based on the premise that agricultural products are regulated by the same multilateral trade rules as products in other sectors; and that special treatment is considered and granted to the developing countries, due to their social and economic inequality.
5. Under **Access to Markets**, the possible topics for negotiation are: tariff reductions; replacement of specific tariffs; elimination of peak and progressive tariffs; special agricultural safeguards and non-tariff barriers, expansion of tariff quotas and the standardization of their administration.
6. Under **Domestic Assistance**, the criteria for determining green-box policies and the reclassification of blue-light policies moving towards amber-box status, guaranteeing that green-box measures are effectively split off from production and trade.
7. **Export Subsidies** include the total elimination of export subsidies, and the introduction of regulations on export loans and credits.

8. **Under Constraints on Exports, attempts will be made during the forthcoming round to establish disciplines regulating their use.**
9. **It is necessary to determine the scope of “non-commercial concerns” where ambiguity could pave the way for the introduction of topics that could distort trade through concealed barriers.**
10. **It is important to anticipate the repercussions on trade in agri-food products that could be caused by the possible future inclusion, in the future, of countries such as China and Russia in the multilateral system.**
11. **Additionally, consideration should be given to the effect on the negotiating position of the European Union of an increase in its membership, particularly as this might well involve countries whose economies are in transition and which are requesting special differentiated treatment.**
12. **It is necessary to upgrade the notification and dissemination processes for the documentation produced by the World Trade Organization, particularly the notification system. IICA is requested to support the Ministries of Agriculture on this matter.**
13. **Due to the importance of the forthcoming multilateral talks at the WTO, it is thought that IICA will play a leading role in the technical cooperation of its Member States with regard to following up on these talks and disseminating results during the course of these negotiations, in a systematic and accurate manner.**
14. **Make good use of the opportunity offered by the framework of the Third Ministerial Forum to issue a joint declaration that reflects its position with regard to the forthcoming round of talks at the WTO.**

IICA/JIA/Res.349(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 349**

**AGENDA AND PLAN OF ACTION FOR FINANCING  
THE RURAL ECONOMY AND THE STRUGGLE AGAINST POVERTY**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**HAVING SEEN:**

The document drafted by the IDB with the support of IICA, IFAD, ECLAC, GTZ and FAO on investment options in the rural economy, presented at the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and at this meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),

**CONSIDERING:**

The consensus among the Member States concerning the need for a new strategy for developing the rural economy and reducing poverty, as a prerequisite for strengthening the economy of rural regions, especially relatively less developed regions, on the basis of a updated and strategic vision of agriculture and the rural milieu;

The significant progress made by the Inter-American Development Bank in restructuring its strategy, based on a new approach toward the rural milieu and the agricultural sector, and the corresponding increase of financing to the countries in this area;

The progress made by IICA to reposition the expanded agricultural sector as a strategic sector for development, as well as the innovative proposals regarding the new rural milieu;

The consensus being arrived at among the Member States and international development organizations regarding: i) priority areas of action for agricultural and rural development; ii) the need to strengthen dialogue with authorities who make economic decisions; iii) the reaching of agreement with other sectors having responsibility in the area of rural development, as necessary considerations for solving the problems of rural poverty and for moving forward in developing a sustainable and competitive agriculture;

That the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has invited the members of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to participate in the conference to be held on the development of the rural economy and poverty reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is scheduled to take place in New Orleans on March 24, 2000 within the framework of the Assembly of Governors of that organization.

**RESOLVES:**

1. To accept and thank the Inter-American Development Bank for its invitation to participate in the aforementioned Conference and to discuss, within that framework, an inter-American agenda for the development of the rural economy and the struggle against poverty, and to reach agreement regarding a plan of action.
2. To charge IICA and request support from the IDB, IFAD, ECLAC, GTZ, FAO and the World Bank, with preparing, together and in consultation with the governments, a proposal for an inter-American agenda for financing the rural economy and combating rural poverty, that establishes priority areas for expenditures and investments, and a plan of action involving joint action among the cooperation agencies for complying with that agenda.
3. To call on the governments of the Member States to strengthen dialogue among the ministers of agriculture, the economy and/or finance, with a view to giving priority in decisions on expenditures and investment to the issues of agriculture, rural development and the struggle against poverty.
4. To acknowledge the important work by the IDB and IICA to achieve an inter-agency effort for developing a new approach to agriculture, rural development and the struggle against poverty.

IICA/JIA/Res.350(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 350**

**STRENGTHENING IICA PROGRAMS THAT ADDRESS THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
THE PROCESSES OF DIALOGUE, MODERNIZATION, AND INTEGRATION OF  
AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**CONSIDERING:**

The vital and urgent need to educate and train human resources to develop competitive agriculture, and the present consensus on the subject in national, regional, and hemispheric institutions of a political, scientific, financial, and technical nature;

The high demand for cooperation from member countries from academic centers and public and private entities that educate and train human resources to work in the agricultural sector,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To underscore the strategic importance of increasing the cooperation efforts the Institute is undertaking at the national, regional, and hemispheric levels, and of strengthening the strategic alliances and joint projects on this subject that are being undertaken in partnership with the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
2. To instruct the Director General to strengthen institutional training activities for human resources on competitive agriculture and a developed rural milieu through a training program on strategic subjects that are in great demand in the countries, that coordinates technical resources with regular and the external financial resources obtained, in order to optimize their use and impact.

3. **To establish mechanisms for conducting ongoing consultations and dialogue with Governments in order to evaluate progress and direct the programs towards real local, regional, and hemispheric needs.**

IICA/JIA/Res.351(X-O/99)

29 October 1999

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 351**

**ADAPTATION OF AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU  
TO CLIMATIC CHANGE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting.

**CONSIDERING:**

**That the countries of the Americas are experiencing an intensification and increase in frequency of extreme climatic events such as hurricanes, floods and droughts;**

**That specialized international organizations have indicated that climatic change requires mitigating efforts as well as adaptation;**

**That the countries of the Americas have made a significant effort to mitigate climatic change;**

**That efforts to mitigate climatic change will only have medium- and long-term impacts, and therefore extreme climatic events will continue to occur for many years to come;**

**That a large number of projects and investments have failed due to a lack of preventive measures and/or adaptation to climatic change;**

**That the impacts of climatic change affect the poorest and rural production sectors of the Americas;**

**RESOLVES:**

**To charge the Institute and through it, the Research Institutes, whether or not they address the Region's agriculture, with channeling efforts to develop mechanisms that will furnish the technologies required for the necessary adaptation, both proactive and preventive, by the agricultural sector and the rural milieu to events characterizing climatic change.**



IICA/JIA/Res.352(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 352**

**SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA FOR THE MAINTENANCE  
OF WATER SOURCES FLOWING INTO THE PANAMA CANAL**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**CONSIDERING:**

That the Panama Canal will revert to the Nation of Panama on December 31, 1999 under the Torrijos-Carter Treaties;

That rising demands for use of the Panama Canal and the need to manage this inter-oceanic waterway in accordance with inter-generational criteria create a responsibility that extends beyond the borders of Panama;

That recent climatic phenomena have revealed the vulnerability of the water sources that supply the lakes of the Chagres River Basin, resulting in constraints being placed on vessels passing through the Canal, for the first time in history;

That the inter-American system –at whose headquarters the Canal Treaties were signed– is committed to the efficient stewardship of this waterway and sustainable human development in the Greater Panama Canal Basin;

That the stewardship of the Greater Panama Canal watershed and water in particular are matters of top priority for the Government of Panama, in order to ensure efficient transit by vessels and ensure sustainable human development in the Panama Canal Basin;

That IICA's 1998-2002 Medium Term Plan stresses the importance of integrated resource management for sustainable development, while the Institute has been implementing important programs in Member States where the protection and rational use of water resources is vital;

That, with its new dimension, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture is becoming increasingly involved in discussing and settling problems of interest to the hemisphere, acknowledging the importance of international efforts that supplement the actions of the Government of Panama in this strategic inter-oceanic region.

**RESOLVES:**

1. To acknowledge and support the interest of the Government of Panama in undertaking activities relating to maintaining the water sources that supply the Panama Canal and that will enable sustainable human development in the Canal's watershed.
2. To instruct the Director General to support the efforts that the Government of Panama will make at an international level to obtain external resources that will enable it to prepare and implement programs and projects for the management and sustainable development of the Panama Canal watershed.
3. To recommend to the Director General that the subject of watershed management, as an essential element of sustainable agricultural and rural development, be included on the agenda of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, within the framework of the current Medium Term Plan, acknowledging the strategic nature of the water resource and the importance of preventing and attenuating the impact of climatic change and variability in the countries of the region.

IICA/JIA/Res.353(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 353**

**BIENNIAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE TROPICAL  
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**HAVING SEEN:**

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.248(99) "Biennial Report on the Activities of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)."

**CONSIDERING:**

That in accordance with Clause Nine of the CATIE Contract, the Center is to submit a biennial report to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) covering technical, financial, and administrative matters,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To receive Document IICA/JIA/Doc.248(99), "Biennial Report on the Activities of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)."
2. To congratulate the Director General of CATIE on the contents and presentation of the Biennial Report.

IICA/JIA/Res.354(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 354**

**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
INSTITUTE (CARDI)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.249(99) "Biennial Report of the Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI)."

CONSIDERING:

That in accordance with the CARDI Charter the Institute is to present a biennial report to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) covering technical, financial and administrative matters.

RESOLVES:

1. To receive Document IICA/JIA/Doc.249(99) "Biennial Report of the Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI)."
2. To congratulate the Executive Director of CARDI on the contents and presentation of the Biennial Report.

IICA/JIA/Res.355(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION N° 355**

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE TROPICAL  
AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Tenth Regular Meeting.

**HAVING SEEN:**

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.244(99), "Appointment of Representatives of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Board of Directors and to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)"

**CONSIDERING:**

That the draft modifications to the Contract of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (the "Contract") provide that one of the members of the Governing Council of CATIE shall be "designated" by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

That the Director General of the Institute, on the basis of Resolution No. 331, "Election of Members of the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)" issued at the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, sent communiqué no. SC/DG-497 on August 26 requesting that the Member States of the Institute nominate their countries to represent the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) on the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE).

That during the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, the Delegation of Ecuador presented its country as a candidate for the aforementioned position;

**RESOLVES:**

To elect Jamaica, a member country of the Institute that is not a member of CATIE, as the representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), until October 2001.

IICA/JIA/Res. 356(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION N° 356**

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE  
TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH  
AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**HAVING SEEN:**

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.244(99), "Appointment of Representatives of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Board of Directors and to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)"

**CONSIDERING:**

That the Director General of the Institute sent communiqué no. SC/DG-126 on February 22 requesting that the Member States of the Institute nominate their countries to represent the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE);

That the following nominations were received: Miguel Bonilla Reyes, from Honduras; Federico Dao, from Venezuela; and Richard Rovtvedt, from the United States of America;

That the Executive Committee, at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting, issued Resolution No. 330 "Election of Members of the Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)," in which it requests the Director General of the Institute to submit for the consideration of the next Regular Meeting of the IABA the nominations received for the IABA position on the CATIE Board of Directors,

**RESOLVES:**

To designate Richard Rovtvedt, from the United States of America, as Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), until October 2001.



IICA/JIA/Res.357(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 357**

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND  
PEOPLE OF BRAZIL**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**CONSIDERING:**

The appreciation expressed by the delegates and other participants of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture for the extraordinary hospitality extended by the Government of Brazil and the State of Bahia during the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

**RESOLVES:**

1. To express its deep appreciation to the Government and People of Brazil, especially to His Excellency Vice President Marco Maciel for his distinguished and enlightened contributions to the Inaugural Session, and to His Excellency César Augusto Robello Borges, Governor of the State of Bahia.
2. To express its deep appreciation to Minister of Agriculture Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes for his willingness to enter into constructive dialogue with the ministers of the hemisphere, as well as to the authorities of the State of Bahia and the diligent personnel of the Ministries of Foreign Relations and Agriculture and Supply for the warm hospitality and generous support they provided during the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

IICA/JIA/Res.358(X-O/99)  
29 October 1999  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 358**

**VOTE OF THANKS TO DR. RUBEN GUEVARA**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting,

**CONSIDERING:**

That Dr. Rubén Guevara has completed his term in office as Director General of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), during which he directed a highly distinguished and productive administration;

That thanks to his leadership and recognized technical expertise, Dr. Guevara is leaving behind a strengthened Center that enjoys a solid institutional basis for the development of joint programs with the IICA:

**RESOLVES:**

To thank Dr. Guevara for his excellent and dedicated work at the head of CATIE and wish him the greatest success in the future during his illustrious professional career.

IICA/JIA/Res.359(0-99)

29 October 1999

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 359**

**TRIBUTE TO DR OSCAR HÉCTOR GHERSI**

**The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Tenth Regular Meeting.**

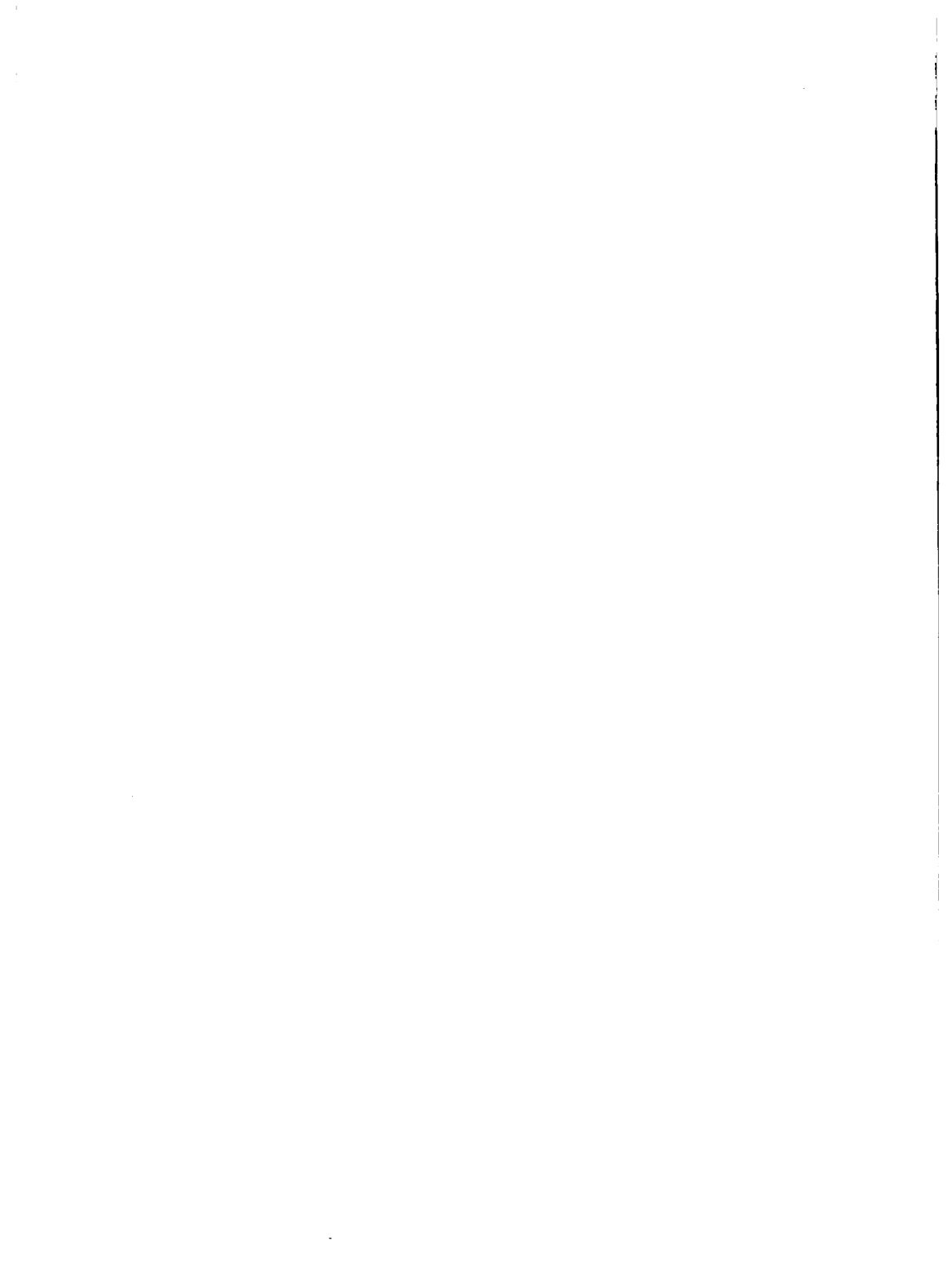
**CONSIDERING:**

**That the Audit Review Committee constitutes an important mechanism of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) for directly advising the Director General on the administrative and financial conduct of the Institute, as well as for assisting the IABA in the administrative and financial supervision of IICA;**

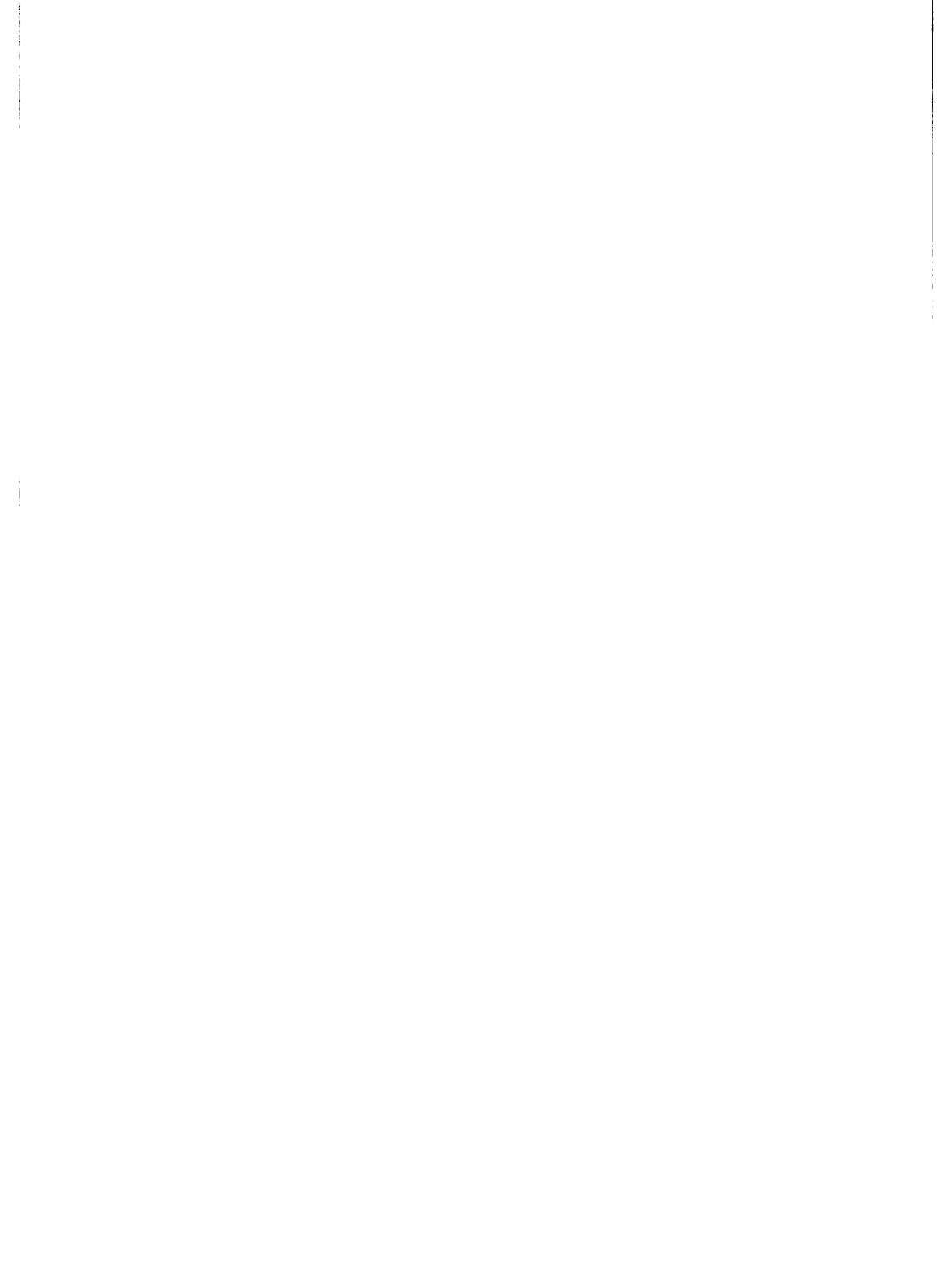
**That the members of the Committee, who are appointed by the Governments, fulfill an important task;**

**RESOLVES:**

- 1. To thank the Government of Argentina for the support provided by Dr. Oscar Héctor Ghersi, the Internal Auditor of the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA), who sat on the Audit Review Committee from 1995 through 1999.**
- 2. To acknowledge the excellent and dedicated efforts of Dr. Ghersi and offer very sincere thanks for his contributions to the consolidation of the Audit Review Committee and his input furthering the administrative and financial management of the Institute.**



## **SALVADOR DECLARATION**



## **SALVADOR DECLARATION**

**The Ministers and Heads of Delegation present at the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture,**

- 1) in view of the upcoming Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to be held November 30 - December 3 in Seattle, which will begin the next round of trade negotiations, and the agreement to resume agricultural negotiations within its scope;**
- 2) considering the crucial importance of agriculture and agribusiness for generating export revenue for member countries;**
- 3) reiterating that agriculture is key to facilitating global expansion and growth of the GDP, which allow countries to achieve a variety of economic and social goals, and contribute to the viability of sustainable rural communities;**
- 4) acknowledging the need to achieve extensive liberalization of international trade in agriculture during the next round of trade negotiations, and the importance of extension to the agricultural sector of WTO general commitments,**

**Hereby adopt the following guiding principles for the participation of its member countries in the next round of agricultural negotiations:**

- 1) In the negotiations, priority should be given to improving market access for agricultural products, including significantly reducing tariffs and addressing the concerns of developing countries that have conditions and needs that make Special and Differential Treatment (SDT) an essential part of the negotiation.**
- 2) Negotiations should call for the reduction or elimination of trade distorting domestic supports in order to encourage farmers to respond to market signals, participate in global markets and take advantage of trade opportunities.**
- 3) Negotiations should seek to eliminate export subsidies within clearly established timeframes.**
- 4) Negotiations should maintain science-based sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures with the aim of ensuring that such measures are not utilized as non-tariff barriers.**

In adopting these principles, the Ministers and Heads of Delegation present at the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture hereby reiterate their commitment to the liberalization of international trade in agriculture, reduction of trade and production distorting policies, and the willingness of their countries to give the highest priority to the agricultural sector in the context of the new round of trade negotiations.

## CARICOM

Be it noted:

As small economies and/or net food-importing developing countries, the CARICOM States have established a Regional Negotiating Machinery which, under the instructions of the Heads of Governments of CARICOM States, carries out negotiations on behalf of the Group.

Consequently, the CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture and Heads of Delegation present at the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, are unable to participate in the drafting of any document emanating from the Meeting under reference that pertains to negotiations for the upcoming WTO Ministerial Meeting to be held in Seattle, Washington in November 1999.

Salvador, October 26, 1999



## **SIGNING OF THE REPORT**



**SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE TENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER  
AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

In compliance with the provisions of Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of Inter American Board of Agriculture, the Report of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter American Board of Agriculture is hereby signed at 8:00 hours on the twenty ninth day of October of the year nineteen hundred and ninety nine.

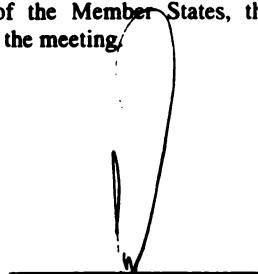
The report, which is submitted in the official languages of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter American Board of Agriculture: English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish, all versions being equally authentic and valid, will be edited by the Secretariat before its publication in the Official Documents Series. The changes adopted during the Closing Session will also be included.

The Secretary shall file the original texts in the archives of the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the General Directorate shall send copies of the official version of this report to the Governments of the Member States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

Salvador, Bahia, Brazil.



Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes  
Chairman



Carlos E. Aquino G.  
Diretor General and  
Secretary ex-officio



**REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**



**REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF THE  
TENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

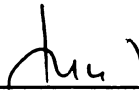
The Credentials Committee of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, made up of the Representatives of Brazil, Canada, Guatemala and Haiti, was set up in accordance with the provisions of Articles 44 y 45 of Chapter VII of the Rules of Procedures and the agreements reached in the Preparatory Session of this meeting.

The Committee examined the credentials of the representatives of the Member States of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. It found the credentials of the following to be in order: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, San Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

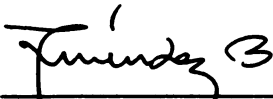
This report is signed in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, on October 28, 1999.



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Rolande Leduc  
 Representative of Canada  
 Chair



\_\_\_\_\_  
 François Séverin  
 Representative of Haiti  
 Vice-chairman



\_\_\_\_\_  
 Juan Carlos Méndez  
 Representative of Guatemala  
 Rapporteur

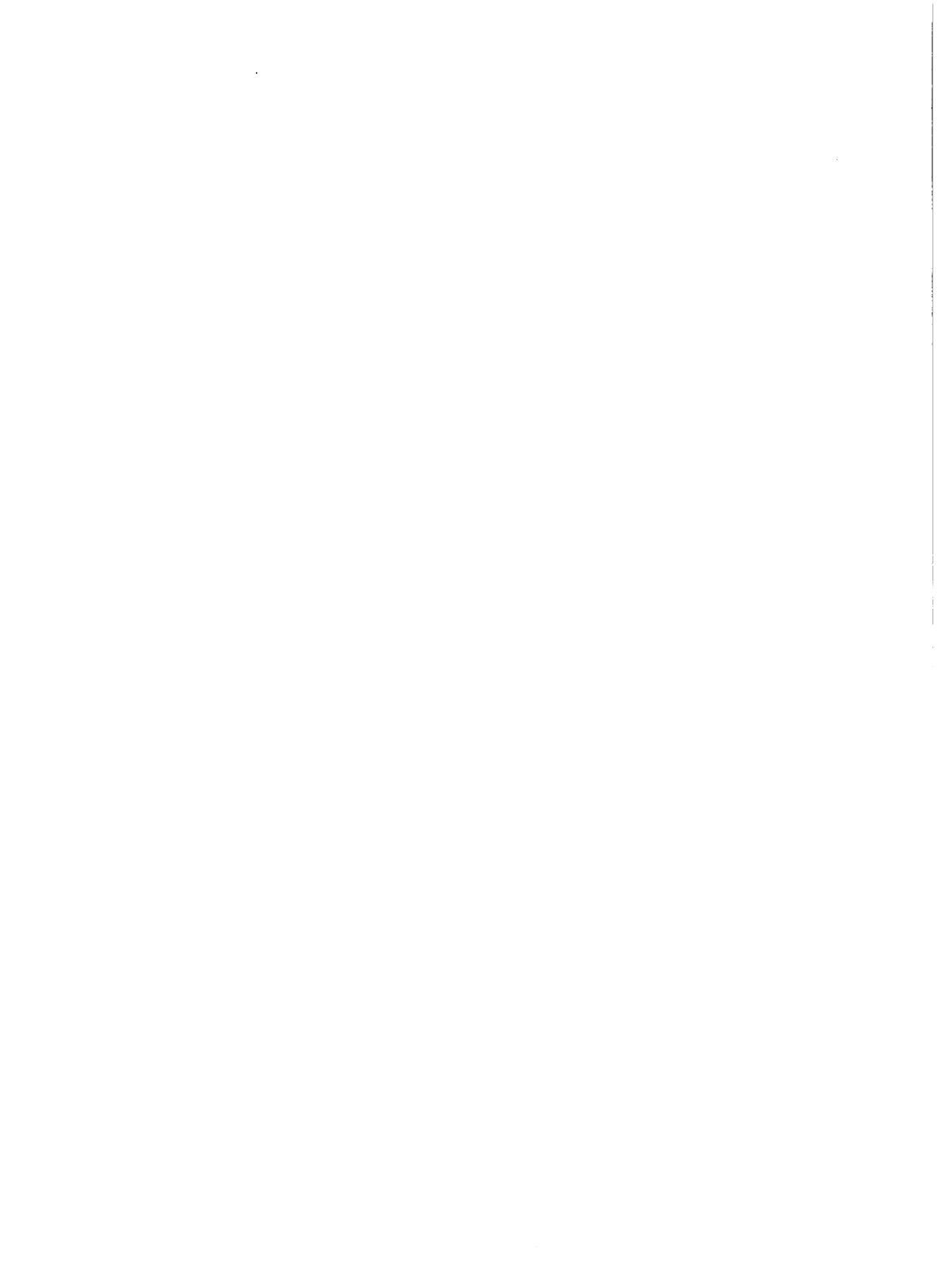


\_\_\_\_\_  
 Gilberto Fonseca Moura  
 Representative of Brazil





## **AGENDA**



IICA/JIA/Doc.235(99)rev.

**AGENDA****Provisional Schedule**

IICA/JIA/Doc.236(99)rev.1

**1. Report of the Director General**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1.1 Mensage of the Director General<br>(no document)   | (unnumbered)         |
| 1.2 Mensage of the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)  | (unnumbered)         |
| 1.3 1997 and 1998 Annual Reports   | IICA/JIA/Doc.237(99) |
| 1.4 Considerations on the Evolution of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: Challenges and Opportunities | IICA/JIA/Doc.238(99) |

**2. Institutional Policy**

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| 2.1 Report of the Chairman of the Executive Committee on the Meetings of the 1998-1999 Biennium | IICA/JIA/Doc.239(99)     |
| 2.2 Looking Ahead to the Twenty-first Century: The New Institutional Dimension                  | IICA/JIA/Doc.240(99)rev. |

**3. Budgetary and Programming Issues**

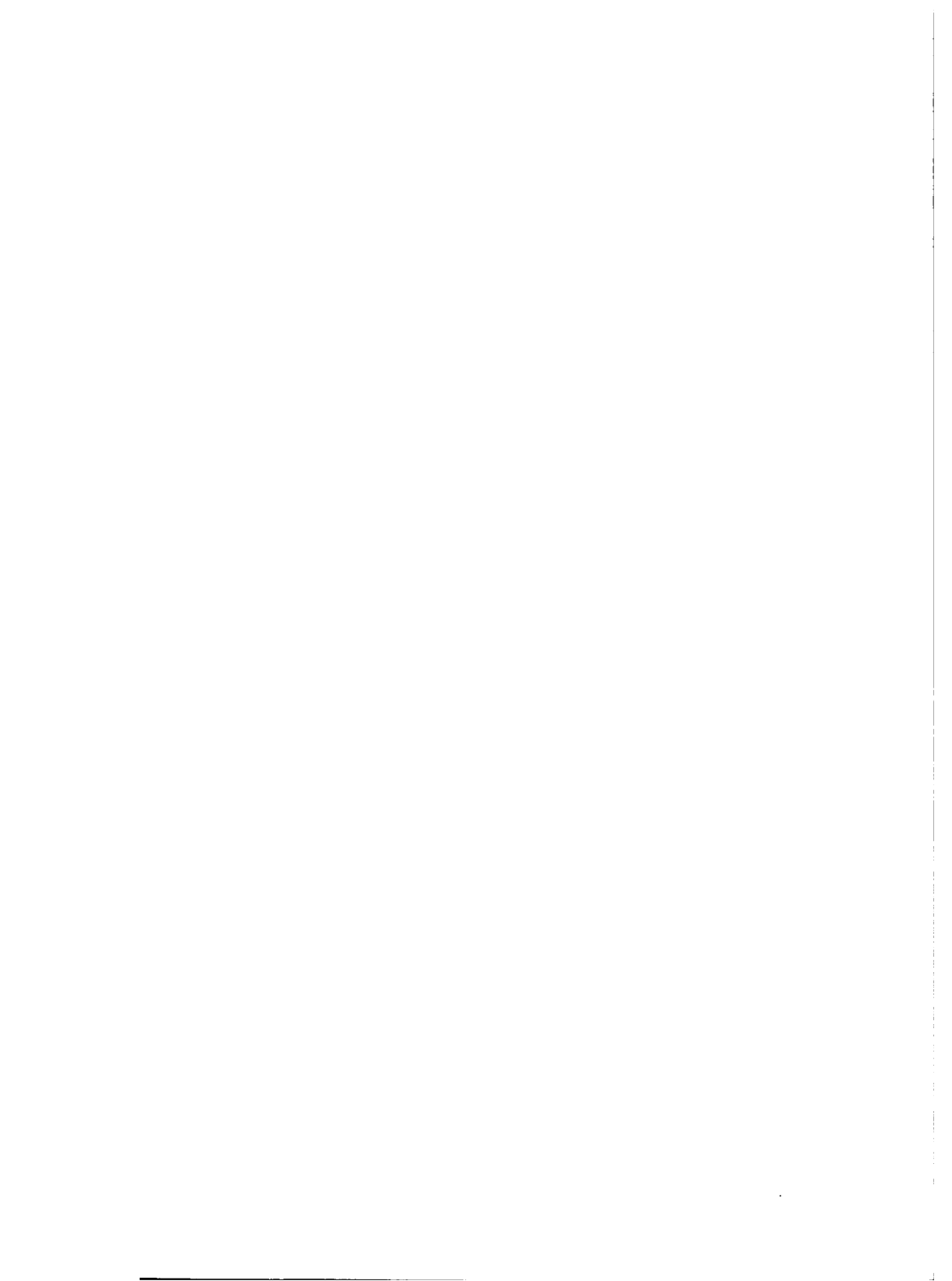
- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 3.1 Financing of the Regular Fund and Distribution of Resources for the Years 2000 and 2001 | IICA/JIA/Doc.241(99) |
|---|----------------------|

**4. Financial Issues**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 4.1 1997 and 1998 Financial Statements of the Institute and Reports of the External Auditors | IICA/JIA/Doc.242(99) |
| 4.2 Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)                             | IICA/JIA/Doc.243(99) |

- 4.3 Appointment of External Auditors for the 2000-2001 Biennium (unnumbered)  
(no document)
- 5. Inter-Institutional Relations**
- 5.1 Appointment of the Representatives of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Board of Directors and to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) IICA/JIA/Doc.244(99)
- 5.2 Inter-American Agenda for Rural Development (unnumbered)
- 6. Other Institutional Issues**
- 6.1 Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) IICA/JIA/Doc.245(99)
- 6.2 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector IICA/JIA/Doc.246(99)
- 6.3 Date and Site of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) IICA/JIA/Doc.247(99)
- 6.4 Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) IICA/JIA/Doc.248(99)
- 6.5 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI) IICA/JIA/Doc.249(99)
- 7. Other Items of Interest to the Ministers**

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<b>Gregorio Contreras</b>	<b>Director, Central Regional Center</b>
<b>Gustavo da Silva</b>	<b>IICA Representative in Brazil</b>
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<b>Gonzalo Estefanell</b>	<b>IICA Representative in Argentina</b>
<b>Helio de Macedo Soares</b>	<b>Director, Southern Regional Center</b>
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<b>Gerardo Escudero</b>	<b>Manager, Technical Consortium</b>
<b>Roberto U. Hernández</b>	<b>Manager, Corporate Services Consortium</b>
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<b>José E. Lois</b>	<b>Manager, Planning and Coordination Consortium</b>
<b>Rafael Marte</b>	<b>IICA Representative in the Dominican Republic and Advisor to the Director General</b>
<b>John Miranda</b>	<b>Director, Northern Regional Center</b>
<b>Jesús Moreno</b>	<b>Director of Finance</b>
<b>Rubén Núñez</b>	<b>Advisor to the Technical Manager</b>
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<b>Rodolfo Quirós</b>	<b>Director, Policies and Trade</b>
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<b>Jaime A. Viñas-Román</b>	<b>Director, Education and Training Center</b>
<b>Kevin Walker</b>	<b>Director, Agricultural Health</b>





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**MEETING STAFF**

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## **APPENDICES**



**MESSAGE FROM MR. EDUARDO FREI RUIZ-TAGLE,  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE**





**Republic of Chile**  
(seal)  
**President**

**Santiago, Chile, October 22, 1999**

**Ministers and Representatives**  
**Tenth Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture**  
**BRAZIL**

**Sirs:**

*I am delighted to have the opportunity to address you in my capacity as President of the Republic of Chile, the country that hosted the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Second Forum of Ministers of Agriculture. I would like to wish you all every success at the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Third Forum "Agriculture and the Rural Milieu: a matter of strategic importance to development in the Americas."*

*I would also like to send a special greeting to the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Mr. Carlos Aquino Gonzalez, and to thank him for his contribution to the progress that this organization has been making with its modernization process and in carrying out its important work, placing at the disposal of the governments of the Americas its technical capabilities, which are constantly being reviewed to meet the growing and changing demand from the agricultural and rural sectors of our region. It is also helping to achieve consensus on a new Agenda for Rural Development in the Americas. My country will be supporting the attainment of these objectives, contributing Chile's experience in the area of agriculture and rural development.*

*At the Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA in Santiago, I stated that the great challenge that lays ahead of us in this field is the comprehensive modernization of agriculture and rural areas, in order to contribute to integration, which is the aspiration of the vast majority of our populations.*

*Chile, for example, has been creating an environment that fosters joint efforts between the private and public sectors aimed at encouraging economic growth. These efforts have led to major investment in rural areas during this decade, as well as the*

*focusing of resources in areas that are of strategic importance to agricultural development, thus making it possible to address the issue of rural poverty and improve the living conditions of the population. Nonetheless, different kinds of policies and instruments are required to complement those designed to develop agricultural production.*

*As we approach the new millennium, I would urge you to persevere in your efforts to further develop world agricultural markets and improve aspects of agricultural health, issues that will undoubtedly be a focus of the upcoming negotiations of the World Trade Organization, inasmuch as they affect the development of the sector and are of concern to the entire hemisphere.*

*Please accept my cordial greetings and best wishes for the success of the meeting.*

*Sincerely,*

*(signed)*  
**EDUARDO FREI RUIZ-TAGLE**

**PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA,  
DR. CARLOS E. AQUINO,  
AT THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION**



## **PRESENTATION BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA AT THE FIRST PLENARY SESSION OF THE TENTH IABA**

Greetings.

This biennial event is an excellent occasion for the General Directorate of IICA and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to analyze the advances and achievements recorded during 1998 and 1999, reflect on the most important issues in agricultural and rural development on the threshold of the twenty-first century, and plan strategic actions for the next two years.

As I mentioned in the report on the first four years of my administration, which I presented at the IABA Meeting two years ago in Chile, the Institute had made significant progress in upgrading its technical, human, administrative and financial capabilities and improving its performance, with a view to enhancing its ability to provide technical cooperation that would benefit the countries and contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, and integration, in the Americas.

During those first four years, from early 1994 to early 1998, institutional transformation was promoted as a strategy for channeling more and better technical cooperation to the countries and for opening up the Institute to the Member States, particularly in these times of globalization and integration, which demand that we make more rational use of resources and draw upon capacities that already exist in the countries.

In brief, we were able to advance on several fronts, such as preparing staff members to implement change; decentralizing human and financial resources and decision making to the regions and TCAs; strengthening Headquarters; and forging strategic alliances intended to boost our capability to offer technical cooperation to the countries.

Also, we made progress in improving our financial position, amending rules and regulations, recovering quota arrearages and substantially increasing the amount of external resources managed, thus enabling the Institute to channel more cooperation to the countries.

Furthermore, with the backing and participation of the member countries, technical meetings and technical-political fora, for discussions on major issues of interest to the countries, were systematically introduced into the framework of the meetings of our governing bodies, the Executive Committee and the IABA.

The Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Regular Meetings of the IABA, held in Costa Rica, Chile and now Brazil, respectively, have been unique in that they have provided an opportunity to focus on substantive technical and political issues. Held within the context of these events, the First, Second and Third Fora for Ministers of Agriculture and Leaders of the Americas brought together the main players in agricultural and rural development in the hemisphere, and expanded the role of the IABA.

The decision to hold these fora is in response to repeated requests from the Ministers and the member countries, that the meetings of the IABA focus on important issues and keep discussions of the internal affairs of the Institute, which can be analyzed at other levels of management, to a minimum. The General Directorate submitted a proposal on this topic to the Executive Committee at its meeting earlier this year, which we will have an opportunity to consider at this historic meeting of the IABA, here in Brazil.

### **The first two years of my second term of office**

In 1998 and 1999, which constitute the first half of my second administration, IICA has moved ahead with the transformation process and efforts to enhance its position as the specialized agency of the Inter-American System, thus enabling the Institute to have a greater impact upon the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the countries.

During these two years, the institutional transformation process has focused on strengthening and consolidating four basic areas: 1.- technical cooperation; 2.- decentralization, adjustments at Headquarters and strategic planning; 3.- administrative management and physical and communications infrastructure; and 4.- transformation of the Executive Committee and the IABA.

These four areas are directly linked to efforts to promote the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the countries. They also help the Institute, as it implements different actions, to be increasingly more effective and strategic in terms of its cooperation, and generate real benefits and impacts in the countries. Allow me to briefly refer to each of these areas.

#### **A) Technical cooperation**

In 1998 and 1999, we have focused on enhancing IICA's technical position and balancing demands at the national and hemispheric levels, with a view to having a greater impact in addressing topics of strategic importance to the countries.

In keeping with the increased involvement of the countries in the international economy, and the mandates established in its 1998–2002 MTP, the Institute carried out hemispheric actions in its six strategic areas for technical cooperation. IICA redoubled its efforts to support the countries in the following areas: trade negotiations; agricultural health and food safety; technology innovation systems and networks; rural development proposals based on income and job generation and the development of micro-enterprises, especially for and by women and young people; the transformation of the curricula of their institutions of higher and vocational agricultural education and training; and information and communications, which are essential for taking decisions and fostering rural and agrifood development in the Americas.

Technical cooperation in these six areas was divided into five types of complementary actions: i) the creation and operation of real and virtual hemispheric fora; ii) training for specialists in countries throughout the hemisphere; iii) the organization of workshops, seminars and conferences; iv) the preparation of studies and methodologies related to emerging topics of strategic interest, and v) exchanges of information and experiences among the countries.

Although you have the reports on the actions of the Institute at all three levels — national, regional and hemispheric — I would like to refer to the latter level, which, to a large extent, encompasses both the national and regional levels and draws heavily on them. Specifically, I want to draw attention to the technical cooperation actions carried out in the Strategic Areas and in connection with the other common areas of interest mentioned above.

### ***1. Policy and Trade***

For the countries, trade, trade negotiations, negotiating techniques and information, as well as the implementation of agreements and the promotion of exports and domestic market mechanisms, are key elements in the processes aimed at improving agriculture's position in international trade and in the integration process. In this Area, the objective of IICA's cooperation has been to work with the countries in further developing their capabilities to: i) negotiate and administer agricultural trade agreements; ii) harmonize agricultural policies; and iii) formulate and implement strategies, policies and programs intended to increase competitiveness.

With a view to helping the countries develop these capabilities, "improving agriculture's position in international trade and in the hemispheric integration process" was defined as priority field for action. In this Area, the following important actions were undertaken in 1998 and 1999:

***Support in preparing for the WTO and FTAA negotiations***

The Institute, in strict compliance with the 1998-2002 MTP and Resolutions N° 325, 328 and 333, from the Ninth IABA, and at the request of the Chairman of that meeting, joined forces with FAO and collaborated with the countries of the hemisphere in setting up the **Informal Consultative Group of the Agricultural Negotiators of the Americas**. The objective of the group is to develop the capabilities of the national teams of negotiators, increase the exchange of information and foster the coordination of joint proposals and positions for the FTAA and WTO negotiations. Moreover, the countries decided that IICA and FAO should exercise the joint Technical Secretariat of the Consultative Group.

Since it was set up in late 1998, six meetings have been held with the negotiators of the 34 countries of the Americas, five in Miami and one in Santiago, Chile. Progress has also been made in developing low-cost and highly efficient mechanisms for ongoing liaison, such as the creation, at the request of the countries, of the **Electronic Forum of the Informal Consultative Group of the Agricultural Negotiators of the Americas**. Through the Forum, which can be found on Internet (<http://Infoagro.net/Comercio>), specialized technical information is compiled and exchanged among the agricultural trade negotiators and support teams of the countries, as well as specialists from the competent agencies, the private sector, civil society, and the Institute's trade experts, using "discussion lists" to analyze the most important issues related to agricultural trade negotiations.

**Technical monographs and studies** on various topics were prepared and made available to the countries: i) Situation of Net Food Importing Countries in the Americas; ii) Model for calculating indicators of revealed competitiveness for the agricultural products of the countries of LAC; iii) Analyses and simulations of the effect of changes on the AEC of CARICOM ; iv) CARICOM trade vis-à-vis trade blocs; v) Inter-American Consultation on Institutional Models for Trade Negotiations; vi) Aspects of Intellectual Property of Importance to Agriculture; vii) Institutional Organization for Agricultural Negotiations in the Countries of the Americas; viii) Administration of Tariff Quotas by Commodity Exchanges; and ix) A series of technical documents on competitiveness in agrifood chains. FAO has also made progress on other equally relevant issues.

Significant progress was also made in terms of **training for the teams of agricultural negotiators from the hemisphere**. Courses have been held in most of the countries, with more than 600 trade specialists having been trained. Also of importance are the following regional/hemispheric courses carried out in partnership with other international institutions, which have benefited over 200 trade specialists from the countries: i) WTO/IICA Workshop for Trainers Specializing in Policies and Multilateral Negotiations for Agriculture, held at the WTO in Geneva, Switzerland, in January, 1999; ii) IICA/FAO/World Bank Seminar



"Latin America and the Caribbean and Further Multilateral Agricultural Reforms," Santiago, Chile, November, 1998 (hemispheric); iii. IICA/FAO/World Bank Regional Training Course for the Central Area, "The Uruguay Round Agreements and the Future Agricultural Trade Negotiations," Tegucigalpa, Honduras, June, 1999; iv) WTO/IDB/IICA Regional Training Course for the Southern Area and Bolivia, "The WTO Multilateral Trade Disciplines and Agricultural Trade Policies," Asuncion, Paraguay, July, 1999; v) Regional Workshop "Preparation of the Countries of the Central American Isthmus for the WTO Agricultural Negotiations," San Jose, Costa Rica, October 1999; vi) Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of CARICOM "Joint positions in the WTO agricultural trade negotiations." Trinidad and Tobago. May 1999; and vii) "Negotiating Techniques and Tactics." Mexico. September 1999. The regional course for the Andean Area has been scheduled for late 1999 and the course for the agricultural negotiators for the Caribbean Region is scheduled for the early months of 2000.

## *2. Science, Technology and Natural Resources*

Research, technology transfer and technology innovation throughout the chain from the "farm to the consumer's table" are essential tools for ensuring competitiveness, quality and productivity in a context of economic opening, integration and hyper-competitiveness. The prospecting of biodiversity (meaning its commercial exploitation), the conservation of natural resources for production, and the so-called "functional" and "natural" products, scenic beauty, the landscape and environmental services are all increasing in importance as alternatives for adding value and achieving social well-being.

In this Area, the objective of IICA's cooperation has been to work with the countries in further developing their capabilities to: i) design technology policies, ii) create and consolidate national, regional and hemispheric technology innovation systems, iii) facilitate the international transfer of knowledge and iv) foster institutional development related to the integrated management of natural resources.

With a view to helping the countries develop these capabilities, "strengthening technology innovation and transfer systems" was defined as a priority field for action. In compliance with Resolutions No. 325, 327 and 331, from the Ninth IABA, and the 1998-2002 MTP, the following important technical cooperation activities were carried out:

### **Support for the establishment of the Inter-American System of Technology Innovation**

Here, I would like to underscore the efforts made by the countries of the hemisphere and their national and regional institutions to create and develop the **Regional Forum on Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO)**. The countries, in a number of different meetings, such as the one held Brasilia in March 1998 within the context of the

**“Science for Life” event, organized by EMBRAPA and IICA, laid the groundwork for creating the Forum. The first meeting of FORAGRO, which is a hemispheric mechanism for articulation, synergy and dialogue in the hemisphere, and a forum to discuss and provide orientation in the process of technology innovation, was held in April 1999.**

**All the PROCIs, most networks of the NARIs of the Americas, several universities and other players in the private sector participate in FORAGRO. Once again, in compliance with mandates issued at the Ninth IABA, the Institute assumed responsibility for the Technical Secretariat of the Forum, whose second meeting will take place in Mexico in March 2000.**

**Another important development has been the creation of the Inter-American Electronic Forum of Science, Technology and Natural Resources, which can be found on Internet. This forum enables the participants in FORAGRO to stay in contact with one another, and makes it possible to circulate relevant data and exchange experiences systematically, efficiently and inexpensively.**

**As part of its efforts to foster inter-institutional relations between the PROCIs and other regional networks, the Institute continues to support PROCITROPICOS, PROCICARIBE, PROCISUR, PROCIANDINO, SICTA, CATIE and CARDI and other networks such as PROMECAFE and FONTAGRO, contributing to their budgets and, in some cases, serving as Technical Secretariat. In particular, we are supporting and encouraging their efforts aimed at reforming and modernizing their operations, and at opening up to technological systems that are emerging in the countries and in which other very important players participate, such as universities, the private sector and other civil society organizations. Likewise, we continued to support the consolidation of the systems created recently in Central America and the Caribbean, as well as the possible creation of a system for the Northern Region. With the creation of the latter system, it would be possible to create a truly hemispheric system in science and technology for agriculture and the rural milieu.**

**Also worthy of mention are the Institute’s efforts, in alliance with other organizations such as FAO, CATIE, IPGRI, CIAT, OAS, GTZ and a number of universities and research centers, in the area of the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources, focusing on genetic resources, soil and water. Also, events and seminars have been held, technical documents have been prepared on relevant topics such as biosafety, intellectual property, transgenic plants, technology innovation, and documentary information systems on these and other topics of growing interest have been developed.**

### 3. *Agricultural Health and Food Safety*

Agricultural health and food safety as they apply to trade, but also as a matter of public health, are extremely important issues and are the subject of increased scrutiny by the countries. In this Area, the objective of IICA's cooperation has been to work with the countries and their agricultural health and food safety institutions in further developing their capabilities to: i) formulate and execute policies and programs aimed at ensuring that products of plant and animal origin comply with the strictest health and hygiene standards; and ii) can, as a result, compete successfully on international and domestic markets.

With a view to helping the countries develop these capabilities, "strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems" was defined as a priority field for action.

In compliance with Resolutions No. 325 and 326, from the Ninth IABA, and the 1998-2002 MTP, the following important technical cooperation activities were carried out:

#### **Modernization of agricultural health and food safety systems**

I would like to call attention to the design and implementation of the **Inter-American Agricultural Health Network, AGRIHEALTH XXI**, an effective Internet-based mechanism which makes dialogue, exchanges of experiences and information and training possible between experts and specialists from the countries and the institutions responsible for agricultural health and food safety in the countries.

It contains the following instruments: 1.- *Discussion groups* among specialists, to date, on four topics: i) a model for modernizing agricultural health and food safety systems, ii) practical application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, iii) conceptualization on emerging matters, and iv) the World Bank's position on food safety; 2.- *Electronic conferencing*, focusing on the improvement and protection of agricultural health systems. Currently, two food safety conferences are operational (the French and North American systems); 3.- *On-line courses* on two topics: institutional modernization and food safety; and 4.- *Virtual rooms*, as support for the conferences and on-line courses, making it possible for users to discuss relevant issues with experts from different institutions and countries.

Internet is also used to compile and disseminate the decentralized directories of the national agricultural health systems of the countries in the hemisphere, which are updated by the official agricultural health services in the countries. Likewise, it contains a section on successful experiences in the field of agricultural health and food safety.

Also, **studies** were conducted in the five regions in order to: i) develop strategic plans that will contribute to preparing national agricultural health systems to adopt a new approach to emerging issues; and ii) develop a training plan and a system for exchanging information and databases, with a view to helping the countries identify, prioritize and propose plans of action for dealing with emerging issues within AGRICHEALTH XXI. Improvements have already been made in the agricultural health and food safety systems, in terms of human and physical resources, access to sources of information, how the services are organized to detect and respond to emerging situations and identify pests, diseases and situations of a biological nature.

Also, a model for a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System has been designed, and terms of reference have been prepared for a legal analysis of the project: "Modernization of the Legal Foundations of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Services."

Another type of activity that is growing in importance in this field is the organization of workshops and training courses with experts and specialists from the countries. The following events are worthy of special mention: i) the seminar "Food Safety and Health Systems," which was held in Mexico in 1998 in conjunction with SAGAR and provided representatives of 21 countries from the hemisphere with an opportunity to exchange experiences and know-how; ii) two panels on "Food Safety" held within the context of the 1998 and 1999 IICA Executive Committee meetings, both of which were attended by more than twenty delegations from the countries, who listened to technical presentations by distinguished experts such as Dr. Anne Mackenzie, from Canada, and Dr. Kaferstein, from the United States of America; iii) the conference "Future Strategies in Food Safety: the cooperative role among international agencies, the public sector and the private sector," held recently in Costa Rica and organized jointly by the World Bank, EMBRAPA and IICA to analyze the experiences of Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, Jamaica, Canada, the United States and France; iv) round table discussions on "Food Safety and Public/Private Relations," in Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Ecuador, and the Andean Region seminar on "Food Safety, Agricultural Health and International Agrifood Trade;" v) the seminar organized jointly by FAO, CORECA, OIRSA, PAHO, USDA, FDA, EPA, California Strawberry Growers Association, Ministry of Health of Costa Rica, EARTH, University of Costa Rica and IICA, within the framework of the training course on "Quality Assurance and the Safety of Fruits and Vegetables," attended by officials from Central America, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Cuba; and vi) the seminar held jointly by the WTO and IICA on the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, for Central America, Mexico and Dominican Republic, as well as the seminar held in Panama on the same topic.

Lastly, efforts were made to foster **coordination and articulation** among specialized institutions such as OIRSA, FAO, COSAVE, NAPPO, OIE, PAHO, USDA-APHIS, and IICA. Also, the **Emergency Fund** was systematically applied in a number of countries in the Caribbean and Central America in the wake of hurricanes George and Mitch in 1998, and in 1999 in Brazil, Paraguay, Guyana, Central America and other countries.

#### **4. *Sustainable Rural Development***

Sustainable rural development, viewed as the execution of agricultural and non-agricultural activities in the regions and small communities, is a powerful means of focalizing actions aimed at increasing competitiveness and human capabilities and alleviating imbalances among regions that are affecting the countries.

In this Area, the objective of IICA's cooperation has been to work with the countries in further developing their capabilities to formulate rural development policies and design and implement rural development strategies and programs aimed at increasing competitiveness and reducing rural poverty.

With a view to helping the countries develop these capabilities, "improving living standards in rural communities" was defined as a priority field for action.

In compliance with Resolutions No. 325, 330 and 334, from the Ninth IABA, and the 1998-2002 MTP, the following important technical cooperation activities were carried out:

#### **Support in promoting and applying the concept of gender equity and fostering the development of rural women**

I want to call attention to the many efforts made to **implement initiatives related to gender equity and business development for rural women**, through a number of actions (studies, conceptual development, meetings, conferences and seminars, strategic alliances with various organizations and efforts to secure external resources), and: i) the implementation of the UNIDAS Fund; ii) the development and promotion of the Fund to Finance the Business Initiatives of Rural Women (FERURAL); iii) initial steps to implement the Plan of Action for the Development of Rural Women; iv) execution of the IICA/SIDA project on Gender and Sustainable Development, mainly in Central America and the Caribbean; and v) support for the initiatives of the First Ladies of the region, and important meetings at the regional and hemispheric levels

Also worthy of mention are the initiatives related to the **development and conceptualization of a new vision of the rural milieu**, via meetings and workshops, studies and documents, alliances and joint efforts with universities and the IDB/ECLAC/FAO/IICA interagency group, and the participation of specialists from various countries and institutions. Also, an electronic system (RURALNET), via Internet, and a network of specialists in the field (SIDERSO) have been established, and are greatly facilitating this effort.

Other outstanding actions are those aimed at **strengthening the development of small-farmer agribusinesses and family agriculture**, by means of: i) technical and conceptual support incorporated into projects seeking resources for rebuilding the rural areas affected by hurricane Mitch in Central America; ii) support for the establishment of networks of organizations of operators of small-scale and small-farmer agribusinesses, as part of the Institute's initiative aimed at creating an Agribusiness Network of the Americas; iii) the compilation and exchange of experiences on the topic in Central America and the Southern Region; and iv) efforts to articulate and strengthen actions and programs with IFAD, PDF CUSO and CIDA of Canada.

Lastly, there is the **Youth Participation Initiative**, which has developed: i) conceptual frameworks and the Manual on Young People and Rural Youths as Players in Rural Development; and ii) several projects aimed at securing external resources and fostering institutional relationships with CAJIR, OIJ, Partners of America, UNDP, IDB, ICA and GTZ.

## **5. *Education and Training***

Training and education today constitute one of the most important vehicles for achieving the sustainable, equitable and competitive development of agriculture and the rural milieu, based on sound agribusiness management principles and the conservation of natural resources and the environment.

In this Area, the objective of IICA's cooperation has been to work with the countries, their universities, academic centers and producer organizations in further developing their capabilities to engage in: strategic planning for academic development, the modernization of curricula and teacher training; and ii) the development of networks and mechanisms for exchanges and horizontal cooperation.

With a view to helping the countries develop these capabilities, "strengthening education and training" was defined as a priority field for action. In compliance with Resolutions No. 325, 329 and 332, from the Ninth IABA, and the 1998-2002 MTP, the following important technical cooperation activities were carried out:

**Contributions to the modernization of vocational and higher education institutions and training systems and institutions** related to agriculture, with a view to enhancing the relevance and quality of their services. Support was provided in creating and developing the Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development (SIHCA) and the Hemispheric System for the Development of Higher Agricultural Education (SIHDEA), in partnership with CIARA and the Venezuelan Government, and Panama, respectively. In the latter case, the Institute was granted use of facilities at the City of Knowledge by the government and the Foundation of Knowledge. Likewise, the organizing committee of the First Inter-American Conference on Agricultural and Rural Education, comprising IICA, SIDHEA, the Foundation of Knowledge and three Panamanian universities, with the support of UNESCO and the OAS, was created. This important meeting will be held on November 16, 1999 in Panama.

Another important aspect of our technical cooperation has been **training**. In 1998 and 1999, some 80 training courses were offered to approximately 1500 people from more than 25 countries in the Americas. Moreover, the Institute worked with Texas A&M University to create a network of Distance Training Centers, which today operate at Headquarters, in Colombia, Barbados and (soon) the Dominican Republic. We also worked with this and other universities to offer specialized courses.

Support was provided for creating regional fora of vocational and higher education centers and universities in the Caribbean, Southern, Andean and Central Regions. The Institute is attaching growing attention to such activities, with a view to creating a hemispheric network that will involve all the countries and their respective institutions.

## **6. *Information and Communications for Development***

Information and communications for development constitute a very powerful tool for increasing competitiveness, seizing market and investment opportunities, cutting costs and enhancing capabilities. In a context of economic opening and integration, information and communications are strategic means for ensuring the balanced development of the regions, tapping fully the potential for production and trade, and developing human capabilities.

In this Area, the objective of IICA's cooperation has been to promote the use of modern means of communication, as well as access to relevant information and the exchange, management and analysis of important information among specialized organizations in the area.

A variety of actions were carried out to support the countries in this important field:

The **Inter-American Reference Center for Agricultural Information (CRIIA)** was created as a mechanism for articulating a number of network-based information systems throughout the Americas, from the national and local to the hemispheric levels. Some of these systems are: **AGROINFO Americas**, in partnership with Texas A&M University and C/LAA; **INFOAGRO**, in partnership with the Government of Costa Rica; and **AGRI-2000**, in partnership with CATIE. Also, with the support of the Kellogg Foundation and the participation of AIBDA and other organizations, the **network of documentary information centers and libraries of the Americas** is quickly taking shape from Canada, the United States of America and Mexico to Chile and the Caribbean.

The Institute continued the uninterrupted publication of **COMUNIICA**, its official magazine, and to operate **Radio COMUNIICA**, which broadcasts more than 200 weekly programs throughout the hemisphere. It also continued to attend national, regional and hemispheric trade shows, more than 30 to date, to promote the Institute, its image and its alliances. The publication and wide distribution of documents and books continues to be a firm policy of the Institute, and **Editorial Agroamérica**, its publishing arm, continues to modernize and be self-funding.

## **7. *The Agribusiness Network of the Americas***

Today we are much closer to achieving the goal of supporting the countries in setting up the **Agribusiness Network of the Americas**, moving steadily ahead in the creation of the conditions required to facilitate the launching of regional networks, such as the recently established **Andean and Caribbean Agribusiness Networks**. Also, there are the actions carried out, with the support of Spain and the AECL, by IICA's **Center for Integration and Agribusiness Development (CIDAE)**, specifically the development and dissemination of the **Ibero-American Directory of Agribusiness Organizations (DIGA)**, available on Internet since 1998, which now lists more than 1000 organizations and unions in the Americas and Spain.



## **8. *Strategic Alliances***

The progress made in complying with the thematic resolutions of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA has made it possible to enhance IICA's position and strengthen strategic alliances with important regional and international institutions and organizations, increasing their capabilities and reinforcing linkages among organizations.

Over the years, IICA has developed important relationships with and has benefited greatly from the financial, technical, and human resources provided by organizations, countries, and institutions, which have enabled the Institute to do more to benefit its Member States. Some of the most important alliances with international and regional organizations are FAO, IDB, World Bank, WTO, ECLAC, CIAT, GTZ, USDA, IFAD, OAS, CATIE, CARDI, the Kellogg Foundation, universities throughout the hemisphere, CIRAD, AECI, CFIA-Canada, as well as numerous national institutions in the Member States.

IICA has expanded and improved its external relations by establishing important strategic alliances over the years.

### **B) Decentralization, Reorganization of Headquarters and Strategic Planning**

In the last two years (1998-1999), we have succeeded in decentralizing Headquarters. Today, more than 75% of the regular resources are managed directly by the Regional Centers and their Cooperation Agencies; more than 75% of our International Professional and Local Professional Personnel are to be found in these centers; and a growing number of decisions are made closer to where IICA actually carries out its actions, with its clients and beneficiaries in the countries. Thus, today we have an Institute that is almost completely decentralized in terms of both allocating and using financial and human resources, and making and implementing decisions.

In the case of human resources, this is reflected in the recruitment, selection, and appointment of local personnel, in the new performance appraisal system and in the new Executive Order on consultants; as well as in the fact that there has been a turnover of roughly one third of the International Professional Personnel over the past six years. Within the next two years, as the gradual transition continues, we hope to have reached a 50% turnover in personnel.

This decentralization process is being implemented in strict compliance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorates, the System for the Determination for IICA Personnel, the Staff Rules and Manual, and the Executive Orders currently in force.

Also, the Institute has been consolidating the decentralization of the programming and budgeting process by delegating to the Regional Directorates and Cooperation Agencies greater responsibility for making decisions related to the analysis and approval of the corresponding biennial budgets, plans of operation and instruments of cooperation.

At the same time, efforts have been made to simplify and adjust the respective mechanisms, instruments and procedures, with a view to enabling the operating units to react with greater flexibility and to respond more effectively to the demands of the Member States, within the framework of institutional priorities and policies. Furthermore, the intensification of the decentralization process has made it necessary for Headquarters to focus its actions on strategic and regulatory issues, and on supporting, monitoring and evaluating the cooperation offered by the Regional Centers.

This decentralization of the budgeting and programming process has been accompanied by major efforts to introduce and encourage strategic planning at the national, regional, and hemispheric levels, as an ongoing practice that will make the Institute's cooperation more effective. Increasingly, the Regional Centers are adopting this practice in their programming and budgeting processes, and over the next two years this important tool will be used at levels within IICA.

### **C) Administrative Management, Physical and Communications Infrastructure**

The modernization of the Institute necessarily involves the upgrading of communications facilities and management information systems, so that they can generate the timely and reliable information needed for decision making. We analyzed twelve of the most advanced information systems on the international market, and after conducting the respective analyses, witnessing demonstrations, and considering the Institute's needs, the Baan system was chosen. This system offers greater flexibility for modeling institutional processes and can be adapted to different situations in the hemisphere. The Baan system is fully integrated, meaning that the finance, accounting, administration and project planning and monitoring modules are interrelated, making it possible to generate a variety of reports in real time, including warnings regarding possible future events for purposes of decision making. Currently, the system is being installed at the Cooperation Agency in Brazil. It will next be installed at Headquarters and then in the other countries, depending on the complexity and size of the Cooperation Agencies.

Over the next two years, efforts will be made to ensure that the decentralization process centers on ensuring maximum articulation of the technical, administrative, informatics and financial areas, which is necessary if IICA is to become an institution that is both coroporative and synergic and has a hemispheric, regional, and national vision.

Decentralization, as described herein, must be increasingly reflected in improvements in technical cooperation, the linking and use of information technologies, physical infrastructure and human resources, administration and finances, and programming and strategic planning, at all three levels: Headquarters, Directorates of the Regional Centers, and the Cooperation Agencies in the countries.

The transformation of the institutional culture has been facilitated by a systematic process of training for staff members at all levels, and the adoption of a new culture of multidisciplinary and inter-unit teamwork.

The break with compartmentalization and individualistic, hierarchical practices at the Institute is already evident. Network structures that are more flexible, less hierarchical, and more creative are proving to be more efficient and economical and are gaining ground over the old model, without a loss of discipline. To the contrary, changes are beginning to be seen in terms of coordination among the technical, administrative, and financial dimensions.

Another contribution is the continued implementation of the plan to change the Institute's structures, with the creation of the Consortia. The Consortia are the embodiment of those flexible, creative and less hierarchical/pyramidal networks, which, without adding to the existing bureaucracy, are very effective and efficient in that they strengthen linkages and allow for a more rational use of economic, physical, and human resources.

Today, IICA is articulated through four Consortia: the Technical Consortium, which includes the Directorates of the Strategic Areas; the Consortium for Regional Operations, which includes the 34 TCA's and five Regional Directorates; the Consortium for Planning and Coordination, consisting of the Directorates of Planning, Programming, Coordination, and Institutional Transformation; and the Consortium for Corporate Services, which includes the Directorates of Human Resources, Finances, Information Technology, and Administration.

The Consortia contribute not only to relations among the Institute's different units, but also to relations between IICA and the Member States and international and regional institutions and organizations.

Thanks to the efforts of the Member States, the Institute has been successful in collecting quota arrearages, reducing them by nearly 50%, from US\$ 12.9 million at the end of 1997 to US\$ 6.4 million at the end of 1998. On December 31, 1994, 10 countries were more than two years in arrears; on December 31, 1998, this could be said of only four countries.

In addition to the payment of quotas, the Member States have provided other types of support, especially the use or donation of buildings and land. This will generate significant

savings in the future in terms of rent, allowing more resources to be allocated to cooperation. Some recent examples are: La Casa de la Agricultura, in Bolivia, made available by the Government of Bolivia in 1999; the donation of a piece of land by the Government of Brazil; office space made available by the Government of El Salvador; and the land and building authorized for use by the Government of Jamaica.

Between 1994 and 1998, the Institute more than doubled the external resources that it manages, from US\$61 million to US\$150 million. The new concept of CATIs/INR is being implemented as agreed by the IABA in 1997, the goal being to facilitate the administration of projects and allow for flexibility in charging for the administration of external resources, without losing competitiveness.

#### **D) Transformation of the Governing Bodies of the Institute – the Executive Committee and the IABA.**

In concluding this brief report, I would like to mention that an important aspect of consolidating the transformation of the Institute is the transformation of higher governing bodies. This involves endowing the IABA with mechanisms that will enable it to become the forum for discussions on strategic and common issues that are of concern and interest to leaders from agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas, the private sector, universities, research and information centers, as we have seen firsthand at this meeting of the IABA. As regards the Executive Committee, in addition to its traditional role, it will also provide more effective support to the Administration and IABA in taking important decisions and actions regarding the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century.

Thank you very much

**INAUGURAL SESSION**



**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY  
DR. MARCO MACIEL, VICE PRESIDENT OF  
THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL**

On behalf of the President of the Republic, Dr. Fernando Henrique Cardoso, and personally, it is a pleasure to welcome you to this, the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

It is a particular pleasure for me to welcome the leading authorities of the agricultural sectors of the Americas at an event where we will have the unprecedented opportunity to develop consensus on positions and exchange information on current policies, cooperation and the important negotiations that will soon be the focus of attention worldwide.

For us, the Brazilian people, the fact that so many high-ranking delegations are in Salvador is especially significant since, as mentioned earlier, this was the first capital of Brazil. As Governor Cesar Borges stated, it is a repository of relics from our historic and artistic past, which are again receiving the attention they deserve as we celebrate our fifth centennial. As you have been able to observe, present day Salvador embodies the vigor of northeastern Brazil and the strength of our different cultural roots, and reflects the blending of many different elements to form our rich cultural heritage.

Honorable participants, agriculture has long played a very important role in the economies of the countries of the Americas, often out-performing all other sectors of the economy.

The strategic importance of this dynamic sector in the hemisphere is immeasurable. In this regard, I want to remind you of the strategic plan for partnership in development and the agenda of the Presidential Summits of the Americas, which reflect the priority attached to agriculture as an instrument for sustainable development, trade, the generation of wealth, conservation of the environment and the eradication of poverty.

Consequently, I view our discussions on the strategic role of agriculture in the rural areas of the hemisphere with great interest.

Delegates, on the eve of a new century, it is reasonable to hope that such an essential sector will finally benefit from policies for adding value that will effectively contribute to improving international prices for commodities and remove the barriers that still hinder access to the market.

As far as Brazil is concerned, the end of protectionism and unacceptable export subsidies, which frequently exclude better products and more efficient producers from the market, must be the number one objective in the upcoming negotiations. In this round, agriculture must be given the priority treatment our countries have advocated for so many years.

Working hard to consolidate Mercosur, which encompasses the production of semi-tropical and temperate zone grains and fruits, and confident of the renewed importance being attached to agriculture as a driving force behind economic and social development in the Americas, Brazil is preparing for the negotiations of the Round of the Millennium. As Minister Pratini de Moraes said, the time has come for agriculture to be accorded the treatment enjoyed by industry.

Therefore, I am pleased for the opportunities provided by this summit because I am certain that it will contribute, by means of the consensus reached on positions, to enhancing our respective negotiating capabilities in Seattle and Geneva.

Allow me to again welcome you on behalf of President Cardoso, and to express the hope that this summit will provide a framework for forging closer relations and more effective coordination and cooperation throughout the hemisphere. We wish you every success and may your deliberations be fruitful.

Thank you.



**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. MARCUS VINICIUS  
PRATINI DE MORAES, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND SUPPLY**

I would first like to thank the delegation leaders for the honor of being elected to chair the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

I would also like to welcome the Vice-President of Brazil, Mr. Marco Maciel, and Mr. Cesar Borges, Governor of Bahia and to thank them for the honor of their presence. Through the Governor, I would also like to express the gratitude of all present at this important meeting for the support from the State of Bahia and the generous hospitality of the people of Bahia.

I am sure that those of you who are visiting Salvador for the first time will be able to see why we Brazilians are proud of our first capital, blessed with an extraordinary artistic and cultural heritage, a perennial model of multi-racial harmony and economic strength.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We have an important schedule of work over the next few days. The Third Forum of Ministers, which will take place tomorrow, October 27, will discuss the topic of "Agriculture and the Rural Milieu: a matter of strategic importance for development in the Americas." From the Brazilian perspective, the fact that the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture is taking place on the eve of the Third Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization –which will be held in the city of Seattle in late November– constitutes an excellent opportunity for an open exchange of ideas about the crucial role of the agricultural sector in generating export revenues for all of our countries and also, in this context, for discussion of the importance of agricultural negotiations under the World Trade Organization.

The macro-economic scene we are addressing on the threshold of a likely new round of trade negotiations is fraught with contradictory signals and is far from assuring a primarily optimistic outlook for re-initiating growth in many developing countries. After confronting the financial crisis that began in Asia and has affected a number of countries in our region, we see that, for agriculture, the large-scale fluctuations in the prices of important commodities limits our import capabilities and our capacity to generate revenues. The continued existence of highly damaging domestic supports policies for production in developed countries, combined with enormous amounts of resources available in wealthy countries for subsidizing exports, not only undermines the access of our countries' agricultural products but also deflects our exports from third markets.

I would like to share with you some thoughts on the importance of agriculture and international agricultural trade for Brazil.

Agribusiness represents nearly 40% percent of Brazilian GDP. Thanks to agriculture's generation of significant surpluses in international transactions, agribusiness has played an important role in reducing our trade deficit. I would like to point out that the agricultural trade surplus in Brazil increased to US\$11.5 billion. In 1998, Brazilian agriculture produced an external balance of US\$10.6 billion, while the national trade balance showed a deficit of US\$6.4 billion. By August 1999, the agricultural balance had already generated a balance of US\$7.2 billion. I would add, furthermore, that agribusiness employs 27 million people in Brazil.

With the dual goal of assuring sustained economic growth and maintaining balance in its external accounts, the Brazilian government established the objective of reaching a level of US\$100 billion in exports by the beginning of the next decade. To meet this ambitious goal, agribusiness is expected to generate close to US\$45 billion in export revenues; it is therefore crucial for Brazil to gain better access to markets for its agricultural products. In this context, a wide-reaching liberalization of international agricultural trade has become a strategic objective.

We cannot accept that, on the basis of the most diverse or apparently sophisticated rationales, some developed countries intend to continue maintaining unjustifiable practices of unlimited domestic support, enormous export subsidies, and high levels of protection to their markets.

Brazil's priority in the upcoming negotiations will be on subsidies to exports and market access, since they directly affect international trade in agricultural products. Our objective is to achieve a significant tariff reduction for products such as sugar, meat, tobacco, and orange juice, which still face high rates in large consumer markets.

With regard to market access, it will be necessary to reduce the incidence of graduated tariffs, which hamper the export of products with high value added, such as soybean oil and refined sugar. It is worth noting in this context, that the private sector has begun promoting understandings with counterparts in other producing and consuming countries, with a view to achieving a general reduction of barriers for specific sectors, such as the soybean complex.

With respect to export subsidies, Brazil, along with the other members of the Cairns Group, will propose that they be totally eliminated. Export subsidies are negative, in that they create inequities in competition and serious distortions in trade.

In the upcoming negotiations, Brazil and the Cairns Group will also support the creation of multilateral disciplines for export credits and other forms of guarantees and security for exports. Similarly, the subsidized funding of agricultural exports provokes profound distortions in the trade of these products.

In terms of domestic support measures, Brazil will call for significant reductions in the elevated amounts of resources available to producers in developed countries, gradually dismantling the support given to production – a process referred to as “decoupling” – in such a way as to prevent this support from creating agricultural surpluses, which would have serious consequences on the general equilibrium between world supply and demand.

In addition, Brazil, its partners in the Southern Common Market (Mercosur), and Chile, Bolivia, Colombia, and the Philippines, presented four new proposals related to agricultural negotiations to the WTO. The first has to do with tariff quotas and seeks to produce a commitment to continued and substantial growth of said quotas, so that, at the end of an agreed implementation period, such quotas would become unnecessary and no longer exist, with only the tariffs remaining, at levels no higher than those in effect, for tariff quotas.

Another important proposal aims to establish disciplines under the WTO to ensure that food aid transactions do not generate distortions.

Regarding the operation of special safeguards, we are proposing the elimination of the provision, on the topic of the Agreement on Agriculture, since the period of implementation is already sufficient to verify the efficiency of solely tariff protection. In other words, the countries would benefit from general WTO safeguards established in the specific agreement.

We would also like to discipline the activity of monopolies, whether private or state-owned, in order to avoid the distortionary effects on the market caused by the practices of such companies.

The importance of the liberalization of international agricultural trade leads me to propose that the deliberations during the Ministerial Forum permit the adoption, by the Ministers gathered here, of common objectives for agriculture at the Seattle meeting. We know that negotiations will not conclude after one ministerial meeting. It is a process that we hope will not be too drawn-out, as was the case at the Uruguay Round. Countries that are competitive in agriculture are in a hurry as they must increase their exports in order to meet their financial commitments and ensure the continuity of economic and social development for their peoples.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The agenda of our deliberations also includes an examination of the priorities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture in the first decade of the next millennium. Appropriately, the central theme of our meeting is "Agriculture and the Rural Milieu: a matter of strategic importance for development in the Americas." I am certain that, as Director General Aquino pointed out, a rich the debate on the vision, policies and plan of action necessary for increasing the value of agriculture and the rural milieu, in order to strengthen their roles in the development, opening, and integration processes currently under way in the Americas, will enable us to forge new paths and establish mechanisms to strengthen IICA as an institution.

The increased productivity of agricultural activity throughout the world poses the challenge of freeing the rural labor force and generating opportunities for taking advantage of this in activities to produce products with greater value added geared for export.

Aware of this challenge, the Brazilian government has been doing its utmost to intensify agrarian reform and strengthen family agriculture. Similarly, it has as a priority to allocate resources for the development of new technologies for agriculture and to foster healthy agricultural practices.

I would like to place on record the Brazilian government's appreciation of the quality of the cooperation IICA has provided with Brazil under the competent leadership of Dr. Carlos Aquino.

I would also like to express our satisfaction with the work of Hélio Macedo Soares as Director of the Southern Regional Center, and our thanks to the IICA representative in Brazil and his staff for their cooperation in organizing this event.

I wish you all a pleasant stay in Salvador and, above all, I wish all of us a good meeting.

Thank you very much.

**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. CESAR BORGES,  
GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF BAHIA**

For me, the presence of all of you in Salvador can be considered an early celebration in our commemoration of Brazil's fifth centennial, and the four hundred fiftieth anniversary of the founding of our first capital, Salvador. You have come here not only to participate in another meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, but also to help us sow seeds of hope, confirming the belief that whatever is planted here will grow. Welcome to the generous and hospitable land of Bahia of our Lord of Bomfim; this is the birthplace of Brazil, and with meetings like today's, I am certain it will continue to be reborn every day.

I want to express my sincere gratitude to the authorities that comprise this distinguished forum, and to IICA, for bestowing on Bahia the honor and privilege of hosting this important event. It comes at a very opportune moment; just as an important and wide-ranging debate on poverty has begun throughout the world.

Since the early days of humankind, when the hunting of animals and the gathering of wild fruits gave way to shepherding and the cultivation of the soil, agriculture, more than any other activity, has ensured the survival of the human race. Despite the tremendous increase in non-agricultural activities, it is important to note the enormous number of people in Brazil, and Bahia in particular, who still depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Consequently, we must constantly pay attention to this sector and take actions to ensure that it remains competitive and continues to generate employment and income.

Unfortunately, poverty continues to grow in our cities. The number of people who enter the labor market every year surpasses by far the number of jobs that can be created, despite the best efforts of governments to create incentives intended to spur the development of secondary and tertiary sectors.

In urban areas, an investment of more than US\$80,000 is required to generate one job. In rural areas, however, the investment required is less than US\$4,000. Agriculture will continue to provide a living for a large portion of Brazil's population, either because they are already working as small farmers, because they do not possess the professional skills needed for most jobs in urban areas, or because the investment-employment ratio is much lower in the agricultural sector.

The countries of Latin America have always found it difficult to take off toward development because, historically, their economies have been organized to export foodstuffs and basic raw materials. For decades, these countries have watched as more and more of their economic resources have gone to other countries by means of mechanisms that distort the terms of trade.

The severity of this problem caught the attention of Latin American economists in the middle of the twentieth century. In response, the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA) was created to find ways to overcome such injustice and inequity. Nonetheless, the situation never changed significantly. International agricultural trade has always been treated with reservations in all the negotiating rounds, from the creation of the GATT to the institutionalization of the World Trade Organization in Uruguay.

Everything seems to indicate that only now, at the Round of the Millennium which begins next month in Seattle, may some reductions in tariffs and more equitable opportunities be achieved in the global trade of agricultural products.

The rapid advance of globalization over the last twenty years has not helped to reduce this situation of inequality. In fact, as the process of forming and internalizing economies becomes more and more difficult for most of the countries of Latin America, and as the discretionary treatment of their products on the markets of the First World continues, the outlook for improving living conditions for most of the peoples in Latin America is less and less encouraging.

We must not fool ourselves: no matter how unstoppable globalization may appear, it will not necessarily be beneficial for most of the countries and inhabitants of our hemisphere.

The strengthening of economic blocs of the countries of Latin America must be one of the top objectives of the economies of the hemisphere, as a means of strengthening trade relations among economies with the same level of development and technical progress, and having similar needs.

The search for equality and for freer trade within each bloc must be preserved at any price, despite any temporary stumbling blocks we may encounter along the way. If not, we will become more and more defenseless in the face of the global expansion of trade and capital. I would like to point out that the State of Bahia has been working hard to ensure it is not left behind in the wake of globalization; proof of this is the rapid growth of our trade with individual countries and economic blocs.

Today, Bahia's foreign trade totals some US\$3.3 billion, with exports accounting for US\$1.8 billion and imports US\$1.5 billion. Trade with the countries of the Americas accounts for 60% of this total. The United States of America is our major trading partner, with 21% of the total. Mercosur is in second place, with 18% (Argentina alone accounts for 15%, and Chile 5%). Trade with the other countries of the Americas represents barely 4%. Also, the number of consular offices operating in Bahia has risen to 26, once again indicating a positive response from our sister nations to our efforts to become active in foreign cooperation.

The State of Bahia has also made significant progress in developing a competitive and sustainable agriculture. A recent example is the creation of the Bahian Agency for the Agricultural Protection, the first of its kind in Brazil. A systemic vision of Bahian agribusinesses; agricultural safety, protection and defense at all levels; a change of approach in public action in which disease control is achieved through agricultural health actions, are some of the values that underpin this new agency.

In brief, what we are trying to do is to ensure that the agricultural output of our State meets the quality requirements of international trade. As a means of combating poverty, agriculture must not depend on philanthropy or charity; rather, it must be based on quality and competition, and make use of patterns of technological efficiency that eradicate poverty rather than simply postpone its effects.

Grain production in Bahia, which totaled 2.8 million tons in 1998, is increasing thanks to the adoption of technological innovations and the basic infrastructure provided by the state. In western Bahia, the coffee sector is among the most competitive in the country, and today, Bahia has the most land under irrigation in all of northeast Brazil, having increased by 600% over the last 30 years. This has been one of our principal responses to the adverse climatic conditions that affect northeastern Brazil.

In the southernmost part of our State, there is a modern livestock industry, with yields comparable to those of the best regions in the world, as well as one of the most modern and competitive forestry complexes on the Earth vis-à-vis rapid growth and productivity. Nature has also blessed us with the San Francisco River Valley, where we produce all the best of tropical and other agricultural products: mangos, grapes, papayas and many other tropical fruits on some 150,000 hectares. These products, which are making inroads into world markets, are produced on a large scale throughout the year and with special care, with quality being our top concern.

So that we might share with you the grandeur of that valley and its agriculture, we have proposed a trip to the Municipality of Juazeiro, where you will be able to see firsthand some of the things we are so proud of and the enormous potential yet to be explored.

**Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, these are examples of our many efforts to make development sustainable and improve living conditions for our peoples; above all, this shows what we have done to combat hunger and poverty. However, our efforts may be in vain if protectionism is not reduced quickly.**

**I am very hopeful that the Round of the Millennium will provide a framework for showing that the struggle against poverty will not be simply a rhetorical figure, but rather an ongoing aspect of efforts to achieve harmony among peoples. I have faith in all those that work the land throughout the Americas, and am certain that they will make a historical contribution to the world, without exception.**

**Again, I wish you a happy stay here, and give you a warm and hearty welcome to our state. My best to all of you!**

**Thank you very much.**



**ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY MR. ANGEL SARTORI ARELLANO,  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE OF CHILE**

As Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Chile and Chairman of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board and the Second Forum of the Ministers of Agriculture, I am particularly proud to attend this Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. Although it is the last of this century, it will prepare us for the new one that lies ahead, one veiled in uncertainty but also rich in possibilities of building better days.

This also affects our sector, which aspires to develop within a suitable setting, one where hope springs up for the agricultural sector and rural milieu of our countries, which hope to play, over the next decades, an active role in achieving a more integrated and harmonious form of development for their peoples.

This is the great task that lies ahead of us, a task so great that it will require a joint effort by the governments of the Americas to be successful, in a context characterized by constant change in both the setting that affects agriculture and in the conceptual approach to, and mission of, the sector.

In meeting this challenge, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as an organization for technical cooperation, can make a significant contribution both to positioning agriculture and the rural milieu, and to addressing strategic topics such as the development and integration of the economies of the hemisphere, by helping us identify the main challenges and opportunities of the hemisphere in the future, and which would, necessarily, figure on IICA's agenda.

Before turning to the topics that my country believes should be included on IICA's agenda, I would like mention some of the important developments that have taken place since the Ninth IABA, held in Santiago, Chile, in October 1997.

Since that meeting, my country has endeavored to contribute to different aspects of the important and necessary modernization process sweeping this Institute. We are convinced that, while the role played by international organizations is sometimes questioned, IICA has steadily become an effective tool for development and integration in our hemisphere.

During this period, the integrity of IICA's hemispheric community hung in the balance but, thanks to our united efforts, the dialogue and cooperation among its members continues on. I believe we should congratulate ourselves once more for the presence and active commitment of Canada on this Board.

One of the issues to which my country has attached particular importance during this period has been trade, especially the upcoming WTO negotiations. Accordingly, we made a special effort to request IICA and the FAO to create a mechanism for consultation and the exchange of opinions among the agricultural negotiators of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the two organizations responded to this request with singular efficiency.

We also asked IICA and the FAO to make their institutional resources available to the teams of negotiators in order to provide them with training and support studies and analyses on which to base our positions during the forthcoming WTO negotiations.

There has been so much interest and cooperation that five meetings have been held at which IICA and FAO acted as the Technical Secretariat for this informal forum. We hope that we will be able to continue to count on this coordination mechanism, particularly during the negotiations, where IICA could provide special support, particularly for those countries that face the greatest difficulties in dealing with the negotiations.

We hope to be able to expand this initiative, organizing sub-regional meetings that will make it possible for us to further develop these analyses and consolidate the capabilities of the negotiating teams.

We have also witnessed and encouraged IICA's approach to plant protection and animal health issues, which is an area where much remains to be done by the countries, both individually and together.

With regard to the future, we believe that IICA is faced with a wide range of challenges and opportunities, which is why it should prioritize and focus its actions, in collaboration with the countries. As a contribution to the discussion, I would like to put forward a few ideas for consideration:

### **Modernization of public administration to foster agricultural production and rural development**

One of the main topics that must be addressed in order to successfully position agriculture and the rural milieu as strategic linchpins of development in the hemisphere is the modernization of the management of the agricultural public sector in each of our countries.

This is needed to improve the effectiveness of State intervention and facilitate the transformation of agricultural production, within a framework of greater equity and environmental sustainability. The aim should be to achieve the society that we want rather

than one that is a mere outcome, with a pattern of rural development that is better balanced from the territorial point of view.

All this presupposes effective public administration that, in addition to fostering the common good and providing support for the most disadvantaged groups, firmly encourages a more efficient economy and better developed markets, which will make it possible to gradually overcome the major distortions we see today.

The State should make clear and decisive efforts to strengthen civil society in order to consolidate democracy and pave the way for an ongoing evaluation of its actions by the stakeholders, at the individual and collective levels, in order to ensure that the policies implemented meet the real needs and demands of both current and future generations.

If these three elements do not take place simultaneously and systematically, the role of government will lose its pertinence, effectiveness and efficacy, and create the wrong incentives that will confuse and discourage private actors, and result in the loss of financial resources and institutions.

This occurred, for example, with many of our efforts to foster increases in agricultural and forestry production and overcome rural poverty. Despite our eagerness to make progress, we have not always achieved the expected results.

Needed today are a great deal of flexibility and a focusing of the tools that are designed for this purpose, and which aim to invigorate agricultural activities and make them a source of employment and a generator of income, like other activities taking place in the rural milieu that may or may not be related to agriculture.

In order to move towards a modern form of agriculture that assures a better quality of life for rural dwellers, the efforts to modernize public administration should, therefore, seek to determine not only the best strategy for achieving this ideal, but also what type of institutional framework is needed for efficient and effective action, and how we can train the right human resources to lead these efforts.

### **Human resources, management and technology**

This makes it clear why it is so important for each country's education, training, research and technology innovation and transfer systems be linked, and that these efforts be articulated throughout our hemisphere so that research and technology do not become constraints to our development.

This is vital in a setting where competitiveness is becoming less and less dependent on natural resources and more contingent on research and technology.

These linkages should be complemented by strategies that aim to strengthen our natural resources base and that pay special attention to increasingly important emerging issues, both for farmers and for consumers.

### **Food safety and agricultural health**

Two of the most important of these emerging issues are food safety and agricultural health, key aspects of primary production and the subsequent processing of agricultural products.

We must move more rapidly on these matters so as to be able to respond to new trends in food consumption in the world today, where we have progressed from inspection of quality in the first half of the century, to quality management, total quality and, finally, eco-quality.

### **The WTO negotiations, integration and market opening**

Other important elements of this strategy are market opening and the liberalization of agricultural trade, especially in the new scenario created by the WTO negotiations.

To achieve these last two strategic objectives, guarantee the consumption of healthy foods, and attain a much higher level of international trade and investment by the year 2005, tariff measures must be harmonized.

Measures relating to food safety and agricultural health should be subject only to technical considerations so that they do not become, in practice, hidden barriers to trade.

### **Rural women and youth**

In terms of equity and equal access to the opportunities offered by development, our hemisphere has yet to incorporate rural women into food chains; rural youth are also poorly integrated into the dynamics of the rural milieu.

The democratization of the rural milieu, both in economic and social terms, is a prerequisite for achieving better living conditions and the development of our societies.

## **INSTITUTIONAL AND TECHNICAL STRENGTHENING OF IICA**

Thus, areas in which progress is needed in order to achieve agricultural and rural development in our countries include: modernization of the public administration and the institutional framework; human resources and their relationship with the management and innovation of technology; food safety and agricultural health; market opening; and economic and social democratization.

Given the above, IICA must continue with its modernization process in order to incorporate new technical skills with which to support the governments in these areas, and also to enable it to position itself in areas of common interest and in the different fora where the future of agriculture and the rural milieu in the hemisphere are analyzed and discussed.

Lastly, distinguished colleagues, heads of delegations and IICA officials, I would like to thank you, on behalf of my country, for the confidence you placed in us by permitting us to host the Ninth IABA and then serve as Chair of the Board for two years. In this same spirit, and on behalf of all those present here, I would like to wish our colleague from Brazil every success and assure him that he enjoys our full support and confidence in his ability to fulfill his mandate.

Thank you very much.

**ADDRESS BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA  
CARLOS E. AQUINO G.**

I am privileged and honored to welcome you to the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and to the Third Ministerial Forum, whose motto is "Agriculture and the Rural Milieu: a matter of strategic importance to development in the Americas."

Our biennial meeting is held in the fascinating framework of Salvador, Bahia, a melting pot of races, beliefs and cultures founded by Tomé de Souza in 1549. Such harmonious co-existence over four hundred and fifty years has made this, the former colonial and imperial capital, perhaps the most Brazilian of all cities. Its people are happy, hospitable, industrious, and well aware of their history, greatness, and potential.

I wish to extend warm greetings to the Brazilian people, represented here by His Excellency, the Vice-President of the Republic, Marco Maciel. His presence here is a very clear sign of support for the agricultural and rural sector of the Americas.

This meeting of the ministers of agriculture and leaders from the agricultural and rural sectors --the last of this century at the hemispheric level-- may well be a milestone in the history of IICA. From this standpoint, I would like to share some thoughts and try to explain why agriculture and the rural milieu are a matter of strategic importance for development in the Americas; that we need an institutional framework that ensures that the stature of agriculture is duly acknowledged; and that this renewed institutional framework will allow us to meet the challenges together with greater vigor, and seize the increasingly multifaceted and interdependent opportunities of the globalized world.

**I. Agriculture and the rural milieu: a matter of strategic importance**

The relationship between population and resources is essential to the future of humankind, and is closely linked to the rural milieu, where most natural resources are found and where many different types of interconnected agricultural and non-agricultural activities take place.

There is agreement on the fact that the size, growth rate, and spatial distribution of the population can cause problems and threats, and that food security continues to be a vital issue for many countries.

Consequently, the production of agricultural and food products has been, is, and will continue to be a strategic issue, a matter of survival, and a key issue for all States.

Rural areas shelter forests, the lungs of the planet. Water is the source of life, and biodiversity a heritage of humankind that keeps the different species of fauna and flora in balance, all of which provide vital support for human beings. The close relationship between the environment, natural resources, agriculture, and the rural milieu make it of strategic importance not only to ecological sustainability, but also to political, social and economic sustainability.

Globalization, the increasingly service-oriented economy, and the opening and interdependence of markets are all major phenomena that have an impact on the trade in agricultural and food products. On the one hand, they lead to a generalization of the imperative demands of competitiveness and modernization; on the other, they open up new opportunities for entering new markets and identifying and penetrating high-potential niches.

The impact of industrialization processes on economic variables are not only quantitative but also qualitative, and are translated into, for instance, growing urbanization and innovation of marketing processes and distribution networks. This has prompted us to reassess the linkages of agriculture and view it in terms of agri-food and agri-business chains.

Demand is growing and there are niches with potential, but supplies must meet new levels of demand in terms of quantity and quality. For most of our countries, where agriculture continues to be a major activity, and for those that are already profiled as proactive exporter nations, international and domestic agricultural trade are certainly still issues of strategic importance.

This explains the dynamics set in motion at the end of the Uruguay Round, in connection with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the FTAA, which are intended to open up agricultural markets and eliminate the distortions that affect them. The upcoming ministerial meeting in Seattle, which some have dubbed the Millennium Round, and negotiations "on development" offer opportunities with enormous potential, becoming a strategic meeting of the first order.

As a result of the extension and intensification of knowledge, wider dissemination and greater availability and easier access to same, new social values and attitudes have arisen concerning the preservation of health, physical well-being, and appearance. They are becoming more widespread and, as a result, greater value is being

given to risk-free and healthier products and, increasingly, to organically-grown produce. This opens up new opportunities for small- and medium-scale farmers in the Americas.

We must also consider the strategic relationship between agriculture and health, underscoring the boom and the growing success of industries whose raw materials come from plants with curative and medicinal qualities. For those countries endowed with abundant biodiversity and which have opted for intelligent application of agreements on this subject, this may be a strategic option involving the environment and agriculture.

From the standpoint of research and innovation, agriculture also plays a strategic role, particularly in view of the scientific progress and advances being reported in the fields of genetic engineering and molecular biology, and their practical applications in agriculture. Transgenic crops and genetically-modified organisms are being approached and studied analytically from different angles. Given its importance for the future of humankind, this is a strategic issue where science will once again have the last word and where efforts to inform and educate the consumer will be essential.

With regard to tourism, agriculture and the rural milieu also underpin this important and growing activity in our countries. They are not only the source of food and handicrafts for the tourism sector, but also offer the cultural diversity and scenic beauty which are part of the legacy of the traditions and customs of our peoples, which should be conserved as characteristics of the identity of our nations in a globalized world.

The solution to the structural problem of poverty in general, and rural poverty in particular, is a categorical imperative and an essential issue of strategic importance. In the political realm, it is a matter of governance and the specific weight of the rural population in the electoral processes. In the social realm, it involves maintaining order in rural areas, and in the economic field, it concerns the complex and difficult process of modernizing and diversifying production in order to compete in globalized and increasingly interdependent markets.

From the standpoint of national strategy and the relationship between States and their neighbors, it is also opportune to stress the vital importance of well-balanced settlement of rural areas, including joint border area development programs.

As we have seen here, an analysis of agriculture and the rural milieu is undoubtedly a strategic issue at both the national and hemispheric levels.



## **II. A NEW INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK TO POSITION AGRICULTURE AND SUPPORT THE LEADERS OF THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM**

The above thoughts underscore the urgent need to position this sector strategically. This will require an institutional framework attuned to its mission and objectives that will foster the formulation and implementation of strategies, policies and courses of action and provide effective support to the leaders of the forestry and agricultural systems in fulfilling the roles assigned to them.

The purpose of the institutional transformation we have been promoting and implementing gradually within the Institute has been to make IICA, led by the IABA, an institution that can provide solidly-grounded leadership within the inter-American system of the Organization of American States, supporting the efforts of its Member States to strategically position and implement sweeping transformations in agriculture and the rural milieu from the commercial, productive, institutional, and human perspectives.

A strategic positioning of agriculture and the rural milieu requires a renewed and proactive institutional framework that interlinks the efforts of all the players in agriculture and the rural milieu. That is why at the IABA meeting in Santiago, I issued a call *"to articulate and institutionalize an inter-American strategic alliance."* Today I express my hopes that at this historic meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the first held in this beautiful country of Brazil, we will achieve the levels of analysis, reflection and action of other institutions and private enterprises and become well aware that, today more than ever, we need union, cooperation, networking, coordination and solidarity in our efforts to address globalization, taking into account four mega-trends that are already a reality in agriculture in the Americas and which will intensify in the immediate future. They are:

- a. the existence of a relatively stable macro-economic framework and variables impacting on the growth and development of agriculture and the rural milieu at the world and national levels;
- b. the dominance of the market, which is the driving force behind decisions, and the imperative need for this market to operate on the basis of demand, efficiency, equity, competitiveness, and transparency;
- c. the revolution in productivity and the technological advances that make it possible to produce better quality and safer goods at lower unit costs under environment-friendly conditions;
- d. the democratization that has swept through Latin America and the Caribbean and is creating the conditions necessary for bringing about major changes in the processes to generate and distribute wealth and well-being.

This meeting offers us the historical option of launching the process to generate synergy among all the players in agriculture and the rural milieu by shaping the new dimension of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and turning it into an institutional mechanism for the agri-food sector at the highest technical policy level in the Americas, and the highest level body for taking strategic decisions in line with the mandates issued at the Summit Meetings, particularly with a view to the prospects and requirements arising during the 21st century.

### **III. A RENEWED INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY CHALLENGES AND IMPLEMENT STRATEGIES AND COURSES OF ACTION**

Steady progress can be made in positioning agriculture and the rural milieu, provided an institutional framework is in place that is adapted to the circumstances and needs, one that enables us to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. These challenges are many and varied and it would be tedious to list them all, so I shall endeavor to give an objective overview of the most important, with a positive approach.

Clearly, the great challenges are not restricted to this millennium and the beginning of the next; there has been a steady stream of challenges, difficulties, and opportunities throughout life and history.

Ten thousand years ago humankind took a great step forward, when hunters and gatherers became farmers, planting crops and raising livestock. This was the first of a series of major challenges that our ancestors tackled step by step, stage by stage, and generation after generation, down through the centuries and millennia that separate them from us.

More recently, the back-breaking work of primitive agriculture was followed by a second stage characterized by mechanized farms and large-scale, industrial-style agribusinesses. We are now faced with the challenges of the third stage: agriculture in the info-biological era, agriculture in the society of knowledge as a cutting-edge industry of the twenty-first century.

Mastery of futuristic technologies, which in fact already exist in the most advanced countries, obviously calls for expertise, education and training.

I will briefly outline some of our challenges:

The first concrete challenge is to educate and train our human resources. The need to provide education and training for the new era is a major priority, and it will be impossible to attain the objectives and goals of development and to position agriculture effectively in the new context of globalization without enormous investments in human capital. Analyses of the factors that determine the competitiveness of nations indicate that the development of human skills is essential in every field. As noted by Arie de Geus: "The capacity to learn may become our only competitive edge".

Agriculture and rural dwellers cannot remain aloof from this trend. The agricultural sector must be capable of meeting the challenges posed by globalization, market opening, liberalization, the growing importance of the services sector, heightened competitiveness and integration processes. These challenges demand a modernization of the production apparatus and a restructuring of branches and sectors.

Rethinking research and technological innovation is another critical task that requires enormous energy. It involves not only incorporating new areas derived from emerging paradigms but also doing so within the framework of strategic alliances and the new market forces that will determine how agriculture expands. It is also necessary to find a way of being involved in the "consortia of knowledge" which have the power to generate new patterns of consumption and new demands that will set market trends. This is why it is vital to restructure our inter-American system of agricultural technology institutions.

The challenge of information is a part of this same situation, in that it is necessary to have timely access to pertinent information to support decision-making at the farm level, which relates to the evolution, trends and anticipated developments in the goods and service markets, as well as monetary and financial markets.

This leads us to the challenge of competitiveness, which is becoming so important because globalization, or the interdependence of markets, has practically eliminated borders between countries and is forcing all producers to become more competitive in their own domestic markets. This inevitably raises the question of productivity and the factors that influence it.

Equity means ensuring that all those who take part in production and capital formation receive fair remuneration for their labor and enjoy decent living conditions. More specifically, it means working to reduce the great disparities in income distribution and the poverty and misery that continue to exist at unacceptable and unjustifiable levels from the social, political and human standpoints.

This is the greatest challenge for many of our countries and is the reason for the mandates of the Summits, the decisions taken and the policies adopted by multilateral financing institutions, as well as efforts under way at the national level.

It is a question of creating better conditions that will enable micro- and small-scale farmers and rural workers, both men and women, to take advantage, competitively and equitably, of the opportunities provided by globalization, market opening and the regional integration processes.

This means endowing rural areas with fresh significance, ushering in a new rural milieu because failure to promote equity could lead to extreme situations in some countries. Additionally, poverty has many repercussions, including permanent impact and pressures on some natural resources, especially forest, soil, and water.

Where production activities directly or indirectly related to natural resources are concerned, preserving the environment means successfully applying the maxim of "producing while conserving and conserving while producing." This is easier said than done, on account of the wide variety of stances that reflect basic human interests, attitudes and visions of the world in which we live.

Following this line of thought, efforts must be made not only to make the most efficient use possible of natural resources without degrading them, but also to avoid the negative impact of incorrect exploitation on present and future users.

We cannot continue to address the agricultural sector with a fragmented approach. We need to adopt a holistic approach and a new concept of better balanced development that provides a new formula for addressing globalization, one that strengthens the weakest social sectors of the economy and also supports the legitimate role of national or international agribusinesses.

This leads us to the subject of solidarity, meaning making common cause with individuals, States, blocs of countries, and humankind as a whole; belonging to a community of interests and shared responsibilities, in keeping with the win-win principle rather than on a win/lose basis. This scenario can only become a reality through support mechanisms deployed by those who "can and have" at the national, regional, hemispheric and world levels. In other words, greater solidarity must be shown toward this "silent majority and minority" (majority in numerical terms but minority in terms of political and social power).

Solidarity must be linked to a concept of development, with checks and balances whose objectives are not only economic growth and a quantitative increase in production, but also the reorientation of political and social power, the redistribution of income through opportunities for those that seek them, and the widespread participation of all sectors so that every citizen has hope, which is ultimately what gives us the desire to live, work, improve our conditions and become better people.

With regard to the aforementioned challenges and others I have not mentioned, the underlying problem lies in differences of priority, and the intensity, manner, and determination with which they are tackled. There are many, differing gaps between and within countries.

There is, however, agreement that these challenges must be met in order to bring about the economic, social, political, environmental and psychological conditions that, in the words of Jacques Maritain that fully support the gender approach, will lead to the "full development of all men and women and of the whole man and the whole woman."

Fifty-seven years after IICA was founded, almost 20 years after it was transformed, and only 66 days before the dawn of the new century and the new millennium, I invite you, Ministers and Delegates, at this meeting in Salvador, Bahia, to join the pioneers of the 1940s and the transformers of the late 1970s, by ushering in a new institutional framework that will give us a stronger and restructured IABA in the twenty-first century, an IABA that the Institute needs to guide its development and enhance its cooperation with the public and private sectors and civil society, providing a springboard for the modernization and transformation of agriculture and the rural milieu.

It is on you, Ministers, Delegates, participants, both men and women, present and absent, that we depend in order to work together to make this vision a reality by transforming the institutional framework, renewing the position of agriculture and the rural milieu, and contributing efficiently and effectively to the all-round sustainable development of our nations.

Today, yesterday and tomorrow, agriculture and the rural milieu will continue to be a strategic factor in the development of our peoples; together, town residents and rural dwellers should join forces to strengthen the links of interdependence that shape the relationship between the countryside and the city.

I hope that at the end of this important meeting held in the "land of happiness," as Bahia is known, that we will return to our countries full of happiness too, having fulfilled the purposes and met the strategic objectives that called us to this ministerial summit on agriculture and the rural milieu.

Thank you very much.

## **CLOSING SESSION**





**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. VINICIO PRATINI  
DE MORAES, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND SUPPLY**

Ministers, Delegates, I have been called upon to offer some comments as this meeting draws to a close.

First, it has been an honor for me to preside over this meeting and to participate, for these three days, in a stimulating and constructive dialogue with so many ministers and delegates from the Americas. I want to express, on behalf of the Brazilian government and the government of Bahia, our sincere appreciation for having selected Brazil, and Salvador, our first capital, as the venue for this event.

We are very proud of Salvador and hope you have enjoyed your time here. Salvador was our first capital and is a city which shows that racial harmony is possible. It is the place where Brazil cultivates its Portuguese and African traditions and customs, as you have seen in our art, music, literature, architecture and cuisine.

**Thank you very much.**

**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY RICARDO NOVO,  
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK,  
FISHERIES AND FOOD OF ARGENTINA**

I would like to point out that this is the first time that I have had the opportunity to take part in a meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, and I have been very impressed by the spirit of teamwork that I have witnessed over the past few days.

I wish to express my deep appreciation to the Government and people of Brazil for their hospitality; to IICA, for the marvelous forum it organized and which has highlighted its enormous organizational expertise; and, especially, to my colleagues and fellow participants in this forum, for the two or three wonderful days that we have spent together.

My deepest thanks to all of you and I hope that we will meet again at the next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

**REMARKS BY HIS EXCELLENCY OSWALDO ANTEZANA  
VACA DIEZ, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK  
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT OF BOLIVIA**

As the Tenth Regular Meeting of the IABA draws to a close, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the warmth with which we have been received by the people of Brazil. I would like to tell them that we have felt very much at home during our short but fruitful stay, and that we hope that some day we shall have the opportunity to repay their kindness and displays of affection.

To IICA and its Director General, our congratulations for their magnificent organization of this event and for their fruitful work, displaying enormous dedication and creativity. We feel very well represented by the Institute's executives and urge them to continue to work with redoubled efforts.

To the delegates of the Member States, our deepest respect, gratitude and acknowledgment of your understanding and tolerance. Let us never lose sight of our common objectives as the community of American nations in general, and the family of agriculture in particular. Let us meet again in the Dominican Republic with a purposeful attitude and our spirits renewed. May each of you have a safe return to your country and may we meet again very soon in a spirit of fraternity and sincerity.

**Thank you very much.**

**REMARKS BY MR. FRANCOIS SEVERIN, MINISTER OF  
AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF HAITI**

The delegation from Haiti wishes to express its sincere appreciation to the Government of Brazil and IICA for the organization and success of this meeting, which has been an example to the peoples of the Americas of the practice of democracy.

We are responsible for the future of many millions of men and women in this hemisphere. many of whom have bitter memories of the past but, thankfully, have a brighter future to look forward to.

Much remains to be done. We all wish to move ahead in the same direction, but for many of us it is a question of speed: some can move quickly, while others must move more slowly.

As neighbors, we can and must understand each other better. Our main concern should be the result that we wish to achieve.

Economic globalization should go hand in hand with global solidarity. That is what this Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture has taught us.

I thank you on behalf of the delegation of Haiti.

**REMARKS BY MR. FENTON FERGUSON,  
MINISTER OF STATE OF AGRICULTURE OF JAMAICA**

I would like to take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of myself and my colleagues from the CARICOM countries, to thank you for the able way in which you have carried the Chair during this Forum and Plenary Sessions. You have brought an evenhandedness to the chair and dignity in the approach we have taken.

I want to congratulate IICA and, in particular, the Director General, who clearly demonstrated his leadership capacity and capabilities during this Forum. He has led from the front and by example, and even in the most crucial moments, he was able to maintain the balance, and we want to thank you for that. We want to thank the technical staff, the translators, all of those who have made this conference a remarkable success.

I want to thank the Government and people of Brazil for their hospitality and also, from the standpoint of this delegation, for the opportunities that have been presented to our delegation in terms of possibilities for cooperation in research in development, cooperation in trade, and even for technical missions from the Caribbean, visiting here in Brazil.

Chairman, over these past few days we have looked at many topics: agriculture and the rural milieu, the importance of the upcoming multilateral discussions, agribusiness, agrifood, development and, most importantly, technology. But if there is one thing that we will long remember, Mr. Chairman, it is the discussion and debate that came out of the Salvador Declaration.

I want to say, on behalf of my colleagues from the Caribbean, that these discussions clearly demonstrated that we still believe in the deep democratic tradition. I believe that was reflected in those discussions and, even if we were to forget the form and the content of that Declaration, it will be difficult to forget the spirit of those discussions. I really want to congratulate the member countries, because I am going back home to Jamaica and my colleagues are going back to the Caribbean, feeling good about being a part of this great movement, and we recognize that the Caribbean has been richer for having being here in Salvador, and we look forward with great anticipation to our continued participation in this organization.

To my CARICOM colleagues, I want to thank you for the confidence you have placed in me and I want to say that from all indications, we are moving, as a region, in the right direction and I have no doubt that when we go to Seattle, and beyond, the Caribbean will continue to operate as a united front.

Thank you, my friends.

**REMARKS BY JUAN CARLOS MENDEZ,  
COORDINATOR OF THE POLICY AND STRATEGIC  
INFORMATION UNIT OF THE MINISTRY OF  
AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FOOD OF GUATEMALA**

Guatemala expresses its deep appreciation to the Government and people of Brazil for the hospitality they have shown us during our stay in their country. We also wish to second and support El Salvador's proposal that a future meeting of the IABA be held in Central America. With the permission of the Salvadorans, we Guatemalans would like to join them in providing all the courtesies you have offered us during our stay.

Our thanks and congratulations to IICA, for we believe that major progress has been made, in qualitative terms, at this meeting of the IABA. We do not, of course, mean in terms of organization, logistics and assistance, since the efforts of the Government and people of Chile in 1997 were superb.

I should like to take a few moments to mention a document that we distributed yesterday that sets out Guatemala's agricultural policy and lays the groundwork and provides the momentum for the sustainable rural development of our country.

We hope you will read and study it carefully. It is an executive document but expresses very well the political determination of the Government of Guatemala and, in particular, the aspirations of a people who, as you know, are emerging from 37 years of conflict. The document effectively reflects the peace accords signed in 1996, in which the people reached agreement despite the major differences that exist in Guatemala where certain sectors are very polarized.

These agreements provide a political platform that has been translated into a technical platform in the document, inasmuch as it sets out technical proposals for overcoming the economic, political and social problems still facing the country.

The document also deals with very important issues related to globalization; it visualizes the risks and threats but also the opportunities that lie ahead, as was expressed so well at this forum.

Finally, it points up a key element, the new value being attributed to renewable natural resources, which constitute an excellent opportunity for countries like Guatemala, where agro-ecological conditions make it a country ideally suited to forestry-related

activities and where future business activities will not only involve the sale of forestry products but rather the sale of global environmental services.

I wanted to take these few moments to share these points with you, as they are the basis for the policy proposal that is already being implemented in Guatemala, and which we as Guatemalans, not only as members of the government but as Guatemalans, are very interested in carrying through and sharing with you. We certainly need international cooperation, we need the help of friendly nations (such as Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Costa Rica) that are already addressing some of the issues associated with of technological development. We also need assistance with natural resources management, particularly from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and CATIE, to help us with the country's new vision for agricultural policy.

Thank you very much.

**REMARKS BY DR. CARLOS E. AQUINO GONZALEZ,  
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE INSTITUTE**

First of all, I would like to refer to the fact that The Bahamas, Ecuador and St. Kitts and Nevis did not attend this meeting. The Bahamas and St. Kitts were unable to attend on account of the hurricanes in the Caribbean; Ecuador did not attend, for internal reasons. All three Member States have asked us to offer their apologies.

During the Inaugural Session we said that we thought this would be an historic meeting of the IABA, and I think that, in many respects, it was. I am delighted that the new dimension was already clearly reflected in the developments of the Forum, which involved all of you in a participatory democratic exercise. It stimulated communication, reflection, knowledge, tolerance, understanding and solidarity.

This is very important for all of us and, I think, leads into a second point, which is that there are different ways to make decisions: by a vote, by consensus or by efforts to reach agreement. Our Administration has opted for consensus and reaching agreement on joint positions, and we are very pleased with the work that has been done and the progress achieved. I have absolutely no doubt that this strengthens both the organization and the integration process in the Americas.

I think that a basic principle is to strike a balance among solidarity, justice and equity, elements common to all of us. I think that no country is so small and so weak that it has nothing to contribute, nor is any country so big and so strong that it has nothing to learn from others.

I believe that one of the things we are learning in this globalized world is that we are all interdependent, and that the problems that affect one can affect others.

Another point is that in the world in which we live "nothing is true or false, it all depends on the perspective from which things are viewed." We have also seen this here; we can see and sense the different situations that exist in our region.

Finally, it is worth quoting Juanito Juarez, who said that "peace is the right to be respected by others." When we realize that this Forum and this organization can be an exercise in democracy, I think that we are strengthening peace, justice, democracy and equity in all our countries.



**Mr. Chairman:** I would like to express my appreciation to the Government of Brazil, to the Vice-president, to you, and to the Governor and officials of the State of Bahia, for all the hospitality and extraordinary support that you have given us.

I would also like to thank the Directors Emeritus who accompanied us here; the press; the security, logistic support and Secretariat personnel; the interpreters and translators; the staff of our Southern Regional Center, and especially Helio de Macedo Soares, Director of the Southern Regional Center; the staff of the Cooperation Agency in Brazil and its Representative, Gustavo da Silva; our Deputy Director General, Larry Boone; the Director of External Relations and Technical Secretary of this meeting, Ariel Rivera; our managers; and, of course, all of you.

I think that what we said at the start of the meeting has been fulfilled: we can return to our countries from this land, known as the Land of Happiness, filled with happiness and a feeling of satisfaction at having done our duty.

Thank you very much.



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