



Ministry of Agriculture
Jamaica

Hemispheric Ministerial Process

On the road to
Jamaica 2009

*Building Capacity for
Enhancing Food Security and
Rural Life in the Americas*



Jamaica 2009
Agriculture and Rural Life
of the Americas

*Ministerial Meetings "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas"
held within the context of the Summits of the Americas Process*

On the road to *Jamaica 2009*

*“Building Capacity for
Enhancing Food Security and
Rural Life in the Americas”*

Ministerial Process 2008–2009,
an effort of 34 countries guided
by the *Shared Vision 2015* of the
*AGRO 2003–2015 Plan for Agriculture
and Rural Life in the Americas*





Hemispheric Ministerial Process 2008-2009 Selected strategic actions

REPOSITIONING OF RURAL ISSUES IN NATIONAL STRATEGIES

To participate proactively in the repositioning of agriculture and rural issues and priorities in national strategies by promoting in society an increased understanding of the contributions made by the rural sector, a rural-urban balance in the national development agenda and efforts to overcome biases and exclusions that are detrimental to rural communities.

REASSESSMENT OF THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU

To promote efforts to reassess the value of agriculture and the rural milieu by helping to address strategic and emerging development issues, promoting urban-rural integration, taking into consideration social, political, economic, ecological and cultural factors, reporting on the multidimensional contributions made by the rural sector to national development.

AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN
Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Guatemala 2007
for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

Fourth Ministerial Meeting
La Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, July 2007

FOREWORD

The agricultural sector plays a pivotal role in the lives of people in the Americas, providing food as well as employment for the population and constituting the base of our agro industry. In the Caribbean, it is this sector that must also feed the millions of tourists that visit our shores. In Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), some 22,4% of the population resides in rural communities, compared to 50,8% in the rest of the world. This underlines the fact that our region has a higher level of urbanization than the rest of the world, and emphasizes the need for the modernization of agriculture through capacity building, to attain higher levels of productivity, since only a quarter of the population has the responsibility to feed the entire hemisphere.

Agriculture's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in Latin America and the Caribbean in 2007 was 5,2%, and the sector employed 19% of the population. This mismatch between the contribution of the sector to GDP and the percentage of the labour force it employs speaks to the relatively low level of productivity and translates into lower levels of income in the agricultural sector compared to the rest of the economy. Although the scenario in LAC is somewhat better than the average situation in the world, where agricultural GDP is 4% and the sector employs 35% of the labour force, this is no cause for complacency.

The fact is we underestimate the value of the sector when we evaluate its worth and contribution solely in terms of GDP contribution. When the various linkages between agriculture



and the other sectors of the economy are properly evaluated, agriculture becomes more than food on the table.

Research has shown that growth in the overall economy is driven largely by growth in the agricultural sector because, when this sector grows, it reverberates throughout the economy. On average, a \$1,00 increase in agricultural production generates \$2,32 of growth in the overall economy. This is because increases in agricultural income and production lead to higher demand for consumer goods as well as for agricultural supplies and services. It is also the case that growth in agricultural production generates employment in processing, distribution and storage activities, in order to handle increased production volume.

The positive multiplier effect of growth in this sector must be harnessed through modernization in order to gain stronger economies in LAC, and improve rural livelihoods. The current world food prices should also give the region additional impetus to build local capacity in order to produce more of the food we consume. This is an imperative, not only from the standpoint of our farmers benefiting from increased prices for their products, but also to reverse the high levels of poverty that characterize rural communities in LAC.

There is therefore an urgent call for the region to deliberately put in place appropriate measures to build local capacity in the agricultural sector to enhance production and productivity in order to increase food security and incomes in the rural areas. In this regard, for the 2008–2009 Ministerial process and the Fifth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, we are emphasizing the theme “*Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas*”.

This process builds on the two (2) strategic orientations emphasized in the Fourth Ministerial Meeting held in Guatemala in 2007:

- to promote with the agricultural stakeholders a broad based approach to thinking and acting in agriculture and the rural milieu and,

- “Working together” to improve agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

These two strategic orientations, increasingly adopted by the actors of agriculture and rural life in the Americas, offer a promising way to create a renewed partnership and a national commitment to the sustainable development of agriculture and rural milieu, and their reappraisal.

The commitment made by our colleagues and predecessors for the last 8 years at the Ministerial Process has also been supported, reflected and mandated by the Heads of State and Government within the context of the Summit of the Americas process when they acknowledged the fundamental importance of agriculture and rural life for the development of countries, and pledged to undertake actions aimed at bringing about improvements in both.

This finds its expression in the *AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life*, which is the centerpiece of the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.”

The Ministerial Process is a hemispheric effort focusing on dialogue, consensus building and commitment, and encompassing a number of objectives and strategic actions the goal of which is the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

The Ministerial Meeting is the highest level political forum, within this Process, and the highest level body for reaching agreement by consensus, in response to the commitments assumed by the Heads of State and Government in the context of the Summit of the Americas process.

Following the Ministerial Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) will hold its XV Regular Meeting. The IABA is the highest governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), an inter-american



organization that acts as Secretariat of the Ministerial Process. In this governing body, the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas establish the strategic guidelines needed to ensure that IICA's activities support the countries' efforts to implement the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements adopted at the Ministerial Meetings "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas".

The Government of Jamaica is therefore pleased and honoured to host these important events and would like to extend a cordial invitation to all its partners and friends in this process to renew and reenergize their commitment to work together, with a wide view of agriculture and rural life, for the reappraising of rural milieus and the reenergizing of our rural economies.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Tufton", followed by a horizontal line.

Dr. The Honourable Christopher Tufton
Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica

JAMAICA WILL HOST IN 2009 THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL MEETING “AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS”

With “**Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas**” as our motto, we are making progress with the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.” A key point in the process will be reached during the last week of October 2009, in the city of Montego Bay, Jamaica when the Fifth Ministerial Meeting will take place.

That Meeting will mark the culmination of the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process, with the participants focusing on the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, reaching new agreements and reaffirming the continuity of the process.

As a result, the expected **Results** of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting will be:

- The adoption of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009, with the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda for the implementation of the AGRO Plan.
- A more thorough understanding of the strategic importance of agriculture and the rural milieu for the sustainable development of the Americas, as the basis for making new decisions regarding implementation of the AGRO Plan.



- A renewed commitment on the part of the countries to promote the development and implementation of the information system for following up on and evaluating the AGRO Plan and its regional strategies.
- The strengthening of international cooperation within the framework of the AGRO Plan.

The current Ministerial Process focuses on the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting (Guatemala 2007), which emphasizes two strategic orientations:

- “to promote with the agricultural stakeholders a broad based approach to thinking and acting in agriculture and the rural milieu.”
- “working together” (agricultural and non agricultural stakeholders) to improve agriculture and rural life in the Americas.”

Jamaica as host of the Meeting is a key player for the Ministerial Process. Jamaica will strive, as Chair of the 2009 GRICA (the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates) and the Ministerial Meeting to make our motto a reality.

In order to achieve the aforementioned **Results**, it is necessary to carry out the following **actions**:

- a) Continue the **dissemination** of the AGRO Plan, as updated with the Ministerial Agreement of Guatemala.
- b) Continue the **implementation** of the Ministerial Agreement of Guatemala 2007, specifically the strategic guidelines for the 2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda and those related to its Implementation and Follow-up component.

- c) Preparing in each country a **national progress report** on the implementation of 2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda.
- d) Continuing the dialogue, headed by the Ministers and their Delegates to the GRICA 2009, on **strategic topics** for the improvement of agriculture and rural life.
- e) Identifying the principal challenges inherent to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, and of progress toward the Shared Vision 2015 of the AGRO Plan.
- f) Update the AGRO Plan with **strategic actions** for the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda.
- g) Continuing updating and the implementation of the information system for following up on and evaluating the AGRO Plan, and its regional strategies.
- h) Strengthening **joint actions and horizontal cooperation** between countries.



KEY PLAYERS IN THE 2008-2009 MINISTERIAL PROCESS

The key players in the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process and its Fifth Ministerial Meeting are the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture and their Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life. They are called upon to lead the national dialogue in each country, the goal of which is to prepare, based on the **challenges** faced in implementing the AGRO Plan, the national proposals on **strategic actions** for updating the Plan.

JAMAICA

Since Jamaica will be hosting the Fifth Ministerial Meeting in 2009, the country's Ministry of Agriculture will be responsible for:

- Chairing the Fifth Ministerial Meeting.
- Conducting the Ministerial Process and chairing the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates (2009 GRICA).
- Organizing and holding, with IICA, the Fifth Ministerial Meeting "Agriculture and Rural Life" and the XV Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- Promoting the positioning of agriculture and rural life in the Summits of Americas Process (which next Summit is going to be held in Trinidad and Tobago, April 2009).



GUATEMALA

Since Guatemala hosted the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, Guatemala 2007, its Ministry of Agriculture will serve as the Joint Chair of the 2009 GRICA and assist Jamaica in conducting the Ministerial Process until 2009.

THE MINISTERIAL DELEGATES

Based on the experience acquired with the previous ministerial processes, the role of the Ministerial Delegates in the 34 countries is crucial in the conduct of the current process. They are responsible for the following:

- Seeing to the implementation and follow-up of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements entrusted to them by the ministers at their previous ministerial meeting;
- Coordinating with their foreign ministries the circulation of information on the mandates on agriculture and rural life of the Summits and follow-up of those mandates;
- Leading the dialogue and building national consensus on national proposals for updating the AGRO Plan.
- Participating in the virtual dialogue and the meetings of GRICA 2009, while seeking to build hemispheric consensus on the agreements of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting.

A key element required for the success of the Ministerial Process is the leadership of the Ministerial Delegates in the

dialogue with other development stakeholders and the close collaboration with the National Summit Coordinators of the respective ministries of foreign affairs.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

An institutional partner in the Summits of the Americas process since the Quebec Summit, held in 2001. Since then, it has served as Technical Secretariat of the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.”

Its contribution is aimed at facilitating the continuation of the Ministerial Process and its linkage to the Summit of the Americas process. It plays an important role in facilitating agreement on the monitoring and adjusting of the national and regional strategies and the AGRO Plan. Through its Offices in the 34 Member States, its Directorates of Regional Operations and other units at Headquarters, it supports the national authorities of its Member States in the development of the Ministerial Process and in the implementation of the AGRO Plan.

IICA, through specialized units at Headquarters and its Office in Jamaica, will provide full support to the Jamaican authorities in all tasks related to its role as host country of the most important hemispheric event for agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

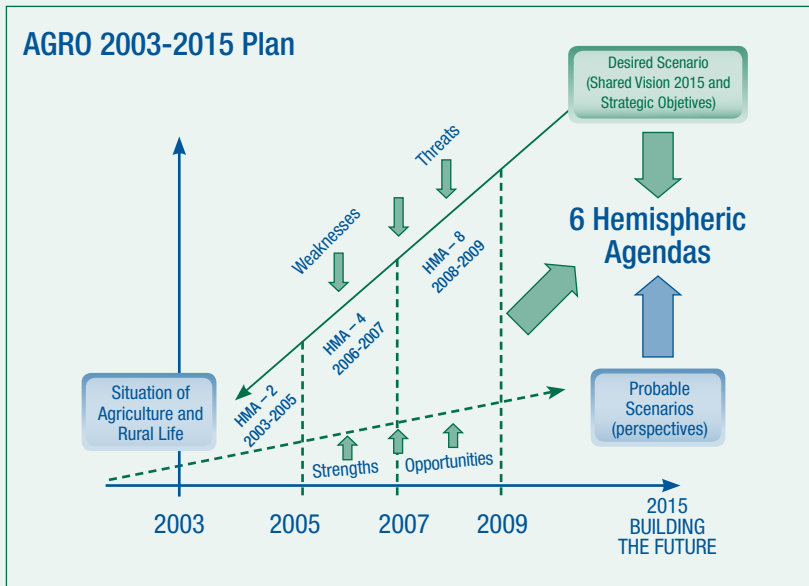
Also, IICA will continue cooperating with other International Organizations in assisting the countries to achieve the mandates from the Summits of the Americas.



WHAT IS THE AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN?

The AGRO 2003-2015 Plan is the shared long-term agenda for promoting the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

The Plan was adopted at the Second Ministerial Meeting (Panama 2003), following a broad-based process of dialogue and negotiation aimed at reaching consensus on national proposals, which were then submitted to the same process at the hemispheric level under the responsibility of the Ministers of Agriculture and their Ministerial Delegates.



AGRO PLAN 2003 – 2015

More than a ministerial document, the AGRO Plan is a continuing joint process for learning and consensus building, the adoption of commitments and the execution of strategic actions to move ahead towards the Shared Vision 2015 for agriculture and rural life in the Americas

The Plan provides a framework for bringing about the changes required to achieve the Shared Vision 2015, and is implemented and updated by the countries through the strategic actions contained in the biennial hemispheric agendas, and the measures for their implementation and follow-up negotiated by the GRICA and defined by the ministers in their Ministerial Meetings.

The AGRO Plan has been updated as a result of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements (HMAs) adopted at the Third and Fourth Ministerial Meetings (Guayaquil 2005 and Guatemala 2007).

WHAT IS THE AGRO-MATRIX AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

The AGRO-Matrix, used as the basis for preparing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, is a comprehensive conceptual framework for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu. It is one of the main outcomes of the Ministerial process. Two aspects need to be differentiated in the AGRO-Matrix.

They are:

- the two pillars of its structure; and
- the three components of the desired situation

The two pillars of its structure are a systemic concept of agriculture and rural life, broker down into three operational areas (rural territories, agricultural value chains and the national and international context) and a sustainable development approach consisting of four dimensions (production-trade, ecological-environmental, socio-cultural-human and political-institutional).






The three components of the desired situation needed to attain the Shared Vision 2015 are the twelve purposes, the seven strategic objectives and the overarching goal, the sustainable development of agriculture and rural milieu, which guide the strategies, policies and actions adopted.

In addition to the AGRO Plan, the design of the Information System for Monitoring and Evaluating the Plan is based on the AGRO-Matrix.



The AGRO-Matrix				
Systemic Concept	Rural Territories	Agricultural Production-Trade Chains	National and International Context	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
Sustainable development approach				
Production – Trade	I. Promoting competitive rural enterprises	II. Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness	III. Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture	→ Competitiveness
Ecological – Environmental	IV. Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas	V. From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management	VI. Participating in building an institutional environmental framework	→ Sustainability
Sociocultural - human	VII. Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity	VIII. Advancing learning and expertise in the chain	IX. Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities	→ Equity
Political - institutional	X. Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories	XI. Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain	XII. Promoting national policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life	→ Governance
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES				OVERARCHING GOAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL MILIEU

2001-2007 Hemispheric Ministerial Process

MAIN HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENTS (HMA) FOR THE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE OF THE AMERICAS

Ministerial Meeting	Results
<p>Fifth Ministerial JAMAICA 2009</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. HMA Jamaica 2009
<p>Fourth Ministerial Guatemala 2007</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. HMA Guatemala 2007 <p>The agreement comprises two parts: (i) the 2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda "Providing leadership for a holistic approach to agriculture and rural life," with 11 strategic actions that complement those adopted in the Ministerial Meetings held in 2003 (Panama) and 2005 (Guayaquil); and (ii) the section Implementation and Follow-up "Working together for agriculture and rural life in the Americas," which includes 6 measures with direct implications for the work in the countries and regions, as well as for the role of the international organizations and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Process. The Agreement of Guatemala 2007 focuses on how to build a renewed institutional framework for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, with the participation of the public, private and social sectors.</p>
<p>Third Ministerial Ecuador 2005</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. HMA Guayaquil 2005 <p>The Agreement reaffirms the ministers' commitment to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and updates it with complementary strategic actions for the 2006-2007 biennium, as well as implementation and follow-up measures. The Agreement places emphasis on the promotion of national policies for agriculture and rural life, and the strengthening of regional integration and international cooperation.</p>

continues

Ministerial Meeting	Results
<p data-bbox="187 241 313 293">Second Ministerial Panama 2003</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="399 241 949 609"> <p data-bbox="399 241 949 293">• AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas</p> <p data-bbox="431 302 949 609">The Ministers' decision to reach consensus on a shared hemispheric agenda, taken at the First Ministerial Meeting, prompted further dialogue and the development of the second HMA. The Ministers' determination was reflected in the Plan, in the following four complementary components: the Shared Vision 2015; the Strategic Objectives, to focus the efforts; Hemispheric Agenda, the strategic actions needed to achieve the objectives; and, the measures for Implementing and Following up on the Plan. The Ministers and their Delegates based the preparation of the Plan on a new and broader conception of agriculture and rural life, of great value in developing effective strategies for agriculture, which is summarized in the AGRO-Matrix.</p>
<p data-bbox="161 626 337 678">First Ministerial Dominican Republic 2001</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="399 626 949 887"> <p data-bbox="399 626 949 678">• Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas</p> <p data-bbox="431 687 949 887">In the Declaration, the Ministers of Agriculture pledged to promote joint action aimed at improving agriculture and rural life, as called for in the Plan of Action adopted at the Third Summit of the Americas. They stressed the importance of making progress with the efforts related to food security, rural poverty alleviation and the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, addressing together the issues of competitiveness, equity, environmental sustainability and democratic governance.</p>



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Secretariat
for the V-Summit of the Americas (V-SOA)
Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)

Towards the Fifth Summit of the Americas Trinidad and Tobago 2009

“Without a doubt, hemispheric meetings on key issues such as agriculture and rural life play a critical role in refining the focus and sustaining the momentum of the Summits of the Americas process. The National Secretariat for the Fifth Summit of the Americas recognizes the importance of Ministerial Meetings as an institutional mechanism for addressing strategic topics on the Inter-American agenda and coordinating the implementation of mandates agreed to by the Heads of State and Government. Over the past six years, the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life have served not only as the highest political forum for Ministers of Agriculture to discuss priorities and strategic actions but also as the main avenue for placing agriculture and rural life squarely on the Hemispheric agenda.”

Closing ceremony of Fourth Ministerial Meeting
“Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”
La Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala, 2007

Ambassador Luis Alberto Rodriguez, Trinidad and Tobago
Chairperson of the Summit Implementation Review Group
and Fifth Summit of the Americas National Secretariat Coordinator





Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”
held within the context of the Summits of the Americas Process



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
Secretariat of Ministerial Meetings
“Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”
www.iica.int/cumbres