

RESOLUTION No. 664

**REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report of the Special Committee created by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) via Resolution No. 519, approved at its Twentieth Regular Meeting on 31 October 2019,

CONSIDERING:

That, via Resolution No. 507, the IABA requested that the directors general of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CATIE establish, with support from the Government of Costa Rica, an *ad hoc* working group responsible for preparing a “strategic proposal” for the future of CATIE that details scenarios and alternatives for restructuring and strengthening CATIE’s organizational, scientific, academic and financial frameworks, as well as its legal basis;

That, in keeping with the abovementioned resolution, the strategic proposal was presented during the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, and its recommendations were discussed, modified and approved via Resolution No. 652 of the Executive Committee, entitled “Strategy for the Future of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”, through which the Director General of IICA was also tasked with informing the IABA, at its Twentieth Regular Meeting, of the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee;

That, at its Twentieth Regular Meeting, the IABA discussed the recommendations included in Resolution No. 652 of the Executive Committee and, via Resolution No. 519, established a special committee made up of Costa Rica, Ecuador, the United States of America, Honduras, Jamaica and Mexico, in order to study, analyze and make recommendations to the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee on: a) measures to make the land belonging to IICA and CATIE more productive; and b) the feasibility of incorporating CATIE as a division of IICA in charge of technical and scientific research and post-graduate education in agricultural sciences, as well as other

structural options that may lead to more efficient and economical integration and coordination that meet the needs of the Member States;

That the report by the Special Committee concludes that “not all of the favorable conditions exist to achieve the integration proposed by the IABA members to the directors general”; and

That, notwithstanding the foregoing, it is important to provide the IABA with alternatives for improving and strengthening the relationship between the Institute and CATIE, for the benefit of all Member States,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Special Committee for the work carried out, adopt its recommendations and instruct the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE to make the necessary institutional modifications that would allow for converging the two organizations as requested by the IABA, as well as those that would continuously facilitate and foster their joint, coordinated work without the need to modify the current legal framework.
2. To request that the directors general of the Institute and the Center create a joint IICA/CATIE unit responsible for implementing the recommendations, particularly those relating to the exclusive use of the Institute’s annual contribution to the Center for activities that are agreed upon and supervised by the integrated unit.
3. To request that both directors general immediately prepare a “master plan” on the strategic use of the real estate and production assets of property belonging to IICA and CATIE, under the terms recommended by the Special Committee, and to submit the plan for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting and, if necessary, to the IABA for subsequent approval at its next regular meeting.
4. To request that the Director General of CATIE consult with the Center’s Governing Council at its October 2020 meeting, prior to implementing the provisions contained in the present resolution.
5. To request that the Director General of the Institute report to the Executive Committee on the fulfilment of this resolution at its next regular meeting.