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A Hemispheric and Humanistic Projection



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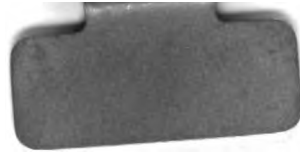


in the **70**'s



1974 REPORT

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INTRODUCTION

This publication contains:

- *The Official Message of Dr. José Emilio G. Araujo, the Director General of the Inter-American Institute Agricultural Sciences, to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Council and the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, held in Caracas, Venezuela from May 15 through 18, 1974. High-level delegates from the Ministries or Secretariats of Agriculture of the Member States attended these meetings, as well as Special Representatives from the American Governments. This Message corresponds to report number five of the Hemispheric and Humanistic Projection of IICA.*
- *The speeches given at both meetings, in the chronological order as indicated below:*
- *Speech by the Director General, Dr. José Emilio G. Araujo at the Inaugural Session of the above-cited meetings.*
- *Speech by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Venezuela, Mr. Carlos Andrés Pérez, at the inaugural ceremony of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.*
- *Speech by FAO Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America, Mr. Armando Samper.*
- *Speech by His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock for Venezuela, Dr. Froilán Alvarez Yépez.*
- *Speech by the Regional Director of IICA for the Andean Zone, Dr. Francisco Morillo Andrade, at the closing ceremony of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors.*
- *Speech by the Delegate from Peru, Mr. Luis J. Paz, on behalf of the participants to the meetings of the Technical Advisory Council and the Board of Directors of IICA.*

●
The Director General of IICA, Dr. José Emilio G. Araujo and His Excellency the President of Venezuela, Mr. Carlos Andrés Pérez, shortly after the latter's proposal for the creation of the Extraordinary Fund for Rural Development which the Board of Directors agreed to establish, and name the 'Simon Bolivar Fund'.



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS *

I. INTRODUCTION

Gentlemen, the great satisfaction it gives me to address my fifth message to you, as Director General of IICA, to report on our progress and success in service to the member countries, is somewhat dimmed by some of the realities which we are facing as we approach mid-decade.

We feel that we are doing our jobs, perhaps above and beyond what could be expected from the human and physical resources available to us. However, we are also

very much aware that the current situation of the rural populations of our countries and the agricultural sector in general, require even greater efforts if we are to achieve improvements.

As functionaries of an international technical cooperation institution, we have made significant progress in developing the Hemispheric and Humanistic Projection which you approved with enthusiasm. Americans all of us, we are very much involved in the urgent need to contribute to raising the standard of living of the rural man,

and the general well of the population. I feel we have to take some immediate decisions, wherein the development process should no longer be considered solely as a national problem, but one to be faced through joint action with the more developed countries providing their technical and financial capacity to serve a common ideal.

Perhaps the outstanding characteristic of our times is the fact that scientific progress and the perfecting of an historic vision have changed the prediction of the future from an occult art to a more objective

* Presented at the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, Caracas, Venezuela, May 16-19, 1974.

fact. Man today, withing self-imposed limitations, can anticipate future occurrences with a degree of certainty, orienting his decisions so as to more adequately face them.

However, and despite the increasingly somber note of studies and future projections, some of them imports from other areas but which have notably influenced our own lives, man does not seem to have woken up to reality, nor seems to be making the necessary efforts to change the direction which would appear to be running civilization up onto the reefs.

There are evidently many enlightening actions, impressive speeches, enthusiastic promises. However, continued action, daily work, the identification with doctrines and strategies, conscieous sacrifice, are the instruments which we have not yet learned to utilize to

the extent needed to reach the goals expected of us.

Historic philosophy, common sense and even prehistory are contrary to very strict predictions, no matter how well based the premises. We are well aware that social phenomena contain numerous servo-mechanisms capable of modifying tendencies and establishing new equilibriums in a very short space of time. It is usual however, that the more dinamic of these stabilizers are those which work through the human conscienceness, which should be alert to the seriousness of inaction. There is evident need for serious thought on the subject.

Humanity has lived from the beginning of times from one crisis to another, and history is full of cases of collective blindness which have lead and lead whole countries to catastrophe. Today we can see where

we are going, and there is no justification for ignoring the slow deterioration of matters which lead us sensibly or insensibly, towards an unliable world.

Up to the middle of the XX century, humanity could be careless, convinced that the results of all the forces of change were conducive towards a general improvement in living conditions for the majority, based on an economic development thought to be desirable at that time. Today, this can no longer be accepted as it is not very realistic, and we no longer can claim ignorance of the needs of the large masses of marginal populations. The voices of alarm have increased in their concern over the quality of life we will leave to future generations, if we continue to carelessly waste resources with the aim of sustaining production and the wellbeing of only a few.

The concept of scarcity of resources for production has been the expressed or implicit basis of economic theory, since its appearance as a science. Up to now, expanding frontiers to develop new lands or to acquire more in-depth technological knowledge, was allied to an illusion created of inexhaustible supplies and new sources of raw materials capable of indefinitely supplying any industrial demand, no matter how complex or integrated.

Several years ago, this concept changed diametrically since the conclusion was reached that a highly industrialized economy cannot be sustained if the natural resources on which it depends are exhausted. Nonetheless, the concept was based on a definition of "quality of life" which responds to consumer society patterns interested in the greater acquisition of material wealth, ignoring the basic essence of man

and the reason for his being on this earth.

America is or should be, something else. The human potential of this hemisphere is so great, that to ignore it would be a most serious error. Our goal should be to achieve a "quality of life" which not only contemplates the acquisition of consumer goods through increased income, but will also dignify man and provide him with equal opportunities in a society with no distinction of racial or religious origin. This should in fact constitute the real goal of development.

II. THE AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

What function corresponds to the agricultural sector of this our strange world, haunted by the spectre of scarcity, hunger and social conflict?

Feeding the human and animal life on this planet is based principally on the ability of green plants to utilize solar energy. In actual fact, only one per cent of the solar energy fixed through photosynthetic processes are utilized by animals.

To augment the utilization of basic resources to supply greater numbers of humans would result in a reduction in the consumption of high quality nutritious protein foods, foods which cultural tendencies guide us towards and which ensure a better standard of living by contributing to a better somatic and spiritual development of man. It is evident therefore, that the unlimited increase in population will be accompanied by the increased consumption of crude vegetable products. There is a close relationship with this problem and demographic growth, a topic of current interest in America.

Growing population masses increasingly urbanize areas in the more habitable zones, which usually coincide with the best agricultural lands. Production is therefore being pushed to marginal areas by the expansion of cement jungles. This can already be seen around the major metropolitan areas of America: in the best lands of the central valley of Chile; in the high valleys of Colombia, Venezuela and Costa Rica; in areas of the coastal valleys of Peru where irrigation is easiest. The tentacles of growing cities penetrate and produce situations such as the one occurring in California where for the year 2020 it is predicted that half the state will be covered by cement, since every additional 1000 inhabitants consume 115 hectares of land.

The increase in "minifundio" situations, crops planted year after year, the burning off of forest cover and overgrazing have contributed to

a "cancer" of the soils, which over the years have been exposed to wind and rain, condemning those that live on them to an increasingly limited and difficult way of life.

National agrarian policies have not been in the interest of an hemispheric community, and therefore we are facing a food crisis of serious proportions. Added to this is the increased aggressivity of government measures in many countries with respect to regulations on the importation and export of goods which affect the economy of neighboring countries. Together, these factors present a serious challenge which cannot be met by simply quoting statistics and showing concern over incontrovertible facts.

Development, for us, is an ample doctrinary concept with man-as an individual and as a social group- as principal actor. This of necessity

implies a more just distribution of income, and the widespread participation of all sectors of the population in the development process.

If we divide the population of Latin America by its income, we find (data from CEPAL) that half the population has an average income of 120 dollars per capita per year; an intermediate group which includes about 45 percent of the population earns approximately 400 dollars per capita per year, and the rest -five percent of the population- earns about 2400 dollars a year as per capita income: a relationship of one to 20 from one extreme to the other.

If we consider only the agricultural sector, we find that the per capita income of nearly 80 percent of our "campesinos", does not even reach 100 dollars a year. This means that the income of this group of Americans is even lower

that the income of the marginal inhabitants of cities which live in the slums, "favelas", "villas miseria", "barriadas", or "tugurios", which have always been considered the prototype of misery.

It is therefore essential to have effective support at a political level for agriculture with adequate institutional sub-systems in the field of sectorial planning, marketing of field products, agricultural credit, and agricultural extension and education. It is also necessary to have clearly defined and realistic prospects and operable interinstitutional coordination within and without the sector as to be able to put into practice the means to make agriculture more efficient and thus improve rural life.

Food Production

There is no doubt whatsoever that agriculture in this hemisphere

need technification: developing innovations and efficiently applying them so as to increase production and productivity. However, to increase production to fill internal consumption and export needs is not a goal to be attempted without seriously thinking out the means of achieving it. If state resources were to be given to a few highly technified, wealthy businesses, the above aspiration, in its most elemental form could be satisfied. However, the increase in food production has to be coordinated in an harmonious process with the general economic development of the country, and cannot be an isolated plan; as such, the increases in production could probably not be maintained on a permanent basis.

There are certain doubts concerning the problem of increasing food production, as well as the increase of production and productivity in general, within the

context of social change in Latin America. The problem must therefore be considered as only one of many ingredients encountered on attempting to modify the social structure as a whole. Care should be taken not to fall into the error of thinking that increases in production, per se, solve other problems as well. This is very far from actual fact, when taking the whole continent into consideration, as would be the case of any abstract theory attempting to resolve social justice problems without first attending to the basic problems, in this case, in production. A brief synthesis is therefore presented, as an example of how to meet the problem of increasing food production, including a definition of the problem, its causes, and the suggestion of possible solutions which the American governments could utilize in one form or another, to help combat the problem.

The example errs from over-generalization resulting from the marked heterogeneity of the political, economic, social, cultural institutional and ecological conditions of the countries of this continent. This in itself, emphasizes the need for clear-cut and serious diagnostic studies, and drastic and definitive decisions by the governments to face this problem and extract it from the lethargy of laments, and start on the road of something constructive to indicate that there is authentic interest on this continent, to eliminate this threat.

a) The problem

Food production in Latin America and the Caribbean in the past few years has allowed for approximately equal or slightly decreased consumption per person, as compared to the sixties. In all countries, foodstuffs have increased

in price, despite the importation of agricultural goods.

b) Causes

Reasons for this situation –“reduced” availability and increasing prices– can be found in the increase in demand, both of internal and external origin. Increases in population and in income -better, still, in purchasing capacity- have served as an important stimulus at national levels to increase the prices of food products. From external sources, poor crops and extensive international liquidity have made large purchases of cereals and other products possible opening up markets for agricultural production from our countries, at increased prices.

However, despite increasing prices, the increase in demand has not been met by a parallel increase in

agricultural supplies. The current explanation for this phenomenon is that agricultural supply-and-demand is a somewhat inelastic process, and reaction to the stimulation of prices is “low” in proportion.

Why this inelasticity in the agricultural supply situation? Answers to this question, would provide important information which would favor increases in production.

In a very simplified manner, the inelasticity of agricultural supplies (foodstuffs) can be explained by the following:

- existence of lands that are only partially utilized or not at all.
- production is in the hands of small farmers, low yields.
- faulty marketing of products and inputs.

– deficient state services with respect to food production.

Existence of lands only partially utilized or not at all.

There are areas of land that are not being utilized or only partially so, which could be used for food production, or for other more suitable crops or animals. Utilizing these lands properly, would leave other larger areas free for production.

The solution to this problem is to expand the agricultural frontiers: irrigating new areas or incorporating non-irrigated or seasonal areas. This would also include incorporating settlement systems based on production and marketing associations, taking into account social as well as economic dimensions.

In the first case, production can be obtained with total or complementary irrigation.

Production in the hands of small farmers

Production of the majority of crops in Latin America, with respect to number of production units, is in the hands of small farmers or campesinos with low profitability rates (traditional agricultural practices).

There are several alternative or complementary solutions to this problem: land distribution, campesino organization and modification of production schemes. In many countries facing land tenure changes, a greater redistribution of land is possible, taking the ecological, economic and social aspects of the different

national regions into account, creating cooperative units or businesses with adequate productive (social and economic) efficiency.

Campesinos can also join together in cooperative-type production and marketing businesses, thus achieving large scale economies.

Crop and cattle production schemes can be modified for the large, medium and small farmers. Attempts should be made to get the campesino to grow the high commercial value products (vegetable and fruit crops, intensive cultivation export crops) with high rentability. At the same time, large-scale farmers should take on the low profit crops such as beans, corn, sorghum and others, which are better crops to grow with advanced technology and which facilitate technical assistance, credit and marketing services.

There is a wide margin for improvement in the productivity of production units currently utilized for foodstuffs, including the provision of technological packages for impact, and integrated systems adjusted to the production conditions of the campesinos and which make possible the generation of notable increases in rentability as a whole. These increases are achieved in irrigated areas, through an increase in the efficiency of water utilization. This includes a better distribution and administration of the water and better management and utilization of the water at the farm level, with respect to soil, climate and crop factors in areas of conventional systemization.

Improvements can also be achieved through the introduction of the most rational use of irrigation systems in areas where water is costly or very scarce. Under these

conditions, drop-irrigation, spraying and subterranean irrigation, and other similar systems can be used.

In non-irrigated areas, or areas with marked seasons, the improvement of productivity per production unity in foodstuffs can be obtained through the intensive utilization of land and labour, attempting to achieve high rentability per unit and the maximum occupation of labour. This can be done with intensive plant production, with multiple crops, vegetable and fruit crops, flowers and export crops. Intensive animal production can be obtained through industrial-type production of semi-confined or specialized production systems such as penned fowl for breeding and/or fattening, pigs for breeding and/or fattening, and cattle production for herd replacement or for beef.

Faulty marketing of products

The marketing of foodstuffs is in general somewhat faulty, which reduces the rentability of the "campesino" exploitations and at the same time reduces the supply of agricultural products. The provision of technological inputs is also deficient, in quantity and quality; it is seldom timely and usually costly.

Several measures can be taken to rectify this situation, including campesino organization into type-units and the fixing of adequate prices, and the provision of technological inputs in the necessary quantities and above all, quality.

In addition to the need for fixing adequate prices to sustain production, risks of a fluctuating market should be reduced through measures which will ensure efficient and adequate storage, classification,

conservation, packing and transportation of the product. Classification is necessary so as to be able to set prices according to quality.

As additional measures within the area of improved marketing, are adequate supply and distribution systems of foodstuffs to consumer centers (central supply clearing houses, wholesalers, and particularly retailers). Also essential is the information on market conditions and prices for producers, the promotion of equally nutritious foodstuffs which can be obtained at lower prices, and the provision of the necessary technological inputs (quantity and quality). Amongst the latter can be included certified seed of high genetic and production value, fertilizer mixtures for each crop and type of soil, fungicides, pesticides, herbicides and the proper machinery for each case, at reasonable costs, as related to the prices for the produce.

Deficient State Services

Deficient state services explain to a large degree the deficit in production of many agricultural foodstuffs produced by small farmers. In the first place, the services only reach a small number of food producers. In the second place, services offered are not adequately coordinated or inter-complementary (i.e: credit is given without technical assistance; agricultural research is not complemented by extension or credit services). In the third place, there are gaps in the services offered, as integrated technological packages do not exist; technical assistance is not available or insufficient, and credit is inadequate for food production by campesinos or small farmers.

To overcome these deficiencies, it is necessary to coordinate credit, extension and marketing services at

the producer level. It is also essential that research provide extension and credit with the relevant technological packages to ensure increments in food production.

The coordinated application of these services can be achieved if an adequate inter-institutional organization with objectives and programs in common exists. Such an inter-institutional organization can be started with the joint programming of activities by geographic regions, with a clear identification of the responsibilities of each government agency and simultaneous application of the programs, in time and space.

It is also essential to coordinate the utilization of these services with investments in the infrastructure. In the geographic areas where services are utilized, gaps concerning communications, collection centers, slaughter houses, silos and ware-

houses should be filled. In this manner, the conditions necessary to reduce costs and risks can be created, thus making the increased production of foodstuffs possible.

External Factors

Though not to be analyzed, these factors are mentioned because of their significance to the effort to be undertaken by the countries with respect to food production.

In addition to internal factors within a country which condition increases in production, the prices and other conditions of outside (foreign) markets should be mentioned, as they can become veritable barriers to expansion. With uniform demands, regulations stocks, remunerative foreign prices, countries with the necessary natural resources

and other comparative advantages for the production of many agricultural goods can attain higher production and contribute notably to the solution of the problem of hunger looming over the future of America.

However, international "dumping", customs preference tariffs, and the very fact that agricultural products are sold in imperfect markets dominated by the buyers, reducing the effect to stimulate production and physically diminishing the volume obtained.

If foreign market conditions cannot be resolved on the basis of international agreements for basic products, regional integration, maintaining a source of supply, and other measures, the opportunity to increase production of many agricultural goods will be reduced in countries with otherwise great ecological and economic potential.

III. TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Gentlemen, I have tried to present to you a general framework of institutional concepts concerning the agricultural sector and the problems we face with respect to food production. It is necessary therefore, to define what IICA understands as technical cooperation in rural development, so as to be able to place our institution within this general framework, and define its possible contribution to solving the problems which assail us.

A definition of technical cooperation in rural development

Technical cooperation refers to non-profit activities (with the exception of the importation of capital) of an outside organization within a

country, aimed at developing a more productive agriculture or the improvement of standards of living and the increased participation of the majority of the population dedicated to agricultural pursuits, or in actual fact, to the strengthening of the national and regional institutions working towards those goals.

This definition closely follows the popular interpretation of the term, presenting an easily identifiable group of national or regional programs of technical cooperation, for consideration.

Excluded, by definition, is the importation of goods and additional capital resources for agricultural purposes. The activities of foreign firms working in the commercial aspects of technological inputs and/or agricultural products are not considered either, as the development of agriculture is not the prime purpose of these firms.

Technical Cooperation Instruments

Technical cooperation or assistance provided by outside organizations for the development of a more productive agriculture or the improvement of standards of living and the increased participation of the agricultural population, or the strengthening of national and regional institutions is usually achieved through the utilization of the following instruments:

-education- the principal purpose of education is to prepare people in technical-administrative as well as human aspects, so as to achieve a greater participation in the development process, and to be made more aware of the obstacles, limitations to, and possibilities for development. Education can be conducted through formal actions such as regular courses and in-service training, or through such means as seminars, symposia

and roundtables where concepts, policies, ideas, experience and information related to the improvement of agriculture can be inter-changed.

-research- the main purpose of research is to produce new information and to test the adaptability of technical know-how developed in other countries and regions to local conditions.

-direct advisory services- wherein use is made of existing knowledge to solve problems, and is provided on the basis of the experience of a technician or team of technicians or is based on research information.

-support the establishment and functioning of permanent groups or commissions whose main function is to coordinate the programming, carrying out and evaluation of specific institutional actions.

-the organization of international forums for the purpose of discussing and adopting policies in common, as concern the political, social and economic aspects of the development process.

-compile and disseminate statistical information on agriculture; publication of texts and manuals; and support to libraries.

Possible Theoretical Bases for Technical Cooperation

Technical cooperation as such, has originated largely because of the unequal information and experience in the countries and institutions, due to many and diverse reasons. Through the technical cooperation process, transferal of information and experience has become possible from one country or institution to another. A large number of very

different types of organizations, have been created with the object of serving as a link for the transmission of this knowledge, contributing thus to shortening the gap between the more and the less advanced.

Technical cooperation provides for ample "reciprocal action" between countries and institutions who can "give" and those who need to "receive". A great number of actions have therefore evolved, many of international character, adjusting in a reciprocal manner over a period of time, to the circumstances and conditions of the moment. There is no general consensus of what should be done, how it should be offered, and how the technical cooperation process should operate.

International organizations who have been providing technical cooperation, have been doing so with many different purposes and objec-

tives in mind, largely conditioned by their own particular philosophies, statutes, resources and specific areas for action.

However, it is very difficult to maintain technical cooperation actions completely devoid of political intention. Changes in emphasis perhaps are not casual occurrences. Herein we present a hypothesis that technical cooperation actions have been influenced, to some degree, by prevailing theories concerning the limiting factors to agricultural development and by the very concept and nature of development.

Thus, individual or joint extension programs operated by technical cooperation organisms, the concentration of agricultural research efforts and the training of personnel can be seen as response to the idea that; (1) "development" refers principally to the increase of agricultural production and productivity; and

(2) the obstacles to achieve this development are due to lack of technological knowledge and faulty transmission of this knowledge to the farmers, due in part to the lack of preparation of the technical personnel involved. Both aspects merit specific attention.

In the first place, efforts have been made to produce changes which are compatible with the stability of the social structure, or changes necessary to sustain that stability. This is achieved largely through cultural contacts and diffusion. However, cultural contacts which presuppose trained personnel, frequently involve the adoption of "developed" elements and cultural systems. In the case of agriculture, technological creation and dissemination are supposed to constitute an important agent of change and development of societies. Moreover, the lack of development is beginning to be consi-

dered basically as a problem of low production and productivity and that training personnel to manage the new technologies is a way to overcome this fault.

In the second place, there has been a perceptible modification in the interest of technical cooperation, from the individual to the organization and even to the system to which the organization belongs. This change in emphasis is due, amongst other reasons, to efficiency, since obviously the number of national institutions is less than the number of individual technicians who can be helped. In addition, it is becoming clear that the management of national programs or functions by technical cooperation organisms, inhibits to a certain degree, the development of national personnel, creating rather peculiar entities which cannot exist when integrated into the administrative apparatus of the country.

When agricultural development is conceived of as the improvement of standards of living and the increased participation of the majority of the agricultural population, the necessary changes imply structural modifications (i.e: understood as changes in those who own the resources and those who receive the profits from the product). These structural changes are also characterized by a high degree of urgency and nationalistic sentiment. Under these conditions, the technical cooperation organisms have modified the content of what is offered, if not the composition itself. Changes are also evident in emphasis - from direct participation to training nationals to do the job. On the one hand, assistance to education, research and direct advisory services is heavily committed, and is useful, within the general philosophy and purposes of development. The urgency of these purposes has also brought about

putting into practice methods which provide for short-range massive application of the technical cooperation instruments being utilized. On the other hand, direct intervention in national programs by technical cooperation organisms has been severely reduced - in line with nationalistic tendencies and largely due to the above outlined need to mesh institutional action with the aims of development; something which is easier to achieve through national personnel.

If it is recognized that the lack of development is largely associated with the political, economic and cultural dependence on other countries, the technical cooperation process is explicitly or implicitly accused of being a main ingredient in furthering this dependence. Unless technical cooperation is openly committed to the national philosophy and development practices, its "raison d'être" or role rapidly disappears.

Concepts concerning the functions of technical cooperation

Technical cooperation, aware of its role in economic and social changes, and which makes positive use of past experience, together with new orientations, can become a very important element in the development of countries.

In the first place, technical cooperation should keep within its role of helping countries achieve those actions which the countries cannot accomplish on their own, or could only do so at very elevated costs. Cooperation of this nature can sometimes be more effective, for the country as well as the technical cooperation organism, if concentrated on institution building which in turn promotes agricultural development. Two additional and inter-connected factors are required for this latter process:

-the technical cooperation organism should not be the one to decide or carry out the national institution action; instead, it should be responsible for training the institutions to do the job themselves.

-care should be taken to avoid strengthening or creating institutions which will disappear once they are incorporated into the general national administration scheme.

In the second place, technical cooperation should be understood as a process of redistribution of services and assistance of developed countries - in the case of Latin America, those countries of greater relative development - towards countries with fewer resources and are therefore less developed. The more developed countries may entertain various reasons -political,

economic or humanitarian- for being involved in this redistribution process. If processed through a multinational organism, the political and economic content of these efforts is less noticeable, as compared with bilateral actions, opening the way for more humanitarian concepts.

Taking both aspects of technical cooperation into consideration, several functions should be defined, as much for the multinational organizations as for the countries. A better orientation of the former is therefore ensured, and contributes to more concrete expectations for the latter. These technical cooperation functions can be identified as follows:

a) Promotion and operation of multinational action: This refers to activities, which by their very nature, are more encompassing than the efforts of only one country.

Within this category, the following can be mentioned:

-compiling and publishing multinational statistical information.

-the promotion of agreements and the standardizing of prices for basic products.

-coordination in the elaboration and carrying out of agricultural projects which include two or more countries.

-the elaboration of studies which help define policies and strategies which involve more than one country.

b) Sources of improved models of change: Contact with the multinational organizations with positive experiences in the countries, provides the necessary background for the formulation of improved "models", in relation to:

-sectorial objectives

-strategy for applying these objectives

-organization and coordination of sectorial operations

-strengthening (building) specific institutions

-systems which provide incentives as well as for the allotment of sectorial resources

Efforts are made, in other words, to take full advantage of the orientations and approach of institutional systems which have been successful in some countries, to help other countries at a similar level of development.

c) Participation in leadership functions: A the level of the institutional system as well as in specific

institutions, experienced technicians from multinational organizations can be useful as participant advisors in establishing new doctrines and priorities, on the structuring of programs and on the improvement of internal organization and external coordination.

d) **Complements to financial assistance:** Financial assistance needed by countries for agricultural development generally requires a significant complement of technical cooperation, at all stages: preparation and evaluation of projects as well as carrying them out and supervising them. Technical cooperation of this sort can take the more traditional form of short courses, in-service training, technical information and advisory services at specific stages of the projects.

e) **Provision for evaluation services:** These services refer to the

identification and proposal of corrective measures to ensure the continuous improvement of administrative action (programming, organization, management, coordination and control) which bear on the attainment of the institutional system's objectives. This is also true for the individual institution or specific programs and projects of importance. It is expected that evaluation work carried out by a multinational technical cooperation organization can be conducted with a certain degree of objectivity and satisfactory efficiency, due in part to easier access to improved research techniques and fewer restrictions in the formulation and application of analysis frameworks.

f) **Cohesive element of national efforts:** Emphasis is placed on coordination, which usually requires some degree of participation-adv-

sory services to unite resources and independent and self-sufficient national functions, in an effort to take common advantage of large scale economies, and to articulate complementary resources properly so as to attain new objectives or operations.

Functions that do not correspond to technical cooperation

Actions which do not fall within the sphere of technical cooperation, as understood by IICA, are those which do not correspond to the technical cooperation functions outlined above, and which do not meet the characteristic requirements for IICA's strategy. They are defined below.

a) Actions which do not correspond to technical cooperation functions are:

- those which do not take full advantage of positive experiences in some countries, to help others.
 - permanent leadership functions
 - the non-utilization of available financial resources of a complementary nature.
 - evaluation exercises which are not part of a sequence of activities undertaken to ensure the improvement of institutional systems, sub-systems or specific organizations.
 - those which contribute nothing towards uniting or complementing available resources.
- b) Actions which do not meet the characteristic requirements for IICA's strategy are:
- those which are strictly for the advantage of individual countries.
 - those which the countries can undertake without foreign aid.
 - those whose institutional or sectorial product is on a long-range basis.
 - those that can be undertaken without national counterpart effort.
 - those without clearly defined objectives, goals, instruments and verifiable indicators.
 - those which do not adjust to the changing dynamics of policies and strategies of the countries.

IV. PROGRESS REPORT

Having briefly analyzed the current situation of the agricultural sector in Latin America and the

Caribbean area, and having established IICA's concepts on the significance of international technical cooperation, I should like to refer to the progress achieved in certain specific fields of institutional action which merit special attention.

Progress in Education

The general principles which orient IICA's basic doctrine apply equally, of course, to Line of Action II, Agricultural Education. In a quick review of this Line, I should like to mention the following points:

a) Human Integration

The humanistic criteria is the main essence of IICA's educational approach; only in this manner, can the work proposed be accomplished.

True learning cannot be achieved if the mind has not been freed from animalistic levels or where at least a minimum cultural basis has not been established which provides for the development of spiritual awareness and conscientiousness of the human essence, of where the educational process has not been translated into an integration of the general and technico-professional bases with the vital human forces mentioned previously.

b) Hemispheric Projection

Within the Education Line of Action, we have been tending towards a new type of structure which emphasizes the intensification of relationships and coordination with the Faculties, Schools and Universities, through the corresponding national or regional associations.

With this new strategy, we should be able to make our pres-

ence increasingly felt in each region of the continent, creating a powerful multiplier factor of our limited specialized resources: human, material and corresponding services.

c) Integration of the Educational Plan

IICA is working on the integration of the different educational levels; integrated programming at a national level, of the different educational levels; incentives for continuity between levels; the integration of the educational process with research; the relationship of education and diffusion, innovations and application of information; the relationship of education with the community it serves; and other aspects such as education as an instrument of change and the relationship between education and institutional development.

Once the actions to be developed or promoted have been established, IICA projects its interest in the following manner: external action with the aim of promoting institutional development of the national educational systems in such areas as graduate education, basic university-level education; middle level and extra-curricular education; and internal action which includes the coordination of the operative programming of Line II, the development of an educational infrastructure in common for all the Zones, intensive courses on specific topics, and an efficient level of coordination with the other Lines of Action.

Progress on the Advisory Services provided the Agricultural Research Institution of Brazil (EMBRAPA)

The constant increase in the internal consumption of food in

Brazil, added to the accelerated rhythm of urbanization and industrialization as well as the growing demand of international markets for specific products, requires a more intensive evolution of the agricultural sector than has been achieved over the past few years so as to ensure levels more compatible with the accelerated rhythm of the general growth within the country.

To achieve this, the application of an intensive program involving technological changes within the agricultural sector of Brazil becomes essential. The national need and outstanding interest in a course of action towards strengthening research action so as to generate the necessary knowledge to ensure continuous economic and social efficiency in the agricultural production process, is evident.

To handle a project of such scope, the Brazilian government

approved the constitution of the Agricultural Research Institute of Brazil (EMBRAPA), in accordance with Law 5,851 of December 1972.

In response to a request of the Brazilian government, IICA has collaborated and cooperate with functionaries in that country, on the following aspects:

a) The creation of the Agricultural Research Institute (EMBRAPA), having participated in the studies and the elaboration of the Law and decrees which culminated in the constitution of the above mentioned institution.

b) The design and definition of frames of reference, criteria and norms related to the different areas of institutional development of the organization, such as the elaboration of specific projects to initiate work in each of these areas.

In this aspect, IICA worked

together with EMBRAPA and other national technicians, on the following principal areas:

- i. objectives and strategies
- ii. planning, on the basis of indicator frames and operative programs
- iii. organization of the institution, and its agricultural research system
- iv. human resources
- v. information and bibliographic documentation
- vi. a systems for the computation of information
- vii. diffusion of technological information
- viii. economic and financial resources

ix. external (inter-institutional) relationships

c) Advisory services provided on the initiation and organization of the institutions.

With this in mind, a technical cooperation agreement was signed in which IICA appears as the external consulting agency for the organization and initiation of the enterprise. A three million dollar loan was programmed for this purpose, as authorized by FINEP, public office linked to the Planning Ministry of Brazil. Terms of payment are for a period of two years, extendable to three.

In accordance with this agreement, IICA has already appointed the coordinator who will administer the technical cooperation project. His main responsibility will be to articulate the teams of national and international

experts in the different fields needed by the Institute to completely organize and get underway. These teams will complement the core coordination team of the enterprise.

The Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences has assumed a considerable commitment with this undertaking to build up the agricultural research services of Brazil, not only because of the size of the job undertaken, but also and perhaps particularly because of the innovative experience to be gained and the possible important consequences for the rest of the continent which may result. IICA in promoting the redesign of the conventional models for the organization and functioning of agricultural research institutions in Latin America. The creation of a system in being postulated, rather than an organism, to capitalize not only on the modern services to be created

through EMBRAPA, but also on the scientific and technical capacity to be installed in Brazil, working towards clearly defined objectives, strategies and programs to be constantly revised and which are closely linked to the rural development of the country, and a series of policies (planning, human resources, internal organization, technology transfers, linkage with other beneficiaries and institutions, financial administration) which will ensure an efficient and shared normative organization at a national and regional level, and a highly decentralized and dynamic operative structure, to the point of contemplating totally autonomous operative models.

Progress in the Irrigation Program for the South American Temperate Zone

The three years of operation of this program have seen considerable

expansion and continuous improvement, thanks to the excellent support awarded the program by the Board of Directors, and the countries and institutions involved. At the same time, the scope of the program has been amplified, and is now able to present auspicious results which anticipate a sustained evolution which will assuredly increase its usefulness for the Latin American region.

Worthy of mention as a principal factor in this process, is the attitude of the Board of Directors, expressed through two specific resolutions which were approved at the XII Meeting held in Santiago, Chile, in May 1973. One resolution authorized the hiring of an irrigation specialist to be located in Peru, who is already working with the Ministry of Agriculture of that country on a study of the hydro resources for the different crops. As a result of this study, modern Peru-

vian legislation will be able to apply with greater efficacy, the distribution and utilization of waters. In compliance with the second resolution, an internal committee of IICA staff members conducted a general study in view of the possible expansion of the program at an hemispheric level. Provisions have been made in the 1974-75 Budget Proposal to locate an irrigation specialist in the Northern Zone, on in the Antilles area, and to regularize the situation of the technician already working in the Andean Zone.

In accordance with the general recommendation of the Board to take full advantage of the positive experiences in some countries in specific fields, which contribute to agricultural development, as in the case of irrigation, the program has intensified its efforts to do so, through the interchange of technicians and information, and

in-service training. Thus, 12 technicians from Argentina, Chile and Uruguay went to Peru for periods of 2 to 8 weeks, where they became familiar with the functioning and organization of the General Directorate of Waters, its irrigation districts, and the possible solution to drainage problems. Similarly, four technicians from Brazil and Peru visited Argentina to observe the irrigation projects in that country, and to learn from the results being obtained through the utilization of a sprinkler irrigation system.

With respect to the offering of training courses, several courses on the operation, conservation and development of irrigation systems were given in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay during the 1973-74 fiscal year, as a complement to the courses already given in previous years. Over 350 professionals have benefitted from these

courses. Help has also been given to national courses organized by institutions within the countries themselves. For the immediate future, training courses have been planned in aspects related to the systemization of lands for irrigation, drainage, etc.

In addition to the continuity of technical collaboration actions related to the revision of legal regulations on the utilization of irrigation waters and the adoption of new irrigation methodologies and techniques, studies have been started which may be useful for the adopting of decisions with reference to the advantages of the application of supplementary serial irrigation in arable, unirrigated lands.

With respect to institutional action in the countries, efforts are being concentrated on the most important (top-level) organisms,

when they exist, or on the promotion of their formal or informal establishment when they do not exist, with the aim of building up the leadership functions in the corresponding political spheres.

The demands for the program certainly exceed the original scope. Over the past year, advisory services were provided the government of Haiti on the formulation of a request for a loan with the aim of financing an irrigation project. In October 1973, by special invitation, an important report was presented on the Current Situation and Problems of Irrigated Agriculture in Latin America, at the Second World Seminar on Irrigation which was convened by AID in Utah, USA, with the aim of orienting its assistance programs in this field. On January 1974, technical support was offered the Seminar on Water Legislation for the countries of the Andean Pact.

The collaboration of an Advisory Committee is available for the operative orientation of the program's activities. This committee has representative members from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay, as well as several official observers. Committee meetings also serve the purpose for the interchange of information on irrigation policies, and the possible solutions to problems held in common. Thus, at the last meeting held in Argentina in April 1974, the Committee discussed in detail an extensive report on the means utilized by countries of the Temperate Zone of South America, for charging for the administrative and operative services as well as the conservation of the irrigation systems. The information derived, provides rational bases for the operative improvement and financing of such systems as well as obtaining increased efficiency from the service. For the next meeting,

the Advisory Committee has recommended a study on the degree of participation by those who utilize the irrigation systems, in their management, with the aim of adopting or developing greater participation and responsibility in the running of these systems. In this manner, the program can contribute in a more direct manner towards a humanistic orientation, in accordance with the General Plan of IICA, within the guidelines presented by the Executive Offices and approved by the Board of Directors.

Progress achieved in Documentation and Information Actions

AGRINTER (Inter-American System for the Documentation and Information in Agricultural Sciences) is a technical cooperation

instrument for the institutional development of documentation and information in agricultural sciences in the countries of this hemisphere.

The Inter-American Centre for Agricultural Documentation and Information (IICA-CIDIA) is currently acting as coordinator for this multinational effort, with the countries of the hemisphere as fundamental components of the system.

As part of the basic strategy to develop the system, IICA-CIDIA is giving priority to the creation and consolidation of the national subsystems of agricultural documentation and information in each country.

Background information on the establishment of AGRINTER was provided in my 1973 message. A summarized report on the progress

achieved over the past year to initiate the system is of importance, and hereby presented:

-V Roundtable Meeting of AGRINTER was held in Turrialba - August 23-24, 1973 - with the participation of 18 representatives from 12 countries to discuss the structure, methodology, activity programming and personnel training of the system's national centers.

Since the Roundtable meeting, the following actions have been accomplished:

-A compatibility analysis between the AGRINTER and AGRIS systems, which was undertaken with the technical cooperation of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, with the aim of converting the traditional methods utilized by AGRINTER to automated method-

ology compatible with AGRIS. The study, which was conducted by an information advisor, will permit establishing the necessary bases for AGRINTER to facilitate its inter-connection with AGRIS.

-Working Instruments

As programmed at the V Roundtable, progress on the preparation of the following instrument to be utilized by the coordination center and national components of AGRINTER: 1) Manual on the Bibliographic Description of Documents; 2) Specifications for the entering of Information on Tapes, and Registration Format; 3) Information Entry Sheet for AGRINTER; 4) Basic List of Periodic Publications (journals) in Latin America and the Caribbean areas.

-Strengthening national structures

Over the past year, AGRINTER has concentrated on supporting the creation or strengthening of the national sub-systems for agricultural documentation and information. Work in this area has been carried out in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico and Venezuela. At the same time, cooperation has been offered all the countries in the hemisphere at other levels – depending on the degree of development of existing library and documentation infrastructure in each country – mainly through personnel training, collaborating on the elaboration of national agricultural bibliographies, and other technical advisory services.

The participation of the countries in AGRINTER has in-

creased appreciably over the past year: attending diverse AGRINTER meetings, and providing information on national agricultural literature, which in turn has been processed and integrated in the Agricultural Bibliography for Latin America and the Caribbean.

All support action on the strengthening of agricultural documentation and information structures in the countries has been an integral part of the hemispheric program of IICA in this field of action –through CIDIA projects and activities coordinated with the regional and national offices of IICA in the countries.

International Technical Cooperation

IICA-CIDIA has been receiving technical cooperation assistance

from the International Development Research Centre of Canada, in CIDIA's capacity as 1) AGRINTER Coordination Centre; and 2) Multinational Information Input/Production Centre for AGRIS. The assistance offered by IDRC for the development of AGRINTER and the coordination and integration of this information into AGRIS, has been achieved in the following manner:

- a) Advisory services on, and compatibility study concerning the AGRINTER-AGRIS Systems; ;
- b) support to conduct a systems analysis to select the methodology to be utilized for preparing the Integrated Catalog of Periodic Agricultural Publications for AGRINTER (Latin America and the Caribbean area).

These preliminary actions are an integral part of an IDRC technical

cooperation project in support of IICA-CIDIA and the countries in this hemisphere.

FAO, as sponsoring organization of the AGRIS International Information System in Agricultural Sciences, is providing support with working instruments on methodology for AGRINTER, such as training in application and other reinforcement actions. (At the XII Regional Conference of FAO for Latin America, held in Cali, Colombia in 1972, the countries of this hemisphere presented resolution 12/72 which recommended the Director General of FAO to appoint IICA-CIDIA as Regional Center for Latin America and the Caribbean area, within the AGRIS System).

The National Agricultural Library of the United States of America has assigned an informa-

tion specialist to IICA-CIDIA for a period of two years. This specialist has already been with CIDIA for several months.

The government of the Netherlands has provided production and reader-printing equipment for microcards, to promote the transfer and storing of information on microformats.

The government of West Germany, through its Nuclear Energy Documentation Center - ZAED - in Karlsruhe, has shown interest in providing technical cooperation support, and is planning an IDRC - ZAED - IICA meeting in Karlsruhe, Germany.

The establishment of AGRINTER is well underway, and in accordance with the programmed plan of operation, will be ready to start work in a systematic manner,

providing for gradual growth, by January 1975.

Progress in Marketing Actions

The Hemispheric Marketing Program of IICA is an active component of the new concept of technical cooperation which seeks to strengthen national institutions in the agricultural sector to increase their effectiveness in the transformation of the marketing systems for agricultural products, foodstuffs and inputs, to better achieve national rural development objectives.

The program aims to obtain greater benefits for the agricultural producers, influence the cost of foodstuffs and nutrition generally, to the greater advantage of consumers, especially in the lower income range.

The program concentrates its action on the generation and diffusion of in-depth knowledge concerning the role of marketing in the socio-economic development process; on training and support to educational programs; on the promotion of technical interchange within and between countries, and particularly on cooperating with national marketing institutions on the diagnosis of problems and the formulation and carrying out of specific programs and projects.

The program works through national and multinational projects being conducted by IICA representatives in the countries, and coordinated on an hemispheric basis, from the Executive Offices of IICA. To accomplish this, IICA has a group of marketing specialists which include the Technical Coordinator in San José, and international marketing technicians

distributed throughout the countries, in the following manner: one in the Antilles, one in the Southern Zone, two in the Northern Zone and three in the Andean Zone. There are also several national technicians working in the programs at the country level, in Haiti, Argentina, and Colombia.

In the 1973-74 period, the program has been consolidated with the integration of its technical team at the regional level, and the initiation of the institutional diagnosis of the marketing sub-system in each country.

In the Northern Zone countries, the diagnostic analysis of the marketing sub-systems has been developed and technical advisory services and support have been provided the official organizations, particularly in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

In Nicaragua, help was provided on the formulation of a program for the development and improvement of an urban distribution net for foodstuffs, within the agricultural development plans and the reconstruction of Managua. In addition, advisory services were provided in marketing, on the agricultural sectorial diagnostic study of Nicaragua.

In Costa Rica, technical co-operation was provided on the preparation of agricultural marketing programs for the 1974-78 development plan.

Work has been continued on projects in the Andean Zone which had been initiated in previous years. In Peru, through an agreement with CENCIRA, technical collaboration services are being provided in the training of technicians involved in the agrarian reform process and in

charge of the marketing systems of the agrarian zones. These activities have been complemented with the structuring and carrying out of a Technical Assistance Marketing Program. In Bolivia and Ecuador, support action is being provided the state marketing enterprises recently created: National Rice and National Storage and Marketing of Agricultural Products (ENAC).

An institutional diagnostic study on marketing was initiated in the Southern Zone, and a plan of action is currently being prepared, on a short range basis, for Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

In the Antillas an institutional diagnosis is being conducted and IICA is collaborating on a study of the marketing systems, particularly in Haiti. Advisory services are also being provided in this country on the analysis and diagnostic study of

the national marketing system of agricultural products, together with IDAI, CONADEP, and the Department of Commerce.

For the 1973-74 fiscal year, the Hemispheric Marketing program has been working on a total of 22 projects and 63 activities.

In the development of the program, emphasis has been given on building up a team of technicians which can be utilized efficiently in each country and between countries so that solutions to problems held in common by the countries can be coordinated, as well as allowing for a continuous interchange of knowledge and experience. The institutional diagnostic study in the countries has been of great value to ensure continuous action as well as providing for massive technical support to pilot projects.

Progress in Structural Change Actions

Community Enterprises

Promotional action has been continued in several countries to promote "Campesino" community enterprises as one of the better models for implementing the Agrarian Reform and "Campesino" Organization programs which make up IICA's Line of Action VI.

Several Member States have been very receptive to the "campesino" community enterprise programs, creating a large demand for technical assistance and training services in this field. A special training and research program is therefore being elaborated for this type of undertaking in compliance with resolution N^o11 approved at the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Board of

Directors held in Santiago, Chile, in 1973.

At the international technical meetings and in the work being conducted by national groups, the concepts concerning "campesino" community enterprises have been taking definitive shape. A theoretical framework is now available which will permit future action in this area to be encompassed with development concepts with an humanistic projection.

In addition to promoting community enterprises, work has been started to define action at two levels: with the "campesinos", and with the structure of the enterprises per se. There has been considerable demand on behalf of the countries for information in this area, and IICA is attempting to supply answers to the following pragmatic questions: what kind of organiza-

tional structure should this type of enterprise have, from the economic, social and financial points of view; what should their juridical status be; what degree of inter-relationship should exist; how is their vertical integration with the markets achieved; how can they be articulated with state services; who can participate, and how; what is the most feasible economic size, and how many can be members of each unit; how and to what degree do these enterprises participate as integral units of the national economic, political and cultural life of each country?

The evident need to incorporate Latin American peasantry into the productive process has led to an intensified search for suitable social and economic organization models which will provide for a restructuring of land tenure and production relationships but which at the same

time must contain elements which make such enterprise feasible.

In general terms, since the main objectives for a sustained rural development refer to production and productivity, income and employment, a significant part of the work to be undertaken is oriented towards achieving these objectives on the basis of "campesino" agricultural enterprises. These enterprises are an answer to development needs, from an economical point of view, facilitating large scale economies, the adoption of new technology, technical assistance services, proper marketing for the product, a lessening in the cost of state services, and the development of the business capacity of the "campesino", as a basic requirement to ensure that the land and the productive resources be utilized to their maximum capacity, and that the "campesino" participate within

the institutional system (credit, marketing, etc.) on an equal footing with traditional agricultural schemes. Lastly, it is hoped that the "campesino" business enterprise will be successful in breaking the traditional scheme of land parcelization, which has resulted in the institutionalization of the "minifundio" and a subsistence economy.

IICA's efforts in these matters, have a double purpose. There has been a constant contribution to the normative aspects of the model through articles, conferences, dialogues, courses and seminars. On the operational scene, the agrarian reform specialists have dedicated a large part of their time to collaborating with national teams on the implementation of settlement policies based on the community business enterprise system. In addition, IICA has collaborated

with other international agencies in providing advisory services to national teams on the design and development of research on associative forms of land tenure, and especially on the "campesino" community enterprise system.

IICA, together with PRACA, is working on the community business enterprise system throughout Central American. Studies have been conducted in Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama, together with FAO, and direct advisory services are currently being provided the agrarian reform institutions in this field.

The prospects for developing these types of land tenure and associative production models are very promising in many of the countries; i.e: the new National Development Plan for Costa Rica (1974-78) has bases its rural devel-

opment strategies on a concerted effort to diminish the social gap in the participation of and management by the "campesino" of their own enterprises, based on associative models.

It is therefore necessary to continue and perhaps even intensify current efforts in this area, through seminars, courses, training, technical cooperation and diffusion of information at the different levels.

"Campesino" Organization

IICA is becoming increasingly convinced that national experience in agrarian reform has in many cases been disillusioning, and in others, generally deficient. These tendencies will continue if efforts are not made to stimulate strong and efficacious action oriented

towards the organization and promotion of "campesino" groups, a sui generis action within the social context of the Latin America continent. It has been proved that the resistance to change found amongst the "campesinos" is basically a self-defense reaction under traditional circumstances, and specific actions must be taken to counteract this resistance. Solid research into this field is necessary, so as to obtain information on the real need for organization which at the same time must include a high degree of identification with the rural sector, essential for comprehending the "campesino" motives as well providing an humanitarian action destined to alleviate the situation of a generally repressed group.

The plan to be adopted in the future is basically oriented towards advising the "campesino" on production. Current production

needs, considering the world food crisis and the need to economically consolidated "campesino" groups into diverse forms of production enterprises, has stimulated IICA to orient its action towards the building up of the institutional mechanisms in the countries which will provide greater support to "campesino" organizations, helping them to comply with production goals and to consolidate their organization.

Greater emphasis is therefore being given to the possibility of working through "campesino" organization programs, oriented towards strengthening the national institutions – or creating them if needed – to ensure that assistance to the "campesino" groups include at least the following aspects:

- a) training and organization to ensure a sound, well-established life

- b) business technology training for producer "campesinos"
- c) a literacy program for the "campesino" groups

The Inter-American Development Foundation of the United States and IRAM of France have been approached to see about possible financing of projects of this nature.

Training Program, Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Studies throughout the Central American Isthmus (PRACA)

PRACA, which has been coordinated by IICA since its founding at the behest of the member countries, continues with its work in an efficient manner, and in accordance with the objectives established in the pertinent Operating Agreement.

The many activities being developed by this Program in training, promotion and technical assistance to the national agrarian reform and colonization organisms of the Central American Isthmus have been entirely successful, and have the full support of the organizations involved.

The scope and resources of the program have been expanded recently with the recent incorporation of the Agrarian Reform and Development Institute of Spain (IRYDA), as consultant organism. Technical assistance from this country will be available to strengthen PRACA's actions, and the door is open for possible future financial assistance. The CIARA foundation of Venezuela, as in the case of IRYDA, has become a consultant organism of the Program.

At the last meeting of the Agrarian Reform Executives of the

Central American Isthmus and the Annual Meeting of the PRACA Board of Directors, the following institutions attended as invited guests: Grijalva Committee from Mexico, the Agrarian Institute of the Dominican Republic and the Secretariat of Agriculture for Haiti. These organizations have indicated their keen interest to participate in the program as members, and it is expected that they will join the program this year.

PRACA has demonstrated that it is an efficient instrument for training, promotion, technical cooperation and the interchange of experience between the different participating organizations and countries.

Progress in Nicaragua: Management Program Actions

Since April 1973, IICA's Rural Development Management Program

has been collaborating with the Institutional Area of the Sectorial Analysis Unit (UNASEC) of the National Agricultural Council of Nicaragua, on a diagnostic study of the institutional aspects of the public agricultural sector of Nicaragua. The Management Program has contributed an input of 25 man/months to the two phase study:

The first phase, a complex study of the institutional systems of the public agriculture sector, included the following aspects:

1. a study of the legal and program aspects of the public agricultural sector;
2. a study of the institutional system's functioning in general, and individually in each institution, at the national level;
3. a study of the functioning of the organisms within the public

agricultural sector, and of the agricultural services at a regional level, taking the farmers involved in the various aspects of production, as point of reference;

4. an inventory of human, economic and financial resources of the public agricultural sector.

The second phase, as of September 1973, included IICA's collaboration on the integration of the institutional diagnostic study with the studies of the other sectors, with the aim of preparing an overall diagnostic survey of the whole agricultural sector of Nicaragua.

The study of the institutional system has shown, in the second phase, the difficulties to be encountered within the agricultural institutional system with the alternative development strategies. Regional studies by product and by agricul-

tural service have been conducted, which will facilitate future planning and organization on a regional basis. It is expected that IICA, through its Rural Development Management Program, will continue to collaborate with the Sectorial Analysis Unit of Nicaragua, on three basic projects in the institutional area:

1. the formulation of an institutional development program, in accordance with the objectives of national authorities for a future sectorial development plan;
2. the creation of a national training center for functionaries of the public agricultural sector;
3. the elaboration of a legal document for the reorganization of the administrative structure of the public agricultural sector.

Progress at CATIE (Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center)

Since June 1973, the Center at Turrialba has been working under a new juridical structure, in accordance with an Agreement between IICA and the government of Costa Rica which was on June 1, 1973.

The Board of Directors of CATIE, met from 17 to 19 July in Turrialba, with the attendance of Mr. Eugenio Rodríguez V., Rector of the University of Costa Rica, president elect for the session; Professor Salvador E. Alemañy, Dean of Agricultural Sciences at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, elected vice-president; Dr. Edwin J. Wellhausen, from Rockefeller Foundation in Mexico, elected second vice-president; Dr. José Emilio G. Araujo, principal

representative for IICA; Dr. Carlos Schlottfeldt, alternate IICA representative; Mr. Alvaro Rojas E., Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Livestock for Costa Rica, and Mr. Victor Manuel Perez, both representatives for the government of Costa Rica; Mr. Eduardo Castillo, freely elected member, and Dr. Rodrigo Gámez, alternative representative for the Rector of the University of Costa Rica.

With the approval of the Board of Directors, and with the aim of clearly defining the program objectives at the Center, three outstanding researchers were invited to a preliminary meeting:

Dr. Richard Bradfield, from the University of Florida, Gainesville, as consultant for the Tropical Crops & Soils Department;

Dr. Gerald O. Mott, also from the University of Florida, as con-

sultant for the Animal Husbandry Department; and

Dr. J. Harry G. Smith, from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, as consultant for the Forestry Department.

During the meetings, details of each Department program and its definitive orientation were discussed. This committee will continue meeting regularly, under the auspices of the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Board of Directors of CATIE, at its first annual meeting, approved the new orientation of the Center's research program, to emphasize the study of agricultural systems.

Within this new orientation, the Department of Tropical Crops and Soils has organized its program on

the basis of multiple crops experiments, designed in such a way so as to provide ample information on the value of all the combinations and sequences of crops utilized. This research program seeks the best way to train the small holder to obtain the maximum production possible from his land.

The experiment covers 6 hectares, and includes 54 different combinations, each one with four levels of technification, totalling 216 plots with the following crops: beans, corn, rice, sweet potato and cassava.

With the aim of making an in-depth analysis of the possibilities of land management with this system, a meeting was held in November 1973, with the participation of researchers from the Central American and Caribbean countries, and representatives from

institutions such as the Rockefeller Foundation, AID and CIAT. Dr. Damon Boynton collaborated on the organization of the meeting, and Dr. Richard Bradfield, currently a consultant to the Center, presented a paper on his experiences in the Philippines in this kind of program.

The Department of Animal Husbandry has been concentrating on the development of intensive meat and milk production systems utilizing improved pastures as a main source, and emphasizing the utilization of energetic supplementation on the basis of the abundant agricultural by-products in the region such as molasses from sugar cane and cull bananas.

Pastures provide a large part of the required proteins, and the rest is supplied with urea, in the highest possible dosages that animals can

tolerate, with the aim of diminishing the consumption of highcost supplements such as beefmeal and tankage.

Results to date indicate good possibilities for obtaining high yields which permit thinking in terms of considerable production increases in these foodstuffs so essential for our countries.

The government of several countries, such as Costa Rica and Panama have been interested in extending these research results, and some specific projects are under study, to work with both countries.

Objectives of the Forestry Department program are as follows:

1. the introduction of rapid growth species which will permit the development of forest planta-

tions as part of an integral agricultural enterprise.

2. the management of tropical forests, researching into the conditions necessary for their regeneration and an increase in the production of valuable species to be found in humid forests.

3. the technology and utilization of native tropical forest species to increase the number of species which can be utilized commercially, determining their specific characteristics and studying the necessary treatments so as to be able to utilize them in an efficient manner.

Progress achieved with respect to Rural Youth

IICA's field of action is rural development, which is approached

with an ample gamut of objectives within a defined doctrine provided the Member States through the organized development of seven principal Lines of Action. Within this work scheme, the rural youth and associated programs follow two main and complementary routes:

On the one hand, work with rural youth is presented as an integral and strategic packet encompassing all the lines of action, since working in production and on the utilization of goods and services, the young sector of the rural population is inseparable from the population as a whole. Strategy is important, because in each field, the development of projects with the rural youth population as the objective of specific action will have tremendous impact on the area as a whole. There are several demographic, sociological, and other reasons for this.

Progressively, we are developing an integrated approach in our work with rural youth which allows us to incorporate this sector of the population as a key component to the overall plan and in the development of an institutional plan of action at the country level. There are several concrete examples already, especially in the area of social planning and promotion, and associative forms of production.

The other phase of our work with rural youth, as responsible member of the Inter-American Rural Youth Program is to support the rural youth projects of the Member States, with emphasis on the increase of foodstuffs production. This approach is based on substantial productivity increases, the provision of some stimulation such as credit and technical assistance, and a more adequate handling of the marketing channels.

Recently, efforts have been made to adjust the objectives so as to encompass additional areas within the sphere of rural youth action. Work has been initiated on the design of specific action, emphasizing such variables as employment and migration.

Progress in the IICA-TROPICS Program

As a result of the II Meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Cooperative Program of the American Tropics, the program has been concentrating action in the following areas, considered of priority interest by the committee: tropical ecology, forestry, animal production and perennial agriculture.

With the aim of obtaining information on these areas and to

discuss the existing problems and their possible solutions, IICA-TROPICS organized a series of meetings. As a result, the program has compiled the basic information on programs underway, and the institutional and human resources in the area.

The recommendations and conclusions resulting from each of these meetings are being studied and analyzed in each country, by inter-disciplinary Working Groups, and will serve as a starting point for the elaboration of an integrated project on production systems for the American humid tropics (Land Use Systems) which will permit a profitable and sustained utilization of the Amazon ecosystem, and which should be ready by the end of the present fiscal period.

Through the utilization of graduate scholarships, the Execu-

tive Secretariat of the IICA-TROPICS Program is training a nucleus of technicians from the region in aspects related to agricultural, animal husbandry and forestry production systems. They will be responsible, in future years, for the leadership and carrying out of research projects in production systems.

In the field of agricultural documentation and information, IICA-TROPICS has stimulated the governments of the region to organize in their own countries, units responsible for these functions. Peru initiated CEDIA in Iquitos towards the end of last year, and within a few months Brazil will have a branch center of the Regional Net of Agricultural Documentation and Information for the Amazon Region, with an annual budget of a quarter of a million dollars. Bolivia and Venezuela have

been working towards the same goal.

IICA-TROPICS has thus complied with the recommendations established by the Advisory Committee. In view of the experience acquired over the past few years, it is suggested that the Advisory Committee at its fifth meeting, design a new long-range plan of action for the Cooperative Program, at multinational as well as national levels, to be presented by the Director General to the Board of Directors of IICA, for due consideration.

The initial structure of the Program has been valid and of great use for the first stage of stimulus and coordination of activities. As the second stage approaches, the national Coordination Committees in each country should provide full-time personnel and a separate budget for operating purposes. At

the same time, the Program Executive Secretariat should have an interdisciplinary team of technicians permanently integrated into the action area, who would be capable of working together with the national organisms on the production systems research projects to be approved at the Lima Meeting.

Experience indicates that IICA-TROPICS can be a valuable instrument for the regional development of the tropics. Considering the fact that the Amazonian ecosystem does not yet have its own production technology (management and utilization of lands) and that this whole region does not yet contribute to food production at a time when the whole world is feeling the scarcity of this commodity, the Cooperative Program, through well-structured projects on agricultural production systems, can be of valuable assist-

ance to the governments of the region.

V. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

External relationships are an important part of institutional action. In the previous chapters of this Message, I have presented the development of IICA action as related to the current situation of the agricultural sector of this hemisphere briefly providing information on several specific cases within IICA's programs, projects and activities.

Many of these actions have been possible thanks to the cooperation of national or international institutions, or through the international cooperation of some extra-continental governments.

Work in the area of foreign affairs has been stepped up with the presence in San José of the

Associate Deputy Director General for External Coordination, and the work out of the Washington Office, headed by IICA's Director of Institutional Relations.

Considerable progress has been achieved in this area: IICA's relationship with other entities of the inter-American system such as the O.A.S. and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) are producing significant programs to the benefit of the Member States. It is therefore of importance to provide you with information on the more significant achievements in this field for your study and analysis:

Relationships with Institutions

The Organization of American States (OAS)

The Director General of IICA and the Secretary General of OAS

have signed an agreement which determines the relationships between the two organizations of the inter-American system, in accordance with article 134 of the Organization Charter.

The terms of the agreement were defined and accepted by both parties. In the elaboration of the agreement articles, careful account was taken of the Organization Charter, IICA's Convention, and the Norms for the Application and Coordination of Charter Dispositions, as concern the specialized inter-American organizations, approved by the OAS General Assembly at the Second Ordinary Session (Res. 87) in April 1972.

Ratification by signature of this new agreement was authorized by the OAS General Assembly, Resolution 88, 1972 for the Secretary General of the OAS, and Resolution 89, 1972 for the Director General of IICA.

The agreement will have a beneficial impact on the actions conducted by both organizations of the inter-American System, through mutual complementation and strengthening of activities in the sphere of rural development.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

On June 5, 1969, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences and the Inter-American Development Bank signed a non-reimbursable technical assistance contract to finance a training program on the preparation and evaluation of agricultural projects.

Teaching guidelines were established and four courses were offered: Lima, Peru; Managua, Nicaragua; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Bogota, Colombia. Approxi-

mately 100 technicians were trained in these courses, and 11 basic documents for investment projects were prepared.

Experience indicates that the courses produce documents of considerable interest, and that BID and IICA help should not terminate with these courses. Thus a new contract was entered upon (ATN/TF-1081-CS) which contemplated offering nine training courses in nine member states of BID and IICA. These training cycles or courses are conducted in two stages: the basic course which provides general knowledge on agricultural projects, with practice in preparing them; and the second stage which is an in-service training period, and which involves perfecting the projects produced in the practice sessions, to present them as well-documented investment or pre-investment projects. Up to this

date, training cycles have been conducted in Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and Uruguay. The last cycle of the series was started in Chile in January 1974. On the conclusion of the cycle in Chile, the second contract will have been responsible for training 120 functionaries and presenting 20 investment or pre-investment projects.

Several important results have accrued from these two contracts, which are worthy of mention. In addition to the professionals who received training and the projects which elaborated, the second contract, in particular, has had the following outcome:

-With resources from the OAS General Secretariat, IICA organized and conducted a course on the elaboration of agricultural projects

in Haiti, utilizing the same scheme and procedures perfected through the BID/IICA Contract.

-The government of Ecuador decided to add a unit to the Ministry of Agriculture, for the elaboration of agricultural projects, to be staffed by personnel trained in the course which was given in that country. AID collaborated on the establishment of this new unit.

In Haiti, the German Government is financing the Irrigation Project for the "Block Joannis-Rive Droit de l'Estere" which was elaborated during the training cycle held in that country.

-The government of Peru and the Agrarian University are currently studying a project which was elaborated by BID/IICA Contract functionaries, to permanently establish a training program for the

elaboration and evaluation of agricultural projects.

-Several of the projects elaborated during the training cycles have been submitted to BID for due consideration, such as the Honduras Sesame Project, and the African Palm Oil and Cattle Promotion projects, of Ecuador.

-Other projects elaborated during the training cycles have been submitted to other international and bilateral financial entities for consideration, such as the Milk and Meat Production project of Peru.

-One of the professors of the Haiti course has been hired by AID to organize and conduct a similar course in North Africa. Much of the didactic material produced by the BID/IICA Contract and which has been translated into French by IICA, will be utilized for this course.

It is reasonable to suppose that over the next few years, personnel trained under the contract will be responsible for the elaboration of other agricultural projects suitable for submission to BID or other international or Bilateral financial agencies, as well as to national financial organisms, for due consideration.

IICA has worked on these training cycles with great enthusiasm and dedication, considering them to be a successful element of the institution's technical cooperation activities.

Kellogg Foundation

Within the IICA Line of Action concerning institution building, emphasis is being given to producing texts and other educational

material for the faculties and schools of agronomy in Latin America. To this end, assistance was requested from the Kellogg Foundation, to finance the texts program and to improve the capacity of the IICA print shop, and IICA's editorial system.

Kellogg Foundation has agreed to help finance the program, and has provided US\$200,000 in allotments of US\$40,000 a year, to produce text books as needed, based on a survey taken of 20% of the teaching (professor) population in Latin America.

At the same time, the Kellogg Foundation donated a sum of US\$75,000 to expand the print shop: renewal of equipment and improvements in the editorial section.

With this assistance, IICA has initiated an expanded program for

the production of texts and other educational material which will undoubtedly have considerable impact on the young people studying agricultural sciences in our countries. The lack of adequate texts is a well known problem both in the basic areas as well as the more specialized field of the agricultural sciences. The problem is aggravated by the high cost of these materials. With the help of the Kellogg Foundation, IICA has accepted the challenge and is committed to produce the more essential texts at a reasonable price, thus complying with its function to strengthen higher agricultural education.

Another area of IICA action which receives considerable support from the Kellogg Foundation is the Inter-American Rural Youth Program which is discussed in another section of the Message.

AID-ROCAP

IICA-ZN/ROCAP-72-5 Contract orients its efforts mainly towards the training of personnel from the different organizations within the agricultural sector of the countries of the Central American Isthmus, with the aim of creating or improving their information divulgation divisions. The activities can be classified in four general areas: education, advisory services, research and publications.

The methodology to create and improve the divulgation programs has been successfully evolved, ensuring the integral utilization of results obtained from the different organisms. In addition, a series of activities have been organized, to formulate a system which will facilitate the fluid interchange of information between organizations and between countries.

The IICA-ZN/ROCAP-73-8 Contract also includes the Central American Economic Integration Bank (BCIE) and the Secretariat for the Economic Integration of Central America (SIECA). IICA is responsible for the diagnostic study on the Implementation of an Information System for the Central American Agricultural Sector. The system will utilize information from each country, and will also provide already processed information in response to national demands from institutions and the public in general, for information within the agricultural sector.

The main groups to benefit from these actions are those with decision-making power at a political level; regional and national planners; research, information, credit, financing and other institutions; importers, exporters; agricultural input producers and marketers;

small, middle-range and large agricultural producers; transport concerns; and small, middle and large consumer groups.

The IICA-ZN/ROCAP-73-12 Contract is oriented towards the identification of the most effective manner to sell fertilizers throughout Central America, emphasizing the requirements of the small and medium-range farmers; and producers of basic grains, fruits and vegetable crops. At the same time, work is being conducted on elaborating a series of recommendations to help solve selling problems in each country, and suggestions for the region, concerning the need for sales organization and operational policies, and other necessary changes to reduce the tremendous advantages that large land holders have over small, with respect to the purchase of fertilizers.

Information obtained on retail marketing has been analyzed, underlining the problems involved for the small and middle-range farmers.

The IICA-ZN/ROCAP-73-4 Education Contract has been oriented principally towards raising the technical and teaching capacity of the personnel at the faculties of agronomy throughout Central America. Work has also been conducted on promoting the adoption of a master plan for general studies, and to create regional level orientations in specific areas.

The faculties of agronomy of Central America have greatly benefitted from the better training their professors have received, often at the Master's level; from the advisory services, teaching and research experience of visiting professors; and from the training of

considerable numbers of professors all of which is instrumental in introducing changes in the faculties, as well as the revision and up-dating of course contents for the subjects taught.

The Rural Development Management Program was established in June 1971, with the signing of an agreement between IICA and AID. The main objective of the agreement is to increase IICA's capacity for offering technical cooperation assistance with the aim of contributing to the improvement of the effectiveness of the organisms within the agricultural, sector and their rural development programs.

The agreement involves a budget of approximately US\$ 160,000 a year, for a period of five years. At this moment, the Program has six functionaries which form the central team located in Costa Rica, and

financed with resources from an AID grant for this purpose. In addition, IICA has four other specialists in this field, financed with IICA resources, located at the IICA Regional Offices, and through whom the accomplishments of the central team are transmitted to the different countries. They also serve as a link with this team, informing them of the reactions and experience gained in each country.

In 1973, the central team worked mainly in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama, with funds from the IICA/AID contract. Improved diagnostic methods have been applied in these countries, to management problems concerning the development of agricultural programs.

In Costa Rica, remedial methods have been applied to interinstitutional and intra-institutional programming and coordination, such as the development of im-

proved control and evaluation systems to achieve greater impact from the Agricultural Development Program.

In Nicaragua, a central and rural level diagnostic study has served as the basis for the Sectorial Agricultural Unit for the elaboration of their agricultural development plan, insofar as institutional aspects are concerned.

In Panama, technical collaboration activities have been oriented mainly towards supporting IICA's representative's office in institution building activities for the Agricultural Development Ministry, especially with reference to internal coordination and regional level interinstitutional coordination.

The University of Costa Rica

In January 1972, a contract for professional services was signed

between the University of Costa Rica and the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, whereby the institute was committed to provide technical cooperation assistance to the Faculty of Agronomy. This contract involves approximately US\$110,000 a year for five years, and is financed by the Agricultural Development Program funds, established through a loan by AID to the government of Costa Rica.

The main objectives of the IICA-UCR contract are as follows: to strengthen the teaching and research plans of the Faculty of Agronomy, with the aim of increasing the number of professionals with university-level agricultural training who can later serve the public and private agricultural institutions of the country, and complement the efforts underway with other institutions which form a part of the Agricultural Development Program.

A plan of action has been elaborated to achieve these objectives, which encompasses four general areas: education per se; institutional analysis and building; university research and extension. Seven professors have been hired and the plan of action is well underway.

In addition to giving classes and advising students on their theses, IICA has also been cooperating on the establishment and development of the Agricultural Economics School; the revision of the Soils Education Program; and the incorporation of computerized systems for Faculty and Experimental Station research work.

The establishment of a university extension program at the Faculty to strengthen relationships with other organisms of the agricultural sector of the country can also be included into the work being done by IICA under this contract.

Several short courses and seminars have also been given as well as technical advisory services. Work is also being done on the establishment of a communication system to divulge Faculty work, and a start has been made on a process for institutional analysis.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

There is a growing unity of thought and action between the world and the inter-American technical organizations, thanks to such persons as Addeke Boerma and Juan Felipe Yriart, who are fomenting high-level collaboration and coordination between the two entities. This tendency is bound to continue now that Mr. Yriart has been appointed to one of the more important offices in FAO's Rome headquarters, and that Mr. Arman-

do Samper, —prior Director General of IICA and once Minister of Agriculture for Colombia— has been designated as FAO Regional Director for Latin America.

Joint identity and mutual interests are logical and obviously to be wished for. The representatives of the American governments at the Sixth Inter-American Conference on Agriculture held in Lima, 1971, made a specific point of emphasizing the need for this joint interest. However, the success of the venture is worthy of mention for two important reasons; occurrences, generally are not always logical and to be wished for; and the degree, manner and rhythm of the coordination between IICA and FAO is probably exceptional within the world concept of multinational assistance for development, and can perhaps contribute in the future to the joint coordination of operations and the channelling of all or most

technical cooperation actions in agriculture for this continent.

Relationships with Countries

Spain

The Agrarian Reform and Development Institute of Spain (IRYDA) has become interested in developing relationships with the Agrarian Reform Organisms of Latin America.

IICA has been requested by the national agrarian reform organization, in accordance with a resolution which they approved at the First Seminar on Structural Changes, Social Development and Agrarian Reform held in Madrid, to act as intermediary and catalytic agent for the technical and financial capacity of IRYDA, with respect to

international technical cooperation action.

At this moment, a non-reimbursable technical cooperation agreement is being negotiated, whereby IRYDA will be responsible for three training projects for Central American agrarian reform functionaries. Meanwhile, IRYDA is to become one of the sponsoring organisms of PRACA.

Canada

In addition to the fixed contribution to IICA, as one of its newest members, Canada is also providing advisory services to CIDIA - explained in greater detail in another section - and technical cooperation to the Haiti plans and programs.

Germany

Relationships have been established with this country, through important agreements with respect to forestry, through the Turrialba Center, CATIE.

VI. PERSPECTIVES CONCERNING IICA ACTION

Protocol of Amendment to the Convention

The revision of the Institute Convention is one of the Director General's principal concerns, since the revision is in response to a request from the Board of Directors, and in view of the fact that the up-dating of the institution's purposes, functions and structure are essential to enable the Institute

to more closely identify with modern concepts of technical co-operation for development purposes; to consolidate its purposes and functions, and to rely on a more active and direct participation of national entities towards the rural and agricultural development of Member States.

Fifteen Member States of IICA have already presented comments and observations concerning the draft Protocol of Amendment to the Convention, which the executive offices submitted for consideration to the Board of Directors—in compliance with Resolution IICA/JD-730-6 rev. 3—, wherein the Member States agreed on the need to define the objectives and functions of the Institute and not modify its functional structure.

Based on these comments and observations, which in general

reaffirm the need to revise the convention, the Working Group appointed by the Board of Director's Permanent Committee has progressed as far as Article 19 in the first stage of the draft's revision.

The text of the revised articles reflect some of the concepts accepted in principle by the Working Group, of which the following are worthy of note: the change of name for the Institute; the definition of its purposes, emphasizing the promotion of agricultural development and the common weal of the rural population; the participation of non-American States as Associate Members; the integration of a high-level administrative organisms, composed of high-ranking representatives, preferably public services functionaries related to rural and agricultural development; the existence of a Council

comprised of representatives competent in the field of rural and agricultural development, to be designated by the governments.

The revision of the draft has been temporarily paralyzed since the members of the Working Group have been busy with tasks of the Special Committee to Study the Inter-American System and Propose Measures for its Restructuring (CEESI), as stipulated by the OAS General Assembly.

However, considering the purposes for which the Special Committee was created, it becomes even more imperative to update the Institute's Convention. The Executive Offices are insistent that the study of the Draft Protocol of Amendment should be continued. It would be useful if the representatives of the Member States who are attending this meeting, reconfirm the interest of their governments to

complete and approve the Protocol of Amendment, following the general guidelines which have prevailed to date in the Working Group.

The Institute as an Executive Agent of Agricultural Development Policies

At present, the redefinition of the nature and purposes of hemispheric relationships and the reformulation of the inter-American systems, accentuates the need for the Institute to be confirmed as an organism dedicated to stimulating and supporting agricultural and rural development action, with an integral economic and social approach, to ensure fuller benefit for the rural populations of America.

The Institute must be capable of building up the national institutions

related to the development of the rural sector, so as to better comply with the responsibilities to stimulate increases in agricultural production and productivity with the aim of attaining availability levels of foodstuffs, basic products and raw materials compatible with the demands from national and international markets. The Institute should also be in a position to collaborate on the promotion of social progress, to ensure the rural class, subject and object of the developmental action, a share in the general weal by means of greater employment opportunities within and outside of the sector, and a more equitable remuneration for their work.

The Institute, as a technical organization, will comply with these responsibilities through the stimulous and promotion of the biological, economic and social sciences; their effective and

harmonious utilization with the purpose of attaining a more balanced progress within the agricultural sector, as well as the other economic sectors of the Member States.

This concept, with a strategy which contemplates an integral approach, is the basic premis for the consolidation of IICA action in this field, recognizing the Institute as the executive agent for technical cooperation in rural development, within the reformulated structure of the inter-American System, as specialized organism of the agricultural sector.

IICA comprehends development as an all encompassing process, however the strategic importance of grouping like aspects into general areas according to conceptual criteria with an element of coherence, is recognized. Thus, a selection from within designated areas

for assigning resources priorities. This selection lends strength to IICA's plan of action at the level of each country, supporting the development growth model evolved for each Member State.

A comprehensive and important part of this approach is the evolution of the social aspects of rural development. The Institute is continually working to develop the best possible model to utilize to meet this challenge. In some cases, specific actions included within a country-level Action Plan will concentrate specifically on defined social aspects. However, generally speaking, the institute's programs, projects and activities already have social content, although the specific nature of each one may refer to other aspects of rural development. Thus, it is inevitable that the IICA Humanistic Projection, as outlined in the General Plan as a funda-

mental strategy, will be widely promulgated over a long period of time, through the diverse concrete action of a social nature of the Institute.

It would be advantageous if the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and the Ministries or Secretariats of Agriculture of the Member States were to form definitive concepts concerning the role to be played by the specialized organisms in general, as executive agencies of co-operation policies for development, within the inter-American system, and with respect to the Institute in particular, those aspects concerning agricultural and rural development.

Thus the delegations representing Member States on the Special Committee for the Restructuring of the Inter-American System could define with greater precision for the

Charter, the position the inter-American specialized organisms should hold, as specialized agencies for the promotion of hemispheric development. In addition, the Member State representatives on the IICA Board of Directors, who are also members of the Permanent Committee, could continue with the revision of the draft of the Protocol of Amendment to the Convention of the Institute, to ensure a general approach consonant with what the Member States consider to be most appropriate for the reformulation of the inter-American system.

Such concomitant action would permit the Institute to comply with the new administrative order and structure of the inter-American system, getting the new stage of inter-American relationships for development vigorously underway.

OFFICIAL SPEECHES DELIVERED AT THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



●
The Inaugural Session of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors and the Nineteenth Meeting for the Technical Advisory Council, with the participation of high-level officials of Venezuela, at the Armed Forces Circle, in the city of Caracas .



**ADDRESS DELIVERED BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA,
DR. JOSE EMILIO G. ARAUJO ***

At this time we are enjoying the charm and hospitality of Venezuela. IICA, representing the American Agricultural Sector, is greatly honored by the presence at this meeting of his Excellency, the President, Mr. Carlos Andrés Pérez, whom we wish to thank, in the first place, for his support, which he has always extended to us, and his courtesy for having invited us to meet in this city.

This annual meeting, more friendly every year and of greater preception as well as more universal

in its search for solutions, begins this year in an atmosphere of events which induce us to meditate. This meeting convenes at a time at which our world continues to suffer from an acute energy problem, which has caused adjustments in the political and economic balance, on a world-wide scale.

This fact stresses the decisive potential acquired by poor countries as producers of scarce raw materials, and opens, no doubt, specific possibilities for their research for international equity. In a

similar way, the nations of the Continent turn towards each other, imbued by the so-called spirit of Tlatelolco, offering new visions to mitigate the harshness of daily reality and make us hope for the consolidation of all aspirations of our countries with a view to modifying the inter-American system enabling it to implement practical and perhaps violent solutions as required under the circumstances.

And finally, the whole world is suffering from a food production

* Inaugural speech at the Nineteenth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Council and the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, at Caracas, Venezuela, May 15-18, 1974.

crisis, worrying all statesmen and men of thought of all latitudes. The Continent cannot elude this pre-occupation; even when the measures which could be adopted will differ greatly from solutions applied in developed countries, it is essential to sponsor international programs to increase food production to mitigate present and future calamities.

On an internal level, we would like to mention that we start these sessions of our Board of Directors with the active participation of new member countries. The new affiliation of these two countries reflects our institutional growth, but even more, represents an evident demonstration of an historic, political and economic sense of integration to which the Continent is heading.

Our countries share similar backgrounds founded on a colonial

past and inspite of linguistic differences and cultural conjunctions, the Continents' search for liberty is based on its common past to promote unions which should always have existed: collaboration cohibited by linguisting barriers representing common aspirations divided by the Seas.

The participation of new members at this meeting, belies the assertion that the Continent is a false common denomination assembling dissimilar nations confirming to the contrary, the symbiosis of evident and clear intentions; the grandeur of refined vocations; the search for human liberalization through economic and political independence.

I should now like to return to the subject of the Continents' food production. It may be said that it depends on different circumstances, requiring thus, different solutions.

In the first place, scarce food production in Latin America is directly related with land ownership and its utilization . It is well known that food production depends mainly on small unorganized "campesino" farmers, who are forced by circumstances into low profit traditional farming, and the existence of unused or insufficiently utilized lands which could and should be converted to production rather than being merely a prestigious symbol fot their owner.

In the second place it should be pointed out that the marketing of food products is, generally, badly organized, influencing negatively the supply of farm products and prejudicing "campesino" farming. The irregular supply of inputs is unsufficient both in quantity and quality; the very high prices of inputs make it almost impossible for small farmers to use them or apply them in efficient quantities.

In the third place, I should mention that the services frequently provided by the state further explain the inelastic supply of food products. Technological services to small farmers are provided in a very small proportion; these services are not adequately coordinated nor do they complement each other, due to a practically in-existent secondary sectorial planing set-up and for lack of orientation as to how to implement these services, such as insufficient and difficult credit conditions; poor and inadequate technological packages and others.

In the fourth place, I should like to mention the mechanisms of foreign trade that exert a certain pressure of food production, favouring the best lands for growing export products. This tendency, which reflects the dependency of underdeveloped economies is one

of the main causes for underdevelopment and has been pointed out very clearly in conferences and meetings, by the Governments of the Continent among which the consensus of CECLA should be stressed which has practically said everything there is to say on this subject and its diagnosis.

Contrary to what could eventually be accepted, the problem of insufficient food does not arise only from technological problems, inadequate financing or technical assistance. The increase in food production should be related with the general process of economic development and not as an isolated plan.

The problem of food production is not restricted only by biological circumstances. As Professor Conklin of Cornell University pointed out, the limitations of food

production are due mainly to social and not to biological circumstances. He states that Latin American society is highly stratified and polarized, due to its system of inherited privileges, wherein those who could import or create new technology do not need to do so, and those who need it do not have the necessary knowhow and no opportunity to learn it, or have limited resources available.

As has been the case in many great historic solutions concerning mankind, the point at issue in the problem of food production is lost in myth. When problems are converted into myths, they lack reality and become social phenomena. The potential magnitude of solutions, referred to almost with religious reverence, causes, in the first place, that the principal reasons for a problem are not analyzed, and in the second place,

on depriving these phenomena of their true origin, the system as such, remains innocent as is the general nature of things, and thus tends to remain as it was. Meanwhile solutions, corresponding to the legend, are searched for, frequently of a sterile nature and full of illusions, while the real problem remain unsolved and become even more acute as no one knows how to tackle their essence.

Gentlemen, IICA, as all of you know, and as you have all agreed, has a vocation for deep-felt, and realistic service. Its soundness forces us to investigate the basis of matters, at the root of the problem. Its realism impules us towards focussing its action within two parameters: its limited resources and the steadiness and efficiency of its actions. Armed with the conviction that the liberation of mankind

on this Continent is intrinsically related to the people who work the soil, and the rising intention to attain this objective, seeking for the humanistic development of our people, I extend to you my cordial greetings, reiterating our readiness to dedicate ourselves in the most absolute way and with the best, sincerest and healthiest of intentions, to the problem of food production and others assailing the agricultural sector.

●
His Excellency the President of Venezuela, Mr. Carlos Andrés Pérez speaking at the inaugural session of the meeting, when he proposed the creation of the Extraordinary Fund for Rural Development which was later baptized by the IICA Board of Directors as the 'Simon Bolivar Fund'. From Left to right, His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Venezuela, Mr. Froilán Alvarez Yépez, the Director General of IICA, Dr. José Emilio G. Araujo, His Excellency the President of Venezuela, Mr. Carlos Andrés Pérez, His Excellency the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Efraim Schacht, and Mr. Jorge Ramsay, IICA Representative in Venezuela.



**SPEECH MADE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT OF VENEZUELA,
CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ ***

It is very pleasant and timely for my Government –that after only two months in office– the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, created 30 years ago by the Organization of American States, should meet in our country.

We could assert, to be sincere, that the life and vicissitudes of this Inter-American Institute are somewhat similar to the rather unfortunate history of the economic development of Latin America, which should have been and will have to be based on the expansion of agri-

culture, as well as the development of renewable natural resources.

Our contries have not stressed agricultural expansion; we have made tremendous efforts to attain industrial development but seem to have forgotten the fact that this very activity relies on a firm and solid base from which to draw its strength. It is precisely the development of the renewable natural resources that not only provides for the production of foodstuffs for the population, but also the raw materials that are necessary for

industrial development, which should essentially be of a national and Latin American character.

We have not been able to carry through with this process, and I daresay that all the nations of this hemisphere as well as the other countries of the so-called Third World, must bitterly admit that the depression in the agricultural sector has been the real cause for the frustration of all the development plans we have undertaken.

In Latin American, the concentration of wealth has increased

* At the Inaugural Session of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences of the OAS

consistently; in a similar manner, the poverty of the large masses in our countries has also increased. This situation is apparent when we study the statistics of the internal product, and compare capital earning figures with employment compensation figures. This fact can also be clearly observed in the dramatic urbanization process that is currently part of every day life in Latin America. A mass exodus takes place every year from the fields and small rural areas, to escape from suffocating poverty and misery, which increase daily and that is the environment in which agricultural activities evolve in Venezuela and in all Latin American countries.

Different phenomena as well as the force of circumstance are responsible for our having to display this lamentable reality; in the first place, the lack of foresight of our

governments and the unhappy notion of what a just development plan should be for our countries; circumstances which no doubt have been influenced by the treatment accorded us by developed countries.

We live in a world where a specific concept always, but particularly in this century, has terrified humanity; a concept that has been classified as universal oppression, although not being put into practice through armed aggression.

Today, neither battleships nor armed invasions express the effectiveness of this gloomy concept which overshadows our countries: this concept is denominated totalitarianism. Today, this could be called economic totalitarianism, wherein the developed countries implacably exert pressure on developing nations. What incentive could

our agricultural development have had, when the price for our products has been imposed on us? When continuously low prices for the work and efforts of the Latin American have been imposed on us while, on the other hand, we are obliged to buy highly priced manufactured goods which are simply a transformation of the raw materials which we supply.

This is an international cause that has been a continual deterrent on the agricultural development process in our countries. Machinery as well as the other inputs needed for modern agriculture, are offered at prices that the weak economic structure of Latin America cannot withstand. As long as we do not modify this reality, it will be very difficult to successfully carry out the good intentions and persevering actions that institutions, like IICA, whose Thirteenth Annual Meeting

is being inaugurated today, are trying to fulfill. We cannot attain these altruistic objectives while the bases for international exchange are not modified, while smaller developing countries are not treated with the respect due them and while we are not assigned the place that we deserve on the scene of world commerce.

Since the start of this decade, for the first time the big countries have come face to face with different circumstances, i.e., that nations producing the raw materials have been able to impose the prices. I am referring to oil. We have heard unpleasant words and great indignation from those countries, and to our surprise, see them now assuming the role of protectors of poor and developing countries.

A few weeks ago I had the opportunity to talk here in Vene-

zuela, with a high official of one of the most powerful countries in the world who was travelling to an international meeting in Chile. He told me that he was very worried about the problems of Latin America, particularly with reference to the price we had placed on our oil. I replied. "you now have an opportunity to prove your sincerity. Immediately after this meeting in Chile, the United Nations will meet to study the problem of prices for raw materials; I ask you to take a position sympathetic to that of underdeveloped countries and then we will believe in the sincerity of your government with regard to the concern expressed over the conditions that small countries are experiencing because of the oil prices".

However, it did not turn out that way: at the United Nations meeting we again saw the alignment

of powerful countries against the legitimate interests of the small developing countries of the world; this is most depressing and a definite drawback to the progress of our countries; fundamentally, a drawback to the national development—Latin-American Nationalism in our case— of our renewable natural resources.

We should face these facts frankly because we can fool ourselves no longer. Vast experience acquired over many years, permits us to speak with assurance and precision concerning the causes of this depression in our economies that keeps the enormous masses of the Latin American countries and, in general, of the countries of the so-called Third World in poverty, and under-development.

If there is no change in the treatment accorded developing

nations by the big countries; if a new international labor division is not created; if we are not granted a just participation in world markets; if our raw materials are not duly paid for in just relation to what we must pay for manufactured goods, there can be no hope of success for any of the plans, nor for the worthy objectives that could be discussed in meetings such as the one you are now engaged in our country.

There is insistent talk about modifying the structure of the Organization of American States, under which this agricultural organization functions. We support this preoccupation; we believe that the OAS should be renewed so that it can truly serve the basic interests of the American continent; it should be renewed by admitting all the countries of the continent, since we do not share the criterion

wherein advantage is taken of circumstances, beliefs and realities that serve the interest of the great powers. We serve our own national interests, those of Latin America, although we are not aligned with the interests of any of the great blocs which, unfortunately, have divided the world.

We believe that the OAS should alter its structure, and that we should discuss small and big problems on an equal basis. If the United States of America wishes to maintain its prestige, if it wished to share responsibilities with our countries, it must necessarily change its attitude, not by word of mouth, not by promises, but through a complete change of conduct and deeds, in their policies towards Latin American countries.

Today we are concerned with events in Central America. These

countries where the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences are located, decided to timidly increase the price of bananas, as they can no longer tolerate the price they have to pay for their imports. What happens? The multinational companies that handle the banana business are trying to strangle, to vanquish through hunger, those countries that have committed the terrible crime of asking a just price for their product, acquired by means of tremendous effort and much poverty in those countries.

The Honduras banana market has suddenly diminished. The country is being punished for having increased the price of this product by \$0,40 per case, which is considered an offense committed by a small Latin American nation, against the countries handling this business.

While these policies exist, we cannot possibly speak to our people, our 'campesinos' who are genuinely sincere, of the intentions like those set forth by the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences to raise production and productivity. Increased production and productivity per se, however, will not improve living conditions, nor create wealth and wellbeing for the agricultural sector, nor reduce the urbanization phenomenon, ensuring the entry of our countries into a truly democratic economic development process, rather than benefitting small privileged sectors with the great wealth of our nations.

Gentlemen, in Venezuela we adhere strictly to the doctrine of representative democracy, respecting all political tendencies and the sectors of private enterprise; we maintain a constant

dialogue with the whole country, without any discrimination whatsoever. Without pretending to oppose any particular sector of the Venezuelan economy, we are trying, truly and sincerely, to implant democratic ideas within the economy, and to convert agriculture into a stepping stone, a tool for the development of our national economy.

During my election campaign, I stated that I would prove that the real heavy industry of our countries, and especially of Venezuela, must and should be agriculture. We are already putting this effort into practice and have taken some steps towards redeeming the agricultural sector.

It would be to blindfold our eyes if we were not to recognize that in all our countries agriculture is a bankrupt activity; a low yield

activity, farming is heavily mortgaged and the great majority of farmers are bent under a load of indefinite indebtedness if they are not rescued from these circumstances. Further, it is impossible to put into practice positive plans because any initiative launched in the field, or funds invested into lands in our countries (I believe that this happens in all Latin American nations) are lost, because such investments only go towards satisfying liabilities and the high interest rates prevailing on agriculture.

We have therefore taken a decisive step within a global strategy, based on a clear concept of what agricultural development should be in Venezuela. Our Congress is currently discussing a law, drafted by my Government, concerning the cancellation of agricultural debts. Debts of small

and medium-sized producers assumed from government institutions will be redeemed, and those incurred by "campesinos" and medium-sized producers with private enterprises will be absorbed by the Nation and paid in government bonds handed over to the "campesinos". Private enterprises debts, contracted with the Nation, will be consolidated over a 30 year term with an annual interest rate of 4 percent and with an initial four year period of grace.

Upon establishing these conditions to revive the country-side and to free the agricultural sector's oppressive and eternal, indebtedness, we may achieve a steady economic basis promoting a true plan for agricultural development in the country. The material infrastructure, irrigation and penetration roads, without which it is impossible to establish a process of

farming modernization in our countries, must be built, to be followed by research. In spite of efforts made and of limitations imposed, and despite the existence of institutions like this one, which I had the opportunity to observe on the spot while I was exiled in Costa Rica, and which cannot produce positive results for lack of opportunity, since the governments did not consider agricultural research which is the basis for the modernization of farming, of sufficient importance. We shall survey and study the land and regionalize research, and with an adequate material infrastructure, we will establish the scientific and technical bases for the proper management of our natural renewable resources.

We plan to subsidize inputs to stimulate their use, because, at current prices, it is impossible to improve an agriculture as depressed

as ours. We are going to humanize farming credit, these credits which are established so often in a pedantic fashion by technicians who do not understand their application in the field thereby reducing the credit to the quantity needed to grow a specific crop on one hectare, without considering that a family lives on the farm and that these loans must also see to the needs of this human nucleus. We hope to raise Venezuelan planting standards, which now produce deficit and for which the Government is the main financier. We plan to enlist the help of private enterprise. All those industries which utilize farming produce as raw material are obliged to contribute to the financing of these crops and harvests. The Government and farmers, together with the city's entrepreneurs, will share the necessary responsibilities to trigger a modern agricultural process.

Fortunately, Gentlemen, Representatives of the Board of Directors of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, and Delegates representing International Agricultural Organizations, our world is living a phenomenon which helps us to be understood and more widely respected. As the Director General of the Institute has already pointed out, there is a food crisis. The optimistic outlook of a short time ago, presenting a panorama of abundance based on crops of the so-called "Green Revolution" and which crumbled very fast, because neither technique nor science should be divorced from the prime objective to be kept in mind, which is the service to be rendered mankind, for human welfare. Universal problems of contamination which endanger daily human life, due largely to dramatic contradictions which are the cause and consequence of the world's extraor-

dinary development, have proved that resources of science and technology may not be applied indiscriminately in the field when chemical products are involved, despite their being the great revolution in farming.

All these experiences are to be subjected to the basic and conditioning factor, which is the conservation of human life on earth. Today, in view of these circumstances, agriculture is enjoying a greater prestige in the whole world; however, in many overpopulated areas of the world, there is little space left for food production. Many overcrowded parts of the world, although in possession of the secrets of chemistry, may not indiscriminately apply their findings, because of contamination problems.

This is the time when Latin

America, becoming conscious of this reality, may take a few audacious steps towards the integration of our countries, sharing an unique international policy with which to face the developed nations and to exact the treatment we deserve and, consequently, to obtain the appreciation of Latin American, African and Asian labour and efforts, previously lacking. We shall be esteemed as the citizens of the world's great nations, and have our work and efforts appreciated, together with our right to dignity and well-being within the world's society.

We are living a transcendental moment in the history of our countries; this is the time for integration, not a recent idea but one forged by the intentions, the will, the genius of the liberators of all our countries. They all deeply felt the necessity for the integration of

all those small nations. Unfortunately, this has not happened. We are not united, we are becoming more miserable and separated and thereby frustrating the potential of our countries. This is, I believe, Gentlemen, the great responsibility of present-day generations; carry out the plans made for sincere integration, effective integration; not an integration of speeches or diplomatic politeness, but an integration of agricultural development programs permitting the expansion of an industry based on the transformation of raw materials that renewable natural resources may yield, together with the nonrenewable resources of our countries.

This 30 year old Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences could receive extraordinary impetus at this crucial moment in international agriculture, if the American nations were to create an extraordi-

nary fund, with participation of all our nations, to trigger a truly redeeming agricultural process to increase production and productivity. The huge increase of our population which is growing at a rate greater than our agricultural production, warns us at full volume: "Fools, you are heading towards misery, towards complete chaos, towards the destruction of our nations, you will depend more and more on those nations which have taken advantage of the efforts of smaller countries".

On this occasion, I would like to invite you to reflect on these possibilities. Just as we in our country will spend huge resources on agriculture (we are awaiting Congress approval for the establishment of a fund for two billion Bolivars for the country's agricultural development), we could, as an obligation not as a concession, contribute with

a substantial share to this fund for the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, so as to take advantage of this 30-year experience and submit audacious programs, serious-minded projects for rapid development; for fast development, because we cannot lose any more time in the field of agriculture in all the countries of this region.

Gentlemen, I would like to entrust to you, a serious evaluation of this Venezuelan proposal and thoughts, prompted by my Latin American conscience and my profound and deeprooted conviction that our countries, divided as they are, will not be able to advance towards a true economic liberation to ensure the well-being of all sectors of the Latin American community.

Gentlemen, Directors of the Institute, Delegates.

With these words and my best wishes, and expressing my faith in the agricultural future of our

America, I declare this Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Inter American

Institute of Agricultural Sciences inaugurated.

**SPEECH BY MR. ARMANDO SAMPER, DEPUTY
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FAO AND REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR LATIN AMERICA ***

Gentlemen:

In the first place, I should like to make a few comments, as Deputy Director General and Regional Representative of FAO for Latin America. In the second place, Mr. Chairman, I should like to say a few words as President of the Board of Directors of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). And finally, Gentlemen, and taking advantages of the privilege accorded me by the Board of Directors when I left the Institute and was named Director Emeritus, I shall speak in that capacity, if the

Chairman is in agreement, as I should like to make a few comments with respect to this meeting.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors which was held in San Salvador, El Salvador when I had already been appointed to the position which I currently hold, I was given the opportunity to briefly explain how the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations is organized, and how it runs its programs.

Last year, at the meeting in Santiago Chile, at the behest of Dr.

Araujo and yourselves, I made a few observations with respect to the relationship between IICA and FAO.

And on this occasion, I wish to speak principally on the coming Regional FAO Conferences for Latin America, which is a matter of interest for the continent and for all of you present here today.

FAO — at headquarters in Rome, in the Regional Office and in the country representations — has been deeply concerned with the development of agriculture in the

* At the Closing Ceremony of the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of IICA, held in Caracas, Venezuela, May 18, 1974

light of the world's new economic development trends. We have been worried for some time, for example, about the world food situation, the energy crisis, the scarcity of fertilizers, the price increases for basic items, and inflation.

The Director General of FAO, Dr. Boerma – who has requested that I extend his special greetings to all the representatives present at this meeting, and especially to the government of Venezuela and His Excellency the Minister of Agriculture, as hosts to this meeting – has made several world-wide declarations on these matters. It is therefore not necessary for me to repeat them, but I consider it worthwhile to make mention of some of the aspects which concern us all.

We are gravely concerned with the fact that the world food situ-

ation for the 1972-1973 cycle was truly critical. A series of combined climatic factors which were more serious in the African drought zone, together with an excessively rapid utilization of grains and stores food reserves, due largely to the extensive transactions between large developed areas, produced the critical situation known to us all and from which we have only just managed to escape, in a quite miraculous manner. The situation in 1973 was somewhat better, for although we still depended on a climatic situation which was difficult to predict, the final analysis at the end of the year was more favorable than expected. In several countries, there were production increases and once again we escaped from the spectre of hunger throughout the world, although by a very reduced margin, due to the reduction of grain reserves.

Perspectives for 1974-1975 are at the lowest level in recent years and thus production, which is so dependent on the precariousness of climatic increases in prices for fuel, fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides; in other words, the very inputs essential for modern agricultural practices, and precisely at the time when developing countries are modernizing their agricultures. Therefore, although it is true that we receive better prices for basic products, it is also true that production costs are higher. As a result, the productivity challenge we face is not the same as before, but even greater, in view of the present situation. Secondly, we anticipate an unhappy situation with respect to the balance of payments in the countries. The production of basic products in some countries just barely provides the income necessary to compensate for the increase in costs for those products

which must be imported. The problem of the scarcity of fertilizers is added to present a situation which is of critical concern for all countries, whether developed or developing. Modern technology requires the use of fertilizers, since new varieties have been shown to considerably increase production through the utilization of technological packages, which include fertilizers. This, in the face of increases in consumption, which doubled from 1967-1968 and again between 1972-1973.

Fertilizer prices tripled between 1970-1971 and 1973-1974. Scarcity is particularly critical with respect to nitrogen and phosphorus. Unfortunately, when prices are good, there is considerable interest in installing fertilizer plants, and there has been interest to do so also in developing areas. However, we are at the end of a cycle where the

capacity to install fertilizer plants was not utilized, and in many cases, the building of new plants was suspended. Now, with the new prices, and an increased demand in consumption, there is renewed plans, especially in developing countries, and there are many plans underway, but it all takes time. We have no immediate solutions to the problem. I do not wish to suggest, Mr. Chairman, that we are facing a crisis of tragic proportions, but we are certainly facing a crisis, which together with prior crises, induces us to be very careful in the management of the agricultural considerations, is a subject for considerable concern. This is why the Director General of FAO and the member nations of our organizations which currently number 131, have convened a world meeting, together with the United Nations, on food-stuffs, to be held in November in Rome, or shortly after the world

population conference which will be held in Bucharest in October of this year.

The current situation will require measures to be studied and analyzed in the search for ways, at an international level, to establish world food reserves in all countries, to ensure adequate food supplies, as per a plan being proposed by various persons, including His Excellency the President of Mexico when he visited FAO at the beginning of the year. We hope the plan will be accepted and provided with the necessary funding to get it underway shortly.

Fortunately, Latin America is not in such a serious nor precarious situation as are Africa and Asia, but in any case, Mr. Chairman, we are concerned that without reserves, we become dependent on factors beyond our control, and it is there-

no two countries in Latin America with similar policies, and in the field of agriculture in general, I would hazard a guess that over the past 20 or 25 years, development policies in Latin America have discriminated against the rural sector; we have had instead, development policies wherein the country has financed the development of the cities.

Today we are beginning to pay the price for such imbalanced policies; we can see that if we do not reverse these policies — as is being done in Venezuela — the crises will be greater than our capacity to resolve them. We must reverse the basic premises for development, as many Latin American governments are doing already to a certain degree, so that in the future we can have price policies, policies to stimulate agricultural production, policies which

will truly allow for the dynamic growth of the agricultural sector, without prejudice to the other necessary sectors, of course, but a policy which will reverse the terms of reference so that cities will begin to finance the rural sector, since we did not have the foresight to provide for it in any other manner.

This, Mr. Chairman, will be the basis of the Thirteenth Regional FAO Conference for Latin America, to be held in August in Panama. Twenty-seven American States who form part of the Latin American and Caribbean Region of FAO will be attending, as well as several other Member States of FAO, not part of Latin America.

The meeting this year will be held at two levels: technical and political. The meeting at each level will last approximately for one week. The technical level meeting

will be held from August 12 through 17, according to the information which I had distributed to you through the meeting's secretariat, and the political level meeting will be held from August 18 through 23. We hope that all the countries which belong to the two organizations will attend this meeting, at both levels, so that a good technical level analysis can be made, to facilitate the work of the heads of delegations for the succeeding week, and so that we can obtain a more optimistic view of the way in which we must face these problems in Latin America.

The following are to be the main topics of the meetings:

An analysis will be made of the evolution of the agricultural and food situation in Latin America, since the last meeting held two years ago in Cali, in August 1972.

There will be an analysis and discussion of the problems as related to an integral rural development, as it is known today, with particular emphasis on area-level programs.

A study will be made on the internal limitations of exports; that is, the problems encountered from production to point of embarkation, as opposed to other studies to be made at other levels, concerning the problems of placing these items on the world market. These analytical studies will concentrate on new areas, or on countries with new and promising production items, such as beef.

An analysis will also be made on environment and development: that is, the manner in which development programs respect and intelligently utilize environmental factors, rather than the policies not to develop so as not to disturb

environmental balances; our aim is to achieve an intelligent development process which takes advantage of what the environment has to offer.

We will study the food supply situation of Latin America, within a world-wide context, in preparation for the approaching world conference. I feel, Mr. Chairman, that the round-table discussion held at this meeting which I unfortunately was unable to attend, due to the CIAT Board of Directors meeting, is an important and interesting contribution to this study, and which can be continued during the round-table discussion planned by CEPAL together with FAO for the technical-level regional conference, so as to analyze the main topics for the world food conference, which, as I mentioned earlier, will be held in Rome in November of this year.

For this round-table which is being organized with CEPAL, we

have already invited three speakers, who have already accepted; Mr. Asis, Director of the Division of Basic Products for FAO, from our office, and one of the assistant the study we are conducting within the organization and system of the United Nations to provide you as succinctly as possible, with the available information on the world food supply situation, and the possible solutions. Dr. Carlos Lleras Restrepo, previous president of Colombia, has accepted the invitation suggested by CEPAL and which FAO was pleased to agree to, to speak at the round-table on the relationship between foodstuffs, agricultural relationship between foodstuffs, agricultural production and development. Mr. Enrique Iglesias, of CEPAL, will analyze the international action measures being taken or being studied to face this problem, at an inter-American level. There will also be a summary of

FAO activities in Latin America, and a discussion on their future orientation. We are particularly interested that the governments advise us concerning the orientation of our future actions in Latin America. We will be presenting a document wherein we analyze the world-wide, regional and national level actions which FAO programs are conducting on this continent, with the purpose of asking you for a better orientation.

FAO's field programs in Latin America will also be examined. These programs are the responsibility of the Development Department of our headquarters, and are directed by Mr. Juan Felipe Yriart, who is well known to all of you. We cooperate mainly, as you are aware, through the United Nations Development Program and the national programming systems, and we want to analyze the results of these

field programs: what problems have been encountered and which are some of the possible solutions.

And finally, there will also be an analysis of the World Food Program: its current situation, how it operates, and future perspectives.

Those are the eight main topics on the agenda; there will be two or three additional, colateral topics of importance also, to which I have not referred, which are already being elaborated as working documents. Within the next month, you will be receiving a formal invitation from Dr. Boerma, extended to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the Member States, with a copy of this invitation to the Ministers of Agriculture. Accompanying these invitations.

I should like to call your attention to the program of the regional

conference which has been handed out to you. Before the plenary session, there will be a limited number of presentations: several world-reknown inter-American persons have also been invited to speak before the plenary.

Dr. Boerma, our Director General, will be the first speaker. With his extensive experiences, he will succinctly analyze the present situation of world agriculture and the problems it presents. The Secretary of the World Food Conference, Dr. Marei Carlos has accepted an invitation to present the problems being faced by the World Food Conference, and the way in which the conference will be conducted.

The recently elected independent president of the FAO Council Dr. Gonzalo Bula Hoyos, a compatriot of mine with many years of experience in these

matters, will also present a paper before the plenary session. In like manner, Dr. Francisco Aquino, another fellow Latin American from El Salvador, and Executive Directors of our World Food Program, will give another paper. Mr. Enrique Iglesias, from Uruguay, and Executive Director of CEPAL, will speak on the way in which Latin America is facing the problems of economic development, and how this fits in with agricultural development.

The Director General of IICA, Dr. José Emilio Araujo has been invited as one of the main speakers at the plenary session. Dr. Araujo has spoken at other conferences as have other official observers from international organizations, but considering the importance of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, a sister organization on this continent, we have

extended a special invitation to Dr. Araujo to speak at the plenary session, as one of the main speakers.

There will also reports from the heads of country delegations. These reports had been eliminated as a matter of policy and at the request of the countries themselves two or three conferences ago, but we are making an effort to reestablish them, with a plea that the reports be an exposition of the country's points of view on world problems and possible solutions, as concern Latin America, rather than a historical account of the achievements of each country, which could better be distributed in document form to the delegates.

To finalize, Mr. Chairman, and as Director Emeritus of this institution, I should like to thank the governments represented here

today, for their work, tenacity, effort and dedication at the meetings, and a special thanks to His Excellency the President of Venezuela, Mr. Pérez, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Mr. Froilan Alvarez Yepez, the Venezuelan delegation and all the authorities of the government of Venezuela, whose courtesy has allowed us to have such a successful and informative meeting, including the field trip to Cagua, to see the 'Servicio para el Agricultor' experiment station.

Mr. Chairman, I should like to take this opportunity to reiterate the support of our organization for IICA, and to place myself at your service with respect to cooperation on the work conducted by this institution.

Thank you.

●
His Excellency, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Venezuela, Mr. Froilán Alvarez Yépez, presiding over the meetings of the Board of Directors and the Technical Advisory Council. To his right, the Director General of IICA, Dr. José Emilio G. Araujo.



**SPEECH PRONOUNCED BY HIS EXCELLENCY, MR. FROILAN ALVAREZ YEPEZ,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK, VENEZUELA ***

Gentlemen, to close this meeting, I will say only a few words:

This morning, an article on the agricultural crisis appeared in one of the local daily newspapers. The article began in the following manner:

“ . . .When a drought kills off campesinos, it takes three years for the tragedy to receive world-wide attention from the press. The first year the farmers count their losses, tighten their belts and pray for a change in luck. The second year they exhaust their credit, sell what

little they have, and eat part of the seed to be planted, and some animals. The third year without rains sees some people emigrating, but the aged, very young and the animals which stay behind, begin to die.”

I feel this introduction to be important, as it is the story of agriculture, to a great extent, throughout history. It is the rural man, after all, who over the past few years since the initiation of the era of industrialization, who has stayed behind, has been margined, but who has given the

man of the city the wherewithal to eat and therefore live. It is with the rural man's very blood, and his hunger, that we have subsidized cities, as has frequently been mentioned in these meetings.

The very resignation of the marginal man has been grist for the urbanist mill, the generally centralized predominance in the countries. Agricultural policies, generally, have been and are based still on avoiding excesses which might benefit the merchants. Producer policy, and even production policies, without due attention

* At the closing ceremony of the XIII Annual meeting of the IICA board of Directors, Caracas, Venezuela, 18 May 1974 .

to their importance, has been to produce food. An agricultural policy should also include protection of the countryman, the rural producer, so as to guarantee food, health and wellbeing for the whole population.

We frequently use and hear the words prosperity and development throughout the world. Developing nations have become drunk on their need to industrialize, to compete with highly industrialized countries who are many light years ahead of us; we can never catch up to them and we will always be subordinate to them. We itch for industrialization, and all we manage to build are assembly plants. True industrialization must need be based on a firmly established agriculture.

Moreover, there are two clearly defined fields in these countries, as

is demonstrated clearly by today's world economic situation: the field of agricultural production and the field of social development. We can make great contributions to humanity in these areas, and I feel that the efforts should be made.

There is the generally mistaken idea of confusing the word development, with the concept of economic development. In actual fact, they encompass two very different concepts, which should be clearly defined. After all, economic development does not necessarily mean integral development.

There are countries and there are cities which are very highly developed, economically speaking, and which to my way of thinking, are in actual fact, seriously under-developed, since they are not capable of providing for the wellbeing of the majority of their countrymen or

citizens. We all know that progress in agricultural development is slow, and the need for action by our political mandates, urgent. We must emphasize the conditions: we are not magicians, we need the time required for the biological and social cycles, but we undertake with decision, in a common effort, a commitment for Latin America - to produce food for ourselves and for the world.

To achieve this would be to truly free ourselves from consumption habits and values imposed on us by industrialized nations who have falsified the authentic concept of wellbeing and development. These are the Fund's objectives, as proposed by His Excellency the President, Mr. Carlos Andres Perez, and which this meeting has deemed fitting to be named the 'Simon Bolivar' Fund.

To bring together the men of this continent responsible for agri-

cultural production, so that collectively, and above individual and subaltern interests, we can make our contribution, our efforts incited by the redeeming mystique

surrounding such high aims, at this critical moment. In this spirit, and through the authoritative representatives of the American nations gathered here, and on behalf of His

Excellency the President of Venezuela, Mr. Carlos Andres Perez, his government and his people, I salute the agricultural world which you represent.

**SPEECH BY DR. FRANCISCO MORILLO, REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR THE ANDEAN ZONE
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE SCIENCES ***

Gentlemen:

When it was decided last year in Santiago, Chile, to hold the Thirteenth Annual Meeting in Caracas, I looked forward with great satisfaction to be able to welcome you to one of the countries of the Andean Zone which at the same time is my own country: Venezuela. The past few days of intense work and fruitful discussion of ideas have had the welcome and positive results expected of a meeting with such highly qualified participants, representing our brother countries. The hospitality accorded us by this

country, cradle of our liberator Bolivar, follows the widely recognized tradition of generosity and American solidarity of spirit characteristic of the Venezuelan people and Government.

We have been honoured with the presence of his Excellency the President of the Republic of Venezuela, Mr. Carlos Andres Perez, at the inaugural session of our meetings. His words, of singular significance on that occasion, are without any doubt, the evident manifestation of institutional support which will go down in the

history of the Institute, and support of international technical cooperation within the agricultural sector: examples of the conscience of a nation's leader with respect to the role of his country and the other nations of the Continent, within a world-wide context. His concern is also an example worthy of being emulated, of the necessary interest to promote, in an accelerated and effective manner, the development of the less economically favored countries.

I gratefully acknowledge the support, cooperation and stimu-

* At the closing ceremony of the thirteenth annual meeting of the board of directors, Caracas, Venezuela, May 15-18, 1974.

lation afforded our meetings by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Venezuela, Mr. Froilán Alvarez Yépez, and his colleagues, Delegates for Venezuela to our annual meeting: Messrs. George Casas Briceño and Elbano Fontana Nieves, who in addition to being unparalleled hosts during our stay in this country, have contributed actively to the success of the meeting.

The hard work and lengthy discussions of the Special Committee, the Technical Advisory Council and the Board of Directors have not been in vain. It is with great satisfaction that we view the approved Program-Budget comprised of the intentions and priorities of the member states, translated into IICA action; countries which the Institute serves, and with whom, guided by the programs outlined in this document,

we will carry out the projects and activities as planned for each Member State.

Worthy of note within the Program-Budget is the expansion of IICA actions through the inclusion of new regular programs such as the Agro-industrial one for the Andean Zone, and the special programs such as the one on Soil and Waters Conservation and Management, and the one concerning Training and Study of 'Campesino' Community Organizations, both of which are to be financed with quotas above and beyond those foreseen and requested to cover the normal vegetative budget increase of the Institute.

The initiative of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Venezuela to create an Extraordinary Fund for the rural development of Latin America and the

Caribbean, and his offer of a substantial contribution to this Fund by his Government were accepted with gratifying good will, as can be seen in the Resolution which creates the above-mentioned extraordinary fund, to be denominated the Simon Bolivar Fund. This Fund, for the Rural Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, will be for an amount of 20 million dollars, of which the Government of Venezuela will contribute 10 million.

The availability of such ample resources, and the expectation of voluntary contributions from other IICA Member States, change the perspectives of technical cooperation activities within the agricultural sector of our continent, providing new opportunities for efficiently complementing national actions in rural development

projects work related to reciprocal training between countries; and the promotion of specific aspects, which to date have been limited by the scarcity of financial resources.

Outstanding note of the Technical Advisory Council Meeting was the awarding of the Inter-American Agricultural Medal, to Dr. Oscar Brauer Herrera, of Mexican nationality who has had a brilliant professional career. I am proud to know Dr. Brauer personally, and have had the fortune of working with him on occasion, in aspects related to agricultural research in Latin America. Therefore, on extending our felicitations to Mexico, I also beg the delegate from that country on our Board of Directors, to transmit to Dr. Brauer our sincerest congratulations for the deserving recognition of his services and his contributions to the agricultural development of Mexico and of our countries.

We have been fortunate this year to participate in a most stimulating, interesting and profound round-table discussion. The timeliness of the subject, in view of the current situation concerning the production of and the demand for foodstuffs in the world; the approach to the problem of the moderator and speakers; the clarity of expression of their ideas; and the discussions which followed each presentation provide food for thought and will serve us well in our search for political support in all sectors, to accelerate efforts towards increased agricultural development. We hereby thank the participants in the round-table discussion for their presentation. We anxiously await the next round-table discussion on Agricultural Extension, to be held at the Twentieth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Council.

Positive changes in attitude of the Board of Directors of IICA have

been evident throughout these meetings. The Director General of the Institute, and those of us who share with him the responsibility of implementing the General Plan, view these changes with great satisfaction, and as stimulous for our work. These changes in attitude can be seen in an increasing interest on behalf of the countries, to be informed in detail concerning the orientation, structure and operation of IICA; also the increase in resources allotment, as much through quota contributions, as through a greater utilization of IICA's capacity to serve the countries, through the signing of specific agreements and contracts.

We view this as solid support of our philosophies and our action strategies. The Hemispheric and Humanistic Projection, as proposed by the Director General and approved by the countries as the

General Plan of IICA, is translated into a commitment of the organization to contribute to the integral rural development of our countries, implemented through an institutional structure whose principal characteristics are decentralization and operative flexibility. The presence of IICA in the Member States, and the Institute's action strategy involving the strengthening or building up of national institutions ensures that our programs are oriented towards a country-level approach, as much with multinational action as with the specifically national actions. This is essential since it is the countries which are to benefit from our action. With this idea in mind, we have been planning on presenting the governments of the Member States with Integrated Plans of Action at the country level, to include all actions of specific interest to the country; efforts to

be concentrated on those areas of priority selected in common accord between the national government and the Institute.

We are indeed most sincerely grateful to the delegates of the countries here present, for having attended the meetings, and for providing the ideas and orientation necessary to maintain up-to-date ant to increase the effectiveness of the service provided by our institution.

We have been honoured by the presence of observers from other countries and international organizations, indicating their concern over the agricultural problems of our continent; entities which on many an occasion have joined IICA in a search for a solution to these problems. Once again we extend our thanks to them for their cooperation, and we offer in return our willingness to join

forces, wherever and whenever possible.

Worthy of note and of our appreciation is the extensive coverage of the meeting by the communications media, as well as the objective and clear-cut diffusion of the deliberations and results of the meetings.

Heartfelt recognition is accorded the personnel of the Secretariat and other auxiliary personnel of the meeting: secretaries, translators, interpreters, reproduction and transportation personnel, etc. who have worked hard and well at their jobs, to achieve the evident success of these meetings. Our thanks for their attention to small details, their company through long hours of work, as well as the brief moments of respite.

Since last year we have been aware of the Government of Cana-

da's intention to offer to host the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors and the Twentieth Meeting of the Technical Advisory Council, in Ottawa. Our happy expectations in this respect have been confirmed through Canada's formal offer and the Board's unanimous acceptance to hold the next meeting in that country. On behalf of the Director

General, I am pleased to express our gratitude to Canada's Delegate on the Board of Directors, Dr. Frank Shefrin, for his invitation. He may rest assured of our every co-operation for the successful organization of the coming events.

To conclude, I should only like to tell you how happy I am for the hospitality accorded us by Vene-

zuela – my own country – and to express once again our gratitude to His Excellency the President of the Republic and to the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, and through them to the people of this country and the lovely city of Caracas, for the warmth and cordiality of our reception.

Thank you.

**SPEECH GIVEN BY THE REPRESENTATIVE FROM PERU
MR. LUIS J. PAZ ***

Ladies, Gentlemen:

It is an honour for the Delegation from Peru to have been chosen to speak on behalf of the countries here represented, at the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of IICA. The honour bestowed, and for which we are indeed grateful, is doubly significant for the Delegation from Peru, as the occasion provides the opportunity to publicly comment on our impressions of the past few days in which we have been gathered together.

As at all annual meetings of IICA, we have had an inaugural session, working sessions of the Technical Advisory Council, including the Round-Table discussion on the Production of and Demand for Foodstuffs in Latin America and the Caribbean, the deliberations and resolutions of the Board of Directors, and finally this closing ceremony.

At the inaugural session we were honoured to hear His Excellency the President of the Republic of Venezuela. The energy and elo-

quence of his speech, commented upon by all of us, has greatly influenced this meeting, and has been responsible in large measure, for channeling our ideas and deliberations.

Considering this speech as the basis of the IICA meeting, and relating it to the balance of the meeting, and the matters discussed throughout, I feel that we take with us back to our countries, numerous disquieting queries related to the round-table discussion which we were unable to answer, and on

* On behalf of the member participants at the closing ceremony of the nineteenth meeting of the Technical Advisory Council and the thirteenth annual meeting of the Board of Directors, Caracas, Venezuela, 18 May 1974.

which we should meditate. In addition, we have achieved some concrete results which we must effect.

According to His Excellency, the President of Venezuela, the countries of Latin America should establish a different development scheme to the one we have had in the past. We cannot achieve an integral development without developing agriculture first, and without improving the common weal of the rural populations. We should try to diminish migration to the cities, by offering a not so disadvantageous standard of living for the country dweller, in comparison to urban living standards. We must adopt the necessary measures to lessen the inequality of standards of living between the different countries, and between different levels in the same country. We must find a means, through changes in interna-

tional relations, to modify the systems of remunerating work, principally through an adjustment in relationships concerning the exchange of raw material for manufactured products.

Those of us in agriculture should continue in our efforts to increase production. Nonetheless, we should keep very clearly in mind the fact that the basic objective is to achieve wellbeing for all and each one of the inhabitants of our world, and thus we must continually ask ourselves how we are contributing towards this objective.

A very basic first step has been taken at this meeting, with the initiative of the Government of Venezuela, to create the 'Simon Bolivar' Fund for Rural Development. This Fund will undoubtedly serve to reinforce the reciprocal technical cooperation actions in our

countries. The capacity of our technicians, the advances achieved in some of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in certain fields of specialization and techniques, our universities, facilities and laboratories can now be shared without limitations of a financial nature. In this manner, Venezuela is contributing towards increasing our self-confidence and towards decreasing our current technological and financial dependence. With this initial step, we approach the development of a more appropriate technology for our countries. In this way, we progress towards an integration of the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In conversations with some of the delegates concerning the best way in which to utilize this Rural Development Fund, several ideas have been presented which should

be studied by the Committee which has been designated for this purpose.

Considering the preoccupation of His Excellency, the President of Venezuela, with relation to the treatment received by our countries with respect to the sale of our raw materials and the purchase of foodstuffs by those who need it, and the inputs and equipment needed to increase agricultural production, why don't we study and establish through an association of interested countries – the means of establishing an unique purchasing power for what we need, and an unique selling power for what we export? If the price we receive for what we sell and the price we pay

for what we buy are so important and essential for improving the standards of living of our countries, why don't we set aside a part of this Fund to establish the mechanisms to increase our powers of negotiation in our transactions with developed countries? This is but one more query to add to those presented throughout the round-table discussion, but we feel that it could be taken into account by the Committee responsible for proposing the orientation and modus operandi of the Rural Development Fund.

It is to Mr. Alvarez, as Minister of Agriculture of Venezuela, with us this evening, and through him to his Government, that we extend

our congratulations for the brilliant initiative taken. And finally, and on behalf of all the participants here present I should like to express our sincere appreciation to Mr. Alvarez, and to the Government and people of Venezuela, for the warm hospitality extended to us on this occasion.

We are assured that the functionaries of IICA will return happily home to their activities, with the satisfaction of a job well done during the past year, and with renewed energies to carry on, thanks to the success of this Meeting.

Thank you.

The Institute is the specialized organization of the OAS for the agricultural sector. It was established in 1942 by the American governments for the purpose of helping the countries to further and promote rural development as a means for attaining general development and well-being for the population.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

**Associate Deputy General's Office for External Coordination
Public Information Division
July 1974, San Jose, Costa Rica**

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