

Horizontal Cooperation

2007 ANNUAL REPORT



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Directorate of Regional Operations and Integration
Division of Horizontal Technical Cooperation

Promoting Horizontal Technical Cooperation among the countries of the Hemisphere

2007 Annual Report

San Jose, Costa Rica

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FOREWORD

Chelston W.D. Brathwaite
Director General

During this first decade of the 21st century, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has adopted a new model for the technical cooperation services it provides to its Member States. The model in question places emphasis on operational efficiency, prudent financial management, better use of human capital, the establishment of strategic partnerships with international public and private-sector institutions, and a new relationship with the Member States based on participation, transparency and accountability.

To facilitate implementation of this new model, the Institute has also developed tools and mechanisms that now support its technical cooperation work, including the national technical cooperation agendas, which are used to establish the priorities and needs of each country. IICA has also revamped the direct technical cooperation it provides to its Member States, promoted knowledge management and strengthened horizontal technical cooperation.

By means of the latter, IICA's Offices in its Member States have helped strengthen collaboration among the countries of the hemisphere, encouraging them to share their experiences with one another with the support of national experts on different subjects.

The IICA Representatives in the countries perform a very important role in this process, as they are responsible for matching horizontal cooperation needs with successful experiences in other countries that could provide solutions to similar problems.

This document contains a summary of the horizontal technical cooperation actions that IICA facilitated in 2007, at both the hemispheric and regional levels. They included organizing and implementing international events, disseminating knowledge generated by innovative processes in agriculture, facilitating specialized consultants to solve problems in several countries and sharing information about the successful initiatives of different national institutions.

This document is intended to highlight the progress achieved by public and private agricultural sector institutions in the countries of the hemisphere, and show how the network of 34 IICA Offices adds value to the horizontal cooperation actions among the countries. ■

Over the last ten years, a number of public and private agricultural institutions, to which IICA has provided support, have developed innovative processes that have made agricultural products more competitive in the marketplace and improved the lot of agricultural producers and workers.

The technical personnel of various countries have made a major contribution to this process. Showing great creativity, they have generated mechanisms that have helped meet the needs of other countries and replicated successful experiences that have solved problems in the productive processes and rural territories of other countries.

Assisted by agricultural institutions, the international cooperation agencies of the countries and regional and international technical and financial cooperation agencies, IICA has stepped up horizontal technical cooperation, which has made it possible to transfer successful experiences from one or more countries to others where they have been used to solve similar problems.

Through cooperation of this kind, the Institute has added value to the technical cooperation it provides to the countries, facilitated cooperation at the international level, efficiently met various needs that the countries established in their national agendas, transferred public goods generated by institutions in the countries and increased cooperation among the public and private agricultural sectors. All this has helped make agricultural production more competitive and reduce rural poverty in the hemisphere. ■

THE VALUE OF COUNTRIES IN THE HEMISPHERE SHARING THEIR TECHNICAL INNOVATIONS WITH EACH OTHER

Guillermo Toro Briones
*Director, Division of
Horizontal Technical
Cooperation*

HORIZONTAL COOPERATION ACTIONS AMONG THE REGIONS

Andean Region

- Modernizing irrigation systems and harnessing information technologies.
- Strengthening the business skills of cocoa producers in the Andean Region (Colombia).
- Productive projects in the following areas: agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture, and rural development.
- Advanced techniques for renewing cocoa plantations and obtaining certification.
- Scientific mission for the construction of the genetic map of the potato.
- Technical mission to learn about agricultural territorial development and management.

Caribbean Region

- Agrotourism development: Strategic National Tourism Plan for Haiti.
- Vegetative material of the Hass variety of avocado.
- Creation of movements to promote organic agriculture.
- Good agricultural practices (GAPs) and hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP).

Central Region

- Technical guide: Organic agriculture.
- Technical mission: “*Creating Export Capabilities for Chilean Producers*”.
- International Seminar – “*Agricultural Insurance and Risk Management: International Trends and Experiences*”.
- Actions related to risk analysis in animal health, traceability, epidemiology and OIE information systems .
- Promotion of leadership in implementing rural development programs and projects.
- Hands-on training: experience in agricultural policy.
- Experience gained through the Integrated Agricultural/Environmental Program (PIPAA).
- Systematization of two successful PRODERT experiences.
- The water chain (involving a visit to a PRODERT territory).
- Processing of African palm for the production of edible oil and biodiesel.
- Market study to facilitate and improve bilateral trade.
- Information about organic agriculture.

Northern Region

- Transfer of capabilities and technologies related to geomatics and telematics, and for the development of a harvest insurance system.
- Hands-on training for agricultural producers.
- Training in agroindustry and the sharing of experiences in that area.

Southern Region

- Pro Huerta Program.
- Second Regional Seminar on Biofuels, at which the new biofuel technologies were presented.
- Technical mission to enhance the capabilities of agricultural leaders.
- Responsible Production Project (PPR) of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) - eco-certification.
- Progress and achievements in the international seminar "*Biofuels: Colombia's Capacity*".
- Responsible Production Project (PPR) of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP), to promote the integrated and efficient management of natural resources and biodiversity.
- Workshop to share experiences in regards to SPS issues.
- Technical mission of agricultural leaders: agroindustry.
- Business management .
- Regional seminar on markets, opening and the development of agrifood competitiveness.
- Promotion of beef production and marketing.
- Process of obtaining accreditation for higher education courses from MERCOSUR.
- Constructing the National Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Innovation
- Regional Seminar on Traceability.

SUMMARY OF COOPERATION ACTIONS ACCORDING TO THE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ESTABLISHED IN THE 2006-2010 MTP

Strategic priority	Actions in the regions				
	ANDEAN	CARIBBEAN	CENTRAL	NORTHERN	SOUTHERN
Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewing its Institutional Framework	1		1	1	3
Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness	2	1	3	1	5
Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach		1	5	2	1
Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety		1	2	2	3
Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment					1
Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development	4	1	3	1	3
TOTAL COOPERATION ACTIONS	7	4	14	7	16

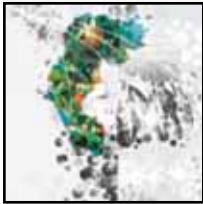
SUMMARY OF COOPERATION ACTIONS AMONG REGIONS

Region offering the cooperation	Strategic Priority	Actions among regions	Region receiving the cooperation
ANDEAN	Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development. Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.	2	Southern Region
		1	Southern Region
CARIBBEAN	Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.	1	Central Region
CENTRAL	Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach. Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development. Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewing its Institutional Framework.	1	Southern Region
		1	Andean Region
		1	Caribbean Region
		1	Andean Region
NORTHERN	Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development. Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewing its Institutional Framework. Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness. Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach. Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.	1	Andean Region
		1	Andean Region
		1	Andean Region
		1	Caribbean Region
		2	Andean Region
		1	Caribbean Region
		1	Southern Region
1	Central Region		
SOUTHERN	Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach. Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness. Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewing its Institutional Framework. Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development. Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.	1	Caribbean Region
		1	Andean Region
		3	Central Region
		1	Caribbean Region
		2	Andean Region
		1	Central Region
		2	Andean Region
		2	Central Region
		1	Andean Region
		1	Northern Region
1	Caribbean Region		

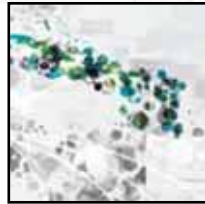
SUMMARY OF ACTIONS BY TYPE OF HORIZONTAL COOPERATION

Type of cooperation	Region	Number of actions
Implementation of technical cooperation missions	Andean	5
	Caribbean	1
	Central	8
	Northern	5
	Southern	4
Exchanges of experts / technical assistance	Caribbean	2
	Southern	4
Organization of events	Andean	4
	Caribbean	1
	Central	6
	Northern	1
	Southern	7

EXPERIENCES IN HORIZONTAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION, 2007



• Andean Region



• Caribbean Region



• Central Region



• Northern Region



• Southern Region





Andean Region



ANDEAN REGION

Bolivia shares with PROCISUR its experiences in modernizing irrigation and harnessing information technology

Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development and Environment (MDRA and MA) and the School of Agronomy of the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, IICA Office in Bolivia, Cooperative Program for Agrifood and Agroindustrial Technology Development in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR) and the Network of Irrigation, Science and Technology for Development (CyTED).

Results and agreements:

- A workshop was held entitled “*Modernizing Irrigation and Harnessing Information Technologies*”, to present and discuss technical and socio-cultural strategies for making better use of water - based on information and communication technologies - and thereby promoting the modernization of irrigation systems, water savings and conservation, higher land and water productivity, the control of environmental impacts and socioeconomic development.

- The workshop brought together over 90 national and international, public and private sector specialists, including central government officials and representatives of organizations of producers in need of irrigation technologies, and of international cooperation agencies. ■





PROCISUR and PROCIANDINO member countries share with **Bolivia** their experiences in the field of agricultural and forestry innovation

Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Ministry of Agricultural and Rural Development and Environment (MDRAyMA), PROCIANDINO, PROCISUR and IICA Office in Bolivia.

Results and agreements:

- Officials from central, departmental and municipal government agencies, as well as representatives of private organizations and social movements, learned first hand about the experiences of nine countries in planning, implementing and operating their respective agricultural technology research and transfer institutes.

- The IICA Office in Bolivia and PROCISUR and PROCIANDINO pledged to provide technical support to the Government of Bolivia for the organization of its agricultural and forestry technology innovation system, and for the development of a proposal for the creation of the National Agricultural and Forestry Technology Innovation Institute (INIAF), which would be in charge of coordinating the system.

- Around 50 professionals received training. ■

*Colombia enhances the business skills of producers in the **Andean Region**, to contribute to the development of the cocoa-growing sector*



Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: National Cocoa Growers Federation (Fedecocoa), National Cocoa Growers Council, National Chocolate Company, Casa Luker and the Colombian Agricultural Research Corporation (Corpoica).

Results and agreements:

- The Workshop to enhance the business skills of cocoa producers in the Andean Region-Colombia involved experts from Peru and Colombia and nearly 25 producers and facilitators from nine producers' organizations from various regions of Colombia.

- The producers received training in issues that are key to the development of the cocoa-growing sector: post-harvest activities, the strengthening of partnering efforts and financial management.

- Following a week of academic study and a fruitful field day during which the knowledge acquired by the producers was put to the test and evaluated, each association prepared an action plan in which they identified the chief problems related to the abovementioned aspects of production. ■



Colombia shares its experiences with Peru in the area of agricultural territorial management

Strategic area: Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewing its Institutional Framework.

Institutions involved: Ministry of Agriculture of Peru, Center for Higher National Studies, Boards of Irrigation Users in Peru, and IICA Office in Peru.

Results and agreements:

- As a result of the technical visits carried out, information was compiled for the preparation of the document “Experiences and Lessons Learned from the Mission of Peruvian Agricultural Leaders to Colombia”.
- During the mission, experiences and lessons related to the following topics were shared: policies, the institutional framework, promotion mechanisms and incentives, quality innovation and management, information management and close coordination of the public and private sectors. ■

Ecuador cooperates with Nicaragua in the use of techniques and good practices for renewing cocoa plantations



Strategic area: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.

Institutions involved: Producers from the autonomous regions along Nicaragua's Caribbean coast, Rainforest Alliance, IICA Office in Ecuador, URACCAN University, Technoserve, Campesino Cooperative of Matiguas and Campesino-to-Campesino Program.

Results and agreements:

- A group of 14 small producers from the autonomous regions along Nicaragua's Caribbean coast visited cocoa plantations in Ecuador, where they met with Ecuadorian small-scale cocoa producers who are members of a sustainable agriculture network that promotes training and the use of good management practices designed to achieve certification.
- During visits to the plantations, emphasis was placed on familiarizing the producers with the concept of field schools, advanced techniques for renewing cocoa, good management practices and methods for identifying and selecting so-called "supertree" materials. The delegation of Nicaraguan producers and technical personnel also shared information and experiences with Ecuadorian producers in regard to topics such as environmental conservation, processes for certifying farms, the identification of supertrees, the management of clones, the use of fermentors and dryers and trade in cocoa. ■



*Peru collaborates with **PROCISUR** and **PROCIANDINO** member countries in constructing the genetic map of the potato*

Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Peruvian Program for the Sequencing of the Potato, National Agricultural Research Institute (INIA) of Peru, PROCISUR, PROCIANDINO, national agricultural research institutes in the Southern Region, IICA Offices in Bolivia and Peru.

Results and agreements:

- PROCISUR and PROCIANDINO set up a working group composed of scientists from countries in the two regions to construct the genetic map of the potato, a crop that originated in South America.
- Working with PROCIANDINO, PROCISUR will help finance the training of all the scientists involved in the working group at Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University (UPCH).
- 30 professionals received training. ■

*Experts from **Peru** and **Guatemala** share their experiences with producers from **Venezuela** with a view to advancing the technological development of coffee growing*

Strategic area: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.

Institutions involved: Andrés Eloy Blanco Municipality, Municipal Tourism Institute of Sanare, Regional Cooperative Program for the Development of Coffee Growing (PROMECAFE), Peruvian Association of Coffee Producers, IICA Office in Peru.

Results and agreements:

- With a view to fostering socioeconomic and trade relations based on cooperatives and solidary organizations, an international technical seminar was promoted entitled “*Constructing the Network of the Socialist Economy of the Agriculture of the Coffee Growing Family of the 21st Century*”.

- The event involved experts from Guatemala and Peru who gave presentations on the technological development of coffee growing in Central America, the challenges faced by a Guatemalan company in the coffee sector and the experience of coffee producers in Peru. ■







Caribbean Region



CARIBBEAN REGION

Barbados provides technical support to Haiti for the development of agro-tourism



Strategic area: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.

Institutions involved: Haiti's Ministry of Tourism, IICA Office in Barbados, and IICA Office in Haiti.

Results and agreements:

- Areas for the development of agrotourism were identified.
- Recommendations were formulated for a strategic national plan for tourism in Haiti. ▀



*The **Dominican Republic** shares technical expertise with **Honduras** related to the commercial production of Hass avocados*

Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Agricultural Science and Technology Directorate (DICTA), Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation (FHIA), Secretariat of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, IICA Office in Honduras, Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock of the Dominican Republic.

Results and agreements:

- The delivery of vegetative buds of the Hass variety of avocado from the Dominican Republic to Honduras was facilitated. This will make it possible to increase commercial plantations of the product, for export purposes.
- 36,000 vegetative buds have been supplied so far (80,000 are required altogether).
- Thanks to this effort, Honduras will improve its avocado plantations and increase the commercial production and export of avocados grown at higher altitudes. ■

Dominica shares experiences with Saint Lucia and Barbados related to the creation of organic agriculture movements

Strategic area: Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach.

Institutions involved: Organic Agriculture Movement of Dominica, Organic Agriculture Movement of Saint Lucia, FAO Regional Office in Barbados, IICA Offices in Saint Lucia and Dominica.

Results and agreements:

- The creation and implementation of national chapters of the Caribbean Regional Organic Agriculture Movement (CROAM) was facilitated in Saint Lucia and Dominica.
- Experiences were shared with the Caribbean Conference on Education for Rural People: Food Security, Agricultural Competitiveness and Sustainable Livelihoods.
- A presentation was made entitled “*Food Security, Agricultural Competitiveness and Sustainable Livelihoods: Rurality and Sustainable Livelihoods*”. This led in to an analysis of poverty in the Caribbean, the new rurality and sustainable livelihoods.
- A workshop was held with the Organic Agriculture Movement in Saint Lucia (HOAM) and training was provided for the design of a project entitled “*Combating Land Degradation through the Development of Organic Agriculture in Saint Lucia*”. ▀





Saint Lucia shares with Barbados experiences and good practices related to hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP)

Strategic area: Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

Institutions involved: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Barbados, IICA Office in Barbados, IICA Office in Saint Lucia, IICA Office in Trinidad and Tobago.

Results and agreements:

- A workshop was held on good agricultural practices (GAPs) involving the use of hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP). The participants learned about an up-to-date model of primary agricultural production and the manufacture of products using GAPs and HACCP.
- 35 people were trained and two manuals were produced on GAPs for locally produced crops.
- The two countries shared their experiences and good practices. ■



Central Region



CENTRAL REGION

Costa Rica strengthens its cooperation with El Salvador on organic agriculture



Strategic area: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.

Institutions involved: IICA Office in El Salvador, Territorial Action Group and Caritas Chalatenango, Association of Organic Producers of Alvaro Ruiz (APODAR).

Results and agreements:

- The first factory producing organic fertilizer began operating in the upland area of Chalatenango, which will supply all the agricultural production chains.
- The process got under way of establishing a greenhouse to produce seedlings for the different agricultural production chains.
- Thanks to that factory, the environmental problems have been minimized, eliminating the spread of flies and the stench caused by hen droppings.
- The partnering efforts of the population were strengthened.
- A rural microenterprise set up with seed funding from 12 members began operations.■



*Costa Rica shares with **Chile** its experiences in equipping small producers with the skills needed to export*

Strategic area: Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach.

Institutions involved: PROCHILE (Chile's Ministry of Foreign Affairs); family and campesino producers who receive assistance from Chilean institutions, Integrated Marketing Program of Costa Rica's Ministry of Production, National University of Costa Rica, University of Costa Rica and IICA Office in Costa Rica.

Results and agreements:

- The effort promoted the integration of small producers into markets and export skills development.
- The participants shared their experiences, especially in regard to the diversification of the rural economy, ecosystem services and solidary economic activities. ■

Costa Rica collaborates with other Central American countries on agricultural insurance and risk management



Strategic area: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.

Institutions involved: Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), Ministry of Production (MIPRO), Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), National Insurance Institute (INS), United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Regional Technical Assistance Unit (RUTA) and the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Results and agreements:

- IICA and the Inter-American Federation of Insurance Companies (FIDES) signed an agreement aimed at promoting horizontal technical cooperation in the field of agricultural insurance.
- The participants in this initiative (producers' associations, insurers, national and international agricultural insurance agencies) possess important information about successful efforts aimed at making agriculture more competitive.
- The specialists invited by IICA shared information about the main international experiences in relation to agricultural insurance and risk management. ▀



Costa Rica participates with other Central American countries in actions aimed at enhancing the capabilities of rural leaders

Strategic area: Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach.

Institutions involved: National University of Costa Rica, University of California at Berkeley, Rural Development Program (PDR) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and IICA.

Results and agreements:

- The implementation of the international course “*Leadership for the Development of Eco-agriculture: Integrated Management of Rural Territories in Central America*” enhanced the capabilities of rural leaders in the Central Region.
- Thirty people (administrators, technical personnel and rural leaders) studied, analyzed and discussed the issue of leadership in eco-agriculture and the integrated management of territories.
- There are now enhanced capabilities for designing and managing participatory, multisectoral initiatives aimed at promoting agricultural development and biodiversity conservation efforts in Central America. ■

Costa Rica collaborates with Honduras in enhancing technical capabilities in the areas of animal health, traceability, epidemiology and the use of health information systems



Strategic area: Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

Institutions involved: General Directorate of Agricultural Health (SENASA - Costa Rica), Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (Honduras), through the General Directorate of Agricultural Health (SENASA), Secretariat of Health (Honduras), National University of Agriculture, Association of Poultry Farmers, National Federation of Agricultural and Livestock Producers of Honduras, IICA Office in Costa Rica, IICA Office in El Salvador and ILRI/CFC Project.

Results and agreements:

- Training needs in areas linked to risk analysis were identified.
- Agreement was reached on the need to set up the traceability system, working with the private sector and the Government of Honduras.
- Capabilities were strengthened with regard to general concepts of epidemiology, the calculation and interpretation of epidemiological indicators of the frequency and effect of diseases, the evaluation of the properties of diagnostic tests, and the use of the OIE WAHIS health information system.
- The effort helped enhance the participants' skills with regard to the components of the WAHIS and the use of the WAHID interface for queries about the health situation in several countries. ■



El Salvador shares experiences with Costa Rica in rural development methodologies

Strategic area: Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach.

Institutions involved: IICA Office in El Salvador, IICA Office in Costa Rica.

Results and agreements:

- Seventy percent of the work involved in preparing the materials for ten training modules was completed.
- Experiences were shared regarding the education of new leaders for the implementation of rural development projects and programs. ■

El Salvador shares lessons learned with Peru in the area of agricultural policies



Strategic area: Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewing its Institutional Framework.

Institutions involved: Ministry of Agriculture (Peru), Board of Irrigation Users (Peru), associations of agricultural producers (one representative), IICA Office in Peru, Agricultural and Agroindustrial Chamber (El Salvador), Corporation of Exporters (El Salvador), Salvadorian Foundation for Economic and Social Development (FUSADES), Ministry of Economic Affairs (MINEC) and the Salvadorian Association of Agroindustrialists.

Results and agreements:

- Following the Peruvian delegation's technical visit to El Salvador, the experience was systematized in a publication entitled "*Lessons Learned from the Agricultural Hands-on Training in Free Trade Agreements*".
- Meetings of various kinds were held to learn about El Salvador's experience in negotiating the Free Trade Agreement with the United States.
- It was agreed that follow up will be provided to the actions implemented in order to offer further hands-on training on the negotiating of free trade agreements, policies, the institutional framework and innovation and technology, in countries such as Chile, Colombia and Brazil. ■



*Guatemala shares with **El Salvador** experiences and good practices related to agricultural health and food safety*

Strategic area: Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

Institutions involved: Salvadorian small-scale fruit producers, Guatemalan small-scale vegetable producers belonging to the Pamanzana group, National Fruit Program of El Salvador (MAG-FRUTALES), IICA Office in Guatemala.

Results and agreements:

- Six Salvadorian producers and four specialists visited farms where Guatemalan small-scale vegetable producers apply good agricultural practices (GAPs).
- The visitors learned about experiences in adopting GAPs and small-scale producers' organizations, as part of the implementation of the safety assurance system. ■

*Guatemala shares with **El Salvador** its experiences with the Integrated Program for Agricultural and Environmental Protection (PIPAA)*



Strategic area: Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

Institutions involved: Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (El Salvador - MAG-Frutas), representatives of small tree-fruit producers (El Salvador), IICA Office in El Salvador and IICA Office in Guatemala.

Results and agreements:

- Information was shared about the lessons learned in implementing the PIPAA.
- The PIPAA was asked to assist with the implementation of an assurance system covering the quality of fruit and vegetable products in El Salvador.
- IICA helped coordinate cooperation with the Guatemalan Exporters Association (AGEXPORT) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) in the area of food safety. ■



Guatemala shares with Venezuelan producers its coffee-growing expertise

Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Municipal Institute for Tourism Development of Sanare, IICA/ PROMECAFE, ANACAFE, IICA Office in Venezuela and IICA Office in Guatemala.

Results and agreements:

- Experiences and knowledge were shared with producers and various sectors involved in coffee growing.
- Technical visits were carried out and experiences were shared with producers in the areas of coffee production (2000 coffee growers and technical personnel from the area took part).
- It was decided that a group of coffee growers from Sanare would visit the coffee-growing area of Esquipulas, Guatemala, working through the IICA Office in Venezuela.
- Opportunities were facilitated to link and coordinate regional and national cooperation actions. ■

Honduras shares experiences with El Salvador regarding the execution of the Sustainable Rural Development Program (PRODERT)



Strategic area: Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach.

Institutions involved: IICA Office in El Salvador, IICA Office in Honduras.

Results and agreements:

- Honduras shared two successful experiences with El Salvador: *“Impact of innovative farmers on technology transfer, taking its improved farms as a frame of reference”* and *“Trust funds as a tool for driving rural development in the Trifinio Region of El Salvador”*.
- Fifty percent of the work of systematizing the two experiences was completed.
- A workshop on the validation and interpretation of information was designed.
- Progress was made in fulfilling the commitments assumed with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador with respect to the compensatory complementary services for the conclusion of the technical cooperation contract for the execution of PRODERT. ■



Honduras provides technical assistance to El Salvador regarding water use and management

Strategic area: Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach.

Institutions involved: Territorial Action Group of the Chalatenango Uplands and PRODERT/Honduras, IICA Office in El Salvador and IICA Office in Honduras.

Results and agreements

- Fourteen specialists prepared a proposal for the sharing of information between the two territories concerned in Honduras and El Salvador (Belen Gualcho and Chalatenango Uplands).
- The parties involved agreed to study the possibility of the PRODERT/Honduras team providing technical collaboration for the installation of solar panels.
- The technical assistance helped develop the water chain in the Chalatenango Uplands and step up the use of good practices in watershed management. ■

Honduras shares with Nicaragua its experiences in the processing of African palm and biodiesel production



Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Eecopalsa (a Honduran company), Honduras' National Federation of Palm Growers (FENALPALMA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Nicaragua (MAGFOR).

Results and agreements:

- A technical delegation from Nicaragua visited the Honduran African palm processing company *Eecopalsa* and learned about the contributions the firm is making to environmental decontamination under the terms of the Kyoto Protocol. The company's efforts have resulted in it attaining the United Nations Gold Standard.
- Information was shared about the National Biofuels Program that Nicaragua's MAGFOR is promoting, which entails obtaining the products from African palm and in which the governments of Honduras and Malaysia are involved.
- Seed of the Yangambi variety was obtained from Malaysia. Given its outstanding production qualities, the Asian country regards it as part of the nation's patrimony.■



*Nicaragua hosted a meeting to enable **Latin American and Caribbean** countries to exchange information about their achievements in the field of organic agriculture*

Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Nicaragua's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAGFOR), IICA's Offices in the Member States.

Results and agreements:

- Other regional cooperation organizations that support organic agriculture also took part, including the ECOMERCADOS Project (Intercooperation, Switzerland), the Project to foster organic production and marketing in Nicaragua (IICA-Austria), the Sustainable Rural Development Program in Peru (GTZ) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID).

- The Competent Authorities of Organic Agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean held their first hemispheric meeting 20-21 August, in Managua. They shared information and assessed the progress made in harmonizing regulations and procedures designed to facilitate and stimulate trade in organic products within the region and beyond.

- Advantage was taken of the opportunity to discuss the modifications to, and/or reinterpretation of, the rules governing the export of organic products to the markets of the main trading partners. ■



Northern Region



NORTHERN REGION

Canada assists Peru with the implementation of the Technology Transfer Program

Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Peru's Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG), agricultural science graduates, producers from various agricultural production chains and the Quebec Farm Financing Program.

Results and agreements:

- The parties agreed to carry out various technical visits and train officials of Peru's Ministry of Agriculture and agricultural science graduates.
- Technical assistance was provided to Peru's Ministry of Agriculture for the implementation of the Technology Transfer Program.
- MINAG received technical and institutional assistance with the design and implementation of a pilot plan for insuring harvests in the territories concerned. ■





*Canada promotes cooperation with **Peru** for the development of the agricultural sector*

Strategic area: Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach.

Institutions involved: Quebec Institute for Agri-food Technology, Quebec Farm Financing Program, Peru's Ministry of Agriculture, IICA Office in Canada.

Results and agreements:

- Roundtables were held involving key actors from the Ministry of Agriculture and specialists from Quebec. The participants discussed lines of cooperation with regard to four priority topics: agricultural insurance, geomatics and telematics, training for rural young people and trade negotiations.
- Decisions were taken regarding the actions to be implemented and the technical commitments of both parties. The final activity involved the drafting of a proposed cooperation agreement. ■

Canada steps up its technical collaboration with Belize related to the poultry industry



Strategic area: Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

Institutions involved: Belize's Ministry of Agriculture and Agricultural Health Authority, the International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA), the IICA Office in Belize and the IICA Office in Canada.

Results and agreements:

- Canada's assistance to Belize's poultry industry got under way with coordinated work involving the technical staff of the Government of Belize, the Government of Canada and IICA's Regional Agricultural Health and Food Safety Specialist. Canada shared its experiences and the potential areas of collaboration were identified.
- The activities carried out included seminars and workshops on avian influenza.■



*Canada shares with **Chile** its experiences in the area of food inspection services*

Strategic area: Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

Institutions involved: Chile's Ministry of Agriculture, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), the IICA Office in Canada and the IICA Office in Chile.

Results and agreements:

- Representatives of Chile's Ministry of Agriculture, with support from the IICA Offices in Chile and Canada, carried out a three-day technical mission to Canada to learn about Canada's food inspection systems. The Vice President of the CFIA met with the members of the mission.
- The CFIA, AAFC and other federal agencies that make up the Canadian system gave presentations.■

Mexico shares with Peru its experiences in the area of free trade negotiations



Strategic area: Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewing its Institutional Framework.

Institutions involved: Peru's Ministry of Agriculture; Center for Higher National Studies; Peru's Board of Irrigation Users; representatives of producers' organizations; IICA Office in Peru; Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA); Agricultural Marketing Support and Services (ASERCA); National Coordinator of the Produce Foundations (COFUPRO); GRUMA Group; Mexican Meat Council (COMECARNE); Association of Avocado Export Producers and Packers of Michoacan (APEAM).

Results and agreements:

- Mexico supplied information about the work involved in preparing the agricultural trade negotiations under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- A document on the lessons learned from the experience was published.
- The participants studied and discussed the different programs adopted by the Government of Mexico since 1990 to support the agricultural sector throughout the trade liberalization process.
- Representatives of Mexico's private sector shared their experiences in reaching agreement with the public sector on the processes involved in negotiating the agreements and the coordination mechanisms used to provide follow-up. They also shared information generated by an analysis of the performance of Mexico's agriculture ten years after the NAFTA was signed. ■



*Countries in the **Northern Region** collaborates with **Colombia** and the **Dominican Republic**, providing agribusiness training and sharing their experiences in this field*

Strategic areas: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness and Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach.

Institutions involved: Agriculture and Agri-food Canada (AAFC); University of Guelph; University of Manitoba; Economic Research Service (USDA/ERS); Farmers' Foundation; Texas A&M University; Mexico's Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA); the IICA Offices in Mexico and Colombia; IICA Headquarters; participants in the Agri-food Forum; Sustainable Integrated Social Development Project (PRODESIS); Latin Trade Network.

Results and agreements:

- Six Colombian veterinarians received training in practical aspects of sanitary inspection and safety assurance in slaughterhouses.
- The Consortium for the Integration of Markets in the Dominican Republic, Central America and the United States (CAAMIC) was set up.
- The training of local producers was promoted. Knowledge was transferred to them to modernize the traditional ways of organizing, managing and managing the productive structures. The producers already trained are expected to transmit and multiply the knowledge they acquired.■



Southern Region



SOUTHERN REGION

Argentina assists Haiti in executing the ProHuerta Program

Strategic area: Promoting the Development of Rural Communities with a Territorial Approach.

Institutions involved: Haiti's Ministry of Agriculture, Argentina's Ministry of Agriculture, IICA Office in Haiti, IICA Office in Argentina and Ministry of Social Development.

Results and agreements:

- A program was implemented to support the project "*Self-sufficiency in the Production of Fresh Foods - Pro-Huerta Haiti*", designed to improve food quality in that country.
- The people of Haiti have larger quantities and a wider variety of food at their disposal. Their diet has improved because they are self-sufficient in the production of vegetables, which are rich in minerals and vitamins. ■





***Brazil and Venezuela** shares experiences related to public policies and territorial development*

Strategic area: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.

Institutions involved: General Directorate of Legislative Research and Development of the National Assembly of Venezuela, Ministry of Rural Development of Brazil, IICA Office in Brazil and IICA Office in Venezuela.

Results and agreements:

- Representatives of Venezuela's National Assembly took part in the "Second International Forum on Territorial Development: Articulation of Policies and Social Actors", held in Bahia, Brazil. ▀

Brazil and Venezuela promotes cooperation in rural tourism



Strategic area: Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewing its Institutional Framework.

Institutions involved: Secretariat of Economic Development of the Government of the State of Portuguesa, Venezuela; Municipal Tourism Institute of Sanare, Lara State, Venezuela; Secretariat of Territorial Development (SDT) of Brazil; Secretariat of Family Agriculture (EFF) of Brazil; IICA.

Results and agreements:

- The parties decided to organize activities that would permit the Venezuelan and Brazilian institutions taking part in this initiative to share their technical expertise.
- In Venezuela, a mission was organized to take part in a workshop on harmonization in sustainable and territorial development, and to learn more about the territorial development projects being executed in Portuguesa and Lara.
- Part of the effort involved helping to characterize the demand for cooperation with the leaders and technical personnel responsible for the projects in the target states. The profile of the Brazilian specialists and Venezuelan technical personnel who will be taking part in the exchange events was also defined. ■



***Brazil** provides cooperation to **El Salvador** related to technologies for the use of biofuels*

Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), working with IICA, FAO, El Salvador's ministries of economy and agriculture and Brazil's ministries of mines and energy.

Results and agreements:

- This effort consisted of a seminar. The activity made it possible to learn about new technologies for the use of biofuels, present the progress achieved by the national biofuel programs of countries in the region and provide information about the scope and activities of OLADE's Regional Biofuels Program. ■

Brazil assists Peru with its efforts to enhance the capabilities of agricultural leaders



Strategic area: Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewing its Institutional Framework.

Institutions involved: Peru's Ministry of Agriculture, Center for Higher National Studies, Board of Irrigation Users, representatives of producers' organizations, IICA Office in Peru.

Results and agreements:

- Forty Peruvian agricultural producers and officials from the country's Ministry of Agriculture shared their agricultural development experiences with public and private-sector institutions in the states of Sao Paulo and Parana (Brazil), with a view to enhancing their ability to formulate agricultural development proposals with a territorial approach.
- Bibliographic, photographic and video materials were produced for the document *"Experiences and lessons learned from the mission to Brazil undertaken by Peruvian agricultural leaders"*.
- Each participant prepared a personal report on the lessons learned from the mission in the areas of technology research and development, the organization of small producers, natural resource management and the close coordination of public and private actors. ■



Brazil supports Uruguay's efforts to adapt a model for evaluating environmental management

Strategic area: Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment.

Institutions involved: Responsible Production Project (PPR) - Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) of Uruguay, IICA Office in Uruguay, PROCISUR, Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa).

Results and agreements:

- The performance indicators were defined - tailored to the PPR's objectives - and then taken into consideration for the new model for evaluating environmental management.
- The necessary modifications and adjustments were made to the model used by EMBRAPA, to adapt it for use in Uruguay. This resulted in the creation of the EIAR System, which was set up and validated at the field level.
- A manual of procedures was produced for the EIAR System. All the national institutions linked to environmental management, the media and the team of specialists that worked on the adaptation of the EMBRAPA model attended the formal launch of the system. The technical staff of the PPR received training in the use of the system and the manual of procedures was made available to them.
- At the Third Regional Course "*Models for Evaluating Environmental Management in the Rural Sector of the Southern Cone*", held in Asuncion, Paraguay, a presentation was made on Uruguay's experience in adapting EMBRAPA's model for evaluating environmental management. ■

Brazil and the United States share with Colombia their achievements and progress in the field of biofuel production

Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Farmers' Association of Colombia (SAC), National Biofuels Federation (Fedebiocombustibles), National Federation of Palm Oil Producers (FEDEPALMA), Association of Sugarcane Growers of Colombia (ASOCAÑA), Colombian Sugarcane Research Center (CENICAÑA), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), National Agricultural Exchange (BNA).

Results and agreements:

- An event was held for over 1300 representatives of the public and private sectors whose work involves biofuels, to inform them of the main progress and achievements in that field. The experiences of Brazil and the United States were presented, as both countries have pioneered the production of biofuels and positioned themselves in the international market.

- This event provided an opportunity to consolidate international partnerships among institutions and other parties involved in the field of biofuels. A technical cooperation agreement was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia and the ministries of agriculture of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Mexico and Panama. Colombia will be providing bilateral cooperation to the other countries on the technological and business aspects of biofuel production. ■





Chile shares with Costa Rica experiences in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS)

Strategic area: Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

Institutions involved: IICA Office in Costa Rica, Costa Rica's National SPS Committee, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), National Animal Health Service (SENASA) and Ministry of Foreign Trade (COMEX).

Results and agreements:

- The National SPS Committee learned about the SPS experiences of other countries, thereby acquiring important input for the preparation of the national agenda on this issue.
- The experiences of other countries with SPS issues were shared with the national committee with a view to expanding and strengthening it. To do so, it will be essential to establish channels for feedback among various productive sectors. ■

Chile collaborates with Nicaragua in conducting studies to improve bilateral trade



Strategic area: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.

Institutions involved: The Directorate for the Promotion of Exports (ProChile).

Results and agreements:

- The two countries agreed to conduct a market study to gather information designed to help expand bilateral trade. The study included research on products, companies, commercial contacts and regulations that facilitate and promote trade between the two countries.
- In 2006, the trade balance heavily favored the South American country. Its exports to Nicaragua totaled US\$25.2 million, while its imports were worth only US\$945,000. The conclusion was that Nicaragua has “interesting commercial opportunities” in regard to products such as processed coffee and certain tropical fruits. ■



Chile shares with Nicaragua business management experiences

Strategic area: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.

Institutions involved: Chile's Agricultural Development Institute (INDAP) and Chile's Embassy in Nicaragua, the IICA Office in Nicaragua.

Results and agreements:

- INDAP presented the Business Management Centers Program (CEGES) to the Government of Nicaragua. The program is Chile's main technical assistance tool for integrating its country's small producers into agricultural trade chains and making them competitive.
- The CEGES program, based on a similar experience in the Basque country that was adapted to Chilean conditions, is a package of technical and financial advisory assistance that teaches small producers how to establish costing systems and use the figures to identify and overcome the problems that lie at the root of their limited earning power.
- The CEGES program targeted four products, selected for their high export potential. Competitiveness plans were created for each product, which will be implemented by several hundred individual and joint campesino enterprises selected by INDAP. ■

Chile shares with Colombia information and knowledge to strengthen a national fruit fly plan



Strategic area: Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

Institutions involved: Chile's International Cooperation Agency (AGCI), the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA), the Association of Fruit and Vegetable Growers of Colombia (ASOHOFURCOL).

Results and agreements:

- The work involved evaluating the proposals and level of commitment of the different national bodies with regard to the implementation of a national plan to combat the fruit fly.
- Different infected areas were evaluated and the system for detecting and reducing fruit fly populations was improved. ■



*Chile shares with **Central American** countries and the **Dominican Republic** its experiences in developing a competitive agrifood sector*

Strategic area: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.

Institutions involved: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and IICA Office in Chile.

Results and agreements:

- The technical capabilities were enhanced of the policy units of Central American ministries of agriculture.
- A seminar was held to study the competitiveness of agrifood systems and proposals were put forward for improving it.
- The proceedings of the seminar were published. ■

Uruguay shares with Chile technical expertise for the production and marketing of beef



Strategic area: Promoting Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness.

Institutions involved: IICA Office in Chile, INDAP, representatives of the meat networks of regions VII through XI and INDAP professionals in charge of this product at both the national and regional levels.

Results and agreements:

- The representatives and professionals mentioned learned more about the operation of the Uruguayan meat chain and the national and international markets for meat products.
- Dialogues took place on the importance of partnering and the organization of meat producers to improve the supply of the product and relations with the industrial sector.
- The Uruguayan producers shared their meat production and marketing experiences.
- Business and technical contacts were forged among producers and institutions from the two countries.■



Uruguay collaborates with Paraguay in the process of accrediting agricultural qualifications with MERCOSUR

Strategic area: Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewing its Institutional Framework.

Institutions involved: IICA Office in Paraguay, School of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Asuncion, and IICA Office in Uruguay/IICA's Southern Region.

Results and agreements:

- An evaluation was carried out and the results used to improve agricultural courses and promote the accreditation of the respective qualifications with MERCOSUR.
- MERCOSUR indicators and standards were prepared and the evaluative reports were designed.
- The teamwork of the education and training specialists of the IICA Offices in Uruguay and Paraguay was coordinated effectively.
- Thanks to this initiative, there will be a specific experience that can be shared with faculties in the region. This, in turn, will contribute to the accreditation process being extended throughout the MERCOSUR countries. ■

*Southern and Andean Region countries strengthens in **Bolivia** the technical capabilities of the Agricultural and Forestry Technology Innovation System*



Strategic area: Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Institutions involved: Bolivia's Ministry for Agricultural and Rural Development and Environment (MDRAyMA), PROCIANDINO, PROCISUR and IICA Office in Bolivia.

Results and agreements:

- Central, departmental and municipal government officials and representatives of private entities and social movements learned about the experiences of nine countries in planning, implementing and operating their respective agricultural research institutes and technology transfer institutes.

- The IICA Office in Bolivia, PROCISUR and PROCIANDINO pledged technical support for the Government of Bolivia in organizing the Agricultural and Forestry Technology Innovation System, and in drafting the proposal for the new National Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Technology Innovation (INIAF), which will oversee the system.

- 50 professionals received trained. ▀



***Southern Region** countries collaborates with **Central Region** countries, **Mexico** and the **Dominican Republic** in the area of traceability systems*

Strategic area: Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

Institutions involved: IICA Office in Costa Rica, Costa Rica's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, IICA-ILRI/CFC Project, CAC-Taiwan Project and the International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA).

Results and agreements:

- Experiences were shared concerning the implementation of traceability systems in the various countries and sectors. ■