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Foreword

It is with great satisfaction that I present IICA's Annual Report for 2002. It provides an overview of the actions carried out and results achieved during the first year of my administration, in support of the sustainable development of agriculture, food security and the prosperity of rural communities in the Americas.

As called for in the 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan and summarized in Chapter 2 of this report, in 2002 we placed emphasis on transforming IICA into an institution geared to strengthening the delivery of cooperation to its Member States, adopting a style of management focused on results and the promotion of technical excellence. At the internal level, administrative efforts were designed to substantially improve operating efficiency, accountability and prudent financial management.

Chapter 3 describes the actions carried out and the progress achieved during the year under IICA's six Areas of Concentration. This is followed by information on the cooperation activities implemented in each Member State, in line with the respective cooperation agenda agreed with IICA's clients and partners and intended to make the Institute an active participant in the construction of the future of the countries of the Americas.

Chapter 4 provides a summary of the ties IICA has established and developed with its strategic partners, which have increased its capacity to provide support services, strengthened the results of the Institute's work and made it possible to offer broader and more varied cooperation.

Chapter 5 presents the main actions carried out by the Institute aimed at fulfilling the resolutions and mandates of the Summits of the Americas Process, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Institute's governing bodies.

Finally, the last two chapters contain information on the Institute's financial and human resources.

The concise information provided in this document is complemented by exhaustive data on every aspect of the Institute's operations posted on its website, including the reports the IICA Offices submitted to the authorities in each country in 2002, as part of the policy of accountability.

At IICA we are very mindful of the fact that no evaluation is complete without input from the beneficiaries of the cooperation actions. Accordingly, I invite readers to send us their observations and any suggestions they may have for consolidating IICA as an agency dedicated to promoting the sustainable development of agriculture, food security and the prosperity of rural communities in the Americas.



Chelston W. D. Brathwaite
Director General

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1. Origin, legal bases, structure and purposes

IICA was created in 1942 by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union. In 1949 it was recognized by the OAS as the specialized agency for agriculture and well-being of the rural population of the Inter-American System.

A new IICA Convention came into force in 1980, establishing two governing bodies: the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), composed of all the Member States, and the Executive Committee (EC), made up of 12 Member States who sit on the committee on a rotating basis. The IABA holds regular meetings every two years to consider and adopt measures related to the Institute's policy and action. The EC acts on behalf of the IABA when the latter is not in session and holds regular meetings once a year.

In 2000, the OAS, by General Assembly Resolution 1728, recognized the IABA as the primary ministerial forum for analyzing and building consensus on policies

and strategic priorities for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere.

The Institute's executive organ is the General Directorate and its Headquarters is located in San Jose, Costa Rica. The General Directorate comprises the technical and administrative management units and support personnel of the Institute. Its Director General is Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, a citizen of Barbados.

The Institute has a network of offices in its 34 Member States and a Permanent Office for Europe, located in Madrid, Spain, which promotes relations with strategic partners on that continent.

IICA's objectives are to encourage, promote and support agricultural development and rural well-being in its member countries, with an approach that focuses on sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity.

2. Institutional transformation

During 2002, IICA implemented important actions to carry out the mandates related to agriculture and rural life of the Third Summit of the Americas, the terms of the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture signed in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, in 2001, and the mandates contained in Resolution 344 of the IABA, adopted at its Tenth Regular Meeting and dealing with the institutional transformation process. Specifically, the Institute:

- (i) Aligned its mission, vision, objectives and the strategic areas of action set out in its 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan with the Summit mandates.
- (ii) Jointly with key actors in the agricultural sector (public and private sectors, academia and civil society), prepared technical cooperation agendas in line with national priorities and geared to addressing supranational problems.

- (iii) Established a mechanism for performance evaluation and to increase accountability to the national authorities, through ad hoc instruments and detailed annual reports on the implementation of the cooperation agendas. This enhances transparency and the countries' involvement in preparing the agendas.
- (iv) Adjusted its structure, creating: a) the Technical Cooperation Secretariat, which articulates and focuses the Institute's technical resources to implement the cooperation agendas; b) the Directorate for Performance Management and Evaluation; c) the Directorate for Follow up of the Summits of the Americas Process, which forms part of the Office of the Director General; and d) the Directorate of Strategic Partnerships, in Washington, D.C., which facilitates and promotes actions with third parties.

The result of these changes has been a shift in the Institute's organization and actions toward those of a development agency that promotes the sustainable development of agriculture, food security and the prosperity of rural communities.

2.2 New style and strengthening of technical cooperation

In accordance with the integrated management model recommended by the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, a flatter, less bureaucratic organizational structure was instituted. The administration also introduced articulated processes of strategic management, programming and budget, as well as a system of management committees that has made it easier to take well-informed decisions and evaluate and adjust the Institute's performance.

This reorganization entailed the elimination of the Regional Centers, which operated until 2001, and the establishment of the Directorates of Regional Operations at the Institute's Headquarters.

Headquarters was also reorganized, with its administrative areas being incorporated into the Directorate of Administration and Finance and its technical units integrated into the Technical Cooperation Secretariat, which articulates cooperation to the countries in line with their cooperation agendas. Two new units were also created: Protocol and Institutional Relations, and Institutional Norms and Procedures.

This new institutional framework has made corporate operations more effective, more economical and better integrated at the national, regional and hemispheric levels.

2.2 New style and strengthening of technical cooperation

The dialogue and work aimed at preparing the cooperation agendas, involving key actors of the countries' private and public sectors, academia and civil society, as well as strategic partners, made it possible to implement a strategy carefully tailored to the needs of each Member State and to the 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan.

As a result of this work, the countries are playing a bigger role in preparing work programs and national authorities are heavily involved in the conceptualization, implementation and evaluation of technical cooperation actions. These efforts were underpinned by the creation of the Technical Cooperation Committee, which facilitates decisions concerning cooperation strategies

and the rethinking of the role of the regional specialists as a key element of the Institute's technical network.

Resources allocated for preinvestment and technical cooperation to IICA's Offices in the Member States were also increased (US\$1.2 million).

The aim of all these efforts was to convert the Institute into a more effective hemispheric cooperation network that also promotes the continuous exchange of information, technology and experiences among the countries.

2.3 Financial prudence

A key aspect of the process to transform the Institute has been the implementation of a policy of prudent financial management, to ensure that the limited resources available are used as efficiently as possible.

Some of the most important actions carried out to implement this policy were the strengthening of the Directorate of Administration and Finance and the Office of the Internal Auditor, and the creation of the Administration Committee and the Internal Audit and Performance Evaluation Committee.

Great care was exercised in allocating resources to the priorities of the MTP. Combined with the reform of the salary policy that links increases to performance, the rationalization of the staff roster and the use of electronic communication mechanisms to reduce travel expenses and the cost of sending documents, this helped to make more effective use of the resources available. Emphasis was also placed on the strategy of complementing activities and sharing responsibilities and costs with strategic partners.

These measures, including cost-cutting at Headquarters and the elimination of the Regional Centers, made it possible to increase the preinvestment resources allocated to the Offices in the countries.

2.4 Human resources

A process to streamline and reduce the roster of Local Personnel at Headquarters was implemented during the reporting period. This consisted of: i) voluntary resignations, ii) rehiring at market prices and iii) the elimination of positions. The number of permanent International Personnel and "D" positions was reduced and efforts were made to achieve a better gender balance (women were appointed to five of the nine vacant international positions).

It was decided that Local Professional Personnel should be given a greater role, assigning them growing responsibility in the technical and administrative fields, and a new policy, rules and methods were implemented for evaluating the performance of both individuals and units.

The Directorate of Human Resources was strengthened by appointing a Director with more than 25 years' experience in personnel administration and by introducing innovative procedures in this field.

Finally, the staff roster was adapted to the new structure of the General Directorate and progress was made in adjusting the salary scale to the marketplace, correcting the previous distortions and reducing costs at Headquarters by 10%. The full implementation of the policy of teamwork has yielded positive results, making it possible to do more with fewer resources.

2.4 Human resources

Efforts got under way to transform the Institute into a results-driven organization, strengthening its management structure and promoting efficiency, transparency and accountability through the presentation of reports to the national authorities of each member country on the implementation of the national cooperation agenda and the Institute's financial performance. In addition, the Director General prepared reports on the first 100 days and the first 100 achievements of his administration.

This was made possible, in part, by the continuous monitoring of management performance and the evaluation of the implementation of the Institute's programs, facilitated by the design and use of a



Reporting on IICA's work in Guatemala. Similar events were held in every Member State, attended by leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life.

management information system with a data center that makes the construction of the institutional memory a continuous process.

In addition, IICA adopted informatics tools to provide more in-depth analysis of administrative and financial information. This made it easier for the Office of Internal Audit to serve as an instrument for permanent analysis and improvement of administrative processes.

Finally, via Internet and the Institute's website, the Member States had continuous access to information about what IICA was doing and how its resources were being used.

All of the above has helped strengthen effective and timely feedback between the Member States and the Institute, enabling the countries to take better-informed decisions about IICA.

2.2 New style and strengthening of technical cooperation

A policy was implemented to foster an intensive dissemination of public information and projection of the corporate image, including information on the strategic role of agriculture and rural life and IICA's actions, the preparation of press releases that were widely disseminated in the countries, printed and electronic versions of the IICANews and Connection bulletins, the news section of the Institute's web portal and the implementation of a program of activities to commemorate the Institute's 60th anniversary. Furthermore, the graphic interface and contents of the Web portal were completely redesigned to enhance the institutional image.

3. Cooperation activities

In this chapter, IICA's activities in 2002 are divided into two sections. The first provides information on regional cooperation (involving two or more countries) and hemispheric cooperation (involving two or more regions). The second deals with assistance activities in specific countries. In both cases, the information is presented by thematic area of cooperation.

2.2 New style and strengthening of technical cooperation

Trade and Agribusiness Development

IICA strengthened its regional capacity to support the evaluation and monitoring of trade-related, agricultural and sectoral policies, as well as technical and thematic aspects of agricultural trade negotiations and the administration of multilateral and regional agreements. Based on an Institute-developed methodology that measures the real contribution of agriculture to economic development, IICA conducted a study entitled "More than food on the table: the real contribution of agriculture to economic development." The preliminary results of this study suggest that when the value added of pre-harvest and post-harvest components of production chains are included, agriculture makes a major contribution to GDP, while also being an important hub for links with the rest of the economy.

As part of the initiatives related to the proposed North American Free Trade Agreement between Central America and the United States, IICA directed the Global Dialogue on the Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for the Agreement; prepared a profile on agrifood trade between the U.S. and the Central American countries; and approved a project proposal entitled "Support for the Region's Agricultural Trade as related to Policies, International Negotiations and the Application of Sanitary Measures and Food Safety."

In relation to the WTO and the FTAA, the Institute supported the XV Meeting of the Informal Group of Agricultural Negotiators (GINA), held in Panama; the workshop-seminar on the current status of WTO agricultural negotiations and the positions of the United States and Europe; and took part in a meeting of experts entitled "Liberalization and Integration of Agriculture: What is Expected from the FTAA and the WTO," which was held by the IDB.

With reference to efforts to help strengthen domestic markets, IICA developed a methodology for determining the best moment to buy and sell products and thereby maximize the return on capital invested in producing and marketing agricultural products. To support efforts to penetrate foreign markets, the Institute developed the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety, which IICA's Executive Committee endorsed at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Progress was made in designing the model for modernizing agricultural health and food safety systems (AHFSS), which will make it possible to measure institutional performance and make these systems more sustainable. The model takes into account market access, interaction with the private sector, technical capabilities, human capital and financial resources, among other things. It was approved by the IAEA to support implementation of a program to establish fruit fly free areas in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras.

In the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, IICA contributed to the analysis, understanding and implementation of the WTO agreement on sanitary measures. To support the active participation of the member countries in the SPS Committee, the Institute also coordinated arrangements for 57 experts to attend a meeting in Geneva.

With regard to emerging issues and agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) emergencies, a strategy was implemented in the Caribbean Region to control and prevent the spread of the giant African snail. This involved conducting risk assessments, preparing proposals to update legislation on the pest, and organizing regional seminars to support educational plant protection campaigns.

In Central America, IICA evaluated screwworm infestation, quantified the economic losses caused by this pest in livestock, analyzed the damage done to other socioeconomic sectors, and recommended control and prevention actions.

With respect to food safety, four modules of the first Executive Series on Leadership in Food Safety were conducted. A 30-member group was set up with people from the public and private sectors of 22 countries. This group aims to challenge existing food safety paradigms, help raise awareness of the subject's importance, and define a framework of policies and national legislation. The participants are working in their respective countries on 16 food safety research, extension and education projects.

In the field of information management, IICA's collaboration made it possible to extend the coverage of the Agrosalud (Agrihealth) information platform to 35 countries and increase the number of users by 68%.

Sustainable Rural Development

IICA supported the design of investment policies, strategies and programs for sustainable rural development (SRD) in Brasil, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Jamaica and Paraguay. Direct technical cooperation was provided in Brazil (International Seminar on SRD and the territorial approach; International Seminar on Rural Development and Family Agriculture); Jamaica (Workshop to Design the National SRD Strategy); Mexico (Seminar: Evaluation of Priority Groups in the Rural Milieu; Seminar on Territorial Development; Workshop to Design the National Strategy); Dominican Republic (participation in the Thirty-first Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women - IACW); Panama (support for the Rural Panama Program); and Costa Rica (International Workshop on SRD).

In Mexico joint efforts were undertaken with the SAGARPA; technical instruments were developed for

the use and training of national technicians; two international seminars were held (“Reassessment of Priority Groups in the Rural Milieu” and “Territorial Approach to Rural Development”); support was provided to NGOs and local governments; and work was carried out with strategic partners (Mexican Rural Development Foundation and Autonomous University of Chapingo).

In the Central Region, the IICA-Holland/Hillsides project was concluded. The following was achieved: an institutional platform to facilitate innovations in the area of sustainable development; an innovation platform to increase productivity and natural resource conservation; local development committees; a methodological platform for systematizing and sharing strategies, methodologies and lessons learned; and new types of intervention to facilitate sustainable development using participatory and democratic approaches.

In the Andean Region, IICA worked with Peru’s MINAG, the Consensus-building Forum to Combat Poverty and a national interagency group to formulate a rural development policy. It also began designing a project for marketing the region’s agroindustrial products, underpinned by the rural agroindustry networks (REDAR); supported the Sustainable Tree Crop Program (STCP) for promoting cacao cultivation; undertook to create a regional rural development committee in each country and a regional interagency group; and supported the border development efforts in Santander (Colombia) and Zulia (Venezuela).

In the Southern Region, IICA worked to reposition rural development as an issue and formulated a plan of action for SRD in the Southern Region, using a territorial approach.

To promote the process of institutional modernization for SRD, the Institute produced documents containing technical guidelines for sustainable rural development on: the territorial approach to SRD; gender, youths and indigenous peoples; and natural resources and the knowledge management system.

To promote the sustainable management of rural territories, IICA made progress developing a methodology for characterizing its experiences in the countries. This will be used in designing policies or institutional mechanisms to strengthen the management of local governments, micro-watersheds, communities and rural enterprises, with a view to making rational natural resource management viable.

In Brazil, the Institute worked on water issues and, jointly with the IDB and the World Bank, a project got under way on desertification indicators for six Southern Region countries. The objective of the latter is to implement national action plans to combat desertification and drought, with emphasis on the participation of local communities, NGOs, the private sector, civil society and government agencies. IICA also took part in the Thirty-first Assembly of Delegates of the IACW, where it presented a report entitled Progress in Gender and Rural Women: IICA’s Principal Technical Cooperation Actions, 2000-2002.

Finally, the first version of the of the Virtual Management Model was concluded; Infoagro’s web page on the subject was updated on a weekly basis; a preliminary proposal was prepared for developing a Knowledge Management System (KMS); and possible partners were identified for hosting the regional and national nodes of the KMS.

Technology and Innovation

IICA helped consolidate the Regional Technology Innovation System through its support for the Third International Meeting of FORAGRO and the approval of its Plan of Action for 2003. It coordinated a new policy with the countries for developing cooperative programs and continued to develop and manage INFOTEC, a system for managing knowledge on agricultural technology that is included in the Infoagro.net platform.

With regard to the design and implementation of technology innovation policies, the Institute drafted a guide for formulating agricultural policies from the standpoint of technological change and completed an assessment of the institutional panorama for biosafety in the Americas: results were disseminated at the IICA-IDB Seminar on Biotechnology Development. With FONTAGRO funding, IICA helped formulate new institutional frameworks and national policies for modernizing agricultural extension targeting small-scale agriculture.

A fourth agreement (2003-2006) was approved for PROCIANDINO, consolidating it as a mechanism for horizontal cooperation and technological integration. A Colombian-Venezuelan cooperation and integration program was implemented under this mechanism in the binational Tachira River watershed, focusing on technology issues. Cooperation was promoted through the innovation network, an observatory of institutional performance, the Networks of Agroforestry Systems, and REDARFIT. The Program also coordinated implementation of 12 regional projects financed partially by FONTAGRO.

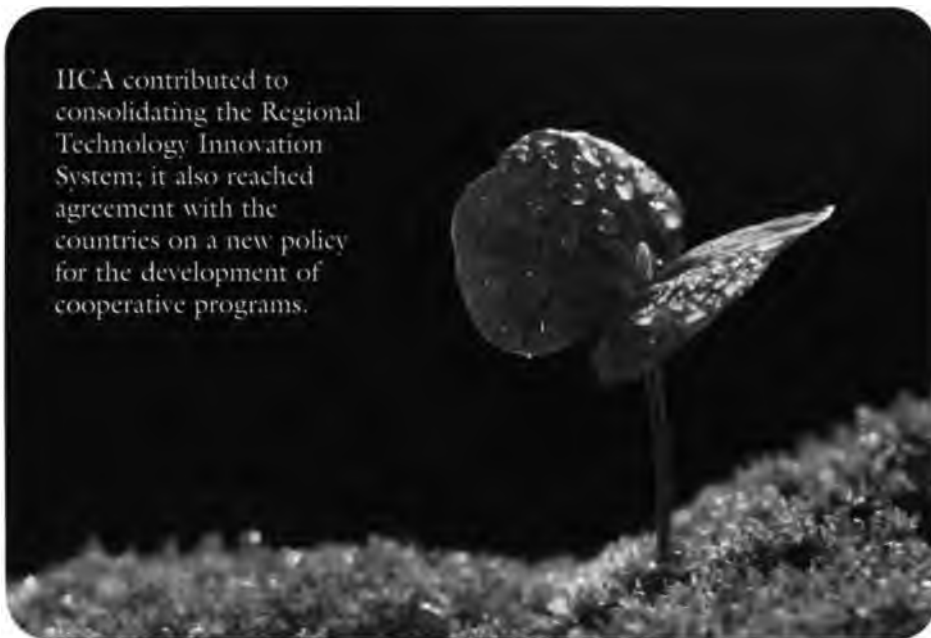
Under PROCITROPICOS, the technological limitations of products and production systems in the Amazonian and savannah ecosystems were identified. IICA collaborated in establishing national plant genetic resource systems and in implementing regional research and development projects on tropical fruits. It also continued supporting the Tropigen network and the product-specific information networks.

Within the framework of PROMECAFE, the BROCAP trap was validated in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Jamaica; the breeding and release of parasitoids with special impact on organic coffee-growing was promoted; a contribution was made to efforts to combat coffee rust through the development and use of rust-resistant varieties; cooperation activities were carried out with biotechnology laboratories in coffee institutes in Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador; and the production of seeds for root stock of root nematode-resistant plants got under way. IICA also helped draft the proposed SICTA-IICA-CATIE agreement to strengthen inter-country cooperation on technological innovation and provided support to the Executive Secretariat of the SICTA.

To support PROCINORTE, the Institute helped implement the work plan of the NORGEN network, organize and hold the meetings of the working groups on tropical and subtropical fruits, and identify the priority research and development topics of the Northern Region countries.

The work with PROCISUR included the organization of three regional technological platforms: a) technology advances for quality/traceability in the beef chain; b) critical technologies and environmental management; and c) functional genomics in plants, animals and

IICA contributed to consolidating the Regional Technology Innovation System; it also reached agreement with the countries on a new policy for the development of cooperative programs.



microorganisms. A portfolio was established of eight projects with FONTAGRO, one with the European Union/CIRAD and another with the German ministry for cooperation/ISNAR. In addition, the Genetic Resources Network was promoted; a regional workshop on precision agriculture and an international course on agricultural research priorities were held; and the third version of the Dreamsur software was produced.

Information and Communication

Development, in English and Spanish, of the Information Management System (www.Infoagro.Net) continued. This provides 5500 registered users with technical information over the Internet, on topics such as trade and agribusiness, technological innovation, agricultural health and food safety, and sustainable rural

development. Support was also provided to the Agricultural Commodity Exchange System of the Americas, the Digital Agribusiness Trade Platform and the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network.

This work included developing a new home page for the system, which processes, on average, over 350,000 inquiries per month and affords users access to more than 5000 publications in several languages, as well as a database of subject-specific news. Infoagro.Net also extended its coverage to the 34 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA promoted efforts to articulate, standardize and strengthen networks of national- and hemispheric-level agricultural and rural information units. Through SIDALC, it strengthened the Agri2000 Megabase, which provides access to 155 databases in Latin America and the Caribbean; facilitated the dissemination of its products and services through three mirror servers (Costa Rica, Peru and the United States); kept the Directory of Information Units up-to-date; worked to create the Electronic Agricultural Library; processed over 52,000 inquiries on the web page; strengthened the operation of 15 national agricultural information networks and helped consolidate six more.

With regard to the production and dissemination of technical literature, a program was launched to sell IICA publications through its website. A user-friendly web page helped sell more than 3000 copies of institutional publications. Progress was also made in

preparing new regulations for updating policies, rules and procedures governing the production of publications, copyright, book distribution and marketing, and related matters.

IICA also made progress in developing a network of agricultural documentation centers and libraries in the hemisphere. At a meeting of IICA's libraries and documentation centers, it was agreed that they would organize into a system for strengthening technical cooperation in the countries. A series of actions were undertaken to strengthen these libraries' information management services to help them meet the needs of the Institute's clients. The Venezuela and Orton libraries acquired more than 8000 scientific and technical publications, loaned out over 75,000 documents and processed 53,000 inquiries. Their online databases also received more than 30,000 hits. Users were trained in the management of scientific agricultural literature and the use of electronic and conventional information sources; interlibrary loan agreements were maintained with numerous libraries; an agreement was established with the University of Idaho for gaining access to various information resources; and the bibliographic database was updated, reaching almost 77,000 entries.

Finally, IICA facilitated access to and the dissemination of information and by updating its web portal, also increasing access to services. The site was redesigned and its contents reorganized to enable users to easily and rapidly find institutional information in specialized sections, discussion forums, up-to-date documents and directories, and general information on agriculture in the Americas in extensive databases, which are updated and revised on an ongoing basis.

Education and Training

IICA strengthened the digital distance education program and consolidated its Distance Education and Training Center by creating a team specializing in the design and management of distance education activities, using new information and communication technologies. The University of McGill (Nova Scotia, Canada) also provided support for the development of the GDLNA of the World Bank.

Distance education programs on strategic subjects were launched, including courses on health and food safety, international agricultural trade, organic agriculture, competitiveness and farm management. IICA also contributed to increasing access to the knowledge and expertise of key stakeholders in agriculture and the rural community for promoting change and the development of modern institutional systems, through global virtual dialogues in which institutions in 25 countries took part.

The Institute also cooperated with public and private higher agricultural education institutions in the countries to improve the quality and relevance of their educational curriculums and programs. Numerous educational activities (courses, seminars and workshops) were conducted to enhance the teaching skills of educators and trainers of agricultural and rural education institutions and organizations in the Americas.

Finally, IICA promoted dialogue and the integration of agricultural and rural education and horizontal cooperation between institutions through the consolidation of regional agricultural and rural education forums (Southern, Central and Caribbean regions) and

several national forums and associations. In this way, it also supported the implementation of programs and projects to improve the quality of education.

3.2 IICA Activities in its Member Countries

Antigua and Barbuda

Trade and Agribusiness Development. A seminar entitled “The World Trade Organization and the Implications for Agriculture in Antigua and Barbuda” was held.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA helped two of its people to take part in a meeting on SPS Measures in Geneva, thereby enhancing the country’s capacity to fulfill its commitments under the WTO SPS agreement.

Sustainable Rural Development. A meeting was held to discuss the creation of a National Youth Forum on Agriculture and an agribusiness firm was assisted in exhibiting its products at a fair in St. Lucia.

Technology and Innovation. IICA collaborated in organizing the conference “Expanding Markets for Antigua and Barbuda’s Fresh Fruits and Vegetables: Meeting Quality, Food Safety and Organic Production Standards.” The participants learned about improved crop production techniques and the use of modern technology.

Information and Communication. IICA disseminated information on different aspects of agriculture and rural development, and participated in an agricultural fair

held to mark the 21st anniversary of the country’s independence.

Education and Training. A proposal was presented for developing a Distance Education Center, and a process of analysis got under way with a view to joining CACHE.

Argentina

Trade and Agribusiness Development. IICA prepared and distributed four status reports on Argentina’s agrifood sector and a diagnostic assessment of the current state of the financial system. Five workshops were held to disseminate new credit options for financing the agrifood and forestry sector (in Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Entre Rios, Corrientes and Bordenave-Buenos Aires). Actions were carried out to explain and disseminate alternative systems for financing the agrifood and forestry sector, for agricultural cooperatives in the province of Santa Fe, the Santa Fe, Rosario and Mendoza commodity exchanges, the CECSAGAL electrical cooperative and the FECOVITA wine-growers cooperative (Mendoza). Training workshops and seminars were held for exporters with SAGPyA and the Export Foundation. A proposal was prepared to create export assistance centers (trade promotion services related to agribusiness). Information was disseminated among agrifood SMEs and export-related inquiries were handled via the SAGPyA website. A directory of Argentine agrifood companies was produced on a CD and studies were conducted to identify agrifood products and chains with potential for export (avocados, Patagonian lamb, rabbits).

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA provided technical and administrative support to SENASA for the

implementation of a eradication program of the boll weevil. A network of 17,000 surveillance traps was installed in the provinces of Formosa, Chico, Corrientes, Misiones, Salta and Santiago del Estero, and control barriers were established.

Sustainable Rural Development. Technical and administrative support was provided for the transformation, diversification and modernization of tobacco-growing areas. Assistance was provided to small- and medium-sized agricultural enterprises in the province of Buenos Aires and for the management of the civil organization “De la nada,” which grants micro-credits through groups in semi-rural areas.

Technology and Innovation. IICA assisted the Fisheries Research and Development Institute in formulating and implementing research programs and in formulating fisheries policy. Administrative support was also provided to the SAGPyA for studies and assistance with international meetings held to develop a national safety framework for biotechnology, as called for by the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

Information and Communication. The SIDALC system was introduced in the country’s main information units (30 units, mainly universities) and at INTA’s 43 experimental stations. The project for redesigning the Central Library of the School of Agronomy of Buenos Aires University (FA-UBA) was drawn up and presented.

Education and Training. The Institute provided technical and administrative support to the Agribusiness Program of the School of Agronomy of Buenos Aires University. It also cooperated with

CONEAU in the conducting the external evaluation of the agrarian courses and extension and technology activities of the National University of Cuyo. Progress was made in designing a proposal for a postgraduate course on food quality for the MERCOSUR countries.

Bahamas

Trade and Agribusiness Development. A multisectoral committee was set up to improve quality standards and initiate the development of a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system in the poultry and pork industries. A study was also conducted to determine the competitiveness of these industries.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. In tandem with the PAHO/WHO, an IICA-chaired committee was set up to prepare a logical framework for the design of a national food safety system, with the participation of the ministries of agriculture and health.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA is contributing to modernizing the rural sector through its work with the Bahamas Cooperatives League Limited (BCLL) and the Department of Cooperatives, which receive support from FAVA/CA.

Information and Communication. The Institute promoted training activities in the use of SIDALC for the staff of the MAFLG/IICA Communication Center. It supported the establishment of the IICA Agricultural Library System and initiated conversations for incorporating the Bahamas Information Center into the system.



The Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety was designed to strengthen the countries' participation in external markets.

Education and Training. IICA helped orient the education of agricultural professionals in order to better equip them to deal with a changing environment. The Bahamas will be taking part in a regional project involving distance learning for agriculture.

Barbados

Trade and Agribusiness Development. IICA cooperated in the development of a computerized information system on the profitability/productivity of several products/companies; it also helped establish business contacts and promote consumption of domestic products on behalf of the Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation, the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association, the

Ministry of Agriculture and the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The Institute supported the formation of the National Interagency Committee on Agricultural Health and Food Safety, whose members include the ministries of agriculture and rural development, health, trade, industry and international business, as well as private sector representatives.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA helped set up an Agro-Tourism Linkages Committee and develop a project framework for farmers and entrepreneurs in Scotland District.

Education and Training. Under the OAS project, eight new distance learning courses were prepared and distributed; the University of the West Indies participated as a strategic partner. Farmers and entrepreneurs received training through distance learning courses.

Belize

Trade and Agribusiness Development. The Institute helped prepare a policy paper on the sugar industry and identify priority areas of intervention for increasing productivity and efficiency at the field and factory levels. It also provided support for the participation of the Minister or Vice Minister of Agriculture in five ministerial meetings held in the Central American region to address trade and integration initiatives.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Emergency funds from IICA were approved for rebuilding the

country's phytosanitary surveillance capability after Hurricane Iris. In a partnership involving the Government of Canada and CARICOM, the Institute supported the BAHA's efforts to strengthen the Food Control System. With support from IICA, officials of the ministries of agriculture and trade took part in workshops and meetings on international trade and sanitary and phytosanitary measures held jointly with the USDA in Geneva and with FAO.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA provided technical assistance to the Fruit and Root Crops Project in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Audubon Society, public rural financing agencies and other non-governmental organizations.

Technology and Innovation. As a member of the ministerial task force on institutional development, IICA provided technical cooperation for reconvertng Central Farm (the Ministry of Agriculture's Research Department) into an autonomous technology research and service institution called the Belize Agricultural Institute for Research and Development (BIARD). IICA is also a member of the advisory committee for the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute, a new institution called for under the new Sugar Industry Control Act.

Information and Communication. IICA began implementing its Information and Documentation Center during the first quarter of 2003.

Education and Training. IICA helped coordinate training activities on organic agriculture and diversification, as well as on agricultural inspection procedures. As part of the diversification project, a series

of workshops were held for extension workers and producers on crop management and marketing.

Bolivia

Trade and Agribusiness Development. General regulations were prepared for the Bolivian Commodity Exchange and a National Seminar was organized on agricultural trade negotiations within the framework of the FTAA and the WTO. Along these lines, staff members were trained in the development of domestic markets, the administration of commodity exchanges and the operating system of the Bolivian Commodity Exchange. Also, both the camelidae wool and dried llama meat chains were analyzed. Lastly, the Bolivian Productivity and Competitiveness System received support in its efforts to encourage the opening of European and Chilean markets to its agricultural products.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Support was provided to enable the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service (SENASAG) to participate in events addressing: compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary measures within the framework of the WTO; equivalence and risk analysis; and the participation of the agricultural and health sectors in the food safety program. Support was provided to enable a Bolivian delegation participate in the meeting of the WTO SPS Committee (in Geneva). Under the aegis of the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Program, support was provided for meetings and discussions involving livestock producers and technical personnel.

Sustainable Rural Development. Using concepts and methods developed by IICA, leaders and representatives

of small-farm communities learned more about competitiveness and agricultural production chains. The Regional Fund for Appropriate Technologies for Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (FOMRENA), financed by GTZ, supported implementation of various projects.

Technology and Innovation. The Bolivian Agricultural Technology System (SIBTA) received support in consolidating its organization and strengthening its Permanent Secretariat, which is exercised by the Technology Policy Development Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MAGDER). IICA designed the National System for the Conservation, Management, Use and Evaluation of Bolivian Genetic Resources for Agriculture and Food. Within the framework of PROCITROPICOS, TROPIGEN held its annual meeting.

Information and Communication. The information system on agricultural production chains (INFOAGRO-Bolivia) was implemented, with financial support from GTZ. Within the framework of SIDALC, the Agricultural Information and Documentation Network of Bolivia (RIDAB) was consolidated and a workshop on the management of agricultural bibliographic data bases, attended by agricultural librarians from throughout the country, was held.

Education and Training. The Standing Forum for Dialogue and Integration of Higher Agricultural Education in Bolivia continued its work. Twenty-one events, organized by various institutions and IICA and attended by a total of 790 professionals and technicians, were held at the Bolivian House of Agriculture (Casa de la Agricultura).

Brazil

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA executed projects aimed at improving the services responsible for the technical-sanitary control of products, through training events for public and private sector personnel on the use of hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) systems.

Sustainable Rural Development. Support was provided for institutional strengthening and training in the integrated and sustainable management of water resources; institutional development for the sustainable management of natural resources; and the development of mechanisms intended to strengthen agrifood systems in marginal areas and contribute to the generation of employment and income. IICA cooperated with the Planning Secretariats of the States of the Northeastern Region, in executing two projects to combat rural poverty.

Technology and Innovation. As regards the strengthening of cooperative research and transfer programs, and of technology integration mechanisms, IICA collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Supply to operate with more modern administrative procedures. Within the framework of PROCITROPICOS, IICA, along with CENARGEN and EMBRAPA, offered courses on molecular markers. International workshops were held on the coffee agribusiness in the Amazon region, research on cacao, and the technological and trade integration among Bolivia, Brazil, and Peru.

Education and Training. Progress was made in developing training programs focusing on agrifood

systems, agricultural health, project administration, and natural resource management.

Canada

Trade and Agribusiness Development. Efforts focused on the facilitation of trade and agribusiness linkages between Canada and the Americas. Exchanges of experiences and training in credit for agricultural microenterprises and cooperativism were promoted; and an agreement was signed with the Forum for International Trade Training (FITT) for training in international business.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and Health Canada worked together to support Caribbean countries in improving their agricultural health and public health services, especially vis-à-vis food safety and Codex food labeling standards.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA sponsored the Second National Rural Conference, whose main theme was "Shaping a successful future for rural Canada ... together," which focused on community capability building. IICA also supported the exchange of experiences between Canada and Nicaragua related to the sustainability of farms, cooperatives, and agribusinesses.

Technology and Innovation. IICA continued to prioritize the development of effective linkages between Canadian and LAC research and educational institutions, through its internship program in agricultural sciences and research. Six Canadian and LAC specialists were selected to conduct joint research

in the areas of environmental sciences, food science, and laboratory diagnosis.

Information and Communication. IICA maintained its internship program, assisting Canadian and LAC specialists working in agricultural information and communication technologies. Two Canadian ICT specialists were selected to share their experiences in applied communication technologies with partner organizations in Costa Rica.

Education and Training. IICA developed an internship program that enables young Canadians to gain work experience in the management of technical cooperation programs and project execution at IICA Headquarters and in other IICA Offices participating in the program.

Chile

Trade and Agribusiness Development. The Agrarian Policy Office and other ministry of agriculture units received support for enhancing their foreign export promotion capabilities, and for monitoring and disseminating information on international trade negotiations and hemispheric integration. Support was provided in organizing the seminar on market access preferences that benefit agricultural products from ALADI member countries. The Undersecretariat of Agriculture received support for the agricultural commodity exchange, as did the Association of Bonded Warehouses regarding storage and the negotiation of warehouse liens.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA cooperated with the Agricultural and Livestock Service

in organizing events on trade-related aspects of biotechnology and intellectual property rights. Further support was provided in combating the fruit fly on the northern border under the Chile-Peru Agreement. The event “Executive Leadership Series on Food Safety, Module III” was organized and held for representatives of national and international public and private institutions.

Sustainable Rural Development. The Agricultural Development Institute received support for consolidating product-specific networks of producers and enterprises and for strengthening management, production and commercial capabilities of women’s groups and enterprises, using the gender approach. The National Children’s Protection Service was assisted in conducting a diagnostic study of the sociocultural traits of children in rural areas. Support was provided to the Directorate of Water Works and the National Irrigation Commission. Within the framework of the Fifth Rural World Expo, support was provided to INDAP, with the participation of PRODAR and PROMER, for holding the First Latin American Expo on Rural Enterprises.

Technology and Innovation. IICA gave support to a national workshop on intellectual property by contributing a publication on that subject and on new biotechnologies for agriculture in LAC.

Information and Communication. The operations of the National Network of Specialized Agricultural Information and Documentation were strengthened. It links 16 libraries and documentation centers and is part of SIDALC. Semi-monthly electronic bulletins were published, containing information on national and MERCOSUR agricultural markets, including

forecasts, new legislative developments, and news of interest.

Education and Training. Universities received support for modernizing their curricula and obtaining accreditation for forestry-agriculture majors at different Chilean universities. IICA was asked to provide MERCOSUR with ongoing advisory services on the programming of educational activities. IICA continued to support the preparation of prototype textbooks for the curricular reform being promoted by the government.

Colombia

Trade and Agribusiness Development. With technical support from IICA, a clearinghouse was created; the Competitiveness Observatory was strengthened; 38 regional poles were created with competitiveness agreements; a shared national vision of agriculture and the rural milieu was developed; and the draft of the General Law on Rural Affairs was disseminated.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA and USDA provided support for creating the Center for Phytosanitary Excellence, and for setting up its technical team, which will analyze pest risks in nontraditional exports products.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA contributed to the integrated care program for women, which was successful in gaining passage of the Law on Rural Women. It supported projects aimed at substituting illicit crops, and collaborated with topics including: promoting agricultural and forestry enterprises;

fostering capital stock for marketing; consolidating the territorial institutional framework; strengthening rural microenterprises; and promoting gender equity and competitiveness. In addition, support was provided for conducting socioeconomic studies for indigenous reservation areas, dealing with property ownership and recovery of land. Within the framework of PRODAR, IICA provided technical and financial support for research on various agroindustrial products.

Technology and Innovation. Support was provided to strengthen the National Science and Technology Service; to promote and disseminate the components of the National Agricultural Technology Transfer Program; to implement an educational program on agroecology; to protect humid tropical forest reserves, micro-basins, and indigenous territories adjacent to small-farm settlements; to formulate a plan for productive/environmental management that uses sustainable production systems; and to develop strategic guidelines for networks for innovation, agroforestry, and dual-purpose livestock. Support was also provided for creating the Innovation Observatory and to hold, with PROCITROPICOS, an international workshop on integrated agriculture-pasture systems in the savannas of tropical South America.

Information and Communication. Support was provided to strengthen the agricultural sector statistical information system, which contains management indicators for 80 products and to implement a geographic information system with information on land use. The National Administrative Department of Statistics received assistance in conducting the 2001 National Agricultural Survey and the Potato Census in Boyacá. Also, the Institute's information and

documentation center was updated and linked with the Agricultural Information and Documentation System of the Americas, the Agricultural Information and Documentation Network of Colombia and the IICA System of libraries and documentation centers. A national workshop was held on information for agriculture. Within this framework, funding was provided for CIAT and CORPOICA staff to receive training in electronic document production and development of agricultural bibliographic data bases, for replication in the rest of the country.

Education and Training. Progress was made in designing methods for multi-point videoconferences, through the CECADI-Colombia Distance Training Center, and in formalizing an agreement with the National Open and Distance University, to train distance instructors. The Rural Education Project also received support.

Costa Rica

Trade and Agribusiness Development. Support was provided for the third course offered through the program "Creating Exporters to Canada," which included training for entrepreneurs in matters related to international trade, the validation of national products on the Canadian market, and participation in the International "Grocery Innovations" Fair. In addition, IICA assisted in conducting case studies on rural cheese factories in Turrialba and root and tuber packaging plants in the northern part of the country. It also contributed to the project "Planning the appellations of origin system for agrifood products in Costa Rica." The Securities and Exchange Commission received support in designing a program for the preparation of an

auditing manual for commodity exchanges; the Commodity Exchange received help in developing a course on agricultural marketing. Finally, the project “Service and Information Center for Agrifood Labeling” was coordinated and administered.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. In support of the Intersectoral Food Safety Commission, a work plan for the medium term was prepared which prioritizes training, institution building, communication, and the preparation of policies and regulations. Within this framework, relations between IICA and the PAHO Office were strengthened.

Sustainable Rural Development. Support was provided to begin execution of the project “National Organic Production Strategy.” IICA worked with the INAMU and various agencies of the agricultural sector to prepare the case study “Four hundred groups of income-generating women.”

Technology and Innovation. The INTA received support for a strategic planning exercise that led to the preparation of its conceptual and operational framework. Horizontal cooperation was fostered between INTA and other agricultural technology innovation institutions in the Americas (EMBRAPA, for example). In a workshop, discussions focused on the initial results of the project to modernize agricultural extension services for small-scale agriculture, carried out in conjunction with institutions from Costa Rica, Colombia and Argentina with FONTAGRO funding.

Information and Communication. An analysis of the current status of the Costa Rican Agricultural Information System (INFOAGRO) led to the

formulation of a cooperation project with the SEPSA, intended to upgrade the system and improve its operations in 2003.

Education and Training. The training program for ministry of agriculture extension agents continued; the focus was work with rural youths and the evaluation of extension programs. Support was provided for strengthening agricultural education and training.



In order to promote sustainable development in rural territories, IICA continued to work to fine tune a methodology for characterizing its experiences in the countries.

Dominica

Trade and Agribusiness Development. The national workshop "Understanding Critical Trade Issues in Agriculture - Realities, Expectations and Opportunities" was organized in collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), the OECS Secretariat, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment and the private sector. Support was provided to launch the Agro-Processors Association of Dominica (APAD).

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The draft plant protection legislation for Dominica was reviewed in collaboration with the public and private sectors. The CPEC project, implemented by the Pesticide Control Board (PCB) and coordinated by IICA, developed Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) protocols. In collaboration with CARDI, four national workshops were held, attended by farmers and exporters. The workshops concentrated on GAPs, especially for pesticide management and safety hazards, water quality, sanitation and hygiene, and fresh produce standards. Support was provided for creating Agricultural Health and Food Safety Councils.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA participated in preparing the draft of a project to enhance the participation of marginalized youth in the economic development process. Assistance was provided for establishing a Youth Forum.

Technology and Innovation. A national three-day workshop entitled "Promoting the Development of a Sustainable Agro-Processing Industry in Rural

Communities in Dominica" was held for selected crops (dasheen, cassava, arrowroot, pineapple, mangoes and paw paw), in collaboration with the Tobago House of Assembly, the Dominica Rural Enterprise Project, Produce Chemist Laboratory, APAD and the Windward Islands Farmers Association. In response to a request from the Nature Island Pineapple Producers Association (NIPPA) to assist in identifying and developing strategies for development of a sustainable pineapple industry, an assessment of the pineapple industry was conducted in collaboration with CIRAD.

Information and Communication. The IICA Office in Dominica carried out a program of events to celebrate IICA'S 60th anniversary, and the 18th anniversary of the Office.

Education and Training. IICA facilitated the attendance of technical professionals from the Ministries of Agriculture and Trade in training events on good agricultural practices, food safety, control of citrus canker, control of the giant African snail, pineapple growing, among other topics.

Dominican Republic

Trade and Agribusiness Development. IICA collaborated in monitoring national obligations assumed under the WTO and the FTAA; supported the Ministry of Agriculture's team of trade negotiators; and contributed to studies on the competitiveness of the principal sensitive agricultural products.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA's cooperation focused on helping improve national

capabilities to produce safer and better quality foods by supporting courses organized jointly with the Secretariat of State for Agriculture in order to train agricultural professionals in the area of Good Agricultural Practices. It also collaborated in managing and securing resources for continuing the Classic Swine Fever Control and Eradication Program (provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture).

Sustainable Rural Development. Support was provided for improving links among institutions so as to facilitate the participation of rural women in production and training activities, as well as to prepare profiles for rural poverty mitigation projects (PADEMUR, the Office of the First Lady of the Republic, the Women's Secretariat, NGOs). In addition, IICA served as a catalyst for the joint efforts of the Pedernales Integral Development Foundation, the Community Development Foundation, NGOs and families participating in the "The Milk that Reforests" Milk Bank, to ensure an efficient and timely execution of activities such as milk delivery, medical campaigns, training events for development, and reforestation days. These achievements contributed to improving nutrition and health levels of participating families and to raising awareness on the benefits of reforestation in the area bordering with Haiti.

Technology and Innovation. The strategic partnership with the Dominican Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute was strengthened through the formulation, approval, and financing of a project on non-destructive methods and molecular markers for determining appropriate harvest dates for five varieties of avocado. A project launched with FONTAGRO funding involves the Dominican Chemical Fertilizers Company as co-executor, and the participation of the Post-harvest Studies Center of the University of Chile.

Information and Communication. The Dominican Network of Documentation and Information Centers (RECDIA), which participates in SIDALC, was consolidated and received technical support from IICA for integrating its databases with the Microsis system. Various training events improved the capacities of staff members of the centers belonging to that network.

Education and Training. Progress was made in positioning the subject of agricultural, forestry and rural education and rural training through member institutions of REDCA and CACHE. IICA contributed to the ongoing review of courses for agricultural professionals and training events were conducted for agro-entrepreneurs and staff from business organizations on agricultural transformation and export agriculture.

Ecuador

Trade and Agribusiness Development. With support from COSUDE, the IICA/MCCH consortium, which supports the integration of cheese and vegetable marketing groups, was strengthened. The product-specific approach to agribusiness (for coffee and cacao) was promoted with ECORAE, a new member of PROCITROPICOS.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The Phytosanitary Inspection Program for Export Bananas and Musacea (SANIBANANO), which directly benefits producers and exporters, was consolidated. The Information System on Quality Inspections for Bananas (SIICABA), which systematizes information on service delivery, was implemented.

Sustainable Rural Development. An agreement was signed to design a program in support of rural women in Ecuador, financed by the IDB. Support was provided for strengthening trade associations with a view to enhancing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and promoting activities to strengthen sectoral policies and strategies. IICA collaborated with Ecuador's Rural Agribusiness Network (REDAR), which serves as a liaison with the agroindustrial sector. In addition, the trust fund of the Local Development Fund (FONLOCAL) was strengthened and the Saraguro-Yacuambi project, financed by IFAD, concluded successfully.

Technology and Innovation. IICA and GTZ extended the agreement on the Regional Fund for Appropriate Technologies for Sustainable Natural Resource Management. In coordination with PROCINDINO, collaboration was provided in implementing the projects financed by FONTAGRO, and a workshop was held on prioritization of agricultural research in the Amazon region of Ecuador, under PROCITROPICOS.

Information and Communication. Execution of the agreement "Generation of Geo-referenced Information for the Sustainable Development of the Agricultural Sector" continued. With a grant from GTZ, the Rural Information System (ECUARURAL) created new opportunities for promoting local products over the Internet.

Education and Training. IICA collaborated in enhancing educational opportunities on sustainable agriculture for professionals, through the support it provided for graduate-level programs, as in the case of the master's degree program on sustainable tropical agriculture (Guayaquil University).

El Salvador

Trade and Agribusiness Development. Support was provided in creating associations focusing on markets and agriculture-production-trade chains (Association of Indigo Producers, Association of Nursery Operators and Federation of Fruit Growers). Access to foreign markets was facilitated through the export platforms to Canada program, and through commercial contacts made in international fairs in the U.S. and Germany. IICA assisted the Commodity Exchange, in formulating a project for developing new services and instruments; the Ministry of the Economy and Agriculture, in analyzing projects on the diversification of production and the Wholesale Distribution Market of San Salvador; and the Association of Rice and Sorghum Producers, in establishing quality standards for the harvest absorption program. In addition, IICA worked with the Agricultural Development Bank to support the project "Development of Private Agricultural Marketing Services: an alternative to the privatization of the trade-related state infrastructure."

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA promoted the implementation of agro-forestry systems, the preparation of farm plans and the introduction of soil and water conservation practices. Farmers were linked to local development processes through production, marketing and credit committees, which involved the participation of local governments and communities. Projects being carried out in this area are the IICA/Holland Hillside Project; the Environmental Program of El Salvador MAG-PAES (IICA-CATIE-CRS-UCA); and Sustainable Rural Development in Ecologically

Fragile Areas of the Trifinio Region, PRODERT (MAG-CABEI-OAS-IICA).

Technology and Innovation. Support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in defining a plan to transfer the technology needed to modernize the agricultural sector. IICA also helped develop a national system of alliances for technological innovation and a list of competitive resources for technology generation and transfer. Advisory services were provided to producers to introduce quality planting materials, good agricultural practices, and the use of non-polluting pest control methods, and to processors for research and development on new agroindustrial products. Alliances were forged with national and international research centers, and with private enterprises, to research alternative technologies for increasing the profitability and productivity of agroindustrial processes.

Information and Communication. PRODARNET continues to provide cooperation by electronic means, targeting technical personnel and entrepreneurs. The INFORMAIR electronic bulletin continues to be produced, and IICA disseminated information on projects, services and results achieved via radio and television interviews, the publication of the proceedings, a video, press articles and field trips.

Education and Training. Training was provided on agribusiness management and domestic and foreign market access (more than 500 events). The events targeted chains and organizations of producers or private enterprises. An alliance was forged with Japanese cooperation services for establishing a permanent indigo dyeing workshop. Advisory services, training, and technical assistance for the indigo sector of El Salvador (MAG-CABEI) contribute to this effort.

Grenada

Trade and Agribusiness Development. IICA helped establish the National Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu, whose mandate is to review and analyze the government's agricultural and rural development policies, and to advise the corresponding ministers on same. A National Youth in Agriculture Forum was formed, which will lobby for youth interested in agriculture and promote modernization in the sector. Entrepreneurs received training in the use of computers, record keeping, and the use of good agricultural practices.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Work was undertaken to enhance Grenada's capacity to comply with the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement. This took the form of a seminar/consultation within the framework of the project Strengthening Agriculture Quarantine Services in the Caribbean. The purpose of the event was to establish a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety entity. Also, support was provided for improving the strategy for controlling the fruit fly (*Anastrepha* spp.), with a view to having Grenada declared free of this pest.

Sustainable Rural Development. A project proposal for strengthening the Grenada Association of Beekeepers (GAB) and a training module entitled "Beginners Course in Commercial Beekeeping" were prepared and subsequently approved and financed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fishing.

Technology and Innovation. A technical evaluation was conducted on the feasibility of producing organic cocoa at selected cocoa orchards in Grenada. Results of

the evaluation were positive, and will serve to inform follow-up actions in support of the government's policy to institutionalize organic agriculture as a means of modernizing traditional enterprises.

Education and Training. IICA established a Distance Training Center, which offered courses on organic farming, farm management and e-commerce. Under the project Assistance to Institutionalize Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Selected Commodities in the OECS, farmers and agricultural technicians received training in such practices. Support was provided for technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Grenada Bureau of Standards to receive training overseas; subsequently they trained technicians locally.

Guatemala

Trade and Agribusiness Development. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) received support in selecting products with the greatest potential for competitiveness, organizing producers of same into agricultural production chains, and involving them in Plant and Animal Production Councils. Support was provided for setting up an agricultural forum to monitor international negotiations; reactivating the National Agricultural Development Council; and developing a price and market information system. IICA cooperated with the Executive Commission of the Dairy Subsector to design and execute a plan of action to enhance competitiveness. It also participated in restructuring and repositioning the Commodities Exchange.

Sustainable Rural Development. The project Sustainable Rural Development in Ecologically Fragile Areas of the Trifinio Region is conducting an associative

marketing strategy for small farmers. Several rural communities are transforming their traditional production systems by implementing agroindustrial development projects. The MAGA is carrying out a policy and plan of action to include actions promoting gender equity and rural women.

Technology and Innovation. The National Coffee Association (ANACAFE) continues to benefit from the generation, validation and transfer of technology by PROMECAFE. Of particular importance was the production, promotion and dissemination of seeds of the nematode-resistant Nemaya variety; the production and release of parasitoids; and the preparation of a data base for use in genetic breeding.

Information and Communication. IICA fostered the consolidation of the Guatemalan Network of Agricultural Information Units. The IICA



MERCOSUR Forum of Deans of Schools of Agriculture, Chile, May 2002. Improving the quality of higher agricultural education is one of the Institute's priority concerns.

Documentation, Reference and Information Center (CEDRI) responded to queries from both the agricultural and rural sectors. A website that disseminates agricultural news and other relevant information was made available to the agricultural sector.

Education and Training. National higher and vocational agricultural education institutions consolidated the National Forum on Agricultural Education in order to reach agreement on and plan improvements in the current curricula. This forum arose in response to IICA's support to studies conducted on the status of the national agricultural education system, and seminars on the art of teaching.

Guyana

Trade and Agribusiness Development. In collaboration with the UK Department for International Development, the National Agricultural Research Institute and the Mabaruma/Hosororo Organic Cocoa Growers Association, farmers were assisted in achieving increased yields of "organic cocoa in transition" and in consolidating access to the European market. IICA participated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Crops and Livestock, the INIA and other partners and clients in the development of a draft national policy for organic agriculture. Training sessions were held on good agricultural practices, hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) requirements for vegetable and food producers. The Guyanese chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association was founded. Support was provided to the local Rural Women's Network (RWN) and institutional ties were created with the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CNRWP), resulting in economic and cultural exchanges with similar groups in Barbados, Grenada, Saint Lucia, and

Dominica. IICA supported the RWN's participation in the Third Congress of Rural Women in Spain. Meetings were held with the Guyana Forum for Youth in Agriculture.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA helped train MFCL staff members in good agricultural practices and HACCP requirements, resulting in an improvement in the quality of food produced. Staff members of the MFCL Plant Protection Unit received training in the management and use of imported agricultural chemicals. Support was provided for harmonizing the Plant Quarantine and the Plant Protection Acts.

Sustainable Rural Development. Support was provided for improving business management skills of farmers in Mabaruma (cocoa), St. Ignatius (cashew), Wakapoa (coffee), St. Deny's (manioc) and Rupununi (peanut), as well as for making the Rural Women's Network activities more effective and equitable. Adaptations were made to imported cashew nut processing technology in St. Ignatius, resulting in a less hazardous working environment for processors.

Information and Communication. The Guyana Agricultural Information Network joined the SIDALC, and the Rural Development Resources Center was activated, giving rise to a new mechanism that improves access to information and improved capabilities for communication among stakeholders.

Education and Training. Training was offered on the production of organic cocoa, peanut and manioc; good agricultural practices; hazard analysis and critical control points for vegetable and food production; the management and use of imported agricultural chemicals; diagnosis of pests and diseases; the use of "new" agrochemicals; and computer skills.

Haiti

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA helped establish a network of 94 production and animal health agents who will work in the communities. A control system to combat pink hibiscus mealy bug was set up, and technical missions and seminars were conducted with the participation of private and public sector technicians. Support was provided for negotiations with the US Department of Agriculture on a project to strengthen national agricultural health infrastructure and efforts to eradicate classic swine fever.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA provided support to rural organizations operating in project areas, through training. New groups were established under the Kredifanm project. Numerous local organizations and NGOs participated in seminars on how to apply the Kredifanm methodology in their particular areas. Other NGOs involved in rural development continued to receive logistic support from IICA.

Technology and Innovation. In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, improved varieties of grass, legume and vegetable seed were introduced, which were distributed throughout the territory and validated on numerous parcels. Improved breeds of laying hens and fryers were imported and distributed to rural families, and NGOs received assistance in acquiring improved goats and cattle in the Dominican Republic. Haitian technicians and producers receive training under the CRIDNET network, and improved varieties of rice were introduced.

Education and Training. IICA supported grassroots organizations in organizing training seminars and sessions for project beneficiaries. Scholarships were

obtained for Haitian students to study at the Simon Bolivar College (Venezuela) and at the Agricultural School for the Humid Tropic Region (EARTH, Costa Rica). A Haitian student continues his master's degree studies at CATIE (Costa Rica). Finally, the local chapter of CACHE continued to receive IICA assistance for organizing meetings and other events.

Honduras

Trade and Agribusiness Development. The Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) received support for formulating the 2002-2006 Agrifood Plan, the Emergency Plan for the Agrifood Sector, the National Agrifood Program and the National Program for Small-farm Agriculture. IICA also collaborated in establishing the Honduran Agricultural Board, which is an initiative for building consensus among the public and private sectors on agricultural policy. Support was provided for setting up a Competitive Agriculture Unit in the Planning and Performance Evaluation Unit. The SAG received support in developing a Dairy Export Project, and IICA also helped establish an Information Center that fosters contacts between agribusinesses and potential markets (Central America and the United States). The sale of 500 recipients of fruit and vegetable products was facilitated. IICA worked with SAG and the Sugar Producers' Association to prepare a technical proposal for the sugar chain. The National Coffee Board received assistance in drawing up proposals on coffee policy, and IICA cooperated with COAGROH to establish a platform for exporting non-traditional agricultural products to Canadian and U.S. markets.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. A joint FAO/PAHO/IICA work plan was developed for

improving the responsiveness of the national agricultural health and food safety system to WTO sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA collaborated with the National Sustainable Rural Development Program in preparing a technical profile on the Central American Hillside Project (IICA/the Netherlands), which will be considered for the PRONADERS work plan as a successful experience.

Technology and Innovation. IICA contributed with the SAG in the Technological Acquisition Project, which is financed with USDA funds, and in arranging with the Spanish International Cooperation Agency the participation of Spanish aquiculture consultants. Training tours to the U.S., Mexico, Costa Rica and Panama were organized for professionals to observe organic agriculture technology and non-traditional export products. The National Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer System received support for analyzing projects to be financed by the IDB within the framework of PROMOSTA and to formulate the National Agricultural Program for competitive agriculture in Honduran valleys and highlands.

Information and Communication. IICA cooperated in coordinating the Honduran National Agricultural Information Network, made up of SAG, ESNACIFOR, FHIA, EAP (Zamorano), UNAH, IHCAFE, FIDE, SERNA and FAO. Professionals from these institutions were trained in database management with Microsis, strategic planning and techniques for disseminating bibliographic information.

Education and Training. At the request of the Transition Group, the Advisory Council of the National

Agricultural University received support for making the necessary academic changes in the National School of Agriculture, which was converted into a University by decree of the Honduran National Congress. IICA provided advice to the Honduran Agricultural Board regarding agricultural education and training policy for the 21st century.

Jamaica

Trade and Agribusiness Development. Support was given to the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA), the local chapter of CABA, the Agribusiness Council, the Jamaican Exporters Association (JEA) and other private sector organizations to strengthen the participation of agricultural producers and processors in trade and to improve the competitiveness of specific industries. IICA supported the creation of the local and Caribbean branches of the Pig Producers Association. A workshop was held to promote trade analysis and the development of market offers in the negotiating process.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. In collaboration with the National Food Safety Commission, IICA supported the implementation of quarantine systems that will facilitate and promote safer trade and better market access, and contribute to improved food safety.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA is working with the Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI) in implementing two production projects for goats and spices. The JBI selected IICA to produce spices on recovered, mined-out lands. IICA promoted the development of farming communities and the organization of rural women and youths, and worked

closely with the PIOJ and RADA to contribute to the development of a holistic approach to sustainable rural development; a workshop was held to design a strategy for implementing it.

Education and Training. IICA's Agri-Distance Learning and Training Center offered courses on organic farming for entrepreneurs, farm management, information and extension methods in agriculture, and an introduction to e-commerce. A review was conducted of current issues in agricultural education and training, particularly in relation to the promotion of agricultural and rural development in Jamaica.

Mexico

Trade and Agribusiness Development. IICA collaborated with ASERCA's Unit for the Agrifood Sector and for Support to International Trade Negotiations in monitoring and analyzing the performance of different groups of countries that participate in the WTO; support was also provided to the Working Subgroup for a Unified Strategy on Agrifood Exports Promotion. A presentation was prepared entitled "Challenges and opportunities for the agri-food sector in Mexico and the world." A cooperation agreement was signed with the State of Quintana Roo, to provide support for defining agribusiness production chains in the State. The Coordinator's Office for the Puebla Panama Plan and the SAGARPA received assistance in including agriculture and rural development in the Plan, with the participation of CORECA and the Presidents of Mexico and Central America. Business networks were strengthened, especially the Mesamerican Agribusiness Council, and the National Agricultural Market received

support in preparing a work plan for developing a commodity exchange.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Support was provided to SENASICA for implementing the National Fruit Fly Eradication Campaign. Diagnoses and risk analysis were conducted, and training was provided to participating professionals. In the area of food safety and input regulation, food and livestock production units meeting good agricultural practice standards were certified, and ten state commissions were established for food safety, promotion and livestock protection.

Sustainable Rural Development. Technical and logistic support was provided for conducting international seminars entitled "Reassessing the Value of Priority Groups in Rural Environment" and "Territorial Approach to Rural Development," which were organized with SAGARPA's Rural Development Department and the National Institute for the Development of Rural Sector Capabilities. The "VI International Expo on Non-traditional Agricultural Products, Veracruz 2002," the Program to Promote Agricultural Trading Companies, and the Technical Assistance Program for Rural Micro-financing also received support. IICA assisted the General Directorate for Regional SDDR Programs in implementing and concluding the program for sustainable productive development in marginal rural areas. A cooperation agreement was signed with the Mexican Rural Development Foundation.

Technology and Innovation. IICA supported implementation of the Technical Cooperation Agreement signed with INIFAP, the meetings of PROCINORTE and FORAGRO, and other institutions involved in education and research.

Education and Training. The Institute provided support in organizing 22 activities (including courses, conferences, workshops) under the doctoral program in higher agricultural education at the University of Chapingo and the University of the State of Morelos. It supported SAGARPA's Rural Development Department in designing a master's degree program on sustainable development management. The farm management course of McGill University (Canada) was adapted for Mexico.

Nicaragua

Trade and Agribusiness Development. IICA contributed to the market opening process by facilitating the participation of agribusiness operators in international fairs and by providing training on the preparation of agroindustrial products. It helped form a national dialogue and consensus-building group to address agricultural strategies and policies, trade negotiations, and product-specific matters (milk, sorghum and meat) as well as broader subject matters (rural energy, tariffs, credit, etc.). IICA helped strengthen the country's participation in the Central American Agricultural Network, with the inclusion of agro-entrepreneurs. Cooperation was provided for holding the First National Milk Fair and diversification of cheese production for export was promoted.

Sustainable Rural Development. Advisory services were provided for many different areas, such as rural electrification and rural roads. IICA collaborated in the design and dissemination of the country's Agricultural and Forestry Development Strategy, which was developed with the participation of agricultural and forestry leaders. Support was provided for organizing

and holding the First National Forum on Agricultural and Forestry Production, together with the National Assembly's Production Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MAGFOR), and the Ministry of Industrial Development and Trade. IICA cooperated with the Rural Development Institute in designing the National Program for Increasing the Competitiveness of Bovine Livestock Production, which seeks to retrofit the beef and milk agro-production chains in order to



The Information Management System (www.Infoagro.Net) receives more than 350,000 consultations every month; users have access to more than 5,000 publications.

position Nicaragua as one of the principal Central American producers and exporters of these products.

Information and Communication. Active support was given for operating the National Agricultural Information and Documentation Center and the MAGFOR Information System. Creation of a documentation center at the IICA Office, promotion of the Institute's web site, and the sale of books all contributed to increasing the dissemination and use of agricultural and rural information.

Education and Training. IICA contributed to strengthening higher agricultural education in support of the strategic planning process and curriculum transformation at national universities, including the International School of Agriculture and Livestock in Rivas. A training center was established for teaching professionals about expanded agriculture, and extension workers from INTA received training for work with rural youth.

Panama

Trade and Agribusiness Development. MIDA and the Rural Panama Plan received support for: a) training the secretaries of the agrifood chains; b) developing recommendations for upgrading the managerial and technical capabilities of the advisory commissions serving the chains; c) preparing a project profile aiming to stimulate the operations of agrifood chains; and d) resolving a conflict regarding the management of the pork importation contingency. IICA worked on designing and implementing the Trade Negotiation Information System; a workshop was held on development and functions of the stock exchange; a proposed regulations were submitted for the Agricultural and Industrial Exchange; and the

Agricultural Marketing Institute received support for its price information system.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. During the first quarter of 2002, MIDA received support through the services of a consultant who defined the institutional needs for modernizing the agricultural health and food safety component of the proposed Rural Panama Plan.

Sustainable Rural Development. Documentation was prepared for a project to support the rural economy (PRO-RURAL), which is being considered by the IDB for funding; a strategy was developed for implementing the Rural Panama Plan; and IICA participated in preparing and developing the Inter-Agency Rural Development Agenda.

Technology and Innovation. Support was provided for including the biotechnology and transgenics policy being promoted by Panama, as well as the need to evaluate the results of PROMOSA's technological innovation modules, in the National Agenda. An evaluation is under way of agricultural extension services for which IICA helped prepare the terms of reference.

Information and Communication. Efforts were restarted to organize a national library network within the framework of SIDALC.

Education and Training. Training was carried out on the subject of agribusinesses. IICA contributed to strengthening the National Learning Institute. An agreement was signed with the City of Knowledge Foundation for organizing the International Center for Sustainable Development and progress has been made on a series of initiatives for joint masters' degree programs on sustainable and rural development.

Paraguay

Trade and Agribusiness Development. A group was established as a venue for dialogue between the public and private sectors, the purpose of which is to build consensus on subsectoral agendas for competitiveness.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA participated in preparing the legislative framework for creating the National Plant and Seed Quality and Health Service (SENAVE) and for modernizing the National Animal Health and Quality Service (SENACSA).

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA contributed to the dialogue between public and private stakeholders for developing an operating process for out-sourced technical assistance for agricultural producers. The MAG's National Directorate for Project Coordination and Management was strengthened, and qualitative improvements were obtained in the execution of PRODESAL.

Information and Communication. Through the Agroalimentario, Acceso and Agrosalud bulletins, public and private agricultural institutions the country became more knowledgeable about the performance of the national and regional agrifood sector.

Education and Training. MAG's Directorate for Agricultural Education was strengthened, and support was given for training educators from public and private agricultural schools and the schools of agrarian and veterinary sciences. The Farmers' Professionalization Center provided training for producers and technicians un Itapúa area.

Peru

Trade and Agribusiness Development. In order to help to disseminate relevant experiences on the subject, the Institute collaborated in organizing a seminar on the Chilean experience with agricultural negotiations; a national workshop on maximization of tariff preferences; and a conference on domestic market development and preparation of regulations for commodity exchanges. Courses were offered for brokers of the Lima Commodity Exchange. The public competition of Innovation and Competitiveness for the Peruvian Agricultural Sector (INCAGRO) for the project: "Promotion of Good Agricultural Practices for Application at the National Level" was won.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Within the framework of the Binational Chile-Peru/IICA Fruit Fly Eradication Program, important progress was made in reducing the native populations of the pest on both sides of the border, and in progressively implementing a quarantine protection system in the Departments of Tacna and Moquegua. This program was evaluated in cooperation with the AIEA and the FAO Regional Office.

Sustainable Rural Development. FIAR and Foodlinks funds were used to conduct a project on rural tourism in Santa Maria, Huacho; technical assistance was provided to the Binational Association of Municipalities of Southern Ecuador and Northern Peru; a program was implemented with the small- and medium-scale enterprise program in support of cheese producers in Bambamarca; and the first module of a course on the formulation of rural agribusiness projects was offered.

Technology and Innovation. IICA provided support for strengthening the National Agrarian Research Institute with INCAGRO resources through the development and implementation of its strategic plan. In coordination with PROCINDINO, progress was made in incorporating the INIA into the Andean Observatory Project for Technological Innovation in Agriculture. Support was provided to the National Commission of Organic Products for developing draft national regulations on the subject. IICA contributed to formulating a law on administrative and financial self-management in the administration of water resources, and an international workshop was held on this subject. IICA assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in importing breeders for developing the Dairy Cattle Genetic Improvement Plan. The agreement was signed with AID for models for intervention in activities related to coffee cultivation in different parts of the country.

Information and Communication. The Jacobo Zender Agricultural Documentation Center was created at the IICA Office and its publications were systematized with the support of the library of La Molina National Agricultural University. In the framework of the SIDALC/FAO/UNALM/IICA agreement, a course was held to disseminate the AGRIS Web, which was attended by staff members of the libraries belonging to the Andean Regional Library Network.

Education and Training. IICA collaborated on several actions to provide training related to the WTO agreements on health and food safety, to professionals involved in rural production activities.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Trade and Agribusiness Development. The National Youth Forum was established to mobilize young people as active members in production and the entire marketing chain. A paper was presented on the effects of the trade liberalization on agricultural development in St. Kitts and Nevis; and an instrument for managing risks associated with credit financing in agriculture was developed.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Ministry of agriculture staff and producers participated in seminars and national, regional and international workshops on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, good agricultural practices, risk analysis, traceability, food safety, plant quarantine, and Giant African snail control. In addition, IICA is assisting in developing an emergency plan for exotic livestock pests and diseases.

Sustainable Rural Development. The Office continued to focus on strengthening the productive capacities of various groups and organizations. It supported a farmers' group in preparing an irrigation project, and assisted the Ministry of Community Affairs with the establishment of a community computer laboratory.

Technology and Innovation. Critical germplasm was participation in meetings of the Committee of Fruit Cultures and Vegetables of the PROCICARIBE and was obtained for the development of the Program of Fruit Cultures.

Information and Communication. Ministry of Agriculture technicians participated with IICA support

in two regional workshops: one on electronic production of documents and the administration of agricultural bibliographic databases; the other was a writing course for agrifood professionals.

Education and Training. The Institute inaugurated the Agricultural Distance Learning Centre, which currently offers courses on farm management, extension and E-commerce.

Saint Lucia

Trade and Agribusiness Development. Support was provided for launching the national chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA), which promoted the creation of a vegetable and root crops network within the CABA and initiated actions to strengthen ties among the agriculture and tourism sectors. In the area of institution building, the training and information provided to the Ministry of Agriculture enhanced its capacity to understand the WTO-related issues that impact on agriculture. Information and recommendations helped restructure the St. Lucia Agriculturalist Association and implement a Five-Year Business Plan.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The St. Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association responded positively to information disseminated on food safety issues and the quality standards for fresh produce improved. In the area of quarantine, efforts undertaken to address the threat of the Giant African Snail resulted in the preparation of a plan of action to this end.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA cooperated in increasing the capacities of rural women to process fruits

and vegetables; and networking was strengthened among local women's groups, as well as with other groups belonging to the Caribbean Network of Rural Women.

Information and Communication. The Information Centre at the IICA Office in the country continued to be an important source of information for farmers, technicians, students and the general public on matters related to agricultural health and food safety, the WTO, Caribbean agriculture, the tropical fruit industry, among other subjects.

Education and Training. The capacities of employees of the public and private sectors, NGOs and civil society were strengthened through training actions in agricultural health and food safety, technology, trade, and project identification and formulation for micro-businesses.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Trade and Agribusiness Development. IICA sponsored a seminar-workshop on critical trade issues in agriculture and subjects related to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, the WTO/SPS Agreement and the issues affecting trade in agricultural commodities. Dialogue was also facilitated among representatives of agribusinesses, with a view to establishing a local chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA).

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA facilitated the enhancement of the technical capabilities of personnel in the Ministry of Agriculture through their participation in a number of training activities on

agricultural health and food safety at home and abroad, especially a seminar for the launching the joint EC-CARIFORUM project “Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services in the Caribbean.”

Sustainable Rural Development. Supported was provided to the Cooperative Division, the National Development Foundation, and the National Youth Council in establishing a local chapter of the Regional Forum of Youth in Agriculture. Collaboration among the St. Vincent Marketing Corporation, the Ministry of Agriculture and IICA contributed to increasing the earnings of small farmers through the production of hot peppers.

Technology and Innovation. IICA sponsored several meetings of the PROCICARIBE networks, at which personnel from the ministries of agriculture and trade, producers, and exporters discussed the production and marketing of dasheen, pineapple, mango, sweet potato, hot peppers and lime. IICA also gave logistic support to the Arrowroot Industry Association for the purchase of improved genetic material.

Education and Training. Producers, exporters, and staff members of the Bureau of Standards, NGOs, and ministries of agriculture, trade, and health participated in education and training events organized by the Office.

Suriname

Trade and Agribusiness Development. The Fruit and Vegetable Project focused on providing training to fruit growers in improved production technologies, and to fruit processors in quality standards and food safety. Emphasis was on the production of yellow

passion fruit, pineapple, cashew, citrus fruits and mangoes. Direct technical assistance was provided to growers for the transfer of technology from the Brazilian fruit industry, and assistance was provided for developing market channels. A manual produced by the Ministry of Agriculture and IICA to improve the yields of yellow passion fruit through the use of the systematic hand pollination was translated by IICA into English. The Institute also helped to prepare a feasibility study on organic cashew production.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA collaborated in the revision of agricultural health and food safety legislation. In the plant health field, the



IICA cooperates in analyzing, explaining and implementing the WTO's Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

Carambola Fruit Fly Project was successful in containing this pest in areas where it persists.

Sustainable Rural Development. Small farmers received training in the use of improved farming practices primarily through the adoption of agroforestry principles, the economic production of commercial crops, and the preparation and use of compost.

Information and Communication. With IICA support, Suriname joined the SIDALC network; chapter operators were trained; a plan of action was prepared and computer equipment was distributed to chapter members. Work began to construct the IICA/Suriname website and the Agribusiness Virtual Library was established.

Education and Training. The construction and equipping of the Distance Learning Centre, as an annex to the IICA Office, was completed.

Trinidad and Tobago

Trade and Agribusiness Development. Workshops were held to analyze the implications of the WTO negotiations on national agriculture. A report was prepared on the status of Trinidad and Tobago's compliance with its obligations under the agreement. IICA assisted the national chapter of CABA in organizing a meeting with the ministers of trade and agriculture in order to report to them on CABA's activities and on the problems of various agricultural subsectors with respect to different trade issues; the participation of CABA's members in several national and regional trade shows was facilitated. IICA also cooperated with the South

West Development Agency to develop is agricultural business plan. This includes establishment of fruit and vegetable-production firms, the rearing of small livestock, development of enhanced natural forests for outdoor recreation, and the use of abandoned dams for water sports facilities, to exploit tourist potential in the La Brea region.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. In collaboration with the European Union/CARICOM, the project "Strengthening of Agricultural Quarantine Services in the Caribbean" was initiated, which will improve the country's position on foreign markets and national capabilities to address emergency pests and diseases.

Sustainable Rural Development. Among other actions, the organizational strengthening of community and women's groups was promoted; support was provided for a revolving credit scheme to support commercial initiatives by individuals; alliances were strengthened with the UWI, CARDI, CNIRD, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (MALMR), and the latter received support in developing the "Youth Apprenticeship Programme for Agriculture."

Technology and Innovation. The Institute promoted technologies for enhancing local production and competitiveness in the areas of herbs, dairy products, fruits and tuber crops; two workshops were held on the production of high-quality yam seeds; and IICA co-hosted the Caribbean Herbs Business Forum. The Caribbean Herbs Business Association was formed to promote regional cooperation in the research, production and marketing of herbs. IICA collaborated with Citrus Task Force to coordinate the development

of the citrus industry plan. Ongoing support for the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Company included a presentation on quality, food safety and packaging requirements for fresh agricultural produce.

Information and Communication. The Institute continued to be a major source of information for the local agriculture sector; within the framework of SIDALC, considerable progress was made in establishing a virtual library.

Education and Training. Through distance learning, technicians from different public and private institutions received training in animal health, international trade, and organic agriculture, among other subjects.

United States of America

During 2002, the IICA Office in the United States strengthened its relations with the U.S. Department of Agriculture through new actions related to food safety, policy, and public-private sector partnerships. With the State Department, IICA provided timely support for initiatives in Member States with USAID operations that leverage the influence and reach of the Institute's capacities for agricultural and rural development programs. New partnership initiatives were forged with stakeholders in the academic community and at the state level, in order to broaden the scope of access and possibilities for professional and technical exchanges between the U.S. and other Member States. U.S. quotas and arrears to the Institute were paid in full and IICA signed an agreement to relocate its Washington Office in the OAS.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued its "White Paper on Hemispheric Cooperation through IICA," outlining four priority issues: i) addressing cross-border concerns related to food safety and agricultural health; ii) gaining acceptance of innovative biotechnology products through dialogue to determine appropriate regulations for approval, labeling, and trade; iii) adopting international standards, with emphasis on Codex Alimentarius; and iv) accelerating collective integration into the rapidly changing global market through improved access to resources and markets, which builds hemispheric capacity for trade. The White Paper forms the strategic underpinnings of the IICA-USA National Agenda. The results of the actions carried out in 2002 are presented below, following the matrix of the National Agenda.

The first strategic objective of the Agenda was to expand the capacities and opportunities of U.S. public institutions, private enterprise, and centers of learning in technology and innovation in order to improve rural communities and agriculture. Some of the most important results were:

- IICA developed renewed relationships with universities, starting at Iowa State University. At ISU, meetings with a variety of faculty members and the Provost led to the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding in October. Veterinary medicine faculty were put in touch with IICA Mexico for possible collaboration. The participation of an ISU Professor/Extension Specialist in the International Rural Women's Conference, in Madrid, was sponsored by the IICA Office.

- IICA, the Mid-American International Agriculture Consortium, CATIE, USDA/ARS and Oklahoma State University (which awarded participants three university credits) sponsored a course on Agricultural Research Management, which was held Nov. 4 – 15 at CATIE, in Costa Rica. The ARS provided a US\$10,000 matching grant and Oklahoma State provided in-kind contributions of trainers, as well as partial scholarships for training participants.
- Six Cochran fellows were selected and participated in training programs on produce inspection and certification, as well as feed inspection.
- A new institutional relationship was established with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, which was active in the preparations for the IICA “60 on 60” celebration honoring the contributions of notable individuals to agriculture.
- As part of the partnership with CLAA, the Inter-American Council and USDA/ARS, IICA coordinated a luncheon event with José Fourquet, U.S. Executive Director, IDB, serving as speaker; IICA also facilitated two other events.
- IICA provided leadership in the Monterrey Bridge to identify partnership arrangements and policy for greater linkages between international public organizations and civil society for global agricultural and environmental issues.
- Outreach was provided through a keynote presentation on key issues in agriculture and rural development, at the International Farming Systems Association symposium.

- IICA will sponsor and serve as a member on the board of the International Agroforestry Congress, which will be held in Florida in 2004.

The second strategic objective of the IICA-US National Agenda focuses on facilitating information, professional exchanges and policy forums to build hemisphere-wide consensus on issues and approaches to agricultural health and food safety. Results include:

- funding and implementation of the Federal Assistance Program on participation in WTO/SPS Committee Meetings, where, for the first time, all countries in the hemisphere were in attendance in Geneva. The sum of \$621,750 was allocated to fund the participation of 44 participants in three SPS/WTO Committee meetings;
- designation of an Associate Professional Officer to support efforts in SPS, CODEX and related themes, who was assigned to IICA Headquarters to work with the Strategic Area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety; and
- initial meetings of the Trinational Council, to consider issues of food security and to review of proposal for a Trinational agenda for action in 2003.

The final strategic objective seeks to articulate U.S. institutional, financial, professional and technical resources of the public and private sector to improve the capacity for trade in the hemisphere. The principal results achieved were:

- development of working ties with the Grocery Manufacturers Association through sponsorship of

policy forums during IICA's 60th Anniversary celebrations;

- alliance with the Biotechnology Industry Organization and sponsorship of a conference on biotechnology as part of the activities of FONTAGRO;
- active participation in the USAID regional coffee initiative, providing outreach and leverage between contractors, IICA country Offices and Central American government officials; and
- designation as the implementing agency of the Sustainable Tree Crop Program of the Americas, in conjunction with PROCITROPICOS and the World Cocoa Foundation.

Uruguay

Trade and Agribusiness Development. IICA assisted the MGAP with a series of forums held to discuss strategic issues of Uruguayan agriculture and with analytical studies on market access and international negotiations. It also supported the creation of the Southern Agricultural Council, the Network for Cooperation on Agricultural Policies, and the regional master's degree program on policies and trade.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The Institute supported the efforts of the specialized services to update and adapt national sanitary legislation to international standards.

Sustainable Rural Development. IICA helped the central government implement its decentralization

policy, promoting the strengthening of the departmental governments and civil society organizations. A territorial development strategy aiming to strengthen local governments was promoted. Finally, a development program was formulated for the northern region of the Department of Rio Negro and a series of training activities were carried out for persons involved in rural development.

Technology and Innovation. The Institute supported PROCISUR as a mechanism for addressing the needs of national agricultural science and technology institutions.

Information and Communication. IICA focused its actions on consolidating the country's network of agricultural libraries, reengineering the Office's new website and facilitating the national agricultural sector's access to agricultural information.

Education and Training. IICA promoted efforts to build consensus among the social actors involved in the sector with a view to setting up a National Agricultural Education System. Other activities included the organization and implementation of four regional forums and the discussion of the mechanism and framework of the National Forum.

Venezuela

Trade and Agribusiness Development. IICA supported implementation of the forums: "International Trade Agreements: Opportunities and Threats"; "International Trade Negotiations and the Dairy Sector in the Andean Region"; and "The FTAA and the outlook for Venezuela." It also provided training for commodity exchange brokers

and helped revise the regulations of the Agricultural Commodity and Inputs Exchange. It also assisted the Association of Grain Producers in implementing a government-sponsored grain purchasing program, and the Supplies and Services Corporation in training storage plant administrators. The Institute also conducted studies of chains (fruits, fresh vegetables and cocoa) and collaborated in analyzing the direct expenses of agricultural credit programs, and in establishing the Society of Reciprocal Guarantees for Agriculture.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA assisted the Autonomous Agricultural Health Service (SASA) in preparing a handbook of procedures and regulations for dealing with bovine tuberculosis; the Program to Eradicate Classic Swine Fever with FEPORCINA; the Project to Strengthen the SASA's Laboratories; and the evaluation of the Program to Control and Eradicate Foot-and-mouth Disease, in alliance with USDA/APHIS. In the plant protection field, the Institute supported national and international training activities.

Sustainable Rural Development. Technical assistance was provided to the governments of the States of Monagas, Bolivar and Zulia regarding organizational development, rural and border development, training, and information systems. BANMUJER also received support with the design of the micro-credit program for women engaged in agricultural activities.

Technology and Innovation. The Institute supported the national agricultural research institute

(NARI) before and during the startup of the Agricultural Technology Program, aimed at consolidating the NARI's institutional reforms, strengthening investments and increasing the institution's ability to respond to demands. IICA also supported formulation of the agroforestry research program together with PROCANDINO, and the establishment of the FUNDAGRI Foundation. PROCITROPICOS held an international workshop on land-based aquaculture in the Amazon region and a course on the in situ conservation of genetic resources with the NARI.

Information and Communication. Progress was made in strengthening the Information System for Expanded Agriculture of the State of Zulia. In partnership with the Polar Foundation, the components of the Information System for Rural Enterprises were developed. In collaboration with FUNDACITE-Aragua and the SIAN, IICA promoted the development of Venezuela's Documentary Information System within the framework of the SIDALC. It also improved the web pages of the IICA Office, Infoagro/Venezuela, Infoagro/Sur del Lago, Infoagro/Monagas and REDAR/Venezuela.

Education and Training. The Hemispheric Education and Training System held workshops on the design and implementation of the Information System for Expanded Agriculture, financing and sustainable rural development, the management of rural enterprises with the INCE and technical assistance, and farmers' organization for markets and marketing.

4. Relations with strategic partners

The new IICA Administration has undertaken to transform the Institute into a modern, flexible and transparent technical cooperation and development agency, run along business lines and geared to providing more and better services to its Member States. To this end, it stepped up joint cooperation activities with strategic partners and this effort has made it possible to improve the effectiveness and expand the coverage of services the Institute provides, and make a more significant contribution to the community of agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

IICA's Office in Europe, located in Spain, is the Institute's window for building bridges between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean. It handles the Institute's cooperation agreements with a number of Spanish organizations and is forging new relations with the European Union, France's cooperation agency and British institutions. Programs are currently being negotiated related to the development of young leaders, education and training, and rural poverty alleviation, as well as agricultural science and technology projects.

Outlined below are the main actions carried out in collaboration with selected agencies of the Inter-American System, agencies of the United Nations System, regional and international organizations, national cooperation agencies, civil society organizations, and other agencies.

4.1 The Inter-American System

IACW The Institute took part in the Thirty-first Assembly of Delegates of the IACW, presenting a report on the progress made in incorporating gender-related and rural women's issues into development initiatives for agriculture and the rural milieu. Potential interagency technical cooperation links were also identified.

OAS The Permanent Council recognized IICA as an important resource for the development of agriculture and the rural milieu. In Resolution CP-826 (1338/02),



The OAS honored the Institute on its 60th anniversary for its contributions to agricultural and rural development. Ten former ministers of agriculture of Uruguay attended the commemoration.

it praised the Institute's contributions to agricultural and rural development in the Americas over the last 60 years. As part of the Summits of the Americas process, the Member States assigned IICA the task of facilitating dialogue and providing technical cooperation on contentious issues related to agricultural trade, rural poverty and food safety standards. During the reporting period, the Institute maintained a close working relationship with the Technical Secretariat of the Summits Process, in order to implement and follow up on the mandates related to agriculture and rural life issued at the Third Summit of the Americas. With the other Summits partners (OAS, IDB, ECLAC, PAHO, CABEI, CAF and CDB), IICA participates in the Summits Implementation Review Group (SIRG), which is in charge of preparing the Summit meetings and reviewing the progress toward the goals set for 2005. The SIRG has acknowledged the importance of IICA's efforts to promote the Summit's Plan of Action as concerns agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

PAHO A new agreement was signed to promote joint efforts to improve public health. The emphasis is on food safety and improving animal and plant health programs in the Member States. The Joint Action Plan also calls for actions related to information and the Summits of the Americas process.

4.2 The United Nations System

ECLAC Technical meetings were held to define joint cooperation activities on topics related to policies, trade and rural development.

FAO The two institutions exercised jointly the Technical Secretariat of the Informal Group of Agricultural Negotiators (GINA), which is responsible for

maintaining the information and monitoring system of the trade negotiations. Complementary work was also undertaken between FAO's World Agricultural Information Centre (WAICENT) and IICA's Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas (SIDALC). As a result, IICA may serve as a Regional Center of the International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (AGRIS). Finally, the two institutions worked together at the country level through IICA's collaboration with the Codex Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean.

IAEA The Institute supported the studies carried out for the Program for Fruit Fly Free Areas in Central American countries and evaluated the Chile/Peru Binational Project for the Control of the Fruit Fly in Border Areas.

IFAD The second phase of the Program to Support Rural Microenterprises in Latin America and the Caribbean (PROMER) continued to be implemented as a joint initiative of the two organizations.

UNDP Under the RUTA IV interagency cooperation program, and in collaboration with the World Bank, the MAGs of Central America, the IDB, IFAD, FAO and the DFID, training processes were promoted on project identification, preparation and implementation, agricultural production and sustainable natural resource management, land management and gender issues, with a view to helping reduce rural poverty in Central America.

World Bank IICA joined the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN), which receives technological and financial assistance from the World Bank. Progress was then made in establishing a joint distance learning network specializing in agriculture, to be coordinated and administered by IICA.

WTO Training was provided on the current status of the agricultural negotiations.

4.3 Other Regional and International Organizations

CARDI Joint strategies were designed to support national food security programs.

CATIE Actions were carried out related to soil, water and agroforestry management, and courses were held on the administration of agricultural research.

IDB IICA and the IDB have been active partners and Board members of the Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO). Through FONTAGRO, a hemispheric initiative is being developed to promote improved management and use of agricultural research as a regional and global public good. Other initiatives, including a rural women's development fund and actions with the Interagency Group for Rural Development, have paved the way for more substantive actions in 2003. IICA, the IDB-FOMIN, the MAGs and the private sector also helped create and develop commodity exchanges in Central America.

IPGRI IICA and IPGRI continued promoting the conservation and use of plant genetic resources through networks that link the activities of national programs and research institutes (REDARFIT, REMERFI, TROPIGEN, CAPGERNet) with PROCISUR's Plant Genetic Resources Subprogram.

OIRSA IICA and the CAC-CORECA coordinated a joint work program on regulations governing modified living organisms used for agricultural purposes.

4.1 The Inter-American System

GTZ Technical assistance was provided for formulating the legislative framework for organic agriculture (Belize), indigo cultivation (El Salvador) and cocoa production.

Royal Embassy of the Netherlands. With this embassy's support, IICA contributed to the implementation of the Hillside Project in El Salvador and Honduras, helping to guarantee the livelihood of hillside farmers and their families and ensure the sustainability of natural resources.

USAID With this agency the Institute coordinated observation and training visits by agricultural officials and exporters to the United States; carried out studies of agrifood chains; implemented programs to combat the fruit fly; executed the Business Management Services Project (SEGEM) in El Salvador (which aims to improve the incomes of small producers); and supported agribusiness in Honduras.

4.1 The Inter-American System

CIRAD Important support was provided for cooperative research and training activities on coffee under the aegis of PROMECAFE together with the European Union, USAID-ROCAP, the Joint Commodities Fund and IDB/FONTAGRO. The alliance with CIRAD made it possible to generate new varieties of higher-yielding, rust-resistant Arabica coffee, and to introduce and establish biological control of the coffee berry borer.

USDA IICA and the USDA, together with IFAD and the Royal Government of the Netherlands,

implemented the Fruit Fly Control Project in the Caribbean. With financial support from the USDA, the Institute collaborated in studies on the agrifood chains of milk, corn and coffee in Honduras.

4.2 The United Nations System

IICA assisted producers' associations, chambers of agriculture, foundations, private organizations, networks, forums, universities and other nongovernmental and civil society entities through training, the coordination of actions to promote dialogue, the dissemination of information, institution building and operational strengthening.

Some of the organizations involved are the Southern Area Plant Protection Committee (COSAVE), the City of Knowledge Foundation (Panama), the Pan American Association of Commodity Exchanges (APBP), the Mesoamerican Agribusiness Council, the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), the World Cocoa Foundation, the International Association of Production Systems, the MERCOSUR Association of Schools of Veterinary Sciences, the Federation of Veterinarians and Animal Husbandry Specialists of Mexico, Grocery Manufacturers of America, Future Harvest

and a variety of interagency networks (REDCA, ALPA, CSUCA).

IICA also worked with academic organizations such as the Midwestern Consortium of Agricultural Universities (USA), various university associations of higher agricultural education in Latin America and the Caribbean (ALEAS, AMEAS, ABEAS, ACEAS and CACHE), and many universities in the Americas.

The partnership with the W. K. Kellogg Foundation was especially important. A grant from the Foundation was used to implement the Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas (SIDALC). It comprises 24 national information networks which together make up Agri2000, a mega database that affords access to more than 1.4 million entries.

4.7 Interagency Group for Rural Development in LAC

IICA pooled efforts with FAO, ECLAC, IFAD, GTZ, the IDB, the World Bank and USAID in order to promote a rural development agenda and improve interagency coordination; link technical and financial cooperation; promote strategies and programs for training, technical assistance and investment; develop investment instruments; and disseminate successful experiences.

5. Implementation of resolutions and mandates

4.7 Interagency Group for Rural Development in LAC

In its capacity as a partner institution in the Summits of the Americas process and in line with the mandates it was given, IICA:

- a) created the Directorate for Follow-up to the Summits of the Americas Process, which forms part of the Office of the Director General of the Institute;
- b) established a mechanism for implementing and monitoring the Declaration of Bavaro (IABA Resolution 379) and disseminated the contents and objectives of this resolution among key leaders and stakeholders of the agricultural sector;
- c) helped establish the Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process (GRICA);
- d) installed an electronic system for hemispheric dialogue as part of the Institute's website;
- e) supported the efforts of the governments of the Member States to develop a framework of joint policies and activities consistent with the Declaration of Bavaro;

- f) contributed to the preparation of the base document on strategic guidelines for supporting rural life and agriculture in Ibero-America; and
- g) organized a technical forum on agriculture and cooperation within the framework of the international development objectives set for 2015 (Costa Rica, October 2002).

5.2 OAS General Assembly

Resolutions and mandates concerning management policies

IICA's Director General established a new, flatter organizational structure for the General Directorate, simplifying functions, integrating units and clearly defining the role of resources at Headquarters to provide guidance, leadership and overall administration. He also strengthened the operating and decision-making capacity of the Institute's Offices in the Member States. An important characteristic of the new structure is the increased participation of the private sector, pursuant to resolution 1852 of the OAS General Assembly.

Resolutions and mandates concerning inter-institutional relations

The Thirtieth General Assembly of the OAS (Resolution AG/RES. 1728) instructed IICA to

develop and strengthen “mechanisms of cooperation and exchange with other organs, agencies and entities of the inter-American system for proposing, coordinating, and executing policies and programs relating to the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the context of the inter-American system and the Summits of the Americas process.”

In its Resolution 341 (“The New Institutional Dimension”), the IABA recommended that the OAS General Assembly strengthen linkages with other inter-American agencies in order to address issues of hemispheric concern, as a mechanism for complementing capacities, pooling efforts and fostering dialogue, and thereby make a more effective contribution to the efforts of the governments and civil society to achieve the prosperity of rural communities in the Americas.

To carry out these mandates, the Institute strengthened the mechanisms for cooperation, exchange and consensus-building, in particular with the OAS General Secretariat and the CIDI vis-à-vis the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, and promoted the signing of cooperation agreements with its global strategic partners. IICA signed a framework cooperation agreement with PAHO; is a member of the Interagency Group for Rural Development, together with the IDB, the World Bank and other agencies; has strengthened and expanded the joint work program with the FAO; and strengthened ties with CATIE and CARDI in the area of technological innovation.

4.3 Other Regional and International Organizations

Resolutions concerning the transformation of the Institute

In 2002, as well as implementing cooperation activities in the countries, IICA executed important actions to carry out the mandates on agriculture and rural life of the Third Summit of the Americas, the Declaration signed in 2001 by the Ministers of Agriculture in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, and Resolution 344 of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, on the Institute’s transformation process. Specifically, IICA

- a) aligned its mission, vision, objectives and the strategic areas of its 2002–2006 Medium Term Plan with the Summit mandates;
- b) prepared, together with key stakeholders of the agricultural sector (public and private sectors, academia and civil society), national and regional technical cooperation agendas to address national priorities and supranational problems, respectively;
- c) established a mechanism for evaluating its performance and rendering accounts to the national authorities via ad hoc mechanisms and a detailed annual report on the implementation of the Cooperation Agendas, to make its management more transparent and increase the countries’ participation; and
- d) adjusted its structure, creating: (a) the Technical Cooperation Secretariat, which articulates and

focuses the Institute's technical resources for executing the Cooperation Agendas; (b) the Directorate for Follow-up of the Summit of the Americas Process within the Office of the Director General; and (c) the Office of Strategic Partnerships in Washington, which facilitates and promotes actions with third parties.

Resolutions concerning rural development and poverty alleviation

At its Eleventh Regular Meeting (Bavaro, Dominican Republic, November 2001), the IABA instructed IICA to increase its support for the Member States' efforts to promote sustainable rural development and combat rural poverty (Resolution 347). In response, the Institute overhauled its strategies and adopted a territorial approach to rural development, which includes integrated natural resource management, the preservation of biodiversity, the promotion of diversified production, agricultural and non-agricultural services, and rural tourism.

Resolutions concerning education and training

Pursuant to IABA Resolution 362, IICA stepped up its support for national institutions of higher agricultural education and the forums of deans, as mechanisms for exchange and reciprocal cooperation. It also complemented and increased its capabilities through joint efforts with other agencies.

Furthermore, in compliance with IABA Resolution 363, the Institute strengthened cooperation with institutions of higher agricultural education, especially regarding the training of professionals specializing in agricultural policies and international trade.

Resolutions concerning agricultural health and food safety

Based on IABA Resolution 382, a team of external experts is assessing and adapting IICA's agricultural health and food safety program in order to strengthen this important area of work. The objective is to support Member States' efforts to develop a more competitive agricultural sector whose products are of sufficient quality to maintain and increase access to world markets.

Resolutions concerning mechanisms of support for Institute management

The governing bodies decided to maintain and expand the role of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues through November 2003 (IABA Resolution 366). The Commission's mandate is to advise the Director General on administrative and financial initiatives and matters, with a view to facilitating consensus at the meetings of the Executive Committee and the IABA. The Commission has met regularly since it was created in 2001.

Resolutions concerning the policy of financial prudence

As the Institute's budget has been frozen since 1995, the General Directorate took special care to ensure that the proposed 2002-20003 Program Budget reflected priorities agreed upon with the Member States (IABA Resolution 371, which approved the Budget for 2002 and a global figure for 2003; and Resolution 372 of the Executive Committee, approving the detailed budget for 2003).

Other resolutions

The IABA, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting, approved other resolutions on specific matters related to the internal management of IICA. The array of decisions and actions being implemented to carry out the

mandates issued by the Presidents, the OAS General Assembly and the IABA are of vital importance to the Institute's efforts to strengthen its position, increase its ability to provide effective cooperation to public and nongovernmental entities of its Member States, and promote its own modernization and transformation into an efficient development agency.

6. Financial information

The Institute successfully carried out all the tasks related to the administration of financial resources to which it was committed in 2002. Thanks to the collaboration of the Offices in the countries and the units at Headquarters, the Directorate of Finance administered all the resources efficiently. This inspired confidence among the Institute's own units and its clients and partners.

The total amount of quota contributions collected for 2002 and previous years was US\$26,371,134.00. The Institute was able to execute almost all its budget, taking into account the amounts of CATIs/INR resources generated.

The Institute finances its operations with four types of resources: regular resources (quotas), external resources, indirect administrative and technical costs (CATIs) and miscellaneous income. The first two are the most important.

The six tables that appear below show important information on the execution of IICA's financial resources:

Table 1 shows the trend in quota contributions and external resources in 2000, 2001 and 2002. As can be seen, expenditures of quota resources were kept below the amount budgeted, given the amounts collected during those years. The situation is different in the case of external funds, due to the difficult economic and political circumstances faced by the member countries, limiting the Institute's ability to secure resources.

Table 2 illustrates the amounts of quota resources budgeted and executed under each chapter in 2002, as well as percentages of execution. This table shows that the Institute placed emphasis on the allocation of resources to technical cooperation.

Table 3 details the quota resources budgeted and executed, and the percentages of execution, in 2002, for each Chapter: Direct Technical Cooperation Services (broken down by Strategic Area), Management Costs and General Costs and Provisions.

Table 4 provides a breakdown of budgetary execution in 2002 for each of the Institute's source of resources: external resources, quota contributions, CATIs/Institutional Net Rate (INR) and miscellaneous income.

Table 5 shows the execution of external resources in 2002 for each of the five regions into which the member countries of the Institute are grouped.

Table 6 gives a breakdown of the largest sources of external funds for financing projects. These resources finance agreements signed with different institutions of the member countries and other institutions, designed to help the countries meet their targets in accordance with the new dimensions and needs established. The Institute plays a very important role in the execution of these funds.

TABLE 1
Execution of quota and external resources in 2000, 2001 and 2002* (in US\$)

Resources	Year of execution		
	2000	2001	2002*
Quota	27,502,290.00	26,950,506.00	26,625,967.58
External	111,912,393.00	141,651,367.00	127,209,487.98

* Unaudited preliminary data.

TABLE 2
Execution of quota resources by chapter in 2002* (in US\$)

Chapter	Amount Budgeted	Execution	
		Amount	Percentage
Ch. 1: Direct cooperation services	24,440,300.00	23,364,716.60	87.75
Ch. 2: Management costs	1,821,800.00	1,897,095.98	7.13
Ch. 3: General costs and provisions	1,246,600.00	1,364,155.00	5.12
Total	27,508,700.00	26,625,967.58	100.00

* Unaudited preliminary data.

TABLE 3
Budget and execution of quota resources by chapter
and strategic area in 2002* (in US\$)

Chapter	Budget	Amount Executed
Ch. 1: Direct cooperation services	24,440,300.00	23,364,716.60
-Trade and agribusiness development	5,142,100.00	4,684,417.49
-Technology and innovation	5,170,200.00	4,873,554.29
-Agricultural health and food safety	4,783,500.00	4,553,783.05
-Sustainable rural development	4,309,800.00	4,059,275.75
-Information and communication	2,330,500.00	2,629,262.98
-Education and training	2,704,200.00	2,564,423.04
Ch. 2: Management costs	1,821,800.00	1,897,095.98
Ch. 3: General costs and provisions	1,246,600.00	1,364,155.00
Total	27,508,700.00	26,625,967.58

* Unaudited preliminary figures.

TABLE 5
Execution of external resources by region
in 2002* (in millions of US\$)

Region	Amount executed
Central	52.6
Southern	34.3
Northern	19.9
Andean	17.7
Caribbean	1.6
Headquarters	0.9
Total	127.00

* Unaudited preliminary figures.

TABLE 4
Budgetary execution by type of resource
in 2002* (in US\$)

Type of resource	Execution	
	Amount	Percentage
External	127,209,487.98	78.80
Quotas	26,625,967.58	16.49
CATIs	5,249,121.72	3.25
Miscellaneous	2,350,436.11	1.46
Total	161,435,013.39	100.00

* Unaudited preliminary figures.

TABLE 6
Sources of external
resources in 2002* (in US\$)

Sources	Amount
Government institutions in the Member States	93,306,712.00
Other institutions and governments	33,902,776.00
Total	127,209,488.00

* Unaudited preliminary figures.

7. Human resources

TABLE 1
Distribution of human resources by category in 2000, 2001 and 2002

Category	2000	2001	2002
International Professional Personnel	114	109	100
Local Professional Personnel	183	183	237
General Services Personnel	484	524	501
Total	781	816	838

TABLE 2
Distribution of human resources by category and funding source in 2002

Category	Funding Source				Total	Percentage
	Regular Fund		External Funds			
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage		
International Professional Personnel	97	16.67	3	1.17	100	11.93
Local Professional Personnel	150	25.77	87	33.98	237	28.28
General Services Personnel	335	57.56	166	64.84	501	59.79
Total	582	69.45	256	30.55	838	100.00

Acronyms

ABEAS	Brazilian Association of Higher Agricultural Education	EAP	Pan American School of Agriculture (Honduras)
ACEAS	Central American Association of Higher Agricultural Education	EC	Executive Committee (IICA)
AGRIS	International Information System for the Agricultural Sciences and Technology (FAO)	ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
AHFS	Agricultural health and food safety	ECORAE	Institute for Amazonian Regional Eco-development (Ecuador)
AHFSS	Agricultural health and food safety systems	EMBRAPA	Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research (Brazil)
ALADI	Latin American Integration Association	ESNACIFOR	National School of Forestry Sciences (Honduras)
ALEAS	Latin American Association for Higher Agricultural Education	EU	European Union
ALPA	Latin American Animal Production Association	FAO	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization
AMEAS	Mexican Association of Higher Agricultural Education	FAVA/CA	Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action (United States)
APAD	Association of Agro-processors of Dominica	FEPORCINA	Venezuelan Hog Farmers' Federation
ARS	Agricultural Research Service (USDA)	FHIA	Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation
ASERCA	Agricultural Marketing Support and Services (Mexico)	FIDE	Honduran Foundation for the Promotion and Development of Exports
BAHA	Belize Agricultural Health Authority	MIF	Multilateral Investment Fund (IDB)
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration	FOMRENA	Regional Fund for Appropriate Technologies for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources
CAC	Central American Agricultural Council	FONTAGRO	Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology
CACHE	Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture	FORAGRO	Regional Forum on Agricultural Research and Technology Development
CAF	Andean Development Corporation	FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas
CAPGERNet	Caribbean Plant Genetic Resources Network (IPGRI)	GDLN	Global Development Learning Network (World Bank)
CARAPHIN	Caribbean Agricultural Information Network	GDLNA	Global Development Learning Network for Agricultural Development in the Americas
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute	GINA	Informal Consultative Group of the Agricultural Negotiators of the Americas
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	GRICA	Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum	GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
CARIFruit	Caribbean Fruit Network	IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture
CATIE	Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center	IACW	Inter-American Commission of Women
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank	IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
CECADI	Distance Training Center (IICA)	IAGRD	Interagency Group on Rural Development
CENARGEN	National Genetic Resources Center (EMBRAPA, Brazil)	IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
CIDI	Inter-American Integral Development Council (OAS)	IHCAFE	Honduran Coffee Institute
CIRAD	Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (France)	IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
CNIRD	Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development	ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
CNRWP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers	INAMU	National Women's Institute (Costa Rica)
COAGROH	Honduras Agribusiness Council	INCAGRO	Innovation and Competitiveness for Peruvian Agriculture
CONEAU	National Commission for University Evaluation and Accreditation (Argentina)	INCE	National Educational Cooperation Institute (Venezuela)
CORECA	Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic	INDAP	Agricultural Development Institute (Chile)
CORPOICA	Colombian Agricultural Research Corporation		
COSUDE	Swiss Cooperation Agency for Development		
CRIDNET	Caribbean Rice Industry Development Network		
CSUCA	Central American Higher University Council		
DFID	Department for International Development (United Kingdom)		

INFOAGRO	Agricultural Information System	PROMECAFE	Regional Cooperative Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation
INFOTEC	Regional Information System for Science, Technology and Innovation for Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean	PROMER	Program to Support Rural Micro-enterprises in Latin America and the Caribbean
INIA	National Agricultural Research Institute (Peru)	PROMOSA	Program to Modernize Agricultural Services (Panama)
INIFAP	National Institute for Forestry, Agricultural and Livestock Research (Mexico)	PROMOSTA	Project to Modernize Agricultural Technology Services (Honduras)
INTA	National Agricultural Technology Institute (Argentina, Nicaragua); Agricultural Technology Innovation and Transfer Institute (Costa Rica)	PRONADERS	National Program for Sustainable Rural Development (Honduras)
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute	RADA	Rural Agricultural Development Agency (Jamaica)
ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research	REDARFIT	Andean Plant Genetic Resources Network (IPGRI)
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean	REDCA	Regional Cooperation Network for Education and Research on Agriculture and Natural Resources
MAFLG	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government (Bahamas)	REMERFI	Mesoamerican Network for Plant Genetic Resources (IPGRI)
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Paraguay)	ROCAP	Regional Office for Central America and Panama (USAID)
MAGA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (Guatemala)	RUTA	Regional Technical Assistance Unit (UNDP)
MAGDER	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (Bolivia)	SAG	Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (Honduras)
MAGFOR	Ministry of Agriculture and Forest Resources (Nicaragua)	SAGARPA	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (Mexico)
MCCH	Maquita Cushunchic Foundation (Ecuador)	SAGPyA	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (Argentina)
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market	SANINET	Andean Agricultural Health Information Network
MFCL	Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock (Guyana)	SASA	Autonomous Agricultural Health Service (Venezuela)
MGAP	Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (Uruguay)	SENASA	National Service for Agri-food Health and Quality (Argentina)
MIDA	Ministry of Agricultural Development (Panama)	SENASICA	National Service for Agri-food Health, Safety and Quality (Mexico)
MINAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Peru)	SEPSA	Executive Secretariat for Agricultural Sector Planning (Costa Rica)
MTP	Medium Term Plan (IICA)	SERNA	Secretariat of Natural Resources and the Environment (Honduras)
NGO	Non-governmental organization	SIAN	National Agricultural Information System (Venezuela)
NORGEN	Plant Genetic Resources Network for North America (IPGRI)	SIBTA	Bolivian System of Agricultural Technology
OAS	Organization of American States	SICTA	Central American System for Agricultural Technology Integration
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States	SIDALC	Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas
OIRSA	International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health	SIRG	Summit Implementation Review Group
PAES	Environmental Program of El Salvador	SPS	Sanitary and phytosanitary measures
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization	SRD	Sustainable rural development
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica	TROPIGEN	Amazonian Network on Plant Genetic Resources (IPGRI)
PROCI	Cooperative agricultural research and technology transfer programs	UCA	Jose Simeon Cañas University of Central America (El Salvador)
PROCIANDINO	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion	UNAH	National University of Honduras
PROICARIBE	Caribbean Agricultural Science and Technology Network System	UNALM	La Molina Autonomous National University (Peru)
PROCINORTE	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Northern Region	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
PROCISUR	Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
PROCTROPICOS	Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
PROCODER	Cooperative Program for Rural Development in the Countries of the Southern Area	UWI	University of the West Indies
PRODAR	Rural Agroindustry Development Program for Latin America and the Caribbean	WAICENT	World Agricultural Information Center (FAO)
PRODESAL	Program to Support the Development of Small-scale Cotton Farms (Paraguay)	WCWM	World Center for Water Management
		WHO	World Health Organization
		WTO	World Trade Organization

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**Inter-American Institute
for Cooperation on Agriculture**

Headquarters

P.O. Box: 55-2200 Coronado, Costa Rica

Phone: (506) 216-0222

Fax (506) 216-0233

E-mail: iicahq@iica.ac.cr

Website: www.iica.int