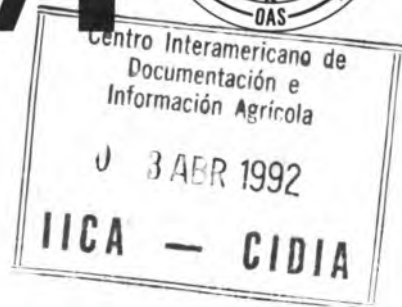


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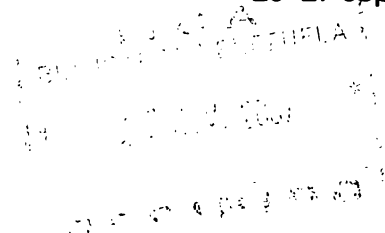
**IICA**



# REPORT OF THE TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

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## **INTRODUCTION**





## INTRODUCTION

The Inter-American Conferences of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) are the fora in which the highest political authorities of the agricultural sector of the Member States of the Organization of American States (OAS) and of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), meet periodically to examine common problems affecting the sector. These Conference are conducted in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Inter-American Conferences of the OAS.

To date, the ICMA has met as follows:

<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
I	United States	1930
II	Mexico	1942
III	Venezuela	1945
IV	Uruguay	1950
V	Mexico	1960
VI	Peru	1971
VII	Honduras	1977
VIII	Chile	1981
IX	Canada	1987

The Tenth ICMA was held in September 1991, in Madrid, at the invitation of the Government of Spain. The central theme of the Conference was "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century."

This report includes a summary of the deliberations of the ministers of agriculture, as well as the Declaration of Madrid, the recommendations and

resolutions approved, the list of participants and the addresses delivered during the inaugural and closing sessions, including the speech by His Majesty, Juan Carlos I, the King of Spain, during the inaugural session.

**MINUTES OF THE TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF  
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE**



## **PREPARATORY SESSION**

- O.1** The Joint Preparatory Session of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), chaired by the representative of Costa Rica, Mr. Juan Rafael Lizano, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, who had chaired the Fifth Regular Meeting of the IABA, was called to order on September 22, 1991 at 18:00, in the Madrid Congress Hall.
- O.2** In this session, the heads of delegation reached the following agreements with regard to the ICMA, to be submitted subsequently for approval during the First Plenary Session:
- Approval of the Rules of Procedure
  - Election of the Chair and First Vice-Chair
  - Approval of the Provisional Agenda (OEA/Ser.K/II.10.1/-Doc.2(91))
  - Establishment of the Credentials Committee
  - Establishment of the Style Committee
  - Establishment of the Committee for Drafting the Declaration and Recommendations
  - Establishment of the deadline for the presentation of proposals
  - Other business
- O.3** The session was adjourned at 18:50.

### FIRST PLENARY SESSION

- 1.1 The First Plenary Session of the ICMA, chaired by the Representative of Costa Rica, Mr. Juan Rafael Lizano, was called to order shortly after the joint preparatory session.
- 1.2 During this session, the election by acclamation of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, Mr. Pedro Solbes, as Chair of the Tenth ICMA, and of the Representative of Uruguay, Mr. Alvaro Ramos, Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, as first Vice-Chair of the Conference, were ratified.
- 1.3 Immediately thereafter, Minister Lizano invited the Minister of Agriculture of Spain, as Chair of the Tenth ICMA, to take his position at the head table. After doing so, the Chair submitted the rest of the agreements reached during the Preparatory Session to the plenary for ratification.
- 1.4 After explaining the protocol to be followed during the Inaugural Session, which Their Majesties, the King and Queen of Spain would attend, Minister Solbes adjourned the session at 19:22.

### INAUGURAL SESSION

- 0.4 His Majesty Juan Carlos I, the King of Spain, accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Sofia, opened the inaugural session of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and

the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) on September 23, 1991 at 9:30 in the Madrid Congress Hall.

- 0.5 The Parliamentary Secretary to the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Murray Cardiff, was the first to take the floor and stressed the importance of pursuing the path set during the previous ICMA in Ottawa. He stated that if the PLANLAC was to continue to be successful it would require the support of the Member States, as well as funding. He concluded expressing his satisfaction of passing the Chair, which his delegation had occupied during the Ottawa Conference, to the Spanish Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr. Pedro Solbes. Mr. Juan Rafael Lizano, Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, the country which presided over the Fifth Regular Meeting of the IABA, also spoke of the importance of the meeting at a time of crisis in the Latin American rural sector and of important changes in the world scene. He referred to the importance of international trade liberalization and voiced his support for the Uruguay Round of the GATT.
- 0.6 The Director General of IICA, Mr. Martín Piñeiro, extended a warm welcome to the participants of the Tenth ICMA and expressed his satisfaction at the presence of a new Member State, St. Kitts and Nevis, as well as that of Romania and the EEC as new Permanent Observer countries. The Director General stated that this meeting was of special importance, given the new international situation and the historic changes taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean on the threshold of the

twenty-first century, and he urged the participants to commit themselves to an open and constructive discussion.

- 0.7 Ambassador João Clemente Baena Soares, Secretary General of the OAS, expressed his satisfaction on the occasion of the meeting and then proceeded to summarize the situation of delayed development and widespread poverty in Latin America. He trusted that the discussions which would take place in this forum would serve to define the necessary means for modernization, growth and improvement of living conditions for the agricultural sector of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).
- 0.8 The Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, Forestry and Cooperatives of Saint Lucia and Chairman of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the IABA, Mr. Ferdinand Henry, stressed that this meeting afforded the English-speaking countries of the Caribbean a special opportunity to establish and strengthen links with countries outside their region and thereby share experiences.
- 0.9 The Spanish Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Mr. Pedro Solbes, expressed his satisfaction at the honour bestowed on Spain as host of this event and welcomed the participants to this meeting of ministers of agriculture. He emphasized the importance his country attached to cooperation with LAC and the efforts made over the years in this respect. He also stated that the meeting was taking place at a momentous time in history and stressed the significance of such an event being held in Spain.



- 0.10 His Majesty, the King of Spain, Juan Carlos I, welcomed the participants and stated that it was an honor for Spain to be the site of such important meetings, especially in view of Spain's historic vocation as a bridge between Europe and the Americas. He added that his country, given the importance of its historical and cultural ties with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and considering the interests they share, was placing great emphasis on cooperation. He also pointed out that the Organizing Committee for the Commemoration of the Quincentennial of the Discovery of the Americas, under his chairmanship, had approved the Quincentennial Plan, which attaches great importance to cooperation in order to ensure that joint efforts to benefit all are both practical and visionary.
- 0.11 His Majesty declared the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture open at 10:15.

#### **SECOND PLENARY SESSION**

- 2.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture was called to order at 11:15 on September 23, 1991 by the Chair, Mr. Pedro Solbes Mira, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain. The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Martín Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, who introduced the three working papers on the topics to be discussed at the Tenth ICMA.

- 2.2 With regard to the international setting and its impact on agri-food trade, the Director General pointed out that over the past four years, significant developments had taken place which would affect agricultural production and trade flows throughout the world. New markets were opening up in Eastern Europe and the Far East. Intraregional trade would become increasingly important, as would subregional integration arrangements. A growing concern with health and environmental conservation would open up new niches for production -for example, of organic foods. Environmental concerns would also stipulate substantial change in the technological profile of most countries. The agricultural sector would have to be restructured in order to meet the challenges of the new situation. Special attention would have to be given to technological progress and to the development of human resources. On the matter of the agricultural agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean, he stressed the importance of ensuring that agricultural progress was promoted in such a way as to ensure the participation of all the groups of the agricultural sector. Another vital concern was that of sustainability, particularly in view of the fact that between 20 and 30 percent of the world supply of natural resources for agriculture are found in the Latin American and Caribbean countries.
- 2.3 Finally, the Director General of IICA pointed out that the third document presented to the ICMA meeting included ten operational proposals for international cooperation in general, which could also apply to IICA. He noted that some of the issues raised could not be adequately dealt with

until appropriate mechanisms were created for that purpose.

2.4 In his presentation, The Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of Barbados, Mr. L.V. Harcourt Lewis, said that his country aimed to move away from dependence on a few export crops -mainly sugar and bananas- toward a more diversified and mechanized form of agricultural production and that Barbados must increase its agricultural exports in order to boost foreign exchange earnings. Food security is an issue which concerns all Third World countries, which need to add value to their traditional crops through processing. Agriculture could also be a vehicle for generating employment, but production techniques would have to be upgraded in order to attract labour back to the farming sector. The Minister went on to stress the necessity of ensuring sustainability in agricultural production, a topic which must be dealt with as a high priority challenge for both developing and developed countries. Hence, an institutional framework must be developed that reflects the objectives and needs of sustainable development. In addition, education must be improved at all levels. Human resource development and natural resource conservation must go hand in hand with modernization and economic growth.

2.5 The Minister of Agriculture of Argentina, Mr. Marcelo Regúnaga, stressed that the 1990s would be characterized by an increased level of political and economic interdependence among all countries. Argentina was one of the countries which, having recognized the failure of its isolationist policies, was now implementing far-reaching

changes in its economy, including deregulation, liberalization, elimination of subsidies and related measures. Agriculture could play a vital role in increasing exports and revitalizing the economy. He pointed out that his country was already opening up its trade, and had recently joined Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay in establishing a subregional market, known as MERCOSUR. His Government was concerned, however, with the continuing disparities in trade flows worldwide. Given the importance of agro-exports to the economies of the Latin American countries, those countries needed to see international agreements implemented that would open up new world markets for agricultural commodities. Argentina wished to place on record once again its position, already expressed in the Cairns Group, that the Uruguay Round must not conclude without substantive agreements being reached with regard to agriculture. Unfortunately, some of the industrialized countries did not agree.

- 2.6 The Undersecretary of Agriculture of the United States of America, Mrs. Ann N. Veneman, said that the role of IICA in strengthening agriculture had never been more vital for the Western Hemisphere, as it would have to devise ways to facilitate the contribution of all sectors of the economy to promote agricultural development through trade liberalization. After reviewing the steps taken in recent years by the United States to open up trade with Canada, Mexico, and the Central American and Caribbean countries, as well as the implementation of the Andean Pact Trade Initiative to encourage legal alternatives to the production and export of illegal narcotics, she pointed out that regional market-opening

initiatives did not intend to replace multilateral negotiations but rather complemented them. In that regard, she emphasized the need for a successful Uruguay Round agreement, without which the Western Hemisphere countries could not overcome the distortions currently existing in world agricultural trade. The Representative pointed out that the countries of the Western Hemisphere must join together to create a world trade environment in which efficient producers everywhere could realize their comparative advantage in the world marketplace. They now had a unique opportunity, in the hemisphere and in the Uruguay Round, to reshape world agriculture so that it could provide economic opportunity for all nations.

2.7 The United States Undersecretary of Agriculture then introduced Mr. Kika de la Garza, Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture of the U.S. House of Representatives, who expressed the interest of the United States Congress in matters pertaining to trade relations between the United States and the Latin American and Caribbean countries. After reviewing some of the initiatives now before the Congress, he said that it was significant that the meeting of ministers of agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean should be held in Spain, a country which, because of its special ties with Latin America, could serve as a bridge between those countries and the countries of the European Community.

2.8 The Undersecretary for Policy and Coordination of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico (Subsecretario de Política y Concertación de la Secretaría de Agricultura y

Recursos Hidráulicos), Mr. Gustavo Gordillo de Anda, reviewed the measures being taken by his country to modernize the agricultural sector and bring about broad-based participation by rural society in the process. He emphasized the importance of a more open and stable international agricultural trade, pointing to the onset of negotiations for a free trade agreement with Canada and the United States. In reaffirming Mexico's commitment to integration in Latin America, he mentioned the recent signing of a free trade agreement with Chile and the extensive agricultural cooperation activities with Colombia and Venezuela, with Central America within the framework of CORECA, and with the Caribbean. Trade blocs should not replace national protectionism with regional protectionism; rather, they should offer an opportunity for achieving economies of scale to obtain greater competitiveness on the world market. For that reason, Mexico was also strengthening its ties with the European Economic Community and the Pacific Basin countries. The Undersecretary noted that it was important that agriculture be seen as a vital part of the overall economy. The role of international assistance agencies must also change, inasmuch as the credibility of multilateral technical cooperation was coming into doubt.

- 2.9 Finally, he informed the Conference that the Government of Mexico wished to offer to host the next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture. He hoped his country's invitation would be accepted, in which case he would look forward to greeting his colleagues in Mexico at the seventh meeting of IABA.

- 2.10 The Head of the Canadian Delegation, Mr. Murray Cardiff, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, said that Canada supported and encouraged the growing trend towards trade liberalization, as well as the increased integration and institutional linkages that were developing in the hemisphere. In moving towards common policies and a common agenda in the Madrid Declaration, the governments of the hemisphere were demonstrating their commitment to change and IICA's role in implementing the agenda. In his view, the six policy pillars of the agenda for the Madrid Declaration should be the following: trade liberalization and the international context, integration and the role of trade, development and transformation of agriculture, sustainable development and environmental sustainability, equity, and the commitment to cooperation in the development of a common policy.
- 2.11 He stated that Canada is a strong supporter of IICA and intended to take an active role in implementing the Madrid Declaration. An important symbol of its closer ties was the fact that in 1990, Canada, by joining the Organization of American States (OAS), had become a full member of the inter-American system.

### THIRD PLENARY SESSION

- 3.1 The Third Plenary Session was called to order at 15:20 on Monday, September 23, under the Chairmanship of Minister Solbes.
- 3.2 The Chair gave the floor to the Minister of Food Production and Marine Exploitation of Trinidad

and Tobago, Mr. Brinsley Samaroo, who pointed out that he sees international cooperation as being divided between two areas: one for Latin America and the Caribbean, and another for developed countries. These areas should be integrated, taking into account that although LAC has its roots in Europe, its culture is different. He pointed out that there are great differences between a farmer in Nebraska and another in St. Kitts and Nevis, and that true democracy is not achieved just through the holding of popular elections. It is of vital importance that this be taken into account in the Uruguay Round of GATT, and in the elimination of tariff barriers. He added that, in his opinion, LAC should establish intra-regional cooperation in order to provide the small farmer with appropriate technology, which does not always come from Europe or the United States. He noted that CARICOM is developing an agricultural equipment program suited to the needs of its member countries, which it wishes to share with other countries where conditions are similar. He expressed his concern over the unequal distribution of land, the small market for commodities from the region, and the size of the foreign debt. The minister referred to the need for the countries of the region to have access to new technologies for improving agricultural production, since trade alone is insufficient. He added that the developed countries can provide support in this regard. He pointed out that although the advantages may not be immediately visible, over the long and medium term, the mutual benefits will be important for improving the quality of life in our societies.



3.3 The Minister for Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, Mr. Alvaro Ramos, expressed agreement with a comment made by the Director General of IICA: that in the future the agri-food trade would be the focal point of economic growth. The great challenge is, he pointed out, to find the best way to modernize the agricultural sector. This can be achieved by strengthening agricultural enterprises in the countries, and integrating them with the service sector. He pointed out that training is essential at all levels: academic, business, technological, and for farm workers. He added that information is also indispensable, and that the transfer of technology must be unimpeded so that it can be adapted rapidly, since it is a determining factor in the market place. The conservation and protection of the environment is also a valid concern, and the modernization of the public sector is fundamental for progress. Innovative actions should be taken to help capable and intelligent farmers, and to support those who are behind the times so they can improve. He declared that for this to become a reality, there must be clear rules in trade, and protectionism should not be accepted. In this sense, Uruguay, in the current round of the GATT, prefers to reach no agreements than to reach bad ones. For that reason, the discussions should continue until a just and fair agreement is reached. He added that international cooperation should address common problems, and the private sector viewed as the driving force behind development. Furthermore, funding agencies should provide resources for quality projects.

3.4 The Chair gave the floor to the Minister of Agricultural and Campesino Affairs of Bolivia, Mr. Mauro Bertero Gutiérrez, who offered a summary of world events, and of the changes which have occurred in the international economy. He emphasized the achievements of his country in the context of the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, progress made in regional integration, and the favorable environment at present for negotiation. He also indicated the urgent need to increase the role played by the agricultural sector. The Bolivian economy shows signs of change in this respect, although the export sector, in spite of positive trends in recent years, is still faced with high marketing costs, which adversely affect prices on the domestic market. With regard to the document on the agricultural agenda, he pointed out that his country is in favour of modernizing public agencies, establishing mechanisms for reaching agreement with the private sector and bringing about political and administrative decentralization in the regions. He also indicated the necessity for establishing a new price system for goods and services derived from the ecological capital, adding that a decree had been issued to govern the exploitation of forestry resources. He mentioned that efforts were being made to reconcile the interest in preserving flora and fauna with the granting of rights to the indigenous peoples of the Amazon region. He stated that the issue of indigenous peoples was addressed at the Guadalajara summit, and made a formal proposal that, in the Declaration of Madrid, special reference be made to the vital role played by the indigenous peoples in the region. Agreeing with the comments of the

Director General of IICA that the three topical documents of this Conference make up a whole, he pointed out that Bolivia is in full agreement with establishing a common agenda for international cooperation, and supports dialogue and actions aimed at integrating the public and private sectors, the formulation of special projects for small-scale producers and the training of human resources to undertake the modernization of the sector. He concluded by pointing out that there are many subjects to be expanded upon and recommended shared responsibilities and joint actions for responding to common problems in an increasingly competitive and efficient world, with a view to bringing about greater solidarity.

- 3.5 The Secretary of State for Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Nicolás Concepción García, began by mentioning the importance of conserving natural resources and modernizing agriculture. He indicated the difficulties his country faces in producing food, and the need to be more innovative in order to improve food production, create favorable conditions for exports and improve prices. He added that sustainability is essential for maintaining farmers' surroundings. The Secretary of State added that many countries are suffering economic crises, but that these crises should be seen as challenges for modernization. It has not been possible to modernize traditional export crops in his country due to a lack of resources, and the harsh reality is that agricultural development can not move forward due to the demands of international financial organizations. He added that while the Caribbean Basin Initiative has fostered new

forms of production, small farmers had not been affected. Therefore, international technical cooperation should take new approaches, focusing on training for small farmers, whose participation is essential. In concluding, he emphasized that international technical cooperation should promote equity, and be flexible and adapt to the situation of beneficiary countries.

- 3.6 The President gave the floor to the Minister of Agriculture of Guyana, Mr. Patrick McKenzie, who referred to the agreements reached during the Ninth ICMA, especially the urgent need to modernize and diversify agriculture as a means of contributing to economic reactivation, and to the process involved in preparing the Ottawa Declaration and the PLANLAC. He indicated that the Caribbean countries have not overcome all the problems identified in the Plan, above all, those related to food imports, given that they are small countries with big problems. The Caribbean Community formulated a plan of action which was presented at a meeting of donors last July, and IICA and other cooperation organizations have increased their work in the region. He added that unemployment had increased, salaries had fallen and the quality of life had deteriorated in his country. His opinion was that it had been a lost decade and that efforts were now being made to correct what had been done. He also said that in Guyana, difficulties were gradually being surmounted, although they saw a dark side to liberalization as concerns their plans for aid to the poorest sectors. As regards technology, he mentioned that it is essential for development, adding that modernization must take land tenure into account. He mentioned the fact that

environmental protection was a subject dealt with by the President of Malaysia, a country which has offered aid to conserve forests. He asked for clarification of one point in the document which was not clear to him, which read "it is necessary to devise a new system of prices which will reflect the characteristics of ecological goods and services." He added that, as far as the development of human resources was concerned, little progress had been made. To conclude, the Minister requested assistance in analyzing the training and human resource development programs, and in ensuring that technology is used to full advantage, indicating that the government and the private sector must collaborate in this task and requesting that the Madrid Declaration made reference to this subject.

- 3.7. The Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama, Mr. Ezequiel Rodríguez, emphasized that Panama was a rich country in search of development. At this moment, because a high percentage of its population is living in extreme poverty, low socioeconomic conditions are of more immediate concern than the problem of natural resources. He stated that the industrialized countries must recognize the ecological capital that belongs to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and, at the same time, the ecological debt they owe to humanity for having exhausted their own natural resources. He recognized the socioeconomic and technological problems of conservation, a burden hungry small farmers are being asked to shoulder in order to conserve these resources for the future. He concluded with the suggestion that the participants in the Tenth ICMA appoint a committee of

ministers of agriculture, to study and propose, with the necessary technical support, formulas for the conservation of our ecological wealth as a resource for all humanity. He also suggested using as a base the document prepared by Dr. Enrique Iglesias, of the Inter-American Development Bank, in which the subject of ecological debt is considered along with financial debt. He suggested that this initiative could be undertaken at the meeting of the Central American Commission on Environmental Development, to be held in Panama on October 17-18, 1991.

- 3.8. The Minister of Agriculture of Columbia, Mrs. Maria del Rosario Sintes Ulloa, referred to the deadlock in the negotiations of the Uruguay Round of GATT, and to the need to ensure that the countries of the region maintain the political will to give continuity to the talks. She continued by mentioning Colombia's priorities in terms of modernization and economic liberalization. In this context, agricultural trade liberalization would contribute to overcoming serious problems which also affect the international community. Among these are drug trafficking and environmental conservation in Latin America and the Caribbean. She indicated that growing alternative crops in areas that currently produce illegal crops requires that agricultural commodities achieve better access to world markets, and active international cooperation in promoting crop substitution programs in Peru, Bolivia and Colombia. She announced her intention to submit a recommendation on this matter to the IABA. Regarding natural resources, she called attention to the settlement of fragile ecosystems in humid tropical forests, especially

the Amazon Basin. The biological diversity of these areas will be seriously affected if they do not have free access to markets, to the generation and transfer of appropriate technology, and to the production methods of indigenous populations, which will also help to improve living conditions for rural women. Finally, she emphasized the efforts by the ministers of agriculture of the Andean Pact countries to establish a common agricultural policy, and expressed the desire that limitations to development be overcome.

- 3.9 The Minister of Agriculture of Chile, Mr. Juan Agustín Figueroa Yavar, addressed the three issues considered most important by the Government of Chile. The first was the potential impact of the failure of the negotiations in the Uruguay Round, during which the Cairns group maintained its position and represented the most serious possibility of success for the Uruguay Round. After reviewing some of the events which had taken place, he stated that the deadline for the negotiations was January 1992, after which even greater trade distortions could emerge. He referred to the fact that in Chile the decision had been made to strengthen the Cairns Group and keep it together. His second point concerned the environment and the distortion of agricultural prices, which have been the great challenge in the Uruguay Round, and the need for Latin America to participate in international trade without having to compete against the treasuries of developed countries. He made a point of saying that poverty and price distortions are destroying natural resources, as the rules of the market do not promote conservation. His third point

concerned comprehensive modernization, about which Chile could speak with authority, since it had restructured its agricultural sector and rectified the serious consequences of earlier attempts to modernize small-scale farming. He indicated that emphasis should be put on integrated rural development, for improving the living standards of small farmers, adding that modernization must be shared, and recognizing the value of equity and fairness between Latin America and Spain, and the importance of international aid in achieving this.

- 3.10 The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, Land and Housing of Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. Hilroy R. Humphreys, opened his presentation by expressing the amazement and pleasure felt by the Caribbean and Latin American countries at the changes taking place in Eastern Europe and in the Soviet Union, the collapse of apartheid and the development of common supraregional markets. He mentioned the trends and phenomena which had hindered economic development in the countries of the region, especially in the small islands of the Caribbean. What was needed includes: development, adaptation and transfer of technology, productivity, democracy and social justice, State assistance in developing the agricultural sector, trade agreements, subsidies for production, trade restrictions and overcoming the foreign debt. In this regard, he recommended the creation of mechanisms to promote equitable and rapid adaptation and transfer of technology between Latin America and the Caribbean and the developed countries, with emphasis on technology produced in the region, in which IICA can play an important part.



- 3.11 The session was adjourned at 18:35.

#### **FOURTH PLENARY SESSION**

- 4.1 The Fourth Plenary Session was called to order on Tuesday, September 24 at 9:30. The Chair immediately gave the floor to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries of Surinam, Mr. George Soerjoesing, who stated that agriculture in his country was of importance to the development of the economy, but that it was facing serious problems because of insufficient investments, technology and human resources. He stressed the need for a number of measures which would revitalize agriculture and considered that there should be greater participation on the part of technical and financial cooperation agencies. He added that attempts were being made to diversify production and to conserve the environment by regulating pesticide use. The present markets for local products should also be consolidated and agroindustry improved by means of international and bilateral technical cooperation. Lastly, he stated that the results of this conference should be useful in resolving the problems his country faced.
- 4.2 The Director of Agriculture of St. Kitts and Nevis, Mr. Keith Archibald, stated that it was a privilege for his country to have become a member country of IICA. He also stated that in his country the PLANLAC was well known, as was the work being carried out by the Institute through its five Programs. He agreed that emphasis should be placed on environmental conservation, since small countries suffer from

continuous soil degradation and erosion of their coasts, and that resources should be obtained to control this situation. He also mentioned the need to diversify agricultural production since yields of traditional crops had dropped and costs had increased. As examples of diversification in the countries of the OECS and CARICOM, he mentioned rum, ethanol, biofertilizers and white potatoes.

- 4.3 The Minister of Trade, Industry and Agriculture of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Mr. Allan Cruikshank, stated that this conference was the most important of the inter-American system and marked a unique opportunity to make decisions regarding the importance of agriculture for the economies of the countries. He mentioned that the changes which had taken place in the world were cause for concern in the countries of LAC, since international aid might be channeled towards other geographical areas, especially as of 1992. He noted that the agricultural sector provided employment for many people and generated 70% of his country's exports, but that, even though the economies of these countries were based on agriculture, they were not in a position to compete with countries with greater areas under cultivation, as in the case of bananas. He added that the government of his country had plans for diversification and export substitution in order to meet the growing demand for food. These involved updating technology, improving product quality and guaranteeing the use and conservation of natural resources. He stressed that nothing could be achieved in isolation and recommended working in close cooperation with the OECS, CARICOM and Latin America. He expressed

his thanks for the help received from Europe and the United States, and his hopes that such help would continue.

- 4.4 The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Venezuela, Mr. Jonathan Coles, stated that while the problems his colleagues had described were similar in some respects, they were at the same time different. He stated that he was surprised at the suggestion of a common agenda, which could be dangerous because common problems can require different conditions from those of the past. He mentioned the experience of his country, whose surplus resources had not been wisely invested and backed the proposal made by the Spanish Minister, Mr. Solbes, to support a project for the conservation and improvement of native livestock. He stated that modernization should be undertaken with care in order to obtain the required results and that agriculture had to establish links with other sectors of the economy if it was not to become isolated. International technical cooperation should be maintained and greater emphasis placed on private investment, which is the basis for progress. He offered the opinion that such investment should follow formulas which take into account social and environmental problems, and added that marketing was important both externally and internally, and that the role of the private sector should play a more active role in these processes of reform. He ended by mentioning that the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative was a good basis for improving conditions in the countries of the Americas.

- 4.5 The Minister of Agriculture of Dominica, Mr. Maynard Joseph, stated that, after listening to the comments of the representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, he would not read the 15 pages he had prepared for this conference; rather he would only mention the most significant points. With respect to agricultural diversification, which he considered very necessary, and taking into account the fact that our products face foreign competition, he wondered whether it would be possible for them to continue exporting, and, if it was necessary to continue to import, what type of aid could be expected for solving this problem. There were some products which were cheaper to import than to produce locally. A new solution should be found to this problem. If not, there is the risk of a social uprising. He stressed that the rich countries had been able to distribute their resources among the population. Referring to the image used by Minister Samaroo the day before, he stated that there were three units: the Caribbean, Latin America, and Europe and the United States. He suggested that the Latin American and Caribbean countries get together to decide what should be done, and that if this was done before the end of the meeting and decisions were reached on this subject, the position would be much clearer for the meeting in Rome, and it would be possible for Latin America and the Caribbean to present the FAO with a common front.
- 4.6 The Minister of Agriculture for Peru, Mr. Enrique Rossl Link, indicated that his country had undergone a clear economic decline over the last two decades. He gave statistics to show how living conditions for his country's farmers had

worsened, stating that over half the population lived below the critical poverty level. He added that a plan for State reform was currently being prepared which gave a greater role to the private sector, reduced the public sector and liberalized markets. He explained that to a great extent this situation was the result of drug trafficking and terrorism, and that the links between both had aggravated the situation in the rural areas. He further stated that from 200,000 to 260,000 hectares were devoted to the cultivation of coca, mostly in the highland jungle areas. The plan to control coca cultivation includes crop diversification, which means that the agricultural frontier must be expanded, technical and financial assistance provided, the industrialization of other crops improved, farmers provided with soft loans, all mostly through technical cooperation. He stated that he was confident that these plans would succeed in improving the quality of life in his country.

- 4.7 The President of the IFAD, Mr. Idriss Jazairy, then made some important remarks on the strategy and experiences of IFAD in its efforts to alleviate rural poverty in the region. He stated that over 13 years, 51 projects in Latin America and the Caribbean had been financed for a total of US\$454 million, apart from assistance to governments in securing funding from other organizations. These resources were aimed at areas with the greatest number of poor people and large native populations, in compliance with the IFAD objective of helping the poorest of the poor. He mentioned that although experiences had been varied, they have proven to be useful in improving the quality of life for large sectors of

the population most in need. He further added that even within the framework of the structural adjustment processes initiated by governments, it was possible to help poor farmers. He went on to say that IFAD had acquired useful experience from its subregional activities in Latin America and the Caribbean, and that it had resources for a subregional program on camelidae, involving capital investment. In concluding, he stated that he hoped this meeting would lay the groundwork for more intense dialogue between IFAD and the governments and institutions of LAC.

- 4.8 The representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Mr. Lucio Recca, synthesized the work carried out by the IDB since its founding. In addition, he described the orientation of the present administration, in light of the new international and regional situations, stressing the mutually beneficial relationship between IICA and the Bank.
- 4.9 The FAO representative, Mr. Rafael Moreno, warned that just because an ideological system has broken down, this does not mean that the causes of the poverty which fueled this ideology had been eliminated. In this connection, he stated that uncontrolled urban growth had created highly complex situations in the economies of the countries of the region, and that furthermore, this had aggravated poverty in rural areas. This situation has led to the use and destruction of fragile ecosystems. He also stated that the reduction in State activities and the expansion of private sector involvement in production and services previously of the State's domain were limiting the possibilities for exercising control

over natural resource use. Those situations, together with the steady migration toward developed countries, are important challenges for the region, which will require strategies and actions that can be negotiated during the deliberations in Brazil in 1992.

4.10 The representative from Brazil, Mr. Milciades Sá Freire, expressed total support for the recommendations produced by the conference. He pointed out that economic restructuring was being carried out throughout the hemisphere within a framework of peace and cooperation, but that an equivalent reciprocity was not forthcoming from developed countries. The representative from Brazil further stated that developed countries demand that the countries of the region conserve natural resources and fight the cultivation of psychotropic plants, while offering in return unjust market practices and protectionist barriers, all in the name of environmental protection. He called on the countries to work together in seeking a prompt conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT, and to remain united, as at the recent meeting of the Cairns group held in Manaus. Finally, he pointed out that Brazil has the production capacity to solve the problems, and that the entire region deserves more equitable treatment from developed countries in order to avoid the isolation to which Garcia Marquez referred in his acceptance speech for the Nobel prize for literature.

4.11 Francisco Morillo, Director Emeritus of IICA, also analyzed the crisis in rural Latin America and the Caribbean, emphasizing the need to

promote research aimed at developing agricultural technology and improving the genetic base.

- 4.12 Armando Samper, Director Emeritus of the Institute, expressed his satisfaction for the progress achieved within the framework of PLANLAC. He stated that it was a mechanism which needed the support of the member countries in order to face the technological challenges of the decade.
- 4.13 José Emilio Araujo, Director Emeritus of IICA, expressed his concern for the situation of extreme poverty in the region, adding that the crisis in the region can be attributed in large part to the unresolved problem of land ownership. In this sense, he emphasized the need to undertake serious agricultural reform, which would help raise the standard of living in the rural sector and contribute to making better use of available resources.
- 4.14 The session was adjourned at 13:07.

#### **FIFTH PLENARY SESSION**

- 5.1. The Fifth Plenary Session of the Tenth ICMA was called to order on September 24 at 16:39. The Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development of Haiti, Francois Severin, described the country's living conditions and state of environmental deterioration. He held that that responsibility should be shared since there are no borders between countries when one talks of ecological problems and mass migration, which are shared problems. He mentioned that in



Haiti there was interest in the development of natural resources and in improving economic conditions in order to get development under way. He made special mention of international cooperation and the need for involving the community in implementing and giving continuity to it, since, to be successful, it is of paramount importance to understand the situation and idiosyncrasies of the Haitian people. He also stated that in view of the difficult situation in Haiti, his government, which is poor, was seeking financing under preferential conditions, or grants not requiring counterpart contributions. He noted that technical assistance from Latin America and the Caribbean, targeting Haiti's priority areas of concern, was very beneficial. On the subject of trade liberalization, he affirmed that in his country the experience had been negative, particularly in the case of cultivating rice and marketing it to the United States. He recommended liberalization for workers instead of trade liberalization, within a democratic framework to benefit this group. He concluded by indicating that the topic of the ICMA is in harmony with the aims of his government, since what Haiti needs is sustainable agricultural development.

- 5.2 Mr. Raúl Morales Ruiz, National Director of Marketing from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, made an analysis of world economic development, including new patterns of trade and integration and the reduction of commercial and tariff barriers. He also pointed out that Ecuador had to adopt policies on liberalization and adjustment, fully accepting competition at the international level, which implies

radical changes in international integration. He mentioned the case of bananas, where the will of transnationals did not hold sway; rather, banana production was in the hands of small producers who sell on different markets. For this reason, the particularities and circumstances of the countries must be taken into consideration in international trade. He made mention of trade restrictions, such as quotas, sanitary measures, hidden subsidies and dumping, all of which must be eliminated.

He also underscored the fact that agricultural policy harmonization is important to integration and free trade. He considered the consolidation and strengthening of farmers' associations to be an urgent priority, as it would equip them to participate actively in exports and contribute to research using external funding, as the only way of integrating the farmer into the development process. Lastly, he advocated international co-operation, especially regional, among our countries, the need for soft loans from donor organizations for agricultural development projects, especially for irrigation, mechanization, optimization of trade in commodities, and conservation of the environment, as a way of repaying the damage caused to our environment.

- 5.3 The representative of El Salvador, Mr. Antonio Cabrales, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, gave a brief analysis of the comments made by those who had spoken before him, and expressed his concern over a certain pessimism regarding the future of Latin America. He was optimistic about the Madrid Declaration and the beneficial effect it would have on future actions. He

stated that in the import-substitution model, the State exercises control over and participates in production activities that really belong to the private sector. In this situation, the agricultural sector serves to generate foreign exchange to finance industry, while food prices are kept artificially low, giving rise to price distortions. He indicated that Latin America rejected that economic model now and preferred free market models capable of generating wealth, that are much more flexible and able to satisfy both producers and consumers. He said that he continued to be optimistic, because lessons had been learned from the mistakes of the past. The agricultural sector, he added, had become poorer, not due to inherent defects, but rather to the implementation of bad policies. He described some new measures adopted in El Salvador, including tariff reductions and allowing the exchange rate to float, which produced positive effects much more quickly than expected: the economy grew 3% and inflation fell from 29% to 19%. The policies undertaken also boosted productivity and further expansion of the agricultural frontier. He went on to indicate that more could be done concerning the social aspects of economic adjustment. He expressed his belief that extension and research programs could provide enormous support to producers in market economies, and affirmed that one of the cornerstones of economic development was women's work in agriculture. In spite of the war, Salvadoran women played a key role in their country's economic development. Finally, he underscored the importance of the environment and sustainability in the adjustment processes. On these two matters, the State must act as a

regulating force and not leave it to the vagaries of the free market.

- 5.4 The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Seymour Mullings, Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica, who stated that the Tenth ICMA was taking place at a very important time, given the political, social and economic changes occurring worldwide. He pointed out that his government, as well as the members of CARICOM, were concerned about the impact trade measures to be implemented in 1992 will have on their traditional exports of bananas and sugar. He added that agricultural modernization is essential in order to ensure competitiveness, and that the sector must find ways to incorporate both large and small-scale farmers into the production process. He also stated that environmental conservation, natural resource management, long-term sustainability and technological innovation are topics that should be considered in agricultural modernization policies and strategies. He suggested that in the 1990s, the concept of technical cooperation as a simple transfer of know-how from North to South is no longer valid, and that emphasis should be placed on supporting developing countries in their effort to bring about reform. He added that there is a need for greater South-South cooperation in formulating well-designed programs for the exchange of professionals between developing countries.

He also referred to the need for the private sector to become more involved in cooperation programs, and offered the opinion that national, regional and international fora which involve both the public and private sectors are useful for discussing problems, finding solutions and

reaching consensus, and that, consequently, they should be promoted. Technical cooperation should be expanded and made more flexible so that international cooperation agencies can provide fast and effective aid; this should include finding ways to speed up the negotiation process. He added that it is necessary to develop a common agenda for international cooperation which includes all the priority issues, such as natural resource conservation, technological innovation and support for the promotion of international trade. He went on to say that IICA's technical cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean is very important and in line with current needs, and made special reference to the PLANLAC. He concluded by saying that integration processes under way are a clear signal that the world is ready for cooperation, and that all should struggle to make the world truly a place of equity and social justice.

- 5.5 The Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Food and Fisheries of Grenada, Mr. Phinsley St. Louis, said that the dramatic and unexpected changes which had taken place on the world scene in the last four years made the development of strong subregional, regional and hemispheric integration mechanisms increasingly necessary. The countries of Latin America and those of the Caribbean needed to get to know each other better. Cultural exchange programs should be promoted, especially among young people. Possibilities for cooperation between CARICOM and similar organizations in Latin America should be explored. Special attention must be paid to issues including trade liberalization and its impact on agriculture, as well as sustainability. Efforts

to promote a modern, integrated and sustainable agriculture in the Caribbean countries should not be seen as a threat but rather as a complement to Latin American agriculture. In particular, all such efforts must be aimed at eliminating poverty in the hemisphere. His delegation wished to propose that the Tenth ICMA recommend to IICA that it put in place a mechanism to examine and report on how the LAC countries might work together with a view to eliminating poverty in the region.

- 5.6 The Minister for Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, Forestry and Cooperatives of Saint Lucia, Mr. Ferdinand Henry, stressed the need for the LAC region to find ways to respond to the challenge posed by recent developments on the world economic scene, particularly with regard to agricultural trade. The small open economies of the Caribbean countries, whose progress had been largely due to the special relationship they enjoyed with their traditional trading partners, depended heavily on agriculture. Any action that might have an adverse effect on the agriculture of the Caribbean countries would surely create serious social and political problems. Hence, those countries would need to implement long-term measures to diversify and modernize their agricultural sectors and ensure food security for their people. IICA and other agencies could play a crucial role in that regard.

- 5.7 The meeting was adjourned at 19:45.

#### **SIXTH PLENARY SESSION**

- 6.1 The Sixth Plenary Session of the Tenth ICMA was called to order at 9:40 on September 25, 1991.

- 6.2 The representative of Canada compared the dramatic differences in productivity between Canadian and Latin American farmers. He also stated that the future of international cooperation would depend on member countries continuing to contribute to IICA. In this connection he stated that technical assistance required very specific information systems with effective mechanisms for communication in order to increase technology transfer. He emphasized training at all levels. He added that the mechanisms and methodology to be developed for implementing the various activities should take into account the special characteristics of each country.
- 6.3 The UNIFEM representative, Ms. Claudine Correira, drew a profile of women in Latin America and the Caribbean, placing special emphasis on their situation in the rural environment, the causes of their present role and the need to increase women's involvement in production. She stated that her organization was carrying out specific activities aimed at facilitating women's access to credit and technology, influencing macroeconomic policy in various sectors and facilitating the distribution of information. She further stated that, for development to take place, it was necessary to consider structural changes that would eliminate sexual discrimination in the workplace and redefine the make up of national statistics to better reflect women's contribution to national economies.
- 6.4 The representative of the Inter-American Commission of Women (IAWC), Ms. Ana Lucina Garcia, indicated that one of the objectives of her organization was to draw up strategies conceptualizing

the role that men and women play in the family and in society as equals and as partners jointly responsible for the future of mankind. She described some of the different activities of her organization and its interaction with IICA through the program for rural women.

- 6.5 The Chair of the Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Recommendations then requested the ICMA Coordinator to read out the final draft of the Declaration of Madrid submitted for discussion. The representative of the United States of America requested that the English translation be revised. At the request of the representative of Bolivia, a paragraph was included thanking the Spanish people and their government for the efforts made in organizing this meeting and the initiatives taken for the benefit of LAC.
- 6.6 The group of representatives of the Caribbean countries and members of CARICOM stated that the second and third paragraphs in particular did not reflect their countries' interests. The Secretariat therefore decided that a break be taken in order to allow the Caribbean representatives to draw up their proposal.
- 6.7 When the plenary session was resumed, the following draft recommendations were read and approved: Support for the Process of Trade Liberalization and Regional and Subregional Integration, The Uruguay Round of the GATT, Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, Continuance of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), Institutional Reform of



the Agricultural Sector, and Regional Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer System.

- 6.8 The Chair of the Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Recommendations presented two draft recommendations concerning rural development entitled: Small Farmers, and Participation of Farmer Groups, Women and NGOs in Rural Development. The representatives of Chile and El Salvador made some remarks. The Representative of the United States of American stated that the second paragraph of the second Draft Resolution mentioned a meeting which would involve a cost not included in the 1992-93 Program-Budget. He recalled that rule 31, approved on the first day of discussions, specified that there had to be a cost estimate. The solution he proposed was that an estimate be prepared for the IABA meeting on September 26. Following comments by the representatives of Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Director General, it was decided to introduce a change in the text of the paragraph under discussion, thereby resolving the matter. The aforementioned draft recommendations were approved.
- 6.9 The Chair of the Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Recommendations presented for consideration by the plenary the following four draft recommendations concerning natural resources. They were approved with modifications proposed by the representatives of Brazil, Chile and the United States of America. The resolutions are entitled: Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), Fragile Highland Ecosystems, Mechanisms for Implementing the CGIAR Forestry and Agroforestry Initiative in

Latin America and the Caribbean, and United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio - 92).

- 6.10 The Director General pointed out that on September 24 the representative of Panama had submitted the draft recommendation entitled: Debt Swaps for Natural Resource Conservation and Sustainable Agricultural Development, the text of which was being translated and would be duly presented to the plenary.
- 6.11 The Chair of the Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Recommendations presented the following draft recommendations: Development of Human Resources, Development Alternatives to the Production of Illegal Psychotropic Substances, Indigenous Affairs in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Common Agenda for International Cooperation, which were read by the Technical Secretary. Note was taken of a comment made by the representative of the United States of America on the draft recommendation Indigenous Affairs in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the draft recommendations were approved.
- 6.12 The final text of the Declaration of Madrid was then discussed by the plenary. Some changes were proposed, and the Technical Secretary duly recorded them, following which, the final Declaration of the Tenth ICMA was approved.
- 6.13 The ICMA Coordinator read the draft recommendation Debt Swaps for Natural Resource Conservation and Sustainable Agricultural Development, which had been presented directly to the plenary by the representative of Panama. During the discussion

about the draft recommendation, representatives of Chile, El Salvador, Argentina, Costa Rica, Dominica, United States of America, Bolivia and Panama suggested various modifications which were recorded by the Technical Secretary. The draft recommendation was approved with precise instructions from the Chair indicating that the Technical Secretary, together with representatives concerned with the subject, undertake the final drafting.

6.14 The session was adjourned at 13:20.

#### ROUND TABLE

7.0 The Round Table involving the member countries of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the member countries of the European Economic Community took place on Wednesday September 25 at 15:30 in the Madrid Congress Hall. The Minister of Agriculture of Spain, Mr. Pedro Solbes, opened the meeting and noted that it provided an excellent opportunity for a direct and personal exchange of viewpoints between the participants from Latin America and the Caribbean and from the EEC regarding the future of agriculture.

7.1 The Round Table opened with presentations by Mr. Alvaro Ramos, Minister of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries of Uruguay and spokesperson for the ICMA, and by the Director General of IICA, Mr. Martin E. Piñeiro. Next to speak were the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community, Mr. Hams Van Den Broek; the Agricultural Commissioner of the Com-

mission of European Communities, Mr. Ray Macsharry; and the Director General Responsible for Relations with Latin America and Asia, Mr. Juan Pratt.

- 7.2 The following speakers addressed the Round Table in the following order: Mr. Mauro Bertero, Minister of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs, on behalf of the Andean Area; Mr. Ferdinand Henry, Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, Forestry and Cooperatives of St. Lucia, on behalf of the Caribbean Area; Mr. Arpindo Cunha, Minister of Agriculture of Portugal; Mrs. Ann V. Veneman, representative of the region of Canada and the United States of America; Mr. Ignaz Kiechle, the Federal Minister for Food of Germany; Mr. Mario Nufio Gamero, Minister of Natural Resources of Honduras, on behalf of the Central Area; Mr. Giovanni Gorria, Minister of Agriculture and Forests of Italy; and Mr. Marcelo Regúnaga, Secretary of State for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, on behalf of the Southern Area.
- 7.3 Before concluding the Round Table, the Minister of Agriculture of Spain, in his capacity as Chair of the round table, summarized the points expressed by the speakers and stated that there was consensus with regard to changes in the international context, the uncertainty created by such change, common challenges on domestic and foreign markets and discrepancies in trade. He added that in the area of cooperation, the Community is prepared to continue providing financial aid, that it is important that a cooperation model be developed and that with regard to the environment, there is agreement concerning a model for

sustainable development. He pointed out that there is a general feeling of satisfaction in Europe regarding the regional integration processes under way in the Americas, and concluded by thanking those present for their participation in the meeting, which, he felt, had been extremely useful for exchanging ideas on common problems.

### **CLOSING SESSION**

- 8.0 The Joint Closing Session of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture was called to order at 19:00 on September 27 at the Madrid Congress Hall, under the chairmanship of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, Mr. Pedro Solbes Mira.
- 8.1 The Plenary approved the Provisional Report submitted by the Technical Secretary.
- 8.2 Address by Mr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.
  - 8.2.1 The Director General summarized the salient points of a week of work. He focused on the fact that the ministers of agriculture of the American hemisphere, meeting in Madrid, had defined a new comprehensive view of agriculture and had given IICA a new and expanded mandate which would enable the Institute to play a useful role in

modernizing the agri-food sector and in increasing its participation in the international economy. He also stressed that the Tenth ICMA had reaffirmed the conviction shared by the countries of the hemisphere that every effort should be made to make agriculture modern and competitive in order to contribute to overall development. He added that the ideas and commitments of the Ninth ICMA, held in Ottawa in 1987, have taken on new vigor and will guide the Institute's work over the next decade.

- 8.2.2 The Director General of IICA then reviewed the major points discussed during the Tenth ICMA, pointing out that there had been consensus on three basic issues: the strengthening of intersectoral relations, promoting the integrated development of the agricultural sector as the foundation of an economic development strategy; the need to incorporate small farmers into the production process; and the urgent task of conserving natural resources for the benefit of future generations.
- 8.2.3 Lastly, Mr. Piñeiro said that the Tenth ICMA would be remembered for two things: the constructive dialogue held on the development and consolidation of a new view of agriculture, and, above all, the warmth and hospitality of the government and people of Spain. After thanking all present for their contributions to the success of the meetings, the Director General presented mementos of the Institute to the

**Chairmen of the Tenth ICMA and the Sixth Meeting of the IABA.**

**8.3 Address by Mr. Ferdinand Henry, Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries, Forestry and Cooperatives of Saint Lucia.**

**8.3.1 As Chair of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the IABA, the Minister of Saint Lucia spoke of the open and rewarding discussions by the representatives of the countries of the American hemisphere, and expressed his gratitude to the government and people of Spain, especially Minister Solbes. The Chair of the Sixth IABA stated that the Declaration of Madrid accurately summarized the deliberations and commits the participating countries to carrying out joint actions in pursuit of established objectives. He also underscored the high level of performance of IICA and the professionalism of its personnel. He concluded by thanking the government and people of Spain and all the support personnel, who had made all the activities of the week possible.**

**8.4 Address by Mr. Pedro Solbes, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain.**

**8.4.1 The Chair of the Tenth ICMA thanked those present for having selected Madrid, and Spain, as the site of these important deliberations and for placing their trust in him. He added that if his chairmanship had been successful it was because of the support and diligent efforts of the representatives.**

- 8.4.2 He pointed out that the deliberations held during the meetings accurately summarized the major problems in the American hemisphere and the relations between LAC and the European Community. He then spoke of what, in his judgement, had been the key topics of the meeting: the search for greater trade liberalization, technical cooperation, regional and subregional integration in the Americas, and the special link that exists between agriculture and environmental conservation. He also underscored the fact that Spain, by hosting the Tenth ICMA, wanted, and had managed, to show that even though it is a European country and a member of the Community, it had not forgotten its strong ties with the Americas. In concluding, Minister Solbes thanked IICA's personnel for the gift he had received: a statue of a Latin American campesino. He said that the statue would remind him of the meetings, which focused on productivity and work, and would help him to remember that there are large masses of small farmers on both continents which still must be taken into consideration.
- 8.4.3 The Tenth ICMA and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the IABA were adjourned at 19:30.



**DECLARATION OF MADRID**



**DECLARATION OF MADRID****Introduction**

1. We, the Ministers of Agriculture, have participated with special satisfaction in this Tenth Inter-American Conference held, at the generous invitation of the Government of Spain, outside the Americas for the first time. It is an unmistakable symbol of the move toward an increasingly interdependent world. We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest thanks to the Government of Spain, through its Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, for its warm hospitality and invaluable support in ensuring the success of our Conference. Within the framework of the discussions on the role of agriculture in our countries on the eve of a new century, we consider the most important goals to be growth and modernization, equity and food for our peoples, liberalization of agricultural trade and the success of the Uruguay Round of the GATT, and the conservation of our natural resources and environment. This spirit of cooperation has inspired this Declaration, which presents our greatest concerns and hopes, and identifies the priority areas in which we have agreed to work together.

**The new international context: Challenges and opportunities**

2. The profound changes in international relations worldwide present opportunities for increased trade and challenges to restructure our economies to take advantage of these opportunities. The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are

in the process of consolidating democracies, strengthening subregional and regional integration, implementing institutional reform, economic adjustment and trade liberalization. These policies may be seriously compromised if the signals from the international market continue to be distorted by policies that subsidize production and exports and promote nontariff barriers and tariff differentials.

3. The realization of our aspirations is intimately linked to the outcome of the Uruguay Round of GATT. We should like to express our concern about the current lack of definition, as well as our commitment to reaching agreements to dismantle all protectionist policies which distort world trade in agricultural products and occasion severe economic and social damage to our countries. As established in the negotiations, we reiterate the importance of addressing the needs of the developing countries in this process, particularly the most vulnerable ones.
4. With regard to economic matters of global importance that comprise the inter-American common agenda, such as the Uruguay Round of GATT, all countries have to cooperate in developing a new context that brings benefits on a world scale.

The urgent need to strengthen integration

5. A vital sign of the new activity under way in the hemisphere is the movement toward regional and subregional integration, which our governments are spearheading with firm political will. The creation of common economic spheres for commerce and trade in the Western hemisphere is also a

valid strategy for making the region more competitive and strengthening its participation in the world economy, as well as for increasing its negotiating power.

6. The Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, proposed by the President of the United States, has given the integration movement an additional stimulus and establishes three priority issues that are key to our development: trade, external debt and investment. We welcome this initiative and stress the importance of human resource development and access to improved technology, which are vital aspects of modernization in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The importance of agriculture in the new international setting

7. The new international setting gives even greater validity to the issues discussed during the Ninth ICMA in Ottawa and put into practice by IICA in 1989 through the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). We firmly believe that agriculture has a strategic role to play in upgrading and expanding the performance of our economies, both through its contribution to boosting foreign trade, to reactivating domestic markets and to combatting rural poverty. Key to achieving this are modernization, small farmer participation and sustainable development.
8. We are referring to a type of agriculture which develops and strengthens relations with other sectors of the economy, incorporates small farmers into the modernization and decision

making process, and reconciles the production needs of present generations with the requirements of future generations, while protecting natural resources and the environment.

### Modernization of agriculture

9. An assertive process of agricultural modernization must be undertaken, both with regard to primary production and for the processing and marketing of agricultural products. In many of our countries, reforms are being implemented to redefine the responsibilities of the public and private sectors. These reforms seek to increase efficiency in the use of resources, the mobilization of public and private capital. In order to maximize the returns on investment, agriculture must be included in this process.
10. Existing opportunities on international markets, especially for nontraditional products, can only be seized insofar as we turn our natural advantages into dynamic competitive advantages by adopting new technologies and upgrading human resources.
11. In order to make this a reality, our governments must strengthen the role they play in defining, coordinating and implementing agri-food policies as a whole, creating the conditions required to steer the development of the sector toward financing, technology, technical assistance and markets.

Rural development and small-farmer participation

12. We stipulate that rural development and the elimination of poverty in our countries are the fundamental objectives that must be met for achieving harmonious and equitable progress. The persistence of poverty and ignorance threatens the consolidation of democracy in the region and the development objectives which we have set for ourselves.
13. The public sector reform currently under way in most of our countries must incorporate these ideas. The changes taking place in this regard should aim to decentralize government action and decision-making and devise rural development programs together with small farmers, to achieve a truly participatory democratic system.
14. Until such time as economic integration is achieved, it is equally important to establish mechanisms which will facilitate the transition for farmers who have not benefited from this adjustment process by promoting diversification of production and effective market participation.

Sustainable development and the environment

15. One of the more visible manifestations of the crisis which continues to beset the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean is our growing difficulty in halting the steady deterioration of our natural resources and environment. A judicious and sustainable process of natural resource conservation must be undertaken to break the vicious circle which exists between agriculture, poverty and environmental degradation. Likewise,

it is necessary to develop technologies and production opportunities which improve the quality of our resources. Institutional structures are required to provide orientation for this new approach to resource use and management.

16. To achieve this, we must develop our own perspective in the strategies, policies and programs to be promoted. As a whole, the region is blessed with highly diverse and valuable natural resources, many of which are shared by groups of countries. The challenge we face entails making judicious use of the natural resources throughout the hemisphere, without causing further degradation.
17. The knowledge and practices the indigenous peoples of some countries of our region have on the use of natural resources should be taken into consideration by contemporary agricultural services.
18. The importance of these topics cannot be underestimated. There are areas in our hemisphere whose extremely fragile ecosystems affect the entire planet. Therefore, we undertake to present joint proposals for the consideration of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

Cooperation in agriculture: A common challenge

19. The efforts being undertaken with considerable social costs by most of our countries, at both the national and subregional levels, will not



suffice unless they are reinforced by the resolute support of the international community. This agricultural summit of the New World, taking place in the Old World, constitutes an important point of departure for ever more productive and permanent discussions, for strengthening the new spirit of collaboration, and for defining a framework of shared responsibilities and innovative proposals for dealing with the most pressing problems being faced by the countries of the region.

20. We believe that a new era of self-help and mutual collaboration must begin, in which all our countries and the international community give clear support and work in solidarity with the relatively less developed countries.
21. Success in the negotiations of the Uruguay Round of GATT is vital for the future of agriculture in our hemisphere. The protectionist policies which distort free trade in agricultural products have no place in a world determined to increase agricultural productivity, eliminate hunger and raise export earnings in order to improve the well-being of all producers. Achieving these objectives means that the interests of countries with small economies, such as those of the Caribbean, must be taken into consideration. The members of the inter-American community of nations are as one in their determination to reach the end of this Round as soon as possible.
22. Solutions to our problems of environmental deterioration, drug trafficking and uncontrolled migration will only be found to the degree that answers are also found to the problems of extreme

poverty, agricultural protectionism and foreign debt, which are clear manifestations of still unresolved issues affecting most Latin American and Caribbean countries.

23. Technical cooperation in research and technology is a strategic tool that should be exploited to the maximum, given that few countries are in a position to meet this challenge alone with the resources at their disposal. Cooperation from the developed world for improving access to technology, as well as for the training of human resources, and for financing and investments, must take place under specific conditions which guarantee the participation of our countries in the process to modernize agriculture and liberalize trade.
24. Since small farmers must be included in the modernization process, international cooperation must be as flexible as possible, involving the public sector and as well as international technical cooperation and funding, as well as organizations of the private sector. Within the latter, non-governmental and producers' organizations are of special importance.
25. We wish to underscore our conviction that natural resource management and environmental protection should be a key item on our common agenda. As leaders of the economic sector most closely involved with natural resources, we affirm the need for international cooperation to seek and apply solutions to environmental problems in our countries, based on the following three criteria: linking resource conservation to judicious use of natural resources for economic growth; national

sovereignty in the administration of environmental policy; and shared responsibility.

26. Technical cooperation to promote agricultural development in suitable areas, together with fair access to international markets, will also help reduce the pressure to settle on important and fragile ecosystems which are fundamental for maintaining biodiversity and world ecological balance. We must also offer alternatives to farmers who grow crops used to produce illegal psychotropic products and reduce illegal migration towards industrialized countries.
27. This opportunity to meet in the Old World inspires us to consolidate cooperative ties between Europe and the Americas. In this regard, we recognize the effort which Spain has made in the inter-American region, substantially increasing the resources it has earmarked for cooperation through agreements with our countries and contributions to multilateral funding agencies.
28. These ideas constitute a basis for establishing, as soon as possible, funds and programs for undertaking actions to modernize agriculture, promote sustainable development, boost regional and subregional integration, give small farmers a more active role in the economy, diversify agriculture, and substitute crops which are used to produce illegal substances. Implementing an inter-American cooperative agenda and success at the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations will contribute to improving the food supply and the quality of life of the peoples of the region.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**



IICA/CIMA/Rc.1(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 1

CONTINUANCE OF THE PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL  
REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
(PLANLAC)

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF  
AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That the PLANLAC, proposed in 1987 in Ottawa and approved in San Jose in 1989, has proven to be a useful element for orienting and uniting the countries in their commitment to the modernization of agriculture in the Region;

That in the two years since the implementation of the Plan, much has been accomplished in disseminating its key ideas and concepts, and in executing its multinational projects;

That the Plan has been particularly relevant for the sectoral fora existing in each subregion: CARICOM, CONASUR, CORECA and JUNTA, where important actions are being carried out to harmonize policies, with a view to promoting integration;

That the nature of events worldwide and in the region makes the original PLANLAC proposal even more

timely, and creates the need to make adjustments that reflect the new context,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. To give full support to the PLANLAC, as expressed in the conceptual and operating framework approved by the ministers of agriculture during the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.
2. That multilateral funding and technical cooperation agencies continue to support the PLANLAC, by allocating resources and strengthening institutional coordination.
3. That IICA, in close coordination with the sub-regional sectoral fora, identify new priority areas and proposals for action for promoting an expanded, comprehensive and sustainable modernization of the agricultural sector, to be submitted for consideration to the next meeting of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the original guidelines approved for the Plan.



IICA/CIMA/Rc.2(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 2

COMMON AGENDA FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That profound political changes are taking place worldwide, economies are becoming globalized and there is growing awareness of the importance of common problems and interdependence with regard to agricultural development;

That agriculture has a strategic role to play in reactivating the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean and in accelerating its effective participation in the international market; and

That the issues identified in the previous recommendations could form the basis for the development of a common agenda for promoting agricultural development and as a framework for international cooperation,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That IICA, in cooperation with the countries of the region and other regional agencies, identify

and analyze specific components and actions for the region to be included in this common agenda.

2. That multilateral and bilateral technical and financial cooperation organizations provide support to the efforts to develop and implement this common agenda.

IICA/CIMA/Rc.3(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 3

SUPPORT FOR THE PROCESS OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION AND  
REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INTEGRATION

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF  
AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

Topical Document No.1, "Changes in the International Economy: Implications for Agro-food Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean;"

CONSIDERING:

That today's international economy is moving toward greater globalization and areas of trade liberalization are being created;

That these efforts complement the objectives of the Uruguay Round of the GATT;

That there is firm political will in the Americas to further the process of trade liberalization and sub-regional and regional integration, as reflected in the Caribbean Area, with the Grand Anse Agreement; in Central America and Mexico, with the declarations of Antigua, Puntarenas, San Salvador and Tuxtla Gutiérrez;

in the Andean subregion, with the La Paz Agreement and the decisions reached in recent presidential meetings; in the Southern Area, with the MERCOSUR Charter; in North America, with the free trade negotiations between Mexico, the United States and Canada, and with other agreements between countries and groups of countries in the Americas;

That these initiatives need to be accompanied by a joint effort to harmonize policies and to strengthen national capacity in order to accelerate investment and trade;

That within the economic context of the region, the agricultural sector clearly emerges as one of the most dynamic forces for consolidating these efforts, as acknowledged during the Ninth ICMA and with the approval and implementation of PLANLAC; and

That the aforementioned Plan includes a number of multinational proposals focusing on economic, trade, technological and natural resource policies approved in various sectoral fora of hemispheric and subregional scope, and which have been engaged in very intense and fruitful activity,

#### RECOMMENDS:

1. That the member countries of the inter-American system comply with the agreements and time frames established in the presidential summits and ministerial meetings held in the subregional fora, allocating the necessary resources which, alongside private capital, will be used to upgrade institutional and organizational

capabilities to render effective the proposed process of trade liberalization and integration.

2. That the governments of the Latin American and Caribbean countries adopt measures to equalize competitive conditions in agricultural and agroindustrial markets, through the implementation of an agricultural policy harmonization program, establishing priority areas of action.
3. That the technical cooperation and multi-lateral funding agencies support projects implemented to strengthen the process of liberalization and agricultural integration, with financial resources and technical assistance, in connection with the harmonization of economic and trade policies, the harmonization and simplification of administrative procedures and standards, especially as concerns animal health and plant protection, and the elimination of obstacles which have become technical stumbling blocks for trade and other regional integration mechanisms.
4. That IICA, in collaboration and coordination with other agencies and countries of the inter-American system and other donor countries, draw up a proposal for establishing programs to modernize both public and private institutions, with a view to furthering trade liberalization and agricultural integration in the region.
5. That IICA continue to support the efforts undertaken by the subregional sectoral fora to achieve liberalization and agricultural integration, and step up the analysis and drafting of proposals to create opportunities and to mitigate the impact of changes which will

**inevitably take place as a consequence of these processes.**

IICA/CIMA/Rc.4(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 4

THE URUGUAY ROUND OF THE GATT

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The "Declaration of Madrid", approved during this Conference.

CONSIDERING:

That agricultural trade-distorting policies give rise to distortions in world agricultural trade, generating great losses in revenues for the countries of the region;

That most of the countries of the region have instituted policies to liberalize their economies, the success of which demands that international prices for agricultural and agroindustrial products not be distorted by subsidies on output and exports;

That in spite of the initial optimism at the outset of the Uruguay Round of the GATT, and the high degree of participation of the countries of the region, four years

after its inception very few advances have been achieved in the agriculture negotiations group;

That there is a growing concern over the impact of a failure of the Round, which would aggravate the economic crisis in Latin America and in the Caribbean, and place even greater pressure on their natural resources and the environment,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the governments of the industrialized countries adopt a constructive approach to the agricultural negotiations, in order to reach an acceptable agreement which will lead to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the GATT, and thereby comply effectively with the commitments assumed in the recent meeting of the Group of Seven, held in London.
2. That the governments of the countries of the inter-American system continue to support collaborative efforts to achieve reductions in trade-distorting policies, especially in the final stages of the Uruguay Round of the GATT.
3. That once the negotiations have been concluded, IICA analyze the impact of the agreements on the agricultural sectors of the region, and assess, within that framework, strategies for the region in coming years.



IICA/CIMA/Rc.5(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 5

ENTERPRISE FOR THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

Topical document No.1 "Changes in the International Economy: Implications for Agro-food Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean,"

CONSIDERING:

That the Enterprise for the Americas Initiative, announced last June by United States President George Bush, is of great importance for the American hemisphere;

That the mere announcement of this initiative has provided additional stimulus for furthering the sub-regional integration process, in which agriculture should play an important role; and

That, in the long term, its implementation represents a suitable alternative for competing with the expanded economic zones being formed worldwide,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the governments of the Latin American and Caribbean countries discuss and reach agreement on common positions for negotiations by the sub-regions, before the commencement of formal negotiations.
2. That the pertinent bodies of the United States be urged to consider the possibility of incorporating components into the initiative pertaining specifically to the development of human resources, the transfer of technological know-how, the conservation of natural resources, and the important role of the agricultural sector in promoting economic and social development.
3. That multilateral organizations and the technical and financial cooperation agencies provide support by channelling resources to studies for analyzing levels of competitiveness and complementarity between the agricultural sectors of the inter-American agricultural system.

IICA/CIMA/Rc.6(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 6

DEBT SWAPS FOR NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND  
SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF  
AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The reference documents presented to the Tenth ICMA, the documents on the management and conservation of natural resources and the environment and on sustainable development prepared by the IDB, ECLAC, UNEP and other international agencies, as well as the Declaration of Madrid,

CONSIDERING:

That natural resources are a common heritage which, up to now, have not been valued appropriately;

That the conservation of these resources and the environment requires urgent and joint undertakings by all the countries of the international community;

That to reverse current practices on the use of natural resources in order to bring about more

sustainable development requires funding beyond the means of developing countries;

That debt swaps for nature and conservation of the environment offer opportunities to begin to resolve the financial problems which limit developing countries in their efforts to promote sustainable agricultural development;

That there is growing consensus concerning the urgency of the actions to be undertaken and that it is necessary to move from recommendations and proposals to a commitment to specific action; and

That the upcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, will provide a suitable forum to move forward in this urgent effort,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That IICA, as soon as possible, and in consultation with the member countries, undertake efforts to analyze and formulate proposals on how to effectively and efficiently take advantage of debt swaps for natural resource conservation for sustainable agricultural development.
2. That the results of these efforts be submitted to the consideration of the countries through the existing subregional integration fora (CONASUR, JUNTA, CORECA-CCAD and CARICOM), with a view to presenting them, through the appropriate channels, to the international community at the Rio Conference.

3. That international and inter-American technical cooperation and funding agencies be asked to provide full support and collaboration in this initiative.

IICA/CIMA/Rc.7(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 7

INSTITUTIONAL REFORM OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That changes in the international setting, both in economic and in scientific and technological spheres, make it necessary to reconsider the concept of the agricultural sector as it has been understood thus far and to redefine it as an extended sector including both primary activities and processing;

That agricultural activities thus defined have an enormous bearing on the economies of the region in terms of output, income and employment and, therefore, on the consolidation of the democratic processes under way in the hemisphere;

That the economic changes taking place make it necessary to promote comprehensive institutional reform in order to bring about greater efficiency of public and private institutions, with respect to policies and programs to be promoted,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the governments of the countries examine comprehensive alternatives for institutional development, to include both public and private entities, paying special attention to:
  - a) The creation of effective mechanisms for reaching agreement with farmers' organizations and agents offering services to the agricultural sector, to ensure that they participate equitably in decision-making processes related to agricultural development;
  - b) The development of institutional structures which duly reflect the concept of an expanded agricultural sector and its linkages with the rest of the economy and the international community;
  - c) The development or strengthening of the technical capabilities of public agricultural institutions, to improve their capacity to analyze macroeconomic policies;
  - d) The creation and administration of effective mechanisms for action, capable of generating verifiable results in the area of natural resource conservation in the medium and long term.
  
2. That international and bilateral assistance organizations, both financial and technical, include in their programs of action specific components to help the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean adapt their

agricultural institutions with a view to equipping them to promote comprehensive and sustainable modernization over the long term.



IICA/CIMA/Rc.8(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 8

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY  
TRANSFER SYSTEM

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That it is necessary to promote market deregulation and economic and trade liberalization and integration, in line with the new regional and world context;

That the effectiveness and success of these processes will be determined to a large extent by the possibility of all the sectors and countries having equitable access to the factors determining competitiveness, particularly technology, in order to be able to make better use of their comparative advantages;

That while efforts are being made to reactivate economic growth and to reduce poverty, it is also necessary to overcome problems associated with the degradation of natural resources and to obtain new information on how to manage and conserve resources using production methods which are not harmful to the environment;

That the magnitude of the research and development efforts required to meet these challenges exceeds the capacity and resources available to any of the countries or institutions individually; and

That the region has considerable capacity for research and technological development in the countries' national institutions, in regional centers such as CATIE and CARDI, in the centers of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), as well as in numerous networks and cooperation mechanisms for technology which, together, constitute a truly regional system which has the potential to provide the technological know-how required for bringing about sustainable agricultural development,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the countries, IICA and other international technical and financial cooperation organizations continue in their efforts to modernize national research and technology transfer institutions, and to consolidate and institutionalize the regional centers, networks and agricultural research and technology transfer programs which carry out activities in Latin America and the Caribbean.
2. That, within this context, special attention be paid to incorporating into the national and international programs under way the subject of natural resource management and sustained development as a priority objective for technological development in agriculture.

3. That the IDB and IICA promote close ties between the national research and technology transfer systems and the regional and international centers, particularly those of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), through the creation of a formal mechanism for consultation and coordination for defining and implementing work priorities for the region.

IICA/CIMA/Rc.9(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 9

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON  
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, RIO-92

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF  
AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That the conservation of natural resources and environmental protection constitute one of the top priorities on the international agenda;

That given the diversity and wealth of their natural resources and the strategic role that agriculture plays in their economies, the challenges implicit in this area for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are critically important and different for each;

That, while ownership of natural resources and actions taken to address problems related to them are a national question, and, therefore, subject to the sovereign decisions of each nation, the environmental and economic interrelationships associated with natural resource use and the environment are global in nature; consequently, the effects and benefits of such interrelationships are suffered and shared by all the inhabitants of the planet;

That the upcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992, represents a unique opportunity to advance towards a new international consensus, which will be essential for assuring the sustainability of development and the future of coming generations, as well as for establishing rules and specific programs for action to respond to the most urgent problems,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the countries of the inter-American system make every effort to participate actively in the preparations for the Rio Conference, placing special emphasis on the development of joint positions which emphasize that both resources and problems are shared, and recognize the move toward integration under way in the region.
2. That IICA collaborate with the countries in developing such positions, facilitating dialogue between them and coordinating the preparation, by the participants, of specific proposals for multinational action, to be submitted to the consideration of the international financial community during the Conference.
3. That, initially, such efforts focus on the development of initiatives for agricultural research and technology transfer aimed at specific important agro-ecological areas in the region.

IICA/CIMA/Rc.10(91)  
24 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 10

COOPERATIVE PROGRAM ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER  
FOR THE SOUTH AMERICAN TROPICS (PROCI TROPICOS)

The Tenth INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF  
AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The working documents presented, particularly those concerning intra- and inter-regional socioeconomic integration and the bases for sustainable agricultural development,

CONSIDERING:

That in South America, the tropical region of the Amazon basin is of continental magnitude and contains tremendous agricultural and forestry potential; and that its natural resource wealth and diversity, in terms of flora and fauna, climate, water and soil, is of vital socioeconomic importance for the region and for the rest of the world;

That, given the multinational nature and complexity of these ecosystems, as well as the magnitude of the scientific and technical effort required, cooperation

between the countries of the basin is the most viable and effective operating strategy for ensuring the sustainable use and management of these resources; and

That the countries of the Amazon Basin (Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, Peru, and Venezuela), along with IICA, and aware of the fact that individual efforts can be strengthened through mechanisms for integration and joint action in order to make more effective use of existing resources and initiatives, showed clearly their willingness to act in union by implementing, in August 1991, within the framework of PLANLAC, the Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS),

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the governments of the Amazon countries and their mechanism for integration, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, support the implementation of PROCITROPICOS as an instrument for joint action, in order to develop cooperative activities in agricultural research and technology transfer in the region of the Amazon Basin.
2. That within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio-92), the countries include PROCITROPICOS as a priority mechanism for technological integration in the South American tropics and call on the international community to provide support through funding for specific projects of the Program.

3. That IICA continue to provide support to PROCITROPICS, and in particular, to support the signing of agreements with financial agencies for implementing the Program's activities and ensuring its continuity.



IICA/CIMA/Rc.11(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 11

FRAGILE HIGHLAND ECOSYSTEMS

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The working documents, in particular those on regional and subregional socioeconomic integration and on the foundations required for sustainable development in agricultural production,

CONSIDERING:

That some regions of the Andes, especially the highland ecosystems, are exceptionally rich and diverse in terms of their flora, fauna, climate, water and soil resources, which are of vital importance socially, economically and culturally, not only to these regions, but also to similar regions in other parts of the world;

That these ecosystems are fragile and their constant use for satisfying the basic needs of the people who live there is contributing to their rapid deterioration, and, consequently, to uncontrolled migration to equally fragile ecosystems;

That the Government of Bolivia has taken the initiative to ask IICA to draw up a proposal for creating a program for agricultural research and transfer of appropriate technology for fragile highland ecosystems,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the governments of other Latin American countries with fragile highland ecosystems support the efforts of the Government of Bolivia and IICA in formulating a proposal for creating a program for research and the transfer of appropriate technology for ecologically fragile highlands.
2. That the proposal for creating the program be submitted to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to take place in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, as a priority mechanism for promoting technological integration, maintaining the production capacity of the natural resource base and conserving the environment in highland regions.
3. That in this context, special attention be given to the issue of natural resource management and sustainable development, and new initiatives be actively undertaken to benefit highland ecosystems directly.

IICA/CIMA/Rc.12(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 12

MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE CGIAR FORESTRY AND  
AGROFORESTRY INITIATIVE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE  
CARIBBEAN

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF  
AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The working documents presented to the Tenth ICMA,  
the importance of the tropical forests of the hemisphere  
and the recent initiative adopted by the Consultative  
Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR),

CONSIDERING:

That in Latin America and the Caribbean, close to  
four million hectares of natural forest are being  
replaced each year by non-sustainable methods of  
agricultural production, as a result of unsuitable  
policies, poor planning of land use, and lack of  
appropriate technology for efficient and effective  
management of the agroforestry resources of the region;

That the CGIAR has decided to support forestry and  
agroforestry research;

That priorities for research and development in forestry and agroforestry must be based on the agro-ecological and institutional requirements and situation of the region, and that the success of research and technology development efforts depends on the strengthening of national capacity and on the links with the research infrastructure existing on both the national and the international levels as a means of ensuring an efficient and effective channel for external aid and for managing integrated research programs;

That in the region institutions such as CATIE, CARDI and others have a wealth of experience in integrating the components of agricultural, livestock and forestry production into their research and postgraduate training programs; and

That CATIE has joined IICA, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and other national institutions to form an inter-institutional network of agroforestry research for sustainable development,

#### RECOMMENDS:

1. That the agencies and donor countries forming part of CGIAR support, within this new forestry and agroforestry initiative, the identification and funding of a specific component for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and fully recognize both the technical requirements and the institutional situation of the region.
2. That CATIE, CARDI and others be included in this effort, given that they are key institutions in the region concerned with forestry and

agroforestry and can therefore play a leading role in the development and implementation of the initiative.

IICA/CIMA/Rc.13(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 13

DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That the current trend in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is towards increased participation in international trade and working through different fora to achieve integration, which makes it necessary to respond to the challenges and opportunities of greater competitiveness;

That the rapid development of technology taking place worldwide affects not only structural adjustment in production sectors, but also social and institutional organization and management;

That, as a result of the crisis which many of our countries have faced over the last decade, there is a need to cut back public expenditures, including those resources invested in human capital;

That preparation and training of human resources is an indispensable requirement if our economies and institutional structures are to face the challenges and opportunities ahead;

That in making investments in human resources, it is necessary to make distinctions related to age and gender, which implies emphasizing the role of women and young people in development,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the countries emphasize the need to give high priority to investments to develop human resources, as a key element in the processes currently under way to modernize agriculture.
2. That technical and financial cooperation agencies establish programs to support the development and execution of national strategies aimed at training human resources for agricultural modernization, suited to the characteristics and needs of each country.
3. That as part of its activities, IICA give priority to formulating national training strategies, and support the creation of training networks and systems for upgrading existing capabilities.
4. That the countries, IICA and other agencies give special consideration to development programs designed specifically for indigenous peoples, youth and women.

IICA/CIMA/Rc.14(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: French

RECOMMENDATION No. 14

SMALL FARMERS

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

HAVING SEEN:

The predominance of small farmers in many countries of the region;

The growing number of small holdings in many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean; and

The poor conditions in which many small farm families live, the most salient of which include isolation, illiteracy, high mortality rates and lack of basic infrastructure,

CONSIDERING:

That the rural exodus taking place among small farmers is not the solution and results in ever-increasing social costs in the urban setting; and

That small farmers can and should be integrated into the agricultural reactivation and modernization process by providing them training and other tools which will



allow them to enhance their productivity and give them access to internal and external markets,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the governments of the Latin American and Caribbean countries promote differentiated policies to benefit small farmers and promote their development within the framework of the market economy.
2. That aid agencies in general, public institutions and grass roots organizations ensure that the relationships between society as a whole, the rural sector and small farmers be governed by the principle of equity.
3. That private and public institutions in the Region adopt measures aimed at decentralization.
4. That technical cooperation organizations in general, including IICA, consider research and technology transfer programs that are tailored to small farms and that protect natural resources and the environment.
5. That IICA strengthen and consolidate subregional cooperative networks involving rural development-related institutions, to identify viable economic alternatives and to facilitate the exchange of experiences between countries.

IICA/CIMA/Rc.15(91)

25 September 1991

Original: Spanish/English

RECOMMENDATION No. 15

PARTICIPATION OF FARMER ORGANIZATIONS,  
WOMEN'S GROUPS AND NGOs IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

**CONSIDERING:**

That the task of redefining the role of and modernizing the agricultural sector will require the participation of all segments of society as partners in the process; and

That farmer organizations, women's groups and NGOs, which can reach all strata of society, must play an ever more specific role in rural development,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That IICA intensify its efforts to promote and increase the participation of farmer organizations, women's groups and NGOs in the process of rural development.
2. That IICA take the necessary steps to convene, during the first semester of 1992, a meeting to analyze different ways and methods for involving

**NGOs, farmer organizations and women's groups in  
the rural development process.**

IICA/CIMA/Rc.16(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 16

INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE FOR MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That indigenous peoples are an integral part of the historical and cultural heritage of the Americas;

That these population groups, in some cases, are not fully integrated into the services and programs provided by the State;

That their knowledge and use of natural resources have made it possible to conserve such resources for thousands of years;

That such knowledge is essential in designing plans for sustainable agriculture, and that this knowledge is in danger of being lost,

RECOMMENDS:

1. That recognition be given to the indigenous cultural base which characterizes the countries

of the Americas, as expressed in our languages, common history and approach to work and life.

2. That the existence and proven efficiency over time of the technology and knowledge used by indigenous people in conserving the environment be recognized as the intellectual heritage of those peoples without which environmental conservation and sustainable development in our countries cannot be assured.
3. That specialized organizations carry out studies aimed at gathering indigenous knowledge with a view to incorporating it into modern agricultural science.

IICA/CIMA/Rc.17(91)  
25 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RECOMMENDATION No. 17

DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES TO THE PRODUCTION OF  
ILLEGAL PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That drug trafficking has serious implications for the countries of the region, as it generates problems of illegality, terrorism, addiction and environmental and moral degradation;

That the strong demand for narcotics in industrialized countries encourages in depressed areas of developing countries the growing of crops from which illegal psychotropic substances are extracted;

That the incomes gained at present by farmers cultivating psychotropic crops are higher than those that can be earned from legal activities; and

That to overcome the problems mentioned above, it will be necessary to undertake specific actions aimed at reducing drug consumption, and to ensure greater access of farmers to markets and new technologies for alternative products,

**RECOMMENDS:**

1. That the countries strengthen their actions to halt the consumption of illegal psychotropic products, and support programs aimed at crop substitution and alternative development.
2. That international organizations and donor countries increase their financial support and technical cooperation for the substitution and production of alternative crops.
3. That IICA, in addition to continuing with its activities in this field, broaden and strengthen its cooperative programs for alternative development, in coordination with other international organizations.





**RESOLUTION**



IICA/CIMA/Res.1(91)  
27 September 1991  
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 1

VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN

The TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE,

CONSIDERING:

That the initiative of the Government of Spain to host the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) has provided an additional forum for dialogue between the ministers of agriculture of the Americas and their counterparts in the European Economic Community;

That Spain has made major efforts in recent years to increase cooperation with the region, primarily through treaties of friendship and cooperation with the countries, and through contributions to regional technical cooperation and funding agencies;

That the hospitality extended by the Government of Spain has been a determining factor enabling the deliberations of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture

(IABA) to be conducted in an orderly and cordial atmosphere; and

That the support of these meetings provided by the Government of Spain through the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has ensured the success of these important events,

**RESOLVES:**

To extend its deepest gratitude to the Government of Spain, through the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, the Honorable Pedro Solbes; to the officials of that Ministry; to the authorities of the city of Madrid, and to the support staff whose efficient teamwork made it possible to carry the task at hand through to a successful conclusion.

**SIGNING OF THE REPORT**



**SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE TENTH INTER-AMERICAN  
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE**

In compliance with the provisions of Article 36 of the Rules of Procedure of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, the Report of the Conference is hereby signed at 18:00 on the twenty-sixth day of September of the year nineteen hundred ninety one, in the Madrid Congress Hall.

This Final Report is submitted in English, French, Portuguese and Spanish, with all versions being authentic and of equal validity.

The Technical Secretary of the Conference shall file the original texts in the archives of the Organization of American States, and the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture shall send copies of the official version of this report to the governments of the Member States and the Permanent Observers of the OAS and of IICA, and other participants in the Conference.

Madrid, Spain



**Martin B. Piñeiro**  
Director General



**Pedro Solbes**  
Chairman of the  
Tenth ICMA





**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE DRAFTING  
OF THE DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**



**FIRST WORKING SESSION**

- 1.1 The first working session of the ICMA Drafting Committee was held in Room 8, on September 20, 1991. The meeting was called to order at 9:25. Participating in the meeting were the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. IICA was represented by the Director General, the General Coordinator of the ICMA and the Technical Secretary of the ICMA and the IABA, with the assistance of a group of technical staff from the Institute.
- 1.2 The Director General explained which draft documents were to be prepared during the meetings of the ICMA Drafting Committee. He also explained that it was a tradition in IICA for the representative from the country hosting the last Conference to take the chair of the first preparatory sessions, and for the vice-chairs to be occupied by the representatives of the two countries following the country serving as the chair, in alphabetical order in Spanish.
- 1.3 Subsequently, and with approval of the representatives, the representative from Canada took the chair. After expressing his appreciation for the appointment, he proposed that a thirty-minute recess be taken to permit the representatives to

read the working document for the Declaration of Madrid which had been prepared by IICA.

- 1.4 On their return, the representatives expressed their general agreement with the structure of the document and made a number of comments on it. The Chair suggested that any countries wishing to propose amendments or additions to the document should do so in writing, delivering their comments to the Coordinator of the ICMA before 15:00. The meeting was adjourned at 13:15.

#### **SECOND WORKING SESSION**

- 2.1 The meeting of the ICMA Drafting Committee resumed at 16:30 on September 20. Joining the countries participating in the first session were Barbados, Bolivia and Brazil. The Chair stated that preliminary draft recommendations had already been prepared by the office of the General Coordinator of the ICMA and added that it would be necessary to study during that session the ideas and suggestions of the countries in order to complete the recommendations so they could be discussed and then approved by the ministers of agriculture participating in the ICMA.
- 2.2 Concerning the Declaration of Madrid, the General Coordinator of the ICMA stated that he had already received some suggestions from the countries, as agreed during the morning session, and that this document should be in its final wording by Wednesday, September 25.
- 2.3 The General Coordinator of the ICMA reported on the topics for which preliminary draft recommendations

had already been prepared. A discussion ensued of other matters of interest which might give rise to other recommendations. The countries in charge of coordinating the special drafting committees for each recommendation were appointed by consensus, and it was decided that the Directors of IICA's Programs would participate in the work of these committees.

- 2.4 The Chair requested that the group hand in their draft recommendations at 9:00 on September 21. The session was adjourned at 18:00.

### **THIRD WORKING SESSION**

- 3.1 The third session of the ICMA Drafting Committee was called to order on September 21, 1991 at 9:45 in Room 8 of the Madrid Congress Hall.
- 3.2 The draft of the Declaration of Madrid was distributed and the Chair requested the representatives to make any observations they considered relevant to the new text. The following countries filed comments on the texts: Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago and United States of America.
- 3.3 At the request of the United States delegation, the Chair proposed to the representatives the possibility of forming a working subgroup which could review all the observations and draft a new version of the Declaration. The representatives approved the proposal and the group was then made up as follows: United States of America for North

America, Mexico for the Central Area, Chile and Brazil for the Southern Area, Colombia for the Andean Area and Barbados for the Caribbean Area. This subgroup worked with the Secretariat to draft a new version of the Declaration. The session was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

#### FOURTH WORKING SESSION

- 4.1 The fourth session of the ICMA Drafting Committee was called to order at 15:30 in Room 8 of the Madrid Congress Hall and chaired by the representative of Canada.
- 4.2 The Chair explained the method to be employed for analyzing the recommendations and indicated that the country responsible for coordinating the writing of the draft recommendation would explain its content, leaving questions of style to the Secretariat.
- 4.3 The following draft recommendations were presented:
  - THE URUGUAY ROUND OF THE GATT. Drafting coordinated by the Uruguayan delegation.
  - FRAGILE HIGHLAND ECOSYSTEMS. Drafting coordinated by the Bolivian delegation.
  - CONTINUATION OF THE PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (PLANLAC). Drafting coordinated by the Secretariat.

- COMMON AGENDA FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION. Drafting coordinated by the Argentinian delegation.
- DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES. Drafting coordinated by the Chilean delegation.
- UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. Drafting coordinated by the Brazilian delegation.
- COOPERATIVE PROGRAM ON RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FOR THE SOUTH AMERICAN TROPICS. Drafting coordinated by the Brazilian delegation.
- NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. Drafting coordinated by the Bolivian delegation.
- ENTERPRISE FOR THE AMERICAS INITIATIVE. Drafting coordinated by the Costa Rican delegation.
- DRUG TRAFFICKING AND ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT. Drafting coordinated by the Peruvian delegation.

4.4 The representatives made a number of amendments to the texts presented, which would be incorporated into the final drafts for consideration by the Ministers during the plenary session.

4.5 The Chair reported that the following draft recommendations: Participation of Farmer Organizations, Women's Groups and NGOs in Rural Development; Support for the Processes of Trade Liberalization and Regional and Subregional Integration; Institutional Reform of the Agricultural Sector; and Small Far-

mers, which had not yet been presented, would be discussed on Sunday, September 22 at 11:00.

4.6 The session was adjourned at 18:00.

#### FIFTH WORKING SESSION

5.1 The fifth working session of the ICMA Drafting Committee was called to order at 12:30 on September 22. It was attended by the same representatives as those present at the second session of the IABA Drafting Committee, which had just adjourned.

5.2 The draft recommendation "Participation of Farmer Organizations, Women's Groups and NGOs in Rural Development" was read.

The ICMA Coordinator took note of the various suggestions made by the representatives regarding changes in the text to be introduced into the final draft to be discussed by the ministers.

5.3 The draft recommendation "Institutional Reform of the Agricultural Sector" was read. The ICMA Coordinator took note of the comments made by the representatives who approved the draft to be submitted to the ministers for their consideration.

5.4 The draft recommendation "Small Farmers," was read and approved with some modifications to be discussed at the ministerial level.

5.5 The draft recommendation "Support for the Process of Trade Liberalization and Regional and Sub-regional Integration" (Version 2) was read.



Discussion of the draft was initiated, but the Chair suggested continuing the analysis of same on September 23, during the meeting of the Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Recommendations. The representative of the United States of America suggested forming a small working group to discuss the aforementioned draft resolution, so as to reach a consensus before final consideration thereof.

- 5.6 The ICMA Coordinator announced that Costa Rica had presented a new draft recommendation on tropical forests in the hemisphere, which would be discussed on September 23 in the meeting of the Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Recommendations. The representative of Costa Rica read the aforementioned draft, the translations of which would be distributed in due course.
- 5.7 The Drafting Committee began to revise the final draft of the Declaration of Madrid, which included observations filed by the representatives in previous sessions. At the recommendation of the Chair, this text was discussed paragraph by paragraph. The ICMA Coordinator took note of the representatives' suggestions, so as to introduce them into the text to be discussed by the ministers.
- 5.8 The session was adjourned at 16:00.

#### SIXTH WORKING SESSION

- 6.1 The sixth working session of the Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Recommendations, presided over by the representative from Canada, was called to order at 16:20 on September 23, in Room 8 of the Madrid Congress Hall.

Representatives from the following countries were in attendance: Barbados, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, México, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

- 6.2 The Chair submitted the draft of the Declaration of Madrid for discussion by the representatives. Observations and changes were included as proposed in the fifth working session on September 22. The Secretariat took note of the suggestions, in order to produce a final draft for September 24 which would be carefully compared with the three other versions in the official languages of IICA. To this end, it was agreed that some representatives would do a final reading of the draft in their respective languages.
- 6.3 The session was adjourned at 17:50.

#### **SEVENTH WORKING SESSION**

- 7.1 The Seventh Working Session of the Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Recommendations took place in Room 8 at 16:30 on September 24, and was chaired by the representative of Canada. It was attended by representatives from Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Grenada, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

- 7.2 First, several points of the draft Declaration of Madrid were discussed. The Technical Secretariat took note of the observations and suggestions for modifications and informed the Committee that the final draft of this document would be ready for distribution the following day.
- 7.3 The draft recommendation "Small Farmers," was then discussed. Next, the Chair proposed that a working group made up of the representatives of Bolivia and the United States of America, and the Director of Program III of IICA, revise the text of this draft and produce the final version.
- 7.4 The Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama, Ezequiel Rodríguez, arrived at the meeting and submitted the draft recommendation "Ministerial Commission on Debt Swaps for Natural Resource Conservation and Sustainable Agricultural Development," for discussion. The draft read by the minister was distributed and discussed. The Committee suggested that the Minister of Panama submit the draft recommendation directly to the plenary on September 26.
- 7.5 After inclusion of amendments proposed by the representatives, the draft recommendation "Indigenous Affairs in Latin America and the Caribbean" was approved.
- 7.6 The Technical Secretary read the draft recommendations whose preliminary drafts had been approved in the previous sessions of the Drafting Committee for the Declaration and Recommendations (ICMA Drafting Committee), for submission to the ministers in the plenary session. The following draft recommendations were read: The Uruguay Round of the GATT; Fragile Highland Ecosystems; Continuance of the

Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC); Common Agenda for International Cooperation; Development of Human Resources; United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio-92); Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS); Regional Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer System; Enterprise for the Americas Initiative; Development Alternatives to the Production of Illegal Psychotropic Substances; Participation of Farmer Organizations, Women's Groups and NGOs in Rural Development; Support for the Processes of Trade Liberalization and Regional and Subregional Intergration; Institutional Reform of the Agricultural Sector; Mechanisms for Implementing the CGIAR Forestry and Agroforestry Initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean. The following draft recommendations were withdrawn because their subject matter overlapped with that of other draft recommendations: Modernization of Latin American Agriculture; Support for the Processes of Integration; Support for the Processes of Trade Liberalization and Regional and Subregional Integration (Version 2); Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations in Promoting Development.

7.7 The session was adjourned at 19:00.

**REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

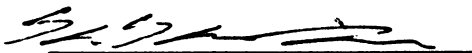


**REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE OF THE TENTH  
INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE**

The Credentials Committee was set up in accordance with the provisions of Article 15 of Chapter V of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the agreements reached in the Preparatory Session of the Conference on the membership of the Credentials Committee. The members were representatives from Canada, Ecuador, Jamaica and Mexico.

The Committee examined the credentials of the representatives from the Member States of the OAS and IICA. It found the credentials in order for the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

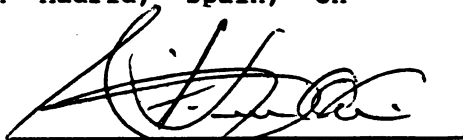
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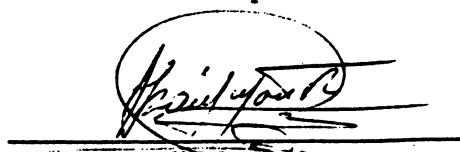
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Luis Arturo del Valle	Director of Central Area Operations
Ernani Fiori	IICA Representative in Canada
Jerry Fowler	Director of Program V: Agricultural Health
Carlos Garramón	IICA Representative in Argentina
Rogér Guillén	CORECA
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<b>José Nagel</b>	<b>Director of CIDIA</b>
<b>Manuel Otero</b>	<b>Advisor to the Director General</b>
<b>J. André Ouellette</b>	<b>Director, Coordination of Institutional Affairs</b>
<b>Víctor Palma</b>	<b>Director of Andean Area Operations</b>
<b>Reginald Pierre</b>	<b>Director of Caribbean Area Operations</b>
<b>Carlos Pomareda</b>	<b>Director of Program I: Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning</b>
<b>Rodolfo Quirós</b>	<b>Director of Program IV: Trade and Agroindustry</b>
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<b>Jorge Werthein</b>	<b>Director of External Relations</b>

OFFICIALS OF CATIE

Rodrigo Tarté

Director General

Alvaro Jaikel

Director of Administration and  
Finances



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3. General Summary OEA/Ser.K/II.10.1/  
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4. Topical Document No. 1 OEA/Ser.K/II.10.1/  
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6. Topical Document No. 3      OEA/Ser.K/II.10.1/  
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**International Technical  
Cooperation in Agriculture  
at the Close of  
the Twentieth Century:  
Reflections and Proposals**

**MEETING STAFF**



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1 Into French

2 Into Portuguese



**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR  
THE TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF  
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE**





**RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR  
THE TENTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF  
MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE**

**I. THE CONFERENCE AND ITS PURPOSES**

Article 1. The purpose of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture ("Conference") is to treat at an intergovernmental level the topic of "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century."

**II. PARTICIPANTS**

Article 2. The Member States of the Organization of American States ("OAS") or of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture ("IICA") may participate in the Conference through delegations appointed for this purpose. Each delegation shall consist of a chief of delegation who, whenever possible, is to be the minister or secretary of agriculture, and of alternates, representatives, experts, advisors and other members each government may deem necessary. The order of precedence of the delegations in the

sessions of the Conference shall be determined beginning with the name of the Member State whose representative was elected as chairperson of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), followed by the names of the other Member States, in alphabetical order in Spanish.

Article 3. The Director General of IICA ("Director General") shall invite the Permanent Observers accredited to the OAS or to IICA to attend the Conference as observers.

Article 4. The Secretary General of the OAS ("Secretary General") and the Director General, or their representatives, may participate in the deliberations, but may not vote.

Article 5. The Director General shall send invitations to other organizations, in conformity with Article 6 of these Rules of Procedure.

Article 6. Observers from the following may present credentials for participating in the Conference:

- a. Inter-American specialized organizations and intergovernmental regional and subregional organizations of the Americas;
- b. The United Nations and its specialized agencies;
- c. Those international and national organizations which maintain

cooperative relations with the OAS or IICA;

- d. The governments of States which are not members of the OAS or IICA, if said governments have expressed interest in participating in the Conference;
- e. After consultation with the Government of Spain, those governmental or non-governmental international organizations which are recognized internationally and have a special interest in the matters to be addressed during the Conference; and
- f. Upon approval of the Government of Spain, Spanish organizations which represent important sectors connected with the topic of the Conference.

Article 7. Observers may attend the opening session, the plenary sessions, public sessions of the committees, private sessions when invited by the respective Chairs, and the closing session. Subject to authorization from the Chair, observers may address the meeting during the plenary and committee sessions. They shall not have the right to vote at such meetings. The Secretariat of the Conference shall provide the observers with the minutes of the public sessions and other official documents, with the exception of those whose distribution it has been agreed shall be restricted.

Article 8. In accordance with Article 12 of the Standards for Inter-American Specialized Conferences, the Director General and the Secretary General may invite special guests to the Conference. These special guests may attend the opening, closing, and public plenary and committee sessions, and they may attend private sessions subject to invitation by the respective Chairs.

Article 9. Participants in the Conference shall be accredited by written communication to the Director General.

### III. CONFERENCE OFFICERS

Article 10. The Conference shall have a Chairperson, elected from among the chiefs of delegations of the Member States of IICA, the OAS and the Government of Spain. In the absence or incapacitation of the Chairperson, a member of his/her delegation shall serve as Chairperson. A first vice-chairperson will also be elected from among the Member States of IICA or of the OAS, and who will be entitled to speak on behalf of those States. The chiefs of the remaining delegations shall be ex-officio vice-chairpersons of the Conference according to the order of precedence.

Article 11. Costa Rica, which chaired the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture shall act as provisional Chair of the Conference until a chair has been elected.

Article 12. The Chair has the following duties:

- a. To convene the plenary sessions and set the order of business;
- b. To open, close, and otherwise conduct the plenary sessions of the Conference and submit items for consideration, in accordance with the order of business;
- c. To direct discussion, give the floor to the delegates in the same order in which it was requested, submit to a vote matters under discussion, and announce the results of same;
- d. To decide points of order not otherwise submitted to the Conference for a decision at the request of a delegation;
- e. To establish committees;
- f. To take all necessary steps to facilitate the work of the Conference and ensure that the provisions of these Rules of Procedure are respected and enforced; and
- g. Upon approval from the Conference, place prudent limits on the time allotted each speaker.

#### IV. SECRETARIAT

Article 13. The General Directorate of the Institute shall be responsible for the Secretariat of the Conference and, in conjunction with the Government of Spain, shall provide the services of secretarial and technical personnel.

Article 14. The Director General shall appoint a staff member to act as General Coordinator for the preparation of working documents and instruments for agreements of the Conference, and another to act as Technical Secretary of the Conference.

#### V. COMMITTEES

Article 15. The Credentials Committee shall be composed of the Credentials Committee for the Sixth Regular Meeting of the IABA plus one member appointed by the Conference Chairperson from among the OAS Member States which are not members of IICA.

Article 16. The Style Committee shall be composed of the Style Committee of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the IABA plus one member appointed by the Conference Chairperson from among the OAS Member States which are not members of IICA. The Style Committee shall be responsible for confirming the authenticity of the texts of the documents of the Conference in the official languages, and to that end, it

shall make such stylistic changes in them as may be necessary.

Article 17. The Committee on the Declaration and Recommendations shall be made up of one member of each delegation that expresses interest in taking part. This Committee shall examine proposals for recommendations and for the draft declaration, to be submitted to the consideration of the plenary session. Other working committees as established by the Chair of the Conference shall be responsible for studying the various matters that appear on the agenda. Each delegation shall have the right to be represented on each working committee. Each working committee shall elect a chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and a rapporteur.

Article 18. Each committee may establish such subcommittees or working groups as it deems necessary for the study of the topics assigned to it for consideration. Delegations shall have the right to participate with voice but without vote in a committee, subcommittee, or working group of which they are not members.

Article 19. The reports of the committees shall contain a summary of the background, a list of the documents considered, the essential points of the discussions, the results of any votes taken, and the complete text of the conclusions and recommendations adopted, as well as an explanation of how these decisions were reached.

Article 20. The provisions of these Rules of Procedure regarding procedures, discussions, and voting shall also govern the reports of the committees, subcommittees, and working groups, insofar as they are applicable.

## VI. SESSIONS

Article 21. The Conference shall hold a joint preparatory session, inaugural session and closing session together with the Sixth Regular Meeting of the IABA. All other plenary sessions shall be held separately and may be public or private. The committees may hold public or private meetings.

Article 22. During the preparatory session, the representatives shall reach agreement as to:

- a. the Rules of Procedure
- b. the agenda
- c. the working methods and membership of other committees
- d. the appointment of the Credentials Committee, the Style Committee, the Committee of the Declaration and Recommendations, and other committees for the Conference



- e. the deadline for the submission of proposals
- f. election of the Chairperson of the Conference
- g. other business

The agreements shall be formalized in the first plenary session following the preparatory session.

Article 23. The presence of a majority of the delegations of OAS Member States and IICA Member States that are not member of the OAS, that is 18 members, shall constitute a quorum in the plenary sessions of the Conference. The presence of a majority of the member delegations of each committee shall constitute a quorum of same.

Article 24. All decisions of the plenary sessions shall require an affirmative vote of the majority of delegations of the States participating in the Conference. The decisions of each committee shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of the member delegations of the committee present at the time of the vote.

Article 25. Each delegation is entitled to one vote. All voting shall be done by show of hands. However, any representative may request a roll-call vote, in which case the order of precedence of the delegations shall be followed.

No representative may interrupt the voting except to discuss a point of order relating to the manner in which the voting is being conducted. The voting shall be considered concluded when the Chair announces the result.

Article 26. In both the plenary and committee sessions, all deliberations shall be limited to matters related to the agenda except as otherwise provided for in Article 30 herein.

Article 27. The sessions of the Conference shall be public. However, if the Chair so decides, a session shall be closed and shall continue in that form unless the plenary or pertinent committee decides otherwise.

Article 28. The following procedures shall be observed in the discussions:

- a. Proposals shall be presented in writing to the Technical Secretariat, which shall distribute copies of them to all the delegations before the session at which they are to be discussed. However, if the body concerned considers it proper, it may authorize discussion of and even voting on a proposal that was not distributed beforehand.
- b. An amendment shall be submitted for discussion and shall be put to a vote before the article or proposal

that it is intended to modify is voted upon. When several amendments to the same proposal are presented, the one that departs farthest from the original proposal shall be voted upon first. The same principle shall apply to the voting on the other amendments, but when the approval of one amendment necessarily implies the exclusion of another, the latter shall not be put to a vote.

- c. Proposals on the same topic shall be put to a vote in the order in which they were presented.
- d. A proposal that would totally replace the original proposal or that is not directly related to it shall not be considered an amendment.
- e. If one or more amendments are approved, the proposal so amended shall be put to a vote in its entirety.
- f. Proposals and amendments shall be voted on by parts when any representative so requests, and voting shall immediately follow on the whole made up of the parts that have been approved.
- g. When a proposal or amendment has been approved or rejected it may not be the subject of further

consideration unless the body concerned so decides by a vote of two thirds of the delegations that are members of it.

## VII. PROPOSALS AND WORKING DOCUMENTS

Article 29. Documents intended for the Conference shall be: a) working documents on topics of the agenda; b) proposals or papers presented by the official delegations; and c) reference documents.

Article 30. Proposals, studies, and reports shall indicate the agenda topic to which they relate and shall be referred to the appropriate committee by the Secretariat. When a proposal is submitted to the Conference that, in the view of a delegation or the Secretariat of the Conference, is not directly related to a topic on the agenda, an immediate decision as to whether discussion of it is in order shall be taken by majority vote of the delegations accredited to the Conference.

Article 31. Any proposal of an activity that has financial implications for the OAS or IICA shall be presented, together with an estimate of its cost, for consideration of the Conference. However, the implementation of the approved activity shall be subject to decision by the appropriate organ.

Article 32. Reference documents shall be available, in the original languages, for consultation by delegates.

#### VIII. OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

Article 33. The official languages of the Conference are English, French, Portuguese and Spanish.

#### IX. MINUTES, FINAL REPORT AND ARCHIVES OF THE CONFERENCE

Article 34. Summary minutes shall be kept of the plenary sessions and the working committees; these minutes shall contain a summary of the discussions and the full text of the decisions adopted.

Article 35. As soon as possible after each plenary session, the Secretariat shall distribute to the delegations the provisional text of the minutes. Within 24 hours of the distribution of the text, the delegations may provide to the Secretariat any corrections they deem necessary.

Article 36. A provisional report on the Conference shall be prepared, containing the minutes of each plenary session and the conclusions and agreements of the Conference, and shall be submitted for consideration and signing during the closing session. Moreover, a

final report, which shall include the summarized minutes, the conclusions and agreements, the background of the Conference organization, the list of participants, basic information on the development of the Conference and the reports of the corresponding rapporteurs, shall be sent to all participants.

Article 37. IICA shall send copies of the final report, in the four official languages, to the governments of the OAS and IICA Member States, and to organizations participating in the Conference.

Article 38. The Director General shall deliver to the Secretary General the original of the final report and all documents and files relevant to same, to be kept and stored at the OAS General Secretariat, in accordance with Article 128 of the Charter of the Organization.

## **X. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE**

Article 39. These Rules of Procedure may be amended with the affirmative vote of two thirds of the delegations attending the Conference, provided such amendments are consistent with the Standards for Inter-American Specialized Conferences set out in AG/Res.-85(II-0/72).

**INAUGURAL SESSION ADDRESSES**





**ADDRESS BY HIS MAJESTY, JUAN CARLOS I, KING OF SPAIN**

On behalf of the Spanish people, it is a great pleasure for me to extend a very warm welcome to the participants of this inter-American conference.

The fact that such an important meeting is being held on Spanish soil is a great honour for us, since it has been our vocation throughout history to serve as a bridge between Europe and America.

In cooperation with the countries of the American continent, Spain is promoting the celebration of the Quincentennial of the Encounter of Two Worlds, which will take place in 1992.

This Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, being held in Madrid, will provide a forum for the ministers from the American continent to meet the ministers of the European Economic Community. It will be the prelude to the many contacts which will take place over the course of the next year between Spain and America.

I would like to stress the significance of this Conference and of the meeting of the ministers of agriculture of both continents in light of the search worldwide for a more equitable new international order.

The meetings about to take place promise to be of great interest given that the subject you are addressing -agriculture- is the keystone of the existence and development of mankind.

With the passage of time, the two worlds now celebrating the anniversary of their encounter are

growing closer together; ever more dependent on reciprocal activities. There is an ever-increasing awareness that the future of some is the future of all.

In this spirit of interdependence and integration, the Tenth ICMA and the meeting of the ministers of agriculture from the American continent and the European Economic Community will clearly bring us closer to finding solutions which lead to a better world for all.

Considering the importance of its historic and cultural ties with the Latin American and Caribbean countries, and aware of our common interests, Spain is giving very special attention to cooperation. The Organizing Committee for the Commemoration of the Quincentennial, which I presided over last year, approved the Quincentennial Plan which attaches great importance to cooperation as a means of engaging in joint efforts that are both practical and visionary and of benefit to all.

As part of this Plan my country will be placing a considerable amount of resources at the disposal of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, to be channelled into three main areas:

- support of the activities of the Ibero-American Cooperation Institute
- friendship and cooperation treaties and multi-year programs
- The Quincentennial Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank

Spain's investment priorities will be the agriculture and fisheries sectors, given the enormous

importance their development represents for the economy of this area.

During 1992, some very important international events will be taking place in Spain.

I am referring to the World's Fair in Seville, the Olympic Games in Barcelona, the nomination of Madrid as the Cultural Capital of Europe, and the Second Summit Meeting of Ibero-American countries. Direct links established at the highest level between the different countries of Ibero-America proved very positive at the First Summit, held in Mexico, and I sincerely hope that the next and subsequent summit meetings will further relations between all the Ibero-American peoples and with the rest of the world.

I wish you every success and trust that your meetings will be most fruitful. I am certain that no effort will be spared in achieving the desired results.

I would like to express my thanks to you and reiterate my confidence in all of you and hereby inaugurate the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture.

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES  
AND FOOD OF SPAIN, MR. PEDRO SOLBES**

In my capacity as Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, and as the Chairman of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), it is my pleasure to welcome you to this important Conference.

Majesty, I wish to extend my deepest thanks to you for your presence at this Inaugural Session, and to convey the satisfaction of all those attending this Conference with the importance Your Majesty attaches to relations between Spain and the Americas and to a topic as vital as agriculture.

We are also honored by the presence of the Secretary General of the Organization of American States, Ambassador João Clemente Baena Soares.

I also want to welcome all the ministers and ambassadors of the member and observer countries of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), its Director General, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, and the directors of other international organizations in attendance.

I thank all of you for being here, and hope that your stay in my country will be a pleasant one.

Spain is honored that Madrid was selected to serve as the site of this Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, the first ever held outside the Americas.

Spain will host many important international events in 1992. This Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Second World Conference of Ministers of Fisheries, held recently in Galicia, are examples of what is to come.

Spain considers that such events provide excellent opportunities for expanding and strengthening traditional ties between Europe and the Americas.

With regard to agricultural cooperation, my country has a long tradition of both multilateral and bilateral cooperation.

The solidary work and coordination provided by IICA enables countries to play a much more positive role in the area of cooperation.

Our relations with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture are long standing and solid; we have been an observer country of the Institute for many years.

We are proud to have the opportunity to promote through this Conference greater understanding between our peoples in a sector as important as agriculture, which is the foundation for all development and the source of the materials required to satisfy our basic needs. Since Spain joined the European Economic Community, it has worked tirelessly to increase the level of its cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean.

I wish to emphasize that we will continue to work in this direction, with more enthusiasm and dedication than ever before.

This Conference is taking place at an extremely important juncture in history. I need not remind you of the events that have taken place and are still unfolding worldwide; they have moved us all at a very personal level. The aim of the deliberations and discussions of the ministers from the Americas over the next few days is to establish the parameters for coordinated action in the agro-food sector in the 1990s. This decade should be one of prosperity, to compensate for the errors and disequilibria of the 1980s.

The theme chosen for the Tenth ICMA, "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century," is very timely and exemplifies the approach that should be taken in addressing the complex situation of today.

An exchange of ideas for the purpose of setting objectives and seeking solutions, in order to learn more about the agricultural sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean, provides an appropriate and important framework for the tasks that must be undertaken on the road to economic development and democratic stability.

I assure you that Spain will be providing support and cooperation in this mission.

I would also like to call your attention to the meeting involving the ministers represented in the Tenth ICMA, the ministers of agriculture of the EEC countries and senior officials of the Commission of the European Communities.

They will discuss the following topics: "The Future of Agro-food Trade" and "Cooperation between the EEC and Latin America and the Caribbean."

The importance of these topics is even greater in light of the current international situation. This joint effort to analyze objectives and seek solutions, from a common perspective and with a constructive approach, is of great importance and should have favorable repercussions for all.

Integration and a communion of interests have been fundamental to the development of Western Europe in recent years. In Spain, and in the rest of Europe, we are pleased to see the progress that has been made toward integration in the Americas, and we are certain that as the process continues, both the Americas and international relations will benefit.

As Chairman of the Tenth ICMA, I hope and trust that our work during this meeting will provide us with clear ideas and a joint course of action that will accelerate the development of all the countries, based on a stronger and better organized agro-food sector.

I assure you that Spain's cooperation in agriculture will remain as high as possible. At this time, I want to offer Spain's participation in a cooperation agreement to conserve natural species in Latin America and the Caribbean. Such an agreement would ultimately benefit all of humanity by preventing the loss of the vast and extremely important genetic potential of the Americas. It must be conserved and used in breeding programs for crops and livestock, and will serve to speed the development and improve the quality of life of our rural populations.

I thank all of you for attending this Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture. I have no doubt that you will make every effort to ensure the success of the meeting, inasmuch as all of you are aware

of the importance of the Conference itself, and of the events that will take place in connection with it, for promoting development in and greater understanding among the participating countries.



**ADDRESS BY MR. JUAN RAFAEL LIZANO, MINISTER OF  
AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK OF COSTA RICA**

In my capacity as Chairman of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, I would like to express my pleasure at participating in this meeting, as I am fully convinced that the future of our hemisphere is closely linked to the performance of the agricultural sector.

This event will offer us an opportunity to provide continuity to the many efforts to coordinate and integrate the efforts we have been proposing and promoting for several years; but, most importantly, to determine whether we should follow the path already begun, adjust it somewhat, or completely change the course of our action.

We must take full advantage of the opportunity afforded to us by this forum to compare our experiences in connection with the principal restrictions on agricultural development, which will require a management strategy that has been analyzed and agreed upon by all countries concerned, so as to avoid a worsening of existing imbalances.

There is no doubt that the international crisis has affected our economies, accentuating the injustices in trade, accelerating inflation, and bringing about a sharp contraction in total and per capita incomes.

In response to this situation, the governments have sought appropriate solutions, but quickly realized that the nature and scope of many of the existing problems demand a comprehensive solution and that isolated

efforts lead only to an unproductive expenditure of resources and to general discouragement.

For this reason we believe it is of vital importance to carefully evaluate the present situation.

In many cases, problems of production can be solved at the country level, but this requires the collaboration of countries which have already overcome such problems.

It is not sufficient, however, to address problems from a strictly technical or productive point of view, as most involve economic factors, such as markets and prices.

The output of our agricultural sectors places us in an outstanding position at the world level. However, market limitations, mainly in the form of non-tariff barriers, constitute serious obstacles which create distortions that favor neither those who produce efficiently nor those who protect inefficient production; rather, they are detrimental to both.

For these reasons we concede the utmost importance to international trade negotiations aimed at bringing about fairer and more balanced treatment for all countries, and firmly support the efforts of the weakest economies to participate more fully in the market.

It is clear to us that the Latin American economies should participate in the market subject to the same rules as the more developed economies. This, rather than concerning us, should be seen as a challenge we can meet, but the conditions must be fair.

Progress in the GATT negotiations; effective regional integration in Central America, the Andean area, the Southern Cone and CARICOM; policy harmonization, and similar processes, constitute some of the high priority topics on the agendas of many of our countries.

I believe we should continue in this direction. It is not an easy path to follow, but external circumstances make it necessary. It is the path we must follow if we do not want our economies to lag behind, at this would exact heavy social costs from those who should be the focus of our concern: the rural people of the Americas.

Countries severely affected by the production of illegal crops require support to replace this activity with profitable crops. If this responsibility is taken on jointly, not only will the region be spared the deadly consequences of this problem, but there will also be economic and social repercussions throughout the world. The narcotics problem is and should be seen as a serious problem affecting us all. In this field, the countries and cooperating agencies have much room for action.

The presence of the principal international cooperation agencies at this meeting offers me the opportunity to call on them and enlist their support and understanding in connection with our countries' urgent need for more, and effectively coordinated international cooperation, to equip us to respond to the demands created by economic change. It is also important to point out the need for international organizations to bring about real modernization of their own.

Keeping the preceding in mind, which to a great degree refers to the path we are following, I urge the

delegations to take a positive attitude towards this Sixth Meeting of the IABA. I am sure it will be a success both because of the calibre of the participants, whom I am honored to welcome, and because of the topics on the agenda.

Before I conclude, I would like to respectfully welcome and express our most sincere gratitude to Your Majesty, King Juan Carlos I, and to the Spanish government, with whom we share a common bond, and whose support has been invaluable.

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, LANDS,  
FISHERIES, FORESTRY AND COOPERATIVES OF SAINT LUCIA,  
MR. FERDINAND HENRY**

It is indeed a pleasure and an honour for me to address this distinguished assembly today and I wish to thank the organizers of this joint initiative -the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture- for affording me the opportunity to do so.

Majesties, it is my understanding that in the almost fifty years of existence of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, this is the first time that these meetings are being held outside our hemisphere, and I think it most fitting that we are meeting here in Spain -a country which, over the years, has had a very profound influence on most of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

On behalf of the delegates of IICA's 32 Member countries, I wish to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Government of Spain for hosting this meeting. Many of us, and I can say this with certainty for those of us from the English-speaking Caribbean, are visiting your delightful country for the first time and I can assure you that we have been highly impressed by the warmth and hospitality of the Spanish people. This has contributed, in no small measure, to making our stay most enjoyable and provided an environment which certainly is conducive to productive deliberations.

Majesties, we meet at a time when profound changes are taking place in the world, many of which undoubtedly

will have far-reaching effects on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

One such change is the proposed establishment of the single European market, and I am pleased to note that this meeting will afford us the opportunity to meet with the ministers of agriculture of the European Community to share our concerns in regard to the agricultural sector. I am sure that I express the sentiments of all our ministers when I say that we are all looking forward to the deliberations of the Round Table.

Clearly there are many issues involved, most of which, if not all, have been identified in the Working Documents that were so ably prepared by IICA in consultation with the Member States. Some of these issues may be easily resolved whereas others may be somewhat more difficult. However, with a spirit of goodwill adequate solutions will be found to even the most difficult problems and I am confident, that such a spirit will prevail in future deliberations on these issues.

Majesties, it is our hope that this meeting will signal the further strengthening of relations between Spain and those countries of the hemisphere with which it has traditionally had strong ties, and perhaps the beginning of closer relations with those countries with which, so far, it has not. Here I refer specifically to the English-speaking Caribbean countries, with which such ties I'm sure would be mutually beneficial.

Finally, I cannot close without recognizing the tremendous efforts by the Government of Spain and IICA to make this meeting a reality and on behalf of the delegates of the Member States, I wish to thank them most sincerely, and assure them of our full appreciation of their efforts.

**ADDRESS BY MURRAY CARDIFF  
PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE HONOURABLE BILL MCKNIGHT  
CANADIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**

It is an honour to be here today to bring you greetings on behalf of Canada's Agriculture Minister, the Honourable Bill Mcknight. He regrets that he was not able to attend the conference, but at the last minute he was required to deal with pressing constitutional issues at home.

It is my great pleasure today, as head of the Canadian delegation, to provide the bridge between today's events and those of four years ago in Ottawa, and to hand over to the Spanish Minister of Agriculture, His Excellency Pedro Solbes, and to the Government of Spain, the responsibility that they have so graciously and generously accepted, that of being host to the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture.

Four years ago, Canada was the proud host of the Ninth Conference, and our former Agriculture Minister, the Honourable John Wise, was the Chairman.

The Ottawa Conference provided an excellent opportunity to discuss key issues and to find allies for our efforts.

It was a challenge we met -an opportunity we seized- to take major steps towards the creation of more modern, competitive agriculture and food industries throughout the hemisphere and a better future for all of our citizens.

The Ottawa Declaration recognized not only the great challenges we face but also served as an important rallying point in charting solutions.

Once again, this forum offers us the opportunity to work together in adjusting to global changes. As Mexico's President Salinas noted at the Guadalajara Summit, "association, not isolation, is the key to growth in these times of change."

Since our last meeting, the challenges to progressive change in the agri-food sectors have become increasingly complex, and the obstructions to success more significant.

Yet, we have made progress. PLANLAC, to give just one example, is progressing well and has received support from national governments and international financial institutions.

PLANLAC was created in response to the severity of the economic crisis existing in Latin America and the Caribbean, and contains a broad vision of development in the agricultural and food sector.

The strategic guidelines used in the development of PLANLAC -productivity and institutional modernization, equity and sustainability- are still just as valid during this period of ongoing structural change.

Dr. Martin Piñeiro is to be congratulated for his professional leadership and the IICA staff for their commitment in demonstrating the interactive potential of PLANLAC.

PLANLAC's success will rest on continued support from member nations, international and trade



developments and financial investments. Our meetings this week will, I hope, lead to similar shared ventures founded on common goals.

We have seen many changes in the world since 1987. Since our last meeting, there has been an increase in agricultural trade within our hemisphere.

Trade -of products, information, technology and expertise- is the most important doorway to success in an ever more competitive world. Our discussions this week will lead us towards shared economic growth, shared principles on environmentally sustainable agriculture and, ultimately, towards providing all our citizens with opportunities for better lives.

On another positive note, during these four years many countries have embraced democracy. The Soviet Union is the throes of profound change; Eastern Europe is undergoing a complete transition. Throughout Latin America, democracy has become the norm. This political evolution will undoubtedly assist in modernization of agriculture.

We know that our agri-food sectors face major challenges. We need to do more to help farmers and others in the sector catch up to world events and developments. This is a challenge we all face, despite many different social and economic conditions.

The question of rural development and poverty, for example, is one we must continue to grapple with. We must also be committed to the development of environmentally sound practices to increase transfer of technology and to help our agri-food sectors become more innovative and efficient.

Membership in IICA has given Canada invaluable experience with the inter-American system. Building on this experience and recognizing the importance of the Americas, Canada in 1990, decided to join the oldest regional organization in the world - the OAS. Our membership is a strong symbol of our lasting commitment to our partners in the Caribbean and Latin America and a recognition that the western hemisphere is our home. Yet, by holding this meeting in Spain, we also recognize that the links of the western hemisphere move east and west as well as north and south, and we will be building on all these linkages through cooperation with those who want to make the hemisphere a better place.

I take pleasure in forging the link between the Ottawa Conference and this conference by passing on the chairmanship of the conference and wishing every success to our friend and host, His Excellency Pedro Solbes, the Spanish Minister of Agriculture.

A concluding note: only by sharing our experience and working together through the OAS and IICA can we ensure that all citizens enjoy equal access to the social and economic benefits of a competitive agri-food sector.

**ADDRESS BY AMBASSADOR JOÃO CLEMENTE BAENA SOARES,  
SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES**

Majesties,

You do us a great honor by presiding over this meeting, thus bestowing a singular distinction on our conference. Your participation is a renewed indication of the special and well-proved attention you give to matters pertaining to the destiny of the American nations, which in turn admire and respect you.

Distinguished Ministers and Heads of Delegations,

It is with deep interest and satisfaction that I participate in this high level forum of agricultural policy leaders of the American countries.

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to the Government of Spain for generously hosting the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, which we are opening today. The warm welcome Madrid has extended us reflects the ties between our America and Spain, which have been newly strengthened and broaden by the first Ibero-American summit meeting, held a few months ago in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Let me convey to the ministers of agriculture of the Americas fervent wishes for the success of their deliberations. I also wish to acknowledge the enthusiastic, competent, and efficient work of my colleague and friend Dr. Martin Piñeiro, Director General of the Institute, and of his staff, in promoting the

agricultural sector in our nations, as well as in preparing for this important event.

We are participants in an extraordinary moment in history. In the four years since the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, the world and the hemisphere have undergone a rapid and sweeping transformation.

While the easing of east-west tensions has changed the profile of international relations, and as the nations of Central and Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union move towards more flexible structures amid dynamic transformation, a less publicized but equally momentous democratic transmutation has taken place in Latin America and the Caribbean.

As confrontation between the great powers diminishes, the more fundamental realities of life in our countries starkly emerge. Over the encouraging actuality of a democratic and free hemisphere, the spectre of poverty looms. More than one hundred eighty million people in Latin America and the Caribbean, two out of every five inhabitants of the region, do not have sufficient income to meet their basic needs.

Democratic governments face the immediate, compelling need to reactivate their economies and to resume the process of integral development. Solving the serious economic problems and meeting social needs in the developing countries of the hemisphere will be essential components of a foundation on which democracy can be strengthened and advanced.

Latin America and Caribbean nations have undertaken structural adjustment programs, often enduring costly consequences. Changes already made or under way

in the economic order are just as meaningful as is the rise of democracy in the political area.

The adjustments needed, however, are not limited to the interaction of global economic variables; to the management of fiscal, exchange, trade and monetary policies; to a revision of the roles played by government, business, and labor. The obstacles that must be overcome affect every sector, and all of them have to be addressed if they are to be surmounted.

Profound imbalances that hinder progress and the strengthening of democracy in Latin America and the Caribbean are evidenced, for example, by the fact that food production has increased less than the number of poor. The effective practice of social justice is the most urgently needed adjustment.

Agricultural policy in the closing years of the twentieth century, a matter to which this conference should make substantial contributions, will be an essential component of the Latin American and Caribbean development model, as well as an important element in the effort to consolidate democracy in the region.

The agricultural sector has significant bearing on Latin American development. The broad and diverse range of Latin American and Caribbean natural resources affords our countries an extraordinary potential for production. Agriculture contributes one third of our exports. It is the prime source of employment for rural people, who still make up 30 per cent of total population. Even during the recent years of crisis agriculture's aggregate value maintained a rate of growth that, although slightly lower than the rate of population increase, far surpassed the growth rate of global output.

We are all aware, however, that the traditional development model has not favored agricultural activities. Concentration of land ownership, transfer of income from agriculture to other sectors of the economy, some degree of delay in the incorporation of technology, weak linkages between agriculture and industry have hampered modernization and negatively affected agricultural efficiency.

That biased development style has contributed to maintaining and accentuating differences in income and welfare between urban and rural populations. Latin American and Caribbean peasants are second-class citizens compared to their compatriots in the city. They have less opportunity for education, for health, and for participation, and they suffer more intensely the scourges of poverty and underemployment.

The ownership of land is usually concentrated to an excessive degree. It seems essential to undertake ambitious redistribution campaigns through agrarian reform programs that will preserve the sector's output, while affording the peasants access to land ownership and supporting them in their efforts to cultivate it.

External conditions have not stimulated agricultural development either. Latin America and the Caribbean, whose agricultural exports amount to 16 per cent of world trade in such products, have been faced on that front, as on others, with the protectionism of industrialized countries. The position taken by some developed nations with respect to trade in farm products has been one of the main stumbling blocks in the Uruguay Round of the GATT, which is of such special interest to the nations of the Americas.

I have attempted to highlight in broad terms certain aspects of the hemisphere's recent evolution, as well as some characteristics of agricultural development, because they comprise a special set of circumstances that lend particular meaning and a sense of urgency to this meeting.

Agricultural modernization, promotion of agro-industry, the appropriate use of natural resources, are all elements that should be incorporated into our nation's integral development policies. An adequate response to the new international economic structure by Latin America and the Caribbean in terms of their trade in food and other agricultural products will be essential to the liberalization process upon which the region has embarked. International technical cooperation in support of national initiatives and capabilities should help to advance the development we desire. Greater balance between the rural and urban sectors in a framework of progress and equity will serve to strengthen democracy.

Herein lies my confidence in this specialized conference, an organ of the O.A.S.: let our deliberations yield a bountiful harvest of initiatives and decisions that will guide the Americas towards a future of greater abundance and of equity.

**ADDRESS BY MR. MARTIN E. PIÑEIRO, DIRECTOR GENERAL  
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON  
AGRICULTURE**

As Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, it is an honor to welcome you to the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture which will take place over the next seven days. Personally and on behalf of the Institute, I would like to thank the Spanish Government and its Minister of Agriculture, Pedro Solbes, for making this meeting possible and for the warm welcome we have received. I also wish to thank Your Majesties for honoring us with your presence here today.

I would like to extend a special welcome to the delegation of St. Kitts and Nevis, which ratified the IICA Convention in 1990, thereby becoming a full-fledged member of the Institute. I also want to announce the recent incorporation of Romania and the European Economic Community as Observer Countries of the Institute. Welcome to IICA.

This meeting, convened jointly with the Secretariat of the OAS and with the personal support of Ambassador Baena Soares, is specially significant within the context of the profound changes taking place internationally and in our region. This is the first time that the meetings of the ICMA and the IABA are being held outside the Americas and it is not by coincidence that we are meeting in Spain. In accepting the generous invitation of the Spanish Government, the countries of our region have wished to establish ties with the Old



World, based on their own cultural tradition and identity.

This ICMA is being held at a crucial time in history. The parameters of a world we had become familiar with since the end of World-War II are quickly disappearing. We are beginning to see another world, however, where the values of freedom and democracy are taking on a special significance. Within a context of close interdependence among nations, supranational economic and political spheres of influence are playing a growing role and trade is becoming the focus of relations between countries.

As for our region, as we enter the twenty-first century, Latin America and the Caribbean are at an historical crossroad, the result of a decade characterized by delays, but also by profound transformations which have laid the groundwork for an economic and political resurgence.

In a world which is changing almost daily, the countries of the Americas have re-affirmed their decision not to be left behind by history, and have undertaken to make the changes necessary to adapt to new international conditions. The extraordinary efforts being made to achieve subregional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean aim to expand economic spheres of action and international trade. The Enterprise for the Americas Initiative recalls common origins and aims to strengthen economic and trade relations between all the countries of the hemisphere, thereby generating new possibilities for development.

Within this new context, the ideas introduced during the Ninth ICMA in Ottawa in 1987, and the commitments assumed to promote the modernization of

agriculture, are gaining renewed importance as the central element of a new strategy for economic development.

For all of us involved with and committed to the rural sector, the main challenge is to contribute to bringing about a judicious and sustainable use of our natural resources, enhance the natural comparative advantages of the agri-food sector, develop better living conditions in the rural sector, halt migration to the large cities by creating real centers of agroindustrial development, and generate surpluses as a result of aggressive and intelligent policies in international trade.

The willingness of the Latin America and the Caribbean countries to make the changes that will enable them to play a more active role in today's world must be complemented with firm support from the international community. This should be achieved through open dialogue that encourages collaboration within a framework of shared responsibilities. In this sense, the commitments assumed in Santiago, during the twenty-first General Assembly of the Organization of American States, and the recent Ibero-American summit meeting in Guadalajara, shows us the path to be followed.

For Latin America and the Caribbean to assume this active role, each challenge must be tackled as a new opportunity. In this spirit, we hope that this ICMA in Madrid will be remembered as the event during which we reaffirmed our conviction concerning the importance of agriculture in the context of a region and world in change, and identify the key items for the common agricultural agenda for this decade.

Lastly, on behalf of IICA, I would like to thank all of you for attending these meetings and to urge you to engage in a frank and constructive discussion of ideas to accelerate the search for viable and lasting solutions. I reiterate my special gratitude to the Government of Spain for its generosity in hosting these meetings, which, I am sure, will serve to strengthen the ties between our hemisphere, Spain and the rest of Europe, and thereby help forge a common path to the future.



**CLOSING SESSION ADDRESSES**



**ADDRESS BY MR. MARTIN E. PIÑEIRO, DIRECTOR GENERAL  
OF IICA**

After five days of intense work, mixed with individual and group meetings, informal working sessions and pleasant social gatherings and outings, the latter made possible through the efforts of our gracious hosts, Minister Solbes and his staff, we have come to the conclusion of the Tenth ICMA and the Sixth IABA.

Even though it is difficult, and perhaps dangerous, to try to sum up the results of our meetings, I think I am correct in asserting that these meetings constitute a milestone in the history of IICA.

Not only have we done something new, meeting for the first time outside the Americas, where we have had a unique opportunity to exchange views with the ministers of Europe. Also, in the Declaration of Madrid and the recommendations and resolution approved, you have defined a new comprehensive view of agriculture, and have given IICA a new and expanded mandate which will enable the Institute to play a useful role in modernizing the agricultural sector and increasing its role in the international economy.

Mr. Chairman, I will try to be as brief as possible, but I feel that the importance of the proposals put forth and the agreements reached is such that I want to comment on each of the events.

The Tenth ICMA has reaffirmed the conviction that every effort should be made to make agriculture modern and competitive, thus contributing to overall development. This makes the ideas and commitments of Ottawa more timely, realistic and widely accepted than before

and will guide the Institute's work over the next decade.

We have analyzed the current state of the international economy. We have identified and characterized opportunities and challenges for the agricultural sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the special problems faced by countries with relatively smaller economies.

In light of this and in the context of the changes taking place worldwide, it is clear that the outcome of the Uruguay Round of the GATT is extremely important for all of our countries, be they exporters and importers. This reaffirms the crucial importance of continuing with the dialogue and negotiation among countries and of establishing common positions for the region.

During the deliberations, there was also consensus in the sense that the process of dismantling protectionist policies that distort world agricultural trade should begin in the industrialized countries and should take into consideration the special circumstances of countries such as those in the Caribbean, whose markets are relatively small and whose economies are still highly dependent on a limited number of agricultural commodities.

The strong political support given to the subregional and regional integration processes, as well as the comments concerning the "Enterprise for the Americas Initiative," are the basis for several recommendations in which financial and technical cooperation agencies have been asked to continue their support of the subregional fora, with a view to strengthening institutional structures and the policy harmonization and integration projects currently under way.



Regarding the new view of agriculture, there was consensus that the development of the agri-food sector should have three dimensions: a dimension of expansion, which strengthens intersectoral relations, promoting a greater role for sector in the economy as a whole; a social dimension, emphasizing the need to incorporate small farmers into the production process; and an inter-temporal dimension, concerning the conservation of natural resources to meet the needs of future generations. I believe I speak for all in saying that these ideas, expressed in general terms in the Declaration of Madrid and in more specific terms in the recommendations, send a message to funding agencies regarding the content and objectives of the adjustment and stabilization programs being applied in many of our countries.

Concern over the impact of trade liberalization and agricultural modernization on living conditions in rural areas and the well-being of small farmers was expressed in many of the addresses delivered by the ministers and formalized in two recommendations. One of them is related to the need to find ways to work more closely with private sector organizations working in the field.

The other is linked to the creation of subregional cooperation networks, with a view to exchanging experiences among rural development institutions. In both cases, it is now our difficult responsibility to formulate proposals for implementing these recommendations.

Perhaps, but not surprisingly, the topic which attracted the most attention was the link between agriculture, natural resources conservation and environmental protection, as expressed in four recommendations: PROCITROPICOS, Fragile Highland Ecosystems, Debt Swaps for Natural Resource Conservation and Sustainable

Agricultural Development and on the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (ECO 92) in Rio de Janeiro.

Another idea to come out of this Conference is the need for the countries of the hemisphere to develop a common agenda for international cooperation and which, in a spirit of shared responsibilities and mutual collaboration, will serve as a framework for dialogue and action.

During the round table Wednesday afternoon on trade and cooperation, organized by Minister Solbes, it became clear that our region is mature enough and ready to enter into far-reaching discussions on both topics, which are vital to the future of Latin America and the Caribbean.

I have the feeling that gradually, and perhaps as the result of dialogue and negotiation, Europe is beginning to understand and prepare itself politically to make structural changes in the Common Agricultural Policy (PAC), which could translate into significant benefits for our countries. I think we should reflect on Minister Solbes' suggestion that we study the possibility of repeating this experience in the future.

I do not want to conclude without thanking all of you for approving the 1992-1993 Program Budget, which is a clear expression of support for the Institute and its work. In response, I can assure that we will continue to use the resources prudently and efficiently in contributing to the development of our member countries, in compliance with the strategic guidelines issued during this meeting.

IICA's institutional mandate, that is, what you as a group of countries want, is clear and straightforward as expressed in the resolutions approved yesterday. Now it is our responsibility to make every effort to put them into operation.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I want to say that this Tenth ICMA will be remembered for two things. First, it will be remembered as a Conference of constructive dialogue, innovation and the consolidation of our view of the future of agriculture. Above all, it will be remembered because of the warmth and hospitality of the government and people of Spain, whom you so honorable represent.

A meeting of this nature requires the cooperation and dedication of many people. Even though I cannot name them all, I must mention a few, beginning with you, Mr. Minister, and your staff: Julio Blanco, Jesús Miranda, Ana Hernandez, Deputy Secretary Juan Antonio Blanco, and many others. I would also like to express my appreciation to the Chairman of the IABA, Minister Ferdinand Henry, for the outstanding manner in which he conducted the sessions of the Board; the Rapporteur, Evangelina Beltran, the Chairman of the Committee for Drafting of the Declaration and Recommendations, John McGowan, and the Vice Chair of the Conference and Spokesperson for the countries of the Hemisphere, Minister Alvaro Ramos. I also wish to congratulate the Technical Secretary, Andre Ouellette, and his staff, the Technical Coordinator of the ICMA, Manuel Otero and his staff, and all the IICA staff who have provided support to this meeting. To them and all the officials from Spain and IICA who contributed to the organization of the meetings I say, thank you.

**ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE, LANDS,  
FISHERIES, FORESTRY AND COOPERATIVES OF SAINT LUCIA,  
MR. FERDINAND HENRY, DURING THE CLOSING SESSION**

It is a singular honor for me to deliver some remarks at the closing ceremony of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

In so doing, I would like to reflect on the events of the past week, to compare the outcomes with the aims and aspirations of my fellow delegates when we arrived here, and to make some brief remarks about our hosts.

I think I can safely say that I speak for all delegations present in the sense that we have had a most memorable week here in Madrid. The discussions have been frank and open, and this has no doubt made our deliberations fruitful and rewarding. In this atmosphere of openness and determination to arrive at solutions to our common problems, there has been remarkable consensus on all the issues before us.

The Declaration of Madrid, which is an accurate summary of our discussions, can indeed serve as a blueprint to guide us as we approach the end of the twenty-first century. It also commits us to taking certain actions jointly with IICA. It is my hope that when the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere meet again four years from now and review the extent to which we have progressed, we will all come to the conclusion that we have made real progress.

Particularly rewarding was the round table which we had with the ministers of the European Community.

Special tribute is due to Minister Solbes for arranging this event, at the end of which the two sides certainly had a better appreciation of each other's position.

The meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture was also an outstanding success. The expeditious manner in which we were able to dispatch our business is due in no small measure to the high level of performance of the Institute over the past two years. It is also reflective of the professional manner in which the background papers were prepared. This made our work much easier.

For this, I would like to thank and to congratulate our distinguished Director General and his staff for a job well done. IICA has certainly made remarkable progress under Dr. Piñeiro's outstanding leadership, and I would like to make a special plea to members of the organization to continue giving it the kind of support it requires to provide the services that we require of it.

While the Institute has attained a high level of professionalism, we should continue to work to ensure that this is maintained.

I could not end without paying special tribute to our hosts, the government and people of Spain. The warmth and hospitality which we have experienced over the past few days have been truly remarkable. We were particularly grateful for the presence of their Majesties, the King and Queen, at our opening ceremony. I would like Honorable Minister Solbes to convey our appreciation to the Spanish government and its people.

Lastly, I would like to thank the support staff for their patience and the efficient manner in which they carried out their work.

As we leave for our individual countries, let us leave with the resolve to work together in a united effort to improve the lot of the rural population of our respective countries.

**ADDRESS BY MR. PEDRO SOLBES, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,  
FISHERIES AND FOOD OF SPAIN**

In bringing this Closing Session to an end, I first want to state that it is truly an honor that the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture selected Madrid, and Spain, as the site of its first meeting outside the Americas.

On a personal level, I want to thank you for the trust you have placed in me, allowing me to serve for a few days as Chairman of this body, which is truly representative of the problems faced by agriculture in the Americas. I want to congratulate all of you for the work you have done and must admit that my chairmanship has not been difficult. If it has been successful, it is because of the valuable contributions of each of the delegations. The accuracy, clarity and goals of the different proposals put forth have allowed us to reach what I consider are excellent conclusions.

I believe the Declaration of Madrid is more than just one result of the meeting; it is an accurate summary of the problems agriculture will face in coming years not only in the Americas, but also in the rest of the world.

I also feel that the opportunity for you to meet with the ministers of the European Economic Community proved very useful. Perhaps, we now better understand that while there are differences between us, we also have much in common. Our similar cultural roots reappear, and I think that concepts such as greater freedom of trade, regional cooperation and integration are shared by all, as are other new issues such as the relationship between agriculture and the environment, which Mr. Píñeiro so accurately described.

By hosting this meeting, Spain was able to do something it has wanted to do since we joined the European Economic Community: to show that even though we are a European country and a member country of the Community, we have not forgotten our history, our past and our special relationship with the Americas. We feel that double role we have played historically, and continue to play, can be very useful to all of us present.

In conclusion, I want to thank the entire IICA staff, under the leadership of Dr. Piñeiro, for a job well done. Without their efforts, the excellent results of this Conference, both material and substantive, could not have been achieved. I also want to thank you for the beautiful gift, a statue of a Latin American campesino. I will keep it next to me to remind me that the problems of agriculture and the problems of the rural population are not limited to the ones we face in Spain every day; they are not limited to the problems of rural population groups that are not especially well treated in the developed countries but which, as someone said quite correctly during the audience with President Gonzalez, are miles apart from the problems many of you struggle with in your countries.

With these final thoughts, I thank all of you for attending this Closing Session.



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