



---

# The National Agendas for Technical Cooperation

Executive Summary

Document for Discussion, October 2002





# Contents

ACRONYMS .....	4	3.2.13 SURINAME.....	40
1. INTRODUCTION .....	5	3.2.14 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.....	42
2. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS.....	6	3.3 CENTRAL REGION.....	45
2.1 METHODOLOGY.....	6	3.3.1 BELIZE.....	45
2.2 PURPOSE AND STAGES OF THE PREPARATION OF THE NATIONAL AGENDAS FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION .....	6	3.3.2 COSTA RICA.....	47
3. THE NATIONAL AGENDAS BY REGION AND BY COUNTRY .....	8	3.3.3 EL SALVADOR.....	50
3.1 ANDEAN REGION.....	8	3.3.4 GUATEMALA.....	52
3.1.1 BOLIVIA.....	8	3.3.5 HONDURAS. ....	55
3.1.2 COLOMBIA.....	10	3.3.6 NICARAGUA.....	56
3.1.3 ECUADOR.....	13	3.3.7 PANAMA.....	58
3.1.4 PERU.....	15	3.4 NORTHERN REGION.....	59
3.1.5 VENEZUELA.....	19	3.4.1 CANADA.....	59
3.2 CARIBBEAN REGION.....	22	3.4.2 MEXICO.....	61
3.2.1 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA.....	22	3.4.3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.....	63
3.2.2 BAHAMAS.....	23	3.5 SOUTHERN REGION.....	65
3.2.3 BARBADOS.....	25	3.5.1 ARGENTINA.....	65
3.2.4 DOMINICA.....	27	3.5.2 BRAZIL.....	68
3.2.5 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.....	28	3.5.3 CHILE.....	71
3.2.6 GRENADA.....	32	3.5.4 PARAGUAY.....	74
3.2.7 GUYANA .....	33	3.5.5 URUGUAY .....	76
3.2.8 HAITI.....	34		
3.2.9 JAMAICA .....	35		
3.2.10 ST. KITTS AND NEVIS.....	36		
3.2.11 ST. LUCIA.....	38		
3.2.12 ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES.....	39		



## *Acronyms*

ADLTC	Agricultural Distance Learning and Training Centre	IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
CAC	Central America Agricultural Council	IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
CACHE	Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture	LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
CAN / ACN	Andean Community of Nations	MERCOSUR	Common Market of South America
CARAPHIN	Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network	NAFTA	North America Free Trade Agreement
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute	PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
CARICOM	Caribbean Community and Common Market	PROCIANDINO	Andean Cooperative Program for Agricultural Technological Innovation
CLAWRENET	Caribbean Land and Water Resources Network	PROCICARIBE	Caribbean Agricultural Science and Technology Network System
CORECA	Central American Regional Council	PROCISUR	Cooperative Program for Agro-industrial and Technological Agrifood Development
CRIIA	Inter-American Information Referential Centre for Agriculture	PROCITROPICOS	Research and Technological Transference Cooperative Program for the South American Tropics
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	SICA	Central American Integration System
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations	SICTA	Central American Integration System of Agricultural Technology
FONTAGRO	Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology	SIDALC	Agricultural Information and Documentation System for Latin America and the Caribbean
FORAGRO	Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development	SIHCA	Hemispheric System for Agricultural Training
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas	SPSMA	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Agreement / WTO
GAP's	Good Agricultural Practices	UWI	University of the West Indies
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms	WOAH	World Organization for Animal Health
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points	WTO	World Trade Organization



## **INTRODUCTION**

This document summarizes the National Agendas submitted by IICA's Offices in the countries to comply with Executive Order 001/2002, dated January 16, 2002, regarding the preparation of national technical cooperation agendas. Preparation of the national technical agendas follows a business decision by IICA's new administration to open the discussion on the redefinition of the roles of the IICA Offices at country level, vis-à-vis the Institute's new vision, mission, and goals.

In Executive Order 001/2002, it was pointed out that, in line with the proposed new vision for the Institute, the IICA national offices would begin a process of renewal, reflection, redefinition and evaluation to ensure that their work programs are consistent with national objectives. National authorities and representatives from both the public and private sectors should be given the opportunity to participate fully in the conceptualization, implementation and evaluation of agreed strategic actions within the context of a National Technical Cooperation Agenda. It was also emphasized that the national agenda should highlight a corporate strategy that prioritizes food security, building national trade capacities and agribusiness development, and sustainable rural community development, and ensures that the Offices provide technical support, training, and information to the organizations and associations of the sector for promoting increased competitiveness of their products and services.

The National Technical Cooperation Agendas represent the first responses to concerns raised by Member States regarding the actions previously implemented by the Institute at country level, and their dissociation from the national priorities and programs implemented by their governments. Some of the concerns were:

- The need to have a clear and recognizable linkage between the Medium Term Plan and the programs funded, from Headquarters all the way through to the IICA Offices in the Member States.

- The need to report to the Member States on planned versus actual accomplishments, both in the budget and in the programs. This should be clear, frequent and serve as a feedback mechanism so that Member States are more attuned to what IICA is doing and the Institute is more attuned to what the Institute's stakeholders expect.

This administration is aware of and prepared to address these concerns.

The 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan was prepared to ensure that there is a clear linkage between the national, regional and hemispheric agendas. Preparation of these agendas represents a new approach to technical cooperation, in which the concepts of partnership, cooperation and demand-driven efforts is emphasized and which will constitute an important element of the Institute's Medium Term Plan for 2002-2006.

This document summarizes the contents of all the National Technical Cooperation Agendas prepared and submitted to IICA Headquarters. They place emphasis on six strategic areas of action:

- Trade and Agribusiness Development
- Technology and Innovation
- Agricultural Health and Food Safety
- Sustainable Rural Development
- Information and Communication
- Education and Training

The preparation of the National Agendas recognizes the unique nature of each of the Institute's Member States and aims to fulfill the mandate of greater participation of the Member States in the design and implementation of actions at the national level. In addition, these agendas will promote transparency, accountability and cooperation at the national level and ongoing dialogue with our stakeholders.

The technical cooperation that the Institute is asked to provide often goes beyond the national level and calls for a regional, and even



hemispheric, approach. A Regional Agenda is needed to meet these technical cooperation needs, designed to support the efforts of the countries to solve problems that, due to their nature and characteristics, can only be addressed successfully by the Member States working together.

The document thus outlines the results of the consultations undertaken in developing the strategy. It focuses on identifying the changes taking place and their implications, matching IICA's strengths with the areas of interest within the Americas, and setting a preliminary list of priority actions for discussion.

## **2. CONSULTATIVE PROCESS**

### **2.1. Methodology**

The process of building a strategy for IICA Offices in line with its Member States priorities and expectations is based on an extensive consultation process. This process consisted of both formal interviews with representatives of key stakeholders to identify specific areas where IICA could focus its attention in the future, and informal discussions with individuals to ascertain perceptions and interpretations of IICA's work to date.

A number of principles were envisioned to guide the proposed consultations, which must be expanded as the work is undertaken.

- The strategy needs to be built on the interests of each individual country and seeks to have a concrete impact on each one of them as soon as possible.
- The strategy needs to take into account IICA's mandates, new vision, mission, and priorities, as well as internal constraints, combining them with the countries' priorities.
- Development of the strategy should be seen as an evolving process, one that is based on consultation with and the participation of partners, and that does not dictate an

outcome or make commitments. The strategy should reflect what IICA believes it can deliver effectively in each individual country and region.

- The strategy must define overlapping areas where both interest and potential funds are available. Recognition of funding constraints on both sides is a key consideration.

### **2.2. Purpose and Stages of the Preparation of the National Agendas for Technical Cooperation**

A consultative approach was implemented to involve as many public and private organizations and associations at the federal, provincial (or state) and municipal levels as possible, including universities and agricultural colleges, non-governmental organizations, and other interested parties. The expected short-term results were a redefinition of the new role for IICA at the country level, a clarification of the countries' priorities and expectations, a proposal of consistent annual and medium-term plans of action, and a structuring of future relations between the Institute and its member countries.

The following stages and corresponding initial activities are involved:

- Stage One – The Consultative Process
  - a. A review of pertinent documentation from IICA and other sources at the national level, including current activities.
  - b. Interviews with different groups of IICA stakeholders at the country level to ascertain their priorities, their assessment of IICA's current approach and ideas for mutual collaboration, and their potential for funding.
  - c. On the basis of the interviews, the review of documentation and the feedback received on past IICA experiences, the Offices developed an outline of possible options for collaboration and discussed these with the stakeholders. Opportunities for securing financial resources at the national or international levels to support the actions of the agenda were to be explored.



- Stage Two – Approval of the Draft Document
  - a. The National Agendas for Technical Cooperation form the basis of the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan. The Offices will be responsible for coordinating the process of revision and approval of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda.
  - b. The national agenda are to be communicated to targeted national authorities at the federal, provincial (or state) and municipal levels, and to representatives of the private sector, universities, agricultural colleges, research centers, other interested parties, and the IICA network.
- Stage Three – Preparation of the Regional Agenda
  - a. Based on the National Agendas and consultations among the Regional Specialists, Representatives and specialists at Headquarters, a set of priorities and strategic actions will be established for each of the regions in which the Institute operates, within the framework of the corporate strategic areas and lines of action. The distinguishing feature of these regional actions is that they address problems that cannot be solved by individual Member States.

#### **4. Stage Four - Preparation of the Annual Plans**

- a. Based on the National Agendas, IICA Representatives will prepare their draft Annual Action Plans which will constitute the basis for their actions for each consecutive year. The initial draft version is to be submitted to and discussed with targeted national authorities. Once approved by IICA Headquarters, the final version will include all targeted and budgeted activities to be implemented in each given year.
- b. This document is to be shared with targeted national authorities at the federal, provincial (or state) and municipal levels, and with representatives of the private

sector, universities, agricultural colleges, research centers and other interested parties.

#### **5. Stage Five – Preparation of Annual Reports**

- a. An annual report containing both the national and regional components will be prepared and submitted to the national authorities at the federal, provincial (or state) and municipal levels, and to representatives of the private sector, universities, agricultural colleges, research centres and other interested parties, and the IICA network.
- b. The report should be reviewed with national authorities in an annual meeting convened for that purpose.
- c. Once approved by the national authorities, the copies of same will be sent to Headquarters; and the Executive Summary of each country will form part of the Institute's Annual Report.

#### **6. Stage Six – Ongoing Review of the National Technical Cooperation Agendas**

- a. Over the long term, it can be expected that priorities will shift to reflect new opportunities. This will require that the Offices revise their strategy on an ongoing basis to ensure that it reflects opportunities for promoting its goals. To effectively implement this strategy, IICA proposes a system of performance management and evaluation to measure the progress made.
- b. Any strategy adopted by the IICA Offices must meet the requirements of both the national authorities and IICA. Redefining the role of IICA's Offices in each individual Member State will require a number of adaptations, both within the Offices and within the IICA network. It is envisioned that a more organized, focused and integrated Institute will be better positioned to explore innovative partnerships in the Americas.



The strategic planning process followed by all IICA Offices is dynamic and ongoing. This is only the initial stage of a process aimed at progressively expanding the notion of the importance of IICA as a reliable partner for implementing the Member States' international agri-food activities in the hemisphere.

The following chapters present a summary of the proposed priorities, actions and expected results for each IICA Office in the hemisphere and for each Region. Following the National Agendas, a summary of future Regional Agendas' priorities will be later presented. The intention is to circulate this document within the IICA network and all its stakeholders and to obtain the necessary feedback on the effectiveness of the overall approach and focus areas identified, and specific suggestions for implementation.

### **3. THE NATIONAL AGENDAS, BY REGION AND BY COUNTRY**

#### **3.1 ANDEAN REGION**

##### **3.1.1 BOLIVIA**

The process of preparing the National Agenda involved consultations with numerous public and private national authorities associated with the agricultural sector, and was helped along by the good relations and open dialogue that exist between the staff of the Office and all sectors related to agriculture in Bolivia, including educational institutions, NGOs and other international cooperation agencies.

All of this enabled IICA's technical personnel to exchange information and determine the cooperation needs of current and potential clients, and to define priorities, objectives and lines of action that are in keeping with the proposals made in the 2002-2006 MTP. All of this was set forth in the proposed National Technical

Cooperation Agenda, which was submitted for consideration and approval to national authorities. A summary of same follows.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Support the incorporation of Bolivian agriculture into the integration processes, in particular those of the WTO, the FTAA, the Andean Community of Nations (CAN) and the expanded MERCOSUR.
- Train and update the negotiators of several public and private institutions, and ensure a permanent supply of up-to-date information on the international agricultural negotiations.
- Prepare regular studies on the current status and outlook for Bolivian agriculture and the opportunities open to it at the international level.
- Organize forums to discuss and study emerging issues of national concern, with public and private sector professionals and officials, in order to support the design of policies and provide input for the government's positions regarding the integration mechanisms.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Help consolidate the new institutional organization of the Ministry of Agriculture and strengthen other public institutions, such as the National Council on Productivity and Competitiveness.
- Help strengthen and modernize agroindustry associations and producers' organizations, so that they can provide better services to their members and consolidate their financial stability over the long term.
- Disseminate concepts and methodologies on competitiveness and agricultural production chains, and assist with studies to characterize the situation in the chains, with a view to raising productivity and opening up export lines.
- Support efforts to establish agreements on competitiveness for the priority agricultural production chains.





- Support organizations and associations of medium- and small-scale producers, to improve their business management skills and sensitize them to the structure of the production chains.
- Support the creation and operation of the Bolivian Commodity Exchange.

### ➤ **Technology and Innovation**

- **Topic: Consolidation of the Regional Innovation System**
  - Help facilitate access for researchers and institutions to cutting-edge technology and the latest research, through PROCISUR, PROCIANDINO, PROCITROPICOS and FORAGRO.
- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
  - Collaborate in the process of discussing and analyzing the strategic orientation of the Bolivian Agricultural Technology System.

### ➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
  - Implement and further develop a continuous learning program for the managerial, professional, technical and administrative staff of the National Agricultural Health Service.
  - Support the design, implementation and development of a program for the accreditation of private sector professionals and institutions.

### ➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
  - Assist producers' organizations and local authorities in the Los Yungas area in identifying lines of action for the

implementation of projects designed to foster the production of crops as an alternative to illicit crops.

- Cooperate with enterprises in the Chapare region to identify new markets for their agricultural products.

### ▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Support small-scale producers with regard to topics such as Technology Innovation, natural resource management, access to market mechanisms, technical improvements to local productive resources, promotion of new modes of business-oriented organization and training for young rural leaders.
- Collaborate in the creation and organization of agroindustries and rural microenterprises, and in the development of strategic alliances of small-scale producers and rural micro-entrepreneurs.

### ➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
  - Strengthen the National Agricultural Information and Documentation Network of Bolivia.
- **Topic: Consolidation of the INFOAGRO Thematic Information System**
  - Strengthen the operation of the Information System for Agricultural Production Chains (INFOAGRO-Bolivia).

### ➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
  - Support the efforts of technological and higher agricultural education institutions to provide updating training for their teaching staffs and improve the infrastructure of schools and faculties.



- **Topic: Integration of University Education**
  - Foster dialogue and the exchange of experiences through the Permanent Forum for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Forestry Education.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**

The timetable of expected results for 2003-2006 is:

**Bolivia. Timetable of Results 2003 - 2006**

Expected Results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
MAGDER Agricultural Negotiations Unit operational and participating in agricultural negotiations of WTO and FTAA	X	X	X	X
The Agricultural Association of Eastern Bolivia (CAO) has defined its new organizational structure and is now implementing the institutional reengineering process.	X	X	X	
The MAGDER and public and private organizations now have information system and analyses of agriculture and the context.	X	X	X	X
The Operating Unit of the National Council on Productivity and Competitiveness (UPC) is operating at full capacity, monitoring 14 agricultural production chains.	X	X	X	X
The Bolivian Commodity Exchange is operational, serving the agribusiness community in the eastern part of the country.	X	X		
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
SIBTA (UPDT-MAGDER) has trained its professional personnel and is engaged in monitoring and supervising activities.	X	X	X	X
Four SIBTA Technology Development Foundations (Plateau, Valleys, Humid Tropics and Chaco) are operating.	X	X	X	X
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
SENASAG has consolidated its institutional structure, incorporating institutions and professionals from different sectors.	X	X	X	X

Expected Results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
Programs designed to control and eradicate foot and mouth disease, avian salmonellosis, cotton boll weevil and potato wilt are in operation.	X	X	X	X
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Municipal governments and networks of NGOs have adopted conceptual frameworks and methodologies for the sound use of lands.	X	X	X	X
Rural agroindustries and microenterprises belonging to the Consortium for Support to Rural Agroindustry have become more productive and competitive.	X	X	X	X
The MAGDER Alternative Development Program has made progress in accessing markets by complying with requirements of the importing countries.	X	X	X	X
<b>Information and Communication</b>				
The RIDAB network has incorporated the major agricultural libraries, which use a standardized computer and library system.	X	X	X	X
Information System for Agrifood Chains (INFOAGRO-Bolivia) collects, processes and distributes information on/from 14 agrifood chains.	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>				
The Standing Forum for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural, Forestry and Rural Education in Bolivia is operational.	X	X	X	X
The House of Agriculture in Bolivia offers a wide range of events, for participants from the private, public and university sectors.	X	X	X	X

**3.1.2 COLOMBIA**

The agriculture, forestry and fisheries sector, and life in the Colombian countryside continue to be a strategic factor in the economic and social development of the country. Nonetheless, the sector faces serious problems, such as violence, which hinder investment and the generation of employment and income. This



being the situation, the IICA Office in Colombia (IICA-Colombia) is still involved in and committed to addressing the key issues of agriculture and rural development.

This Cooperation Agenda is the result of consultations and analyses with people from the rural milieu and the public and private agricultural sectors, as well as of the experience gained in the country in recent years, and of internal discussions of critical issues. It is in line with the mandate of the Eleventh Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), contained in the "Declaration of Bavaro" (Dominican Republic, November 2001), which defines the strategic issues that must be addressed by IICA.

It is important to note that the National Agenda presented below is still being discussed with the authorities of the new government, with a view to adapting it to their needs and priorities.

### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
  - Provide assistance in drafting the Agriculture Act and designing the institutional framework for Agro Vision Colombia 2025.
  - Prepare policy proposals on trade negotiations.
  - Train trade negotiators.
- **Topic: Development of Internal Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
  - Support the establishment and operation of the Agricultural Products Marketing Fund.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Strengthen the observatory on competitiveness and expand its coverage to include the users.
  - Organize and implement new agricultural production chains.

- Organize agribusiness clusters, an agribusiness network and technical support for the development of institutional mechanisms to support agribusiness activities.

### ➤ **Technology and Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
  - Support the development of Technology Innovation consortia.
  - Design a proposed strategy and policies for PRONATA.
  - Prepare the proposal for the Dynamic Agriculture Program.

### ➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
  - Expand and strengthen the National AHFS Network.
  - Provide advisory assistance with risk analysis, related to the handling of foods and agricultural practices.
  - Support the promotion of new phytosanitary legislation.
  - Train staff of the Colombian Agricultural Institute.

### ➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
  - Support the formulation and implementation of policies, programs and projects to alleviate poverty.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
  - Prepare proposed strategies for the development of agribusinesses, agroindustry and marketing.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
  - Strengthen the institutions and mechanisms linked to rural development.



➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
  - Provide technical support for national information systems and efforts to integrate them with international systems.
- **Topic: Consolidation of the INFOAGRO Thematic Information System**
  - Consolidate the Office's Information and Documentation Center and strengthen its capacity for service and information management.
  - Gather, systematize and disseminate information on successful experiences.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
  - Provide training in topics that are a priority for the country, for the development of agriculture and the rural milieu.
  - Support implementation of the Rural Education Project (PER) as part of the educational revolution.
- **Topic: Transformation of Educational Supply**
  - Support execution of the activities of the Distance Training Center at the IICA-Colombia.
- **Topic: Integration of University Education**
  - Establish forums and meetings for strategic thinking and action regarding the agricultural sector and the rural milieu.
  - Promote alliances and technical-scientific exchanges among universities on priority topics of the agricultural and rural sector.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2002-2006**

The timetable of expected results for 2002-2006 is:

**Colombia. Timetable of Results 2002 - 2006**

Expected Results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>					
AGROVISION COLOMBIA and others	X	X	X	X	X
Policies on trade negotiations, production chains	X	X	X	X	X
Observatory of Competitiveness in operation and providing services	X	X	X	X	X
National and regional agreements on competitiveness in effect	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>					
Rural extension system in operation	X	X	X	X	X
Consortia for technological innovation in operation	X	X	X	X	X
Biodynamic agriculture adopted by many people and institutions	X	X	X	X	X
PLANTE and FONADE have methodologies for alternative development	X	X			
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>					
National Agricultural Health and Food Safety operational	X	X			
Unit for Studies on Equivalence operational	X	X			
National AHFS network operational	X	X	X		
Center for Phytosanitary Excellence in operation	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>					
Production projects and small-farmer reserves operational	X	X			
EMPREDER, PLANTE, PADEMÉR being consolidated	X	X	X	X	
Enterprises supported by EMPREDER being consolidated	X	X			
Development of small-farmer micro-enterprises is increasing	X	X	X	X	X



Expected Results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Information and Communication</b>					
Periodic analyses of agricultural contest conducted	X	X	X	X	
Alliances to strengthen the agricultural and rural sector information network	X	X	X	X	X
Information and documentation center strengthened and modernized	X	X	X	X	X
Successful experiences compiled and documented	X	X	X	X	
<b>Education and Training</b>					
The MEN has consolidated the Rural Education Project (PER)	X	X	X		
CECADI has expanded its services to universities and training centers	X	X	X	X	X
43 agreements handled by IICA-Colombia involve concepts of gender and social participation	X	X	X	X	X
Fora and Seminars held/ topics related to rural and agricultural sectors	X	X	X	X	

### 3.1.3 ECUADOR

The IICA Office in Ecuador conducted a broad-based, participatory process in preparing the National Agenda for Technical Cooperation for 2002-2006. This process involved all the different institutional actors with which the Institute maintains formal relations via technical cooperation agreements, project and actions on key issues of agricultural, agroindustrial and agribusiness development, and the rural world.

The first step in the process was to adopt as a strategic focus the sustainability of the technical cooperation and the mutual definition of priorities for action. To do this, three strategic elements were considered: the situation in the sector or priority area; the qualified demand of the national institutions; and what the Institute, as a

corporate entity, can offer; in other words, integrating all the hemispheric actions.

The second step was to establish the terms of reference for the participation of the representatives of the national institutions, and to define the principles for the identification of proposals or priorities. A system was prepared for assessing proposals, with the collaboration of IICA specialists.

This process led to the prioritization of the technical cooperation actions. Among the things the Institute could offer, consideration was given both to existing cooperation agreements and to IICA's strategic alliances with international and regional agencies at the national, regional and hemispheric levels. The result of this was a proposed National Agenda for Technical Cooperation, a summary of which follows.

#### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
  - Support the development of systems of information and analysis related to trade, innovation and regional integration.
  - Support the analysis and formulation of policies for agriculture and rural life.
- **Topic: Development of Internal Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
  - Promote improvements in the quality of agricultural and agroindustrial products, as a key element of agribusiness activities.
  - Participate in the development of product-specific marketing systems.
  - Execute an externally funded project aimed at the development of domestic markets and agricultural commodity exchanges.



▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**

- Support the design and implementation of a market intelligence system.
- Collaborate in the design of information systems and trade negotiations to promote Export Platforms.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Assist in strengthening producers' organizations.
- Provide support, in the form of specific actions, for institutional modernization for competitiveness.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Promote public-private consortia for Technology Innovation.
- Promote mechanisms for inter-institutional relations, to foster innovation (national agricultural technology innovation systems).
- Help establish links among actors in specific agricultural and agro-industrial chains.
- Assist in formulating regulations governing technological aspects of competitiveness.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Promote private agricultural health service systems, including the development of human resources in this area.
- Assist in implementing a new structure for the Ecuadorian Agricultural Health Service, related to food safety.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Participate in the development of a range of financial services, such as competitive funds and micro-credits.
- Participate in the development of a range of services to support production and agricultural trade.
- Promote local capabilities for sustainable rural development, as an alternative for overcoming poverty.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- Contribute to the process of decentralizing responsibilities, to improve the services provided to agribusiness entrepreneurs, producers, exporters and importers.
- Promote the development of the market of services for agriculture and rural life.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Cooperate in developing information systems for services for agriculture, trade, Technology Innovation and agricultural health.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- Train and evaluate human resources working in the areas of health and safety, agribusiness management and the management of knowledge.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2002-2006**

The timetable of expected results for 2002-2006 is:



**Ecuador. Timetable of Results 2002 - 2006**

Expected Results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>					
To support the development of information and analysis systems for trade, innovation and regional integration	X	X	X	X	X
To support the analysis and formulation of policies for agriculture and rural life		X	X	X	
To promote the improvement of the quality of agricultural products	X	X	X	X	X
To participate in the development of product-specific marketing systems	X	X	X	X	X
To support the design and implementation of a market intelligence system	X	X			
To provide assistance to strengthen trade associations.	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>					
To promote public-private consortia for technology innovation	X	X			
To cooperate in linking actors by agricultural and agroindustrial chain	X	X	X	X	X
To provide assistance in the formulation of standards related to technological aspects of competitiveness	X	X			
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>					
To promote private agricultural health systems, including the development of human resources in this field	X	X	X	X	X
To provide assistance in the implementation of a new structure for the agricultural health and food safety system of Ecuador	X	X	X	X	
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>					
To participate in the development of financial services, such as competitive funds and micro-credits	X	X	X	X	X
To participate in the development of services in support of agricultural production and trade		X	X	X	
To cooperate in the process of decentralizing competencies, with a view to improving services to agribusiness operators, producers, exporters and importers	X	X	X	X	X

Expected Results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Information and Communication</b>					
To cooperate in the development of information systems for agriculture, trade, technology innovation and agricultural health	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>					
To train and evaluate human resources in agricultural health, food safety, agribusiness management and management of knowledge	X	X	X	X	X

**3.1.4 PERU**

IICA, through the Office in Peru, helps to meet the challenges of the agricultural sector, which, in the case of Peru, translates into problems of low profits, contraction of domestic demand and depressed international prices. The Office in Peru understands that agriculture, like any other economic activity, is subject to the positioning of the country in the international community; the public-private institutional framework of the sector; investment and external negotiating capacity.

The Peruvian agricultural sector faces grave distortions that affect the performance of the sector, in particular, tax distortions, which discourage formal, large-scale production. The sector is affected by shortcomings in the processes of production, processing, transportation and marketing, and by the divorce between the public and private sectors in terms of institutions and objectives. The existing rules and regulations do little to create a context that promotes and favors competitiveness; and the sector lacks prevention and contingency mechanisms farmers can use to protect themselves from, and respond rapidly to, natural disasters and market fluctuations.

Given this scenario, and in keeping with the MTP and regional plans of the Institute, the Office in Peru proposes a National Agenda for





Technical Cooperation for 2002-2006 that has been agreed upon with public and private authorities, and whose actions are aimed at meeting the needs and demands of both, in order to promote and direct the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu in Peru.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Establish a program designed to provide training in, and analyze, strategic issues that affect agriculture (trade negotiations, WTO, FTAA, CAN, Mercosur).
- Support the country's gradual incorporation into the FTAA, the negotiations with other LAC countries and the creation of the WTO Commission/Peru.
- Support a process of consultation and dialogue aimed at creating an agribusiness forum, within the framework of the Business Forum established as part of the FTAA process.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Establish a system whereby the General Directorate for the Promotion of Agriculture can consult with other government agencies and coordinate its work with them.
- Promote an agribusiness forum, within the framework of the Business Forum established as part of the FTAA process.
- Establish a permanent training program on competitiveness and agricultural production chains.
- Design and operate a system for monitoring agricultural production chains.
- Design and implement an electronic system for promoting the agribusiness activities and business initiatives of the different agricultural production chains.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Provide advisory assistance to the NARI concerning organizational and operating aspects of agricultural research and technology transfer.
- Organize training events and courses on agricultural research and the production techniques used in organic agriculture.
- Document and disseminate successful experiences of organic farming with minimum intervention.
- Foster the characterization, valuation, development and use of Peru's native and non-native genetic resources.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

- Help ensure that the WTO's sanitary and phytosanitary measures are gradually applied more correctly in Peru.

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Support the programs aimed at modernizing the institutional framework of the National Agricultural Health Service, preventing and controlling pests and diseases, overcoming sanitary and phytosanitary barriers, harmonizing agrifood safety standards, and involving civil society more in health and food safety issues.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Support the MAG in the formulation of a rural development policy, taking into consideration the efforts under way to build consensus on ways to combat poverty.





- Support the development and consolidation of rural agribusinesses, within the framework of a vision of sustainable local development.
- Prepare alternative development profiles and projects, as well as guidelines on the scope and content of the different actions to be incorporated into the work program, to support the Rural Development in Amazon program.
- Formulate a development proposal for the four border districts that make up the bi-national association of municipalities of southern Ecuador and northern Peru.

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Support the Rural Agro-industry Network of Peru (REDAR), especially as regards to: financial management, to enhance its administrative capabilities and bolster its decentralized operations; the updating of information on the status of rural agro-industry; the construction of institutional alliances, to meet the demand for training; the exchange of regional experiences; the development of institutional networks; and the establishment of mechanisms for the shared management of funds.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Cooperate in developing information systems on services for agriculture, trade, technology innovation and agricultural health.
- Implement a system of technological information for national agriculture.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**

- Provide assistance in the fields of self-evaluation and accreditation to agricultural universities that request it.

- Promote the chains analysis approach and the concept of organizing agricultural producers into chains in academic circles.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2002-2006**

The timetable of expected results for 2002-2006 is:

Peru. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2006

Expected Results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>					
Training and refresher courses offered on international trade	X	X	X	X	X
Agricultural trade promoted on AGRICOM platforms	X	X	X	X	X
Efficiency and technical capabilities of MAG officials improved, for decision making related to production and trade	X	X	X	X	X
DGP International Negotiations Unit strengthened	X	X	X	X	X
Agribusiness approach incorporated into decision making and program execution in MAG and private sector	X	X	X	X	X
Specialized advisory services to Congress of the Republic and MAG	X	X	X	X	X
Information system on trends in agricultural markets and alternative technologies updated	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>					
Institutional framework and scientific capabilities of INIA strengthened	X				
Relations among public and private actors of Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer System strengthened	X	X	X	X	X
Organic production promoted through pilot projects on the coastal mountains and in the jungle.	X	X	X	X	X
Professionals and farmers more able to engage in organic production	X	X	X	X	X
Contributions to Diagnostic Study of Animal Genetic Resources for Agriculture and Food	X				
National Coordination Office of Genetic Resources System operational.	X				



Peru. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2006

Expected Results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>					
Contributions to development of policies and regulations on access to genetic resources and the exchange of genetic material	X	X	X	X	X
Capabilities of institutions strengthened in terms of defining topics for research and innovation, based on specific needs.	X	X	X	X	X
Efficiency and impact of rural and alternative development projects enhanced			X	X	X
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>					
Capabilities of institutions strengthened as regards to planning and implementation of AHFS programs and activities	X	X	X	X	X
AHFS information and communication systems improved	X	X	X	X	X
Technical-operating capabilities of AHFS services vis-à-vis international bodies modernized	X	X	X	X	X
Contributions to efforts to eradicate pests and diseases, in cooperation with PAHO.	X	X	X	X	X
Programs consolidated for the harmonization of guidelines and rules on food safety, in keeping with international requirements.	X	X	X	X	X
Articulation of public and private AHFS programs with civil society and SNSA consolidated	X	X	X	X	X
Bilateral and multilateral cooperation programs in the area of AHFS strengthened	X	X	X	X	X
Quality of research in the areas of plant and animal health improved	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>					
RD experiences in Peru and Latin America analyzed and disseminated.	X	X	X	X	X
Public-private and binational investments in border areas promoted	X	X	X	X	X
Overall vision and priority areas of work for SRD and alternative development initiatives defined	X	X			
Local institutional framework for RD in Amazonia strengthened	X	X	X	X	X

Peru. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2006

Expected Results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>					
Alternative rural development actions harmonized with Andean countries, under CADA	X	X			
Stronger relations between IICA and intl. agencies that execute alternative rural development activities	X	X	X	X	X
Capability of NGOs to engage in rural development in border areas strengthened; institutional networks established and joint management of funds	X	X	X	X	X
Rural Agroindustry Network strengthened, with areas of technological services	X	X	X	X	X
REDAR more capable of adapting agroindustrial technologies, in native communities of Amazonia	X	X	X	X	X
Management capabilities, financial management, decentralization and range of services improved at REDAR	X	X			
Promotion and development of regional nodes of the Rural Agroindustry Network designed.	X				
FIAR and FOODLINKS funds strengthened, and projects on transfer of technology to rural agroindustries approved.	X	X	X	X	X
Agroindustry promoted in Cajamarca, Arequipa, San Martín and Junín	X	X	X		
Capabilities of autonomous organizations associated with water management improved in the area of integrated management of water resources	X	X	X		
Compilation and exchange of local, regional and hemispheric experiences in the management and handling of water and soil resources	X	X	X	X	X
Improved outlook for conservation of soil and water	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Information and Communication</b>					
Network of Agricultural Libraries in Peru strengthened	X	X	X	X	X



Peru. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2006

Expected Results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Information and Communication</b>					
PRODAR website improved, and topics of interest and question-answer feature available	X	X	X	X	
<b>Education and Training</b>					
Technical-scientific capabilities of agricultural universities improved	X	X	X	X	X

### 3.1.5 VENEZUELA

The National Technical Cooperation Agenda is the product of the active participation of the technical team of the IICA's Office, together with officials from public and private national organizations. The Agenda reflects the spirit of renovation within IICA and coincides with the strategic lines of the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the agricultural sector.

It should be mentioned that, prior to the preparation of this Agenda, the Office in Venezuela began a consultation process during the first half of 2001, with a meeting held to evaluate its activities in the country, where emphasis was placed on assessing both the identification and organization of activities, given changes in the context, and the way to translate them into approaches and strategies for identifying sectoral demands.

Later, as part of efforts to monitor the Summits of the Americas process and the agreements of the Eleventh IABA, a national consultation was conducted by means of a broad-based survey which made it possible to identify the critical issues in three specific areas: agro-food chains, rural spaces and institutional framework. As a result of that consultation, a first draft of a National Agenda was drawn up and then submitted to the consideration of national authorities, representatives of the private sector, academia and other

social actors, who offered recommended changes to same and validated the proposal which follows.

#### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
  - Develop capabilities and skills for trade negotiations and planning, by means of raining and advisory assistance.
- **Topic: Development of Internal Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
  - Support the consolidation of BOLPRIAVEN and its articulation with the exchanges in the Andean Region.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Assist the Ministry of Agriculture and the agencies created under the Land Act in technical and operating matters, in order to develop implementing regulations for the law.
  - Promote dialogue and establish permanent consensus-building mechanisms, and organize the main agricultural production chains.
  - Support and complement the development of the Agricultural Funding Program.

#### ➤ **Technology and Innovation**

- **Topic: Consolidation of the Regional Innovation System**
  - Foster the integration of national and regional efforts, through mechanisms such as the PROCIs, FORAGRO and FONTAGRO, to draw up a regional work agenda.
- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
  - Support the consolidation of the institutional reforms implemented and of the INA's financial sustainability.
  - Support the formulation of projects aimed at consolidating the National Technology Innovation System.



- Identify mechanisms for improving interaction between institutions in the public and private sectors, to boost and increase scientific and technological capabilities.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Strengthen the institutional framework of the SASA.
- Support and assume the coordination of a project aimed at modernizing and strengthening the agricultural health system that will be submitted to the IDB.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Strengthen the public sector's capacity to design and implement policies, strategies and methods to promote sustainable rural development.

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Foster and consolidate rural enterprises, the organization of producers and marketing.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- Promote the adjustment of institutional architectures so that they can perform the role assigned to them efficiently and effectively.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Implement a technological information system for the nation's agricultural sector.
- Support the consolidation of the Documentary Information System of Venezuela (SIDVEN)

▪ **Topic: Redesign of the IICA Website in Venezuela**

- Update on a regular basis the IICA website in Venezuela, as the official vehicle for disseminating information and maintaining relations with the expanded agricultural sector.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- Collaborate in establishing the areas of expertise and skills required to train human resources in aspects of the coverage and usefulness of Technology Innovation, and support the training of public and private sector professionals.

▪ **Topic: Integration of University Education**

- Promote and strengthen the mechanisms for dialogue and exchange among educational and training institutions.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**

The timetable of expected results for 2003-2006 is:

Venezuela. Timetable of Results 2003 – 2006

Expected Results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
Institutional capability for agricultural negotiations strengthened	X	X	X	X
Capabilities of private sector strengthened in terms of analysis and monitoring of agricultural negotiations, and agricultural trade	X	X	X	X
Consolidation of BOLPRIAVEN supported (training and market information system)	X	X	X	X
Articulation of regional agricultural commodity exchanges	X	X	X	
MAT strengthened in terms of organization, operation and institutional articulation	X	X	X	X
Technical assistance and training for MAT in the formulation and execution of policies, strategies, programs and projects	X	X	X	X



Venezuela. Timetable of Results 2003 – 2006

Expected Results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
Studies and analyses prepared for priority chains	X	X	X	X
The MAT has developed mechanisms for reaching agreement and engaging in dialogue in w with the agrifood chains	X	X	X	X
Studies and proposals on funding for agriculture prepared	X			
Technical and operating capacity of FONDAFA strengthened	X	X		
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
Integration of national and regional efforts promoted, through PROCIs, FORAGRO and FONTAGRO, to develop a regional agenda	X	X	X	X
Support for national actions under way from the regional agenda for technological innovation	X	X	X	X
Program for institutional transformation of INIA		X	X	X
Technical assistance provided and activities of Agricultural Technology Program evaluated and monitored	X	X	X	X
Development and implementation of innovations in agricultural technology supported	X	X	X	X
Mechanisms for training personnel in IT developed	X	X	X	
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
MAT agricultural health programs strengthened	X	X	X	X
AHFS norms updated	X	X	X	
Support in designing system for hygienic handling of products in agrifood chain supported	X	X	X	
Training program in AHFS executed	X	X	X	X
Project for modernization of AHFS formulated	X			
Project on modernization of AHFS executed		X	X	X
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Proposals on institutional modernization in RD prepared and negotiated	X	X	X	
Conceptual, operating and administrative guidelines for MAT RD program formulated	X	X	X	X
Technical assistance provided on activities of institutional modernization program, subsequently evaluated and monitored	X	X	X	X

Venezuela. Timetable of Results 2003 – 2006

Expected Results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Agroindustrial development projects identified and promoted		X	X	X
Organizations of rural enterprises strengthened and developed	X	X	X	X
Training program on marketing, management and promotion of rural agroindustry executed	X	X	X	X
<b>Information and Communication</b>				
Agricultural Information Systems INFOAGROs created and maintained	X	X	X	X
Information and Services for Agriculture Units created	X	X	X	X
Information System for Rural Enterprises (SIPER) developed	X			
Agricultural Libraries and Documentation Centers integrated	X	X	X	X
Version "e" of agricultural information updated and administered	X	X	X	X
Use of agricultural information services promoted	X	X	X	X
Management and dissemination of up-to-date information on IICA website in Venezuela	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>				
Need for training identified	X			
Human resources training and education plan prepared	X	X		
Actors of expanded agriculture sector and rural society trained in strategic topics of national interest		X	X	X
SIHCA – IICA's Office activities for the integration and consolidation of networks among agricultural training institutions coordinated	X	X	X	X



## 3.2 CARIBBEAN REGION

### 3.2.1 ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

The economy of Antigua and Barbuda is based on services: banking, insurance and tourism. Agriculture contributes only 3.4% of GDP, and employs barely 8% of the work force. Agriculture is limited to primary activities, agricultural exports are minimal and agribusiness development is incipient.

In this context, the National Agenda for Technical Cooperation proposed by the Office of IICA in Antigua and Barbuda reflects the recommendations arising from consultations conducted in 2001 and 2002, and has been endorsed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Fisheries. The Agenda is intended to facilitate the development of microenterprises with high value added; promote the adoption of policies suited to an economy in which few agricultural products are exported and many foods are imported; and increase support for agricultural health and food safety services.

The proposed Agenda takes into consideration the fact that the principal potential market is that of fresh produce for the tourism sector, and the possibility of taking advantage of niches in the export market. The Agenda is not the National Agricultural Program of Antigua and Barbuda. Rather, it reflects the areas in which it is expected that IICA-Antigua and Barbuda can be a partner of the Ministry and other clients in promoting agriculture on the islands during 2002-2006.

#### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
  - Increase the knowledge and capacity of agricultural stakeholders to assess the impact of trade policies on

- agriculture; to participate effectively in discussions and consultations on proposals related to trade policy and negotiations; and to subsequently prepare them.
- Support the design and implementation of a planning unit to support the government in the areas of trade policies and negotiations.

#### ▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Increase the productivity and profitability of agribusinesses by providing training in the operation of such enterprises and access to new technological options, facilitating the transfer of experiences from other Caribbean nations, etc.

#### ➤ **Technology and Innovation**

#### ▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Meet the technological innovation needs of commercial-scale agricultural producers, including packing, labeling and brand differentiation technologies.
- Transfer technologies via horizontal cooperation with other countries, especially those in the Caribbean.

#### ➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

#### ▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Continue to help modernize the AHFS system, especially as regards quarantine measures.

#### ▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Adopt systems that will make it possible to improve significantly the quality and safety of foods in order to ensure the availability of safe foods for the tourism sector.



➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Assist the government in drawing up proposals on policies for the sustainable management of water used in agriculture.

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Assist the government in promoting rural micro-enterprises and organizations of microenterprises.
- Improve the management capabilities of agribusinesses, especially agricultural micro-enterprises.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- Provide support for training in the areas of foreign trade, plant quarantine, disease and pest control, rural development capabilities, and the use of information systems.

### **3.2.2 BAHAMAS**

The country is characterized by macroeconomic stability and low inflation. Tourism, banking and construction are the mainstays of the economy, while agriculture and fishing are important activities for rural communities. Except in the case of poultry raising and less important activities, most producers operate semi-commercial, or even subsistence, farms located mostly on the central islands. All of these characteristics define the unique aspects of the proposed National Agenda for Technical Cooperation for the Bahamas.

The Office in the Bahamas has consulted local authorities and different private sectors on a regular basis, including the national consultation conducted in September 2001. The draft National Agenda was drawn up taking into consideration the results of this and earlier consultations, and was discussed with the competent authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and other public and private entities, between March and April 2002.

The National Agenda agreed upon includes priority actions in the areas of institutional modernization and reorganization; funding for the sector; human resource development; formulation and drafting of policies; development of infrastructure for agriculture; agrarian reform; and agricultural trade.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets**

- Support the creation of a trade facilitation unit to identify opportunities for expanding trade.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Prepare status reports on the economy and the agricultural sector.
- Conduct analyses of the chains of selected commodities (guava, plantain and others) for the purposes of identifying opportunities and making them more competitive.
- Support agro-industrial development for priority products, including broccoli, citrus fruits and tomatoes.
- Support the efforts to formulate a protocol for natural disaster preparedness.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Support development of the orchid industry.





- **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**
  - **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
    - Promote the use of integrated pest and disease management systems.
  - **Topic: Food Safety**
    - Develop an HACCP program for the poultry and meat industries.
- **Sustainable Rural Development**
  - **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
    - Support programs aimed at diversifying rural incomes.
    - Identify options for the management and disposal of waste water, taking into account the height of the water table and the fact that most water comes from the subsoil.
    - Provide assistance in developing a regulatory framework for the sustainable use of water in agriculture, under the Water and Sewage Act.
    - Assess the credit situation in the agricultural sector and recommend options for increasing credit availability in the rural community.
  - **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
    - Analyze the performance of producer/supplier cooperatives in order to recommend ways to upgrade them.
- **Information and Communication**
  - **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
    - Continue to develop the MOAF/IICA communications center under the SIDALC program.

- Develop an electronic database to capture the value of investments and assets in the sector.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
  - Provide training on risk assessment and analysis, including the database development and management and staff training.
  - Provide training in the identification and control of pests and diseases, especially hibiscus pink mealy bug and black sigatoka.
  - Promote distance-learning programs tailored to the needs of rural producers.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**

The timetable of expected results for 2003-2006 is:

**Bahamas. Timetable of Results 2003-2003**

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
There is an enhanced knowledge base of the prospects for entrepreneurial activity within the agricultural and rural sector	X	X	X	X
There is an enhanced commercial environment, with roles and functions clearly defined within the public and private sectors and academia	X	X	X	X
Supported the development of the BAPA and the modernization of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government	X	X	X	X
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
Technicians and sector operators are more knowledgeable about the technical/scientific aspects of their operations on this area	X	X	X	X
Advances in modernization of agricultural services to the rural sector, including diagnostic and Quarantine Services.	X	X	X	X
Developed an Agricultural Health and Food Safety Programme	X	X	X	X





Bahamas. Timetable of Results 2003-2003

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
There exists a favorable climate for collaboration between the IICA's Office and other Technical Cooperation Agencies DR	X	X		
Supported programmes aimed at the diversification of rural incomes	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>				
The CA's effectiveness is increased as a center for Technical Cooperation Delivery		X	X	X

### 3.2.3 BARBADOS

In preparing its National Technical Cooperation Agenda, the IICA Office in Barbados took into consideration the new mission of the Institute and the instructions issued by the General Directorate. This proposed Agenda will serve as a guide for IICA's cooperation actions over the next four years, and was drawn up in consultation with national authorities, the private sector, academia and civil society.

This proposed Agenda clearly identifies IICA's major areas and lines of action in Barbados. Also, it places emphasis on strengthening linkages between agriculture and the other sectors of the economy, enhancing the capabilities of the Ministry of Agriculture, fostering alliances with other technical and financial assistance agencies, supporting the private sector and creating commercial enterprises for producers.

This proposed Agenda attaches special priority to the establishment of a Tourist Contracts Center for Barbados, which will promote, support and coordinate initiatives intended to develop and expand linkages between agriculture and tourism and other sectors of the economy.

#### ➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

- **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
  - Coordinate a project on medicinal plant research and the commercial development thereof, in collaboration with UWI, Centre for the Development of Enterprise -CDE (Belgium) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation –CTA (Holland).
  - Collaborate with the Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation -BADMC, CARICOM Export Development Agency -CEDA, Caribbean Tourist Organization -CTO and Caribbean Development Bank -CDB in preparing a feasibility study on calabash handicrafts in the Scotland District.
  
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Work with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development -MAR, Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association BHTA, CTO, the Chef's Federation, suppliers and funding agencies to support the existing linkages studied throughout the Farm-to-Table Chain, to quantify the intensity of the linkage between agriculture and tourism sectors, and develop a data base of information reflecting demand and providing information on trade.
  - Facilitate commercial relations between agriculture and other sectors, especially tourism, hotels, restaurants, commercial processors and commercial distributors.
  - Strengthen the capabilities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development vis-à-vis the compilation, analysis and dissemination of production and trade information.
  - Host Linkage Fairs to showcase activities of producer groups and buyers, and to initiate trade linkages.



➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Support the establishment of an Inter-Agency Planning Committee, comprising Ministries of Agriculture, Health, Tourism and Trade, and coordinated by IICA, PAHO and WHO, which will guide and implement the establishment of a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency in Barbados -NAHFSA.
- Work with CARICOM, FAO and PAHO to develop project proposals for the infrastructural and managerial improvement of government institutions to comply with WTO standards and to provide effective services to the sector as regards agricultural health and food safety
- Promote public awareness of food safety and agricultural health issues via the press and television.
- Develop distance education courses, in collaboration with the PAHO, FAO, UWI, Barbados Community College - BCC and the Quality Tourism for the Caribbean -QTC project of the CTO, for farmers, extension agents and food handlers.
- Work with the MAR to increase the public's awareness of the importance of veterinary laboratory services vis-à-vis public health and the safety of animal-based foods.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Facilitate joint efforts among the agricultural and tourism sectors, especially in relation to investments for heritage tourism, health and ecology, with emphasis on the integration of rural communities.
- Support institutional building in selected groups in the Scotland District, through distance education courses, exchanges and administrative backup.

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Work with the BADMC to implement training courses for extension agents and farmers.
- Establish a Pilot plant / Agro-Processing Training Facility to strengthen business capacity and infrastructure for agri-business operators.
- Conduct a Feasibility Study for the upgrading and establishment of goat production and processing facilities in the Scotland District.
- Support the certification of organic farmers and the development of organic production and trade.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- Facilitate the training of farmers and extension officers in soil conservation, orchard management, communal grazing techniques in the Scotland District.

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**

- Strengthen the capabilities of agricultural professionals through expansion of Distance Learning programme
- Prepare a "Careers Package" for the agriculture-food chain to encourage youth and investment into the sector.
- Train producers by means of distance training, practical field courses,

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**

The timetable of expected results for 2003-2006 is:

Barbados. Timetable of Results 2003-2006

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
Greater availability of information on demand and supply of agricultural products and services	X			
Increased levels of linkage between the agricultural sector and tourism, agro-processing and the distributive trade	X	X	X	X



**Barbados. Timetable of Results 2003-2006**

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
Certificated organic producers and increased production and trade in organic products	X	X		
Improved access for agricultural producers to domestic markets	X	X	X	
Increased investment in agricultural production, and processing	X	X	X	X
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
New technology for goat production and processing, and calabash handicraft implemented	X	X	X	
Infrastructure for technological innovation strengthened	X	X	X	
Improved conservation practices in the Scotland District	X	X		
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
Inter-Agency Planning Committee established	X			
Project document drafted for the modernization of NAHFSA	X			
Information materials developed for public awareness programmes	X			
NAHFSA established and funding identified for infrastructural modernization of laboratories and institutional training		X		
Public cooperation in the management of agricultural health and food safety system		X		
NAHFSA implemented and operational			X	X
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Increased employment opportunities at community level			X	X
Farmers' groups restructured and strengthened through training and exchange visits	X	X		
Farmers and extension officers have the expertise required for improved techniques in Scotland District	X	X		
Feasibility study available on Community Tourism Conference facility	X	X		
Conference Tourism Facility launched and operational			X	X
New rural enterprises established to service the community tourism activities			X	X

**Barbados. Timetable of Results 2003-2006**

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Information and Communication</b>				
Information available to schools, communities and agencies on careers in agriculture and the	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>				
The IICA's Office effectiveness is increased as a center for Technical Cooperation Delivery		X	X	X
Increased enrolment for agricultural education (distance learning and other courses)			X	X
Increased investment in education and projects in agriculture and related industries			X	X

### 3.2.4 DOMINICA

The National Agenda for Technical Cooperation is the result of a number of consultations at the national level, which began in 2001 and continued in 2002 at the request of the Director General. The proposed Agenda is intended to provide the country with important support, given the challenge posed by the decline in its most important crop: bananas.

The Agenda reflects the main concerns of the government regarding the performance and the future of the agricultural and rural sector, and promotes the vision of a revitalized sector capable of making important contributions to the economy in general, and to poverty alleviation in particular.

Priority areas include the creation of the strategic capability to increase the participation of rural communities and enterprises in the development process; the strengthening of the capabilities of public agencies to improve agricultural trade; the development and adoption of technologies for improving the production and marketing of selected products (in particular, organic products); improvement of agricultural health and food safety services; and support for the five-year agricultural development plan, aimed at diversifying and modernizing agriculture. In the proposed Agenda, IICA is called upon



to play a key role in accessing new technologies, and even in securing funds for the execution of the program, the main aspects of which are described below.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Support the establishment of technical teams made up of decision makers, specialists and agribusiness operators having a sound knowledge of policies, trade and integration, and who are capable of addressing the demands of local, regional and international markets.
  - Improve the capacity of the Agricultural Information and Communications Technology Unit for monitoring, analysis and support for trade.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
  - Facilitate access to new agricultural production technologies, in particular for organic production and for sustainable conventional agricultural practices.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
  - Support the establishment of a single unit to coordinate AHFS services at the national level, create confidence in the AHFS system and facilitate agricultural trade.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
  - Formulate a policy to support a changeover to organic agriculture.

- Support the formulation of sustainable rural development policies for the production of fresh foods and for promoting agro-tourism.

- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Modernize and improve management capabilities at existing micro-enterprises.
- Strengthen the capacity of selected rural sectors to make better use of external aid, both for modernizing attitudes and business practices, and for creating new rural employment opportunities.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Provide support in the form of information to efforts to convert to organic agriculture and to adopt market-driven agricultural health and safety measures.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- Provide training and education on topics including trade negotiations, agribusiness management, food safety and natural resource protection, at all levels of the agro-food chain.

### 3.2.5 DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

If the Dominican Republic is to participate fully in the world economy, its rural economy must be reactivated and revitalized. This involves facilitating the modernization and diversification of the agrifood sector, via the formulation and adoption of agricultural and rural development policies intended to increase competitiveness and



incomes, with a view to alleviating poverty and improving living conditions in the rural milieu.

The success of agriculture and rural development efforts in the Dominican Republic will depend in large part on the support and participation of the rural population, and on action by the State, the private sector and international technical, scientific and financial cooperation agencies.

With this vision in mind, and considering the needs of the country, the Office in the Dominican Republic conducted a broad-based consultation, the result of which was a proposed Cooperation Agenda. This Agenda will provide the framework for IICA's activities during the next four years in the Strategic Areas: Policy, Trade and Integration, Agribusiness Development, Technology and Innovation, Sustainable Rural Development and Agricultural Health and Food Safety. These areas will receive support through horizontal cooperation actions, and from the areas of Education and Training and Information and Communication.

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in the Dominican Republic, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

#### ▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Support initiatives to develop negotiating policies for the FTAA process, aiming for a regional trade system that is fair, free from barriers limiting market access, and with anti-dumping regulations that encourage producers and increase their confidence.
- Assist national authorities in formulating policies for WTO negotiations, aimed at consolidating support for producers to offset export subsidies and barriers that hinder access to international markets.

#### ▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Foster a program to replace non-competitive crops, working to achieve an orderly transfer of agricultural

activities to profitable areas of agriculture or the economy as a whole.

### ➤ **Technology and Innovation**

#### ▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Strengthen the Direct Technological Support Program in order to foster the modernization and transformation of agricultural production, with a view to boosting productivity.
- Support integrated pest management in order to reduce damage caused by pests and achieve sustained and sustainable productivity.
- Create technology networks for cooperation among producers, to foster the exchange and flow of information and experiences as part of a philosophy of collaboration in technology generation and transfer.
- Strengthen the national technology generation, validation and transfer system.
- Promote cooperation in the field of science and technology in order to upgrade national capabilities to overcome problems related to investments and commercial partnerships in technology transfer.

### ➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

#### ▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Support the structuring of actions to strengthen strategically agrifood products that are of high quality and competitive, as an essential part of the strategic plan of action for agricultural development..
- Support integrated pest management aimed at reducing the level of damage caused by pests, with a view to ensuring sustained and sustainable levels of productivity.



➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
  - Help establish an income support program for agricultural producers.
  - Identify mechanisms for supporting and assisting producers whose income levels exclude them from competition.
  - Support specific actions to increase real work and employment opportunities in the rural milieu, with a view to alleviating poverty and reducing environmental degradation.
  - Help define land titling and marketing policies so as to establish clear, stable and predictable rules on land ownership and land transactions, and thereby encourage investment.
  - Encourage implementation of financing policies that support producers' efforts to raise production, improve quality and increase competitiveness.
  - Boost programs to improve agriculture and rural life and promote agroindustry as an essential contribution to poverty reduction and integrated development.
  - Support projects in the rural sector for providing environmental services to society and that ensure viable environmental sustainability and a new and alternative source of income for rural communities.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
  - Promote a program to strengthen technical/management capabilities for increasing agricultural modernization and competitiveness, in order to foster growth in agriculture and stimulate human development.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
  - For the State Secretary of Agriculture -SEA, design and implement PRODEFRUD's monitoring and evaluation system.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
  - Support the dissemination of information on health and safety among extension agents and producers.
  - Foster information policies on agricultural technology via a system that accesses and distributes technological information.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in Strategic Areas**
  - Support the CIARA/IFAD-sponsored National Rural Development Training Network in implementing the program approved by the member institutions and the regional program based in Caracas, Venezuela.
  - Provide training in the areas of self-management, leadership, rural organization, health and others, with the aim of contributing to increasing the levels of sustainable rural development.
  - Under an agreement with the SEA, implement the training component of the Special Program for the Development of Dominican Fruit Crop Production (PRODEFRUD), for participating fruit growers and technicians.
  - Hold courses on project formulation and evaluation, strategic planning and agricultural policies, to upgrade the technical capabilities of public and private sector agricultural agencies.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**

The timetable of expected results for 2003-2006 is:



Dominican Republic. Timetable of Results 2003 - 2006				
Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
The SERE and the SEA have defined national trade negotiating strategies	X	X	X	X
Private sector and cooperation agencies participated in studies and definition of national strategies and positions	X	X	X	X
Legal framework for transformation of INESPRES into Agricultural Marketing Institute (INCOAGRO) prepared and approved.	X			
The Dominican Agrarian Institute has been transformed into the INDER	X			
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
Research, technology innovation and agricultural and forestry technology transfer institutions strengthened	X	X	X	
Technology level and competitiveness of growers of avocados and other fruits and vegetables increased.	X	X	X	X
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
Pest and disease surveillance and notification systems and sanitary surveillance systems structured and operational at the SEA	X	X	X	X
Plant and Animal Health Emergency Plan modernized and applied	X	X	X	X
Public and private sector integrated to constitute committees to respond to plant and animal health emergencies	X	X	X	X
The risk analysis units of the SEA have been created and are operating efficiently	X	X		
The SEA, together with the IICA's Office and the private sector, has developed and applied an effective system for handling plant and animal health information	X	X		
Agricultural health laws and regulations modernized, to bring them into line with the requirements of the WTO	X	X	X	
The country has mechanisms and methodologies for dealing with "international garbage" in ports	X	X		
Classic Swine Fever under control, and process of declaring disease-free zones under way	X	X	X	X

Dominican Republic. Timetable of Results 2003 - 2006				
Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
The country has a project for the prevention and control of pink mealybug	X	X	X	X
The SEA is using a new index of pests and diseases that affect agricultural production	X	X	X	X
National plant and animal health surveillance systems strengthened with a system for accrediting private diagnostic laboratories	X	X		
A system for monitoring and evaluating agricultural health activities developed and operating at SEA	X	X	X	X
Regular exchanges of information and technical cooperation on AHFS with the other countries in the Caribbean	X	X	X	X
Quality and safety of foods improved thanks to joint IICA, FAO, SEA, SESPAS programs	X	X	X	X
<b>Information and Communication</b>				
Agricultural information system developed by public and private organizations	X	X	X	X
Agricultural sector agents access and use economic statistics and indicators published by IICA.	X	X	X	X
The Dominican Network of Agricultural Documentation and Information Centers has developed mechanisms for locating information on member agencies and institutions	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>				
Inclusion of rural women and young people in training programs of universities and agricultural education institutions	X	X	X	X
Alliances strengthened with University of the Caribbean, the Caribbean Council on Higher Education (CACHE) and CABA.	X	X	X	X
Personnel of the SEA, INESPRES, INDRHI and BAGRICOLA y NGOs, associations of producers and agribusiness operators have developed new capabilities and are more competitive	X	X	X	X
Technical personnel of 17 entities of the RURALHA have been trained and are applying new knowledge in their work with farmers	X	X	X	X





### 3.2.6 GRENADA

After five years of economic growth, most of the economic sectors in the country performed poorly in 2001. This was not the case, however, in agriculture, which, despite declines in banana and cacao, reported some improvement thanks to favorable market conditions for its principal exports: nutmeg and mace. It should be pointed out that the sector is not very diversified, contributes close to 9% to GDP and employs some 11% of the work force.

IICA's contribution over the last 21 years has focused on institution building, human resource development, technology development and the dissemination of information. Nonetheless, in the context described above, and subsequent to a consultation conducted with all the sectors involved in agriculture and rural life, it was decided that the time had come to include in the proposed National Agenda actions related to agricultural health and food safety and rural development, the most outstanding aspects of which are listed below.

#### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Promote the implementation of the produce inspection and certification program, in order to standardize production processes of selected articles (hot sauce, condiments, honey).

#### ➤ **Technology and Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
  - Promote and facilitate greater use of technology in the marketing of agricultural products and the acquisition of production inputs.
  - Support the development of a commercial agricultural sector that uses improved technology for local products and promotes industrial development thereof.

- Collaborate with CARDI in introducing and validating new varieties of spices, condiments, sweet potato and cassava in order to increase the competitiveness of agricultural products.
- Collaborate with other institutions in conducting research on appropriate technologies and technical assistance for areas including organic cocoa production.

#### ➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
  - Support the establishment of an effective quarantine mechanism to prevent the spread of harmful pests and diseases to and from Grenada, and the use of dangerous pesticides.
- **Topic: Food Safety**
  - Collaborate in organizing a workshop to review food and drug legislation.

#### ➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
  - Support the preparation of a strategic plan to improve the formulation of poverty alleviation projects.
  - Support the establishment of a national chapter of the alliance for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.
  - Help enhance technicians' and farmers' production planning capabilities, with a view to improving food security.
  - Support the formulation of a plan of action to link the agriculture, tourism and education sectors.
  - Support the formulation of land-use policies.
  - Provide technical support and group dynamics training to farmers and other small-scale agricultural entrepreneurs, to foster productivity increases.





▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Support the introduction of new technology, credit facilities and training for young people, to upgrade their agribusiness capabilities.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Assist rural groups and organizations in formulating projects for acquiring equipment to improve information and communications systems.
- Promote institutionalization of the use of modern information and communications systems for administering the public and private agricultural sectors.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- Organize seminars and workshops to provide training in the development of agribusinesses, agricultural production processes and other aspects of the agrifood chain.

### 3.2.7 GUYANA

For years, IICA's activities in Guyana have focused on nontraditional crops and livestock raising. For the last ten years, IICA has been involved in activities related to the management and administration of projects and the development of areas in the interior of the country, placing special emphasis on Amerindian communities.

In late 2001, the Ministry of Agriculture urged the IICA Office to work with the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI). As a result,

the Office is now working more closely with the NARI and other clients such as the New Guyana Marketing Corporation, the Ministry of Foreign Trade and International Cooperation and a number of councils at the local and regional levels.

The above describes the context in which IICA's carries out its activities, all of which will be taken into account in the Technical Cooperation Agenda. In the process of preparing the Agenda, attention was paid to the instructions issued by the Director General, and a broad range of authorities and private actors in agriculture and the rural milieu were consulted, including agricultural schools, civil society organizations and international cooperation agencies. Below is a summary of the major activities the Office plans to carry out during 2002-2006.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Conduct systematic analyses of specific agricultural products and their positions in overseas markets.
- Continue and increase support for agribusinesses (in particular, the Caribbean AgriBusiness Association - CABA-), by preparing agricultural producers to become agricultural entrepreneurs, training technicians and producers, disseminating important information for agribusiness activities, assisting with the adoption of quality and safety standards, etc.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Support more widespread adoption of Good Agricultural Practices in agricultural production and Good Manufacturing Practices in the processing industry.
- Support the adoption of HACCP, especially in the fisheries sector, with a view to facilitating improving its position in the local market (tourism sector) and the overseas market.



➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Improve the management capabilities of small-scale rural producers.
- Step up the activities of the Regional Tropical Fruits Project in Guyana.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- Provide linkages between donors and beneficiaries of rural and agricultural development aid, to increase efficiency.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Establish a system for capturing and disseminating information, to facilitate the adoption of new technologies and promote agricultural trade.

▪ **Topic: Publishing and Electronic and Texts**

- Produce practical handbooks on agribusiness, agricultural health and food safety.

### 3.2.8 HAITI

More than 60% of the population in Haiti depends, directly or indirectly, on agriculture, which explains the interest shown by all the sectors involved in the preparation of the National Agenda for Technical Cooperation. An ad hoc joint IICA-Ministry of Agriculture (MARNDR) Technical Committee was set up to review all available information and documentation; and consultations were conducted with persons from government, the private sector, NGOs, universities and other institutions.

The result was a proposed Agenda, which focuses on increasing both production and productivity for major crops; meeting the need for strategic products consumed in the domestic market; improving food security; tapping the comparative and competitive advantages of certain Haitian agricultural products; generating a steady flow of foreign exchange; and creating jobs that will contribute to poverty alleviation. The principal lines of action and priority actions for achieving these results are presented below.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Develop plans, programs and projects on food security.
- Organize and institutionalize agri-food chains targeting the export market.
- Foster the establishment and consolidation of chambers of agriculture.
- Support the bodies responsible for introducing standards and laws to stimulate growth in the agricultural sector.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Promote seminars, workshops and other events to acquaint small-scale producers and technicians with and to foster the adoption of new technologies for agricultural production and environmental conservation.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Support national authorities in preparing and implementing health regulations consistent with international standards, and in training groups of technicians to apply them.



- o Help draft and adopt laws and standards to regulate the sanitary aspects of agricultural imports and the establishment of quarantine stations at border posts and airports.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- o Promote the creation of employment- and income-generating agricultural enterprises in the rural milieu.
- o Encourage the adoption of environmental protection policies, actions and measures in rural communities.
- o Contribute to formulating policies that will encourage the population to remain in rural areas.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- o Develop services for providing important information to agricultural enterprises.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- o Establish education and training programs for agricultural entrepreneurs.

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**

- o Support and foster the modernization of the agricultural education system and the updating of the curricula of schools of agronomy and agricultural sciences.

### **3.2.9 JAMAICA**

IICA's mission over the years has been to cooperate with the Government of Jamaica, the private sector, and national, regional and international institutions in order to improve competitiveness and promote the sustainable development of agriculture in Jamaica. In this regard, and given the new institutional mandate, one strategy will be to expand existing cooperation programmes, forge new alliances, especially with the private sector, and assist in developing new non-farm rural activities.

The process of developing this National Agenda for Technical Cooperation has been based on consultations with a broad range of our stakeholders. The aim is to focus on a realistic and holistic approach to agriculture and rural development, encouraging joint action, as appropriate, from both public and private sector leaders.

This National Technical Cooperation Agenda presents the framework for IICA's continued support to the community of agriculture and rural life in Jamaica for the next four years (2002-2006). Its implementation, we consider, will help to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the agrifood sector of Jamaica.

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Jamaica, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- o Strengthen the sector's capacity to participate effectively in trade and in trade negotiations.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- o Continue to provide assistance to the process to modernize the agricultural sector.
- o Promote the development of agribusinesses as a means of increasing the competitiveness of agricultural products



and as a key mechanism of sustainable rural development.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Support measures to ensure the production and availability of safe foods, through improvements in sanitary and safety measures and a more competitive agricultural sector.
- Participate in and support the development of a national agricultural health and food safety program, with a view to facilitating and increasing trade.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Support and promote a natural resource management program.

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Contribute to measures seeking to increase productivity and market access for rural microenterprises.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- Support and facilitate a multisectoral, integrated approach to rural development through the coordination of on- and off-farm activities.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Supply information and communication technologies, through the consolidation of IICA's present information and documentation program.
- Link Jamaican institutions with information sources in the Caribbean and Latin America.

▪ **Topic: Consolidation of the INFOAGRO Thematic Information System**

- Facilitate access to the market and trade information of CORECA and other regional institutions; disseminate important information among the clients of the sector.
- Facilitate links between the AGROINFO database and network and institutions in Latin America.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- Provide training to human resources in policy approaches and instruments, trade and integration, sustainable rural development, agribusiness development, agricultural health and food safety.
- Provide training to human resources by increasing the number of participants in and offering relevant courses through the ADLTC; facilitate links with CACHE and the regional distance agricultural education center based in Barbados.

### **3.2.10 ST. KITTS AND NEVIS**

The IICA Office in St. Kitts and Nevis opened in 1992 and, since then, has executed cooperation actions in close coordination with national authorities and the private agribusiness sector.

In 2000, IICA analyzed the weaknesses and strengths of the technical cooperation provided to agricultural sector institutions. This analysis, and subsequent consultations, have led to the definition of the cooperation needs and priorities of the public and private sectors, which have been translated into a proposed National Agenda for Technical Cooperation. This agenda has been submitted to the consideration of the sectors involved, which have endorsed it.



The proposed National Agenda has been prepared in keeping with the guidelines of the 2002-2006 MTP, and is intended to support the implementation of same. The Agenda reflects both the approach of the new Administration of IICA, and the priorities of the countries as regards agriculture and rural life. We consider that its implementation will enable the Office to make a significant contribution to the development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Sponsor the organization of training forums and events with governmental and private-sector agencies, on trade policies, international and regional trade agreements, trade liberalization, market access and the application of trade regulations.
- Establish national alliances to define and articulate the role of agriculture in sustainable development and other matters of common interest.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Support the establishment and operation of a food security committee.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Develop proposals for projects on peanut production, onion drying facilities, and irrigation.
- Organize training courses and exchanges for farmers and technicians, at both the regional and national levels, on topics including soil and water conservation, technological advances and information.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Assist governmental, regional and international organizations in modernizing AHFS systems.

▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Support the institutionalization of good agricultural practices, to ensure that agricultural products are not harmful to human health.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Support the development of an agro-tourism plan that will improve the financial situation of small- and medium-scale producers and rural enterprises.

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Support the establishment of a community informatics laboratory in order to promote the exchange of experiences with similar groups in other member countries.
- Support the implementation of workshops in rural communities to upgrade their management and leadership capabilities, and to improve agricultural production processes, risk management and technological advances.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Establish a documentation and information center to upgrade the knowledge and skills of the clientele, with a view to contributing to modernizing and transforming the sector.



➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- Establish a Distance Education Center, with the aim of raising productivity and increasing competitiveness in the sector.

### 3.2.11 ST. LUCIA

The 2002-2006 National Agenda for Technical Cooperation presented below was prepared at the request of the Director General, and reflects the strategic areas and priorities of the government of St. Lucia and the private sector for that period. It should be noted that the Agenda is not intended to be a National Agricultural Program, but rather one component of a broader program in which IICA participates with and supports the government, private enterprises and other stakeholders in the agricultural and rural sectors, which include technical and assistance agencies that share common objectives and principles as regards agricultural development and rural life.

The Agenda focuses on action and, therefore, calls for the continuation of efforts in support of production and access to agricultural markets, the transformation of farmers into agribusiness operators, the adoption of new technologies, training in agricultural health and food safety and the adoption of policies aimed at alleviating rural poverty.

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in St. Lucia, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Create teams of personnel with expertise in the area of policy, negotiations and other trade-related issues.

- Design, develop and support the implementation of programs to create international trade capabilities.

▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets**

- Support the development of viable and sustainable intra-regional trade in selected agricultural goods.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Conduct feasibility studies on two proposed institutions: the National Agricultural Company and the Chamber of Agriculture.
- Support change in the agricultural sector, moving away from the present focus on the production of raw materials to the creation of more value added, through agroindustry.
- Support training for agribusiness operators, to help modernize and diversify the sector's income base.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Identify and disseminate appropriate production technologies for each link of the chain, in order to develop more productive and profitable agribusinesses.
- Strengthen linkages with international and regional agencies that can support the application of appropriate technologies, especially vis-à-vis milk and meat products and byproducts.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Enlist the assistance of the competent international organizations regarding the adoption of AHFS quality standards and measures.
- Support measures to improve the quality of agricultural quarantine and the planning and implementation of





measures for the surveillance, control and eradication of endemic pests and diseases.

▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Encourage the adoption of Good Agricultural Practices and Good Manufacturing Practices by agribusiness operators.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Promote policies for diversifying the economic activities of the rural population, to include the sustainable use of natural resources.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Support the development of a reliable information system that is capable of capturing, analyzing and disseminating in an expeditious manner critical information needed both for the management of agribusinesses and for decision making by state-run enterprises.

### **3.2.12 ST. VINCENT AND GRANADINES**

Agriculture is one of the main sources of employment, and it continues to make a significant contribution to GDP. The leading source of foreign exchange for the country continues to be banana production. The decline in this activity has forced authorities and the production sectors to consider the urgent need for agricultural diversification. The issues of food security and poverty alleviation are taking on renewed importance.

It was against this backdrop that the 2002-2006 Technical Cooperation Agenda, described in detail later, was prepared. In the process of preparing the Agenda, the instructions issued by the Director General were followed carefully, placing special emphasis on consultations with institutional shareholders.

It is expected that the implementation of the National Agenda will lead to greater coordination among institutions related to agricultural and rural development; to the creation and strengthening of capabilities in public and private institutions; to a clearer understanding of, and stricter adherence to, measures adopted by the WTO; and to training in agribusiness management for specialists, producers, agricultural processors and exporters.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Realizar eventos de sensibilización y capacitación, dirigidos a los sectores público y privado, sobre las implicaciones para el sector agrícola y rural del país, de los compromisos adquiridos con la OMC, así como de otras negociaciones comerciales en curso.

▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**

- Assist the Ministry of Agriculture to update the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Diversification and Development.
- Promote the development and strengthening of the agro-processing subsector
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture for the development and implementation of an integrated forestry development project.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology and Innovation Policies**

- Facilitate access of improved arrowroot germplasm from Latin America.





- **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**
  - **Topic: Modernization of the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
    - Support the efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture and other public and private entities aimed at strengthening and modernizing the AHFSS.
  - **Topic: Food Safety**
    - Institutionalize good agricultural practices (GAPs) for selected agricultural commodities.
- **Sustainable Rural Development**
  - **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
    - Promote coordination and networking among institutions and agencies involved in rural development.
  - **Topic: Management Capacity Development**
    - Contribute to the management capacity building of producers, organizations of producers and agribusinesses, including women and youth.
- **Information and Communication**
  - **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
    - Provide mechanisms for access to information on relevant and priority issues, including agricultural markets.
- **Education and Training**
  - **Topic: Training in Strategic Topics**
    - Training of public and private sector officials in critical trade issues in agriculture.
    - Train authorities and producers in the basic principles of trade and agribusiness management.

- Train the major stakeholders along the agrifood chain, and the application of Best Agricultural Practices (BAP) and Best Manufacturing Practices (BMP).

### 3.2.13 SURINAME

Preparation of the proposed National Agenda for Technical Cooperation involved a number of actions and consultations with the public and private sectors begun in the second half of 2001 and continued in 2002. Such actions included the review of government policies, priorities and objectives in the area of agricultural and rural development; the identification of challenges and opportunities for agriculture in Suriname; the determination of IICA's capabilities to offer technical cooperation effectively; and the preparation of a strategy for the IICA Office in the future.

The proposed Agenda presented below is intended to serve as a guide for the technical cooperation actions IICA will carry out in Surinam, with support from regional and hemispheric resources to which the Institute has access. It places emphasis on the priorities and concerns expressed by all those consulted. This does not mean, however, that the Agenda is inflexible and cannot be adjusted to reflect changes in the economic and social life and development of Suriname.

- **Trade and Agribusiness Development**
  - **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
    - Promote the design and adaptation of regulations and policies that ensure transparency in negotiations.
  - **Topic: Access to International Markets**
    - Support the promotion and development of hemispheric alliances that facilitate access to the global agricultural market.



- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Support the formulation of feasibility studies, analyses of competitiveness and marketing studies in priority fields such as harvests, processing, and marketing enterprises.
- **Technology and Innovation**
- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
  - Support the design of a technology development program for priority products.
  - Support efforts to improve the country's capacity to evaluate, adapt, promote and transfer appropriate technology from other sources.
- **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**
- **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
  - Assist public and private institutions in adopting the international sanitary and phytosanitary standards of the WTO (WTO/SPS).
- **Topic: Food Safety**
  - Assist public and private institutions in adopting HACCP processes for agricultural products, to ensure their acceptance and competitiveness on markets.
  - Provide training to technicians and producers, processors, exporters and importers on international standards (GAP, HACCP and the WTO's SPS).
  - Provide advisory assistance for designing policies and legal controls that ensure correct handling of foods and a monitoring and surveillance system.
- **Sustainable Rural Development**
- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
  - Support the preparation of Agricultural Programs, with the participation of public and private agencies.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
  - Help strengthen food security systems and upgrade capabilities in rural communities.
  - Assist in efforts to increase participation of rural communities, through a work program that involving the private and public sectors and NGOs.
  - Coordinate efforts to provide training to rural microenterprises through the exchange of experiences.
- **Information and Communication**
- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
  - Create a national network linked to national and international institutions and other reference centers, to promote and operate information, documentation and communication for developing agriculture and agribusinesses.
  - Support the establishment of a national information system to facilitate the gathering, transfer and exchange of technology, in order to boost the competitiveness of agricultural production processes.
- **Education and Training**
- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
  - Provide training to producers, processors and consumers on the international regulations governing free access to markets.
  - Provide training to technicians and farmers on agricultural production, administration and markets.
  - Prepare training manuals on the organization of rural communities, rural extension, HACCP and the WTO/SPS regulations, good agricultural practices, technological processes, agroforestry, organic agriculture, agricultural administration, and technological improvements to production.



- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
  - Assist public and private institutions in evaluating and making recommendations, with a view to increasing the effectiveness of education and training for agribusiness.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**

The timetable of expected results for 2003-2006 is:

Suriname. Timetable of Results 2003 – 2006

Expected Results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
Promotion of formulation and adoption of regulations and policies that will ensure the transparency of trade negotiations.	X	X	X	X
Support for promotion and development of hemispheric alliances to facilitate access to global agricultural market.	X	X	X	X
Support the formulation of market studies, feasibility studies, analyses and studies of competitiveness in priority fields for the sector.	X	X	X	X
Training provided in project identification, preparation, design, monitoring and evaluation	X	X	X	X
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
Support in the design of a technology development program for priority products.	X	X		
Support for efforts to upgrade the capacity of the country to evaluate, adapt, promote and transfer appropriate technologies.	X	X	X	X
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
Public and private institutions supported in adopting the sanitary and phytosanitary standards of the WTO	X	X		
Public and private institutions supported in adopting HACCP processes for agricultural products	X	X		
Training provided for technicians, producers, processors and exporters, on GAP HACCP and WTO standards		X	X	X
Support in designing policies and legal controls on the correct handling of foods, and surveillance system	X	X	X	

Suriname. Timetable of Results 2003 – 2006

Expected Results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Support the preparation of agricultural programs for the development of the interior of the country.	X	X	X	X
Support the efforts aimed at increasing the participation of rural communities with NGOs and the private sector	X	X		
Efforts coordinated to provide training for rural micro-enterprises, through the exchange of experiences		X	X	X
<b>Information and Communication</b>				
Network for communication on topics related to the development of agriculture and agribusiness operational, linked to national and international institutions.	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>				
Training provided for producers, processors and consumers on the regulations for accessing markets	X	X	X	X
Training provided for technicians and producers on agricultural production, administration and markets	X	X	X	X
Manuals and other training materials prepared on topics that affect the performance of agriculture	X	X	X	X
Assistance provided to public and private institutions to increase the effectiveness of agricultural education and training	X	X	X	X

**3.2.14 TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

The IICA Office in Trinidad and Tobago as has understood that, if the Institute is to achieve its objectives at the national level, there must be an ongoing dialogue with key stakeholders in the public and private agrifood systems. The IICA Technical Cooperation Agenda for Trinidad and Tobago reflects the concerns, and priorities for action of our stakeholders and will serve as a guide for the actions of the Institute during 2002-2006.



➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
  - Support the establishment and operation of a Virtual Trade Academy, to upgrade the skills of the human resources involved in Trade Negotiations as well as other aspects of agricultural trade.
  - Support the development and implementation of work programmes of stakeholder organizations and facilitate the access and linkages to regional organizations.
- **Topic: Access to International Markets**
  - Support national organizations and CABA in developing and implementing plans to expand agribusiness in order to increase domestic and export market share.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - In collaboration with CARDI, support the efforts of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago to develop marketing systems.
  - Conduct analyses of production and trade, and simulations of the trade in certain agricultural goods in a context of open markets, with a view to identifying opportunities for increasing trade and competitiveness.
  - Disseminate research findings on the impact of international trade policies on the production of certain products in the country.
  - Adopt the Jamaican approach to case studies, designed to determine the contribution of selected activities to the economy of Trinidad and Tobago.
  - Support policy makers through the preparation of policy proposals to facilitate investment.
  - Support the identification, establishment and expansion of rural agro-tourism and agro-processing enterprises.
  - Conduct, with and through the Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA), competitiveness studies for selected products (pork, dairy products, citrus fruits, oils and fats) and support implementation of the corresponding recommendations.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

- **Topic: Consolidation of the Regional Innovation System**
  - Strengthen the research capabilities of Trinidad and Tobago and relevant Research Networks of PROCICARIBE, e.g. Clawrenet, CAPHNET, CIMPNET, by contributing to improving coordination and network research mechanisms.
  - Promote linkages between research and development institutions and their clients, to improve management and the identification of priorities.
- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
  - Support actions to gain access to and transfer technology for enhancing production and processing activities in the dairy, fruits, pork and fats subsectors.
  - Provide technical support to National Committees in developing policy positions in organic agriculture and GMO; and in developing approaches for exploiting opportunities in these areas.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
  - Strengthen national AHFS systems, with a view to meeting the requirements of the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (CSPS).
  - Facilitate exchange and improve coordination with other Caribbean countries in order to improve intra-regional trade.
- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
  - Support efforts to modernize AHFS institutions and systems.



- **Topic: Food Safety**
  - Promote the use of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and HACCP as well as promote Integrated Pest Management to help reduce the damage caused by pests and diseases and to achieve sustainable agriculture and conserve the environment.
  - Provide technical support to the national committees on GMP and organic production, through the development of policy frameworks and legislation.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
  - Conduct analyses to determine agriculture's role in, and capacity for, alleviating rural poverty.
  - Strengthen national organizations whose objective is to foster rural development and to improve incomes and living conditions in rural areas. Facilitate these organizations' access to the regional umbrella organization.
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
  - Support the development of rural enterprises through market development.
  - Develop revolving credit mechanisms for rural women and dairy farmers.
  - Facilitate the organization of national workshops to ascertain the value of biodiversity and traditional knowledge, sharing access and benefits, in particular with regard to medicinal herbs.

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
  - Support the consolidation of the National Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
  - Consolidate and expand the network of agricultural libraries through the SIDALC project.
  - Support, maintain and update the Caribbean Region's web site.
- **Topic: Publishing and Electronic and Texts**
  - Support the following publications: Annual reports, CARAPHIN News, In a Nutshell, AgriView.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
  - Implement specific training through the Agricultural Distance Learning Center (ADLC), placing emphasis on the development of programs structured for specific clients and allies, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, the Network of Rural Women Producers, the Caribbean Agricultural Institute and Foresta.
- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
  - Support the efforts of UWI to review and modernize their agricultural curricula.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**

The timetable of expected results for 2003-2006 is:

Trinidad y Tobago. Timetable of Results 2003 - 2006

Expected Results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
Contribution of agriculture to GDP determined, giving sector greater political influence	X	X	X	X
Stakeholders informed of progress in negotiations and level of compliance with WTO, FTAA, EU and the Caribbean	X	X	X	X



Trinidad y Tobago. Timetable of Results 2003 - 2006

Expected Results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
Agribusiness sector has better understanding of topics related to market access.	X	X	X	
National chapter of CABA strengthened, greater collaboration and cooperation with private sector	X	X	X	
Support for programs aimed at rehabilitating citrus industry	X	X		
Link between agricultural development and poverty alleviation established	X	X		
Programs developed to enhance contribution of sector to alleviation of poverty		X	X	X
Estimate of food use in the hotel/hospitality sector is established and opportunities for agribusiness to access this market identified and promoted	X	X	X	X
Directory of sources of technical assistance compiled	X			
Data available on transportation of products, in terms of method, schedules and charges between destinations	X	X	X	X
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
IICA's stakeholders participating in efforts to strengthen the technology innovation system	X	X	X	X
Common vision of science, technology and innovation, as the basis for improving the competitiveness of agriculture and trade	X	X	X	X
Competitiveness of agrifood chains increased through identification and adoption of technological innovations	X	X	X	X
National PROCICARIBE Committees and the Networks are operational and are implementing the priority research programmes agreed upon	X	X	X	X
Stakeholders sensitized on science and technology and innovation and emerging issues impacting on agriculture	X	X	X	X
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
Audit of national AHFS system completed	X			
Support in modernizing the AHFS system, in order to comply with the SPS Agreement of the WTO	X	X	X	X
Increased national compliance with WTO/SPS agreement	X	X	X	X

Trinidad y Tobago. Timetable of Results 2003 - 2006

Expected Results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
Poultry industry is improving its AHFS system	X	X		
The Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector are better informed on SPSM, food safety and emerging issues.	X	X	X	
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Competitiveness of rural enterprises improved thanks to comprehensive agricultural extension services	X	X	X	X
Groups of rural producers have introduced new technologies	X	X	X	X
Income level of rural communities improved	X	X	X	X
Producer organizations strengthened and having a greater impact on development in the rural milieu	X	X	X	
Rural agricultural producers have improved access to credit	X	X	X	
Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture strengthened	X	X	X	X
Opportunities for increasing agro-tourism identified and promoted	X	X	X	X
<b>Information and Communication</b>				
Agricultural and rural sector have greater access to regional and extra-regional information, thanks to dissemination of information via the SIDALC	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>				
Courses offered through the ADLC, on topics of interest to stakeholders	X	X	X	X

### 3.3 CENTRAL REGION

#### 3.3.1 BELIZE

Since it was established, the IICA Office in Belize has been providing technical cooperation in close coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives (MAFC).





In recent years, the Office has provided technical support related to dairy production, the use hydroponics, the diversification of production, organic production and the modernization of the sugar industry. Since last year, the Office has been providing advisory services and cooperation in the restructuring and modernization of the research and development branch of the Ministry of Agriculture.

In preparing the National Agenda, consideration was given to the institutional mandate, the availability of resources and the priorities identified by the public and private sectors in the country. As regards the latter point, it should be noted that the broad-based consultation was conducted in two stages. The first involved the personnel of the MAFC and its associated organizations, who identified their needs and priorities in terms of cooperation. During the second stage, meetings were held with authorities and representatives of the private sector, NGOs and other entities, who outlined their interests vis-à-vis their specific area of specialization. The result of the consultation process is the proposed Agenda presented below.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
  - Coordinate technical assistance with BELTRAIDE to provide information on agreements and regulations of the WTO, the FTAA, SICA and CARICOM
  - Collaborate with regional integration initiatives (CORECA/ SICA).
- **Topic: Access to International Markets**
  - Facilitate access to international markets and to information on the international commodities market
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Provide training on financial analysis (investment returns) in the citrus and sugar industries
  - Contribute to policy development at the Ministry of the Sugar Industry.

- Support small-scale producers in moving to organic agriculture (especially organic rice)

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
  - Provide technical assistance to the technical committee of the Citrus Research and Extension Institute (CREI)
  - Collaborate with the ministry in converting the Central Farm into an autonomous institution
  - Participate as a member of the Research and Development Committee for creating the Belize Agricultural Research and Development Council, Belize Commodities Secretariat, Ministry of Works
  - Provide technical literature on new crops in order to foster agricultural diversification, especially literature on fruit and root crop production techniques

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
  - Support efforts to strengthen the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA).
  - Support the BAHA in developing a national plan of action to comply with the commitments assumed under the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures vis-à-vis animal and plant health, safety and quarantine
  - Monitor and provide technical assistance to the new quarantine station at Peninsula de Placencia.
  - Provide information on sanitary requirements for exporting tropical crops
- **Topic: Food Safety**
  - Collaborate with regional training initiatives on food safety and the Codex Alimentarius





- **Sustainable Rural Development**
  - **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
    - Support the Belize Organic Producers' Association (BOPA) in obtaining external funds for improving the production, processing and marketing of organic products
  - **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
    - Promote the participation of women and youth in rural development (business management)
    - Support the development of fruit and root crops (planting stock, organization of producers, training)
- **Information and Communication**
  - **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**
    - Provide information on agricultural development and international trade through the Office's web site
- **Education and Training**
  - **Topic: Training on Strategic Topics**
    - Strengthen the responsiveness of some divisions of the Ministry of Agriculture and producers' organizations in the area of projects, organic agriculture and financial analysis.
  - **Topic: Transformation of the Educational Supply**
    - Provide technical assistance to the ministries of education and agriculture for transferring the National 4-H School from Belmopan to Central Farm.

### **3.3.2 COSTA RICA**

Since it was opened, the IICA Office in Costa Rica (IICA-Costa Rica) has provided the country with valuable cooperation services. Nonetheless, the changing scenario that characterizes agriculture and the rural milieu poses new challenges, and demands that the IICA-Costa Rica and national, public and private, authorities design and implement a strategy for working together on behalf of agriculture and rural areas in Costa Rica. This strategy must be based on a new vision of agriculture and the rural milieu in Costa Rica, and on a new way for IICA to provide cooperation services.

The proposed Technical Cooperation Agenda presented herein is based on the need to strengthen the resources of both the Office and Headquarters; to plan actions in coordination with national authorities; to ensure that the cooperation actions of the Office are both practical and proactive; to create and strengthen alliances with institutional partners; to expand horizontal cooperation; to strengthen dialogue; and to adopt accountability as a management practice.

We consider that the implementation of the Agenda will mark a milestone in 29 years of institutional cooperation in Costa Rica, with a view to repositioning IICA as the inter-American agency responsible for promoting agricultural development, food security and prosperity in the Costa Rican rural sector.

- **Trade and Agribusiness Development**
  - **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
    - Contribute to the training of trade negotiators and actors in Costa Rica's productive sector in international trade topics, by means of the updating and dissemination of the "Great Game for the Globalization of Agrifood Markets".
    - Support business chambers in organizing informational activities about the discussions at the WTO and FTAA and of the FTAs, and exploratory missions aimed at increasing trade among IICA member countries.



▪ **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**

- Cooperate with the National Production Council (CNP) in operating a marketing enterprise designed to benefit producers' organizations in one region of the country.

▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets**

- Coordinate, with Costa Rica's private sector and the Office for the Promotion of Foreign Trade (PROCOMER), four Export Platforms: Creating Exporters in the Americas.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Support the Costa Rican Fisheries Institute (INCOPECA) in conducting a study on the hydro-biological products chain, with a view to developing production alternatives for the marine-fisheries sector.
- Prepare, in collaboration with the CNP and the Rural Agroindustry Network (REDAR), an agroindustrial development program based on the identification of the potential of international markets and potential import substitution.
- Strengthen the links of the PRODAR Program and PRODER with national institutions, coordinating the implementation of projects and studies of interest to Costa Rican micro-, small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs.

➤ **Technological Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Help implement the National Institute of Agricultural Technology Innovation and Transfer (INTA) of Costa Rica.
- Support the formulation of a project to strengthen the INTA.
- Formulate a project to transfer know-how among researchers, agricultural high schools and farmers, by

revising university extension models with the business sector and strengthening the Regional Science and Technology Councils.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Application of SPS**

- Facilitate the exchange of information on sanitary and phytosanitary measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO), Codex Alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and the World Animal Health Organization (OIE).

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health Systems**

- Support the Agricultural Health Directorate in its strategic planning process, the identification of possible areas for work and efforts to address emerging issues or emergencies related to pests and diseases.

▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Support the strategic planning efforts of the Inter-sectoral Commission for Food Safety (CIIA) and assist in the formulation of projects for implementing the strategic actions proposed.
- Formulate a project to create a national food safety system.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Establish alliances with government agencies, NGOs and international organizations, for the development of the border region between Costa Rica and Nicaragua.
- Support the Inter-ministerial Commission headed by the National Women's Institute (INAMU) in designing a program aimed at creating rural employment and assisting groups of income-generating women.



- **Topic: Management capabilities**
  - Design, in tandem with the Organic Farming Movement of Costa Rica, a national strategy for organic production, with the physical, human and financial resources needed for its operation.

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
  - Assist in establishing mechanisms for reforestation, strengthening grassroots forestry organizations and improving the marketing of their products.
  - Help internalize water resources in the system of payment for environmental services.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**
  - Support the efforts of the Ministry of Science and Technology to improve connectivity in rural areas, mainly in the 47 agricultural high schools and 89 extension agencies of the public sector, through the creation of rural telecenters.

- **Topic: Institutional strengthening**
  - Assist the agricultural sector in reviewing, updating and modernizing the information systems and networks that operate in Costa Rica: INFOAGRO, MERCANET and REDNIA.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training on Strategic Topics**
  - Establish a Training and Multimedia Center for Costa Rica that will make it possible to implement biannual training programs on topics related to information technologies, organic farming, food safety, natural resources, water and other subjects of interest to Costa Rica's public and private sectors.

- Support the implementation of a continuous training program for professionals, teachers and students of agricultural high schools, giving priority to subjects that are relevant to the areas where the schools are located.
- Hold seminars and short courses to enhance the local skills of rural dwellers and farmers in the use of new technologies and the creation of agribusinesses.

- **Topic: Transformation of the Educational Supply**

- Conduct a diagnostic study of the Vocational Agricultural Education System, making recommendations regarding the modernization of curricula, the bibliography and the study conditions of future agricultural technicians.

➤ **Horizontal technical cooperation and the inter-American dialogue**

- Implement an IICA-Costa Rica horizontal cooperation program designed to strengthen communication with other IICA offices and establish permanent ties with missions accredited in Costa Rica.
- Create a database of the supply of national experts and experiences, and of cooperation needs, in order to identify the support resources available in IICA's other member countries.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2002-2006**

The timetable of expected results for the period 2002-2006 is as follows:

Costa Rica. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2006					
Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>					
Negotiators and productive sector trained in Great Globalization Game			X	X	
Informational and exploratory trade activities carried out			X	X	X



Costa Rica. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2006

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>					
Marketing firm operating in a region of the country		X			
Four Export Platforms: Creating Exporters in the Americas.		X	X	X	X
Study of the chain of hydro-biological products.	X				
Agroindustrial development strategy developed in tandem with the MAG, CNP and REDAR.		X	X	X	X
PRODAR and PROMER's links with national institutions strengthened	X	X			
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>					
INTA operating	X	X			
Project for strengthening the INTA formulated	X	X			
Strategy for transferring know-how prepared			X	X	X
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>					
Information on sanitary and phytosanitary measures available			X	X	X
Strategic planning of the Agricultural Health Directorate carried out			X	X	X
Activities being implemented under the CIIA's strategic plan	X	X	X	X	X
National food safety system set up	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>					
Strategic alliances established for the development of the region along the Costa Rica-Nicaragua border		X	X	X	
Commission for the development of rural women entrepreneurs operating and projects in place generating employment through family agriculture	X	X			
National organic production strategy designed and its resources identified.	X	X			
Mechanisms established for reforestation, organization building and improved marketing		X	X	X	
MINAE strengthened and with a design for the internalization of water resources	X				
<b>Information and Communication</b>					
Connectivity in rural areas improved through high schools and extension agencies.		X	X	X	
INFOAGRO, MERCANET and REDNIA modernized	X	X			

Costa Rica. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2006

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Education and Training</b>					
Training and Multimedia Center in operation			X		
Continuous training program for professional, teachers and students available				X	
Seminars and short courses held to enhance local capabilities				X	X
Participatory process for assessment of the Vocational Education System implemented and proposed modernization in operation			X	X	
<b>Horizontal Cooperation and Inter-American Dialogue</b>					
Horizontal cooperation designed			X	X	
Database of experts and opportunities for cooperation identified				X	X

### 3.3.3 EL SALVADOR

The National Agenda for Technical Cooperation proposed by the Office of IICA in El Salvador is the product of an intense process of consultations and dialogue with national authorities, the private sector, academia and civil society.

In El Salvador, this process was divided into three phrases. The first was an analysis of the situation in the agricultural sector and the rural milieu, proposed government policies, and the position of the private sector and civil society regarding agriculture and rural life.

The second phase consisted of the analysis and systematization of commitments, guidelines and priorities at the international level, related to the Summit of the Americas, the 2001 National Consultation, the Declaration of Bavaro and the Regional Agenda of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC).

The third phase involved consultations and conversations with authorities, the private sector, academia and civil society for the



purpose of redefining IICA's role in light of the needs and priorities of the country. The result of this process is the Technical Cooperation Agenda that follows.

### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

#### ▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Strengthen MAG's capacities to address the agricultural trade agenda and to participate directly in different rounds of trade negotiations

#### ▪ **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**

- Develop 3 agroindustrial modules for rural, small-scale indigo and cashew enterprises (marketing, technology, management).

#### ▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets**

- Diversify and increase the number of exporters, the destinations and value of agricultural exports, for 20 small-, medium- or large-scale enterprises of the agrifood sector

#### ▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Strengthen the institutional capabilities of MAG and of the private sector to foster agricultural and rural competitiveness
- Contribute to diversifying production and to fostering the development of agrifood chains linked to the market (provide information, technical assistance)
- Support fruit crop cultivation with the design and execution of a training program for producers, technicians and university students

### ➤ **Technology and Innovation**

#### ▪ **Topic: Consolidation of the Regional Innovation System**

- Collaborate in disseminating and fostering the adoption of Technology Innovations for production, commerce and

business for 2,300 producers of Persian lime, cashew, coconut and avocado

- Provide advisory services for designing and implementing a system of partnerships to foster technology innovation in agriculture and forestry, under the MAG Agribusiness Modernization Project, financed by the IDB

### ➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

#### ▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Support institutional modernization of agricultural health and food safety services

### ➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

#### ▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Participate through projects in 20 of the country's municipalities, benefiting 9,200 farmers on a total surface area of 9,500 hectares (water and soil conservation; production capacity)
- Systematize experiences gained on sustainable rural development and extract lessons for providing feedback on processes underway and for improving the effectiveness of investments
- Contribute to tapping the environmental issue as a source of funding for fostering processes to reduce poverty and restore the environment (payment for environmental services)

#### ▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Strengthen efforts in the area of business management and market access; provide continuity for the execution of sustainable rural development projects (PAES, PRODERT, SEGEM).
- Upgrade the management capabilities of 160 rural leaders in 5 of the country's municipalities, with a view to tapping business opportunities offered on the regional



basic grain and vegetable market, taking into account the agricultural characteristics of the territories

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Publishing and Electronic Texts**
  - Publish the annual report of the status and outlook for agricultural and the rural milieu of El Salvador

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2002-2005**

The timetable of expected results for the period 2002-2005 is as follows:

El Salvador. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2005

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
Annual Report published on the status and outlook of agriculture and the rural milieu in El Salvador	X	X	X	X
Agricultural diversification has increased with 11,000 new hectares of land being used for fruit growing	X	X	X	X
Support for the development of market-oriented agrifood chains	X	X	X	X
Three agroindustrial models developed for small-scale rural indigo industries		X	X	
The number of exporters, target markets and value of the agricultural exports of 20 firms in the sector diversified and increased	X	X		
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
Assistance provided in designing and implementing a system of alliances for technology and innovation, under the MAG's Agricultural Conversion project, financed by the IDB	X			
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Collaboration in the definition of the public-private institutional framework needed to tackle the challenges of the new rurality	X	X	X	X
Management capabilities developed of 160 rural leaders in 5 municipal districts, to tap business opportunities in the local market	X			

El Salvador. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2005

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Information and Communication</b>				
Inventory of financial and technical cooperation projects in operation.	X	X	X	X
Agro-socioeconomic information available for IICA's clients and partners	X	X	X	
<b>Education and Training</b>				
Design and implementation of a training program for producers, technicians and university students on the subject of fruit growing	X	X	X	X

**3.3.4 GUATEMALA**

The proposed Technical Cooperation Agenda is the result of the national consultation conducted with the most representative leaders of the public, private, academic and civil society institutions associated with the agricultural and rural sectors. The broad spectrum of people interviewed lends credence to the contents of the Agenda.

A special effort was made to give the consultation a prospective focus, which not only facilitated the identification of priorities, but also the free exchange of ideas and interests and the discussion of interrelated problems. This resulted in a preliminary assessment of the recent performance of the agricultural sector, revealed the critical issues affecting agro-economic activities in the country and underscored the complexity of the agricultural sector and the rural milieu, and how they are interrelated.

In keeping with the principle of accountability being promoted by the new IICA's Administration, the proposed Agenda includes a number of indicators which can be used to measure compliance with same. It calls for four main projects: strengthening capabilities in the public and private sectors to promote competitive and sustainable agriculture; strengthening capabilities in the public and private sectors to improve and ensure the sustainability of the rural milieu;





development of capabilities within the MAGA; and development of regional projects which call for actions in Guatemala.

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Guatemala, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

#### ▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Support the organization of and provide training for the technical secretariat of the agricultural negotiations team.
- Provide training to public and private teams vis-à-vis markets and international agricultural trade.

#### ▪ **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets**

- Conduct an exploratory study on the conditions for agricultural and agroindustrial marketing in rural development projects in Guatemala.
- Train the personnel of the MAGA, INDECA and PRODERT in methodologies for analyzing agricultural marketing systems, to enable agricultural public sector decision makers and planners to design simple and effective strategies for stimulating marketing with small- and medium-scale producers.

#### ▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Train a public and private agricultural sector team of specialists in the participatory approach for developing competitiveness in agrifood systems.
- Design and implement a Strategic Management Information System at the MAGA offices.

#### ▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets**

- Foster the commercialization of organic agricultural products on domestic and export markets, assisting the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food in implementing a pilot project on the production and commercialization of organic agricultural products.

### ➤ **Technology and Innovation**

#### ▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Conduct a diagnostic study of technology transfer models used inside and outside the country, including an assessment of existing capacities.
- Provide technical cooperation for designing and validating the structures, organization and operations of technology transfer models, taking into account the different types of beneficiaries.
- Support the efforts of the coffee-growing sector to find and develop validated technological alternatives for raising productivity.

### ➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

#### ▪ **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

- Support the national information and notification system required for the SPS agreements (cooperation agreement between IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Economy)
- Provide technical support for updating and publishing sanitary and phytosanitary records

#### ▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Provide technical cooperation for preparing operating manuals for the sanitary and phytosanitary systems

### ➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

#### ▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Provide technical cooperation to the Planning and Programming Secretariat of the Office of the President, to define the Rural Development Policy and draw up strategies for implementing it.





- o Design strategies to strengthen local institutions.
- o Coordinate the content and preparation of the National Agroindustry Program with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food and the Agroindustry Development Network.

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- o Provide technical cooperation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food and the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources, to consolidate the Gender, Women and Rural Youth Units.
- o Train project personnel in the approaches and concepts of the New Rurality, and the incorporation of the gender, women and rural youth perspectives into programs and projects.
- o Help organize forums for consultations, consensus building and validation of the proposed rural development policy.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- o Assist the REDAR-Guatemala Program, in conducting the diagnostic study of rural agroindustry.
- o Prepare the manual on the requirements and procedures for registering and establishing small rural agroindustries.
- o Provide administrative support services to Executing Units of agricultural and rural development projects.
- o Technical cooperation and training in management and administration, for 11 Executing Units of projects implemented under IICA agreements.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Transformation of the Educational Supply**

- o Consolidate the National Forum for Agricultural Education as a consensus building and planning mechanism for improving the educational supply of higher and vocational agricultural education centers.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**

The timetable of expected results for the period 2003-2006 is as follows:

**Guatemala. Timetable of Results 2003 - 2006**

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
Public-private sector team trained in the application of the participatory approach, to evaluate and develop competitiveness in agrifood systems.	X	X	X	X
Mechanisms for dialogue and consensus building on policies and strategies aimed at making agricultural production chains and rural and agricultural development more competitive.	X	X	X	X
Public and private sector technical personnel trained to take part in the international trade negotiations.	X	X	X	X
The MAGA has implemented a national information system on agricultural markets (SIMA)	X	X		
The MAGA has a Strategic Management Information System (SIEG) for monitoring and evaluation	X	X	X	X
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
The MAGA has a design for the agricultural technology transfer system, with specific models for each type of agriculture.	X	X		
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
The agricultural sector has an information and notification system for the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (ASPS)	X	X	X	X
The MAGA has updated its sanitary and phytosanitary records and has regulations on the subject harmonized with international norms.	X	X	X	X

**3.3.5 HONDURAS**

In keeping with instructions from the new General Directorate of IICA, the Office in Honduras has focused its efforts on providing technical cooperation that will meet the needs of the country. To do



this, the Office conducted a consultation to identify the cooperation needs of agriculture and the rural milieu in Honduras, which will form the basis of the Institute's technical cooperation efforts.

The Office in Honduras made every effort to ensure that the consultation process was as participatory, inclusive and comprehensive as possible, so as to ensure that the Agenda eventually produced would contribute significantly to enabling the Honduran agricultural sector to participate in the new open economy, globalization the integration of Central America.

The proposed Agenda calls for joint public-private actions aimed at tapping comparative advantages, creating and maintaining competitive advantages, improving human resources, increasing productivity and promoting growth with equity. In this way, agriculture in Honduras will be able to play a bigger role in the provision of food, contribute more to food security and compete more effectively with the other countries of the world.

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Honduras, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

### ➤ Trade and Agribusiness Development

#### ▪ **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**

- Support the process to reactivate the agricultural commodity exchange in Honduras
- Provide technical cooperation to the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) for designing and establishing the Market Intelligence Institute

#### ▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**

- Support the SAG in promoting agribusinesses in Central America, the European Union and the United States

#### ▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Provide technical cooperation for restructuring the SAG's Planning and Performance Evaluation Unit (UPEG)
- Provide technical support to UPEG/SAG in monitoring the commitments and agreements of the corn, coffee and dairy product agri-food chains
- Support the SAG and the private and educational sectors in upgrading their capacity for analysis and for managing agrifood chains.
- Support the private sector (COAGROH) in implementing a Business Training Program
- Technical support for formulating the National Agrifood Program.

### ➤ Technology and Innovation

#### ▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Provide technical cooperation for reorganizing the national agricultural research and technology transfer system so as to enable it to serve as a supplier of technology, know-how and information, in support of agricultural competitiveness in Honduras
- Contribute to formulating and implementing the Small-scale Agriculture Program (PEAGRO)

### ➤ Agricultural Health and Food Safety

#### ▪ **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

- Support SENASA in implementing the sanitary and phytosanitary agreements of the WTO and FTAA.

#### ▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Support the SAG/SENASA in implementing its institutional modernization plan



- **Topic: Food Safety**

- Provide information and conduct workshops for technicians of the public and private sectors regarding food safety and agricultural health
- Support SENASA in creating the National Food Safety Commission

- **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- Conduct a technical audit of the new institutional framework for sustainable rural development, to determine progress made and the limitations of the model established for PRONADERS.
- Provide technical support to PRONADERS for documenting the model of the new institutional framework for sustainable rural development in Honduras
- Collaborate to include the experience of the IICA/Holland/Hillsides project into PRONADERS process.

- **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**

- Coordinate and manage the training of human talent of information centers, with a view to introducing Technology Innovations to improve the services of the Honduran Agricultural Information Network (REDNIAH)

- **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Transformation of the Educational Supply**

- Promote institutional change at two educational centers, to address new demands of Honduras' agricultural sector.

### **3.3.6 NICARAGUA**

The proposed National Agenda for Technical Cooperation presented by the Office of IICA in Nicaragua (IICA-Nicaragua) is a result of an intensive consultation process which started in 2001. The Agenda reflects the needs for cooperation, as expressed by the public and private stakeholders in the agrifood and rural sector of Nicaragua.

This National Agenda for Technical Cooperation is IICA's response to the priorities and needs of the sector, and takes into consideration both the resources directly allocated to the Office and others it may be able to generate, and the support of the corresponding Directorate of Operations and IICA Headquarters for cooperation actions in Nicaragua.

The Agenda also reflects a process based on the new vision of the current administration of IICA, which fosters open dialogue with those involved in agricultural and rural development in the countries, in order to make IICA an institution that provides effective services to its Member States and helps to reposition agriculture in the Americas.

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Nicaragua, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

- **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Strengthen the technical capabilities of the public and private sectors as well as of civil society vis-à-vis the formulation of proposals for trade negotiations and the administration of agreements
- Cooperate in the areas of agricultural integration and the exchange of know-how and successful experiences among countries and regions, and through support to investment processes occurring within the framework of initiatives such as the Puebla-Panama Plan



- **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
  - Foster domestic market mechanisms, focusing on commercial transactions and price stabilization
- **Topic: Access to International Markets**
  - Provide training for the management and development of agribusinesses, targeting the private sector as well as small- and medium-scale producers, and focusing on tapping market opportunities
  - Conduct market studies and market intelligence information to foster the development of agribusinesses
  - Cooperate in facilitating participation in field trips and fairs (national and international), as well as in trade rounds
  - Foster agro-exports and trade
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Strengthen the technical capabilities of the public and private sectors and of civil society in formulating proposals for macro-sectoral policies and scenario management
  - Promote dialogue, dispute settlement and agreements among the public and private sectors and civil society
- **Technology and Innovation**
  - **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
    - Support the design of policies and strategies for technology innovation, within the framework of innovation systems that include research, transfer, technical assistance and extension
- **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**
  - **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
    - Conduct studies vis-à-vis institutional change and design institutional models for agricultural health
    - Cooperate in the area of agricultural health and food safety, focusing on training and information exchange with both the public and the private sectors
- **Topic: Emerging Issues**
  - Support preventive actions and fight specific diseases of significant impact
- **Sustainable Rural Development**
  - **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
    - Conduct studies and formulate territorially targeted sustainable rural development strategies, involving institutions and sectors of civil society in studies, and in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of sustainable rural development strategies
  - **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
    - Formulate specific training programs for institutions involved in sustainable rural development (MARENA, FISE and IDR, stakeholders organized in executing units at the local level, i.e., mayor's offices, cooperatives, NGOs, etc.).
- **Information and Communication**
  - **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**
    - Strengthen information systems and promote linkages with national networks (i.e., RENIDA and SIA) and with international networks, such as those promoted by IICA (through SIDAL, CRIIA and other electronic forums)
- **Education and Training**
  - **Topic: Transformation of the Educational Supply**
    - Cooperate in modernizing the national agricultural education and training system



### 3.3.7 PANAMA

The IICA Office in Panama has prepared its National Technical Cooperation Agenda for 2002-2006. The process was conducted in adherence to the guidelines established in Executive Order 001/02, from the Director General, and involved a broad spectrum of participants from the agricultural and rural sectors of Panama.

The foundation for preparing the National Agenda is the "Plan Panama Rural," which responds to the express will of the Presidency of the Republic, in the sense that a concerted effort be made to ensure that the benefits of development reach the agricultural and rural sector, thus helping to do away with the existing inequalities and offer a better life to the inhabitants of rural areas.

The National Agenda reflects not only the current situation in agriculture and the rural milieu in Panama, and their goals and objectives, but also the challenges the Office faces and the changes it must effect to contribute effectively to agricultural and rural development in the country. Hence, implicit in the preparation and implementation of the National Agenda is the commitment on the part of the Office to begin a process of technical repositioning and leadership.

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Panama, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
  - Increase MIDA's technical capabilities in the area of trade negotiations
  - Establish a body for consultation, information exchange and for involving the private sector in trade negotiations

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Support the Fund for Competitiveness and Agricultural Technology Innovation (COMPITA) with a view to increasing the competitiveness in agrifood chains
  - Develop strategic plans for different agrifood chains
  - Prepare operating plans for the agrifood chain studies (hog raising, rice, dairy)

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
  - Contribute to strengthening government and private sector capabilities to preserve agricultural health, plant protection, as well as the quality and security of national foods, as essential elements for increasing competitiveness

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
  - Provide support for agro-ecological zoning in the country, within the framework of the National Fund for Sustainable Rural Development (FONADERS).
  - Identify new irrigation, rural youth, rural tourism, rural agroindustry programs, foster non-agricultural activities as well as a masters' degree program in agro-eco-business
- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
  - Support the program to modernize the capabilities of professionals for the new rurality (PRO-GENTE).
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
  - Support the Program of Strategic Alliances for a New Rurality (PRO-ALIANZA).



- **Topic: Information System**
  - Support the Panama Rural Information System (PANARURAL), with a view to facilitating decision making by small- and medium-scale producers and, in general, to support the entire public and private institutional framework in this subject area

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2002-2006**

The timetable of expected results is as follows:

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>					
Structural and functional organizational chart restructured and technical team trained		X	X	X	X
Potential export products and markets studied and defined		X	X	X	X
Strategy for penetrating potential markets defined and implemented		X	X	X	X
Technical unit trained for trade agreements and negotiations		X	X	X	X
Organizations, enterprises and cooperatives structured, trained and engaged in agribusiness activities	X	X			
Agribusiness strategies for the short, medium and long term defined and implemented	X				
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>					
Training program and dissemination on biotechnology and biosafety within the MIDA, IDIAP, universities and private sector		X	X	X	X
Methods for evaluating results of investment and resource administration programs	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>					
Clean and Quality Agriculture Program (PLAC), intended to satisfy an emerging demand of consumers.	X	X	X	X	X
Sanitary Heritage Development and Protection Fund (FFPT) designed, implemented and operational.	X	X	X	X	X

Panama. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2006

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>					
Prevention and eradication programs designed and implemented. Pests and diseases controlled/eradicated	X	X	X	X	X
Publics and private teams of technicians trained in AHFS	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>					
Rural development policies and strategies defined and implemented	X	X	X	X	X
Projects identified, prepared, negotiated and implemented	X	X	X	X	X
Monitoring and evaluation system developed, implemented and in operation	X	X			
Technicians and small farmers' and indigenous leaders trained in the development process	X	X	X	X	X

### 3.4 NORTHERN REGION

#### 3.4.1 CANADA

After undertaking extensive consultations with a broad range of Canadian organizations and individuals, the IICA Office developed a strategy which guided its programming from 1995 to 2001. **IICA and Canada: Towards a Strategic Partnership** outlined a new approach based on partnership that paired IICA with a broader range of Canadian organizations. These partnerships included not only the federal government, but provincial governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic organizations, and the private sector.

The intention was to transform the approach from one of a donor-based relationship to one based on Canada and Canadians as partners in the IICA network. IICA, in turn, supported the building of





a stronger relationship between Canada and the rest of the Americas based on mutual interest.

Yearly Action Plans were developed based on continuous consultation processes within Canada. These Plans clearly outlined a series of interventions in strategic areas such as food safety in international agricultural trade, promoting networks and strategic alliances, and supporting Canada's efforts on agricultural information and communication technology initiatives in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

The Agenda below is the continuation of a successful effort to date, from now to 2006.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Promote throughout the hemisphere Canada's experience with institutional modernization and its expertise in the area of international trade agreements.

▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**

- Promote Canadian agriculture, as well as associations serving agribusiness, services and food subsector
- Promote means for public and private organizations of Canada and the LAC countries to identify, develop and implement actions aiming to establish trade relations
- Promote strategic alliances among agribusiness associations of Canada and LAC.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**

- Develop mechanisms for involving IICA's member countries in the committees on sanitary measures of the WTO, CODEX, OIE and IPPC

▪ **Topic: Modernization of National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Promote alliances between agricultural health services and research organizations in order to identify technical cooperation that will contribute to implementing the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (ASPM)
- Support training on the subjects of equivalencies, hazard analysis and emerging issues
- Facilitate an exchange of sanitary and phytosanitary information among Canada and LAC countries

▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Support the executive leadership series on food safety (CERES)

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Contribute to preparing joint Canada-LAC projects to address the subject of sustainable development
- Promote the exchange of information and collaboration between Canada and the LAC countries on the subject of sustainable rural development and natural resource management
- Contribute to identifying and formulating projects of mutual interest to Canada and LAC on sustainable rural development and natural resource management

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic areas**

- Provide Canadian graduates with the opportunity to gain experience with technical cooperation and with implementing projects at IICA Headquarters and through its network of offices (internship program)





- **Topic: Integration of University Education**
  - Strengthen ties among Canadian and LAC universities, research institutes and public and private institutions

### 3.4.2 MEXICO

The Mexican agrifood sector is in the midst of a process of change and ongoing adjustment which reflects the complexity of rural society in Mexico, which is characterized by plurality, diversity, and national, and even local, asymmetry.

In Mexico, a wide variety of production systems co-exist along side one another. This is the reason for the enormous economic imbalances observed among its diverse regions, where rain-fed agriculture contrasts with irrigated agriculture, subsistence farmers with producers who generate surpluses, and single crop with multi-crop farming.

In this context, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), in its Sectoral Program for Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food 2001-2006, has identified points that are especially sensitive in the rural sector and must be addressed and given top priority:

- The lack of a business-oriented vision on the part of among many farmers
- The need to encourage the creation of organizations aimed at meeting the needs of the domestic market, which, at the same time, use the comparative advantages on the external market.

The authorities of the SAGARPA and the IICA's Office in Mexico participate in and support the implementation of important components of the programs and projects included in the Sectoral

Program, taking advantage of its wealth of experience in the fields of technical cooperation and administrative support. The proposed National Agenda for Technical Cooperation that follows responds to this request from the SAGARPA and, at the same time, considers the needs and priorities of the private agricultural sector.

The technical cooperation proposed by the IICA Office in Mexico, by thematic area and topic, is as follows:

#### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
  - Work with ASERCA's Unit for the Agrifood Sector and Support to International Trade Negotiations to monitor and analyze the performance of the agrifood sector in Mexico.
  - Support preparation of a technical document that covers Mexico's commitments under Mexico's free trade agreements with all the Central American countries.
  - Provide support in monitoring developments in the multilateral (WTO) and hemispheric (FTAA) negotiations, and identify negotiating positions for the agricultural sector for both.
  - Support Mexican authorities in exercising the FTAA Secretariat starting in 2003
  - Support studies on the performance of the Mexican agrifood sector vis-à-vis trade agreements it has signed, and support advisory services and the dissemination of information on international trade negotiations.
- **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
  - Facilitate advisory and management services necessary for establishing for-profit producers' organizations that represent their interests
  - Implement the technical cooperation project to design and establish an agricultural commodity exchange in Mexico



- o Institution building for the programs that support marketing and the development of regional markets, as well as the price hedging program for agricultural products.

- **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**

- o Contribute to preparing a project to modernize and diversify technology for the sugar cane agroindustry in Mexico, with support from the sugar sector in Guatemala

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- o Foster producers' participation and support their efforts to organize, and to design and implement programs to facilitate their participation in production chains.
- o Encourage and strengthen product-specific systems, supporting the creation of regional and national organizations that foster working relations between producers, state and municipal governments, and other associated agents.
- o Validate the "Short Production Chains Methodology" as a methodological tool for analyzing competitiveness and calculating protection at borders, key elements for designing programs to modernize production activities and developing trade negotiations positions.
- o Support the consolidation of the Mesoamerican Agribusiness Council.

- **Technology and Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- o Implement the technical cooperation agreement signed by IICA and INIFAP to coordinate actions and resources for implementing specific agricultural research and agricultural development projects, providing technical assistance and cooperating in areas of mutual interest pertaining to agriculture and forestry.

- o Support INIFAP's programs and the "Produce" Foundations to strengthen research and technology transfer conducted by sectoral agencies

- **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- o Establish phytosanitary requirements and specifications based on the official Mexican standards for the national and international transport of plant products and by-products
  - o Improve and maintain the status of animal health in production areas through a control of movement, the operation of animal health campaigns and voluntary programs
  - o Guarantee the efficient operation of CENAPA's technical and support areas through administrative support that ensures the timely provision of material goods and services. In addition, issue plant and animal health certificates, through official and government-authorized doctors, after fulfilling official and operating regulations for emergencies.
  - o Support the National Technical Advisory Council for Animal Health (CONASA), as an advisory body of the SAGARPA for the area of animal health, in the identification, planning, programming, operation, monitoring, control and evaluation of animal health and production programs.
  - o Provide staff at international points of entry and points of verification with the materials they need for improving the quality of inspection, certification services and the institutional image.
- **Topic: Emerging Issues**
  - o Support the National Fruit Fly Eradication Campaign in order to create fly free zones or zones where fly prevalence is low.



▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Train and update professionals from SENASICA and from other public and private institutions regarding the application of sanitary systems and food production and management procedures; Good Production and Manufacturing Practices; operating procedures for standard sanitization and for hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP); as well as on the appropriate use of inputs for agricultural and aquiculture health and production, and the official regulations governing same.
- Disseminate, inform and promote SENASICA's plans, programs and projects addressing agricultural health, food safety and quality in the agrifood, aquiculture, fisheries and forestry areas.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Cooperate in the design and implementation of the agricultural and rural development component of the Puebla-Panama Plan.
- Collaborate and support the exchange of experiences with other LAC countries, reappraising the development and role of the Priority Groups, Territoriality and the Development Strategy, within the framework of the new rurality and development in rural areas.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization**

- Support implementation of Mexico's agreements and commitments vis-à-vis the Steering Committee for Dialogue on Rural Development

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**

- Support SAGARPA in implementing the development strategy for agricultural and fisheries statistics called for

in the 2001-2006 Sectoral Program; support implementation of projects on remote sensing applied to Mexican agriculture, and the application and processing of surveys for the base-line study.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Transformation of Educational Supply**

- Support “academic advancement, education and professional training; seminars; develop science and technology; and disseminate know-how,” and take advantage of the possibility of extending the support the Directorate for Education and Training (DECAP) at IICA Headquarters provides to the Autonomous University of Chapingo.

### 3.4.3 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Since it was founded in 1942, IICA has had a special relationship with the United States of America, which contributes 60% of the quota resources the Institute uses to provide technical cooperation in agriculture throughout the Americas. At present, relations between IICA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and other U.S. agencies are being rethought, in response to changes deriving from globalization and given the growing importance of agrifood trade.

The IICA Office in the United States, together with the Directorate of Strategic Partnerships, is called upon to play a key role in institutional efforts aimed at improving food security in the countries and promoting prosperity in the rural communities in the Americas. The Cooperation Agenda that follows pursues the following strategic objectives:

- To expand the capabilities of U.S. institutions, private enterprises and centers of learning to improve the situation



in the rural communities and agricultural sectors of LAC, through linkages with partners throughout the hemisphere.

- With support from U.S. partners, the Office plans to provide information, facilitate professional exchanges and hold political fora, with a view to building hemisphere-wide consensus on issues and approaches in agricultural health and food safety, in order to ensure the safety of foods, while using environmentally sustainable technology.
- To combine the public and private institutional, financial, professional and technical resources of the United States, to increase trade capacity in the hemisphere, within the framework of new free trade agreements.

#### **Key Actions Contemplated by the IICA's Office in the USA for 2002-2006**

The strategic partnership arrangement that IICA seeks will require renewed efforts to forge trust, establish credible joint actions that demonstrate the value-added of collaboration and that create recognition for IICA leadership. The key actions identified to attain the expected outcomes for 2003 are:

- **Liase with USG on programmatic and administrative matters**

This includes the expansion of communications with a variety of Units within the Department of Agriculture and their vast network of offices at the international and state levels as well as more invigorating dialogue with USDA-IICA liason officers.

- **Develop joint activities to implement strategic priorities with the US Government**

Agricultural globalization and the expected outcomes of this strategic plan require that more joint efforts be undertaken to link national

priorities with hemispheric concerns as well as addressing national interests within the context of hemispheric integration. U.S. public and private institutions have tremendous capacity to promote and enrich dialogue, training and the institutional capacities of all stakeholders involved in trade, agricultural health, food safety, agricultural science and technology as well as rural development issues related to market access, opportunity for rural women and First Peoples and territorial approaches to developing rural space. Configuring programs that link capacities with prioritized demands throughout the hemisphere and that require tailor-made programs will be a central concern of the Office in the USA.

- **Disseminate knowledge and exchange expertise and technology between US and LAC**

Building on a long historic relationship between U.S. institutions and Latin America and the Caribbean in agriculture, communication and exchange mechanisms are required to continue to share scientific advancement, to develop sound databases for public policy and to provide information that informs dialogue on agricultural trade disputes. Bridging gaps in information and expertise will permit greater possibilities for consensus and nexus for better communications between professionals and policy makers.

- **Strengthen the partnership between the US and IICA in support of regional and hemispheric priorities**

IICA's representational presence in every Member State offers an institutional platform for outreach and linkage between U.S. agricultural institutions and the hemisphere. The capacity to articulate national interests with regional priorities and international public goods provides the potential to foment dialogue, foster understanding and create international agreements in order to improve agricultural competitiveness throughout the hemisphere. The fact that market expansion for agricultural products will occur at a far greater rate outside of the United States has renewed interest of public and private enterprises to strengthen their relationships with



trading partners, research associates and farmers throughout the hemisphere. The IICA Office in Washington will mobilize and prioritize its resources to effectively respond to these kinds of demands.

➤ **Promote the development of human talent of all Member States**

Transforming information and data into knowledge for action requires new capabilities on the part of professionals. In addition to multiple language skills, management, solid conceptual foundations to filter information, analytical skills and institutional frameworks to provide structure so that actions produce desired results and outcomes are all part of the new expertise that professionals involved in agriculture and rural development need to exercise with great precision and creativity. The development of tailor-made programs based on a firm grasp of local knowledge linked with global trends and a vast base of conceptual data also demand that professionals can articulate local, regional sub-national, national, regional supranational and global processes to create effective interventions that produce results. The U.S.A. is a storehouse of information, educational capacity and knowledge creation. Generating greater interaction between professionals and linking professionals in new paradigms of global research through public and private partnership will continue to be an important challenge for IICA in the U.S.A. and the hemisphere.

➤ **Co-design and jointly implement trinational programs with Mexico and Canada**

The North American Free Trade Area (NAFTA) has a series of peculiarities, challenges and potential regarding agriculture and rural development that will demand the attention of the IICA Office in the U.S.A. The three nations have great interest in IICA's role as a facilitator of dialogue and the identification of key issues to improve competitiveness in the free trade area and to consolidate the efficiency of agricultural markets, especially in terms of labor productivity, technological innovation, food safety and coherent policy development. IICA will continue its efforts to improve trinational efforts in this regard.

## **3.5 SOUTHERN REGION**

### **3.5.1 ARGENTINA**

The proposed National Agenda for Technical Cooperation presented by the Office of IICA in Argentina (IICA-Argentina) is a result of an intensive consultation process which led to the identification of priorities, linked to a general strategy for making the agrifood sector more competitive. The need to generate funding for the development of the sector has become one of the top priorities, inasmuch as needs in the medium term are related to the development of agribusinesses and to improvements in the quality and safety of foods, with a view to improving access to foreign markets.

A comparison of the priorities identified in the consultation, with the capabilities of the IICA's Office in Argentina and IICA's technical capabilities at the hemispheric and regional levels, made it possible to identify goals and agree on strategic joint actions with different agencies. The National Agenda includes actions in all the Strategic Areas defined in the 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan. The IICA-Argentina has the human and informatics resources and the infrastructure required to implement the National Agenda.

During the process of identifying actions, opportunities for cooperation with other international organizations, such as ECLAC Buenos Aires, the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), were also identified.

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Argentina, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
  - Hold seminars on international trade and trade negotiations.
  - Provide technical support for events to promote Argentine foods and beverages.



▪ **Topic: Development of Internal Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**

- Promote and provide technical support for the development of innovative credit models for the agrifood sector.
- Conduct studies to identify agrifood products and chains with potential for export and with constraints.
- Development of agribusiness projects.

▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets**

- Hold training seminars on agrifood exports.
- Design systems of Regional Export Centers in support of small and medium-sized enterprises.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Prepare IICA's Quarterly Status Report on the Agrifood Sector and case-specific reports.
- Formulate projects to strengthen plant protection services for the Northwest (NOA), Northeast (NEA) and Patagonia.
- Support implementation of the Federal Fisheries System.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**

- Assist the SAGPyA with its participation in the UNEP-GEP World Project, to develop a national biotechnology safety framework, to fulfill the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Support the institutional modernization of the SAGPyA and its agencies in the areas of agricultural health and agrifood quality.

- Support the efforts of the SENASA to strengthen health services and agrifood quality.
- Support the prevention and eradication of the boll weevil.
- Support the seed quality certification program.

▪ **Topic: Emerging Issues**

- Hold courses on exotic diseases.
- Support projects designed to prevent bovine spongiform encephalopathy and exotic diseases.

▪ **Topic: Food Safety**

- Hold workshops on agrifood quality.
- Support the development of systems of preserved identity (Traceability).

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Support for technical assistance to small and medium-sized agricultural enterprises in the province of Buenos Aires.
- Support for the conversion, diversification and modernization of tobacco-growing areas.
- Support for the development of micro-credits in semi-rural areas.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**

- Operation of the Documentation and Information Center (CDI). Participation in networks.
- SIDALC link in Argentina.
- Technical support for the library of the School of Agronomy of the University of Buenos Aires.

▪ **Topic: Publishing and Electronic Texts**

- Publication of the Quarterly Report on the Status of the Argentine Agrifood Sector and press releases.





- o Conduct and disseminate the results of the Survey of Agrifood Entrepreneurs.
- o Produce and regularly update the Directory of Argentine Agrifood Enterprises.
- o Assorted publications on the Argentine agrifood sector.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic areas**

- o Support for the UBA's Agribusiness Program.
- o Creation of a post-graduate course on food quality for the MERCOSUR countries.

▪ **Topic: Integration of University Education**

- o Cooperation in university external evaluation.
- o Participation in the FA-UBA Distance Education Network (RIECI).

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**

The timetable of expected results for the period 2003-2006 is as follows:

Argentina. Timetable of Results 2003 – 2006

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
The agrifood sector has processed and analyzed information on the main factors that affect its performance and evolution	X	X	X	X
The specialized press has accurate material on the agrifood sector	X	X	X	X
IICA is increasingly known to be a key source of information and analysis on the agrifood sector	X	X	X	X
Alternative credit systems developed for small and medium-scale agricultural producers	X	X		
Critical mass of specialists generated in the private and public sectors, trained to implement financing projects in the sector	X	X		
National trade promotion strategy in place, to orient and coordinate actions of different public sector agencies	X	X		

Argentina. Timetable of Results 2003 – 2006

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
The share of exports of small and medium-sized agrifood enterprises increased	X	X	X	X
A federal agrifood export promotion system is in operation.	X	X	X	X
Sanitary restrictions lifted on exports from NOA and NEA	X	X		
Control over fishing catches, to preserve the resource	X	X		
IICA has helped increase investment in the sector.	X	X	X	X
IICA has helped increase agrifood exports	X	X	X	X
The work of the INV has been improved, with modern laboratories and procedures	X	X	X	X
Information modules available on the commercialization of fruits and vegetables, using transparent and expedite methods and with quality and health controls.	X	X	X	X
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
INIDEP has conducted research on fishery resources that is being used to orient the formulation of proposals	X	X	X	
A national biosafety framework in place, adjusted to the requirements of the Cartagena Protocol	X	X	X	
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
Food health and quality services have been modernized and adapted to the requirements of the markets	X	X		
Agricultural producers have certified quality seeds.	X	X	X	
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Greater understanding of the regional economies and the constraints to development	X	X		
Small farmers in tobacco-growing areas undertook processes of conversion, diversification and modernization	X	X		
Small and medium-sized enterprises in Buenos Aires Province received technical assistance to enhance their competitiveness	X	X		
Small-scale agricultural and fisheries producers received emergency assistance	X	X		
Needy families in semi-rural areas found a sustainable productive activity that is providing them with a source of work	X	X	X	X





Argentina. Timetable of Results 2003 – 2006

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Information and Communication</b>				
The Argentine agrifood sector is aware of IICA's production (HQ, Argentina and CAs) and receives assistance for searches of databases and centers	X	X	X	X
The SIDALC System is set up, as a specialized inter-American source of information on the agrifood sector.	X	X	X	X
The sector's main libraries and information centers are included in the AGRI2000 megabase and have trained specialists	X	X	X	X
The FA-UBA library was reorganized and its material is accessible and integrated into networks. Its management processes are evaluated periodically	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>				
A critical mass of professionals in the area of agribusiness	X	X	X	X
The universities evaluated have criteria for making their curricula more relevant and improving the quality of their functions	X	X	X	X
A regional postgraduate course on agrifood quality	X	X		

### 3.5.2 BRAZIL

The National Agenda for Technical Cooperation was prepared by IICA's Office in Brazil (IICA-Brazil) in response to the guidelines of formulating and executing plans, programs, projects and activities geared to the needs and priorities of Brazil.

This National Agenda is flexible, allowing for the incorporation of new projects or actions that may emerge as a result of changes in the institutional context and the evolution of the agricultural sector, agribusiness and the rural milieu. The Agenda recognizes the complex nature of Brazil, underscores the most important expectations of public and private institutions as regards IICA's actions and identifies possibilities for cooperation. The next steps will to define in greater detail which projects and actions will be

feasible in the short and medium terms, and to move forward with the implementation of projects already under way.

Horizontal cooperation will continue to be a key element of the IICA - Brazil's programming, within the PROCISUR, PROCITROPICOS and PRODETAB networks, and via specific and complementary actions in response to new requests for support. The technical cooperation agenda by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Promote the informal dialogue and conduct studies related to issues and problems that hinder the trade negotiations (FTAA and regional and bilateral agreements) and trade among the Member States.

▪ **Topic: Development of Domestic Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**

- Support the implementation of systems for financing small-scale family agriculture, within and outside the banking system

▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets**

- Provide information about export opportunities to the members of the OCB, cooperatives, firms and producers interested in direct trade.

▪ **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**

- Conduct studies with a view to implementing a minimum income policy for small-scale rural producers.
- Conduct studies with a view to implementing an effective Rural Insurance Scheme in Brazil.
- Evaluate public expenditure on agriculture and in the rural milieu.
- Complete a diagnostic study on the status of the main agribusiness chains in Brazil, including the logistics of transportation.



➤ **Technology and Innovation**

▪ **Topic: Design and Promotion of technology and Innovation**

- Conduct studies and draft proposals to pave the way for bio-industry based on biodiversity.
- Use economic instruments in environmental policy, in particular fiscal/tax incentives, product certification and green protocol.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

▪ **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO and FTAA)**

- Coordinate an “Informal Group for Animal Health and Food Safety Negotiations,” to contribute to the FTAA and regional negotiations.

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**

- Draft the multiyear strategic plan for the control and eradication of the main pests and diseases of Brazil’s agricultural sector.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

▪ **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**

- Gauge the impact of the modernization process on the rural labor market
- Prepare and apply Ecological-Economic Zoning, based on the reference framework for the occupation of the rural space
- Formulate and implement the Observatory of Rural Development network project
- Conduct studies and make recommendations for programs to combat desertification
- Contribute studies and actions for sustainable livestock development in the Humid Region of the Pantanal de Mato Grosso

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- Conduct studies and carry out actions for the implementation of agricultural, livestock and fisheries activities, especially those aimed at the indigenous population.
- Conduct studies and actions for the implementation of projects related to agricultural and fruit production close to medium-sized and large cities (RIDES).
- Conduct studies and actions for the implementation of agropastoral activities along Brazil’s border (17,000 km. long).

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Information Infrastructure and Systems**

- Conduct studies and provide users with data and information on the requirements for trade in agricultural products established by countries in the region
- Support the use of information technology to manage the provincial and producers’ federations involved in the CNA system.
- Establish a database of experts, studies and evaluation, on topics that are important for the agricultural cooperative movement
- Create an institutional program designed to enhance the image of farmers and farming in the eyes of urban dwellers

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Training in strategic topics**

- Support the training of LAC technicians at EMBRAPA’s research centers

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**



The timetable of expected results for the period 2003-2006 is as follows:

**Brazil. Timetable of Results 2003 – 2006**

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
The Ministry better equipped to formulate regional development policies and instruments, and implement integrated development programs	X	X		
The implementation was supported of SAA/RS public policies for the development of the agriculture sector of Rio Grande do Sul	X			
The Bank of the Northwest of Brazil received support in consolidating an economic development strategy in the Northeast of Brazil	X			
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
Create and implement participatory management model of environmentally friendly technologies, with the IBAMA	X	X		
Irrigation actions and programs implemented, in line with the new legal and conceptual frameworks for irrigation and drainage.	X	X		
The management and integration of water resources supported in the State of Ceara	X			
Integrated management of the Tabuleiros de Russas and Baixo Acarau irrigation projects, in the State of Ceara	X			
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Mechanisms and instruments developed and put into effect for implementing priority CODEVASF programs and projects	X			
Bases defined for the transfer of the irrigated areas to the users	X			
Processes for the consolidation and integration of agrarian reform settlements developed and systematized	X	X	X	X
The management of the ARCO marketing and sustainable rural development regional programs was supported.	X	X		
Sustainable silvicultural experiences in Eastern Amazonia identified, approved and disseminated	X	X		
Support for the management of the Seed Credit and Rural Poverty Alleviation Project-MDA in the Northeast, Southeast and South	X	X	X	

**Brazil. Timetable of Results 2003 – 2006**

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Support for the Civil Defense Secretariat in implementing actions to combat the effects of natural disasters	X			
Support in strengthening the technical, institutional and management capabilities of DNOCS	X			
Implementation of the Program to Promote Family Farming Exports, developed and implemented with APEX	X	X	X	
Implementation of the II Rural Poverty Alleviation Project in the State of Ceara	X			
Implementation of the Rural Poverty Alleviation Project in Maranhão	X			
Implementation of the Rural Poverty Alleviation Project in Pernambuco – PHASE II	X	X	X	X
Management of the National Program to Strengthen Family Farming – PRONAF	X	X		
Implementation and management of Phase II of the RS RURAL Program in the State of Rio Grande do Sul	X			

### 3.5.3 CHILE

An intensive and participating consultation process was carried out from February to June 2002, aimed at to prepare the National Agenda for Technical Cooperation. This process received an active participation of the technical team of the Office and management and technical personnel from our most important national counterparts, including representatives of academia and civil society.

As reference documents, the consultation process relied upon the Strategic Guidelines of the General Directorate of IICA, as well as those contained in the Declaration of Bavaro, the document "State Policies for Agriculture in Chile 2000-2010" and the study "Agriculture and Rural Life in Chile: Perceptions of its Leaders," prepared by the Office in November 2001, as an input for the Ministerial Declaration.



The result of this effort is the National Cooperation Agenda, which reflects the main concerns of national stakeholders, defines priorities for action and identifies what contributions in terms of technical cooperation IICA will be expected to make.

### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**
  - Provide follow-up to and disseminate results of the agricultural negotiations and trade agreements.
- **Topic: Development of Internal Markets and Agricultural Commodity Exchanges**
  - Support the operation of the agricultural commodity exchanges.
  - Cooperate in consolidating the Agricultural Insurance Program.
- **Topic: Access to International Markets**
  - Promote access to international markets for Chilean exports.
  - Support the international articulation of agricultural producers.
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Support the modernization of the Ministry of Agriculture
  - Analyze agrifood chains.
  - Apply the sectoral policy to the development of competitiveness in the macro-regions.
  - Support the consolidation of the product-specific networks in production and trade-related matters (INDAP).
  - Support the efforts to strengthen producers' organizations, aimed at improving access to external and internal markets.
  - Enhance producers' expertise in the areas of management, information and technology innovation.

### ➤ **Technology and Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
  - Support technology innovation in agricultural enterprises, by disseminating and discussing experiences involving innovation and change in higher education institutions.
  - Support innovation in higher education institutions.

### ➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
  - Support the implementation of agricultural health programs.
  - Facilitate articulation of the SAG's actions with regional and hemispheric agricultural health bodies.
  - Support the efforts of the public and private sectors to develop quality assurance, food safety and biosafety management programs.
  - Evaluate environmental impact for "Clean Agriculture."
- **Topic: Food Safety**
  - Train leaders in food safety issues.
  - Support the dissemination of technologies related to food safety.

### ➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
  - Design institutional models for sustainable rural development.
  - Support the development of groups that require attention as a matter of priority.
  - Help rural microenterprises penetrate markets of inputs, products and services.



- **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
  - Enhance the management, information and technology innovation capabilities of rural producers and microenterprises.
  - Support the business development process of rural women producers and their enterprises.
  - Support the consolidation of the production and commercial activities of the Enterprises of Product-specific Networks
- **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
  - Support water resource development and achieve institutional articulation on this matter.
  - Perform tasks as the Executive Secretariat of the Water Meeting.

➤ **Information and Communication**

- **Topic: Standardization and Coordination of Infrastructure and Information Systems**
  - Support the operation of a system of information and documentation on agricultural development (SIDALC).
  - Operate the electronic news and information system for different commodities.
- **Topic: Consolidation of the INFOAGRO Thematic Information System**
  - Support the articulation of the information systems of the IICA networks, to share information with strategic partners.
- **Topic: Development of IICA's web page**
  - Produce publications and maintain the institutional web page.
- **Topic: Publishing and Electronic Texts**
  - Produce electronic bulletin containing news from the Southern Cone.

➤ **Education and Training**

- **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
  - Produce materials and hold events for updating training for agricultural and agroforestry vocational schools and educational institutions.
- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
  - Design and validate exploratory studies on the professional training of farmers.
  - Develop models for standardizing studies.
  - Provide technical support to postgraduate study programs (master's and doctoral degrees)
  - Publish development models for the accreditation of qualifications and curriculum modernization for agronomy and agricultural civil engineering courses.
- **Topic: Integration of University Education**
  - Develop a model for the standardization of veterinary medicine courses.
  - Disseminate and support master's and doctoral programs in agronomy and agricultural civil engineering.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2002-2006**

The timetable of expected results is as follows:

Chile. Timetable of Results 2002 - 2006

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>					
Follow-up to and dissemination of Chile's agricultural negotiations and trade agreements with WTO, USA, EU and FTAA	X	X	X	X	X
Support for the operation of the Agricultural Commodity Exchange, its regulations and the creation of the management group	X	X			
Cooperation in consolidating the Agricultural Insurance Program		X	X	X	X
Promotion of exports of Chile's small-scale producers		X	X	X	X



Chile. Timetable of Results 2002 - 2006

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>					
Support for the international articulation of agricultural producers	X	X	X	X	X
Support for the modernization of the Ministry of Agriculture, specifically as regards interagency articulation and the design of policy instruments		X	X	X	X
Support for the analysis and articulation of chains. Generation of proposals for regulating the agrifood chain		X	X	X	X
Application of the sectoral policy for competitiveness in macro-regions		X	X	X	
Strengthening of producers' organizations to improve market access		X	X	X	
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>					
Support for the dissemination of technological innovations in agricultural enterprises		X	X	X	
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>					
Support for the implementation of AHFS programs: fruit fly, pesticide management	X	X			
Articulation of the SAG with regional and hemispheric institutions on AHFS issues facilitated		X			
Support for programs related to quality, food safety, traceability and biosafety	X	X	X	X	X
Support for the organization of events to train leaders in FS		X	X		
Support for the dissemination of food safety technologies	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>					
Institutional models designed for SRD		X	X	X	X
Support for the development of rural groups requiring priority attention	X	X	X		
Assistance in inserting rural women entrepreneurs into input and product markets	X	X	X		
Producers have improved management, information and technology skills		X	X	X	
Support for the process of developing the business skills of rural women producers	X	X			
Consolidation of the production and commercial activities of Enterprises of Productspecific Networks	X	X			

Chile. Timetable of Results 2002 - 2006

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>					
Support for water resource development and institutional articulation	X	X			
Follow-up and support for the Executive Secretariat of the Water Meeting	X	X			
<b>Information and Communication</b>					
Support for the operation of the SIDALC (16 libraries) with universities	X	X	X	X	X
Operation of an electronic news and information system for different commodities, articulated with INFOAGRO and strategic partners	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>					
Dissemination and discussion of innovations and changes in higher education institutions		X	X	X	
Support for updating training for agroforestry technical and vocational schools	X	X	X	X	X
Design and validation of studies on professional training for farmers (FAP)	X	X	X	X	X
Development of model for standardizing studies	X	X	X	X	
Dissemination of and support for undergraduate and postgraduate programs	X	X	X	X	X
Support for the development of accreditation and curriculum modernization	X	X	X	X	X

### 3.5.4 PARAGUAY

Since it was restructured in the mid-1990s, the IICA's Office in Paraguay (IICA-Paraguay) has been attempting to provide technical cooperation services that are in keeping with the needs of the country, and had been agreed upon with national authorities. Thanks to this effort, IICA is recognized as an institution for reference and consultation, and respected for its spirit of service, technical capabilities, flexibility and transparency, among the institutions devoted to agricultural and rural development in Paraguay.



The Office has adopted the following as a procedure for working with national counterparts: once the projects or activities to be carried out by teams made up of officials from IICA and the national institutions have been negotiated, a general cooperation agreement is signed which provides a legal basis for same and specifies the relationship between IICA and them. This procedure has yielded excellent results vis-à-vis relations between the Office and the MAG, Secretariat for Women's Affairs, the Secretariat for the Environment of the Presidency of the Republic, the Colonias Unidas Cooperative, the Institute for Rural Well-being, the University of Agricultural Sciences of Itapua Foundation, and the Rural Association of Paraguay.

Thus, the National Technical Cooperation Agenda presented below is not an isolated milestone, but rather the continuation of an ongoing process of consultation begun more than five years ago, which has been continually improved over time. The Agenda includes the projects and activities the Office is currently executing and negotiating, which are funded with the resources allocated.

➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Prepare and implement a proposal for strengthening the MAG's Special International Trade and Integration Commission (CECII).
  - Provide technical cooperation to the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Business Development Council of Guaira (CODEG), for the preparation of projects designed to strengthen local agroindustry.

➤ **Technology and Innovation**

- **Topic: Design and Promotion of Technology Innovation Policies**
  - Help strengthen the MAG's agricultural research agencies.

- Provide logistical support for agricultural research activities in different regions of the country and the publication of the technical reports produced.

➤ **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**

- **Topic: Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures**
  - Cooperate with the MAG in updating and harmonizing national phyto- and zoosanitary legislation with international legislation.
- **Topic: Modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems**
  - Provide technical cooperation for the elaboration and implementation of projects for the creation of the SENAVE and the modernization and strengthening of SENACSA.
  - Train the MAG's AHFS staff in risk analysis, traceability and integrated pest management.

➤ **Sustainable Rural Development**

- **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
  - Assist the Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Business Development Council of Guaira (CODEG) in preparing projects designed to bolster local agroindustry.
  - Provide technical cooperation in the form of projects and training, for the implementation and management of the Center for Farming Professionals (CEPROA).
  - Train MAG officials, producers and leaders of organizations in the basic principles of sustainable rural development, local development and business opportunities, so as to improve the management and administration of the Program to Support the Development of Small-scale Cotton Growing (PRODESAL).





- o Assist the National Agricultural Union (UAN) in implementing activities that promote local development, with emphasis on family farming.
- o Produce didactic materials to enhance the management capabilities of rural associative microenterprises.

▪ **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**

- o Support the efforts to enhance the MAG's technical capacity for managing and administering programs for the modernization and diversification of small-farm production (MAG-IDB).
- o Improve the management capabilities of the technicians and producers of rural associative microenterprises.
- o Topic: Institutional Modernization
- o Support the creation of a monitoring and evaluation unit within the MAG's General Planning Directorate (DGP) to evaluate the programs and projects implemented by the Ministries in the field of sustainable rural development.

➤ **Information and Communication**

▪ **Topic: Publishing and Electronic Texts**

- o Support the MAG in preparing and publishing extension bulletins on animal health.
- o Prepare the Paraguay section for the Southern Cone agrifood electronic bulletin and distribute the bulletin.
- o Prepare and distribute the Biannual Status Report on Paraguay's agrifood sector.

➤ **Education and Training**

▪ **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**

- o Support and implement, in collaboration with the MAG, a pilot project aimed at strengthening the management of the San Juan Bautista Agricultural School (in both the administrative and production-related areas).
- o Technical cooperation to strengthen the institutions that are members of the Council of Deans of Schools

Agricultural Sciences and Agronomic Engineering of Paraguay.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2003-2006**

The timetable of expected results for the period 2003-2006 is as follows:

Paraguay. Timetable of Results 2003 - 2006

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
The Special Commission on International Trade and Integration (CECII) was strengthened, to enable it to participate in the meetings of the agricultural negotiations of the MERCOSUR, FTAA and forums	X	X	X	X
The Industrial Development Council of Guaira (CODEG), which supports the promotion of the industrialization process, was strengthened	X	X	X	X
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
The MAG's Agricultural Research Directorate was strengthened and is implementing efficiently its research program by product and by region	X	X	X	X
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
The institutions in charge of the AHFS system have been modernized and strengthened, and are performing their role in accordance with the legal framework	X	X	X	X
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
The MAG's DGP has been strengthened with the creation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Unit, which monitors and evaluates rural development projects.	X	X		
Agricultural professionals in the public and private sectors are better prepared to provide technical assistance to small-scale producers on organization and business management.	X	X	X	X
The DINCAP has improved its management of the implementation of sustainable rural development projects.	X	X	X	X
The National Agricultural Union was strengthened (UAN) and is increasing and improving the implementation of activities aimed at the promotion of local development		X	X	X



Paraguay. Timetable of Results 2003 - 2006

Expected results	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Information and Communication</b>				
Public and private-sector institutions are more knowledgeable about the performance of the agrifood sector	X	X	X	X
Agricultural sector entrepreneurs and technicians are updating their knowledge of the performance of the agricultural sector	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>				
CEPROA strengthened and meeting the professionalization needs of small-scale rural producers in the province of Itapua.	X	X	X	X
Institutions belonging to the Council of Deans and Directors of Faculties of Agricultural Sciences and Agronomic Engineering are improving their performance by strengthening the skills of their professors.	X	X	X	X
The San Juan Bautista Misiones Agricultural School is operating efficiently and meeting the needs of rural youth.	X	X	X	X

### 3.5.5 URUGUAY

The IICA National Technical Cooperation Agenda for 2002-2006 is the result of a participatory process which began early this year, and intensified in May and June. This process included opinion polls, interviews with qualified informants and technical meetings for the purpose of validation.

As reference documents, we used the Strategic Guidelines of the General Directorate and those set forth in the Declaration of Bavaro. A number of technical documents on the situation in and outlook for agriculture in Uruguay also provided valuable inputs.

The National Technical Cooperation Agenda presents and summarizes the opinions, interests and priorities of the principal stakeholders in the agricultural sector, which are reflected in the

identification of the activities to be executed in each Strategic Area during 2002-2006, as well as the goals, outputs and results of same.

The technical cooperation agenda proposed by the IICA Office in Uruguay, by thematic area and topics, is as follows:

#### ➤ **Trade and Agribusiness Development**

##### ▪ **Topic: Trade Negotiations and Integration**

- Hold training workshops and seminars for producers, entrepreneurs and public officials, on the current status of and outlook for the international negotiations (WTO, FTAA, Mercosur, bilateral), the agricultural policies of the developed countries and the strategic topics on the National Agricultural Agenda.
- Prepare analytical documents and publications on agricultural policies and the international negotiations in relations to the trends and demands of the international markets for exportable products.
- Support Uruguay's participation in the activities of the regional agenda related to the area of Trade and Agribusiness Development.
- Support the thematic development and implementation of Uruguay's activities related to the master's degree course in policies and international agricultural trade.
- Support the MGAP's activities related to the articulation of the ministries of agriculture and livestock in the region.

##### ▪ **Topic: Access to International Markets (Development of Export Platforms)**

- Identify potential areas for reciprocal support with business sectors of other IICA member countries, to achieve better positioning and access to international markets.
- Studies and publications on access to international markets for Uruguay's agricultural products.
- Training in topics related to the trends in the markets of export products.



- **Topic: Institutional Modernization for Competitiveness**
  - Support the academic sector in curriculum development regarding topics related to policies, trade and integration.
  - Improve access to, and the dissemination of, information for producers and entrepreneurs.
  - Assist the MGAP and other public institutions in the services provided related to the negotiations and the improvement of business management skills.
- **Technology and Innovation**
  - **Topic: Institutional Strengthening**
    - Seminars and workshops aimed at strengthening the capabilities of public and private institutions for innovation.
    - Networking to articulate the innovation system.
  - **Topic: Improving access to technology and information sources**
    - Training seminars and workshops on technology transfer programs.
    - Information administration and management.
- **Agricultural Health and Food Safety**
  - **Topic: Institutional Strengthening**
    - Hold seminars and workshops on the new sanitary and food safety strategies, to improve institutional capabilities for meeting international health standards.
  - **Topic: Food Safety**
    - Support Uruguay's participation in the activities of the Hemispheric and Regional Food Safety and Agricultural Health Agenda.
    - Seminars and workshops on the sanitary requirements of the international markets of Uruguay's main exports.
- **Sustainable Rural Development**
  - **Topic: Strategies and Policies for Sustainable Rural Development**
    - Study aimed at preparing a rural development strategy that adopts a territorial approach.
    - Regional workshops on the strategic planning of rural development and the analysis and design of investment opportunities for territorial development, based on the New Horizons for Rural Uruguay.
    - Design of a national human resource training strategy for the agricultural sector. Permanent forum – regional workshops to define a strategy.
    - Support Uruguay's participation in the Hemispheric and Regional Agenda on Sustainable Rural Development.
  - **Topic: Development of Management Capabilities**
    - Cooperation with the MGAP in implementing the training component of programs related to rural development.
    - Foster the use of new information and communication technologies that make it possible to identify and promote rural development actions.
    - Provide technical assistance to local development agents and actors, in the use of existing financial resources.
  - **Topic: Institutional Modernization**
    - Cooperate actively with the provincial governments in aspects of the decentralization process related to rural development.
    - Creation of Rural Development Agencies in some provinces in the interior of the country.
- **Education and Training**
  - **Topic: Training in strategic topics**
    - Design a "National Strategy for the Training of Human Resources for the Agricultural Sector." Permanent forum – 5 workshops to define a strategy.



- o Diagnostic study and valuation of the training programs of the MGAP, Municipal Districts, NGOs.
- **Topic: Modernization of Educational Supply**
  - o Support for the development of the curriculum of the School of Agronomy, for topics related to Policies, Trade and Integration.
- **Topic: Integration of University Education**
  - o Support for Uruguay's participation in the activities of the Regional Agenda for the Development of Human Resources, particularly Uruguayan initiatives such as the Regional Forum of Schools of Agronomy and the Regional Forum of Schools of Veterinary Medicine.

❖ **EXPECTED RESULTS 2002-2005**

The timetable of expected results for the period 2002-2005 is as follows:

Uruguay. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2005

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Trade and Agribusiness Development</b>				
The public and private sectors have a greater capacity for the formulation and regional articulation of sectoral policies and negotiations, as regards the different agricultural negotiations and disciplines.	X	X	X	X
The competitive advantages of the main agrifood chains geared to international markets have been strengthened and the capacity for finding and accessing markets has improved	X	X	X	X
The services provided by public institutions in the agricultural sector are more effective	X	X	X	X
Agribusiness management capabilities have improved	X	X	X	X
<b>Technology and Innovation</b>				
The sector's institutional capacity for research and technology innovation has been strengthened	X	X	X	
Improved access to information and new technologies.		X	X	X

Uruguay. Timetable of Results 2002 – 2005

Expected results	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Agricultural Health and Food Safety</b>				
AHFS programs and systems supported and improved capabilities for meeting the new demands of the agricultural market	X	X	X	X
Dialogue promoted between Uruguay and the other countries in the region, on AHFS issues	X	X	X	X
Support for the development of the mechanisms for harmonizing sanitary and phytosanitary measures for international trade	X	X	X	X
<b>Sustainable Rural Development</b>				
Support for the Central Government, the MGAP and the Departments in creating and implementing rural development policies aimed at achieving the sustainable management of natural resources.	X	X	X	X
A national strategy prepared for rural development and land use planning	X	X	X	X
National component implemented of the Hemispheric and Regional Agenda on Sustainable Rural Development.	X	X	X	X
Local development agents and actors trained and given technical assistance in how to find and use financial resources for local development projects.	X	X	X	X
Documents for improving agricultural management produced.	X	X	X	X
The MGAP and the development offices of the Municipal Districts better equipped to design a strategy for strengthening social organizations and decentralization	X	X	X	X
<b>Education and Training</b>				
Human resource training strategy prepared.	X	X		
Forum in operation, with an institutional framework that was agreed upon by the parties involved.		X	X	X
Public and private educational sectors articulated.		X	X	X