

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture



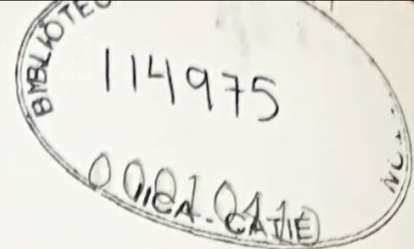
Promoting Rural Prosperity in the Americas

2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan



IICA
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What is IICA?



The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is a specialized agency of the Inter-American System, and its purposes are to encourage and support the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and well-being for rural populations.

With more than six decades of institutional life, the Institute is responding to new mandates issued by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the ministers of agriculture of the Americas, to reposition itself so that it can meet both the new challenges facing agriculture and the requests for support it receives from its member countries.

As it pursues its vision and carries out its mission, the Institute has competitive advantages it can draw on to carry out its new role. It has accumulated a wealth of knowledge regarding agriculture, rural territories, the diversity of peoples and cultures, and the agro-ecological diversity of the hemisphere, all of which are important for crafting creative solutions to a wide variety of problems and challenges.

Its presence in all of the Member States gives the Institute the flexibility it needs to move resources between countries and regions in order to promote and adapt cooperation initiatives intended to address national and regional priorities, facilitate the flow of information and improve the dissemination of best practices.

The Institute has its Headquarters in Costa Rica, and Offices in 34 countries of the Americas, an Office in Miami, which is responsible for the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety, as well as an Office for Europe, located in Madrid, Spain. The Directorate for Strategic Partnerships works out of the IICA Office in Washington, D.C.

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Foreword

The actions the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will carry out from 2006-2010 will be in direct response to the most important challenges to be faced by agriculture and rural communities in the Americas, and to the need for cooperation in the Member States, as set forth in the national, regional and hemispheric technical cooperation agendas.

Since it was founded, IICA has been committed to pursuing the objectives identified by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere in numerous documents. One such document is the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, which is of particular importance not only because the ministers signed it, but also because it received the unqualified endorsement of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

In the process of preparing the 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan (MTP), the Institute's most important strategic planning instrument, consideration was given to both the commitments made by the ministers of agriculture and to the interests of the community of agriculture and rural life of the Americas, which were identified in a broad-based consultation process.

The Plan will provide the Institute with a road map for carrying out the new mandates it has been given in the declarations and plans of action issued within the framework of the Summit of

the Americas process; addressing the priorities established in the respective national and regional agendas; and undertaking the strategic actions the Member States have identified for promoting prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas.

To tackle the challenges posed by the current, highly dynamic context, which influences the performance of the agricultural sector and the development of rural communities, IICA has adopted a new model for technical cooperation that takes greater advantage of the capabilities of its human resources, located in the 34 Offices, a program for the promotion of agribusiness in Miami, and an Office in Madrid, Spain. It has also adopted a methodology for working with other international agencies and with institutions and individuals in its member countries, with IICA serving as a bridge for horizontal cooperation between them.

The Institute reaffirms its commitment to the renewed vision of agriculture and rural life set forth in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, and to the strategies identified by the countries for achieving sustainable agricultural development, food security and greater prosperity in the rural territories of the Americas.

Chelston W.D. Brathwaite
Director General

I. Introduction

In recent years, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), founded over six decades ago, has been working to position itself to more effectively tackle the challenges posed by the new international, regional and national context in which agriculture operates, and to meet the cooperation needs of its member countries. To do this, the Institute found it necessary to adapt what it knew about agriculture, rural territories and cultural and agro-ecological diversity to this new context, adjust and update its way of looking at agriculture, and work with a broader spectrum of actors, above and beyond farmers and livestock breeders.

To this end, the Institute developed a new Medium Term Plan (MTP) for 2006-2010 as a basic management tool. The Plan incorporates the new global and hemispheric mandates, including those issued at the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life held within the context of the Summit of the Americas process, as well as the Special Summit in Monterrey (2004), where the Heads of State and Government, in the Declaration of Nuevo Leon, endorsed the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action.

This Plan redefines the vision and mission of IICA and provides guidelines and sets the course for the strategic actions it will carry out through 2010, which are intended to consolidate the important reforms undertaken in its modus

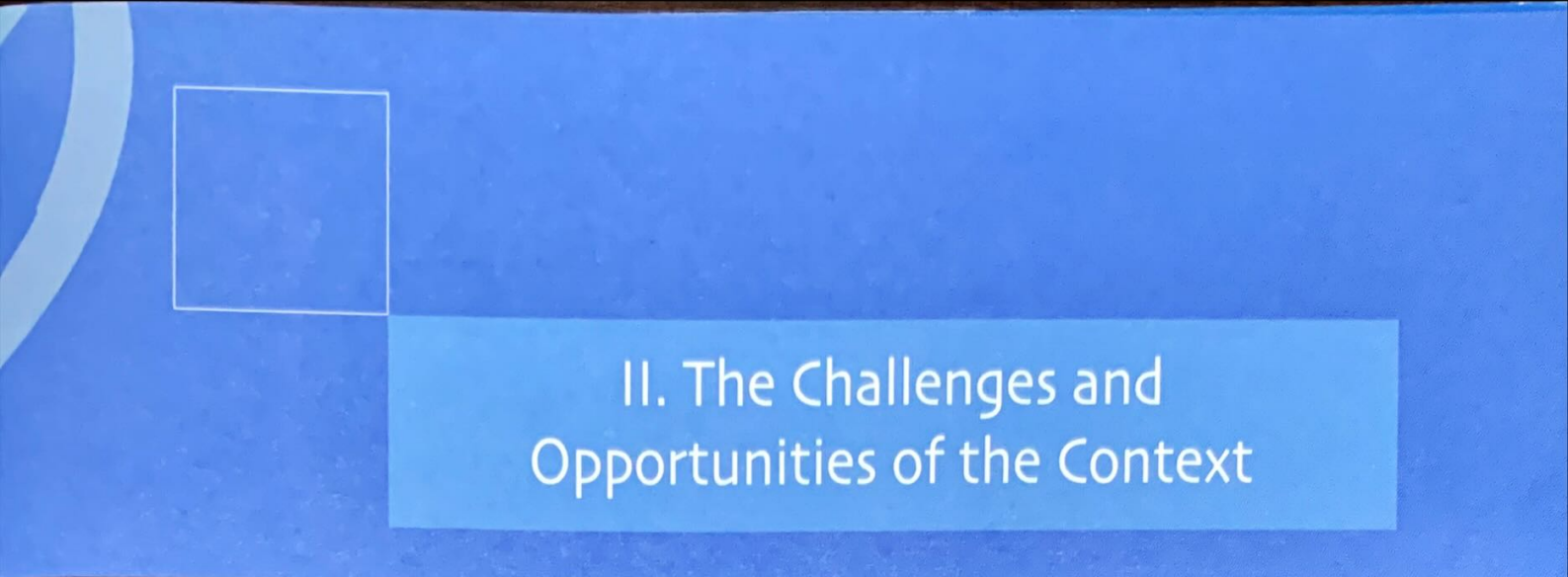




operandi beginning in 2002. It also strengthens the model instituted during the 2002-2006 period, under which technical cooperation actions are implemented via a new instrument for reaching agreement with the countries: the national, regional and hemispheric technical cooperation agendas.

Since 2002, key actors and strategic partners have been consulted and involved in the design of these agendas, which has ensured that the action of the Institute is more in line with the needs of the actors of the community of agriculture and rural life in the countries of the Americas.

As a result of these consultations, the agendas are updated and IICA's priorities are redefined using a "bottom-to-top" approach which begins at the national level and moves up through the regional to the hemispheric level. On this basis, the Institute adjusts its strategies for agricultural and rural development.



II. The Challenges and Opportunities of the Context



Agriculture and rural life in the Americas operate in an international context characterized by globalization and trade liberalization, which give rise to challenges and opportunities for all involved.

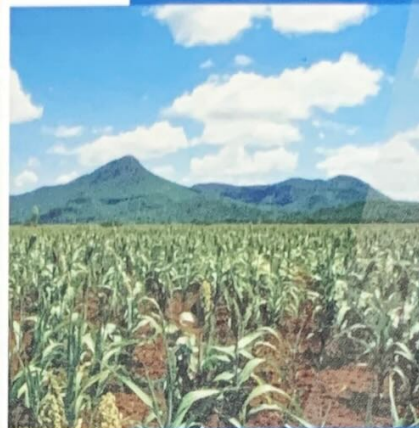
The opportunities can be attributed to a growing world population with more disposable income, which needs food; to rising demand for products that are more varied, of greater quality and more highly processed; to the creation of market niches; and to larger markets for agricultural products. Globalization is bringing actors closer together and facilitating both trade and interaction among humans and access to information and knowledge. Without a doubt, the new technological paradigms and the increased use of the Internet and other communication technologies in the sector will lead to greater opportunities for farmers and the inhabitants of rural territories and provide access to expanding markets.

At the same time, however, the countries also face important challenges which can be attributed to the inequitable distribution of the benefits of international trade; to the increased incidence and spread of diseases as the result of expanded trade; and to greater environmental instability and vulnerability.

During the period covered by the Plan, it is expected that there will be changes in the internal policies of the developed countries due to commitments assumed at the international level and to the suspension of the trade preferences granted to developing countries. It is also likely that new countries (especially China and India) will begin to play a more active role; high oil prices will continue; the effects of global climate change will be more widespread; and the demand for value-added, healthy and convenience products will increase on agrifood markets.

At the hemispheric level, poverty and inequality will continue to be the most serious issues facing our rural areas, especially in light of the trend toward less and less public investment in them, the limited incorporation of new technologies and innovations into agriculture in most of the countries of the Americas, and the possible negative effects of liberalization and trade opening on important segments of the rural population. In the face of such trends, it is unlikely that most of the countries of the Americas will be able to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

Most are convinced, however, that this trend can only be reversed if the countries, in addition to placing their hopes on hemispheric trade integration as the solution to their problems, also recognize the potential of agricultural and non-agricultural activities in rural areas and consider them when implementing strategies for overcoming poverty.





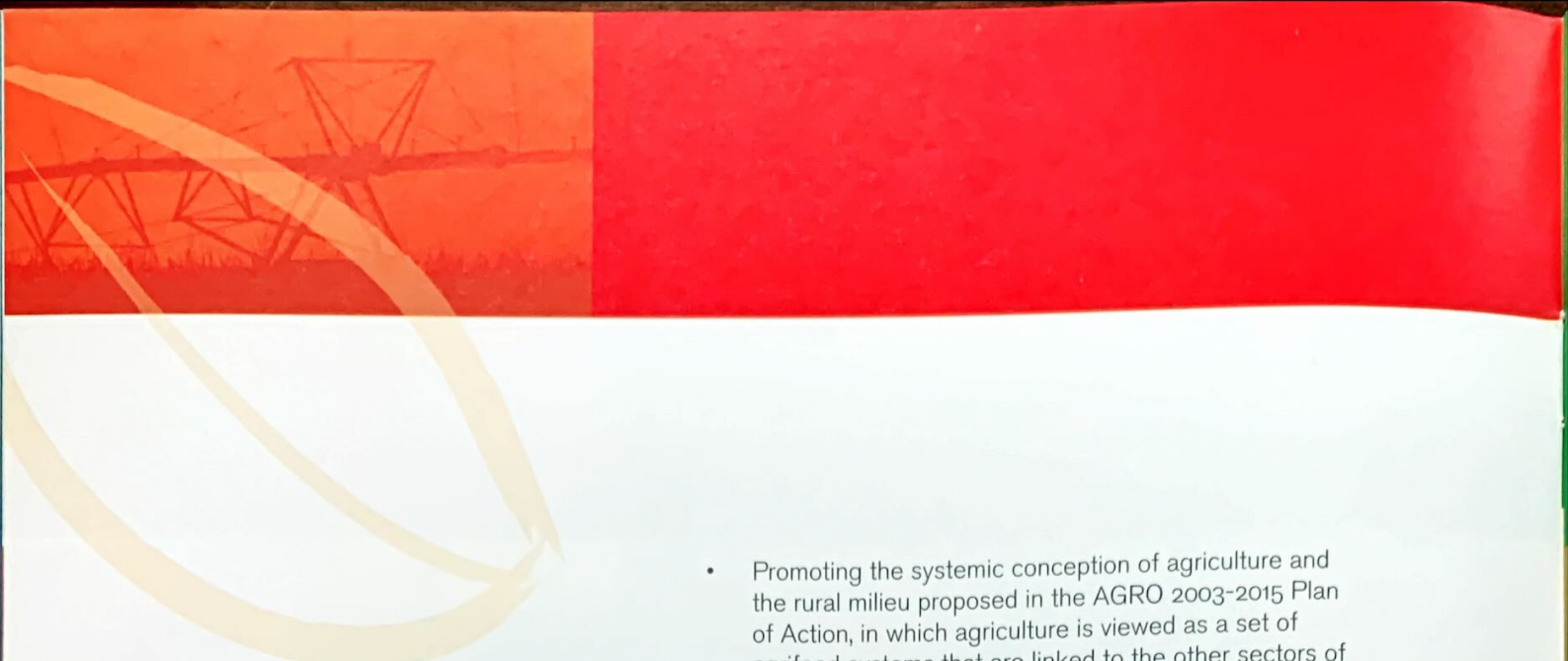


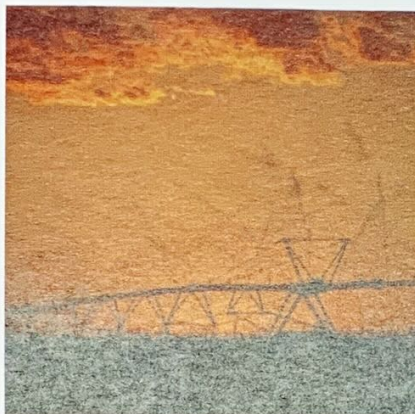
III. The Response from the Countries and IICA


The countries of the hemisphere have responded positively to the challenges facing agriculture and rural life. Proof of this is the fact that the fundamental importance of agriculture as a way of life for millions of rural families in the hemisphere, and its strategic role in creating prosperity and contributing to the sustainable development of the socioeconomic systems of the hemisphere, was recognized for the first time, at the highest political level, at the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, held in Quebec in 2001.

This recognition launched a process which culminated when the ministers of agriculture signed the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, which establishes a Shared Vision for Agriculture and Rural Life in 2015 and defines strategic actions and commitments for improving both sectors. IICA is one of the partner institutions selected to support the Summit of the Americas process and which agreed to coordinate their strategies for implementing and monitoring the shared agenda of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action.

IICA's response in meeting the challenges posed by the current context and in supporting the Summit of the Americas process is based on three factors:

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- Promoting the systemic conception of agriculture and the rural milieu proposed in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, in which agriculture is viewed as a set of agrifood systems that are linked to the other sectors of the economy, to society and to natural resources.
 - Taking into consideration the economic, social, political and environmental heterogeneity of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas, meaning that the Institute must not only pay attention to the problems shared by the Member States (hemispheric agenda), but also to the regional priorities which are based on the particular features of agriculture and rural territories in the different regions of the Americas, which are addressed in the regional agendas.
 - Consolidating and building on the change undertaken in its management model in 2002 to transform it into a modern development institution at the service of its Member States. These reforms included the adoption of a new style of technical cooperation which emphasizes operational efficiency, prudent financial management, improved use of human resources, expanded ties with international strategic partners and a new relationship with Member States based on participation, transparency, and accountability.





IV. Mission, Vision and Institutional Values

Mission

IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture and the rural milieu of the Inter-American System, whose purpose is to provide innovative technical cooperation to the Member States, with a view to achieving their sustainable development in aid of the peoples of the Americas.

Vision

To be the leading agricultural institution in the Americas and the partner of choice by virtue of the quality of the technical cooperation it provides in response to the needs of Member States, and its contributions to sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity.



Core principles and values

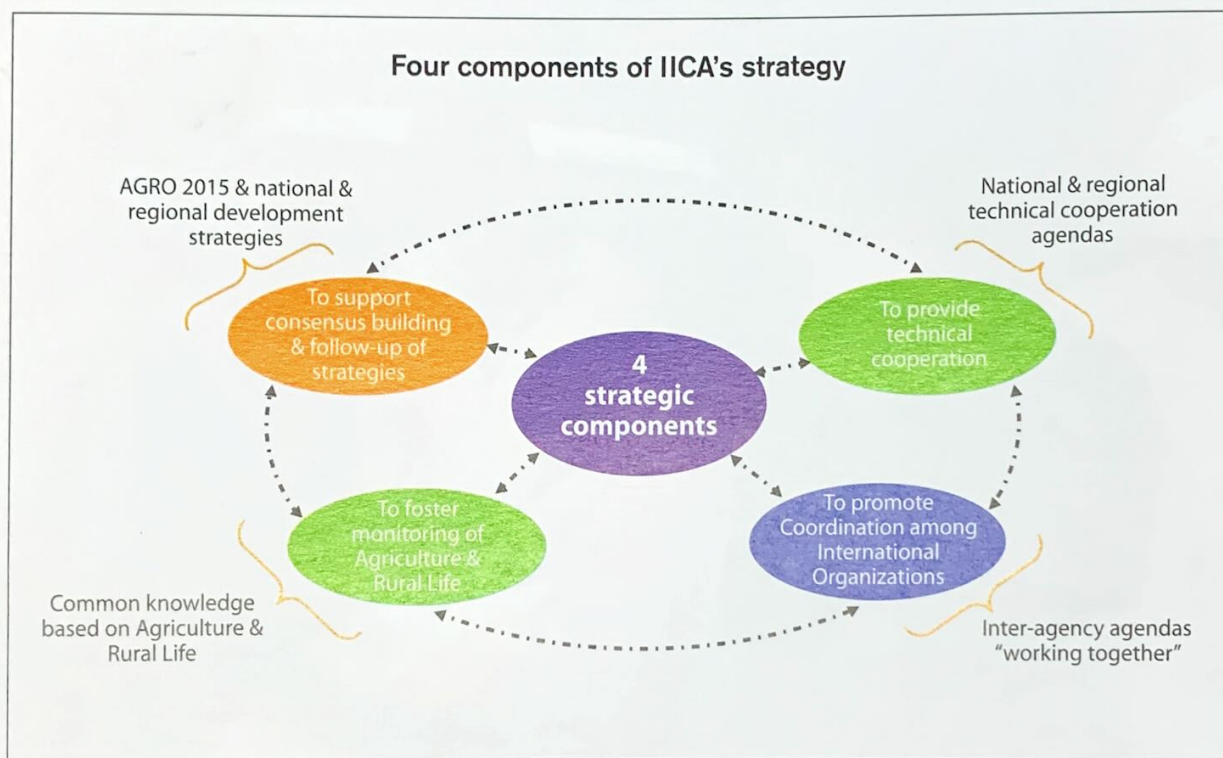
- Social and environmental responsibility
- Respect for cultural and ethnic diversity
- Partnerships to enhance impact
- Leadership through excellence
- Adherence to rules and regulations
 - Impartiality
 - Integrity
 - Professionalism
 - Flexibility
 - Discretion
 - Loyalty
 - Prudence
 - Responsibility
- Efficiency, transparency and financial prudence
- Interdisciplinary approaches
- Teamwork
- Excellence in performance
- Education as a basis for technical cooperation

V. Priorities for Strategic Action



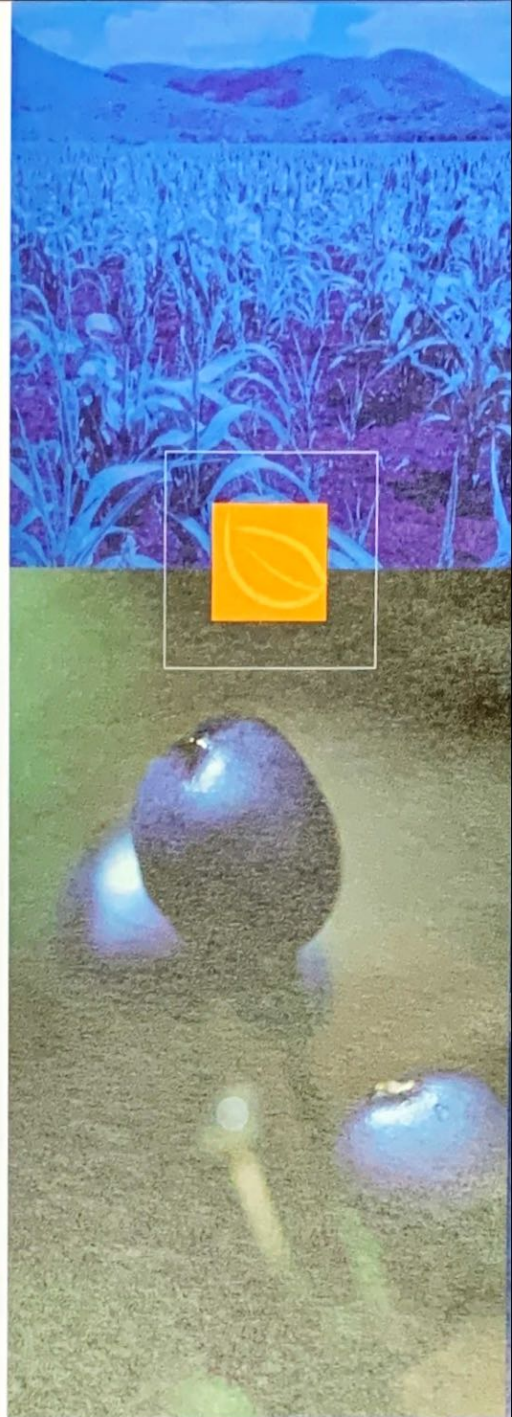
CONSOLIDATION OF THE MODEL FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

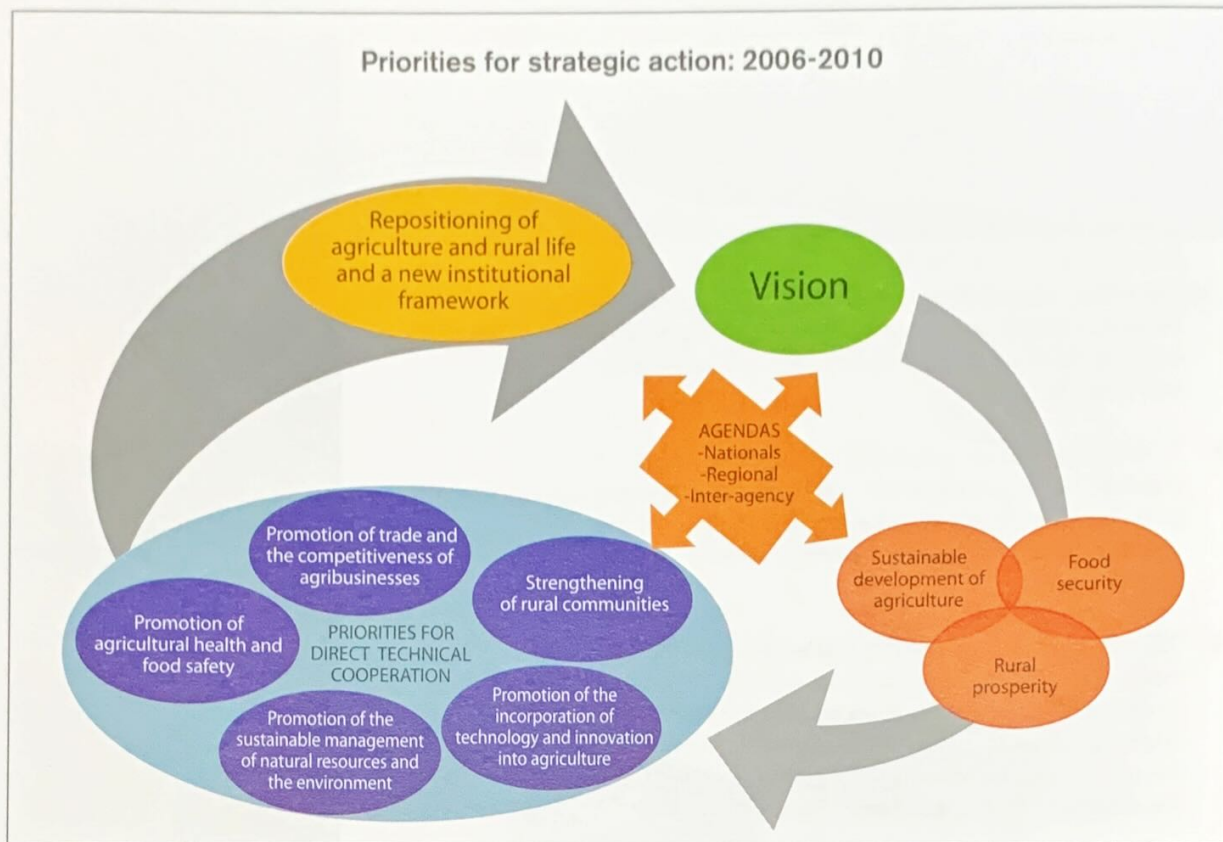
IICA will consolidate the model for technical cooperation implemented from 2002-2006, which is based on four components that are interrelated and that complement one another.



- 1.** To facilitate consensus on and the monitoring of national and regional strategies, as well as the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.
- 2.** To encourage the ongoing monitoring of agriculture and rural life in order to generate a common knowledge base, with a view to updating the agendas, defining national and regional strategies and providing input for decision making by the actors of agriculture and rural life.
- 3.** To promote greater coordination between and among international organizations in order to enable them to provide more effective responses to the needs of the countries and articulate their actions via inter-agency agendas.
- 4.** To provide technical cooperation services on the basis of the national and regional agendas, in order to implement the general guidelines and the hemispheric strategy set forth in the MTP, taking into consideration the specific characteristics of the Member States and the different regions into which they are grouped.

In pursuing its vision, IICA defines the strategic priorities (core business) on which it will focus its resources to modernize institutions, formulate and implement public policies, foster technological innovation, enhance the capabilities of actors, develop information systems and systems for the dissemination of knowledge, promote investments and facilitate access to existing knowledge and successful experiences in other countries.





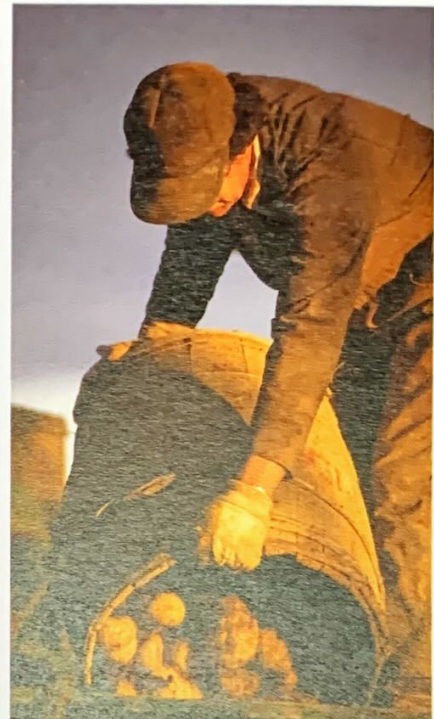
The priorities for strategic action are grouped around a hemisphere-wide policy priority, which seeks not only to reposition agriculture, but also to contribute to renewing its institutional framework. To achieve this ambitious objective, five other priorities for technical cooperation have been established in which Institutional actions will be established that will define the Institute's sphere of action.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE REPOSITIONING OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE AND TO A NEW INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

This first priority includes a number of technical activities that are important from a political standpoint and that have a hemisphere-wide projection. They will be focused on topics related to the specific mandates from the Summit of the Americas process, the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and requests from other hemispheric forums involved in agriculture and rural life.

This priority is established in response to a study that showed an erroneous perception of the importance of agriculture and the underestimation of its contributions to development, both of which lead to the assignment of low political priority and limited budgets to the sector. What is needed, therefore, is an expanded vision of agriculture and a reaffirmation of its strategic importance and its many roles.

To contribute to the repositioning of agriculture and the renewal of its institutional framework, IICA will support public and private actors in the community of agriculture and rural life in the Americas by generating and disseminating information for decision making, and supporting the development of a platform for hemispheric cooperation, through the following actions:



- The monitoring of agriculture and rural life in the Americas
- Studies on the true contribution of agriculture and rural life
- Support for hemispheric integration processes
- The promotion of forums for strategic thinking on key issues
- Support for reforms by the ministries of agriculture and the formulation of State policies
- Support for the development and implementation of national and regional programs and plans in support of the sustainable development of agriculture
- Development of a common knowledge base
- Promotion of inter-agency technical cooperation actions
- Promotion of horizontal cooperation
- The continuation of the ministerial process and its linkage to the Summit of the Americas process

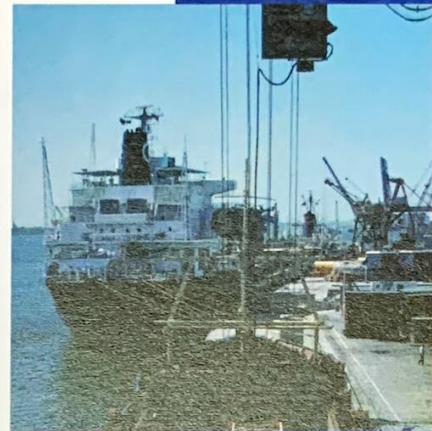


PROMOTING TRADE AND THE COMPETITIVENESS OF AGRIBUSINESSES

It is necessary to take advantage of the opportunities afforded by globalization and the opening of new and larger markets, the deepening of regional integration processes and economic complementarity; to tackle the challenges posed by the suspension of the trade preferences granted by the more developed countries; and to address the increasing demands of consumers, changes in agrifood chains and the limited competitiveness of small farmers.

IICA will support the countries' efforts to take advantage of these opportunities and face those challenges and, to this end, will assist in:

- Supporting development of the capabilities needed to formulate trade policies, participate in negotiations and analyze impacts;
- Monitoring progress in agricultural trade negotiations;
- Supporting the development of business management skills and promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses;
- Identifying market opportunities and providing information for making trade-related decisions;
- Strengthening the public and private institutional framework associated with the development of agribusinesses; and
- Strengthening IICA's technical capability to cooperate in the development of competitive agribusinesses.





PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES BASED ON A TERRITORIAL APPROACH



High levels of poverty in rural areas, growing inequality, a lack of opportunity for decent work in rural areas, the limited competitiveness of small and medium scale farmers, the disjuncture between them and the rest of the economy, and between rural areas and the modern economy, and the need to tap the linkages between agriculture and other sectors of the rural economy, provide the frame of reference for IICA to prioritize its efforts aimed at developing rural communities.

The Institute will support the countries in the formulation of development strategies that focus on rural territories and promote prosperity in their communities through the generation of jobs and income and the reduction of the gap between rural and urban areas. To this end, actions will focus on improving policies, institutions and capabilities in the following areas:

- the management of rural territories,
- the consolidation of family agriculture,
- the promotion of opportunities for rural women and youths to participate in development, and
- knowledge management for rural development.

PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY



Thanks to increased trade, both sanitary risks and concerns over diseases that can have a great impact on health and economies have grown. For their part, consumers are becoming more demanding in terms of the quality and safety of food. Given the above, regulations in those areas and in agricultural health have increased, which the agricultural health and food safety systems of the region are less than prepared to comply with.

IICA will attach priority to the development of capabilities in agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) in its Member States and to the modernization of their AHFS systems, for the purpose of improving their sanitary and phytosanitary status, contributing to the competitiveness of the agricultural and rural sectors and promoting agrifood trade. To this end, it will carry out technical cooperation actions aimed at:

- the modernization of public agricultural health and food safety services,
- the development of capabilities for the implementation and administration of agreements on sanitary and phytosanitary measures,
- the development of capabilities to address emerging issues and emergencies, and
- the promotion of food safety

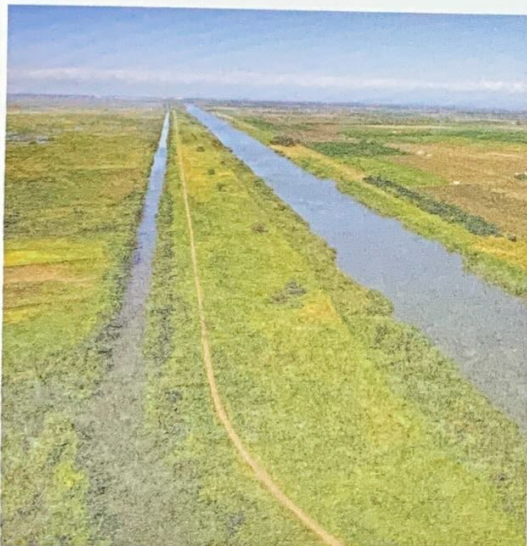
PROMOTING THE SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND THE ENVIRONMENT



Climate change and its repercussions are having an increasingly negative impact on agriculture and rural territories. Deforestation, desertification and other negative effects generated by human action seriously hinder the sustainable development of agriculture and rural territories. On the other hand, opportunities have emerged for the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, such as the creation of market niches and the development of a market for environmental services. Nonetheless, efforts are needed to link agriculture, the environment and rural life and, in this way achieve a level of sustainable management that will generate new alternatives for agribusiness and agro-tourism.

IICA will support the efforts of the member countries to undertake an institutional transformation process that will promote the sustainable management of the environment and natural resources and, as a result, the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu. To this end, it will carry out actions aimed at:

- linking agriculture, trade and the environment,
- promoting the integrated management of natural resources for agricultural and rural development,
- reducing the impact of global environmental changes on agrifood systems, and
- encouraging the adoption of good environmental management practices in the agricultural and rural sectors.

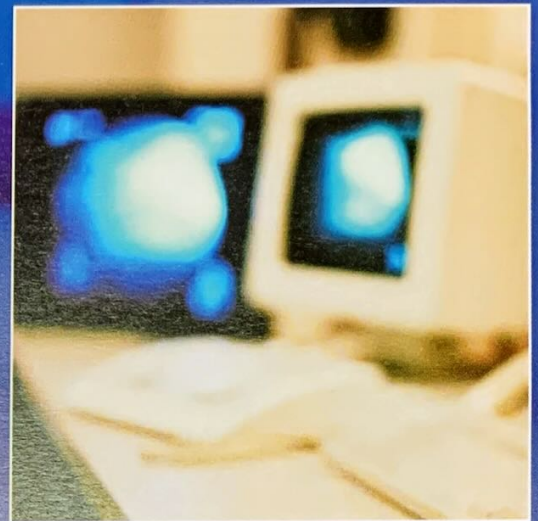


PROMOTING THE INTRODUCTION OF TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Technology and innovation are key to making agriculture competitive today. Nonetheless, a majority of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean invest little in science and technology, and most of their agroindustrial processes fall short in terms of productivity when compared with the standard worldwide. At the same time, the importance of using new technologies such as biotechnology and information and communication technologies has increased, as has the use of new production processes such as agro-energy in agriculture.

IICA will support the efforts of its member countries to modernize agriculture and boost its contribution to economic, social and environmental development, through the promotion of technological and institutional innovation policies and processes that will promote and facilitate the incorporation of new knowledge and technologies into agricultural production chains. To this end, it will focus its technical cooperation on:

- a prospective vision of technology and innovation as they apply to agriculture,
- support for institutional modernization and the design of policies for the development and incorporation of technological innovations,
- the strengthening of the hemispheric system for cooperation among countries in technological innovation for agriculture, and of its linkage to the international research system,
- promotion of the management of information in support of technological innovation processes,
- biotechnology and biosafety, and
- promotion of horizontal cooperation in agro-energy and bio-fuels



DEVELOPMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES: CHANNELING KNOWLEDGE TO STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



In order to implement its strategic priorities, IICA is in the process of determining the areas of specialization on which it will focus its capabilities. Although IICA does not have sufficient resources to address each of the areas of specialization in depth, it will promote the generation, sharing and management of knowledge through inter-agency cooperation, partnerships between the public and private sectors and inter-sectoral cooperation. In this way, IICA will make knowledge available on each of these subjects, regardless of where it is located.

One of the key areas of specialization for implementing the strategic priorities is the development of human resources. IICA will consolidate efforts already made in this field by implementing a project that will contribute to human resource development in each of the Institute's strategic priorities. The Education and Training Unit will support the technical cooperation team in two areas: developing leaders and providing training.

VI. Priorities of the Regional and National Technical Cooperation Agendas



IICA carries out technical cooperation actions on the basis of regional and national agendas.

The regional agendas support and add value to the actions of the national agendas, and at the same time, include regional-scope activities aimed at addressing the problems and challenges common to a group of countries. Furthermore, through these agendas, the Institute continues to support integration processes under way in the various regions of the Americas.

In developing these agendas, the Institute takes into consideration the regional needs and priorities established by the regional councils of ministers of agriculture in the hemisphere, such as the Alliance for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean, the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of the Andean Community of Nations, the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of Central America (CAC-CORECA), the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) and the Tri-national Council of the Northern Region.

As in the case of the national agendas, the Institute has developed a mechanism for updating the regional agendas and incorporating any new demands that may arise.

The national agendas provide the foundation for defining the activities the Institute carries out at the national level. Since they are developed and updated with the public national authorities, academic sector, civil society and the private sectors, the national agendas bring the action of the Institute more in line with the needs of the actors of the community of agriculture and rural life in the countries of the Americas.





VII. Expected Results

As a result of the implementation of the actions defined in each of the strategic priorities, the Institute will have major accomplishments both internally and externally.

INTERNALLY

In 2006-2010, the institutional structure will have been modified, making it possible for IICA to:

- Consolidate the existing horizontal institutional arrangement, making it more flexible and simplifying functions, thus strengthening technical coordination for thinking and strategic action, improving coordination among national, regional and hemispheric initiatives, and strengthening teamwork within units and networks to generate the expected results and accomplish the Institute's mission.
- Strengthen the performance management and evaluation systems.
- Have an integrated information management system based on the use of ICTs, resulting in greater efficiency and lower costs.
- Make knowledge management a part of IICA's institutional culture, in order to promote IICA as a knowledge-based and capacity-building institution.
- Project itself as an institute that is transparent and reports on its operations at the national, regional and hemispheric levels.
- Consolidate the IICA Offices in the countries as information, technology and training centers.
- Have human resources who are trained and ready to meet the new challenges of the 21st century



EXTERNALLY

- The Institute has responded to regional priorities while continuing to be a hemispheric entity.
- Relations with the Member States have been strengthened by developing new national and regional agendas keyed to their priorities.
- Relations with strategic partners have been strengthened at the national, regional and hemispheric levels.
- Horizontal technical cooperation and the sharing of experiences among the countries have been promoted.
- A mechanism has been developed to enable IICA to benefit from the experience and advice of leading professionals in the hemisphere who can provide technical guidance and assist in the analysis of the Institute's programs and activities.



RESULTS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

Priority: Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life and to a new institutional framework

Expected results

- The Member States have more information on which to base their efforts to reposition agriculture and rural life on their development agendas. Furthermore, efforts have been made to promote and support the development, application and analysis of indicators that measure performance against objectives and key targets in priority issues in the area of sustainable agricultural and rural life, at the country, regional and hemispheric levels.
- The Member States have access to a platform for hemispheric cooperation, making it possible for them to share a common knowledge base on agriculture and rural life, provide agricultural leaders with support in complying with the ministerial agreements and set up a technical cooperation network for addressing critical hemispheric issues and promoting cooperation among countries.



Priority: Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses

Expected results

- The Member States have technical personnel trained to participate successfully in trade negotiations and to implement and monitor the trade agreements signed by each country.
- Instruments have been validated for assessing the impact, on the agricultural and rural sectors, of policy measures proposed by the Member States and of trade agreements.
- The Member States have methodologies and instruments for assessing and monitoring progress in the various trade negotiations in which they are engaged.
- Agribusiness operators in IICA's member countries have instruments for improving their capabilities to participate in global markets.
- Agribusiness operators have mechanisms for identifying market opportunities, and information needed for decision making related to trade.
- The public and private institutional framework associated with developing and promoting agribusiness has been strengthened.
- IICA has a team of professionals working on the development of agribusinesses who have adopted a comprehensive and multidisciplinary vision.



Priority: Promoting the development of rural communities based on a territorial approach

Expected results

- Efficient institutional mechanisms for managing rural territories at the national, regional and local levels have been established and are operational, with the benefit of ad-hoc development projects and properly trained human resources
- Family agriculture is in a better position to establish linkages with national and international agricultural production-trade chains and share in the benefits of trade opening and alternative marketing mechanisms.
- Mechanisms to promote opportunities for rural women and youths to participate in development have been developed in several countries.
- Knowledge on and instruments for the management of rural development policies, programs and projects have been developed and disseminated among Institute staff, decision makers, officials in public and private institutions, and others interested in the development of agriculture and the rural milieu.



Priority: Promoting agricultural health and food safety

Expected results

- It has been possible to improve public-private coordination through the formulation of a shared agenda for strengthening public AHFS services, at the overall (all AHFS services), sectoral (animal and plant health and food safety) and agricultural chain levels.
- The countries have improved their institutions associated with sanitary and phytosanitary measures, enabling them to bring their AHFS services more in line with international standards
- Inter-agency and inter-sectoral coordination has been strengthened, making it possible to take advantage of opportunities opened up by the multilateral trade system.
- The countries have improved their institutional, technical and human capabilities to face emerging situations and handle emergencies related to AHFS.
- Individual and institutional capabilities in the area of food safety have been improved from the technical, human and institutional points of view.
- The countries are better prepared to participate in and make better use of international forums.
- Human resources in the countries have been strengthened both in technical terms and in terms of their capacity to provide leadership in conducting transformation processes in the field of food safety.



Priority: Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

Expected results

- The institutions of the sector are better able to consider in their policies and projects the development opportunities generated by the interaction among agriculture, the environment and trade.
- The Institute and member countries are more capable of incorporating integrated resource management into agricultural and rural development initiatives.
- Institutions responsible for formulating agricultural and rural development policies have internalized the importance of global environmental changes and their impact.
- Rural producers have access to information that will enable them to make their production processes more environmentally friendly.



Priority: Promoting the introduction of technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural development

Expected results

- The countries have strategic information on advances in technology and innovation, in support of the design of policies and decision making intended to promote technological change in agriculture.
- The member countries have been provided with guidelines for their institutional innovation processes and for the design of technological policies based on their needs.
- A hemispheric program for institutional innovation is available and is aimed at facilitating reciprocal cooperation among regions and countries in that field.
- The hemispheric technological innovation system has been consolidated and is operational. The member regional and subregional mechanisms participate in the analysis of and discussions on agriculture from the perspective of technology, and fund and/or execute regional research and technology innovation projects, including training in priority areas.
- The management of technological information has been incorporated into the design of policies for research and innovation and in institutional transformation efforts in these areas.
- The countries of the region have access to a scientific and technological information system which is linked to the global research system.
- A system with objective and scientific information on biotechnology and biosafety has been developed and is updated on a regular basis; knowledge in the field is analyzed; and annual informational bulletins are distributed.
- Regional needs in biotechnology and biosafety have been identified, strategic projects developed and funded and regional initiatives implemented.

- Regional networks have been developed to give direction to, coordinate and monitor regional biotechnology strategies.
- Regulatory frameworks and policies in biotechnology and biosafety that take into account both existing models and international agreements and negotiations have been identified and developed; and a system for follow-up of meetings to assess the level of compliance with said agreements (such as CPB) has been created.
- Studies on the risks and benefits of agro-biotechnology have been documented, and strategies developed and implemented to share relevant information with the public.
- Human and institutional capabilities identified during the assessment of regional needs in biotechnology and biosafety, and the transfer of technology in intellectual property rights, have been improved.
- A strategy for managing knowledge in biotechnology and biosafety has been developed, including studies, strategic forums and technical meetings on product safety and quality as they relate to trade.
- The Member States have a hemispheric program for horizontal technical cooperation in agro-energy and bio-fuels.
- Countries in the region are tapping the knowledge and experiences of other countries to develop their own strategies for developing alternative sources of energy based on agriculture.



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