

# IICA



# NEWS

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\* **Inter-American Agricultural Agenda Drafted**

\* **Central Regional Center Inaugurated**

\* **International Symposium Examines Challenges for Hemispheric Integration**



To take a new look at the agricultural sector, refitting it as the engine of development and socioeconomic growth in the Americas: this is one of the vital challenges awaiting the ministers of agriculture or their representatives, from throughout the hemisphere, during the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), to take place in San Jose, Costa Rica in September.

## 3 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Institute Progress Reviewed

## 4 AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT

Agriculture to Take the Lead  
in Hemispheric Dialogue

## 8 CENTRAL AMERICA

IICA Opens  
Central Regional  
Center



## 10 INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Institutions Identify  
Requirements for Trade  
Integration in the Hemisphere

## 16 SYSTEMIC AGRICULTURE A Holistic Approach

## 20 IICA-IFAD

Regional Program for  
Project Evaluation

## 23 DROUGHT

Ministers of Central America  
Launch  
Drought  
Preparedness



## 25

VENEZUELA  
Agrarian  
Reform  
Revitalized



## 26 HEADQUARTERS

IICA Welcomes Wew Deputy  
Director General

# IICA NEWS



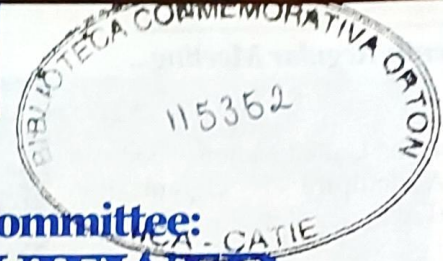
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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts of its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 33 Member States and 17 Permanent Observers.

## SECTIONS

FOCUS.....	3
CLOSE-UP.....	10
STRATEGIC ALLIANCES.....	19
COUNTRIES IN ACTION.....	23
HEADQUARTERS.....	26
PUBLICATIONS.....	27
IICA IN THE NEWS.....	28
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES.....	28



## Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee: INSTITUTE PROGRESS REVIEWED

IICA's Executive Committee held its Fifteenth Regular Meeting at IICA headquarters last June 19 through 20, with delegates from 12 nations of the Americas in attendance, along with representatives of the permanent observers. One of the Committee's most important tasks was to draft an agenda for the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), scheduled for next September.

This year's Executive Committee was made up of the ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, from Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Haiti, Guyana, Panamá, Perú Suriname and Venezuela. They elected the Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Oscar Campos, to preside over their deliberations (see separate story).

In his opening address to the Committee, the Director General of IICA, Carlos E. Aquino, outlined the issues that agricultural sector leaders would be discussing during the IABA meeting, and stressed the urgent need to articulate a comprehensive strategy for raising the profile of agriculture and shaping a new mission, vision, values and goals for the sector (see separate story).

The Institute's chief executive named several additional items to be included in September's hemisphere-wide sectoral forum, including the design and implementation of consistent, dynamic macroeconomic policies, and integration across the hemisphere.

The delegates to the Executive Committee agreed with Aquino that a consensus among ministers was of

paramount importance, in view of the move to reposition agriculture as part of the globalization of economies and opening of trade (see separate story). In this connection, the representative of Chile, Juan Luis Marambio, proposed that the hemisphere's ministers of agriculture consider including small-scale agricultural enterprises in the integration process, an issue that will be addressed in a round-table discussion during the IABA meeting.

He also emphasized that the programs had been transformed into Areas of Concentration and Specialized Services, Regional Centers had been created, and the Technical Cooperation Agencies (TCA's) were being strengthened.

He went on to explain the participatory management approach and showed how IICA was building sturdier ties between its own staff and representatives of the public and private sectors.



*The Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Oscar Campos, receives his gavel from the Director General of IICA, Carlos E. Aquino, as a visible symbol of his role as Chairman of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.*

One of the key administrative measures he discussed was decentralization, under which the TCA's have received more decision-making authority and are now better able to supply technical cooperation.

Aquino then reported on the financial situation, describing measures already taken to improve cash-flow management, accounting procedures and auditing. He also pointed out that a special effort had been made to provide additional training for accounting staff.

ing for accounting staff.

### INSTITUTE PROGRESS

In its working sessions, the Committee received and approved a report on administrative, financial and program measures taken by the current administration as part of the process of implementing the 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan (MTP).

Aquino himself introduced the report, describing administrative measures being taken, most notably an internal reorganization that would equip the Institute's structure to respond to strategic guidelines given in the MTP.

Susan Mills, head of the Canadian delegation, later commented on the report, noting, "This clearly reveals a new conception of IICA, attuned to the needs of the countries." She also expressed her country's interest in building stronger relations with the hemispheric community, more as a partner than as a donor.

The delegate from the United States, John A. Miranda, expressed his satisfaction with steps the Institute had taken toward consolidating strategic alliances with multilateral bodies such

as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

As part of the approval process for the 1996-1997 Program Budget, the Committee accepted an offer by the Director General to draft three alternative budget proposals prior to the Eighth Regular Meeting of the IABA, based on comments made by the Member States.

The first scenario would be a budget with zero nominal percentage growth in quotas. The second option calls for a 10 per-



*The Delegate from Venezuela, Pablo G. Quevedo, presents a check to the Director General, Carlos E. Aquino, in the amount of US\$275,000, in partial payment of his country's annual quota assessment.*

cent reduction of quota contributions in 1996 and again in 1997. The administration's own proposal entails a three-percent quota increase each year.

Despite resource constraints, Aquino called on the Member States to continue giving preference to technical cooperation, always keeping it flexible, decentralized and participatory.

## **AGRICULTURE TO TAKE THE LEAD IN HEMISPHERIC DIALOGUE**

Pushed to one side of the agenda in recent regional and world-wide meetings at the highest political levels, agriculture will take its rightful place this September as the central topic of a broad-based dialogue. Leaders of the hemisphere's agricultural sector will meet in Costa Rica from September 17 to 20 to examine challenges and opportunities facing the sector as this century moves into its final years, and a new millennium is ushered in.

This was a consensus among the delegates of the 12 countries of the Americas sitting on the 1995 Executive Committee, as they finalized details for the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

The representatives of Belize, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Guyana, Haiti, Panama, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela agreed that this sectoral summit meeting will provide a unique opportunity to situate agriculture at the very top of the new agenda for hemispheric dialogue.

### **THE AGENDA**

In the view of IICA's Director General, one of the tasks that needs to figure on the agenda for this hemispheric meeting is to shape a comprehensive strategy for raising the profile of agriculture, setting forth the new mission, vision, values and goals of the sector.

A second task will be to design and carry out macroeconomic and sectoral policies that are consistent, dynamic and sustainable. The third task is to perform forward-looking analyses of the interaction between agriculture and the rest of the economy. Finally, ways must be found by which the modernization of agriculture can serve as the driving force for processes of external opening.

In this connection, he stressed new opportunities for the region's agriculture arising from the Uruguay Round of GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade). Most particularly, he noted that an additional agricultural market was emerging, worth between 35 and 65 billion dollars, one to two times the present level of total agricultural exports from Latin America and the Caribbean.

He cautioned, however, "The transformation of production for both domestic and foreign markets, the revitalization of agroindustrial processing and agricultural services, quality control systems, technology, animal health and plant protection, and intellectual property rights are key issues that require constant monitoring to make sure they are workable."

Another item on the agenda, explained, is hemispheric integration, and he listed a number of areas that require close attention, including harmonizing trade, macroeconomic and health policies and measures, and encouraging the joint development of comparative advantages and the exchange of information, expertise and experience with integration. He particularly mentioned the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Central American Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Andean Group and the Caribbean Economic Community (CARICOM).

He also mentioned product processing, competitiveness, and conservation of natural resources and the environment for productive purposes. He acknowledged that this is an on-going process in which agriculture, a critical component, has failed to make headway.

In his list of relevant issues, Aquino also included institution building, agroquality and growth (with quality understood as a total process embracing production, inputs, infrastructure, transportation, training and technical cooperation); relations with the developing agribusiness sector; sustainable development; and human resources.

### FRANK ANALYSIS

As Carlos E. Aquino, Director General of IICA, continued his progress report to the Executive Committee on preparations for the IABA, he stressed how important it was for the meeting to become a high-level forum where the ministers could enter into a frank discussion of the urgent need to reposition agriculture in the new setting.

For this purpose, he added, the Institute was encouraging discussion of such issues as advances and hurdles in the processes of integration and opening, relationships between the public and private sectors, the challenges facing agricultural businesses on the threshold of the twenty-first century, and an analysis of the holistic approach to agricultural systems.

### REPOSITIONING AGRICULTURE

In Aquino's opinion, it is particularly significant that the IABA will be restoring agriculture to its rightful position on the agenda of the hemispheric dialogue. In many countries of the continent, the sector has experienced an apparent, misleading decline in importance. Production has lagged, and agriculture has become paralyzed and unable to bring about the transformations it needs.



*One of the key concerns of the ministers of agriculture at their September summit meeting will be how to reposition agriculture, renew its relationships with other sectors such as health, education and industry, and make sure it is included in global discussion forums.*

In inaugurating the Executive Committee meeting, the Director General of IICA alerted delegates to this trend. As an example of the tendency to ignore or deny the importance of agriculture, he recalled that the agendas of the Summit of the Americas in Miami, Florida in December of the past year, and the Social Development Summit in Copenhagen had failed even to mention the sector.

In his view, if the region is unable to rise to this challenge and allows agriculture to continue its slow decline, it will have to pay a high political, social and generational price. If the sector fails to harness its huge potential, it will never contribute its full share to the global economy, social peace and the betterment of human life.

Therefore, Aquino felt that the dialogue to take place at the IABA would provide an excellent source of new ideas for exploiting the hemisphere's synergy; setting up networks and strategic alliances; encouraging exchange of information, experiences and know-how; and outlining possibilities for bringing producers into closer contact with consumers in the countries.

### MOMENTOUS ENCOUNTER

The delegates to the Executive Committee agreed with IICA's Director General that the meeting of ministers would be critical. Several, including the representatives of Chile, Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela, added a number of items they hoped to see included on the ministers' agenda.

Juan Luis Marambio of Chile proposed that the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere's countries also examine ways to include small-scale agricultural producers in the process of integration, saying:

"In Chile, where agriculture grows by around 6.8 percent per year, the sector is in a state of crisis. The last modernization process touched barely 30,000 of the 260,000 agricultural enterprises that needed attention. Altogether, these operations cover 40 percent of the country's territory and generate one third of our total agricultural output. Faced with the pressing need to build consensus and outline future actions, the government has now undertaken a process of equitable modernization."

Oscar Campos, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica and Chairman of the Executive

## Agriculture to take the lead...

Committee, warned that the IABA must not overlook specific issues such as training, harmonization of plant and animal health regulations, modernization of information systems, and the environment, which are prerequisites and an essential part of reaching consensus on broader issues such as integration.

## VOICES FROM THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



**Oscar Campos,**  
Costa Rica  
Pioneering reform

According to Oscar Campos, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica and Chairman of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, "IICA is blazing the trail of reform and restructuring," necessitated by the international environment, in order to meet its member countries' needs for technology, integration and cooperation.

Campos was convinced that the Institute must play a leading role to strengthen the agricultural sector and build greater consensus and cooperation. He added that the upcoming meeting of the IABA would set a new agenda, giving greater priority to "key issues such as the role of agriculture in the region's economy, organic farming and sustainable development as the scaffolding to sustain market forces."



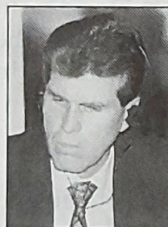
**Russell García,** Belize  
Timely assessment

The Belizean Minister of Agriculture and delegate to the meeting of the Executive Committee, Russell García, defended the holistic approach to agricultural systems (a multi-disciplinary approach focusing on the ways that agriculture interacts with other spheres) as "a timely move to give the sector its due importance" in the spectrum of activities and fields of action

The representative of Panama, Alfredo Acuña, felt that special attention should be paid to two issues that had been "somewhat absent" from the discussion: the need for the ministers of agriculture to play a leading role in all facets of negotiation and management of trade opening; and ways to finance the process of agricultural modernization.

that comprise the economy in each country.

Using this integrated approach, he explained, IICA has been able to identify areas holding great potential for the agricultural sectors of the region, such as the use of biotechnology to raise productivity and provide benefits in fields such as health. García stressed that systemic agriculture places agriculture in its true dimension in the new international setting.



**Antonio Luiz Machado de Moraes,**  
Brazil  
Innovative approaches

The agenda awaiting the ministers of agriculture in the upcoming meeting of the IABA "reveals how closely IICA has been following the fast-moving events around the world," in the view of Antonio Luiz Machado de Moraes, Advisor for International Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Supply and Agrarian Reform of Brazil. In his opinion, the proposed agenda will provide the inter-American agricultural sector with a means to identify non-conventional policies and tools useful for adapting to the new economic, political and social order under competitive conditions.



**Susan Mills,** Canada  
Changing roles

As an outgrowth of transformations unfolding in the international arena, "Canada would like to build closer relations

Venezuelan Pablo Quevedo echoed Acuña's sentiments, convinced that if the ministers of agriculture did not become fully involved in trade negotiation processes, generally reserved for ministers of trade and other authorities, they risked being burdened with commitments ultimately detrimental to the more traditional production sectors in rural areas.

with the nations of the hemisphere, more as a partner in development than as a donor," explained Susan Mills, who headed Canada's delegation to the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Convinced that "agriculture is a vehicle for development and socioeconomic growth," Mills urged IICA's authorities to support her country as its relations of cooperation with its inter-American neighbors evolve. She stressed, however, that this change would not alter Canada's priorities for action, such as supporting the rural populations of the hemisphere.



**Adriana Herrera,**  
Colombia  
Transparency in management

The work done by the present administration during its 18 months in office demonstrates that "IICA is correctly interpreting the real situation of the agricultural sectors in Latin America and the Caribbean," according to Adriana Herrera, who represented Colombia at the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Herrera, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Colombia, expressed her support for the Program Budget as presented, and praised the absolute clarity in its display of proposed expenditures for each of the Institute's Areas of Concentration and Specialized Services.



**Juan Luis Marambio,**  
Chile  
New environment

The agricultural sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean are currently molding themselves to a new world characterized by opening economies and trade integration, in the opinion of Juan Luis Marambio, National Director of Chile's Agricultural Development Institute, and his country's delegate to the Executive Committee.

More specifically, he commented, traditional agriculture, which has been less affected by the process of transformation, promises to be the greatest challenge the hemisphere's ministers of agriculture will confront, as they develop instruments to help their countries adapt to the new environment.



**Prabhu Sookraj,**  
Guyana  
Historical opportunity

The upcoming meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) "is a historical opportunity for the ministers of this sector to analyze the impact that trade liberalization processes can be expected to have on agriculture in their nations," stated Prabhu Sookraj, Guyana's delegate to the Executive Committee.

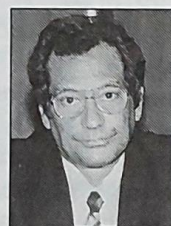
Board discussions will help the ministers discern whether the region's agriculture is in fact equipped to enter the competitive international market. In Sookraj's view, the Board will also identify opportunities within the hemisphere for large and small nations to support one another as they take on increased competition prompted, among other things, by the specialization and diversification of production.



**Phillippe Mathieu,**  
Haiti  
Solidarity for change

"Haiti is experiencing the birth of a newly democratized political system and production structures, and it now needs a program for neighborly cooperation such as the one IICA is advocating." This will be the key to ensure well-being for its population in a framework of sustainability and equity, according to Phillippe Mathieu, Assistant Director of Technical Affairs of the Ministry of Agriculture of Haiti.

The delegate commented that international aid should be built on an honest exchange of experiences among countries. Such information, he added, will be especially valuable as the country once again takes up the path of development, and the agricultural sector is an essential ally in this process.



**Alfredo Acuña,**  
Panama  
New doors open to agriculture

Aware of the sweeping changes taking place in the international environment, the Director of International Cooperation of the Panamanian Ministry of Agriculture, Alfredo Acuña, shared his view that it was time for the region's departments of agriculture to take a larger part in the processes of trade negotiation and economic opening.

Acuña applauded "efforts by current authorities to promote a new sensibility in the hemisphere, with agriculture taking its place, not as a marginal sector, but as one with much to contribute in today's setting." He added that, through modernization, the region's agriculture could obtain "long sought-after growth and economic development."

**Robert Lieuw A-Joe,**  
Suriname  
Technology transfer



As production diversifies and agri-food systems are modernized, "Latin America and the Caribbean should generate a steady stream of technology transfer" if they are to fit competitively into international markets, according to Robert Lieuw A-Joe, alternate delegate from Suriname to the Executive Committee.

While he was encouraged by the lowering of trade barriers, he recalled that the ultimate goal of this process is to "meet the growing demand for goods and services, particularly foodstuffs." At the same time, he hoped that mechanisms would be implemented to guarantee equitable distribution of the higher income resulting from trade opening, in order to relieve poverty.



**Pablo Quevedo,**  
Venezuela  
On the right path

Pablo G. Quevedo, Sectoral Director General of Administrative Services for Venezuela's Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, commented on the progress IICA had made in the framework of its 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan (MTP). He described the Plan as "a navigational chart showing that the Institute is on the right track" in a time of profound transformations world-wide. In light of the priorities set forth in the MTP, the IABA agenda should include time for an exchange of experiences with structural adjustment processes in the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean, to raise awareness of the difficulties and opportunities that this process entails in the specific setting of each region and country, he added.

# National Theater of Costa Rica: BACKDROP FOR INAUGURATION OF IABA

The National Theater of Costa Rica, considered the "architectural jewel" of this Central American nation, will provide the backdrop for opening ceremonies of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), a hemispheric forum of ministers of agriculture from IICA's 33 Member States, and the Institute's highest governing body.

The president of Costa Rica, José María Figueres Olsen, has been invited to preside over the solemn ceremony, which will be attended by such dignitaries as the Costa Rican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Fernando Naranjo; members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Costa Rica; and representatives of specialized agencies of the inter-American system and of the United Nations.

This will be President Figueres' second opportunity to attend a IABA meeting. In 1989, as Minister of Agriculture under President Oscar Arias, he chaired the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Board.

As the maximum forum of the hemisphere's agricultural sector, the IABA has been meeting regularly every two years under the terms of IICA's Convention, which has been in force since December 8, 1980.

It has held seven regular meetings: Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1981; Kingston, Jamaica, 1983; Montevideo, Uruguay, 1985; Ottawa, Canada, 1987; San Jose, Costa Rica, 1989; Madrid, Spain, 1991; and Mexico City, 1993. The Board's only special meeting took place in Mexico City in 1986.

This year, the Board's task will be to approve policy



*Costa Rica's National Theater will proudly receive the ministers of agriculture of IICA's 33 Member States for opening ceremonies of the IABA meeting.*

guidelines for the Institute, along with a two-year Program Budget. The opening ceremony will take place inside this national treasure, the landmark of Costa Rica's cultural life. The National Theater was erected in 1897 in the heart the capital city of San Jose, built with funds provided by the coffee-growing aristocracy of the time.

Since then, its spacious halls have received countless famous persons. In 1989, it was graced by heads of state from all over Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States and Canada, invited by the government of Costa Rica to attend a Hemispheric Summit of Presidents.

In the cultural field, some of the world's most renowned performers of dance, music, theater and opera have left their footprints on the stage of the theater over its 98 years of history.

The passage of time and the ravages of an urban environment have taken their toll on the theater, which closed its doors in 1990 so its valuable sculptures, frescoes and architectural structures could be restored. Reopened two years later, the building, with its unmistakable classical details, began once again to ring with the sound of premier events.

## Decentralization proceeds apace: CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER OPENS ITS DOORS

IICA has set clear principles of flexibility and decentralization, and accordingly, on July 7, it opened the doors of the Central Regional Center in Guatemala City, in a ceremony attended by the president of Guatemala and ministers of agriculture from the other countries of Central America, as well as Belize, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

As it opened this new Center, IICA was celebrating the thirtieth anniversary of its work in Guatemala. The Center is a reflection of the Institute's mandate to encourage, promote and support the efforts of its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being, through an effective, participatory strategy specifically tailored to each different region.

The inaugural ceremony was held in the National Palace. The president of Guatemala took the floor to share his enthusiasm, and agreed with the minister of agriculture, Luis Arturo del Valle, who had expressed his hope "that this Center will help improve conditions in the region's agricultural sector."

IICA's Director General, Carlos E. Aquino, explained that the purpose of this center would be to link together an effective system of services and support for agricultural and agroindustrial development.

"This is a valuable resource for exchange and contact among agricultural sector authorities in the participating countries and for them to keep in touch with other regions, thus favoring horizontal cooperation," he added.

"The public sector will be served as this new center ensures constant contact between IICA and the ministries of agri-

*Continues on next page*



## Decentralization proceeds apace...

culture of the subregion, during processes of opening and globalization. The center will also support the private sector by encouraging new opportunities for producers to maintain a higher profile and play a more active, modern, fully recognized role," stressed Aquino.

Conceived as "a coordinating mechanism at the service of the countries and a mobilizer of capabilities and experiences in the region and around the hemisphere, and intended as a means to expand the supply of cooperation, the Center will fully embrace the importance of integration and policy harmonization," noted the Center's new Director, Mariano Olazábal.

Olazábal, who is also the Institute's representative to Guatemala, explained that the Center "will add extra spark to efforts being made by governments and production sectors for agricultural development and rural well-being in the region," as it will bring together professionals from the public and private sectors eager to join forces with international organizations for this new undertaking.

### Regional Centers

\*Andean: Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela.

\*Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

\*Central: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama.

\*Northern: Canada, Mexico, United States.

\*Southern: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay Uruguay.



The Director General of IICA, Carlos E. Aquino (left), joins the minister of agriculture of Guatemala, Luis Arturo del Valle, in unveiling the plaque on the wall of the new Central Regional Center.

He thus called upon academic institutions and other organizations of civil society to contribute their efforts to making the Center a resource at the service of women and men of rural areas.

### HEMISPHERIC STRATEGY

The Institute's 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan, a blueprint for technical cooperation activities, articulates the principle of geographic concentration, which governs the allocation of technical resources and is based on a recognition of social, cultural, environmental and production differences among subregions and countries.

The regional centers have been designed in keeping with this objective, and as part of a comprehensive strategy to help bring about sustainable agricultural development in the setting of hemispheric integration and as a contribution to human development in rural areas. Work is now underway to set up the other regional

centers: Andean, Caribbean, Northern and Southern.

In these subregions, the Institute will encourage transformations of agricultural production and trade, sectoral institutions, and human and social resources.

The production arena is targeted for greater diversification, with agricultural activities undergoing major overhaul based on technological innovation. Under the heading of trade activities, changes will seek to boost the national and regional competitiveness of agri-food systems in international markets. Finally, institutional transformation will begin by redefining the public function, with the government and private sectors working hand in hand.

IICA's representative in Guatemala and new director of the Central Regional Center, Mariano Olazábal, closed his remarks by asserting that IICA, by opening this new center, was providing all the members of the agricultural sector with "a new tool for consistent action to jump-start the sector as a focal point of socioeconomic development in Central America, and to advance toward meeting the objectives of technical cooperation."

## Moving toward hemispheric integration: **INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM EXAMINES CHALLENGES**

As the Americas begin moving toward hemisphere-wide integration, many difficult challenges lie ahead. IICA and the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC), aware of these challenges, met together at Institute headquarters last June 7 and 8 for an international symposium called "Economic Integration in the Western Hemisphere."

The forum brought together high-level authorities from international organizations and academic institutions, as well as representatives of the region's public and private sectors. As a result of their deliberations, they were able to identify research priorities and joint fields of action for easing the transition toward mutual trade goals.

The list of participants in the symposium included such notables as the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gert Rosenthal, and the Chairman of the Uruguay Round of GATT at the ministerial level, Sergio Abreu (see separate stories).

The Director General of IICA, Carlos E. Aquino, inaugurated the symposium, explaining that the Institute "is promoting a hemispheric move to raise the profile of the agricultural sec-

tor and give it a new role in the globalized economy." He added that a holistic approach to agricultural systems was being developed, to reposition the sector in the framework of new relationships that are part and parcel of economic liberalism (see sep-

reform, and cementing the processes of democratization.

This type of effort can never succeed, he warned, without the active participation of the private sector, or unless "mechanisms are defined and imple-

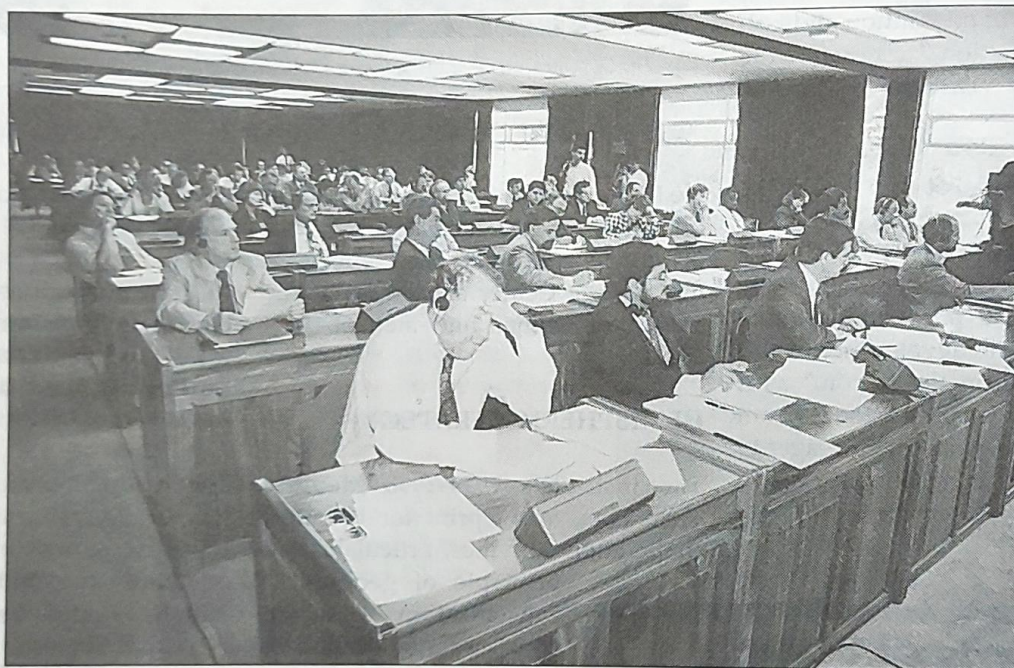
mented that will allow agriculture to play a dynamic role in hemispheric integration."

Terry Roe, Chairman of the IATRC, praised the participants, economists from 16 countries of Latin America, the Caribbean, Europe and Asia, for the consensus they had built. He like-

wise called for a more in-depth dialogue that would smooth multilateral trade negotiations for a better-managed global system of exchange.

### **FRUITFUL DISCUSSION**

The open discussion inspired by the symposium included representatives from such organizations as the World Bank, ECLAC, IICA, the IATRC, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the United



*Economists from 16 countries of Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and Europe attended the international symposium to identify challenges for hemispheric integration.*

arate story).

Costa Rica's Minister of Foreign Trade, José Rossi, stated that the region "needs to change its mentality and transform its production structures," if it hopes to build the Free Trade Area of the Americas proposed by the heads of state and government at the Miami summit (December 1994).

The minister identified other challenges as well, such as achieving fiscal discipline, consolidating a market orientation for the economies, eliminating trade distortions, speeding state

States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, and Brazil's Getulio Vargas Foundation.

Discussion revolved around ways to become competitive, needs within the region for agricultural trade policy reform, and trade integration connecting Latin America and the Caribbean to the United States and Canada.

In fact, a number of issues examined in the symposium were later taken up at the meeting of ministers of trade in Denver, Colorado, in which trade representatives from around the hemisphere put together a plan of action for creating the Free Trade Area of the Americas by the year 2005, as agreed earlier by the presidents of the countries.

The participants in the symposium agreed that the hemispheric trade block will come about sooner or later, and identified certain challenges that need to be met in order for regional integration to become a reality (see separate stories).

Labor laws, rules governing competition, and environmental provisions will also figure on the new agenda of global trade negotiations and were discussed during the forum.

There was a clear need for the current subregional agreements, such as the Southern Common Market, CARICOM, the North American Free Trade Agreement and the Andean Pact, to move toward convergence by adopting economic and social policies consistent with the integration process.

## **Director General of IICA: ROLE OF AGRICULTURE MUST CHANGE**

IICA's Director General, Carlos E. Aquino, issued an urgent call for Latin America and the Caribbean to take a new look at the role of agriculture in the economic development model now taking shape in the region, which anticipates greater outward opening and world integration.

In his inaugural address at the symposium, the chief executive officer of this specialized agency of the inter-American system warned that the countries of the region still tend to see agriculture as a primary production sector. Their attitude is a relic of the old model of industrialization for import substitution, and has generated a "dangerously misleading impression" that agriculture is no longer important.

In Aquino's view, this error has caused several governments and international cooperation and funding agencies to attach lower priority to agriculture. "Traditionally, agriculture was seen and treated as an isolated primary production sector; it is a view that continues to be far too common in Latin America and the Caribbean today, and has become totally counterproductive," he asserted.

The formal working sessions of the symposium began with a presentation by the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Gert Rosenthal, who gave an authoritative lecture on "The Historical Development and Economic Outlook for Latin America and the Caribbean."

Both Aquino and Rosenthal agreed that the countries of the region possess extensive knowledge of how to manage macroeconomic balances; this is a great asset and will help smooth the transition from the import substitution model to a virtual "outward integrationist" model now being experimented with in the region.

### **HEMISPHERIC TREND**

Aquino explained to the participants that IICA is promoting "a hemispheric move" to raise the profile of agriculture and assign it a new role in the globalized economy. He added that he is calling for a joint effort to develop a "holistic approach to agricultural systems."

This forward-looking view of the sector repositions agriculture in the complex web of socioeconomic liberalism, based on the new role of the state and civil society, globalization, opening and integration. Abandoning the isolated sectoral view of agriculture as a simple source of primary production, it builds on the concept of expanded agriculture, including agroindustrial complexes or linkages with other production sectors, incorporates new dimensions and disciplines, and identifies inter-relationships.

This holistic approach seeks to raise the profile of agriculture. It adopts an interdisciplinary perspective and a strategy of transformation, and its overriding objective is to introduce sustainable agricultural development.

Aquino commented that, as the process of opening and integration has unfolded, potential benefits begin to take shape on the horizon for agriculture in the Americas. At the same time, however, great challenges lie ahead. "We cannot but be concerned as we see agriculture continue to perform so poorly, thus rendering itself incapable of expanding its role as an engine of macroeconomic stability," he commented.

He cited projections by the World Bank, which cast Latin America and the Caribbean as one of the slowest-growth regions in the world over the next few years. These figures project barely 3.4 percent growth, probably less than the countries of Eastern Europe.

According to these estimates, if the encouraging expectations for macroeconomic performance worldwide should fall short, the region will experience negative growth per capita, amounting to -0.7 percent per year, with a more pronounced real per capita decline than even Subsaharan Africa.

Faced with this picture, Aquino found an important parallel. On one hand, countries expecting conservative economic growth are basing their assumptions on a healthy agricultural system that is making efficient contributions. How much more, on the other hand, should nations such as those in Latin America and the Caribbean, with slower and even negative growth per capita, urgently need

efficient agriculture, with sustainable, dynamic growth.

### DISAPPOINTING PERFORMANCE

Aquino then went on to express his concern about the anemic performance of the region's agriculture over the past few years. "Our main concern is to determine whether the sector is prepared to shoulder its new duties today and even tomorrow, and whether we are leading it in the right direction, focusing enough on strategic interdependence, basic support mechanisms, greater buoyancy, and the institutional infrastructure the sec

opening of the economy, agriculture "is lagging behind" despite efforts to increase the manufactured content of exports, in line with current and future trends on the world market and the need to create productive employment.

He also drew attention to the need to move more quickly in making agriculture truly competitive, a process that, he admitted, is "slow." In his view, Latin America and the Caribbean need to build dynamic, system-wide competitive advantages, leaving behind the emphasis on comparative advantages that, in the past, simply meant plundering natural resources.

Today we know that the pivotal point of competitiveness is human capacity. This, in turn, is based on knowledge, which is already understood as a fundamental factor of production. "The countries of Southeast Asia and China," he reminded the audience, "have chosen to invest in technology, infrastructure, education and training."

Aquino then asked why the region seemed unable to grow as energetically as those countries, and replied that US economist Lester Thurow had put his finger on one of the causes. In the view of this expert, the countries of the Americas were doing just the opposite: letting their educational systems atrophy and serving as target for a high-consumption, low-investment society that is unwilling to sacrifice individual consumer privileges.



The Director General of IICA (front) stressed the need for the agricultural sector to build dynamic, system-wide competitive advantages. With him, from left to right, are: Charles R. Bowers, IICA Deputy Director General; Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of ECLAC; José Rossi, Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica; Roberto Solórzano, Costa Rica's Minister of Agriculture; and Terry Roe, President of the IATRC.

tor needs," he wondered. He then expressed regret that, unlike other sectors of society, which have responded very dynamically to the outward

## Executive Secretary of ECLAC: ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK FOR LATIN AMERICA



*The Executive Secretary of ECLAC stated that a modernized, competitive agricultural sector is a powerful engine to drive development in the region.*

Predictions that the region is at the brink of a profound economic crisis similar to the one of the 1980s should not be taken at face value, according to Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Rosenthal was at IICA headquarters last June to address an international symposium, "Economic Integration in the Western Hemisphere."

Rosenthal used his keynote address to examine the historical development and future prospects for the hemisphere. Although he admitted that several of the region's nations have posted discouraging indicators of fiscal deficits and high inflation rates, he dismissed these as mere "short-term difficulties."

He offered several explanations for the performance of macroeconomic variables, concluding, "There is no sign that a crisis of similar proportions is on its way." Instead, he noted, "Following the recession, most of the countries of the hemisphere have achieved moderate economic recovery together with greater financial stability, gradual diversification and modernization of production systems, better macroeconomic management and a slight increase in levels of savings and investment."

However, the economist did acknowledge that adjustment programs, along with notoriously unequal distribution structures, had taken a high toll in the form of stagnating social indicators and a high incidence of poverty.

As he examined the region's prospects for the next few years, Rosenthal stated his belief that there would be a need for "selective state intervention, not so much to replace the market, as to supplement it and even make it stronger."

He also encouraged the countries to proceed with integrating their economies as an essential prerequisite for improved economic performance. "If integration efforts are propelled by trade liberalization and the deregulation of production, the hemisphere will reveal its true importance at the international level," he concluded.

## Chairman of Uruguay Round of GATT: Trade Negotiations Need a Human Face

Aware of the socioeconomic repercussions of trade negotiations, the chairman of the Uruguay Round of GATT at the ministerial level, Sergio Abreu, declared that all negotiations should revolve around one consideration only: to ensure the well-being of the population and build competitive societies. He was speaking at the close of the international symposium, "Economic Integration in the Western Hemisphere."

Abreu, former foreign minister of Uruguay, was present at the forum, which took place last June at IICA headquarters, to discuss the scope of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

"Integration and market opening will benefit the poverty-stricken only if they provide more opportunities for employment or put food on the table for those who lack even the most basic means of survival," stressed Abreu.

"Trade liberalization," he added, "is the only way to generate resources and foreign exchange in our countries, to provide a higher level of social equilibrium for the large contingents of poor who continue to make up our populations."

As a result of the Uruguay Round of GATT, world trade flows will increase by US\$213 billion. Latin America and the Caribbean stand to benefit from around 11 percent of this stream, according to Abreu.

The diplomat went on to discuss the Free Trade Area of the Americas proposed by the hemisphere's heads of state and government during the Miami summit last December, and

*Continues on next page*

urged the various subregional groupings, such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Andean Pact and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to seek convergence.



*Abreu insisted that the new agenda for trade negotiations should include such issues as environment, labor laws and rules for competition.*

## HIGH HOPES FOR FREE TRADE ZONE OF THE AMERICAS

Sooner or later, the hemisphere will see its ambitions fulfilled with the creation of a free trade zone, agreed participants in the symposium "Economic Integration in the Western Hemisphere," held at IICA headquarters in Costa Rica.

Participants disagreed as to whether this goal would be met by the year 2005, the date set by the presidents of the countries during their Miami meeting last December, but the members of the symposium concurred that the integration process is irreversible "despite a few dark clouds," and that eventually, this long-awaited goal will be met.

These same sentiments were expressed by Isaac Cohen of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); Roxana Brizuela, professor at the International Economics and Research Center of the University of Havana; Igor Garafulic, of the office that is coordinating Chile's entry into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA); and Antonio Brandao, Director of the Brazilian Economics Institute of the Getulio Vargas Foundation.

All four shared the floor with high-level officers of international organi-

zations and academic institutions, as well as public- and private-sector representatives of the hemisphere's countries at the international symposium cosponsored by IICA and the IATRC.

In Cohen's view, it is indeed feasible to create the Free Trade Area of the Americas by the year 2005, so long as a number of conditions are met: a) the countries of Latin America would need to hold firm in their policies of opening; b) the clouds of protectionism darkening the skies in the United States would need to dissipate; c) President Bill Clinton would have to obtain congressional authorization for fast-track negotiations; and d) the hemisphere's ministers of trade will need to chart the waters very clearly at their meeting in Denver, Colorado on June 30.

Brandao stated that given the changes made in Latin America, where national economies are now more open than 10 or even five years ago, the conditions are now ripe for thinking about a hemisphere-wide free trade zone. "In general, Latin America will continue to push ahead with its process of opening, a circumstance which must not be wasted." However, he acknowledged that it is difficult to predict whether this can be done in 10 years.

The Brazilian noted that while a number of issues need careful attention over the next 10 years, the pending agenda is overshadowed by two items in particular: liberalization must be negotiated on a footing of equality, and consensus needs to be built around such sensitive issues as labor laws and environmental concerns.

Garafulic agreed with Brandao and Cohen. "It's now or never. History is not likely to provide another opportunity with conditions so favorable. It has been several years since the closed, antagonistic world views evaporated. Today, MERCOSUR, CARICOM and other subregional integration groupings are working toward common goals," he said.

The Chilean was reluctant to predict whether the objective would become reality over the next 10 years. "Personally, I would not be too concerned if we arrived at the year 2005 and found that trade barriers persisted. The important point is that we now have a specific deadline, which in itself imposes discipline."

He also pointed out two areas that need more attention if integration efforts are to see success by the next millennium: improving customs and quality certification procedures, and



Roxana Brizuela, of the University of Havana, and Igor Garafulic, Chile's negotiator for access to NAFTA, exchange ideas on the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

modernizing the agencies responsible for technical standards.

Cuba's Brizuela felt that everything depended on the structure of the countries, their chosen economic policies, how quickly the transformations come about, and above all, the political will of the governments involved in negotiations.

Cuba, she noted, has been sidelined from regional integration mechanisms since 1960, and she admitted that changes in the international environment were forcing her country to move ahead with a process of transition "more rapidly than before."

In the same connection, she recalled that Cuba had already made transformations in fiscal, trade and price policies; even disregarding their original intent, these policies still fell short. "Cuba's eventual participation in this integration effort is more a political issue than an economic one," she recognized.

Others in the symposium expressed concerns about the feasi-

bility of distributing the benefits of trade opening and integration equitably, when participating countries have achieved such highly disparate degrees of economic development.

Eugenia Muchnik, Director of the Agricultural Economics Program of the Catholic University of Chile, pointed out that some groups will inevitably be hurt by the process of opening, and it will take them time to adjust. "The whole matter of how each country will handle equity issues is something that needs attention. Our national treasuries are not strong, and many social expenditures, such as education and health, need attention," she noted.

In her opinion, another challenge is to make sure that the private sector is fully involved in the process. "Without the private sector, nothing signed on paper can be put into practice. We need to encourage internal dialogue, set up teams, arrange for business people in one country to visit those in another, and establish reliable information exchange," she explained.

## Experts Advocate Speedy Trade Liberalization and Economic Opening

Latin America and the Caribbean need to step up the pace of trade liberalization as a prerequisite for consolidating the Free Trade Area of the Americas and entering international markets on a competitive basis, according to participants in the symposium "Economic Integration in the Western Hemisphere."

One of the activities in the symposium was a round-table discussion with Terry Roe, President of the International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium (IATRC); Isaac Cohen, of ECLAC; Timothy E. Josling, of Stanford University; and Stefan Tangermann of the University of Göttingen, Germany. All agreed that conditions are ripe for moving ahead with the process of opening.

"The days of preferential agreements are over," according to Cohen. If the countries of the hemisphere will simply recognize this fact, they can begin opening their economies "and claim a better position in international markets."

Economic opening is critically important for consolidating the Free Trade Area of the Americas, he insisted, and must go hand in hand with a steady push toward convergence among subregional integration mechanisms, such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Andean Pact and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

Tangermann was asked whether it was realistic to try to consolidate this hemisphere-wide trade system before the 2005 deadline set for the region, and answered, "This is a reasonable period, in view of the fear and tensions that need to dissipate in the process."

Continued on next page

However, Terry Roe commented that the very specific issue of "suspending direct aid and subsidies has become one of the main difficulties the continent must overcome," and therefore urged the governments to redirect their policies in order to promote the integration process more vigorously.

### AGRICULTURE MUST MODERNIZE

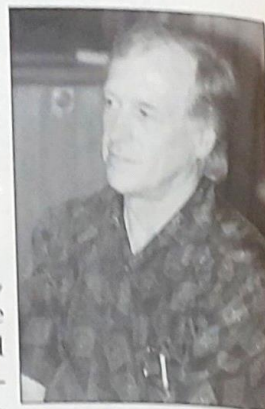
The need to modernize the agricultural sector in a framework of sustainability, always seeking equity, was another area especially cited by members of the forum.

Aware of the degree of competition involved in the new international environment, Tangermann called on the countries to develop more flexible rules governing the exchange of goods and services for agriculture, and to comply with the global framework given in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Agriculture must be incorporated into the world-wide trade stream on a competitive footing, as quickly as possible, according to Josling. However, it must be a step-by-step process, or else the sector's backwardness in

such areas as technological development will become evident, according to Josling.

Terry Roe, President of the IATRC and IICA's counterpart in holding the international symposium, stated, "Agriculture must be part of a broader process of opening and integration, whose foundations are set on the principle of equity."



Terry Roe, President of the IATRC, stated that Latin America and the Caribbean must turn their attention to making their economies competitive in a framework of equity and sustainability.



Sonia de la Cruz, Head of the Communications Division, Gloria Abraham, CORECA trade specialist, and Rodolfo Quirós, Director of IICA's Center for Integration and Agribusiness Development organized and moderated a radio discussion featuring symposium members.

## Agriculture: A SYSTEMIC APPROACH

Faced with the challenge of raising the profile of agriculture, and the urgent need for the whole array of activities subsumed under "agriculture" to fit into the new international socioeconomic paradigm, IICA is developing an innovative approach for the sector: the systemic approach to agriculture.

This forward-looking view of agriculture, developed by experts from IICA's Area of Concentration on Socioeconomic Policy, Trade and Investment, was first introduced in the workshop "Looking ahead to 2020 for Latin America," cosponsored by the Institute, the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). The meeting, held last March, became a forum

in which IICA introduced its first document on HA, recasting the role of agriculture in the complex web of socioeconomic liberalism, and based on new expectations of the government and civil society, globalization, opening and integration.

This new approach holds a number of implications. For example, it makes a final break with the narrow sectoral view of agriculture as strictly a source of primary production. It builds on the idea of a broader agricultural sector (including agroindustrial complexes or linkages), incorporates other dimensions and disciplines, and identifies a full network of interdependencies.

In short, the Systemic approach is designed to unleash a hemisphere-

wide current that will give agriculture its due. It does this through an interdisciplinary conception and a transforming strategy whose overriding objective is to unleash sustainable agricultural development.

"The Systemic approach to agriculture recognize that the sector consists of a multiplicity of factors, all of them interdependent. Only with an approach of this kind can we see the true value of agriculture and raise its profile."

With its multidimensional and interdisciplinary view, Systemic Agriculture is built on a dynamic structure that incorporates four types of relations, or dimensions. The agents of the agricultural sector all interact within these dimensions:



A. The Micro-dimension covers the whole range of technical and production relationships that determine the productive, sustainable use of natural resources (land, irrigation water, and the like). In general, it includes farmer decisions of what, how and when to produce.

B. The Meso-dimension of the structure embraces agroindustrial and forest linkages; in other words, these are support services for production, trade and product processing, input or machinery supply, and domestic and international marketing, as well as sectoral policies, health and nutrition.

C. The Macro-dimension consists of the full panoply of provisions and interdependencies that condition the performance of the system as a whole, such as fiscal policies, exchange-rate policies and monetary policies.

D. Holding all these together and keeping them in order is the Meta-dimension, which describes the interaction of civil society and the government, or whether agriculture is governable and fully institutionalized. This dimension sees access to knowledge and information as keys to power and control throughout the entire holistic approach to agricultural systems.

This last dimension clearly reveals the importance of "intelligent market surveillance," in which the public and private sectors need to mesh their efforts and find the best possible mix. In this view, the government plays a corrective role to counteract market flaws and highlight market strengths, according to Gerardo Escudero, Institute Advisor. In this sense, government intervention should be led by considerations of profitability, overcoming poverty and investing in human resources.

It is through this interdependence that

economies such as those of Southeast Asia can aspire to annual growth rates of six to seven percent per capita over the next 10 years, according to figures from the World Bank.

Latin America and the Caribbean, richly endowed with natural resources, project growth rates of only 3.4 percent per year, partly because this mix is still uncertain.

"Ultimately, Systemic Agriculture presents a vision of the present and the future, and it looks at the combined efforts of public and private sectors and the financial and technical cooperation organizations, both national and international, which are positioned to usher in this new day for agriculture and, above all, for producers and families residing in rural zones."

The multidimensional, interdependent view advocated by Systemic Agriculture sees human resources as the key factor that will determine whether a new style of development can take hold. People are seen as the focal point for achieving competitiveness and productivity, equity and solidarity and, ultimately, the sustainability of agriculture.

Thus, the approach welcomes vulnerable groups such as women and young people in rural areas, seeing them as the true force by which agriculture will eventually be transformed in a framework of sustainability.

In fact, sustainability, the ultimate goal of the Systemic approach, is defined in terms of three components:

1. Competitiveness, or the ability to exploit dynamic competitive advantages for producing and for protecting the environment, that will guarantee a niche in national and international markets.

2. Equity, conceived as a style of social organization that promotes investments in people; this means

providing individuals with productive employment, education, nutrition, health and social assistance. Thus, equity and competitiveness are intertwined in a logical, mutually inclusive interdependence.

3. Solidarity, whose primary mechanism is consensus-building, recognizes that everyone must share responsibility for the social debt, according to each one's possibilities. This goes hand in hand with governability, or the definition of new forms of government that are able to move beyond centralism, paternalism, bureaucratism and authoritarianism.

Achieving sustainability in Systemic Agriculture also requires a transforming strategy that will introduce changes on four fronts: human, institutional, productive and commercial.

#### **A PRESSING NEED FOR CHANGE**

At the threshold of the year 2000, Latin America and the Caribbean are at a crossroads. The countries can spur their agricultural sectors to catch up with the new socioeconomic paradigm; or they can allow the sector to continue clinging to the outmoded import substitution model.

However, today's environment calls for the countries to develop and quickly implement an integrated strategy for developing agriculture, faced as they are with soaring current account deficits in the balance of payments, a massive, volatile influx of capital concentrated in just a few countries, increased foreign indebtedness (from US\$330 billion in 1982 to over US\$500 billion today) and the proliferation of overvalued currencies.

The Systemic approach to agriculture thus recognizes the sector's potential to contribute to macroeconomic balances, economic growth, and production with conservation of natural resources in the nations of the Americas, in a framework of solidari-

ty, equity and competitiveness.  
**PERFORMANCE IN FIGURES**

Agriculture saw its share of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Latin America and the Caribbean decline from 20 percent in 1950 to only 10.5 percent in 1990. Although at first glance these figures seem to suggest that the sector has lost importance, they also reveal how interdependent it is with the rest of the economy.

In the United States, for example, agriculture contributes less than two percent of the total GDP. However, in certain states of the union, large swaths of the population are dependent on agriculture.

The conclusion of the Uruguay Round of GATT negotiations could mean an additional agricultural market for underdeveloped countries of between US\$35 billion and US\$65 billion per year. This represents from one to two times the current level of agricultural exports from Latin America and the Caribbean. However, in the past 10 years, exports have failed to grow by even one percent annually. Even though more and more processed goods are being exported, growth continues to be far slower than for the rest of the region.

According to figures from the World Bank, the failure to offer a plan for

reactivating production, in tune with the new international setting, is clearly revealed in other discouraging trends, such as rapid loss of natural resources, with deforestation advancing by over seven million hectares every year; and rural flight, with masses of people emigrating to the cities every year (rural areas were home to 41.6% of the population in the 1970s, but only 26.4% by the 1990s).

This picture also shows that static comparative advantages continue to predominate over dynamic advantages. As economic opening and integration advance, this exposes peasant farmers and the agricultural sector as a whole to the discouraging prospect of

## Washington: IICA AT INTER-AMERICAN ANIMAL HEALTH MEETING



*The strict application of animal health measures guarantees competitive access to markets and safe guards human health*

The Director General of IICA, Carlos E. Aquino, was present as an observer at the Ninth Inter-American Ministerial Meeting on Animal Health (RIMSA), held in Washington D.C. last April 25 and 26, under the auspices of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

At the invitation of his counterpart at PAHO, George A.O. Alleyne, Aquino addressed the first plenary session of the meeting, entitled "The Inter-sectoral Relations of Agriculture and

Health: Agricultural Development Policy, Environmental Protection and Health." The Institute's chief executive also discussed "Agriculture and Health: Interdependence of Agricultural Systems."

The meeting brought together ministers of agriculture from Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, Suriname and Uruguay, as well as the minister of health of Dominica, deputy ministers of agriculture of Chile, Costa Rica and Peru, ministers of health from around the hemisphere, and high-level diplomatic, agricultural and health authorities from Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Brazil, the United States and France.

In his presentation, the Director General pointed out an unexpected side effect of the new environment: agriculture had lost status and impor-

tance, especially in its traditional form as an isolated primary sector. Aquino also stressed the urgent need to adopt a new vision more tailored to today's circumstances and challenges, a vision which IICA has defined as the Systemic approach to agriculture.

### IMAGES OF AGRICULTURE

Aquino also joined the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), César Gaviria, on April 24, to inaugurate an audiovisual display entitled "Agriculture in the Americas: Images of Past, Present and Future."

The display, organized by the Institute and the library of the United States Department of Agriculture, holds a collection of materials on development of the agricultural sector throughout the hemisphere. The activity took place as part of the United States week at the OAS.

# Strategic Alliances

## Agriculture:

# AGENCIES PLEDGE SUPPORT FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

The Technical Assistance Project for Agricultural Development in Central America (RUTA III) is pleased to announce that its member agencies and organizations have agreed to continue supporting the countries of this subregion, which have undertaken to modernize their agricultural sector, relieve rural poverty, and use and conserve natural resources better.

On March 28, at a tripartite meeting at IICA headquarters in Costa Rica, a report was presented on activities carried out in 1994 in the framework of this initiative. The meeting also approved the plan of action for 1995, leading RUTA III Director John Joyce to qualify the event as "a fruitful and stimulating starting point for tackling the work that lies ahead."

The Director added that funds for RUTA III operations through 1997, estimated at US\$4.9 million, "have been confirmed, and we have received pledges of participation from IFAD, UNDP, the World Bank, IICA, the government of Norway, the IDB, and the government of Japan."

RUTA III, an initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), is a regional project of the governments of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, implemented by the World Bank. It receives funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), IICA, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Japan, Norway and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

After the first two stages, RUTA I from 1980 to 1985 and RUTA II from 1989 to 1993, concluded successfully, RUTA

III began its three-year term of activities in 1994. Its objective is to coordinate technical and financial assistance for carrying out high-priority programs and projects oriented toward institutional reform, modernization of agriculture, fighting rural poverty, and conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.



Present at the meeting to analyze the work of the RUTA III project were (from left): Carlos Aquino, Director General of IICA; Ramón Villeda, Minister of Agriculture of Honduras; Oscar Campos, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica; Guillermo González, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Guatemala and head of agricultural affairs for El Petén; and John Joyce, Director of RUTA III. (Photo: Danilo Jiménez)

The project's regional unit in Costa Rica is staffed with eight international experts and support personnel. National technical units in the six countries of the Central American Isthmus coordinate and carry out the activities of RUTA III, based on priorities defined by agricultural sector authorities.

Joyce stated that RUTA III is interested in helping Central America develop a sound, effective public-sector organization that can coordinate activities with a comparable private-sector entity. It would also like to train professional cadres to follow through on modernizing the public sector.

Other priorities are to train agricultural trade negotiators, bring about inte-

gration of agricultural trade, consolidate the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), a forum of all the ministers of agriculture and a member of the Subsystem of Central American Economic Integration, encourage efforts to fight rural poverty, improve the status of women, and conserve natural resources.

## IICA-RUTA III ACTIVITIES APPROVED FOR 1995

\* Trade: A national and regional training program carried out with resources from the World Bank Institutional Development Fund (IDF) will target public and private sector officials. IICA will support this initiative through the Central Regional Center and the Regional Project for Trade and Integration, providing specialist services and making its Technical Cooperation Agencies available for assistance.

\* Training: Two courses will be held on project writing and evaluation, under the auspices of the Directorate of Planning, Programming, Projects and Technical Audit (DIPRAT) and the Center for Programs and Investment Projects (CEPPI). The Specialized Service of Training, Education and Communications will offer the region a course on how to organize and manage training. A project will be designed and carried out to strengthen key agricultural training institutions in Central America and Panama.

\* Natural resources: IICA will support the El Petén Project in Guatemala. It will also design and implement a proposal for working on natural resources with all the countries of the subregion.

\* Technology generation and transfer: The Institute is presently working on the technology generation and transfer component of a project to be funded by the World Bank in Honduras. In May it will start the feasibility study and provide specialists on the subject.

\* Rural development: RUTA III will help prepare the Patuca-Trojes-Recovered Zone project in Honduras,

with the participation of the IICA/RUTA III coordinator and a specialist. The initiative has received pre-investment funds from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), and actual implementation will be funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The Institute will also help with the gender issue, for which RUTA III has funds from

Norway. A rural agroindustry program is being developed for Guatemala, with IICA expected to provide assistance and training in business management methods, in partnership with the Hemispheric Rural Agroindustrial Development Program (PRODAR), whose coordination office and headquarters are at the Institute.

## IFAD and IICA: TO COMBINE FORCES



*Sixty percent of the rural population of Latin America and the Caribbean live in poverty. By the year 2000, there will be 170 million poor people in the region.*

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and IICA are ready to launch a program that will improve the region's capabilities for project evaluation and for attacking rural poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean. Activities are slated to begin by year's end.

The intent of the initiative is to fill a gap that has been detected in this field for the hemisphere. It will be funded with a US\$790,000 grant from IFAD and will build on a strategic alliance between the two institutions, both interested in fostering greater well-being for rural populations of the hemisphere.

The program will remain in effect for three years and cover the entire hemisphere. Its stated purpose is to strengthen the region's capabilities in project evaluation and follow-up, set in place a network of specialists, and

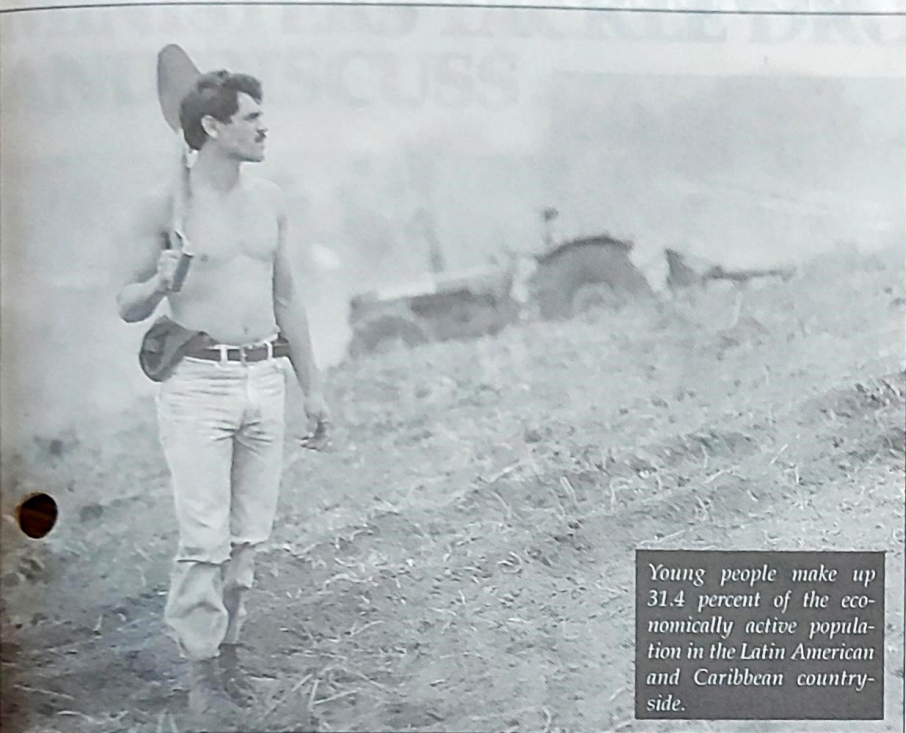
develop a collection of reference materials for training in evaluation, according to Osvaldo Nestor Feinstein, Head Evaluator in IFAD's Office of Evaluation and Studies.

In April, the Board of Directors of IFAD (a United Nations specialized agency headquartered in Rome, Italy) gave the go-ahead for program implementation to proceed and for grant monies to be released.

According to Feinstein, the Board of Directors recognized how important the initiative was and felt enthusiastic about its potential to serve as a model for similar efforts in other regions.

Feinstein went on to state that this program would usher in a new chapter in cooperative relations between the two institutions. Its experiences should provide useful lessons so that better programs and policies can be designed in the future.

# IICA, OAS and Radio Nederland: SUPPORT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Young people make up 31.4 percent of the economically active population in the Latin American and Caribbean countryside.

During the first half of 1995, IICA was growing increasingly concerned about the conditions of rural youth and of populations living in the border zones of Central America. It thus sought out commitments with representatives of Radio Nederland (RN) and the Organization of American States (OAS).

Last month, IICA and RN formed a partnership to produce and broadcast radio programs in support of rural youth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The director of Radio Nederland, Lodewyck Bowens, visited IICA headquarters last May, and said, "Communication is a crucial tool for training new generations in the countryside to take on the challenges of today's world."

This joint undertaking is very significant, in view of the fact that young people make up 31.4 percent of the economically active population in rural areas, according to authorities from the two

entities so young people can learn to produce audiovisual messages appropriate to their own expectations and needs.

Discussions between the two entities also centered on IICA's collection of radio programs on such issues as gender, sustainable development and rural youth, and the possibility of disseminating them over the PanamSat satellite that RN uses, which reaches all the countries of the hemisphere.

IICA and RN have been combining efforts since 1987, when the "Communication and Rural Development" project first began. A total of 2500 people were trained, including agricultural extension agents and training specialists from public and private organizations.

## SUPPORT FOR BORDER ZONES

In response to its concern about border-zone development in Central America, IICA held work-

ing meetings with authorities of the Organization of American States (OAS) last May. When their talks concluded, they announced that their joint activities would be continued and strengthened.

The OAS delegation, made up of Kirk Rodgers, Director of the Department of Regional Development and Environment, and Roberto Casañas, senior specialist in the same office, spoke on behalf of the Secretary General of the organization, César Gaviria, and expressed OAS willingness to bolster joint activities already under way between the two institutions, to carry out projects for border-zone development in Central America.

The two organizations had begun this work in 1986, with cross-border initiatives in the framework of the Trifinio Plan, oriented toward promoting socioeconomic well-being, integration among the three nations and improvement of the environment in the border areas shared by El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

Work under this Plan helped improve the quality of life, productivity and natural resource conservation in the 45 participating municipalities; relieve extreme poverty conditions affecting 60 percent of the inhabitants; and begin counteracting the unemployment that affects nearly half the economically active population of the region.

During their Institute visit, the OAS mission also recognized the need to support the countries of Central America in designing and developing resource management strategies for sustainable development projects.

# Central America: MORE TRAINING FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



*Training is one of the most powerful vehicles for modernizing the agricultural sector. Here Luis París (in back) teaches a course in Nicaragua.*

IICA and the World Bank Economic Development Institute (EDI) began working together in mid-1992. Now, three years later, the countries of Central America have made remarkable progress in designing national training programs, especially in the areas of management and technology.

This has been one of the most important products of the Program for Improving Institutional Capabilities in Public and Private Training Organizations for Agricultural Development, which concluded last June with a regional seminar, according to José Ramírez of IICA's Specialized Service of Training, Education and Communications.

Ramírez noted that this initiative had provided a framework in which the public and private sectors drew closer together in "a participatory process," thus revealing how powerful training can be "as a part of each country's strategic plan for the agricultural sector." In his opinion, this has made it possible to draw on the strengths of each organization, using an approach of mutual cooperation.

Ramírez listed some of the Program's additional achievements, such as training courses for managers and instructors from participating organizations, which have helped improve the quality of agricultural training available.

"The training institutes and national organizations have begun a richer exchange of experiences and have learned many lessons from one another. Thus, it is now possible to respond more quickly to training needs brought on as part of the process of modernizing agriculture in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua," he noted.

The Institute sees training of human resources as an essential prerequisite for efforts to modernize overall society, particularly agriculture. The modernization of agriculture, in this view, is a process of necessary changes in the agriculture of the countries, against a backdrop of competitiveness, sustainability and equity.

# Countries in Action

## Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic MINISTERS TACKLE DROUGHT AND DISCUSS



The president of Costa Rica, José María Figueres (center) at CORECA meeting. With him are the Minister of Agriculture of Guatemala Luis Arturo del Valle (left) and the Minister of Honduras, Ramón Villeda.

Last May, Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic sent their ministers of agriculture or representatives to Costa Rica to meet as the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA). In their deliberations, they concluded that the agricultural sector should have a plan of action to reduce its vulnerability to drought. They also explored possibilities for working together to respond to mandates given by the Hemispheric Summit of the Americas held last December in Miami.

The leaders of the sector gave the green light to a pilot program in the province of Guanacaste, Costa Rica, that will experiment with ways to respond to the oft-recurring natural phenomenon of drought on the Isthmus. The resulting experiences will then be extrapolated to the rest of the countries in the subregion. In the meantime, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic will begin setting up conditions for carrying out their own plans.

They also discussed challenges posed by the meeting of presidents of the

Americas. Although agriculture had scarcely been mentioned in the final declaration of the meeting, the ministers felt that many opportunities were open for positioning the sector to pick up some of the momentum gathered throughout the hemisphere.

The delegation from Mexico's Secretariat for Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) then gave a report on economic conditions in the country today, and how they might affect the production and trade of agricultural products. Keith L. Andrews, Director of the Zamorano Pan American Agricultural College in Honduras, reported to the ministers on the regional outreach of this academic center.

The meeting brought together four ministers of agriculture: Luis Arturo del Valle of Guatemala, Ramón Villeda of Honduras, Oscar Manuel González of El Salvador, and Roberto Solórzano of Costa Rica. Deputy ministers present were: Sandy Rivera Bolt of Nicaragua and Manuel Miranda of Panama. Other delegates were Francisco Miguel González, undersecretary of agriculture from the Dominican Republic, and a delegation from Mexico's SARH.

### DROUGHT CONTROL

The plan of drought preparedness would provide each country with a geographic information system to pinpoint areas at high risk for drought. It also includes an inventory of natural, biological, human and financial resources available, as well as legal restrictions. It offers an early warning

system, a plan for inter-sectoral response, mechanisms for damage assessment, programs for training and education, a catalogue of actions and procedures for procuring and mobilizing international cooperation, and a national and subregional organization prepared to respond to the situation. Multi-sectoral teams in each of the eight countries, with representatives of the ministers of agriculture, natural resources, tourism and health, will be assigned to implement the Plan. Also included on the teams will be irrigation organizations, emergency commissions, public utilities, especially electricity and water services, insurance companies, weather bureaus, universities and the press.

Backing will be sought from organizations such as IICA's Central Regional Technical Cooperation Center, the Coordinating Center for Natural Disaster Prevention in Central America, the Regional Committee on Water Resources of the Central American Isthmus, the OAS Department of Regional Development and the Environment, and the International Drought Information Center of the University of Nebraska in the United States.

Last year alone, drought in this subregion wreaked US\$160 million of losses in the first harvest of basic grains for the 1993-94 crop year, destroying nearly 817,000 metric tons of corn, beans, sorghum, and paddy rice. El Salvador was most affected, losing US\$48.3 million, followed by Guatemala, reporting losses of US\$44.4 million, Nicaragua, US\$33.3 million, Honduras, US\$32.5 million and Costa Rica, US\$1.8 million.

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## CONASUR FINE-TUNES WORKING STRATEGY

*\*The Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area emerges as a political forum for discussing problems that affect agricultural development and the quality of life for rural populations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay.*

The Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR) recently met in Asuncion, Paraguay, to fine-tune its operating strategy so it can work more closely with the private sector, support processes of regional integration, move more quickly to modernize the agricultural sector, and improve the quality of life for rural populations.

CONASUR took the opportunity of this meeting, held on March 27 and 28, to assert itself as a true political forum for the ministers of agriculture of

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, according to Enrique Rieger, IICA's Acting Representative in the Technical Cooperation Agency of Paraguay.

This was a very significant development, he explained, as in the past, the Council had been oriented more toward technical concerns, such as drafting and approving standards; but now the ministers felt it was time to shift gears and focus on new issues arising in the current environment, such as international markets, more acute social problems, and the like.

The Seventh Meeting of CONASUR brought together the Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay and new President of the Advisory Council, Carlos Enrique Gasparri; Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Chile, Alejandro Gutiérrez; Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay and outgoing Council President, Arsenio Vasconsellos; Minister of Agriculture, Food Supply and Agrarian Reform of Brazil, José Eduardo de Andrade Vieira; and Under Secretary of the Agricultural Economy of Argentina, Jesús Leguiza.

### RESOLUTION 76

CONASUR formalized its new spirit of change when the ministers of agriculture or their representatives

approved Resolution 76, under which the Advisory Council, whose task in the past had been to set standards and draft technical regulations for agricultural markets, would now work in direct support of regional integration processes.

With this perspective, it will work toward developing a technical, scientific and trade information system, and begin identifying mechanisms to detect needs in the member countries, especially in terms of the agri-food supply.

The resolution also calls on the countries to combine efforts with the private sector, which would thus become an active participant in processes of agricultural development and regional integration. Resolution 76 sets the following key objectives for the new orientation of CONASUR:

\*To facilitate the harmonization of agricultural development policies and strategies.

\*To support processes of modernizing and transforming production.

\*To bolster horizontal technical cooperation.

\*To improve the subregion's overall competitiveness on third markets.

\*To foster scientific and technological exchange.



*\*From left, Enrique Gasparri, Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, and President of CONASUR; Alejandro Gutiérrez, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Chile; Arsenio Vasconsellos, Paraguayan minister and outgoing president; José Eduardo de Andrade Vieira, Brazilian minister; and Jesús Leguiza, Under Secretary of the Agricultural Economy of Argentina.*



- \*To develop technical studies for identifying and eliminating any measures that impede the free access of member countries' agricultural products to external and internal markets.
- \*To identify mechanisms for meeting

the population's food supply needs, while not interfering with free price formation. During more than five years of activities, CONASUR successfully designed and implemented technical recom-

mendations for regulating trade among the five southernmost countries of South America. These recommendations were gradually incorporated into the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR).

## Venezuela: Agrarian Reform Revitalized



Victor Giménez, president of the Commission, presents the final report. From left: Jorge Caro, Interim IICA Representative in Venezuela; Eduardo Gómez, President of the National Congress; Rafael Caldera, President of Venezuela; Ciro Añez, then-Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Venezuela; and Ramón Ramírez, President of the National Agrarian Institute.

Last March, IICA and the Presidential Commission to Evaluate and Follow up on the Agrarian Reform Law in Venezuela completed extensive joint research activities and presented the president of the country, Rafael A. Caldera, with their full report on revitalizing the country's agrarian reform process.

Since 1994, IICA has taken an interest in supporting the work of this group. It set up a team of local and international advisors who undertook a major field research project under the leadership of the Institute's expert in sustainable rural development, Rafael I. Quevedo.

Nearly 3200 farm producers, beneficiaries of the agrarian reform process, were consulted about rural development, socioeconomic conditions, and land tenure status among

the campesino and Indian families who make up 30 percent of Venezuela's rural population.

Once this phase was completed, national authorities and their IICA partners held a series of workshops and seminars attended by various interested sectors, to evaluate the findings of the study and go over the report to be submitted subsequently to the President of Venezuela.

The debate on agrarian reform in Venezuela has been ongoing since 1958, when then-Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Víctor Giménez Landínez introduced the first draft bill calling for distribution of farm land in the Venezuelan rural sector. This initiative was signed into law in 1969, during the first administration of President Caldera Rodríguez.

Cooperation agreements such as this are an important reflection of IICA's concern for maximizing production resources available to rural communities in Latin America and the Caribbean, thus assuring them a more active role in the national economy, and better living conditions.

## Tropical Veterinary Medicine: IICA Hosts Biennial Meeting

Over one hundred high-level authorities from countries of Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe attended the Third Biennial Meeting of the Society of Tropical Veterinary Medicine (STVM) at IICA headquarters from May 8 to 12 of this year.



The Director General of IICA, Carlos E. Aquino, receives a token of appreciation from Jim House, general coordinator of the meeting, in gratitude for his support.

Sponsored by the Institute, the STVM and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the encounter provided an important forum for exchanging information on progress in detection, control and eradication of tropical animal diseases.

The inaugural session featured addresses by the Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Roberto Solórzano; President of the STVM, Kathy Kocan; Director General of IICA, Carlos E. Aquino; and general coordinator of the meeting, Jim House. They urged participants to strengthen animal health programs that encourage fair trade relations in today's environ-

ment, as trade barriers are eased.

Experts invited to address the sessions drew attention to the economic importance of eradicating animal diseases. John Wyss of USDA pointed out that the Central American livestock industry stood to reap over US\$75 million in benefits simply by eliminating the screwworm (*Cochliomyia hominivorax*) from the subregion.

Other specialists such as David Sheesly, also from USDA, felt that improved plant and animal health standards were an absolute requirement for competing successfully on international markets.

The next biennial meeting of the STVM will take place in Mexico, according to Kocan.

## Trinidad and Tobago: IICA Agency to Host Inter-Institutional Meetings



Officials of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago will receive training on the participation of women in rural development, thanks to the actions of IICA's TCA in that nation.

Development Institute (CARDI).

The first session, held last March, was also attended by delegates from the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Maritime Resources (MALMR) of Trinidad and Tobago.

The participants singled out specific areas for cooperation. They also set up a commission that will work under the leadership of FAO delegate Dr. Lancelott B. Hayles, to plan a

lecture series on agriculture in the region in today's rapidly changing economic environment. This series will be held preparatory to the 1996 Regional Summit on Agriculture. Women and rural development

IICA's Technical Cooperation Agency in Trinidad and Tobago offers training on women in rural development. For 1995, it has decided to expand the coverage of training activities to include nongovernmental organizations active in this field. The courses planned for this year will cover such topics as the historical role of women in agriculture, definition of gender, and images of women. In 1994, IICA mostly trained ministry of agriculture staff.

IICA's Technical Cooperation Agency in Trinidad and Tobago has begun hosting regular inter-institutional meetings of entities involved in developing and modernizing agriculture, both in the country and around the subregion.

Expected to take place every two months, these meetings will bring together a working group of international and regional organizations, including the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and IICA, as well as the University of the West Indies (UWI) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and

## IICA Welcomes New Deputy Director General

Charles R. Bowers, a career diplomat with the United States Foreign Service, entered IICA on June 1, 1995 as the new Deputy Director General.

Bowers graduated from the University of California at Berkeley with a degree in political science and economics, and went on to earn a Master's degree in international relations from the same university.

From 1991 to 1994, he served as United States Ambassador to Bolivia. He also worked at the State Department in Washington from 1988 to 1991 as Personnel Director for the Under Secretary for Administration.

His experience in the field of agriculture mostly involves environmental affairs and conservation. In Bolivia, Bowers worked with the government to

help create the Ministry of Sustainable Development, and supported the design and implementation of a sustainable forestry program.

### OTHER APPOINTMENTS

Roberto U. Hernández, from the United States, joined the Institute April 19 as Director of Human Resources. He holds a Master's in human resources from the University of San Antonio, Texas. Hernández was previously Director of the Personnel Division of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Arnaldo Badillo, a Venezuelan with a Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics, is the new Director of the Area of Concentration for Sustainable Rural Development at Institute Headquarters. He began on June 1.



Arnaldo Badillo (far left), Charles R. Bowers and Roberto Hernández were introduced to IICA headquarters staff in June by IICA Director General Carlos E. Aquino (center). The President of the IICA Staff Association (APIICA), Laura Pérez, also took part.

# New Information Systems Being Planned

The Working Group on Strategic Planning of Information Systems has dedicated eight weeks to an intense review of Institute processes, and at an expanded cabinet meeting last May, submitted a report on its progress in preparing a plan to integrate IICA's information systems. The process began in February and culminated with the presentation of a series of recommenda-

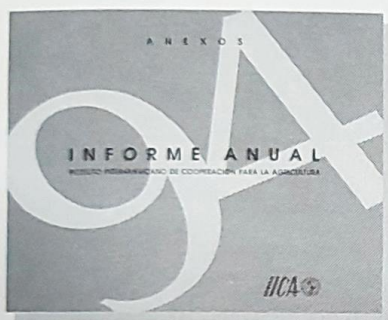
tions that now need to be translated into short- and long-term actions to analyze and design systems that will meet the Institute's needs.

This endeavor was launched for a number of specific purposes: to facilitate Institute decision-making in the midst of growing demands for information; to improve working conditions for

Institute employees; to make the Institute more dynamically responsive to country requests; and to contribute to the process of modernizing the Institute, according to Manuel Ruiz, member of the group and Executive Secretary of the Research Network on Animal Production Systems in Latin America.

## PUBLICATIONS

1994 IICA ANNUAL REPORT



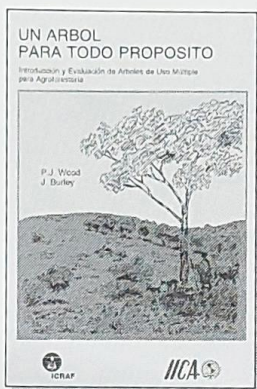
This report summarizes IICA's work during 1994, as the Institute underwent many changes in strategy and organizational structure, learning to practice a new participatory, flexible and decentralized style of technical cooperation.

In the opinion of Institute Director General Carlos E. Aquino, the book "is an important source of information and should trigger reflection on IICA's compliance with the political mandate given by the Member States."

The publication describes results IICA achieved by implementing the technical cooperation instruments in pursuit of thematic priorities proposed by the Member States. It also portrays the efforts made to develop strategic partnerships and to maximize the Institute's comparative advantages.

Finally, the report shows how IICA proceeded with its work in the framework of an institutional modernization process that builds on the 52-years lifetime of this specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system.

UN ARBOL PARA TODO PROPOSITO:



Introducción y Evaluación de Árboles de Uso Múltiple para Agroforestería. P.J. Wood, J. Burley

The book, co-produced by IICA and the International Council for Research in Agro-forestry, describes methods for introducing and evaluating perennial woody plants in agroforestry.

By introducing these plants, growers can observe how a little-known species performs in a new environment, and evaluate whether a species is suited for use in an agroforestry system, or for future research in combination with other plant or animal components.

This Spanish-language edition of the book is the result of a financial contribution from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forestry Support Program.

METODOLOGIAS PARA LA PROMOCION Y EVALUACION DE PROYECTOS DE AGROINDUSTRIAS RURALES.



Cooperative Rural Agroindustrial Development Program (PRODAR) This book takes a systematic look at the techniques, tools and methods that the Cooperative Rural Agroindustrial Program (PRODAR) has used for promoting and evaluating rural agroindustry projects and products.

The methods are classified, by objective, into four categories: a) methods for giving the overall picture of rural agroindustry (RAI) or projects to support it; b) methods to help make existing RAI projects more competitive; c) methods to guide the implementation of RAI projects; and d) methods to assess the potential magnitude and impact of RAI and related projects. A section on "tools and techniques" provides the reader with additional tools for performing assessment studies; for identifying, selecting and evaluating project ideas; for analyzing and evaluating existing processes and production; and for developing new processes and products. The book also offers strategic foundations for developing RAI projects, including considerations of gender issues, sustainability and production systems.

# IICA IN THE NEWS

## Paraguay, Uruguay

### Rumbo de Conasur deberá ser redefinido hoy con ministros

El Consejo de Ministros de Agricultura y Ganadería de los países miembros de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Agrícola de América del Sur (CONASUR) se reunirá hoy en Montevideo para redefinir el rumbo de la organización. Los ministros de los países miembros de la región, Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Uruguay y Venezuela, se reunirán en el Hotel Intercontinental de Montevideo.



CONASUR will support processes to modernize and transform production, strengthen horizontal cooperation, and foster scientific and technological exchange, according to newspapers in Paraguay and Uruguay.

Paraguay (Noticias, Ultima Hora, Hoy, Noticias del Diario, ABC Color), Uruguay (La Mañana, Ultimas Noticias)

## Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama

Costa Rica (La Republica, Al Día, ACAN-EFE, La Prensa Libre, Actualidad Económica), Panama (La Prensa), Honduras (La Prensa)

## Costa Rica, Honduras, Nicaragua

### Fortalecerán proyectos de desarrollo fronterizo

SAN JOSÉ, Costa Rica. El secretario general de la Organización de Cooperación y Desarrollo Agrícola de América del Sur (CONASUR), Miguel Méndez, anunció hoy que la organización fortalecerá proyectos de desarrollo fronterizo en los países miembros de la región. Méndez dijo que la CONASUR tiene un programa de desarrollo fronterizo que incluye la creación de zonas de desarrollo fronterizo, la promoción de la agricultura y la ganadería, y la creación de zonas de desarrollo fronterizo. Méndez dijo que la CONASUR tiene un programa de desarrollo fronterizo que incluye la creación de zonas de desarrollo fronterizo, la promoción de la agricultura y la ganadería, y la creación de zonas de desarrollo fronterizo.

The Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR) reasserted its role as the political forum for debating problems that affect agricultural development in the subregion, according to stories printed in the South American press on the occasion of the most recent meeting of CONASUR, from March 27 to 28 in Paraguay.

In their meeting, the ministers of agriculture also recognized that the private sector must play a leading role in the region's move toward development and integration.

De productos agropecuarios

## C.A. busca mejorar comercio

MIGUEL MÉNDEZ, II.

Los ministros de Agricultura y Ganadería de Centroamérica reunidos en nuestro país, acordaron aprobar un plan de acción con el propósito de capacitar a los sectores público y privado, en el manejo de instrumentos de comercio exterior de productos agropecuarios.

Con ese propósito solicitarán recursos al Fondo de Desarrollo Institucional del Banco Mundial por aproximadamente \$500,000.

Los titulares de las carreras de agricultura del área, constituidos en Consejo Agropecuario Centroamericano, (CAC), debatieron sobre el comercio de productos lácteos, el futuro de las basuras de paja que se aplican a arroz, maíz y sorgo, en Nicaragua, Honduras y Guatemala, así como la utilización de la tecnología de satélites para aplicarlas a la explotación agrícola y la pesca.

Los ministros acordaron que El Salvador sea la sede de la primera conferencia centroamericana de productos lácteos, en que representantes del sector privado prepararan recomendaciones para que los gobiernos del área elaboren una política regional que impulse el desarrollo del sector de una manera eficiente y competitiva, en las áreas de producción, industrialización y comercio.

Mexico, Central America and the Dominican Republic all sent ministers of agriculture or their representatives to meet together as the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation of this subregion and tackle an agenda containing such items as trade, agricultural health and training, according to newspapers in Central America.

The meeting took place in Costa Rica from May 11 to 12, and as a result of their deliberations, participants agreed that the subregion would negotiate with the United States on increasing beef exports to that country.

According to international news agencies and the written press, the countries set themselves a collective goal to sell up to an average of 21,000 tons of beef every year from now until the year 2000.

The Organization of American States (OAS) and IICA will continue and even step up joint development activities in the border zones of Central America, according to several written press reports.

A delegation from the OAS, including the Director of the Department of Regional Development and the Environment, Kirk Rodgers, and a senior specialist from the same department, Roberto Casañas, spoke on behalf of the Secretary General of the Organization, César Gaviria, expressing OAS willingness to reinforce joint activities with IICA.

The two organizations recognized that the nations of Central America need support in designing and developing resource management strategies for sustainable development projects. Through its Central Regional Center headquartered in Guatemala, the Institute will bolster this work with a strategy to involve the public and private sectors, communities and local governments.

Costa Rica (ACAN-EFE), Honduras (La Prensa, El Periódico, Tiempo), Nicaragua (La Prensa).

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- \*Eighth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), San Jose, Costa Rica, IICA Headquarters, September 18-22, 1995.
- \*Regional Consultation on Sustainable Livestock Production. IICA-IDRC-ILRI, San Jose, Costa Rica, October 16-20, 1995.
- \*Workshop Agricultural Services, "Privatizing San Jose, Costa Rica, IICA Headquarters, November 6-10, 1995.