



Our  
Commitment:  
Results



Delegation in Canada

# Harvesting results



Summary IICA Canada  
Annual Report  
2015

## Mission

To encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence. The Institute provides technical cooperation in its 34 Member States, where it addresses priority needs expeditiously in order to achieve increasingly inclusive, competitive and sustainable agriculture. Without a doubt, IICA's most valuable asset is the close relationship it maintains with the beneficiaries of its work.

We offer technical support to help countries in the Americas to:

- Improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector
- Strengthen agriculture's contribution to the development of rural areas and the well-being of the rural population
- Improve agriculture's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and make better use of natural resources
- Improve agriculture's contribution to food security

## What does IICA do?

The distinctive activities through which IICA fulfills its mandate include:

- Institutional strengthening
- Capacity building and development of human talent
- Development and strengthening of public policies
- Management and use of knowledge
- Project management
- Consensus building and coordination of stakeholders
- Horizontal cooperation
- Corporate management



# IICA's Delegation in Canada

## Significant Achievements in 2015

### Enhancing Opportunities for Peruvian and Colombian Exporters

In efforts to support trade opportunities for small sized producers of cacao, panela and tilapia, IICA supported missions involving Canadian buyers to Peru and Colombia during the year. The objectives of the project were achieved – namely enhanced capacity of the small scale enterprises in Colombia and Peru to access Canadian markets; links established between the producers enterprises and Canadian importers; and, new business commitments generated. The Canadian buyers provided valued advice directly to the producers, to senior officials of their cooperatives, as well as to the government officials, on matters such as market requirements and conditions. These efforts contributed to the strengthening of the producers' and exporters' capabilities to access Canadian markets and improve their livelihoods within the rural communities. Support for this project was provided by the Conference Board of Canada under the Canada-Americas Trade Related Technical Assistance (CATRTA) program.

### Supporting Research Collaboration in North America

PROCINORTE is a network of national agricultural research bodies in the three countries of North America: Canada, USA and Mexico. The network aims to advance innovation and solve trilateral issues of common concern to support agricultural trade in North America. PROCINORTE's 2015 -2020 Strategic Plan was approved for implementation by its 4 task forces, supported by the new Secretariat based in the office of the IICA Delegation in Canada.

The PROCINORTE platform furthered access to knowledge on threats and opportunities in the areas of plant and animal health, tree fruits, and genetic resources. Of note, more than 75 participants benefited from information shared during a workshop on insect molecular taxonomy in Mexico City. In addition, 25 senior scientists were exposed to state of art technologies for the diagnosis and management of animal disease outbreaks. The Tree Fruit Task Force also made exciting progress in its work on the non-destructive testing of avocados for maturity. As industry stands to benefit from this innovation, the group is working hard towards concluding studies for its transfer in Mexico and other producing countries.

Consistent with the Institute's orientation towards results, an appropriate approach for monitoring and evaluating PROCINORTE's progress and impact was advanced for adoption.

### Generating and Sharing Knowledge

IICA Canada delivered the Research and Internship Assistance Program (RIAP) to support knowledge generation in Argentina, Uruguay and Canada, in areas related to the use of satellite technology (SAR Synthetic Aperture Radar images) to identify snow cover areas for use of water, and the optimization of a technique for early detection of *Nosema ceranea* infection in overwintering honey bee colonies. These projects contributed to the Institute's flagships projects related to competitive and productive agricultural chains and to resilience in agriculture.

Key information was shared with Embassy staff of the Latin American and the Caribbean countries on "Exporting Food to Canada: Current and Future Regulatory Framework". This session was designed to prepare both public and private sectors in countries exporting to Canada for the expected changes in Canadian food safety import requirements.

IICA collaborated with the International Development and Research Centre (IDRC) to host a high-level panel discussion on Global Food Challenges: Role of the Americas. This took place at the World Strategic Forum, Miami, Florida, a conference to address the major governance challenges of the new world economic order, focusing on the central role of the Americas and in the global market. The panel was chaired by IICA's Director General, Dr. Villalobos, who set the stage for the multi-faceted views of the panelists. Issues relating to productivity, infrastructure and prudent policies were highlighted as being in need of attention to enable the region to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the challenge.

One of the starkest realities facing agriculture in some countries is the extensive migration of farmers, especially young people, into other economic activities or non-agricultural regions. IICA Canada organized and hosted a dynamic exchange to explore the topic "Engaging Youth Today to Feed the World Tomorrow". A group of young persons from Canada and LAC engaged IICA Canada's stakeholders during the delegations annual accountability seminar on the challenges and opportunities for young farmers. The role of consumers, education, innovation, technology and government support, for attracting and retaining young farmers in the sector both domestically and internationally was emphasized.

## **A Performance Management Framework for a Climate Change Adaptation Program**

Given an opportunity to support professional development and contribute to knowledge exchange between Canada and IICA member countries, IICA Canada sponsored an internship at a Canadian institution specializing in agricultural adaptation to climate change. The Innovation and Adaptation Services Branch of the British Columbia (BC) Ministry of Agriculture hosted an IICA intern to identify resiliency indicators and best practices in performance management. Outputs from the assignment included a performance management framework and a monitoring and evaluation system to assist in measuring progress towards resilience in the agricultural sector. Furthermore, a report providing a synopsis of the BC program and its knowledge products (i.e. tools and methodologies) that could be transferred to adaptation programs in LAC countries was generated.

## **Supporting Technical Cooperation of the Americas**

Throughout the year IICA Canada's team responded to a number of technical cooperation requests received from a diverse group of stakeholders, including IICA member offices, embassy officials and federal and provincial governments. Responding effectively to these requests and linking Canadian partners with colleagues and officials from other countries is a key role for Canada's IICA delegation. Requests ranged from providing technical assistance on the development of a regulatory program for veterinary drugs (IICA Bahamas) to supporting the analysis of potential trade markets for agricultural commodities (Embassy of Guatemala). Efforts were also undertaken with provincial ministries of agriculture to promote the adoption of an IICA initiative called Agriprofiles, a platform to share profiles of professional experts and create new linkages with Agricultural professionals.

### **Forging Strategic Partnerships**

IICA relies heavily on partnerships to generate innovative and sustainable solutions to address the many challenges facing agriculture in the hemisphere. Consistent with its commitment in the Institute's 2014-2018 Medium Term Plan, IICA Canada identified and connected with several new strategic partner organizations in 2015: World University Service of Canada (WUSC), Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), Agri-team Canada, Farm Management Canada, Canadian Young Farmers Forum, 4 H Canada, Ontario Agri-Food Technologies, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, University of Guelph, British Columbia (BC) Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council (CAHRC), and Value Chain Management International. In addition to forging new partnerships, maintaining strong and mutually beneficial relationships with our existing partners was also a key focus area for the team in 2015.

IICA Canada finalized its 2014-2018 Country Strategy early in 2015. Consultations starting in 2014 brought together professional sectors such as academia, public and private sector, and non-governmental organizations to review priority needs expressed by IICA member countries in thematic areas such as resilience and risk management, family farming, agricultural chains and inclusive agriculture. This consultation exercise provided recommendations which were shared and validated in February 2015 in a second round of consultations.

IICA Canada's Country Strategy defines the areas in which the Delegation intends to concentrate its efforts and capabilities by means of technical cooperation. The activities identified were selected jointly with Canadian partners based on the IICA member country needs and the Institute's overall strategic plan.

Thanks to the support of Canadian stakeholders, the IICA Canada Delegation was able to make significant progress in 2015 towards achieving the Institute's results.

### ***IICA Canada***

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