

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SERIES No. 106

REPORT OF THE FORTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

San Jose, Costa Rica

28-29 June 2021



What is IICA?

More than 75 years ago, a group of visionaries recognized the need to create an agency specializing in agriculture for the American continent, with a purpose that still remains valid today: to promote agricultural development and rural well-being in this region.

As a result, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was born. Throughout this time, the Institute has succeeded in identifying challenges and opportunities and, most importantly, evolving into an international technical cooperation organization that permanently responds to the new demands of the agriculture sector.

Our **mission** is to *encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence.*

Our **vision** is to *be a modern and efficient institution supported by a platform of human resources and processes that are capable of mobilizing the knowledge available in the region and around the world, with the aim of achieving a competitive, inclusive and sustainable agriculture that takes advantage of opportunities to contribute to economic growth and development as well as to foster greater rural well-being and sustainable management of its natural capital.*

We provide cooperation by working closely and continuously with our 34 Member States, addressing their needs in a timely manner. Our most valuable asset is undoubtedly the close relationship we maintain with the beneficiaries of our work.

We have a wealth of experience in areas such as technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development, natural resource management and training.

We are also committed to achieving results. Our 2018-2022 Medium Term Plan enables us to develop our technical cooperation model with the aim of consolidating IICA as an organization geared towards accomplishing concrete and visible results through our area of expertise, which is to facilitate positive changes in the agriculture and rural sectors of our Member States.



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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) 2021



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions established in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and in Resolution No. 669 of that governing body of the Institute.

The meeting was held virtually, given restrictions imposed due to the Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The 2021 Executive Committee comprised the following Member States: Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Suriname and the United States of America.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 08:06 (Costa Rica time) on 28 June 2021. The session was chaired from Uruguay by Mr. Juan Ignacio Buffa, the Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, given that Uruguay was the country presiding over the Executive Committee at that time.

0.1.2 The representatives of all twelve Member States sitting on the 2021 Executive Committee were in attendance, all of whom were vested with full voting rights. Additionally, twenty member states of the Institute were participating as observers.

0.2 Agreements

0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting

0.2.1.1 The representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. Santiago Bertoni, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay, as Chair of the meeting, following a proposal by the Representative of Argentina.

0.2.1.2 There were two nominations for Rapporteur – the Minister of Agriculture of Guyana and the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply of Guatemala, who were proposed by the delegations of Paraguay and Costa Rica, respectively. The decision was made to appoint Mr. Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana, as the Rapporteur of the meeting.

0.2.1.3 Thus, the officers of the meeting were as follows:

Chair:	Santiago Bertoni
Rapporteur:	Zulfikar Mustapha
<i>Ex officio</i> Secretary:	Manuel Otero

0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

0.2.2.1 The Chair then submitted for the consideration of the representatives the provisional work agenda of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, included in Document No. 717 (21). The provisional work agenda was approved unanimously without changes.

0.2.2.2 The Chair then informed the participants that the working and information documents of the meeting had been made available to the Member States in electronic format, in Spanish and in English, via the Executive Committee's online information system.

0.2.3 Working committees

0.2.3.1 It was agreed that no working committees would be established and that all matters would be dealt with in the plenary sessions. However, the Technical Secretary explained that during the course of the meeting committees could be set up, if and when the representatives deemed it necessary, taking into account the limitations of the virtual modality.

0.2.4 Closing of the meeting

0.2.4.1 It was agreed that the Closing Session of the meeting would take place on Tuesday, 29 June 2021 at 12:15 p.m.

0.2.5 Countries' right to vote

0.2.5.1 The Chair asked the legal advisor to explain the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the Executive Committee.

0.2.5.2 The legal adviser explained the provisions of Article 24 of the Convention on IICA, regarding the right to vote. He informed the meeting that only one of the Member States had quota payments that were in arrears for more than two complete fiscal years.

0.2.5.3 The Representative of Ecuador requested the floor, in order to explain that, as a new government, his administration had become aware of the arrears in the country's quota payments and was committed to resolving the situation as quickly as possible. The member countries took note of Ecuador's remarks and decided to allow the country to retain its right to vote.

0.2.6 Credentials

0.2.6.1 The Technical Secretary reported that all delegations of the Member States of the Executive Committee that were in attendance had been accredited with the corresponding letters of credential, issued by the competent authorities in each country.

0.2.6.2 He indicated that the following 20 member countries of the Institute were participating in the meeting as observers: Antigua and Barbuda,

The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay.

0.2.6.3 He advised that Spain—an associate country of IICA—and three permanent observer countries—France, Russia and Turkey—were also in attendance. He also stated that two partner international organizations were participating: the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and the Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

0.3 *Close of the session*

0.3.1 The Preparatory Session of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 08:43 hours on 28 June 2021.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 08:44 hours on 28 June 2021, and was chaired by the Representative of Paraguay.

1.2 Message by the Director General of IICA

1.2.1 The Director General welcomed the representatives of the Member States, permanent observer countries, international organizations, special guests, Institute staff and other participants to the meeting of the Executive Committee.

1.2.2 He began his message by pointing out that 2021 had been a noteworthy and painful period for the region, which was the epicenter of a pandemic that had triggered social and economic repercussions for the region and the world. Despite this, he said, the agriculture sector had reaffirmed its strategic importance and its capacity for resilience, having once again demonstrated the pivotal role of agriculture and rurality in benefitting people.

1.2.3 He explained that during the current year there would be three high-level events of strategic and technical importance to the Member States: 1) the Food Systems Pre-Summit, at the end of July in Rome, Italy; 2) the meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) on 1 and 2 September, whose agenda and status would be assessed during the meeting of the Executive Committee; and 3) the 2021 Food Systems Summit in New York, convened by the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN).

1.2.4 The Director General expressed his hope that, during the Summit, IICA would be able to represent the voice of agriculture and rurality in the Americas in the best way possible. To that end it had been spearheading numerous thematic dialogues at the national regional and hemispheric levels, through which it had sought to establish a joint position on the present and future of agriculture in the Americas.

- 1.2.5 He also emphasized that in all these discussions three general principles had been upheld, which he believed should be appropriately positioned: 1) the importance of farmers as an essential and central link in agrifood system transformation; 2) science as a fundamental input for proper policy formulation; and 3) the defense of agriculture as part of the solution to the challenges faced by humanity.
- 1.2.6 He added that one of the topics on the proposed agenda for this Executive Committee meeting was agrifood systems and explained that, in discussing the issue, reference would be made to the 16 messages that summarize the region's thoughts on the importance and proposed direction of agrifood systems in the Americas.
- 1.2.7 He indicated that at this Executive Committee meeting, the “Leaders of Rurality” initiative was being launched to recognize the men and women who are leaving a mark and making a difference in rural areas in Latin America and the Caribbean. He asked the representatives to join in on the project and to view an introduction to the initial set of leaders who had been chosen as part of the initiative.
- 1.2.8 Finally, he again thanked the representatives of the Member States for participating and invited them to continue contributing actively to carve out a new path for agriculture and rurality in the Americas.
- 1.3 *Technical cooperation of IICA*
- 1.3.1 Agrifood system transformation: the role of agriculture in the Americas
- 1.3.1.1 The Director General of the Institute described the journey leading up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021, starting with the announcement of the Summit by the UN Secretary General, António Guterres, in June 2020.
- 1.3.1.2 He explained that in December 2020, Mrs. Agnes Kalibata—a distinguished entomologist, former Minister of Agriculture of Rwanda and current President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)—had been appointed as Special Envoy to the Summit. IICA became a part of the Summit Champions Network in January 2021.

- 1.3.1.3 The Director General indicated that, as part of preparatory efforts towards the Summit, the Institute had participated in three hemispheric ministerial meetings, organized in conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and convened by the governments of Chile, Mexico and Peru, respectively. He also reported that 40 subregional and national meetings, as well as eleven independent dialogues, had been held to validate the technical positioning of IICA; and three hemispheric dialogues had been organized to help foster a consensus regarding the role of agriculture and rural life in regional and global agrifood systems.
- 1.3.1.4 He informed the meeting that arising out of this preparatory process for the Summit, the Institute had developed eleven technical documents on issues such as research and development, soils, digital agriculture, tropical agriculture, sustainable agriculture, the “One Health” approach, cooperative enterprises, international trade, the bioeconomy, gender and youth and Caribbean agriculture, which established the bases of the dialogues for action. He revealed that a policy and strategy framework document had been prepared, entitled, “Agrifood Systems: Outlook from the Perspective of Agriculture in the Americas”, which included 16 messages summarizing the position of IICA member countries vis-à-vis the Summit.
- 1.3.1.5 He stressed the importance of recognizing the heterogeneous nature of agriculture in the Americas – a region richly endowed with biological resources and one that is the center of origin of many cultivated species. Dr. Otero also highlighted the need to be aware of the variety of crops from both tropical and temperate climates that are present in the Americas and the vast diversity of production models utilized in the hemisphere. He pointed out that in this region major exporting countries co-exist with net food importing countries. He argued that a resilient agriculture sector must be developed that enables the region to manage its vulnerability to natural disasters, particularly in the Northern Triangle of Central America and the Caribbean.
- 1.3.1.6 He described agriculture as an engine for growth and development. For example, he mentioned that in 2019, the region accounted for 27.2% of global agrifood exports and led the market in products such as oilseeds, grains, animal proteins, coffee and tropical fruits, among others. Moreover, he said that during 2020 the agrifood export sector had demonstrated its

resilience to the pandemic, as evidenced by the fact that its exports grew by almost 3%, even as overall exports of goods contracted by 7%, in comparison to 2019.

- 1.3.1.7 The Director General revealed that the dialogues had emphasized the following general principles: a) farmers are an essential and central link in agrifood system transformation, b) science is a fundamental input for adequate policy formulation and c) agriculture is part of the solution.
- 1.3.1.8 He then outlined the structure of the 16 messages that had been proposed and organized into four macro areas:

1. Agrifood system (AFS) transformation

He explained that the first message points out that AFSs have achieved significant gains in productivity, job creation and exports; thus, future transformation should be cognizant of these strengths. The second message stresses that without agricultural production, food production would be impossible. With respect to message three, he stated that AFS transformation should consider the following issues: production; health and safety; nutritional quality and sustainability. He insisted that each country must tread its own path to achieve AFS transformation, in keeping with its own experiences and unique characteristics. The fourth message, he added, promotes open and transparent international trade, for the purpose of strengthening and improving AFSs.

2. Consumer demand and nutritional aspects

He mentioned that the fifth message focuses on consumers' decisions and the State's role in providing education on healthy diets, through prevention and publicity campaigns. With regards to the sixth message, he stated that healthy diets should include high-quality proteins, carbohydrates, fats and fortified and biofortified foods, which are structural elements for a balanced and nutritious diet. The seventh message, he said, promotes increased consumption of fruits, legumes and vegetables, which will depend on increasing competitiveness and the quality of production, logistical and trade processes. He stated that the eighth message refers to achieving sustainable production systems, by applying a "One Health" approach that integrates environmental, animal and human health.

3. Production and environmental strategies

He indicated that the ninth message maintains that the new frontier of knowledge is an opportunity to move in the direction of a more productive and sustainable agriculture sector. Thus, it stresses the need to capitalize on the bioeconomy, the circular economy and digital agriculture. He then spoke about the tenth message, which emphasizes production system adaptation and climate change mitigation, as a means of guaranteeing resilience and achieving a balance between carbon emissions and carbon capture. He explained that message eleven promotes the creation of investment plans to foster the development of technology and of production, transportation and logistics infrastructure, by prioritizing the forging of public-private partnerships, with the support of multilateral cooperation and international financing.

4. The role of the Americas

He pointed out that message twelve addresses the contribution of the Americas to global food and nutrition security and to the environmental sustainability of the planet; whereas message thirteen promotes the generation of production inclusion and social protection policies to benefit the most vulnerable sectors: women, youth, family farmers and subsistence farmers. He remarked that message fourteen stresses the importance of giving farmers a central role in AFSs, including those in family farming – a sector that includes 16.5 million production units and 16 million individuals. He explained that the fifteenth message refers to the special circumstances of the Caribbean, a region affected by food insecurity and climate vulnerability, particularly in Haiti and in the countries of the Eastern Caribbean. Finally, he mentioned the sixteenth message, which speaks to the social, economic and environmental difficulties faced by agriculture in the Northern Triangle of Central America, which also merit special attention.

- 1.3.1.9 In conclusion, the Director General stated that the IICA Member States had been the architects of these sixteen messages and that the 2021 Food Systems Summit would be an excellent opportunity to continue strengthening AFSs, as well as to underscore the critical importance of

agriculture and the leading role of the Americas in promoting more sustainable development.

1.3.2 Analysis and comments

1.3.2.1 The Representatives of the Member States thanked the Director General for his presentation and recognized the work undertaken by the Institute under his administration.

1.3.2.2 The Representative of Argentina stated that the document reflects the common challenges and interests that have been affecting the region for some time, and that it would enable the countries to present more definitive positions at the Summit, based on a common objective. He felt that the work of the Director General had been pivotal in turning the spotlight on small farmers and stated that Argentina was supporting Dr. Otero's re-election for a second term as Director General, thus enabling him to continue his efforts to benefit agriculture in the hemisphere.

1.3.2.3 The Representative of Guyana said that the document addresses issues that are important to the Caribbean. He also revealed that his country's President had proposed to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) that a taskforce be created to analyze the agrifood systems of that region. Thus, dialogues had been organized to facilitate the establishment of a joint position among Caribbean countries to present at the Summit. He remarked that the document's reference to the vulnerability of the Caribbean was important to these countries, given the problems they face in production and in building an agricultural infrastructure. For example, he revealed that close to 90% of agricultural production in Guyana had recently been destroyed by natural disasters. Finally, he remarked that the Caribbean region is highly dependent on agricultural imports, but that efforts are being made to provide more facilities to farmers, which would contribute to reducing these exports by 25% by the year 2025.

1.3.2.4 The Representative of the United States of America stated that his country supported the Institute's efforts in preparation for the Summit, with the goal of improving sustainability and agrifood system resilience and contributing to the provision of healthy, safe food that is accessible throughout the world. He urged the Member States to utilize the messages to prepare for the Summit, while maintaining that the IICA virtual dialogues would enable

the Americas to arrive at a consensus and to speak with one voice at the meeting. Finally, he underscored the diverse cultures and production systems that exist in the region and the need to identify innovative and local solutions to present at the Summit.

- 1.3.2.5 The Representative of Guatemala informed the meeting that his country had prioritized family farming and had enacted a law regarding the provision of food to schools. It was also promoting a soil restoration program, employing appropriate irrigation systems to enhance soil sustainability. He indicated that another key issue for the country was forestry and silvopastoral systems. Finally, he thanked the Institute for its support to Guatemala, expressing his wish for the success of the Summit and the hope that it would offer concrete solutions.
- 1.3.2.6 The Representative of Canada thanked IICA for its active engagement with the preparatory process for the 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit. He said that the fact that IICA had been invited to join the Summit Champions Network was a recognition of its efforts and work in the region throughout the years. On the other hand, he endorsed the sixteen messages presented by the Director General. He indicated the need to ensure that voices from the fields are heard at the Summit and to convey the message that all decisions should be science- and evidence-based, particularly on climate change and trade. In his view, agriculture should be a central issue in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- 1.3.2.7 The Representative of Mexico highlighted the importance of agriculture and rurality and wholeheartedly endorsed the view that producers play a key role in ensuring agrifood sector sustainability. She stated that her country was in support of the work of the Institute and welcomed the initiative to recognize leaders of rurality, given the impact that this would have on the country's and the region's agriculture. She mentioned that Mexico firmly believed that further agriculture sector development would depend on technology. She recognized IICA's leading role in enabling countries to move from strategy to action and to strengthen their agricultural systems, in order to produce more and more effectively. Finally, she expressed agreement with the sixteen messages presented by the Director General.
- 1.3.2.8 The Representative of Suriname voiced her country's support for the Institute, the Director General and for his team. She endorsed the agrifood

system dialogues that had taken place, which she felt should continue. She also stated that her country had approved regulations to strengthen the food safety agency.

- 1.3.2.9 The Representative of Costa Rica thanked IICA for its work in driving rural economic development in the countries. He remarked that fair trade for agricultural products, both nationally and internationally, is only possible if products are sold at prices that cover production costs. If not, farmers will be forced to abandon the countryside and to migrate to the city. He pointed out that in order to achieve the desired transformation in terms of innovation, technology, efficiency and productivity, producers would need access to financing, insurance and fair prices.
- 1.3.2.10 The Representative of Bolivia endorsed the messages in the IICA document. He explained that his country was organizing national dialogues with production organizations and social service organizations, to enable their views to be reflected at the 2021 Food Systems Summit. He declared that, under Bolivia's new economic development model, the notion of "bioeconomy" is seen as an economy of life. Thus, the country had devised a significant number of regulations to foster appropriate land use that take into account the relationship between production systems and the cultural and social aspects linked to that production, which are aspects he felt should be incorporated into the agrifood system messages. He mentioned that the criteria of sustainability mentioned in the document was in line with Bolivia's criteria regarding the alignment of planning actions, under Law No. 777 of the Integrated Planning System of the State.
- 1.3.2.11 The Representative of Ecuador underscored the importance of subsistence family farming. He recommended that greater emphasis be placed on inclusive markets, both for fresh products destined for consumption, as well as for industrial and export products. He stated that Ecuador supported the work that IICA had done in preparation for the Food Systems Summit 2021.
- 1.3.2.12 The Chair of the Executive Committee, in his capacity as the Representative of Paraguay, expressed his country's support for the document prepared by the Institute, as well as for the eleven technical documents developed for the 2021 Food Systems Summit to be held in September.

- 1.3.2.13 The Representative of Colombia applauded IICA’s excellent work in preparing the joint messages to be presented at the Summit, which will serve as banner, reflecting the views of the countries of the Americas.
- 1.3.2.14 The Director General thanked the member countries for their comments and for contributing to the preparation of the document with the sixteen consensus messages. He stressed that the document was not cast in stone, but could be adjusted during the process leading up to the Food Systems Pre-Summit meeting—to be held in Rome in July—and to the next meeting of IABA.
- 1.3.2.15 He used the opportunity to express solidarity with Guyana and Suriname for the emergency situation in both countries, after the recent flooding, which had demonstrated the need for a resilient agriculture sector. He pledged that given the circumstances, the Institute would remain in close contact with the countries, as it had done with Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in the aftermath of the La Soufrière Volcano eruption in April.
- 1.3.2.16 He emphasized the importance of transparency in international, local and regional trade, as well as innovation, risk management and access to insurance. Finally, he indicated that all the comments of the Member States were important in advancing the process to prepare for the Summit.
- 1.3.2.17 The Representative of Panama indicated that his country also endorsed the document proposed by the Director General and the actions that the countries were pursuing to overcome the difficulties created by the COVID-19 pandemic. He stressed the fact that the agriculture sector plays an important role in generating wealth and providing alternatives for the dispossessed and vulnerable in Latin American societies. He urged the Member States to support IICA’s actions in preparation for the Summit and to continue working together to benefit the people of the Americas.
- 1.3.2.18 The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago called attention to the messages regarding nutrition, stating that he welcomed the inclusion of biofortified foods, which will of vital importance in the future. He also underscored the fourth message that speaks to the need for openness and transparency in international trade.

- 1.3.2.19 The Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines explained that the tenth message was tremendously important for his country, which was recovering from the repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change (drought and hurricanes), and, more recently, the La Soufrière Volcano eruption that had completely wiped out family farming production. He again thanked the Institute for its support in the aftermath of the eruption and expressed the need to boost the competitiveness of the agriculture sector. He ended his remarks by full endorsing the sixteen consensus messages presented by the Director General.
- 1.3.3 Reading and approval of draft resolutions
- 1.3.3.1 The Rapporteur read out the Draft Resolution “About the Transformation of Agrifood Systems and the Role of Agriculture in the Americas”, which was approved without modifications.
- 1.4 Close of the session
- 1.4.1 The First Plenary Session of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the IICA Executive Committee was adjourned at 10:15 hours on 28 June 2021.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the session

2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 08:02 hours on 29 June 2021, and was chaired by the Representative of Paraguay.

2.2 Progress Report on the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP)

2.2.1 In providing accountability for actions during the three years and five months of his tenure, the Director General reminded the meeting about the prevailing context during this period, which included a) the deceleration of the economy, b) the emergence of the pandemic, c) virtualization of globalization and d) the transformation of agrifood systems.

2.2.2 He recalled that in July 2018, the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan had been approved, proposing to bring about institutional transformation, as summarized in the following ten strategic statements:

1. To provide technical cooperation of excellence through its network of offices, within the framework of five programs aimed at fostering sustainable agricultural and rural development, following interdisciplinary and focused work principles.
2. To evolve towards an integrated and specialized knowledge management platform for the countries, through the use of information and communication technologies in agriculture, capacity building, the dissemination of good practices and lessons learned, communication for development, the promotion of networks, and horizontal cooperation.
3. To develop public-private strategic partnerships and agreements for the benefit of the agriculture sector in the member countries, by implementing projects of common interest based on shared values.

4. To address the needs of regional and interregional cooperation in support of the agriculture sector, in a timely and effective manner.
5. To carry out efficient administrative management, based on a process culture, decentralization and results-based continuous improvement.
6. To strengthen the Institute's finances by optimizing operations, utilizing institutional resources in a rational manner, increasing the amount of external resources secured, as well as executing development and investment projects.
7. To foster a conscious leadership style that strengthens staff members' capabilities and collaborative work in a safe and healthy work environment.
8. To modernize the governing bodies, by fostering broad public dialogue, transparency and private-sector participation.
9. To drive affirmative institutional actions that foster an inclusive and diverse workforce.
10. To become and IICA of "open doors" that is environmentally responsible and involved in the community.

2.2.3 He explained that the Institute listens, proposed and acts, in accordance with the mandate of its Member States, through processes that are aimed at technical and financial effectiveness and efficiency and that prioritize knowledge management and strategic partnerships.

2.2.4 He indicated that IICA currently had 250 partners, including public institutions, civil society organizations, academic centers of excellence and private sector organizations. With respect to the latter, he emphasized that organizations must satisfy two requirements in order to establish a partnership with the Institute: demonstrated social responsibility and a willingness to collaborate with IICA to generate public goods. He made mention of the Institute's strengthened joint work activities with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), FONTAGRO, the Andean Forum, the Food and Agriculture Organization

of the United Nations (FAO), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the European Union (EU).

- 2.2.5 He then referred to the partnership forged with The Ohio State University, through Dr. Rattan Lal, 2020 World Food Prize laureate, to tackle soil degradation and reverse its effects, through the Living Soils of the Americas program. He also highlighted the partnership with Dr. Michael Kremer, the 2019 winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics, and with his organization, Precision Agriculture for Development (PAD). PAD and the Institute have implemented projects in northeast Brazil and Colombia, focusing on areas such as digital inclusion and modern approaches to rural extension services.
- 2.2.6 He remarked that the Institute has a knowledge management platform focusing on the following issues: bioeconomy and production development; climate change, natural resources and risk management; international trade and regional integration; territorial development and family farming; agricultural health, safety and food quality; technological innovation; and gender and youth. He underscored the development of 850 technical cooperation actions at the hemispheric, regional and national levels.
- 2.2.7 The Director General remarked that the knowledge management platform, had enabled the Institute to achieve the following results: 95 young people had completed virtual professional internships; 67 IICA best practices had been documented; and 75 virtual courses had been offered, training 52,981 people in 80 countries.
- 2.2.8 He also stated that, as a means of intensifying dialogue with the countries, IICA had organized 40 meetings and subregional dialogues with ministers of Agriculture of the region: 14 with Central America, 2 with the ministers of Mesoamerica, 5 with the Andean countries, 5 with the countries of the Pacific Basin, 7 with the Caribbean, and 10 with ministers of the Southern Region. He emphasized IICA's coordination of three hemispheric meetings with ministers and secretaries of Agriculture, in collaboration with the FAO.
- 2.2.9 He spoke about the creation of the High-Level Advisory Council for Food Security in March 2020, which comprises eleven international experts from the political, academic and business spheres, who meet regularly to discuss

issues relevant to global and hemispheric agriculture that have an impact on institutional strategy. He also mentioned IICA's Goodwill Ambassador program, made up of personalities that help to project the image of the Institute.

- 2.2.10 Dr. Otero advised the meeting that the agreements governing the Secretariat to support the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), as well as agreements with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) had been renewed. He highlighted ongoing dialogue with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the support provided to the Andean Community (CAN), through the Andean Agricultural Forum, whose Secretariat IICA jointly hosts with the FAO. He also spoke again about IICA's participation in the dialogues in preparation for the Food Systems Summit 2021.
- 2.2.11 On the topic of efficient administrative management, he highlighted the following results: a USD 12.6 million to USD 18 million increase in cash flow; the receipt of unqualified opinions on the Institute's financial statements; a USD 41 million to USD 31 million reduction in costs; reduced time for decision-making; a two-thirds reduction in the Institute's fleet of vehicles; a new business model to strengthen IICA's financial architecture; accelerated procurement of external resources and timely information for decision-making and institutional monitoring.
- 2.2.12 On the matter of institutional communication, he mentioned the following achievements: the amount of mentions about the Institute in communication media had tripled; readers of IICA-produced content had increased from one to eleven million; and the Institute had increased its social media presence. He underscored the support provided by the Advisory Committee on Communication, which is made up of journalists from eight countries in the region.
- 2.2.13 He then spoke about actions aimed at creating an IICA of open doors, namely: the creation of the AgroArt virtual art museum; the receipt of the Blue Flag ecological award for the third consecutive year; the establishment of the Interpretive Center for Tomorrow's Agriculture (CIMAG), sponsored by Microsoft and Bayer; the construction of the Typical Rural House, with the support of the Costa Rican private sector; the launch of the Fab Lab for Agriculture; and the design and upcoming construction of the Plaza of

Agriculture of the Americas at IICA Headquarters, with the support of the national and local government. The plaza will be launched on the occasion of the Institute's 80th anniversary on 7 October 2022.

- 2.2.14 In conclusion, the Director General referred to two critical issues: firstly, the future of agriculture in the Americas, as a guarantor of global food and nutrition security and the environmental sustainability of the planet; and secondly, a 21st Century IICA – an organization characterized by excellence, which is working with countries to transform the agrifood systems of the Americas. Finally, he thanked the Member States and the entire IICA staff for their support, which had facilitated the achievement of the institutional goals.
- 2.2.15 Analysis and comments
- 2.2.15.1 The Representative of Brazil acknowledged IICA's rationalization of expenditure and transformation into an Institute focusing on assisting countries with their needs. He conveyed the words of support sent by his country's Minister of Agriculture and also endorsed Dr. Otero's candidacy to serve as Director General of the Institute for a second term.
- 2.2.15.2 The Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines referred to IICA's excellent work in technical cooperation. He spoke of the support that the Institute had offered to countries to tackle the crisis arising out of the COVID-19 pandemic and the assistance that his country had received after the recent volcano eruptions, through horizontal cooperation and linkages with countries with experience in handling this type of emergency. He expressed enthusiasm to continue working with the Director General for an additional term.
- 2.2.15.3 The Representative of Mexico applauded the achievements that the Director General had highlighted with regards to the implementation of the MTP. She emphasized the importance of agriculture and food and made special mention of the hemispheric ministerial meetings and the meetings with the production sector, which had facilitated knowledge exchange on how to tackle the pandemic and drive post-pandemic recovery. She endorsed IICA's work and the efforts of the Director General to spur institutional transformation and to provide technical cooperation of the highest standard.

- 2.2.15.4 The Representative of Nicaragua thanked the Director General for the presentation of the report and endorsed IICA's actions. He said he was pleased with the work of the Director General and his team to establish a continuously changing, dynamic, and open institution, which effectively supports regional agricultural development, through technical cooperation that strengthens each Member State. He agreed that the hemisphere is the guarantor of global food and nutrition security and of the environmental sustainability of the planet.
- 2.2.15.5 The Representative of Canada acknowledged the extremely difficult circumstances in which the Institute has had to operate in recent years. As such, he congratulated the Director General for his work and for ensuring that IICA was able to adapt to these challenges and to achieve good results in implementing the MTP. He applauded the improvements in management and administration, as well as the ministerial meetings that the Institute had coordinated to address issues related to the pandemic, climate change, as well as diversity and inclusion in agrifood systems. He underscored the fact that IICA had become a more nimble and dynamic organization in providing technical cooperation services and had been able to maximize its impact through partnerships, cost savings and the strengthening of its communication platform. He said that he considered IICA's work to improve food security and foster trade in the Americas to be of great value.
- 2.2.15.6 The Representative of Argentina recognized the leadership of the Director General in steering the Institute amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, notwithstanding the limited resources and the sharp increase in requests for support by its member States. He felt that greater targeting of technical cooperation actions in the countries had enabled the development of closer relationships with farmers and also emphasized the work that IICA had done in preparing for the Food Systems Summit 2021. He said he was grateful for the interaction between the CAC and the CAS, which had allowed IICA to identify opportunities for dialogue and the establishment of common positions. He stressed the fact by facilitating countries' participation in the Codex Commission, the Institute had been instrumental in these countries' endorsement of science-based sanitary measures.
- 2.2.15.7 The Representative of Ecuador said he was extremely satisfied with IICA's approach to technical cooperation matters, as well as with the strategic activities undertaken at the hemispheric, regional and national levels. He

also reiterated his support for IICA to continue operating under the strategic direction of Dr. Manuel Otero.

2.2.15.8 The Chair of the Executive Committee, speaking as the Representative of Paraguay, joined with the other delegations in expressing support for the administration of the Director General and also thanked him for the report on the MTP that was presented.

2.3 *Progress in the organization of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA: proposed provisional agenda*

2.3.1 The Technical Secretary stated that the provisional agenda of the upcoming meeting of the IABA would have to be approved by the Executive Committee as the preparatory body for that meeting. He also reiterated that the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture 2021 and the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA would take place on 1 and 2 September, as a virtual meeting from Headquarters. He explained that the Conference would be held on the first day and all matters related to the IABA would be addressed on the second day.

2.3.2 The Director General presented the slogan of the Conference of Ministers: “Sustainable Agrifood Systems, the Engine of Development of the Americas”. He explained that the mere recognition of the strategic nature of agrifood systems, leads one to appreciate their role in improving the standard of living of communities and in projecting the importance of a region that is making a significant contribution to food and nutrition security and to environmental sustainability.

2.4 *Reading and approval of draft resolutions*

2.4.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolutions “2018-2021 Management Report” and “Provisional Agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021 – Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”, which were approved without modification.

2.5 *Close of the session*

- 2.5.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 9:01 hours on 29 June 2021.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 Opening of the session

3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 09:02 hours on 29 June 2021, and was chaired by the Representative of Paraguay.

3.2 Financial and administrative situation

3.2.1 2020 Financial statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors

3.2.1.1 The Director of Corporate Services reported that the financial statements had been prepared and audited in strict compliance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (US GAAP). He presented the results of the 2020-2019 external audit, undertaken by the firm, Deloitte, which concluded that “(...) the financial statements of the Institute present fairly, in all material respects, IICA’s financial position as at December 31 of 2020 and 2019”. He pointed that for the third consecutive year, the financial statements had received a clean audit opinion.

3.2.1.2 He also remarked that the external auditors had included a special chapter on measures that the Institute had implemented to tackle the adverse effects of the COVID-19-related emergency, which pointed out that IICA’s rapid response had prevented operations from being affected significantly. He also stated that the external auditors had concluded that the work from home modality had been operating successfully in all the Institute’s delegations, while offering greater protection for employees and enabling compliance with the measures implemented by the countries.

3.2.2 Twenty-seventh report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

3.2.2.1 Mrs. Carla Pike, a member of the ARC, presented the Twenty-seventh Report of the Committee. She confirmed that the work of the external auditors complied with International Auditing Standards and with IICA’s rules. She also reiterated that, in the opinion of the external auditors, IICA’s financial statement presented fairly, in all material respects, the position of

IICA as at 31 December 2019 and 2020, as well as changes in its net assets and cash flow for the years ending on the above dates, in accordance with US GAAP.

3.2.2.2 She encouraged the Institute to follow up on the timely collection of outstanding quotas. Moreover, in light of events arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, she recommended that IICA continue with initiatives to economize and to safeguard its financial position. Finally, she congratulated the Institute for having received a clean opinion from the external auditors.

3.2.3 2022-2023 Draft Program Budget

3.2.3.1 The Director of Corporate Services explained the main criteria used to prepare the Program Budget for the 2022-2023 biennium, namely that: it is the instrument that funds the Medium-term Plan (MTP); the sources of financing of the Regular Fund are the quotas of the Member States and miscellaneous income generated; the program budget is aligned with the Institute's strategic planning and programming; there had been a 28.57% (USD 1,000,000) decrease in miscellaneous income, in comparison to the USD 3,500,000 figure of 2019; and the basis for IICA's quota scale are the current percentages approved by the Organization of American States (OAS).

3.2.3.2 He indicated that the income budget for the 2022-2023 biennium was USD 32,074,100 made up of USD 29,574,100 from quotas and USD 2,500,000 from miscellaneous income. He presented a percentage breakdown of the allocation of resources from the Regular Fund to each of the budget chapters: direct technical cooperation services: 88.9% in 2022 and 89.1% in 2023; management costs: 6.1% for the biennium; general costs and provisions: 4.3% in 2022 and 4.1% in 2023; and renovation of infrastructure and equipment: 0.7% for the biennium. Finally, he outlined the Institute's detailed budget allocation, by programming center and major object of expenditure.

3.2.4 Report on the collection of quotas

3.2.4.1 The Manager of the Financial Management Division presented the report on the collection of quotas from the Member States, both at the close of 2020,

as well as for the current year, updated to 23 June 2021. She indicated that as at the end of 2020, 16 countries were up to date in their payments, 15 were in regular status (owning payments for less than two years) and 3 were in arrears (owing more than two years of payments). She also reported that as at 23 June of the current year USD 2.1 million had been received and explained that should no additional payments be received by 1 July, 8 countries would be up to date in payments, 22 in regular status and 4 in arrears.

3.2.5 Analysis and comments

- 3.2.5.1 The Representative of the United States of America thanked IICA for the information presented and for the efforts to reduce expenditure. He advised the meeting that his country had already paid 75% of its respective quota for 2021 and that in October—the start of the new fiscal year—it would pay the remaining 25%. He urged the other Member States to make the necessary effort to remain current with their payments. He also requested updated information regarding IICA’s efforts in relation to its legal situation in Colombia, and suggested that future reports speak to the risks of different operations.
- 3.2.5.2 The Representative of Canada applauded the speakers for the clarity of the presentations and congratulated IICA for its prudent financial management. He confirmed that Canada had paid its 2021 quota in advance, as an important way to demonstrate its commitment to the Institute. He said he was mindful of the difficulties experienced by member countries in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, he urged the countries to make every effort to honor their commitments to ensure that IICA would be able to continue its good work.
- 3.2.5.3 The Director General addressed the matter raised by the Representative of the United States regarding the Institute’s legal situation in Colombia. He indicated that the situation dated back 13 years and although a firm judgement had been issued, the Institute was attempting to organize and deepen discussions with the Colombian Minister of Agriculture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Comptroller General, in order to arrive at a final solution. He stressed that Colombia was very important to IICA and noted that President Iván Duque had thanked the Institute for its support in promoting the integration of the Andean Community. He also explained

that IICA had kept its doors open in Colombia, mentioning examples such as the mobile phone-based extension services it was offering in Colombia and its participation in the National Council of Secretaries of Agriculture (CONSA).

3.2.5.4 At the request of the Director General, the Coordinator of the Legal, International Affairs and Protocol Unit provided further information, indicating that an administrative sanction against IICA had been applied by the Comptroller General in Colombia. However, the Institute had escalated discussions on the matter and had made significant progress in this respect.

3.2.5.5 The Representative of the United States of America thanked the parties for the clarifications.

3.3 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

3.3.1 The Rapporteur read out draft resolutions “2022 – 2023 Program-Budget”, “Report on the Collection of Quotas”, “2020 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Report of the External Auditors and Twenty-seventh Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”, which were approved without modifications.

3.4 Election of a member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

3.4.1 The Technical Secretary explained that, given that Mrs. Carla Pike of Saint Kitts and Nevis would end her term as an ARC member on 31 December 2021, the Executive Committee would have to elect a new ARC member for the January 2022 to December 2027 period. He explained that the new member could not be a national of any of the six major contributing countries to the Institute. He also recalled that the Director General had sent out a notification—SC/DG-88 of 12 March 2021—requesting the nomination of candidates. The letter had stipulated that the deadline for presentation of candidates was 28 May 2021. One nomination had been received, namely for Mrs. Yvonne James of Saint Lucia. He confirmed that no further nomination had been received.

3.4.2 The Legal Advisor of the governing bodies of IICA explained the procedures established in the regulations of the Executive Committee and of the ARC for the election of members of the Committee. He indicated

that on that occasion, the member could be elected by acclamation, since only there was only one candidate. Thus, he suggested that the Chair consult the plenary to determine if there were any objections.

3.4.3 The Representative of Suriname expressed support for the candidacy of Mrs. James.

3.4.4 The Chair asked the delegates of the Member States to applaud, as a gesture of approval, to ratify the election. Mrs. Yvonne James of Saint Lucia was elected as a member of the ARC by acclamation.

3.5 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

3.5.1 The Rapporteur read out draft resolutions “Recognition of the Contribution Made by Mrs. Carla Pike as a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)” and “Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee”, which were approved without modifications.

3.6 Strengthening of strategic partnerships

3.6.1 Relationship between IICA and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)

3.6.1.1 Biennial Report of CATIE for 2019-2020

3.6.1.1.1 The Director General of CATIE specified the three pillars on which the Center’s work is based: research; education and training; and external projection.

3.6.1.1.2 He explained that, despite the pandemic, CATIE had produced 62 graduates from 14 countries in sustainable agriculture and agroforestry; forests and biodiversity; climate action; environmental economy; sustainable agribusiness; as well as watershed management and water security. He also pointed out that 45% of the graduates were women.

3.6.1.1.3 He indicated that CATIE had continued to strengthen its technical capacities in the countries in pursuit of a green and inclusive development agenda, through the organization of 240 training events in 2020 for nearly 17,000 professionals (38% of whom were women) in the areas of genetic

improvement and coffee and cocoa agroforestry systems; low-carbon livestock systems; climate smart agriculture; food security; water security; agribusiness; green economy; and agricultural landscape restoration.

- 3.6.1.1.4 He then presented a map of research projects implemented in the countries, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with a special emphasis on climate change resilience. He made special mention of inclusion efforts in indigenous territories, through the promotion of short trade circuits and nature-based solutions for mangrove restoration and blue carbon sequestration.
- 3.6.1.1.5 The CATIE head also emphasized the Center's role in safeguarding and harnessing coffee and cocoa genetic resources. For example, he mentioned that more than 100 clones were evaluated for the detection of resistance to diseases and pests such as frosty pod rot of cocoa and coffee leaf rust. He also indicated that more than 400 materials (seeds, stem cuttings and grafted plants) had been distributed to cocoa producers in Costa Rica and Guatemala. He highlighted key areas in the Center's work, involving resilience and food security, such as water harvesting in the Central American Dry Corridor and the tropical livestock sustainable intensification model, which had resulted in increased production, a 50% and 80% reduction in the water footprint and carbon footprints respectively, and the application of these practices and technologies by more than 2,000 producers.
- 3.6.1.1.6 He emphasized CATIE's livestock production value chains and green economy model, which have made it a pioneer in genetic improvement, improved pastures and mixed silvopastoral systems and enabled it to generate palpable impacts and benefits, employing technologies that are adaptable to climate change and that mitigate its effects. He explained that CATIE is seeking to develop public goods and advised the meeting that in 2020, the Center had produced 132 publications in reference scientific journals, articles in technical magazines, monographs, theses and multimedia.
- 3.6.1.1.7 He explained that CATIE had ended 2020 with a positive account balance—as reflected in the unqualified reports of the external audit—thus maintaining the positive account balance achieved throughout the five years of his administration. He also stated that in 2020, CATIE had formulated its

Strategic Plan for 2030, which established a new value proposition, seeking to transform and impact agricultural production systems to achieve inclusive green development in the tropical region of Latin America and the Caribbean. He mentioned that this proposition focuses on generating knowledge through research and innovation, on building capacities through academic and training programs, and on external projection, through the scaling up of projects, joint actions with countries and relationships with key partners.

3.6.1.2 Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CATIE

3.6.1.2.1 The CATIE Director General referred to the main joint actions of the Center and the Institute, underscoring the following: a) knowledge management and capacity building in tropical agriculture; b) implementation of the Agricultural Innovation Program in Peru (MINAGRI-INIA-PNIA-IICA-CATIE), benefitting 250,000 families; c) execution of the BioPaSOs project in Mexico, with a focus on biodiversity and livestock landscapes; d) implementation of the Central America Program for Integrated Coffee Rust Management (PROCAGICA), in the area of applied research; technology transfer and validation; and technical support; e) research actions within the Adapted Agroforestry Systems for the Central American Dry Corridor (AGRO-INNOVA) project to assist in increasing the climate resilience and food security of small farmers in highly vulnerable areas; f) the establishment of a food bank, with the support of the AGRO-INNOVA project, aimed at increasing the food security of vulnerable populations in Costa Rica; and g) the modernization of the Orton Library, updating its digital capabilities and providing new knowledge management functionalities.

3.6.2 Master Plan for the Management of the IICA-CATIE Real Estate Assets and Production Projects

3.6.2.1 The Deputy Director General of the Institute described the historic relationship between IICA and CATIE. He underscored the growing importance of the latter, given the need to increase investment to strengthen agricultural resilience, particularly in the context of climate change.

3.6.2.2 He explained the background of the “Master Plan for the Management of the IICA-CATIE Real Estate Assets and Production Projects”, and recalled

that the IABA, via Resolution No. 519 of 31 October 2019, created a Special Committee in charge of issuing recommendations on measures to increase the productivity of the lands belonging to IICA and CATIE. The Committee presented a report to the 2020 meeting of the Executive Committee, which had then issued Resolution No. 664 that includes the mandate to prepare the master plan.

- 3.6.2.3 He informed the meeting that the Master Plan was an integrated proposal to adopt a systemic approach to utilize the Institute's and CATIE's farms and lands and to strategically position them within their urban, economic, political and administrative context, thereby anticipating problems and ensuring the feasibility of implementing various projects. He indicated that the total area of the farms registered in the name of IICA and CATIE was 1,097 hectares, not all of which was suitable for research and agricultural production activities. He also mentioned that CATIE also had eight properties registered in its name in different locations, covering a total area of 70.83 hectares.
- 3.6.2.4 Finally, he outlined the following alternatives to be considered in the business plan of the Center: a) in livestock: expansion of operations, development of a livestock auction and increasing the land area devoted to pastures to 125 hectares; b) in forestry production: the establishment of a sawmill and the expansion of the gmelina plantation to at least 20 hectares; c) in agricultural production: commercial production of certified coffee seeds, production and value-added coffee production, commercial cocoa production, commercial production of fresh coconut and the reduction of the sugar cane fields from 155.3 to 50 hectares; d) in agroindustry: processing of sugar cane with a line of value-added products, a commercial biofactory for high-quality bioinputs and the production of cassava flour for animal feed; and e) in non-agricultural products: the development of commercial infrastructure associated with the development of the new hospital in Turrialba.
- 3.6.2.5 The Chair of the meeting opened the floor for comments from the representatives of the Member States. As there were no comments, he asked the Rapporteur to read out the respective resolution.

3.6.3 Reading and approval of the draft resolution

3.6.3.1 The Rapporteur read out resolution “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2019-2020”

3.6.4 Relationship between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

3.6.4.1 Report of CARDI for the 2019-2020 biennium

3.6.4.1.1 CARDI’s Manager of Science, Technology and Innovation provided some background on the relationship between that organization and IICA. He indicated that both organizations had had to adjust, by mobilizing and redirecting funds and reorganizing planned actions, in order to assist the Caribbean agriculture sector to recover from the emergencies triggered by Hurricane Dorian (2019) and the COVID-19 pandemic (2020-2021).

3.6.4.1.2 He outlined actions undertaken by CARDI and the Institute to support the Caribbean countries, including the following: a) distribution of seeds and seedlings and support for greenhouse improvement, to restore production capacity in The Bahamas; b) assistance to Antigua and Barbuda to establish feed banks to support the livestock sector; c) collaboration with other agencies in implementing a project aimed at bean biofortification in Belize; and d) development of an agricultural extension services app in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, enabling improved information exchange among farmers, extension officials and other stakeholders.

3.6.4.1.3 He also spoke about areas for future collaboration, namely: a) the “CARICOM COVID-19 Recovery Road Map” initiative; b) the signing of a legal instrument to harmonize IICA’s actions in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures with CARDI’s actions, under its “Alliances for Coconut Industry Development and Enhanced Support for the Caribbean” project; c) the continuation of existing institutional arrangements with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), for example, the Caribbean Week of Agriculture); and d) joint participation in the “Horizon 2020 Project: Development of Ecosystem Services and Implementation of Biodiversity Restoring Actions in Different Continental Areas”.

3.6.5 Reading and approval of draft resolution

3.6.5.1 The Rapporteur read out Draft Resolution “Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2019-2020 Biennium”, which was approved without modifications.

3.7 Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies

3.7.1 Presentation of candidates to the post of Director General and outline of their work plans for 2022-2026

3.7.1.1 The Technical Secretary raised the matter of the election of the Director General for 2022-2026. He recalled that, by way of Resolution No. 341, the Executive Committee had approved a protocol for the election of the Director General of the Institute. He said that, in accordance with that protocol, and in due time and form, the Director General had sent out the notification inviting countries to propose candidates for the position. The period for the official presentation of candidates was 1 March 2021 to 16 July 2021.

3.7.1.2 He explained that up to that time only one formal nomination had been received by the General Directorate: Argentina had proposed Dr. Manuel Otero for re-election. He then said that IICA’s rules only allow for re-election on one occasion, explaining that after the Institute had received the above nomination at the beginning of March, all Member States were immediately advised.

3.7.1.3 The Technical Secretary then indicated that the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee stipulate that candidates must appear before the Executive Committee prior to their election by the IABA.

3.7.1.4 Before the presentation by Dr. Manuel Otero, the Chair opened the floor to the Member States of the Executive Committee.

3.7.1.5 Analysis and comments

3.7.1.5.1 The Representative of Argentina confirmed his country wish for the current Director General to continue for a second term and acknowledged the support of other countries for Dr. Otero’s candidacy.

- 3.7.1.5.2 The Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines expressed support for the Director General to continue his excellent work for an additional term. He emphasized the work that Dr. Otero had done to benefit all the regions of the Americas, remarking that one of his outstanding characteristics was his ability to keep his doors open to all Member States and stakeholders in agriculture.
- 3.7.1.5.3 The Representative of the United States of America thanked the Director General for his hard work and leadership during his first term. He pointed out that this administration had been based on improving the provision of technical cooperation, increasing partnerships; and on adopting the vision that is needed to tackle hemispheric problems and to strengthen technologies to improve trading systems.
- 3.7.1.5.4 The Representative of Brazil indicated that his country had formalized its support for the candidacy proposed by Argentina. He expressed his wish for the Director General to complete a second term, in line with the established requirements of the IABA regulations.
- 3.7.1.5.5 The Representative of Canada thanked the Director General for his leadership and work during the COVID-19 pandemic, remarking that he had been able to skillfully oversee the Institute's direction and governance during an extremely difficult period. He felt that the Director General had been instrumental in positioning the Institute in the process leading up to the United Nations Food Systems Summit.
- 3.7.1.5.6 The Representative of Panama expressed support, personally and on behalf of his country, for the candidate proposed by Argentina. He thanked Director General Otero and the other countries for the support provided to Panama to weather the pandemic-related crisis. He acknowledged the Director General's capacity, knowledge and dedication to the agriculture sector, while again reiterating his support.
- 3.7.1.5.7 The Representative of Guyana thanked the Director General for IICA's contribution to agricultural development in his country and for its support during the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He said that he was optimistic that the Institute would support Guyana once again, given the current emergency being experienced due to the flooding, which had affected 90% of the agriculture sector.

- 3.7.1.5.8 The Representative of Mexico applauded the excellent work of the Director General of IIA and endorsed his re-election at the upcoming meeting of the IABA.
- 3.7.1.5.9 The Representative of the Dominican Republic congratulated the Director General for his excellent management in the area of technical cooperation and for the transformation of the Institute that he had spearheaded to better support the agriculture sector in the Americas.
- 3.7.1.5.10 The Representative of Bolivia said he was pleased with the support that the Institute had been giving to his country, according to their needs and during different government administrations, stating that the leadership and vision of the Director General and the work of the technical team at the national and hemispheric levels had been fundamental.
- 3.7.1.5.11 The Representative of Nicaragua commented that a strong IICA was indispensable in efforts to support the agriculture sector of the region. He mentioned recent achievements in his country, such as the 76% growth in agricultural production and the 50% decline in poverty and hunger. He also indicated that in order for Nicaragua to achieve SDGs 1 and 2, it would need to strengthen its relationship and work with the Institute, as well as with CATIE, FAO and other multilateral cooperation agencies. He ended by declaring his support for the election of Dr. Otero to serve a second term as Director General of IICA.
- 3.7.1.5.12 The Representative of Suriname thanked the Institute for the technical cooperation provided to her country. She recognized the work of the Director General and informed the meeting that Suriname endorsed Dr. Otero's candidacy for a second term at the helm of IICA.
- 3.7.1.5.13 The Representative of Haiti also thanked the Institute for the technical support provided for agricultural development in his country. He remarked that IICA had developed a closer relationship with the countries.
- 3.7.1.5.14 The Representative of Costa Rica revealed that no sooner had the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of his country heard that Argentina had proposed the candidacy of Dr. Otero as Director General for the next four years, he had indicated that Costa Rica endorsed this proposal. He took

the opportunity to thank the Director General for his work, for the close engagement he had promoted between the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) and the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) and for all the projects he had spearheaded in the region.

- 3.7.1.5.15 The Representative of El Salvador thanked the Director General for his excellent management, stating that a strong and committed IICA would be indispensable to overcoming the challenges facing agriculture in the region. She indicated that El Salvador shared Dr. Otero's vision and that therefore it was supporting his candidacy to continue as head of IICA for a second term.
- 3.7.1.5.16 The Representative of Belize thanked the Director General for his administration in support of the agriculture sector, particularly in times of multiple challenges. She recognized the Director General's leadership in tackling these issues, as well as the technical assistance that IICA provided to her country under this administration. She confirmed her country's support for Dr. Otero's re-election for a second term as the head of IICA.
- 3.7.1.5.17 The Chair of the Executive Committee, in his capacity as the Representative of Paraguay, endorsed the recognition of Dr. Otero's excellent efforts as Director General, stating that he could count on the support of all the member countries of the CAS.
- 3.7.1.5.18 The Director General thanked the countries for their expressions of support and paid tribute to the IICA team for their efforts to realize the vision of the Member States and of his administration. He reiterated that the Americas should make its heterogeneity its greatest strength, stating that to do so the Institute would have to continue strengthening its role as an institution that offers technical cooperation of excellence, in service to the countries, through the efficient use of technical and financial resources. He explained the importance of addressing issues from a regional perspective, as the challenges transcend borders. Countries would need to work together to establish the agriculture sector of the future – the guarantor of food and nutrition security, as well as of environmental sustainability. He again thanked the delegates for the positive remarks made about him, while sharing the credit with the entire IICA team. He also welcomed the expressions of support for the Institute

to continue growing, with the conviction that the future sustainability of the Americas will depend on agriculture.

3.7.2 2020 Annual Report of IICA

3.7.2.1 The Technical Secretary informed the Executive Committee that the 2020 Annual Report had been submitted to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) in due time and form, in accordance with the regulations in effect, and it was distributed to the countries. He stated that the document was available on the IICA webpage.

3.7.2.2 The Rapporteur proceeded to read out Draft Resolution “2020 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”, which was approved without modifications.

3.7.3 Reports of the 2020 and 2021 Regular and Extraordinary Meetings of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)

3.7.3.1 The Technical Secretary explained the role of the SACMI and mentioned that due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Director General had maintained closer contact with the Commission. He stated that during the period encompassing the final six months of 2020 and the first half of 2021, three extraordinary meetings and one regular meeting of the SACMI had been held and the respective reports were available on the information system of the meeting.

3.7.3.2 The Rapporteur proceeded to read out Draft Resolution “Reports of the 2020 and 2021 Extraordinary Meetings and the 2021 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”, which was approved without modifications.

3.7.4 Status of the Resolutions of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)

3.7.4.1 The Technical Secretary remarked that the reports on the status of the resolutions of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of

Agriculture had been made available via the online information system of the meeting.

- 3.7.4.2 He made specific reference to the status of Resolution No. 668 regarding the “2019-2020 Report of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA)”, which was issued in the meeting of the Executive Committee in 2020. He explained that this governing body had entrusted the Director General, in consultation with the member countries of the ICOA, with the task of preparing proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the commission, for consideration and possible approval by the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting, in other words, the present meeting. He indicated that the proposal was made available to the countries in the information system of the meeting. However, he indicated that, given that not all the Member States of the Institutes were members of the ICOA, the Director General had suggested to the Executive Committee members that a period be allowed to enable all the countries to carefully analyze this proposal, so that it could be presented to the IABA at its next Regular Meeting, given that it was that governing body that had created the ICOA. He indicated that, mindful of this, a draft resolution had been proposed.
- 3.7.4.3 The Rapporteur proceeded to read out draft resolutions “Status of the Resolutions of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”, “Date and Venue of the Forty-Second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee” and “2020-2021 Report of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA)”, which were approved without modifications.
- 3.7.4.4 The Technical Secretary then referred to the letter that the Director General had sent to the 12 Member States of the Executive Committee, asking them to issue a vote by correspondence to indicate their approval for the present meeting to be held virtually. He added that, in the same letter, the Member States had also been asked to vote by correspondence to state if they would agree to the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021 and the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA also being held virtually. He explained that all the votes by correspondence regarding that matter had not been received, but urged Member States that had not yet sent a response to do so as quickly as possible.

3.8 *Close of the Session*

- 3.8.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee was adjourned at 11:41 hours on 29 June 2021.

CLOSING SESSION

4.1 Opening of the session

4.1.1 The closing session of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 11:42 hours on 29 June 2021, chaired by the Representative of Paraguay.

4.2 Remarks by the Director General

4.2.1 The Director General said he was pleased that it had been an intense and productive meeting that had made significant headway that would enable the Institute to continue strengthening its support to the countries. He noted that the widespread participation of the Member States was a clear signal that the region would present a joint and cohesive position at the 2021 Food Systems Summit on how to maintain an agrifood system that would rise to the challenges and would be able to satisfy the world's needs.

4.2.2 On a more personal note, and in reference to the words of support for his candidacy, proposed by the Government of Argentina, he said he was grateful for and proud of the confidence in his administration, hand in hand with the entire IICA. He thanked and congratulated the Chair and Rapporteur for their excellent management and steering of a successful Executive Committee meeting.

4.2.3 The Chair of the Executive Committee joined the Director General in congratulating the Rapporteur for his excellent work. He thanked the Member States for the support given to him in his role as Chair of the meeting.

4.3 Close of the meeting

4.3.1 The closing session of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 11:50 hours on 29 June 2021.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

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A. Institute Policy and Technical Cooperation Services		
Res. 670	2018-2021 Management Report	53
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Res. 681	Status of the Resolutions of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)	82
Res. 682	Provisional Agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021 – Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)	83
Res. 683	2020-2021 Report of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA)	84
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IICA/CE/Res. 670 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 670

2018-2021 MANAGEMENT REPORT

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the work of his administration during the period 2018-2021,

CONSIDERING:

That, on 18 July 2018, the Executive Committee, in the execution of the powers delegated to it by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), approved the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP), by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 629 (XXXVIII-O/18);

That the Executive Committee has recognized the results achieved and the progress made with the implementation of said MTP, as described in the Director General's reports for 2019 and 2020 on the technical cooperation provided to the Member States, and with the process of transforming the Institute;

That, during its Fortieth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee recognized the efforts of IICA to strengthen the technical cooperation delivered to Member States and to continue its process to implement the current MTP, despite the difficulties ensuing from the global COVID-19 pandemic; and

That the Executive Committee, by way of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 660 (XL-O/20), stated that in order to implement the Institute's 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan and respond to the emerging needs of Member States, it was necessary to advance IICA's institutional transformation process, as well as to mobilize human resources and additional external financial resources that would allow for bolstering its support for agricultural development and rural well-being; and as such, the

Committee resolved to support the Director General's initiative to advance the institutional transformation process,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2018-2021 Management Report and congratulate the Director General and other officials of the Institute on the work performed and results achieved, which were possible thanks to the support received from the Member States.
2. To urge the Member States to deepen their support for strengthening the technical-administrative and financial situation of IICA, so as to ensure that it is properly equipped to carry out its mandates, and to continue supporting the Director General's institutional transformation process.
3. To recommend that the IABA, at its next Regular Meeting, express support for the institutional transformation process of the Institute, in order that it may continue to strengthen its technical and administrative capacities to benefit agriculture in the hemisphere.

IICA/CE/Res. 671 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 671

**2020 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 725 (21), “2020 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.f of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of IICA is to receive, analyze and approve the annual report on the activities of the General Directorate of the Institute and take appropriate action;

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2020 Annual Report of IICA, which was presented to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in due time and form;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by the Institute in 2020 for the purpose of implementing its cooperation agendas at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, within the framework of its 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP);

That the Representative of IICA in each of its 34 member countries presented to the national authorities the respective report on the cooperation that the Institute provided to the country in 2020; and

That the 2020 Annual Report of IICA is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute’s website (www.iica.int),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2020 Annual Report of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 672 (XLI-O/21)

28 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 672

**ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION OF AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS AND THE ROLE
OF AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 719 (21), “On the road to the United Nations Food Systems Summit: key messages from the perspective of agriculture in the Americas”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Secretary-General of the United Nations convened the Food Systems Summit 2021 to evaluate how global agrifood systems are functioning and propose actions for the international community to achieve healthier, more sustainable and equitable food systems;

That these actions should be defined at the national and international levels, aiming to create agrifood systems that are more efficient and capable of satisfying the multiple objectives required to enable all people to access sufficient food that is safe to human health and sufficiently nutritious, as well as environmentally and socially sustainable;

That food system transformation processes should take into account the views and facilitate the participation of farmers, other production chain stakeholders and the ministries of agriculture of the countries of the Americas;

That the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as the agency of the Inter-American system specializing in agriculture, has become involved in the process leading up the Summit, in conjunction with and in support of its Member States;

That the Member States of the Institute have highlighted the contribution of the hemisphere's agriculture sector to global food and nutrition security, stressing the following three principles: i) agricultural producers should be adequately represented and their leading role in the transformation of food systems should be fully recognized; ii) the decisions and policies to be adopted should be science-based; and iii) agriculture is part of the solution to the main challenges that humanity should consider when looking to the future;

That IICA has organized several related dialogues for action, engaging the participation and contribution of key stakeholders, who have reached a consensus regarding messages that the agriculture and rural sector of the Americas should convey at the Food Systems Summit 2021;

That the dialogues have allowed the participants to arrive at a definitive consensus with respect to the transformation and strengthening process required to improve agrifood systems in the hemisphere; and

That the Institute, in its role as a member of the Summit Champions Network, is aiming to ensure that the voice of the farmers of the Americas is heard at the Food Systems Summit 2021,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the work of IICA and its Director General to support the participation of Member States in the process leading up to the Food Systems Summit 2021 and to request that they continue these efforts until the Summit is held.
2. To express full support for the general messages of the hemisphere's agriculture sector with a view to the Food Systems Summit 2021, incorporating them as an annex to this resolution, and recommending that the upcoming Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas also express support for the messages.
3. To request that the Chair of the Executive Committee and the Director General of the Institute send these messages to the Pre-Summit of the United Nations Food Systems Summit, to be held on 26 to 28 July 2021, in Rome, Italy.

4. To invite the Member States of IICA, where possible, to incorporate these messages in support of the agrifood sector of the Americas into the positions that they will adopt at the Food Systems Summit.

ANNEX

On the road to the United Nations Food Systems Summit: key messages from the perspective of agriculture in the Americas¹

1. Framework for a conceptual and policy-related discussion on food systems²

The 2021 United Nations Food Systems Summit presents a unique opportunity to advance processes that will enable the continued transformation of food systems to sustainably enhance food and nutritional security throughout the world.

Agricultural producers, and other food systems stakeholders should be central to the process of transformation and the ministries of Agriculture of the countries of the Americas and should take into account their perspectives. In preparation for the Summit, these countries—through the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)—are highlighting the contribution of the agriculture sector of the Americas to global food and nutritional security and are thus emphasizing the following three principles: i) agricultural producers should be adequately represented and their leading role in the transformation of food systems should be fully recognized; ii) the decisions and policies to be adopted should be science-based; and iii) agriculture is part of the solution to the main challenges faced by humanity now and into to the future.

Based on this, the Institute has organized several related dialogues, engaging the participation and contribution of key stakeholders, who have reached a consensus regarding messages that the agriculture and rural sector of the Americas should convey at the Food Systems Summit. The dialogues have allowed the participants to arrive at a definitive consensus with respect to the transformation and strengthening process required to improve food systems in the hemisphere, and globally. Therefore, a series of messages are being proposed, which have been grouped into four general categories that are summarized below and then explained in greater detail in section 2 of this document.

First of all, **certain principles for the transformation of food systems** have been

¹ This document has been prepared on the basis of three dialogues that were held with representatives of the Member States on May 12 and 25 and on June 15, 2021.

² The terms “food systems” and “agrifood systems” are used interchangeably in this document, in order to recognize agriculture’s central role in achieving food security.

identified. While broadly speaking, global food systems have functioned efficiently to feed the world's growing population, many people across the globe lack access to sufficient, safe, and affordable food. There are still certain challenges and room for improvement in various areas including: production; agricultural health and food safety; nutritional quality; and in the three dimensions of sustainability: environmental, economic and social. The agriculture sector has played a central role in this system and has proven itself to be resilient to shocks and stresses. On the other hand, the proposed transformation should of necessity consider environmental health (with special emphasis on soil health and water), as well as human and animal health, given their importance and the interconnection between the three dimensions. Furthermore, international agricultural trade is a key aspect of food systems, given its direct impact on the orientation of production and consumption processes. Thus, it should be open, transparent and predictable, while safeguarding against the unilateral imposition of unjustified tariff and non-tariff barriers.

The second area of messaging addresses issues related to **consumer demand and nutritional aspects**. It emphasizes that for a diet to be healthy and balanced it should include diverse foods in sufficient quantities and should be available to all strata of the population. Decisions on what to consume are individual and it is the responsibility of States to promote food-related educational and informational campaigns.

The third category focuses on **production strategies and environmental matters**. Strategies should seek to capitalize on scientific and technological innovations, digitalization and the bioeconomy, among other aspects. Their implementation will call for adequate levels of public and private investment, as well as the support of international cooperation and financing.

Category four emphasizes the **role of the Americas** in global food and nutritional security and the provision of ecosystem services. The region comes to this debate from the perspective that the Americas will be pivotal to achieving long-term environmental and food equilibrium—in all its dimensions—as a primary actor in international food markets and a region endowed with abundant natural resources and biodiversity that must be conserved for future generations. On the other hand, although the countries of the region face common challenges, there is also a great deal of heterogeneity among and within each of them, as they have different subsystems, subregions and approaches to production. Therefore, instead of generalizing or proposing universal formulas, we should be guided by the principle of locally adapted solutions according to national realities. Tackling the challenges will call for production policies in rural areas, as well as social protection policies targeting the most vulnerable sectors. Poverty and

inequality persist within the region and are incompatible with the notion of progress that underpins the debate leading up to the Summit

The close to 17 million family farmers in agrifood systems deserve special mention and recognition, as their production is closely tied to the food security of the American hemisphere and to many of the achievements made within the framework of these systems. Also worthy of special mention and attention are the women, young people, rural poor, and indigenous groups who are a part of the diversity of rural societies in the Americas.

The key specific messages for each of these four areas are detailed below, reflecting and embodying the essence of food systems in the Americas.

2. Main messages

2.1 Transformation of agrifood systems

Message 1. In recent decades, global food systems have largely successfully met the food demand, which has been increasing, due to population growth and greater per capita income. Thus, future transformation should build on the system's demonstrated strengths and contributions already made.

Message 2. Agricultural producers and other food systems workers are an essential and central link in the food system. Without agricultural production, there would be no raw material to transform into food, thereby seriously endangering food security. In addition, agriculture is central to poverty eradication, rural development and provides key ecosystem services for sustainable food systems.

Message 3. The transformation of global food systems should strike a balance among the following objectives: the capacity to increase food production levels and variety; agricultural health and food safety; nutritional diversity and quality; and environmental, economic and social sustainability. It is recognized that there is no single model and the balances and trade-offs will differ according to country and subregion, and responsibilities; thus, transformation should be varied, in keeping with the realities and specificities of each location, ensuring that this transition is just and fair, leaving no one behind.

Message 4. Open, transparent and predictable international trade is essential for an efficient global food system and should be governed by multilateral rules and

standards, with a view to promoting agricultural trade liberalization and a reduction in tariff and non-tariff restrictions. The multilateral system should play an increasingly active role in limiting and reducing measures which distort trade and production and ensure the adoption and application of science-based sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

2.2 Consumer demand and nutritional aspects

Message 5. Decisions about what to consume should be left to consumers. Consumer choices could be based on historical and cultural factors and on accessibility and availability, among other considerations, and should be respected. The State should educate and inform the public about healthy diets and develop prevention campaigns to safeguard public health, based on the latest information and scientific evidence.

Message 6. High-quality protein, carbohydrates (grains and sugars), fats and fortified and biofortified foods are the building blocks of a balanced and nutritious diet that contributes to human health.

Message 7. The desired and necessary increase in fruits, legume and vegetable consumption will only be possible if significant efforts are made to increase production and educate the population for the consumption of these products and in the logistics for their commercialization, thus making them more competitive and accessible, particularly to lower-income consumers.

Message 8. The implementation of sustainable production systems throughout the entire value chain, within the context of “One Health” or other approaches that benefit public health, is a useful strategy to develop agrifood systems that optimize health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

2.3 Production strategies and environmental factors

Message 9. The new frontiers of science and technology represent a strategic opportunity to move towards developing a more productive and sustainable agriculture sector, given that they facilitate greater precision and efficiency. Circular and bioeconomy approaches that focus on resource use efficiency (including the sustainable intensification of production), the reduction and reuse of agricultural production waste for the production of other goods, as well as investment in research and development (R+D), are key aspects of this new scenario.

Message 10. Food production systems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The challenges posed by climate change make it essential to focus efforts on adaptation in order to ensure the resilience of the system and maintain the production necessary for food security. Agricultural production should move in the direction of sustainable systems that provide a balance between carbon emission and carbon capture, while considering positive external factors resulting from ecosystem services, all of which will require systems that quantify and promote their usage. The new technologies contribute to reconciling agricultural production with environmental and ecosystem health, which is an indispensable factor for agriculture's resilience.

Message 11. Achieving a more balanced and efficient food system will require an investment plan for widescale development of production, transportation, and logistics technology and infrastructure. For these investments to be effective, countries must design and execute medium-term strategic plans that facilitate the creation of public-private partnerships. States should invest in basic infrastructure and public goods, into which private actors may then channel their investments. These efforts will call for significant support from international cooperation and financing

2.4 The role of the Americas

Message 12. The Americas contribute to global food and nutritional security, by being the main food exporting region and the largest ecosystem service provider and source of biodiversity. The region is also critical to environmental sustainability and the mitigation of climate change effects at the global level.

Message 13. For agriculture to contribute to achieving these global balances, there must be production inclusion and social protection policies geared towards ensuring social and economic sustainability and addressing the deficiencies experienced by the most vulnerable sectors in rural areas. These policies should apply to the entire spectrum of producers and pay special attention to the needs of family farmers, youth, rural women and rural poor and indigenous groups.

Message 14. Agricultural producers are at the heart of agrifood systems in the Americas, operating within a wide variety of systems and production approaches, including family farming. It is therefore essential that they participate in the debate surrounding the differentiated strategies to be implemented and their design.

Message 15. The Caribbean requires special consideration, given that it is a food import-dependent subregion, subject to frequent natural disasters and climate change

and made up of smaller and less agriculturally competitive island States. Strengthening resilience to climate events, reducing levels of food insecurity and applying international cooperation and financing approaches to deal with the new context are priorities that should be considered, particularly with respect to the Eastern Caribbean and Haiti.

Message 16. The food insecurity situation with social, economic and environmental implications affecting the Northern Triangle of Central America also deserves special attention.

IICA/CE/Res. 673 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 673**2022-2023 PROGRAM-BUDGET**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 720 (21), “2022-2023 Program-budget”,

CONSIDERING:

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

- i. In Article 8.b, that a function of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is “to approve the biennial Program-budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States”;
- ii. 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”;
- iii. In Article 14.b, that a function of the Executive Committee is “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”;

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2022-2023 Program-budget to the Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), held in April 2021; and

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2022-2023 Program-budget for the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Forty-first Regular Meeting, in

a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect, and incorporating the recommendations made by the SACMI,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the IABA adopt a resolution:

- i. Approving the overall allocation of USD 32,074,100 per year from IICA's Regular Fund for the 2022-2023 biennium, financed with quota contributions from the Member States in the amount of USD 29,574,100 per year, including the quotas allocated and over-quota contributions, according to the amounts indicated in the quota scale attached hereto as "Annex A", and with USD 2,500,000 per year in miscellaneous resources, from income that it is estimated will be generated.
- ii. Approving the expenditure budget, in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, headings and strategic priorities specified in Document IICA/CE/Doc. 720 (21), "2022-2023 Program-budget." The summary of allocations by chapter is attached to this resolution as Annex B.
- iii. Authorizing the Director General of IICA to effect transfers among chapters of the Program-budget, provided that the total transfers do not significantly affect the priorities approved.
- iv. Authorizing the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 fall below the levels estimated for the biennium, and to inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of the situation.
- v. Instructing the Director General to ensure that any additional over-quota contribution received that exceeds the total amount approved for the 2022-2023 biennium is applied to the Regular Fund to finance the 2022-2023 Program-budget.

ANNEX A
Quota Scales of Member States, Over-Quota Contributions,
and Miscellaneous Income - 2022 and 2023 (in USD)

MEMBER STATES	2022				2023			
	IICA				IICA			
	OAS ¹	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS	OAS ¹	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS
	%	USD ²	USD ²	USD ²	%	USD ²	USD ²	USD ²
Antigua and Barbuda	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Argentina	3.458	1,014,500	247,000	1,261,500	3.687	1,082,100	247,000	1,329,100
Bahamas	0.054	15,800	7,000	22,800	0.058	17,000	7,000	24,000
Barbados	0.038	11,100	5,500	16,600	0.044	12,900	5,500	18,400
Belize	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Bolivia	0.081	23,800	600	24,400	0.086	25,200	600	25,800
Brazil	14.359	4,212,500	0	4,212,500	15.309	4,493,000	0	4,493,000
Canada	11.297	3,314,200	0	3,314,200	12.045	3,535,100	0	3,535,100
Chile	1.631	478,500	14,600	493,100	1.739	510,400	14,600	525,000
Colombia	1.888	553,900	0	553,900	2.013	590,800	0	590,800
Costa Rica	0.295	86,500	2,500	89,000	0.315	92,400	2,500	94,900
Dominica	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Dominican Republic	0.309	90,700	3,500	94,200	0.329	96,600	3,500	100,100
Ecuador	0.463	135,800	3,500	139,300	0.494	145,000	3,500	148,500
El Salvador	0.088	25,800	12,500	38,300	0.093	27,300	12,500	39,800
Grenada	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Guatemala	0.197	57,800	13,800	71,600	0.210	61,600	13,800	75,400
Guyana	0.037	10,900	1,700	12,600	0.044	12,900	1,700	14,600
Haiti	0.037	10,900	4,200	15,100	0.044	12,900	4,200	17,100
Honduras	0.050	14,700	3,200	17,900	0.053	15,600	3,200	18,800
Jamaica	0.061	17,900	5,100	23,000	0.065	19,100	5,100	24,200
Mexico	7.458	2,187,900	0	2,187,900	7.951	2,333,500	0	2,333,500
Nicaragua	0.037	10,900	2,800	13,700	0.044	12,900	2,800	15,700
Panama	0.220	64,500	6,000	70,500	0.235	69,000	6,000	75,000
Paraguay	0.100	29,300	8,800	38,100	0.107	31,400	8,800	40,200
Peru	1.158	339,700	9,400	349,100	1.235	362,500	9,400	371,900
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Saint Lucia	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.037	10,900	1,100	12,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Suriname	0.037	10,900	4,200	15,100	0.044	12,900	4,200	17,100
Trinidad and Tobago	0.149	43,700	15,000	58,700	0.159	46,700	15,000	61,700
United States of America	53.150	15,592,500	0	15,592,500	49.990	14,671,400	0	14,671,400
Uruguay	0.343	100,600	7,900	108,500	0.366	107,400	7,900	115,300
Venezuela	2.236	656,000	0	656,000	2.384	699,700	0	699,700
SUB TOTAL	99.490	29,187,600	386,500	29,574,100	99.451	29,187,600	386,500	29,574,100
Cuba	0.514	150,800	0	150,800	0.548	160,800	0	160,800
TOTAL QUOTAS	100.004	29,338,400	386,500	29,724,900	99.999	29,348,400	386,500	29,734,900
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME²		2,500,000		2,500,000		2,500,000		2,500,000
TOTAL REGULAR FUND³		31,687,600		32,074,100		31,687,600		32,074,100

Note: 1) The Kingdom of Spain contributes an annual quota of USD 60,000 as an Associate Member, pursuant to the agreement adopted in the First Plenary Session of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, held on November 26, 2001, in Bávaro, Dominican Republic.

1/ As per Resolution CP/RES. 1103 (2168/18), adopted by means of AG/RES. 1 (LIII-E/18) of the Organization of American States General Assembly.

2/ In USD rounded to the nearest hundred.

3/ The total of the Regular Fund does not include Cuba.

ANNEX B**Allocation of the Regular Fund by Chapter - 2022 and 2023 (in USD)**

CHAPTER	2022		2023	
	REGULAR FUND		REGULAR FUND	
	USD	%	USD	%
CHAPTER I: Direct Technical Cooperation Services	28,529,014	88.9%	28,572,045	89.1%
CHAPTER II: Management Costs	1,944,481	6.1%	1,943,625	6.1%
CHAPTER III: General Costs and Provisions	1,374,000	4.3%	1,332,000	4.2%
CHAPTER IV: Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment	226,605	0.7%	226,430	0.7%
TOTAL	32,074,100	100.0%	32,074,100	100.0%

IICA/CE/Res. 674 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 674**REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 721 (21), “Status of the Collection of Quota Contributions”,

CONSIDERING:

That, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 414 (XIII-O/05), adopted the document “Revised measures for collecting quotas owed to the Institute”;

That the timely payment of quota contributions and the collection of arrears from previous years facilitate the implementation of the programs and projects included in the cooperation strategies established at the national, regional and hemispheric levels in the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and

That the payment of quotas by the member countries must be accelerated to enable the Institute to continue fulfilling its mission to encourage, promote and support agricultural and rural development in the countries, especially given the issues they are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, as well as other high-level government officials in IICA’s Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.

2. To acknowledge the fact that, amidst the difficult situation that IICA and its member countries are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more important to maintain in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to urge the Institute's Member States to make their annual quota payments and pay arrears for previous years in a timely fashion.
3. To instruct the Director General to: a) continue efforts to collect the quotas for 2021 and those owed for previous years; and b) keep IICA's member countries informed of progress in this area.
4. To urge the Member States to remain current with the payment of their quotas to the Institute, and those that are in arrears, to follow through with the plans agreed upon to meet their financial obligations to IICA, which are key actions to enable the Institute to remain a strong institution that effectively carries out its mission to support its Member States.

IICA/CE/Res. 675 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 675**2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND TWENTY-SEVENTH REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE/Doc. 722 (21), “2020 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors”, and IICA/CE/Doc. 723 (21), “Twenty-seventh Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.d of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that it is the responsibility of this governing body of IICA 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”;

That, at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by way of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 231 (VII-O/93), created the ARC and approved its Statute;

That, pursuant to Article 3.k of its Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee is responsible for receiving and approving the ARC’s reports and making a determination on their recommendations; and

That, in its Twenty-seventh Report, the ARC states that it examined the report of the external auditors on IICA’s financial statements for the 2020 fiscal year and found the work performed to be satisfactory and in accordance with the rules of the Institute and international auditing standards,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2020 financial statements of the Institute and the report of the external auditors, and to instruct the Director General of IICA to submit them to the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA for its information.
2. To approve the Twenty-seventh Report of the ARC and instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations contained therein.
3. To thank the members of the ARC for the work accomplished.
4. To recognize the efforts made by IICA to maintain financial records with a clean opinion and to urge the Director General to continue his policy of transparency.

IICA/CE/Res. 676 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 676**RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY MRS. CARLA PIKE AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the Audit Review Committee (ARC) is an important mechanism of the Executive Committee, both for providing advice to the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the administrative and financial conduct of the Institute, as well as for assisting the Executive Committee with its review of the accounts of the General Directorate;

That the members of the ARC, appointed by the Member States, perform an important function; and

That the term of Mrs. Carla Pike of Saint Kitts and Nevis, who became a member of the ARC on January 1, 2016, and since then, has discharged that function with great responsibility, dedication and competence on behalf of the Institute, will end on December 31, 2021,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis for the support provided by Mrs. Pike, in her capacity as a member of the ARC.
2. To recognize the excellent, dedicated and professional work of Mrs. Pike and express its deep gratitude to her for her contributions to the ARC and to the administrative and financial management of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 677 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 677

ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 724 (21), “Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That it is a function of the Executive Committee to elect the members of the ARC, pursuant to Article 3.k of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Article III of the Statute of the ARC;

That the ARC Statute stipulates that at least one of the three members of the ARC shall be elected from among the candidates proposed by the Member States that are the six largest contributors to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); another member shall be elected from among the candidates nominated by all the other Member States; and the third shall be elected from among the candidates nominated by all the Member States;

That the term of the member of the ARC elected from among the candidates proposed by all the Member States, except for the countries that are the six largest contributors to the Institute, expires on December 31, 2021;

That pursuant to the provisions of the ARC Statute, the Director General asked the aforementioned Member States to nominate candidates to fill the post occupied by the member of the ARC whose term expires this year;

That, in response to that request, the Government of Saint Lucia submitted a nomination for the post; and

That the nominated candidate meets the requirements to become a member of the ARC,

RESOLVES:

To elect Mrs. Yvonne James of Saint Lucia, to occupy the position of the member of the ARC reserved for a candidate proposed by all the IICA Member States, except for the six largest contributors to the Institute, for a six-year term commencing on January 1, 2022 and concluding on December 31, 2027.

IICA/CE/Res. 678 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 678

**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) FOR 2019-2020**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2019-2020” and the” Report on Joint Collaboration Activities between IICA and CATIE”,

CONSIDERING:

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 441 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing the reports and plans of CATIE and requested that, in future, the Director General of this Center forward directly to the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) the biennial report and plans of CATIE for acceptance by the Executive Committee;

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 507 (XIX-O/17), the IABA requested that the directors general of IICA and CATIE prepare, with support from the Government of Costa Rica, a “strategic proposal” for the future of CATIE;

That, in response to the proposal submitted, the IABA decided, by way of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 519 (XX-O/19), to establish a Special Committee, made up of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States, for the purpose of studying, analyzing and making recommendations regarding the future of CATIE and presenting them to the Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee; and

That, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 664 (XL-O/20), the Executive Committee resolved to accept the recommendations of the Special Committee and to instruct the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE to make the necessary institutional modifications that would allow for converging the two organizations as requested by the IABA, as well as those that would continuously facilitate and foster their joint, coordinated work without the need to modify the current legal framework,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept CATIE's Biennial Report for 2019-2020.
2. To recognize the collaborative work of the directors general of IICA and CATIE, as well as the progress achieved in the joint Master Plan.
3. To urge IICA and CATIE to continue to strengthen their links and mechanisms for implementing joint activities in support of the efforts of the Member States to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.
4. To urge the Director General of CATIE to make all reports provided to CATIE's Governing Council, including financial reports, also available to the Executive Committee and the IABA.

IICA/CE/Res. 679 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 679

**REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) FOR THE 2019-2020 BIENNIUM**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report on the work program of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2019-2020 biennium,

CONSIDERING:

That, under the terms of the agreement currently in force between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CARDI, the latter organization must submit an annual report on its activities; and

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 440 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing CARDI's reports and plans and requested that, in future, the Executive Director of that Institute forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the biennial report and plans of CARDI for acceptance by the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept and express appreciation to CARDI for the report on the implementation of its work program for the 2019-2020 biennium.
2. To urge IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their technical links and mechanisms for executing joint activities in support of efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being in the Caribbean countries.

IICA/CE/Res. 680 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 680**REPORTS OF THE 2020 AND 2021 EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS AND THE
2021 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY COMMISSION
ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE/Doc. 726 (21), “Report of the First Extraordinary Meeting of the 2020 Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”; IICA/CE/Doc. 727 (21), “Report of the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the 2020 Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”; IICA/CE/Doc.728 (21), “Report of the First Extraordinary Meeting of the 2021 Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”; and IICA/CE/Doc. 729 (21), “Report of the 2021 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”,

CONSIDERING:

That the purpose of the SACMI, as a standing commission of the Executive Committee, is to advise the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and to facilitate more regular discussion with the Member States on administrative, financial and strategic issues, in order to enhance the process of reaching consensus in the Executive Committee and in the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That, by way of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 580 (XXXIII-O/13), the Executive Committee established that the meetings of the SACMI should preferably be held online, so that sessions may be held as frequently as necessary, and to generate savings for the Institute;

That, by way of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 660 (XL-O/20), the Executive Committee instructed the SACMI to serve as an extended permanent working group,

aimed at supporting, analyzing and developing a proposal for the comprehensive transformation of the Institute. Pursuant to that resolution, the SACMI held extraordinary meetings on 1 October and 3 December 2020;

That Article 5.1 of the Statute of the SACMI establishes that the Commission is empowered to convene extraordinary meetings at the request of the Director General of IICA, and thus the First Extraordinary Meeting of 2021 was held on 15 March of this year, for the purpose of coordinating, in collaboration with the countries of the Americas, the actions of the Institute in preparation for the United Nations Food Systems Summit; and

That the above-referenced reports of the SACMI contain recommendations for consideration by the Director General and the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports of the 2020 and 2021 Extraordinary Meetings and the 2021 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

IICA/CE/Res. 681 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 681**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE FORTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE TWENTIETH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 730 (21) “Status of the Resolutions of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”, and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 731 (21) “Status of the Resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”,

CONSIDERING:

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and at the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports: a) “Status of the Resolutions of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”, and b) “Status of the Resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”.

IICA/CE/Res. 682 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 682

**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2021 – TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 732 (21), “Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021 – Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA): Draft Provisional Agenda”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.p of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) shall analyze the provisional agenda for the meetings of the IABA; and

That the Executive Committee, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting, analyzed the provisional agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021 – Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the provisional agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2021 – Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).
2. To urge the members of the Executive Committee to share with the ministers of agriculture of their respective countries the importance of their presence at this event.

IICA/CE/Res. 683 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 683**2020-2021 REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (ICOA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Information document DI-02, “2020-2021 Report of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA)”,

CONSIDERING:

That, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 484 (XXVIII-O/08), the Executive Committee resolved to establish the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas as the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA);

That, at its Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee issued Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 506 (XXIX-O/09), in which it adopted *ad referendum*, subject to approval by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Bylaws of the ICOA;

That, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 455 (XV-O/09), approved at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting, the IABA approved the Bylaws of the ICOA;

That the ICOA has proposed the updating of its Bylaws to improve the regulatory framework that governs it, and thus strengthen organic agriculture; and

That, by way of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 668 (XL-O/20), the Executive Committee entrusted the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) with the task of preparing, in consultation with the member countries of the ICOA, proposed modifications to the Bylaws of the

Commission, for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the 2020-2021 Report of the ICOA.
2. To request that the Director General of IICA, without delay and using the most efficient method possible, submit the proposed modifications to the Bylaws of the ICOA to the member countries on the Executive Committee, for their review, so that they may be presented for the approval of the IABA at its next regular meeting.

IICA/CE/Res. 684 (XLI-O/21)

29 June 2021

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 684**DATE AND VENUE OF THE FORTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-first Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 733 (21), “Date and Venue of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”,

CONSIDERING:

That, pursuant to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, that this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is required to hold one regular meeting each year. Therefore, a date and venue for the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2022 must be set;

That, in accordance with Article 25 of said Rules of Procedure, in the event that no Member State of IICA offers to host the regular meeting of the Executive Committee in that country, the meeting will be held at the Institute’s Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica; and

That the Director General of IICA reports that he has received no formal offer from a Member State to host the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To hold the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the second half of 2022.

2. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation, in due course, to the Member States to participate in said meeting, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

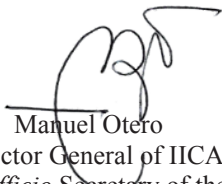
SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE FORTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 12:00 hours on the twenty-ninth day of June of the year two thousand and twenty-one, in San José, Costa Rica.

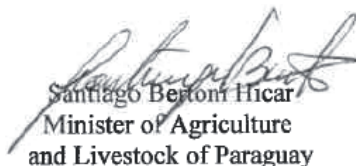
This report will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes approved during the Closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretariat shall file the original texts in the archives of the Institute, post the electronic files on the Institute's Web page and send the final version of this report to the governments of the Member States, the Associate States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

San Jose, Costa Rica.



Manuel Otero
Director General of IICA
Ex officio Secretary of the
2021 Executive Committee



Santiago Bertoni Hicar
Minister of Agriculture
and Livestock of Paraguay
Chair of the 2021 Executive Committee

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA
IICA/CE/Doc. 718 (21)

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Provisional Schedule | IICA/CE/Doc. 717 (21) |
| 2. Message from the Director General of IICA | No document |
| 2.1. Report on the status of the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) | No document |
| 3. IICA technical cooperation | |
| 3.1. On the road to the United Nations Food Systems Summit: key messages from the perspective of agriculture in the Americas | IICA/CE/Doc. 719 (21) |
| 4. Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation | |
| 4.1. 2022-2023 Program Budget | IICA/CE/Doc. 720 (21) |
| 4.2. Report on the collection of quota contributions | IICA/CE/Doc. 721 (21) |
| 4.3. 2020 Financial statements of IICA and report of the external auditors | IICA/CE/Doc. 722 (21) |
| 4.4. Twenty-seventh report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) | IICA/CE/Doc. 723 (21) |
| 4.5. Election of a member of the ARC | IICA/CE/Doc. 724 (21) |
| 5. Strengthening of strategic partnerships | |
| 5.2. Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for the 2019-2020 biennium | Unnumbered |

- | | |
|---|------------|
| 5.2. Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CATIE | Unnumbered |
| 5.3. Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2019-2020 biennium | Unnumbered |

6. Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 6.1. Presentation of candidates for the position of Director General and presentation of their work proposals for the 2022-2026 period | No document |
| 6.2. 2020 IICA Annual Report | IICA/CE/Doc. 725 (21) |
| 6.3. Report of the First Extraordinary Meeting of 2020 of the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues (SACMI) | IICA/CE/Doc. 726 (21) |
| 6.4. Report of the Second Extraordinary Meeting of 2020 of the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues (SACMI) | IICA/CE/Doc. 727 (21) |
| 6.5. Report of the First Extraordinary Meeting of 2021 of the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues (SACMI) | IICA/CE/Doc. 728 (21) |
| 6.6. Report of the 2021 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues (SACMI) | IICA/CE/Doc. 729 (21) |
| 6.7. Status of the resolutions of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee | IICA/CE/Doc. 730 (21) |
| 6.8. Status of the resolutions of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) | IICA/CE/Doc. 731 (21) |

- 6.9. Progress in the organization of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA: proposed draft agenda IICA/CE/Doc. 732 (21)
- 6.10. Date and venue of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 733 (21)

7. Other matters

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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