



IICA NEWS

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IICA



Year V, N° 12 January, 1988

NEWS

PLAN FOR REACTIVATING AGRICULTURE EMPHASIZES MULTINATIONAL ACTIONS

The Plan of Action for Reactivating Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean will place priority on multinational actions, said Plan Coordinator Félix Cirio.

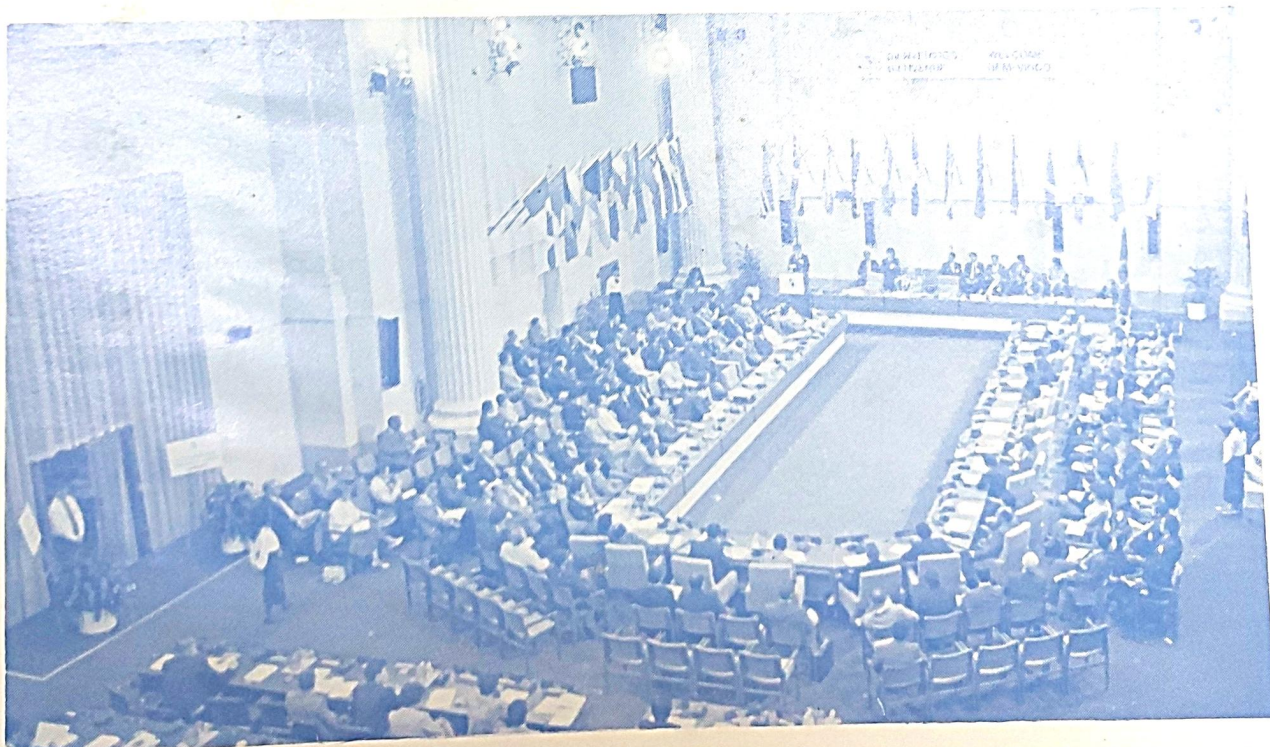
He noted an increasingly widespread consensus that peace and political stability in many countries of the region are dependent upon a quick revival of sustained economic and social growth and development.

Thus, "It is necessary to put priority on multinational actions because they will make it easier to obtain resources from donor countries and international financial institutions, strengthening the process of regional and subregional integration," he added.

"By emphasizing this kind of action, which is previously agreed upon and coordinated by groups of countries, economies of scale can be encouraged. Moreover, the impact of external cooperation increases when applied to multinational activities, producing a significant multiplier effect," he said.

The task of preparing a Plan for Reactivating Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held last September in Canada.

"The aim is that the Plan will translate the conceptual and declarative consensus (reached at the ICMA) into concrete actions that are conducive to



Preparation of the Plan to Reactivate Agriculture was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada, in September 1987.

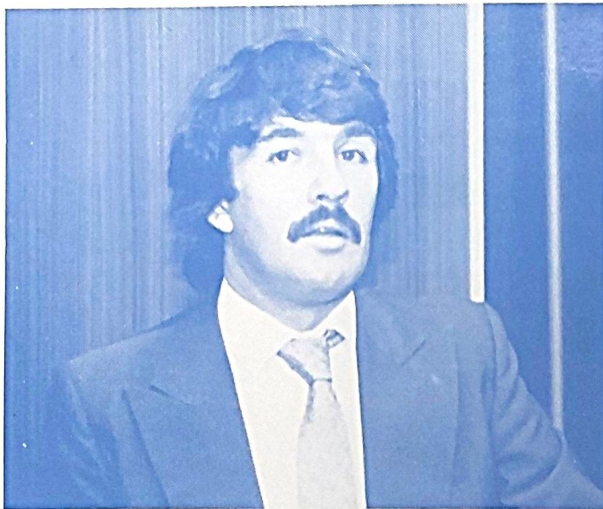
PLAN FOR REACTIVATING . . .

reactivating the economy and developing the region," Cirio explained.

He also pointed out that 22 of the Institute's 31 Member States were represented at the Conference by their Ministers of Agriculture. The result was a true "hemispheric summit on agriculture", he said.

"Preparation of the Plan received unanimous support not only from the region's agriculture experts, but also from the ministers of foreign affairs, who passed a resolution of approval during the XVII General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), held last November in the capital of the United States," Cirio explained.

Formulating the Plan will demand twenty months of intense effort. The first phase (from December 1, 1987 to August 1, 1988) will focus on developing the general framework and identifying possible actions; during the second (which ends in August 1989), concrete proposals of action will be prepared.



Félix Cirio, Coordinator of the Plan of Action.

Cirio was quick to note that the Plan will be formulated with on-going input from the governments of IICA's Member States. Specialized international organizations and various technical units from developed countries interested in providing financial and technical cooperation will also contribute to preparing and later implementing the Plan.

Diverse subregional organizations such as the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Board of the Cartagena Agreement will have a special role in the process. Also participating will be an International Advisory Commission composed of six to 10 public figures in agriculture, who are recognized for their capability and technical knowledge.

They include Lucio Reza, who served twice as Argentina's Minister of Agriculture; Roberto Junguito, former Minister of Agriculture and Finance in Colombia; and Edward Schub, Director of the Hubert Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota in the United States.

From the institutional point of view, the chief responsibility of the Technical Group set up at IICA to support the Plan is to prepare proposals and coordinate Plan-related activities, Cirio explained. The Technical Group is composed of the Directors of the five programs of the Institute, the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, the Director of Programming and Evaluation, and the Coordinator of the Plan.

In conclusion, Cirio pointed out that various mechanisms guarantee participation from IICA Representations, which ensures that the Institute's technical capacity is maximized.

"An initial outline for complying with the Mandate of Ottawa is to be presented at IICA's next Executive Committee Meeting, which will be held in Costa Rica in August," he said.

TECHNICAL MEETING ANALYZES HEALTH RESTRICTIONS ON MEAT IMPORTS

IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection Program will hold a three-day technical meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica to analyze restrictions imposed on the international meat market.

The meeting, to be held on February 2-4, will bring together officials from the Central Area of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). IICA's Dr. Benjamín Jara, specialist in animal health and coordinator of the meeting, noted that it will continue IICA's efforts to study health regulations in meat trade, and how they are applied.

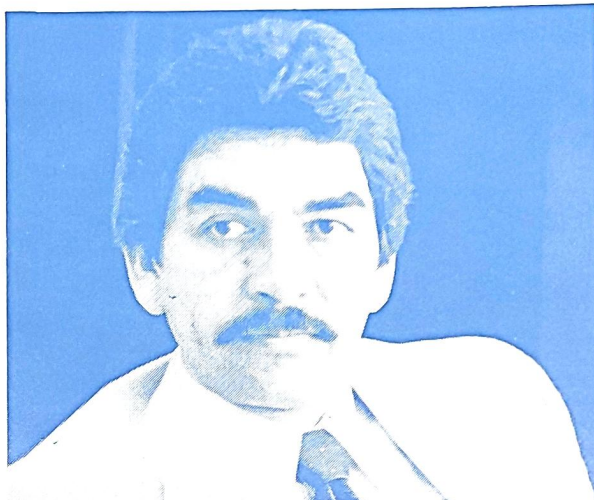
"These restrictions result from the fear in importing countries that meat consumption poses risks, because of accumulations of harmful substances in these foods," he remarked.

In an effort to determine the tolerance limits or safety margins that can guarantee risk-free meat consumption, sophisticated systems have been developed that span the life of the animals while they are being raised until the time they enter the slaughterhouse.

Dr. Jara noted that this process is costly, and must be developed in the exporting countries so they can compete in the international market. He added that "not doing this will result in rejection of the product, which implies onerous costs for a developing country. Often, this is not at all justifiable, because many of the products which cause contamination and have residual effects in animals consumed in developed countries do not exist in developing countries."

Dr. Jara's assertion concurs with the findings made by a panel of experts in early 1987, in Tegucigalpa. At a meeting organized by IICA, the eight countries of the Central Area agreed with laboratory specialists, whose studies showed that the demands and requirements applied by industrialized countries varied widely.

"It seems that industrialized countries have not standardized their criteria for the regulations and demands they place on meat imports," Dr. Jara said.



Dr. Benjamín Jara, IICA animal health specialist.

One of the objectives of the February meeting is to give the exporting countries the opportunity to present their technical advances and experiences, discuss the possibility of becoming eligible to export, and become more familiar with minimum technical requirements.

U.S. officials will attend this meeting to explain the new requirements, going into effect this year, that countries must comply with in order to continue exporting to the United States. They will also present the scientific and technological findings used to support the new regulations.

"This panel of experts includes highly trained laboratory technicians who will help the countries of the Central Area redefine their procedures, and establish a direct dialogue with U.S. officials who determine eligibility for meat-exporting countries," Dr. Jara explained. "This in itself constitutes an immediate, direct benefit for countries attending this meeting."

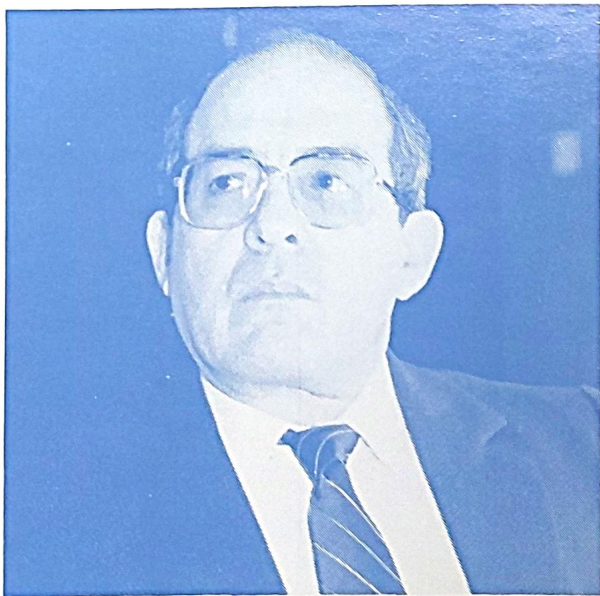
Each participating country will explain the structure of its control program for meat residues. After a discussion with a panel of USDA experts, the recommendations and conclusions of the meeting will be issued.

CORECA-PRACA Meeting: REGIONAL ORGANIZATION SEEKING STRONGER INTEGRATION OF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

At a three-day meeting starting February 10 in Costa Rica, the eight member countries of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) will consider forming a regional organization to strengthen their role in the world coffee market.

They will also consider ways to revitalize the Training and Study Program on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic (PRACA).

Dr. Reynaldo Pérez, Secretary General of CORECA, said this conference is being held in accordance with the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Council of Agriculture Ministers, held in Guatemala. A resolution issued at this meeting ordered the Vice-Ministers of Agriculture in the Central American area and CORECA to support the efforts of national coffee groups to organize into a regional organization to strengthen their position in the international coffee market.



Dr. Reynaldo Pérez, Secretary General of CORECA.

"This organization would promote joint negotiation for better quotas in the international coffee market, given that the CORECA countries produce 14 percent of the world supply and are in third place among producers," Pérez said. "This meeting aims to examine the problem closely, complementing earlier efforts."

PRACA meeting participants will bear in mind the resolution issued during the Third Special Meeting of CORECA, in Canada: It stipulates that CORECA, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and PRACA directors should consider actions that are consistent with both the guidelines of IICA's Rural Development Program and the national programs of the Member States.

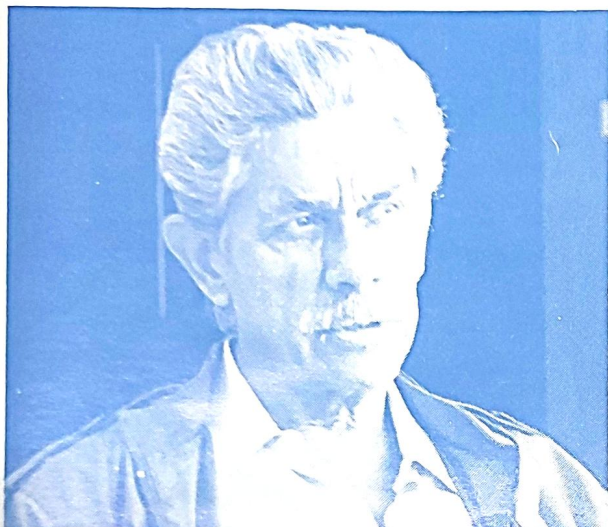
"The Rural Development Program attends to the problems of rural poverty and strengthens campesino rural development organizations in areas affected by agrarian reform," Dr. Pérez said.

"(This program) aims primarily to train campesinos to confront the tasks of campesino outreach and organization, and marketing," he added. "Another way these lessons are taught is through the 'Teaching the Teachers' project."

For more than 20 years, PRACA has functioned as part of IICA. Members include the Central American countries, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. Currently, the Rural Development Program is working to revitalize and refocus PRACA, emphasizing rural development in some cases and agrarian reform in others, depending on the political viability of agrarian reform and rural development in each country.

"We will really have four different types of meetings: CORECA Executive Committee meetings; meetings of the Coffee Directors and the Executive Committee of CORECA; the Board of Directors of PRACA; and finally, a joint meeting between PRACA and CORECA," Dr. Pérez concluded.

Report presented at Brazilian Congress: PROBLEMS OF COFFEE CULTIVATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA



Dr. Carlos Enrique Fernández, Chief of PROMECAFE.

Although coffee cultivation is still one of the most important economic activities for the countries of Central America, diverse problems restrict production efficiency.

This is the conclusion of a report presented by Dr. Carlos Enrique Fernández, Chief of the Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Caribbean (PROMECAFE), during the XIX Brazilian Congress on Coffee Research and the First Latin American Conference on Coffee Technology.

Both meetings were held last December 1 to 4, in Campinas, São Paulo. More than 700 specialists and researchers from Brazil and all over Latin America attended.

PROMECAFE agricultural researcher Jorge Hernán Echeverri complemented Dr. Fernández's report with five reports written with support from the technical personnel of the Program. Considered were the adaptation of different plant varieties, the evaluation of 16 predominant genotypes, root growth and acclimatization of hybrids multiplied

"in vitro," and a regional proposal to create a bibliographical data base on coffee.

In the introduction to his report, Dr. Fernández notes that in 1985 the Central American countries, Panama and Mexico produced some 843 300 metric tons of coffee from 1 316 800 hectares of land (see Chart 1).

He adds that a large part of this coffee is grown in the mountains and spurs that cross the isthmus, on slopes with gradients of more than 30 percent, from heights above 1 500 meters to just a few hundred meters above sea level.

The bulk of the coffee produced is of Arabica and other "soft" varieties, although is a small quantity of Robusta is grown for local consumption.

ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE

Dr. Fernández's report establishes a simple but eloquent parameter measuring the economic significance of coffee for the countries of the region.

Chart 1
AREA ENGAGED IN COFFEE CULTIVATION AND
TOTAL COFFEE PRODUCTION IN MESOAMERICAN
COUNTRIES IN 1985

Country	Hectares (x 1 000)	Green Coffee (Metric Tons)
Mexico	497.0	268 200
Guatemala	268.8	152 000
El Salvador	186.0	156 000
Honduras	122.5	84 000
Nicaragua	112.0	50 000
Costa Rica	105.0	121 000
Panama	25.5	12 190
Total	1 316.8	843.300

Source: Coffee-growing associations in the Area, and 1985 FAO World Production Yearbook statistics.

PROBLEMS OF COFFEE . . .

Chart 2
PERCENTAGE CONTRIBUTION OF COFFEE CROP TO
TOTAL GENERATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE
IN 1985

Country	Percentage
Guatemala	45.6
El Salvador	60.2
Honduras	23.0
Nicaragua	40.7
Costa Rica	33.3
Panama	2.7

Source: Centroamérica: la crisis en cifras. IICA-FLACSO, 1986.

Coffee earnings are shown as a percentage of each country's foreign exchange earnings. (See Chart 2).

In the case of Mexico, for example, coffee has become increasingly important. Estimates indicate that in recent years it has moved into first place among agricultural export products. In 1986 alone, it brought in US\$ 865 million.

Because of its importance as a foreign exchange-earner, governments in the region have traditionally taxed coffee to finance a wide range of national programs.

Although there are few data on the subject, Dr. Fernández noted that between 1974 and 1986 in Costa Rica, the government collected 18 cents from every dollar generated by coffee exports.

Coffee income also brings direct benefits to domestic economies, because they are distributed to field workers, farmers, coffee processors, exporters, importers and the service and input sector.

An additional advantage of coffee is that, unlike other types of export industries, coffee plantations are owned by nationals, according to Dr. Fernández's report.

The report notes that, contrary to common belief, coffee is cultivated to a large degree by small farmers, and that 90 percent of all holdings (or 300 000 farms) measure less than 10 hectares (see Chart 3).

It estimates that some 1 300 000 day workers are permanently employed by the coffee industry, and that this number quadruples during harvest time.

Also, because the coffee plant is so adaptable, it serves as an excellent source of income for people settling new lands. It brings stable (though not abundant) earnings for decades at a time, without excessive costs for labor or inputs.

Nonetheless, attractive coffee profits and economic pressures have encouraged the search for higher yields and greater production efficiency. Dr. Fernández pointed out that various countries have responded by designing a technological package based on accumulated research results.

"Although we still have much to do and face many persistent production problems, a large number of coffee growers have decided to adopt all or part of the technological package, and the result has been an increase in production and productivity in the countries of the area," he said.

Chart 3
NUMBER OF COFFEE FARMS AND PROPORTION OF
SMALL HOLDINGS

Country	No. of Farms	Less than 10 hectares (Percentages)
Mexico	168 520	97.0
Guatemala	48 000	92.6
El Salvador	43 700	87.4
Honduras	39 000	94.0
Nicaragua	17 500	85.2
Costa Rica	32 000	84.1
Panama	6 200	90.0

Source: Coffee-Growing Associations in the area.

PROBLEMS OF COFFEE . . .

Based on this new technology, changes have been made in plant varieties (from Arabica to Bourbon and later to Caturra); density of plantings (from 900 plants per hectare to 5 000 and more); pruning systems; and changes in pest, disease, and weed control practices. Also, light and fertilization have been increased.

PROBLEMS OR LIMITING FACTORS

In spite of technical advances and productivity gains, several problems of coffee cultivation persist on the Central American isthmus today.

Dr. Fernández's report identified three reasons: low levels of education, labor shortages, and political instability.

Explaining the education problem, the report notes that coffee is grown mainly by small farmers with little money or formal education, which makes the incorporation of new technology more difficult.

With regard to political instability, the report mentions the region's historic problems, which spill over into the coffee sector.

According to recent statistics, of El Salvador's 186 000 coffee hectares, 18 750 have not been replanted in recent years, 3 300 have been lost to other crops and 86 600 have been completely abandoned.

Labor shortages, which intensify during the harvest season, have not yet become generalized.

Some countries have been forced to limit their production, however, because of this factor.

The report also cited four economic problems for coffee cultivation in the region:

- The "heavy tax burden" on coffee, because governments target the crop as a prime dollar earner.
- Low coffee prices on the world market, which require the fashioning of new joint strategies.
- The high price of inputs and labor, which inflates production costs and decreases profits.
- Lack of sufficient available credit to promote and improve all coffee-related activities.

Strictly agricultural problems affecting the coffee industry stem from: agroclimatic conditions; improper plant nutrition and fertilizer use; diseases, pests and weeds; mechanization; improper soil conservation; lack of economic studies, and inadequate cost and profit management.

While the report notes success in adopting resistant or tolerant coffee varieties to combat and control coffee rust, it also reveals that more serious pests still exist, such as the coffee berry borer, the coffee leaf miner, and nematodes. Safe methods have not yet been fully developed to control them.

However, some biological and control studies are under way that take an integrated approach to the coffee berry borer, emphasizing adequate and strict precautions.

On the other hand, efforts to research and run tests on the coffee leaf miner must be stepped up, the report urges, because this insect appears on a cyclical basis, causing serious damage.

All the problems mentioned in Dr. Fernández's report are being studied and analyzed by PROMECAFE. This Program was started in 1978 with support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and financial backing from the Regional Office of the U.S. Agency for International Development (ROCAP).

IFAD President Affirms: ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS MUST BENEFIT THE RURAL POOR

Structural Adjustment Loans (SALs) must encourage the participation of small farmers and the rural poor, so they can benefit from economic growth, said Idriss Jazairy, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in a speech at a recent seminar on "Structural Adjustment Programs: Implications for Recovery and Agricultural Development."

During the seminar, which was sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and held at its headquarters in Costa Rica early last December, Jazairy added that the SALs should incorporate small producers into the "zone of economic growth," while keeping the country's economic resources in mind.

"In designing and implementing the SALs, the challenge is to offer adequate opportunities for the recovery and development of the rural sector, through financial support and specific policies," Jazairy said in his speech.

The seminar was organized jointly by IICA and the World Bank's Economic Development Institute (EDI). Individuals from 12 countries of the region participated on their own behalf, analyzing the impact of the SALs on the region's agriculture sector.



Experts from 12 countries of the region examined the Structural Adjustment Programs of the World Bank.

According to Jazairy, the short-term approach and the attempt to balance the countries' current accounts had a serious effect on traditional agriculture, and especially small farmers.

"Very rarely did their activities receive attention when it was time to make economic decisions, because they were not considered relevant to the issue of rapid generation of exports," Jazairy's speech noted. "In general, small landowners and the rural poor were especially hurt by budget cut-backs in social programs and those that develop human resources."

However, despite the negative effect of the SALs on small farmers and the rural poor, IFAD maintains that they "can contribute significantly to food production increases and generation of employment and income."

For this reason, IFAD "aims to guarantee that (these sectors) receive the inputs and material support they need to increase production, especially of foodstuffs, during the adjustment process."

IFAD is also interested in liberalizing the economy through "support for establishing alternative marketing systems, with participation from local-level producers' associations or voluntary cooperatives," he said.

Another goal is to re-establish credit flows for small farmers, with support from commercial and development banks, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

IFAD believes these and other measures will spur economic recovery, especially by generating employment.

By increasing rather than cutting productive jobs, "we can achieve the short-term goal of increasing the purchasing power of the poor, which will help them in their battle against malnutrition. Also, this employment generation will bring about a renewal of the development process," Jazairy said.

International Seminar: EXPERTS AFFIRM ARGENTINA'S CAPACITY TO DIVERSIFY AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS

Experts from nine countries met for a two-day seminar in Buenos Aires last December to discuss the expansion of fruit and vegetable exports.

Specialists from Argentina, the United States, West Germany, France, Canada, Israel, Holland, Brazil and Chile participated in the seminar, which was organized by the Argentine Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); also cooperating were the Argentine Secretariat of Industry and Foreign Trade's Fund for Export Promotion and the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA).

Inaugurating the seminar on December 15, the host country's Secretary of Agriculture, Ernesto Figueras, related agricultural policy in the industrialized countries as "a new model of economic conquest." He also announced that the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will make over 100,000 million worth of credit available to the Argentine agriculture sector.

Figueras added that protectionism "obliges us to redesign the strategy we have developed, and to use our imaginations in gearing agricultural exports toward increased diversification." This involves "generating sources of income from products whose prices are not distorted on world markets because of political measures."

Given that world agricultural policy can be characterized as a "new model of economic conquest," the fruit and vegetable sector, which Figueras described as "traditionally very sluggish," should receive stronger support. To do so, Figueras advocated new programs and investment projects designed to modernize and reactivate the industry.

The Secretary of Agriculture emphasized the need to combine retributive prices with new technology that permits increased production. He also allowed that this approach requires adequate access to credit.

IICA Representative in Argentina Dr. Carlos Garramón affirmed that this international seminar is not an isolated event, but rather part of a broad techni-

cal cooperation program involving various organizations, supported by the United Nations and IICA.

He added that the program aims to eliminate "structural deficiencies that make the production process and domestic and international marketing for traditional agricultural products disproportionately expensive," and to encourage "a consistent export diversification process for high-profit products with high-volume world markets."

In conclusion, Garramón pointed out that Argentina's fruit and vegetable sector has tried this approach, and now reports promising production statistics and outlook for foreign sales.

The promising future for foreign sales was reaffirmed by the Argentine Agricultural Counsellor to the European Economic Community (EEC) Guillermo Nielsen, who noted that the Common Market now imports an estimated four million tons a year of fresh fruits and 800 000 tons of vegetables.

Boyd Buxton, Head of Fruit and Vegetable Analysis at the US Department of Agriculture and one of the panelists at the seminar, pointed out that international trade in the sector is increasingly competitive.

"Many countries are seriously considering using fruit and vegetable crops to mitigate the financial oppression of their farmers, and improve their balance of trade," he said.

He also noted that markets in the United States offer many possibilities for selling this type of product, as long as steady supply and high quality are assured.

Link Dietar, Chief of Fruits and Vegetables at the Ministry of Agriculture in Bonn, West Germany, said that "if Argentina wants to increase its exports, it must become competitive enough to secure an advantageous place among the countries of the Southern Hemisphere that produce similar goods. This means that it must sell more cheaply, improve quality, and adopt an organized marketing strategy that responds efficiently to the clients' needs."

IICA/Radio Netherlands: INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON APPLIED COMMUNICATION

A week-long international seminar, the first of its kind, on the media applied to development for agricultural extension agents will begin in San Jose, Costa Rica in late February.

The course is part of the Project titled "Applied Communication for Rural Education and Development in Latin America with emphasis on Central America and the Caribbean." It is coordinated jointly by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Radio Netherlands Training Center (RNTC).

Twelve scholarship students, two each from Panama, the Dominican Republic and some Central American nations, will receive intensive training to improve their knowledge and skills in radio and written communication for agricultural development.

According to José Pérez, Director of RNTC, the seminar is a "workshop-course" where participants must produce programs and written material, under a professor's supervision. The students will have access to a professional radio-production studio and the facilities they will need to design written material for their agricultural programs, with a radio component.

It is hoped that by the end of the course, students will have mastered group dynamics techniques to run meetings; the production of formats for radio news, commentaries, interviews, adaptations and sociodramas; the planning and evaluation of applied communication to specific projects; the didactic process of educational programming, and campaign planning.

Experienced professors who are recognized in their fields will teach basic courses on group dynamics, written press, planning communications components for development projects, and general and applied radiophonic production.

In order to qualify for a scholarship, candidates must be involved in an agricultural extension

project involving contact with farmers. The institution they work for must guarantee them at least two more years of employment, and allow them to apply the techniques and knowledge they acquire during the course.

Candidates are being selected by IICA Representatives in the countries involved in this first training activity.

COURSES FOR 1988

IICA and RNTC have planned a number of similar activities for 1988 to benefit Central American and Caribbean countries:

- Three more international courses: Applied Communication (Multimedia II), July 4 to September 9; Radiophonic Productions (geared especially toward women), September 10 to October 28; and Systems for Non-formal Education at a Distance (radio, video and published), October 31 to December 9.
- A special course for the English-speaking Caribbean will be held from January 25 to February 19, and one on video, from June 6 to 24.
- "On-site" courses to be offered consist of 12 follow-up activities with institutions that are participating or are involved in the international courses.

In 1988, IICA and Radio Netherlands will offer special support for installing a broadcasting station in the Trifinio Project area (along the border between Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador). They will also support a national education campaign in Haiti, and a project to generate and transfer technology on basic foodstuffs to small farmers in Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

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News bulletin on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Division of Public Information. Address: Apdo. 55, 2200 Coronado; San Jose, Costa Rica. Cable: IICASANJOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Telephone: 29-02-22.

Editors: Mario Segura and Miguel Martí. Translator: Betsy Lordan. Revision of English: Susana Raine-Najarro, Michael J. Snarskis. Art: Hugo Calderón. Design: Jimena Ugarte. Director of External Relations: Jorge Werthein.
 The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

IICA



Year V, No. 13. February 1988

NEWS

GUIDELINES FOR USE AND SAFETY OF GENETIC ENGINEERING APPROVED

At a meeting without precedent in the hemisphere, a group of scientists and experts approved a set of guidelines for the use and safety of biotechnology techniques as applied to genetic engineering.

"It is hoped that these guidelines will provide a coordinated framework for regulating new biotechnology techniques in each country in the hemisphere, and assure the rational and safe use of the scientific benefits and materials that these techniques offer, in order to comply with the obligations that must be met if public health and the environment are to be protected," said Dr. Pedro Acha, coordinator of the meeting, organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and held at IICA headquarters in Costa Rica.

The guidelines include regulations and safety standards that can be applied when genetically-engineered organ-

isms are intentionally released into the environment; research guidelines for using recombinant DNA molecules; general regulations for new medicines and biological products designed for human use, and general requirements on food and on medical devices.

The meeting, attended by 40 scientists from Canada, the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, was held under the auspices of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the International Office of Epizootics (IOE).

The Inter-American Study Group on New Biotechnology in Agriculture and Health also approved a series of recommendations after four days of deliberations. They call for establishment of a Permanent Secretariat for Safety Matters in Biotechnology, a national committee



Scientists from around the region approve a series of guidelines for the use and safety of genetic engineering.

GUIDELINES FOR USE...

for biotechnology safety in each country, and various other meetings to consider topics such as intellectual property rights over genetically engineered products.

"With these guidelines, approved by high-level scientists and experts, the governments now have a solid basis to formulate their own regulations without impeding overall biotechnological development," said Dr. Acha, who, as Coordinator for Interinstitutional Affairs at IICA, is based in the United States.

"Now that the rules of the game have been made clear, exchange of experiences and joint ventures between the various countries are more likely," he added.

He also explained that IICA and the government of Costa Rica will solicit funds from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to publish the guidelines in English and Spanish, so they can be distributed to ministries of agriculture, health, industry, and science and technology, as well as universities and research centers in the countries.

IICA TAKES FIRST STEP IN FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Director of the Technology Generation and Transfer Program at IICA, noted that the Institute was taking an important first step in the field of biotechnology by sponsoring this meeting, thus complying with a mandate established at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Canada last September.

At that meeting, the principal agriculture officials of the hemisphere resolved that "the organizations of the inter-American system, and especially IICA, will sponsor concrete activities to support the countries as they design and implement policies incorporating new biotechnological advances into their respective bodies of technological knowledge, upgrading their organizational and management capacities."

BIOTECHNOLOGY PROMPTS NEW AND REVISED PROCESSES

IICA Deputy Director General Dr. L. Harlan Davis said he was satisfied with the progress made at the meeting, noting that biotechnology when applied to genetics would "allow us to redesign rather than just select and also develop completely new processes, instead of



Dr. Pedro Acha, Coordinator for Interinstitutional Affairs at IICA.

simply accelerating the ones we have."

Examples of this include plants that are resistant to low temperatures, leaner pigs and biological pesticides.

Dr. Davis urged Latin America and the Caribbean not to delay in developing these techniques, which "are changing the relative importance of the factors of production (land, labor and capital), making agricultural production less dependent on natural resources."

"With the new biotechnology, indications are that the region's traditional comparative advantage (natural resources and cheap labor) will be insufficient to assure competitiveness," he warned.

INADEQUATE CARE IN CHOOSING TERMINOLOGY

During the meeting Dr. David Kingsbury, Deputy Director of Biological, Social and Behavioral Sciences at the National Science Foundation in the United States, warned that a misuse of terms could cause alarm among the public.

"When we speak of the 'intentional release' of microorganisms into the environment, this provokes an unfavorable psychological impact on the public," he said.

GUIDELINES FOR USE...

insisting that the phrase "planned introduction" be used instead.

The expert emphasized the beneficial effects of introducing certain micro-organisms, and cited as an example "more than a dozen microbic pesticide agents that are sold in more than 75 different products for use in agriculture, forestry and insect control."

He added that the most common type of "intentional release" of genetically-engineered organisms occurs when animal and human populations are vaccinated with diluted forms of viruses that cause mumps, measles, rubella, poliomyelitis and yellow fever.

BIOTECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH RAISES TWO FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS

During the meeting, Dr. Harry Mussman, Director of IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection Program, posed two important questions regarding the effect of genetic engineering on living organisms: Will the new organisms created with recombinant DNA harm the environment? Will we be creating an environment that we are unable to control?

Thus this meeting of the Inter-American Study Group on the New Biotechnology in Agriculture and Health provided the opportunity "not only to propose regulating mechanisms for the field, but also to recognize the social responsibility of scientists," Dr. Mussman said.

"The likelihood of harming the environment is very remote and probably non-existent," he added. "Nonetheless, we wish to make sure that neither the environment nor the general public are at risk."

..We established criteria and general guidelines that the countries will be able to adopt until they define their own regulations...

Dr. Mussman provided an example of how recombinant DNA can be applied: "Today, genetic engineering can isolate the human gene that controls production of somatotropin (the body's growth hormone) in the pituitary gland," he said. "When this gene is introduced in bacteria, it produces the hormone, which can then be

used therapeutically with humans and animals," he said.

...we wish to make sure that neither the environment nor the general public are at risk...

During the meeting, held at IICA, a series of expositions demonstrated the most recent biotechnological advances for human beings, plants and animals, and provided a general context for the meeting.

On a more specific note, participants examined existing regulations and legal provisions on micro-organisms and other products obtained with genetic engineering techniques in the United States, Canada, Mexico and Cuba.

At this meeting, "We established criteria and general guidelines that the countries will be able to adopt until they define their own regulations," Dr. Mussman said.

"These guidelines are flexible enough not to impede research efforts," he explained. "But at the same time, they assure society that the environment is protected from potentially harmful organisms."



Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Director of the Technology Generation and Transfer Program at IICA.

Biotechnological Development: MULTINATIONAL ACTIVITIES URGED



*Dr. Rodrigo Zeledón, Minister of Science
and Technology of Costa Rica.*

Latin America and the Caribbean must boost multinational activities and encourage joint work in order to develop the full potential which biotechnology offers, especially in the area of agriculture, Costa Rican Minister of Science and Technology, Rodrigo Zeledón said.

He opened a meeting on the use and safety of genetic engineering techniques, held at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) headquarters in Costa Rica, from January 26 to 29.

"It is easy to predict, especially in light of the rapid advancements being made daily in the laboratories of several countries, that agriculture, in five to 10 years, will be totally dominated by biotechnology; our countries cannot remain on the margin of these important advances," the minister warned.

... Agriculture, in five to 10 years, will be totally dominated by biotechnology; our countries cannot remain on the margin of these important advances...

The activity of the Inter-American Study Group on the

New Biotechnology in Agriculture and Health also includes the participation of the Organization of American States (OAS), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the International Organization of Epizootics (OIE).

Zeledón urged the more than 40 scientists and specialists from several countries of the hemisphere to encourage regional countries to aspire towards their development and greater well-being of their people based on joint efforts leading to the mastery of some aspects of these advanced technologies.

However, he warned that the new technologies, "far from being instruments which are going to save us from calamities, might serve to create new mechanisms resulting in greater dependence."

ECONOMIC IMPACT

To emphasize his call to Latin American and Caribbean countries to join efforts, the minister referred to the volume of resources and to the economic significance of biotechnology in developed countries, especially Japan and the United States.

After mentioning that 200 U.S. and 150 Japanese companies are already working in this field, he stated that those countries "are willing to invest, over the coming 10 or 15 years, US\$100 billion and US\$80 billion respectively in the biotechnology industry."

"The world total amount of biotechnology sales was 25 million dollars in 1983 and it will exceed 27 billion dollars in 1990, that is, it will increase by 1,000 times in less than seven years," Zeledón added.

At the same time, he pointed out that the new market products, derived from genetic engineering, will produce some US\$ 400 billion in sales in the year 2000.

In this context, the minister reiterated that there are areas in which Latin American and Caribbean countries can join forces and seek joint biotechnology solutions, whether through joint efforts or wide-ranging transfer of technology.

The areas which Zeledón says will improve health and the quality of the environment are, undoubtedly, priorities for all, as are the search for more and better foods and the utilization, or adequate recycling of, all those

MULTINATIONAL ACTIVITIES...

products, especially from agriculture, which are at present being lost or wasted.

The minister also emphasized the need to establish adequate controls which will guarantee the safety of the environment, as well as the rights of ownership relating to the new organisms developed in laboratories through genetic engineering techniques.

"If no one to date can affirm or deny the counter-productive effects of micro-organisms arranged genetically, it is certain that countries such as the United States will be careful to prevent unfavorable consequences when freeing them in the environment," he said.

The Costa Rican minister added that "at the very least, our countries must understand the standards of the countries where these new organisms are produced so as to prevent a double standard from arising as it did in the past in the case of pesticides and pharmaceutical products."

Another area of applications of biotechnology in the region in the future, he pointed out that effective vaccines can be produced to prevent respiratory infections, and can be used to produce substances such as insulin and interferon.

In the area of agriculture, he mentioned that there is the possibility of obtaining cheaper and better quality foods through the application of biotechnology. Additionally, the genetic characteristics of tropical plants can be improved, increasing the plants' resistance to diseases or to unfavorable environmental factors. Through the manipulation of several micro-organisms, it can also improve the fixing of atmospheric nitrogen or the absorption of phosphorous to produce biological insecticides, to control certain diseases and promote growth.

Another of the areas of application is the biodegradation of toxic and unfavorable products through micro-organisms arranged by genetic engineering, Zeledón said.

By way of summary, the Costa Rican Minister of Science and Technology stated that "It seems clear in the panorama of biotechnology in Latin America and the Caribbean that our countries must find access to available techniques in selected areas of great common interest,



Dr. L. Harlan Davis, IICA Deputy Director; Dr. Rodrigo Zeledón, Minister of Science and Technology in Costa Rica, and Dr. David Kingsbury, of the National Science Foundation in the United States, as the meeting begins.

through a clearly defined strategy."

Dr. Zeledón added that "It is evident that we will have to develop national capacity even further; mastering these techniques and producing our own, based on broad, multidisciplinary research encompassing fundamental aspects such as tropical agriculture and basic related disciplines."

According to Zeledón, this research will have to be carried out in multinational institutes such as the ones already established in our region.

He emphasized the importance of "joint action between governments and universities to create or reinforce molecular biology and genetic engineering institutes."

He also advocated this kind of action between "the government, the universities and the private sector, to integrate efforts and create new business in technological parks, under the coordination of the state."

"We must thus join efforts to see how we can use biotechnology extensively and adequately", he said.

Biotechnology: BIOLOGICAL INSECTICIDE TO BE INTRODUCED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN LATIN AMERICA

For the first time in Latin America, a biological insecticide will be produced from a living virus that exists in nature, said Dr. Edgardo Moscardi, Director of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) in Argentina, during a meeting on the use and safety of genetic engineering techniques, held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Costa Rica.

Dr. Moscardi explained that INTA, in collaboration with an Argentine-Brazilian firm, used very advanced techniques to develop an insecticide that can be used by industry to combat pests in pears and apples.

"The insecticide is made from a virus found in the insect in very small quantities," he explained. "To develop it, insects that have the virus are identified. The virus is extracted, and later used to infect healthy larvae. The virus grows and multiplies in the larvae, and is then extracted and processed. The insecticide is produced as a powder that can be dissolved, and as a liquid," Moscardi explained.

..It also contributes to a higher quality product that will not be penalized when exported because of phosphate residues...

He added that this breakthrough will be extremely important to Argentina and other apple and pear producing countries, because it "drastically reduces the cost of controlling insects and pests. It also contributes to a higher quality product that will not be penalized when exported because of phosphate residues, for example."

In reference to the Inter-American Study Group on the New Biotechnology in Agriculture and Health, Moscardi also noted that approximately 40 experts from Canada, the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean are studying ways to streamline regulations and patent systems.

"This will provide tremendous encouragement for biotechnological development," he said.

Present patent and regulatory systems, in agriculture or any other sector, involve very long procedures with the respective ministry as well as the Ministry of Industry, the Secretariat of the Environment and finally, the Na-

tional Research Institute.

"Usually, this process takes a year," he added. "The ideal way of streamlining it would be to create interinstitutional commissions to verify and approve the product rapidly. This would in turn stimulate private investment in new research projects."

...When establishing this kind of cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is important to create economies of scale. No country can do it alone. In these circumstances, IICA's role is to act as a catalyst through its programs, to facilitate these activities...

"To this end, we must pass legislation that streamlines the process to encourage the development and exchange of products," he said. "Biological insecticides are a good example, because they help our economies."

According to Dr. Moscardi, an important point to consider on the matter of regulations is the cost of applying them, since they involve the use of more sophisticated laboratories, which may have to be upgraded because of strict regulations imposed by receiving countries.

The expert also noted that the agreement signed by the presidents of Brazil and Argentina on agricultural research contains a protocol on biotechnology.

"This protocol created a \$10 million fund covering a period of five years," he said. "Argentina and Brazil will use biotechnology in projects designed to confront the problems of the area, and most of these efforts will be bilateral."

"When establishing this kind of cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is important to create economies of scale. No country can do it alone. In these circumstances, IICA's role is to act as a catalyst through its programs, to facilitate these activities," he concluded.

OAS ADVOCATES CENTRALIZATION OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

"There are at least 16 organizations working independently in the field of biotechnology," said Dr. Miguel Laufer, Director of Scientific and Technological Affairs at the Organization of American States (OAS).

At a meeting on the use and safety of genetic engineering techniques, held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), January 26 to 29, Dr. Laufer described the efforts of the OAS to coordinate biotechnological research.

...in biotechnology, it is feasible to centralize information systems so they can provide access to all research efforts in the field...

"This organization has worked to integrate general scientific and technological efforts in this area," he said. "In biotechnology, it is feasible to centralize information systems so they can provide access to all research efforts in the field."

Over the past year, the OAS has conducted a series of studies that will culminate with a meeting in São Paulo, Brazil, where areas of concentration will be delineated, and approaches for the countries to adopt will be recommended. The role of specialized international organizations within this framework will also be defined.

Dr. Laufer stated that if biotechnological information can be categorized according to the groups that use it, such as the medical field or the agriculture sector, it can be centralized in a system to which all interested countries have access.

Regarding the meeting, Dr. Laufer said it was important for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to develop the ability to adapt new technologies created by private industry in developed countries, and research others that can be useful in the region regardless of their commercial value.

"For example, there are 250 million people in the world who must be vaccinated against bilharziosis," he said. "But this venture is not important to private industry; not because the market is small, but because the people exposed to this disease are poor and do not constitute a good sales market," he said.

THE PAN-AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION: A CHANNEL FOR DEVELOPING AND VERIFYING BIOTECHNOLOGICAL STANDARDS

7

The World Health Organization (WHO) and its regional affiliate, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), cannot provide Latin America and the Caribbean with technology, because it is developed elsewhere; but these organizations can support the countries' efforts to establish quality and safety standards, affirmed Dr. Mario González-Pacheco, regional adviser for biologics at WHO.

"To this end, we are working with scientific groups that develop biotechnological techniques, in order to gather needed information, distribute it in the region, encourage the countries to adopt satisfactory standards, and check that these standards are followed," he said.

During a meeting on the use and safety of genetic engineering techniques, held at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the PAHO representative explained the relationship between private industry and the government in biotechnological research.

A key example is the United States, where free-market structures predominate. There the government does not have a direct role in research, he explained.

Dr. González-Pacheco added that the system is based on commercial needs, and this obliges the government to create regulatory mechanisms without directly intervening in the production and generation of knowledge.

...The "New Biotechnology" calls for production of these same products using other techniques. We cannot accomplish this until we start conducting research on these new technologies...

On the other hand, "The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean produce raw materials for conventional technology," he said. "The 'New Biotechnology' calls for production of these same products using other techniques. We cannot accomplish this until we start conducting research on these new technologies."

In conclusion, the expert noted that the meeting helped establish a common goal among those who develop 'new technologies': to improve the lives of the people of the region.

Cooperation: TECHNOLOGY, INVESTMENT AND ACCESS TO MARKETS, KEY ISSUES IN RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA

Technological development, productive investments and access to markets are three key areas to channel European technical and financial cooperation to Latin America's agricultural sector, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Martín E. Piñeiro, said in Rome.

Piñeiro pointed out that cooperation between Latin America and Europe is now ripe to be strengthened, given the return to democracy in the New World.

However, achievements in the political and democratic sphere have had modest financing, in terms of concrete support for economic development in Latin America. This is a key element in order to ensure democratic stability in our region, Piñeiro said, speaking on cooperation prospects between Latin America and Europe.

He was participating in a Conference on Rural Development Programmes in Latin America: A European Perspective, held the last week of January, and organized by the Latin American-Italian Institute (IILA).

..Cooperation between Latin America and Europe can be especially fruitful now, given the current international panorama...

The activity was sponsored by the European Parliament and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), with the participation of the General Directorate for Cooperation to Development in Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION

Referring to cooperation in the field of technology, Piñeiro said that in Europe there is an enormous potential not exploited by our countries.

"This technology can be exploited by seeking new forms of cooperation between public technological development centers, such as universities, and national institutes for the generation and transfer of technology in Latin America," he said.

At the same time, a better exploitation of the possibilities



Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

could be achieved through renewed schemes which will facilitate the link between private technological firms in Europe and public and private entities in Latin America, through joint ventures or the renovation of patent systems.

Regarding investments in the agricultural sector, he emphasized the need to have new inflows of soft loans, the possibility of linking the problem of foreign debt to agricultural investment by learning from experience gained on capitalization of the debt, and establishing new connections among private firms.

ACCESS TO MARKETS

Piñeiro placed special emphasis on achieving better access to European markets.

"The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) of the European Economic Community (EEC), is undoubtedly the area which has most effect on Latin American economies in their relations with Europe, and it is also the central element of this apparent contradiction between the political will to cooperate and the objective reality of negative economic influences," he warned.

He said that the development of local production and commercial discrimination against third countries have isolated agricultural production in developed countries

TECHNOLOGY, INVESTMENT...

from market conditions, favoring the generation of an oversupply which, in conjunction with strong subsidies, caused the vertical fall in prices in the temperate zone sectors, and in some tropical products such as sugar.

...There are commercial and tax policies which limit the consumption of tropical products...

in addition, there are trade and tax policies which limit the consumption of tropical products. The cost of protectionist and development policies in the EEC, Japan and the United States rose to 43 billion dollars annually during the period 1982 to 1985, while local consumption tax on tropical products was estimated at 36 billion in 1983, the IICA Director General assured.

However, referring to the Uruguay Round of talks on the General Agreements on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), he expressed optimism that some steps, though timid, have been taken in the right direction.

...Boosting multinational activities, will contribute not only to the solution of concrete problems, but also to the strengthening of Latin American integration...

Technical and financial cooperation, especially in the areas mentioned, seems like an excellent alternative to strengthen the European desire to contribute to the consolidation of democracy in Latin America, he said.

A NEW STYLE OF COOPERATION

In this context, the IICA Director General called for a new style of cooperation which will encourage integration.

A channelling of cooperation resources towards boosting multinational activities will contribute not only to the solution of concrete problems, but also to the strength-

ening of Latin American integration, he assured.

Giving priority to a strategy like this will also have the advantage of increasing the effect of external cooperation, since it will capitalize on previous coordination actions among regional and sub-regional countries.

REACTIVATION OF AGRICULTURE

Piñero also insisted on the need for Latin America to re-enter the path of economic development through the recovery of agriculture, thus maintaining political stability and peace.

This link between agricultural recovery and economic and political stability is a strategic element which developed countries and international organizations cannot and should not ignore, the IICA Director General said.

In this sense, he urged Europe to support a large-scale measure aimed at the recovery and modernization of agriculture.

He explained that the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, held last September in Canada, entrusted IICA with the drafting of a strategic plan of joint action for agricultural recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean, in collaboration with its 31 regional Member States, other inter-American and specialized organizations.

IICA has taken the first steps in carrying out this initiative and we are at the coordination stage of the technical and financial cooperation for drafting the plan, which we believe can constitute an interesting alternative for European and Latin American cooperation, Piñero concluded.

...This link between agricultural recovery and economic and political stability is one strategic element which developed countries and international organizations cannot and should not ignore...

CORECA ADOPTS INITIATIVE FOR COFFEE MARKETING

The viceministers of agriculture in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic agreed upon a joint initiative for marketing coffee while meeting at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Costa Rica, 10 - 12 February, 1987.

The officials, members of the Executive Committee of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and Dominican Republic (CORECA), resolved to recommend at the next meeting of CORECA's Council of Agriculture Ministers, to be held in Nicaragua in April, that joint coffee policies on agriculture and trade be coordinated through periodic meetings. They also proposed that CORECA meet with the leading coffee marketing organizations in the countries of the area.

Alvaro Jiménez, a specialist on the subject, noted that CORECA member countries, which include Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, produce a fifth of the world's coffee.

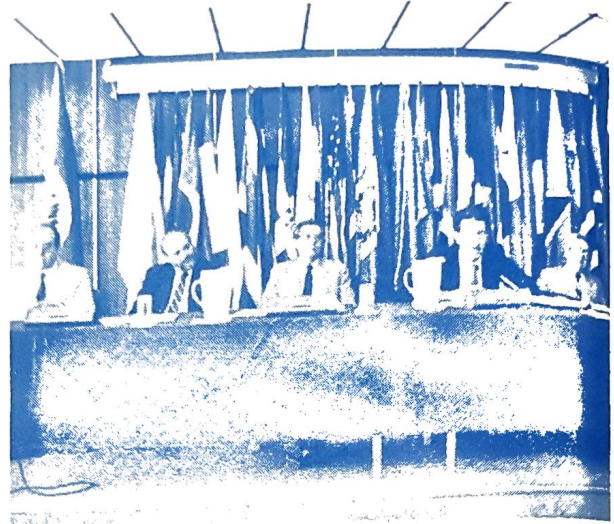
"Even more important, we produce almost half the 'soft' coffees, which are the ones with the most importance on the international market," he added.

Oswaldo Pandolfo, Vice Minister of Agriculture in Costa Rica and Chair of the meeting, affirmed that "If we market our output together, we will have far more power to negotiate quotas as well as prices in the international market."

Participants also recommended that the ministers of agriculture of CORECA countries ask their respective ministries of foreign relations to seek diplomatic support from the principal consumer countries of the International Coffee Organization (OIC) for CORECA's position in the next round of negotiations.

It was also recommended that government representatives to the OIC seek to establish a new set of prices reflecting production costs at the upcoming negotiations for a new agreement. Such a price adjustment would improve the standard of living of coffee workers and producers in the region.

"Faced with the current situation, the CORECA coun-



At the meeting of the CORECA Executive Committee, from left to right : Dr. Reynaldo Pérez, Rodolfo Martínez Ferraté, Dr. Martín E. Piñero, Oswaldo Pandolfo and Fausto Jordán.

tries must establish common policies to coordinate the efforts of the Ministries of Agriculture and the producer organizations," Pandolfo said.

The directors of the region's coffee organizations met with the Executive Committee of CORECA on February 11, and the CORECA resolution embodied the consensus achieved at that time.

Also, participants at the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of CORECA agreed to improve procedures for coordinating efforts with the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SEICA), so that the Council of Agriculture Ministers can have a larger role in the reactivation and integration of the region.

It was also agreed to review regional efforts in the field of biotechnology, and to draw up a resolution on the Council of Ministers' position on "the relentless advance of science and technology as applied to agriculture."

CORECA's Coordination Secretariat was entrusted with establishing a process to support and follow up the "plan for reactivating agriculture" in each country.

Central America: BIOTECHNOLOGY WILL FACILITATE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMY

During a meeting at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), experts warned that ignoring the challenges of biotechnology would be tantamount to rejecting a larger Central American role in the world economy.

"Failure to incorporate biotechnology into any new strategic alternative will produce policies that have no basis in reality," said Salvador Arias, of the Autonomous Metropolitan University of Mexico. "Any attempt to correct the simultaneous over- and underexploitation of human and natural resources caused by the present economic model would be endangered."

Dr. Arias, participating in a three-day meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Council for Economic Cooperation (CORECA) that began on February 10, warned that "developing countries, except for a few like Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and some Asian nations, still pay scant attention to biotechnology."

Arias is Deputy Coordinator of a project called "Development of agriculture and food production with biotechnology: strategies for Mexico and Central America." While warning of the profound impact that biotechnology may have on production in the region, he provided the viceministers of agriculture from the CORECA countries with these estimates:

*Current yield of sugar-cane: 75 - 90 tons per hectare, could rise to 150 - 200 tons per hectare.

*Tomato production could expand five-fold in the short term, as could that of cassava.

*Tropical wood production could leap from 10 - 20 to 40 - 60 tons per hectare.

*Guinea grass could increase from 25 to 50 tons per hectare.

*Milk output was 12,300 pounds per cow annually in 1982. That figure could rise to 24,700 by the year 2000.

The current biotechnological revolution will also "modify the natural geographic distribution of production in the world," Dr. Arias said. Highly arid, saline or alkaline land that is now left fallow could be incorporated into production; and numerous varieties of plants and animals could be adapted to different habitats, and native species could be genetically improved for increased production



Dr. Salvador Arias, of the Autonomous Metropolitan University of Mexico.

in their own habitats, he explained.

Citing the case of sugar cane, he added that by-products can be processed with biotechnology, and utilization of the overall biomass can be improved: the total value of a given quantity of sugar can be increased by transforming molasses and bagasse into ethanol, essential amino acids and unicellular protein, paper, and wood conglomerates.

"(All these changes) will upset the mechanisms of accumulation and the social organization of production," the expert warned. "What is really emerging is a new way to produce food. This begins in the genetic-engineering tissue culture laboratories. Although the farmer continues cultivating his crops, the end products will depend on orders transmitted through genes that have been designed by leaders in the field of genetic engineering and biotechnology."

"Foods that look natural may not even have been made from agricultural raw materials," he added. "For the first time since the Neolithic period, food production for humans can be independent of land cultivation."

Dr. Arias cited the United States as an example of how new biotechnology can influence production systems.

BIOTECHNOLOGY WILL FACILITATE...

"Biotechnology provides a new way to produce food as well as a new kind of agricultural organization," he said. "This, at least in the United States, has brought with it the gradual disappearance of family farms, and the emergence of gigantic agricultural firms that probably resemble the industry of the future."

...Biotechnology provides a new way to produce food as well as a new kind of agricultural organization...

He added that according to a recent study, an estimated 1 million farms will disappear between 1982 and the year 2000, by which time only 50,000 large firms will control 75 percent of total agricultural production in the United States.

Of special significance for Central America is the fact that it is now technically possible to produce substitutes for exports products such as cane sugar, coffee, tobacco, and others.

"Economic growth in Central America is determined essentially by the agriculture sector, and more specifically by coffee, banana, cotton, sugar and meat exports," Dr. Arias said. He noted that while in 1950 agroexports accounted for 76 percent of the agricultural land in Central America, by 1983 that figure had risen to 86 percent.

...Economic growth in Central America is determined essentially by the agriculture sector, and more specifically by coffee, banana, cotton, sugar and meat exports...

The expert noted that U.S. sugar imports have drastically declined since genetically engineered aminoacid-based sweeteners appeared on the market. He pointed out that demand in the United States for meat and cotton has also fallen significantly.

"In short, three of the five products that characterize the

agroexport model of the region have been hit by declining profits, in terms of both price and volume," he said. "If the same thing should happen with coffee, and there is considerable risk of this in the short and medium term, the traditional accumulation model in Central America will suffer a completely irreversible crisis."

"International agroindustry has been technologically transformed to such an extent that the concept of absolute and relative advantages for individual countries in raw materials and finished products is increasingly irrelevant," he explained. Comparative advantages on the international market fluctuate rapidly, and there is never a long-term guarantee that they can be maintained, he added.

"There is no question that policies relying on the monoexport of a certain product will not solve the fundamental problems of accumulation in Central America," he said, calling for an alternative strategy based on a transformed and industrialized agriculture sector.

...International agroindustry has been technologically transformed to such an extent that the concept of absolute and relative advantages for individual countries in raw materials and finished products is increasingly irrelevant.

An effective policy of regional integration should seek more independent growth and development that is endogenous and self-sustained, specializing production by regions and countries of the area, and a complementarity that promotes trade, he added.

An appropriate technology policy should be developed that allots financial resources to essential areas of research; emphasis should also be given to developing available human and natural resources which are often inadequately used, and finding substitutes for imported products and inputs that have a highly unfavorable impact on the trade balance, he said.

If these technologies are developed abroad, "they should be adapted and effectively mastered on the local level," the expert concluded.

PRACA TO WORK WITH ENTIRE CAMPESINO POPULATION



Directors of agrarian reform organizations attend the PRACA meeting.

The Training and Study Program for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic (PRACA), which works with beneficiaries of agrarian reform, resolved to broaden its functions to include the entire campesino population in its member countries.

PRACA's Board of Directors, which met at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) last February 11 and 12, made this decision because "economic, political and social changes have altered rural problems and created new needs that must be attended to."

PRACA's decision to broaden its scope of action and include the entire campesino population was supported by the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA), during a joint meeting at IICA headquarters. CORECA's members include the Central American countries, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Also at this meeting, the Executive Committee of CORECA recommended that its Council of Ministers consider organizing a gathering on the ministerial level during its April meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, in order to reinforce mechanisms for amplifying and consolidating agrarian reform and rural development in CORECA

member countries.

Explaining PRACA's decision to broaden its field of action, Carlos Ramirez, president of its Board of Directors and of the Salvadoran Institute for Agrarian Transformation (ISTA), said PRACA must become more active. He noted that "one way to do this is to put more emphasis on promoting exchange of experiences between campesino leaders of the member countries." He also advocated the participation of campesinos in PRACA's Technical Committee and Board of Directors meetings.

Participants agreed that they must seek "more participation from campesinos when decisions are made regarding programs that target their problems," and called training for this purpose "indispensable."

They also concurred that institutions serving the needs of the campesino sector must work with agrarian reform programs to broaden the base of their services.

"Agrarian reform actions that only distribute land do not provide an adequate response to the problem," the participants concluded. "It is also necessary to deal with the issues of credit, transportation, health, technical assistance, marketing, training, and other elements."

...Central America must now identify and formulate joint development projects, in response to the international community's desire to further this process by supporting development efforts...

IICA General Director Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, who also participated in the joint meeting, stressed the need for integrated actions on the national level and throughout the region.

Referring to the Peace Accords signed last August in Guatemala he said that the challenge facing "Central America now is to identify and formulate joint development projects, in response to the international community's desire to further this process by supporting development efforts".

Central America: REGIONAL INTEGRATION ESSENTIAL TO AGRARIAN REFORM

The key to designing development strategies must be regional integration and the consequent expansion of the market, it was affirmed at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Project for Training and Studies on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development in the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic (PRACA).

The meeting, held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) last February 11 and 12, was attended by the directors of institutions responsible for agrarian reform and rural development in PRACA member countries.

...The key to designing development strategies must be regional integration...

A discussion document for PRACA's Board of Directors, titled "The Situation and Outlook for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Action in the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic," called for "utilizing and coordinating all resources in the countries of the region earmarked for improving the socio-economic conditions of the agriculture sector, especially those of small producers and campesinos."

The main purpose of the meeting was to examine concrete mechanisms for reactivating and strengthening agrarian reform in the region, said Fausto Jordán, Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program.

LAND TRANSFER

"Land transfer, and true participation of land reform beneficiaries has been incomplete, and productive consolidation has been weak," the document reads.

Citing El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica as exceptions to this scenario, the document notes that, "In (El Salvador), 25 percent of the agricultural land was redistributed to 11 percent of the agricultural economically active population (EAP) between 1980 and 1985."

In Nicaragua, 32 percent of the agricultural land was redistributed to 22 percent of the agricultural EAP between 1979 and 1985; while in Costa Rica, 21.7 percent of the agricultural land was redistributed to an estimated 22 percent of the agricultural EAP.

Nonetheless, the document warned that "the resources set aside for the beneficiaries of such programs (in all PRACA countries) were neither large enough nor of sufficient quality to raise family income levels, productivity or production significantly."

THE MINIFUNDIO

Despite advances achieved in this area, it is of concern that, according to statistics from international organizations, based on a study of six Latin American countries, the number of minifundias has increased by 50 percent in the last two decades, and the average available area has shrunk.

Confirming this information, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) statistics reveal that "the rural sector in this region employs 33 percent of the EAP but represents only 12 percent of the gross national product, and the median income of agricultural workers is approximately 28 percent of the income of urban workers."



Fausto Jordán, Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION ESSENTIAL...

"If poverty is defined as being unable to afford an adequate, nutritious diet based on locally produced foodstuffs, 69 percent of Central American families fell under the poverty line in 1980," the report continued.

CAMPESINO PRODUCTION

In spite of this situation, campesino production is of vital importance to the supply of domestic markets, especially in basic foodstuffs.

At the close of the 1970s, 35.6 percent of locally consumed production in Costa Rica was produced by campesinos. In El Salvador, this figure was 62.1 percent, and in Honduras, 63.9 percent. In Guatemala, land parcels of less than seven hectares provide an estimated 53.2 percent of the production destined for domestic consumption, while in Panama, small farmers provided 80 percent of the corn and 37 percent of the

...Campesino production is of vital importance to the supply of domestic markets...

Campesinos also have a significant role in producing some export products: According to statistics from the Economic Commission on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), an estimated 25 percent of the export-oriented production is provided by campesinos. In Costa Rica, this figure is 30 percent.

The document also lists the principle shortcomings of agrarian reform and rural development programs in the region: "The emergence of paternalistic, vertical, dependent relationships between agrarian reform institutions and campesino groups; training that is ill-suited, in both theory and methodology, to the needs of the beneficiaries; lack of productive planning, and substandard soil."

PROJECTS

In order to overcome these and other limitations, the Director of IICA's Organization and Management for



PRACA Directors meeting with leaders of agricultural cooperatives

Rural Development Program, Fausto Jordán, explained that the Institute is formulating projects in various areas to assist the countries of the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic.

These efforts include: a multinational project to teach those who instruct campesinos; project management training for technical experts; and assisting governments to formulate and strengthen their rural development policies and systems.

...If poverty is defined as being unable to afford an adequate, nutritious diet based on locally produced foodstuffs, 69 percent of Central American families fell under the poverty line in 1980...

PRACA is a cooperative program founded in November 1966 in El Salvador. It aims to promote a direct exchange of ideas, information and experiences among those responsible for agrarian reform in member countries. IICA is entrusted with managing PRACA and executing its plans.

16 Technical Meeting at IICA Headquarters: EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER RESIDUES IN MEAT IN THE CENTRAL AREA

The countries of Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic that comprise the Central Area of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have the necessary infrastructure and enough trained personnel to continue their individual efforts to control residues in meat.

This assurance was made by sanitation officials from these countries, who met with experts from the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) from February 2 to 4. The technical meeting on residues in meat was organized by IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection Program and held at the Institute's headquarters.

These control programs must be in operation if the countries are to be eligible to export to the United States. Starting this year, USDA officials will grant certification to countries whose exports meet standards established by the U.S. government.

The United States, the biggest meat importer in the world, passed a new agriculture law in 1985 that requires exporting countries to use reliable analytical methods to assure that U.S. requirements for substance and chemical residues in meat are being fulfilled. The law takes effect this year.

According to statistics presented at the meeting, the United States imported 1.4 billion pounds of meat last year, and is expected to import some 75 million additional pounds this year. This figure includes frozen or refrigerated fresh beef, goat meat and mutton. It also includes certain meats that are prepared and processed from veal.

The main suppliers of this kind of meat are Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Among the Central American and Caribbean countries, Costa Rica is the biggest meat supplier, exporting nearly 45 million pounds a year.

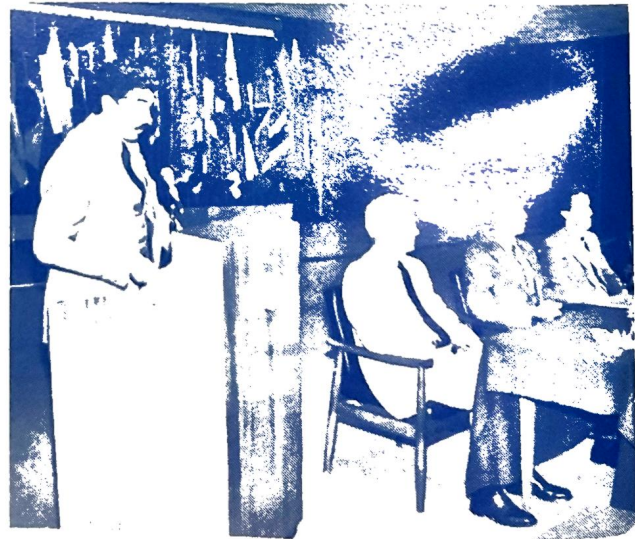
According to Dr. William J. Franks, Chief of the Statistical Analysis Section of FSIS, 35,000 tests were run on U.S. meat imports in 1986 and 1987. There were only 65 cases in which residues in meat exceeded pre-established limits.

Of the 5,500 tests conducted on imports from Central and South America, only two samples failed to meet U.S. standards.

Dr. Benjamin Jara, the IICA animal health specialist who organized the meeting, said that he was pleased with how the countries in the Central Area are handling health inspection and laboratory analysis, and that it demonstrates "a serious, professional attitude." Dr. Jara also noted that the region's inspection systems are sufficiently sophisticated to perform effectively.

Dr. Jara revealed an additional benefit of the meeting: "The FSIS offered to make available its human-resources and infrastructure for purposes of training and advising the Central Area countries on how to improve laboratory performance and to fully apply national residue-control programs."

To this end, IICA will continue to act as an intermediary, serving as a clearinghouse for the needs of the countries and encouraging the exchange of experiences and methodologies.



At the inauguration of the technical meeting, from left to right, Dr. Benjamin Jara, Dr. Harry Mussman, Dr. L. Harlan Davis and Osvaldo Pandolfo.

Visit of Ambassador at Large: CANADA STRENGTHENS SUPPORT FOR IICA

Richard V. Gorham, Canada's Ambassador at Large for Latin America, and its Permanent Observer before the Organization of American States (OAS), reiterated his country's willingness to increase assistance for peace and development in Central America. The Ambassador's pledge came during a meeting with Dr. L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), on January 19.

The meeting, held in IICA headquarters in Costa Rica, was also attended by Canada's Ambassador to Costa Rica, Stanley Gooch. Ambassador Gorham said that on January 14 he delivered Canada's annual quota for active membership in IICA to Ernani Fiori, the Institute's Representative in Canada. Payment of the quota ensures that "vital activities and projects in the field of agriculture will continue", he said.

He added that because of the "excellent relations we have with IICA, and the guarantee of success offered by its built-in technical capacity, our government recently

earmarked a special sum of almost \$4 million for the implementation of priority agricultural development projects, especially in Central America."

He noted that the projects are to be formulated and negotiated with IICA in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The aim is to implement them as soon as possible.

IICA Deputy Director General L. Harlan Davis, welcomed Ambassador Gorham's reaffirmation of his country's support, noting that Canada "plays an important role as one of the Institute's most active and prominent members, as it clearly understands the need to support the role of agriculture as a vehicle for furthering social and economic development in our countries."

IICA IN CANADA

Through its representative Ernani Fiori, IICA maintains close relations with agriculture officials and institutions in Canada.

Recently Fiori made official visits to Guelph and McGill Universities, to become familiar with the facilities and services offered by their schools of agriculture and explore the possibilities of cooperation with IICA in the future.

At the University of Guelph, Fiori discussed the formulation of an animal health and production project for the Caribbean. The project, to be financed by CIDA, would offer Caribbean veterinarians an opportunity to study and conduct research at the University of Guelph. It would also allow Canadian veterinarians to travel to the Caribbean, and study its problems and needs first hand.

During both visits, Fiori presented information on how the Institute works for agricultural development and rural well-being in its member countries. He also presented each university with 44 volumes of IICA publications.

Canada was the host of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture last September.



Ambassador Richard V. Gorham, left, delivers Canada's annual quota to IICA Representative in Canada, Ernani Fiori.

Editorial Service: TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS IN LATIN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

"Technological Innovations in Latin American Agriculture" is a publication that examines how technology can make a more effective contribution to agricultural development and economic growth in the region.

...It is a publication that examines how technology can make a more effective contribution to agricultural development and economic growth in the region...

Part of the Program Papers Series from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), it includes material that served as a point of departure for technology-related discussions during the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held last September in Ottawa, Canada, as well as conclusions from the conference titled Technical Change in Latin American Agriculture, held at IICA headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, in May, 1987.

The publication, financed by the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, asserts that technology's role in agricultural development and economic growth is dependent on a number of factors: policies, financing, organization, and coordination of technological innovation.

Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, states in the introduction: "As these actions are designed and elaborated, new scientific and institutional factors that affect the application of generation and transfer of systems in the region must be taken into account."

...New scientific and institutional factors that affect the application of generation and transfer of systems in the region must be taken into account...

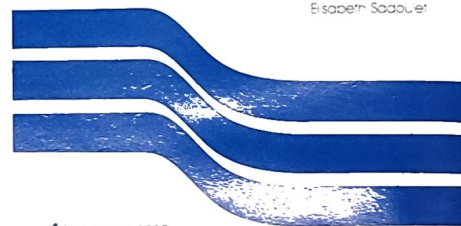
These developments include progress made in the field of biotechnology; the current structure of public re-

ISSN 0046 0028



TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS
IN LATIN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Alain de Janvry
David Runsten
Elisabeth Sadoulet



4 November 1987
PROGRAM PAPERS SERIES

search institutions and projections for growth; the increasing importance of the private sector in generating and transferring technology; various aspects of the technological revolution and its application to agriculture, and the industrial organization of biotechnology research.

The document also examines some of these matters in the context of the debt crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean, and its effect on the region's agriculture.

The authors, Alain de Janvry, David Runsten and Elisabeth Sadoulet, researchers from the University of California at Berkeley, emphasize the effect the crisis has had on regional technology systems, and assess the new policy options for agricultural technology in Latin America.

With this book, IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program hopes to initiate an open forum of ideas, and to expand the discussions on technological policies and options. "Through these, a more effective use can be made of scientific and technological potential for agricultural development and economic growth," Dr. Trigo writes.

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San José, 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 made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

News bulletin on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Division of Public Information. Address: Apdo. 55-2200 Coronado, San José, Costa Rica. Cable: IICASANJOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Telephone: 290222.

IICA / RADIO NETHERLANDS INSTALLATIONS INAUGURATED

Communication is fundamental to any rural development effort incorporating concept of true participation, declared Dr. Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), at the inaugural ceremony of the IICA/Radio Netherlands installations at IICA Headquarters on March 7.

The project is called "Communication Applied to Education and Rural Development in Latin America, and the Caribbean." Through courses, seminars and workshops, it will provide training in communication techniques for rural development specialists from government and non-government institutions.

"The project being inaugurated today is of special

importance," Dr. Luiselli said. "We are convinced that by training farmers, rural dwellers, technical experts who work in and outside of government, and others working to foster rural well-being, we will contribute to producing messages that will hold true meaning for broadcasters and listeners alike."

He also added that IICA and the government of the Netherlands are making a tremendous contribution through Radio Netherlands and its training center to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In this context, Dr. Luiselli explained that IICA is preparing a Plan for Reactivating Agriculture, in conjunction with member countries, other international organizations, and various renowned specialists. This



Standing from left to right, Dr. Jaap Swart, Director General of the Radio Netherlands Training Center, Dr. José Perez, Head of the IICA/Radio Netherlands Project, Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations at IICA, and (seated) Jan W. Bertens, Ambassador of the Netherlands.

IICA / RADIO NETHERLANDS INSTALLATIONS...

will entail a wide range of actions undertaken to promote development, "because there is no development without participation and there is no participation without communication," he added.

The Ambassador of the Netherlands, Jan W. Bertens, drew attention to the need for informed producers and consumers, to ensure that agricultural policies are translated into concrete actions.

"Studies show that people in the poorest sectors of our countries drink more Coca Cola than natural juices, although these drinks are produced nationally," the Ambassador said. "The same can be said about pasta and bread: They have invaded the domain of the traditional corn-based cultures. In other words, to be translated into concrete actions, agricultural policies must inform, convince and mobilize producers and consumers. And that constitutes communication."

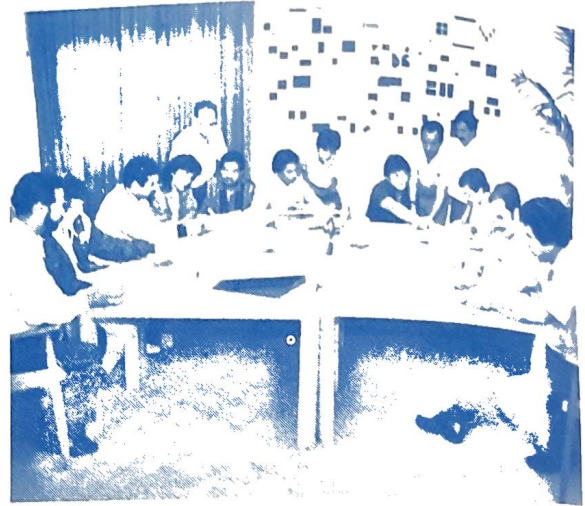
Jaap Swart, Director General of the Radio Netherlands Training Center, described the role communication must play in rural development, and the ways it can be used to improve crops and the economies of small rural communities.

"These installations have been set up to provide information and facilitate communication", he said. "They are instruments that must be put at the service of those who live in rural areas."

With this goal in mind, the IICA/Radio Netherlands Project initiated its first international course on applied communication for rural development on February 29. Fourteen students from Central America, Panama, Mexico and Argentina participated.

This activity was structured as a seminar-workshop, with five modules on communication planning, small printing formats, group dynamics, use of radiophonic formats for development, and participatory communication techniques.

The course was coordinated by Antonio Cabezas, a Radio Netherlands technical expert. Experienced, renowned teachers participated in the course, including



Students and professors exchange impressions during one of the practice sessions of the first international course on applied communication, offered by the IICA/Radio Netherlands Project in Costa Rica.

Daniel Prieto, a communications planning specialist from Argentina; Luis Tejada, consultant and specialist in small printing formats from Venezuela; Walter Alves, a Radio Netherlands producer and specialist in producing radiophonic formats from Brazil; Guillermo Corrado, director of a community rural development center in Guatemala, and Arnable Rosario, a Radio Netherlands technical expert specializing in radiophonic techniques for participatory communication, from the Dominican Republic.

Students who participated in the first international course on "Media Applied to Development for Agricultural Specialists and Extension Workers" work for agriculture ministries, The Trifinio Project (in the border areas of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala), the Cooperative Program for Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (PROMECAFE), and non-governmental organizations such as the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) of Argentina, the Development Training Center (CECADE) of Costa Rica and the Honduran Federation for Agricultural Research.

IICA ATTENDS ANNUAL IDB MEETING

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) attended the 29th Annual Meeting of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Investment Corporation, held in Caracas, Venezuela, March 21-23.

IICA, an observer organization of the IDB, was represented by its Director of External Relations, Dr. Jorge Werthein.

The productive working relationship of the two institutions is reflected in the many joint projects they carry out to further agricultural development and rural well-being in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IDB's new president, Enrique Iglesias, referred to the regional and international economic situation in his opening address, noting some of the principal challenges facing the region and the role the Bank can play in dealing with them.

Iglesias, who took office April 4, asserted that the region of Latin America and the Caribbean "is passing through one of the most turbulent and difficult decades in its contemporary economic history." He added that "at this difficult crossroads, old economic and social imbalances have met head on with a heavy foreign debt incurred during the 1970s, and an international scenario that has not always contributed to overcoming this perverse combination of factors."

He also warned that "profound changes brought about by scientific and technological research developments, and the impact they have on the region's traditional natural or acquired comparative advantages cannot be ignored."

For this reason, he urged the countries of the region to undertake "profound structural changes to modernize their economies in keeping with the new challenges presented by developments in international relations, growing interdependence, and technological transformation, which are occurring at a pace unknown in the history of mankind."

To more than 2,000 delegates from the 44 countries

and observer organizations of the Bank, Iglesias declared that "the decade of the 1990s must be one of regional modernization; otherwise, we will remain on the periphery of history, submerged in uncontrollable social and political crises."

Calling for "an innovative bank that plays an important role in Latin American and Caribbean modernization," Iglesias urged IDB member governments to "reflect deeply and serenely" in order to confront the many challenges before them, which include finding a way to harmonize agricultural and urban development policies and programs in order to make an effective contribution to rural development.

...The decade of the 1990s must be one of regional modernization; otherwise, we will remain on the periphery of history, submerged in uncontrollable social and political crises...

Iglesias called the foreign debt "another of the great challenges" faced by the region. He added that the foreign debt and its usual side-effects, such as sharp balance-of-payment problems and strong inflationary crises, must be absorbed and brought under control.

All this "takes a painful toll on the social situation of the region," he said; "It is enough to remember that the standard of living in Latin America has slipped to late-1970s levels, and that the indicators of social progress in most of our countries have declined."

Iglesias said that there are now "three equations" that can be used for reformulating the future role of the IDB. They are:

- A process of structural reform geared toward growth, equity, and economic and social modernization of our economies;
- A substantial improvement in investment capacity, through increased domestic savings and external-capital earnings, both at the public and private levels,
- Increasingly free and competitive trade, to which we can add the expansive forces for foreign trade, the driving force behind present and future growth.

**RECOMMENDS PARTICIPATION IN
HEMISPHERIC PLAN FOR REACTIVATING AGRICULTURE**

The Tenth Meeting of the Agricultural Council of the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC) adopted a resolution to entrust the organization with defining what means will be necessary to assure participation in the process to prepare the Strategic Plan of Joint Action for Reactivating Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Vice-Ministers of agriculture from JUNAC member countries specifically recommended that a proposal for a technical cooperation agreement be drawn up with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to formalize participation in the Plan of Reactivation.

...The meetings held with JUNAC confirm the advantages of assuring participation of its technical experts in preparing the 'Andean Chapter' of the Plan for Reactivating Agriculture...

The task of preparing a plan for reactivating and modernizing agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean was entrusted to IICA (in collaboration with its member countries and other international organizations) by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Canada last September.

At the JUNAC meeting held in Quito, Ecuador March 16-18, the vice-ministers emphasized the importance of "making rapid progress in fulfilling the agreements reached at the Ninth ICMA, especially in preparing and executing the plan for reactivating agriculture in the countries of the Andean Area."

They also affirmed that the role of agriculture should be highlighted in strategies of development and economic reactivation, emphasizing "the need to assign a fundamental role to the agricultural sector in giving renewed impetus to the integration process."

To this end, they recommend placing greater priority on tasks developed by JUNAC and the rest of the organization of the Andean system to further agricultural integration.

In keeping with the new role that agriculture is to assume in reactivating the economies of the Andean countries, JUNAC's agricultural forum has been revived. After four years without a meeting, it is

now very active. This is reflected by the fact that in addition to the JUNAC conference just held in Quito, a meeting of ministers of agriculture of Andean countries has been scheduled to take place in Lima, Peru April 13-15. On that occasion IICA Director General Dr. Martin Piñeiro will speak on the preparation of the plan to reactivate agriculture.

In addition, JUNAC's Agricultural Board is planning to meet again in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra on September 21-23.

During the meeting in Quito, Plan of Action Coordinator Felix Cirio presented a progress report on the Plan. "Initial preparation of the Plan will be made through a participatory process involving a tremendous amount of consultation," he explained.

Exchanges set up for this purpose will take place in subregional fora such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), as well as with authorities of the agricultural sector in the Southern Cone.

"The meetings held with JUNAC confirm the advantages of assuring participation of its technical experts in preparing the 'Andean Chapter' of the Plan for Reactivating Agriculture," Cirio said.

He also emphasized the importance of meetings such as this one, which "establish an ongoing consultation process with the highest agricultural authorities of the region, through the forum of the JUNAC Council of Ministers and Vice-Ministers of Agriculture."

During his presentation, Cirio explained to the vice-ministers of agriculture of JUNAC member countries that the Ninth ICMA emphasized the pressing need for "reinitiating, as soon as possible, a sustained process of growth and economic and social development that will contribute to the consolidation of political stability and peace in the region."

"We hope that this is only the beginning, and that with the technical and political support of JUNAC, we will be able to prepare a proposal that provides a definitive response to the needs of the Andean countries," he said.

IICA SIGNS TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO

In order to support implementation of the Project for Organization, Training, Technical Assistance and Research (PROCATI), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has signed a technical cooperation agreement with the Mexican Secretariat of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources (SARH).

The agreement was signed on March 7, 1988, in the city of Tlaxcala, Mexico, by the Secretary of SARH, Eduardo Pesqueira, and the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñero.

The cost of implementing the agreement is estimated at \$1.9 million dollars, to be spent over a four-year period on activities to strengthen the technical and operating aspects of SARH through the implementation of PROCATI; provide training for human resources; conduct special studies, and design and implement the PROCATI evaluation system.

...PROCATI is seen as an innovative instrument that seeks to show, through its mechanisms and methods, that the Mexican public sector can increase its efficiency...

An important feature of the agreement refers to the preparation of special studies, three of which have already been decided on: methodological alternatives for promoting quality and efficiency in technical assistance services; an analysis of alternatives for lowering technical assistance costs; and a marketing analysis of agricultural products, inputs and services.

The agreement also establishes a Board of Directors as the maximum executive authority of the project. It will be responsible for receiving, revising and approving reports presented by project heads; guiding and organizing the recommendations related to the implementation of activities; approving the hiring of consultants and other personnel; approving operating programs, budgets and financial statements; and adopting the decisions necessary for achieving project goals.

The project will be executed under the responsibility of an international expert appointed by IICA, who will work in collaboration with a Mexican expert designated by SARH.

One of the most important components of the agreement has to do with personnel training in the following areas: institutional development, planning for rural development, project follow-up and evaluation, technical assistance for the economic organization of farmers, and specialization and post-graduate training for PROCATI technical experts.

It is important to note that an IICA expert has been involved in preparing and elaborating PROCATI since January, 1986.

This project was designed as an instrument to upgrade the performance of the institution vis-à-vis its technical assistance services, research, farmers' organizations, and training. It aims to improve economic and social indicators, and consequently the well-being of rural families.

PROCATI is seen as an innovative instrument that seeks to show, through its mechanisms and methods, that the Mexican public sector can increase the efficiency of its services in the rural development field.

INTER-AMERICAN AWARD

During his visit to Mexico, IICA Director General Martín E. Piñero conferred in the city of Tlaxcala the Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development to State Governor Beatriz Paredes Rangel.

The award is one of the honors bestowed yearly by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), to distinguish the contributions of Latin American professionals to agricultural development and rural well-being in the region.

During the award ceremony, Dr. Piñero mentioned that this award was first made in 1980 to pay special tribute to women working to improve the social, economic and cultural conditions of the most needy populations.

The Governor called for society to reevaluate the role of women, allowing them to fully exercise their rights and duties. She also requested that the homage be extended to the millions of Latin American women who have contributed to agricultural and industrial development, but who in many places continue to be "the poorest among the poor."

IICA PLAYS ACTIVE ROLE IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is playing a very active role in national and multinational development activities in the Caribbean.

... In these countries, agriculture is essential to overall economic activity, and crops are very susceptible to pests and diseases...

One example of the multinational efforts carried out by IICA in the Caribbean is a plant protection project in the Windward Islands, which include Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

In these countries, agriculture is essential to overall economic activity, and crops are very susceptible to pests and diseases that cause serious losses, both during cultivation and after harvest.

Experts say that factors explaining the high incidence of pests and diseases in crops include heavy rainfall, which favors the growth of disease-causing organisms while decreasing the effectiveness of chemical-control products; mountainous terrain, which makes it difficult to apply control measures; and insufficient or non-existent physical control resources for resolving plant protection problems.

Aware of the urgent need to provide an adequate response, the governments of the region sought IICA's cooperation. The result was this project titled: "Increasing the Plant Protection Service in the Ministries of Agriculture." Launched four years ago in Grenada and three years ago in Saint Lucia and Dominica, the project has produced significant results.

Training has been provided for technical experts from the ministries on pest control, tropical diseases, laboratory techniques, and pesticide handling. Port and customs authorities, as well as pesticide distributors, also participated in courses on the latter.

DOMINICA

This project began in Dominica in mid-1984, when an IICA plant protection specialist was appointed. During the first 18 months, he conducted a

comprehensive training program for extension workers and farmers involving 49 seminars attended by a total of 1300 farmers, 20 extension workers and five inspectors.

In addition, the following brochures were published: "Protect Your Country's Agriculture" and "Some Important Properties of the More Common Pesticides in Dominica."

Research on pest control in mangos and coconuts was fostered, and an inventory of diseases that attack the main crops of the country was updated.

GRENADA

Since 1984, efforts in Grenada have focused on strengthening the technical capacity of the pest-management unit.

A significant achievement in this country was the elimination of the Mediterranean fruit fly, which was recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in October, 1987.

Grenada now has an efficient, functional pest-management unit with competent, trained staff and a well-equipped plant protection laboratory.

...A significant achievement in this country was the elimination of the Mediterranean fruit fly, which was recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in October, 1987...

IICA, after helping to establish adequate physical infrastructure and train personnel in Grenada, intends this year to consolidate the role plant protection can play in support of the government's economic development efforts, in keeping with its current policies.

It will also emphasize productivity increases in non-traditional export crops such as fruits, vegetables and tubers.

This effort coincides with the subregional project titled "Increased volumes of export of non-traditional crops through improved plant protection practices in the Windward Islands."

El Salvador: IICA SUPPORTS DEVELOPMENT OF SELF-MANAGED ENTERPRISES



Experts from the Project for Self-Managed Enterprises instruct a group of Salvadoran farmers and farm workers on how to evaluate the production plans they prepared with the SIMPLE system.

In order to strengthen El Salvador's effort to overcome rural poverty, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has been promoting the development of self-managed participatory enterprises for Salvadoran campesinos.

This project, launched by IICA in February, 1987, encourages development and efficient use of the country's technical resources. It continues the work begun in 1985 in planning production for agricultural cooperatives in the reformed sector, using the Planning and Evaluation Integration System (SIMPLE).

To implement SIMPLE, a cooperative was chosen in the department of Chalatenango, and a follow-up was agreed on with its leaders for planning the production of basic grain crops, corn for human and animal consumption, dryland rice, irrigated rice and sorghum.

Likewise, production plans were made for vegetable crops including tomatoes, peppers, okra, and squash, as well as for sugar cane planting and maintenance, sesame seed cultivation, citrus production, and the planting of a teak forest.

The Santa Barbara cooperative in Chalatenango has

266 members. Crops planned for the 1988-1989 agricultural year will occupy 824 hectares of farming land and 87 hectares of forest. The cooperative has 410 hectares under irrigation, where vegetables, some rice and some sugar cane are grown.

The final advisory services provided for the cooperative will assist the campesinos in drawing up their own plans. Their experience will be applied in the follow-up and ongoing evaluation of production plans in the Salvadoran rural sector.

The self-managed participatory rural enterprise project for Salvadoran campesinos is coordinated by Benjamín Gallegos, IICA agricultural production specialist. Working with Gallegos is a team of technical experts from the Center of Agricultural Technology (CENTA), the Salvadoran Institute for Agrarian Transformation (ISTA) and the Agricultural Training Center (CENAP).

TRAINING IN SOCIAL ORGANIZATION OF PRODUCTION

To promote self-management in cooperatives, IICA has developed a parallel training project on the social organization of production.

In 1987, 126 campesino leaders and 35 technical experts from the agricultural sector received training through five courses on specific aspects of the social organization of production.

The campesinos who have received this training are members of the associative and enterprise management committees of the agricultural production cooperatives of San Isidro, Copapayo, Las Lajas, San Fernando, Los Lagartos and Sunza.

The project published manuals on the duties of management councils, monitoring, committee and member boards, and the assembly, which were used as teaching aids in the courses. Concrete projects for the respective production units were also formulated.

Jaime Ortiz Egas, IICA rural development specialist at the El Salvador Representation, is in charge of the project on the social organization of production.

CENTRAL AMERICAN DROUGHT CAUSES MILLION DOLLAR LOSSES IN BASIC GRAINS

The Central American countries have suffered losses totalling an estimated US\$166 million in basic grain production as a result of the drought during the 1987-1988 agricultural year. (See Table 1)

This figure is cited in a study on the effects of the drought in the region which was prepared by the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and Dominican Republic (CORECA); the study was requested by the Central American ministers of agriculture and ministers of economic integration during their joint meeting in November, 1987 in Guatemala.

The study focused exclusively on rice, corn, beans and sorghum, four crops that are closely linked to food security, and shortages of which cause a state of emergency requiring special intervention programs. The study also explores the effects of the drought on reducing the volume of basic grains produced during the second harvest of the 1987-1988 period.

According to the report, the Central American region will lose 20 percent of its corn and 13 percent of its rice production. Sorghum and bean losses are even more serious. It is estimated that two thirds of the

projected final harvest will be lost.

RAINFALL

Rainfall during this period, erratic in all Central American countries, was most scarce in the Pacific dry zones. Generally speaking, the rains began late, making replanting necessary in some areas. From June to late August, 1987, rainfall stabilized, and in some cases was too heavy.

Later, rainfall stopped altogether and the drought continued until late September, when irregular rainfall occurred towards the end of the rainy season.

LOSSES

Of the five Central American countries, Guatemala reported the greatest losses, mainly in corn and beans.

Corn losses ran at 16 percent for the year, but because the first harvest had been excellent, the country will be able to fill domestic demand easily for the rest of the year, and still have enough to export.

TABLE 1.
ESTIMATE OF ECONOMIC LOSSES CAUSED BY THE DROUGHT IN CENTRAL AMERICA - 1987-1988

(millions of US\$)

COUNTRY	CORN	RICE	BEANS	SORGHUM	TOTAL LOSSES
Central America	9.8	52.0	71.2	33.0	166.0
Guatemala	nd.	43.7	39.0	nd.	92.7
El Salvador	1.9	3.7	15.0	21.5	42.1
Honduras	-	1.2	5.4	1.1	7.7
Nicaragua	4.9	2.4	11.7	10.0	29.0
Costa Rica	3.0	1.0	0.07	0.4	4.5

SOURCE: Proceedings of the Thirty-first Meeting of the Marketing and Price Stabilization Committee of Central America

CENTRAL AMERICAN DROUGHT CAUSES...

Bean-crop losses were very heavy, estimated at 43 percent. More than half the bean production of the eastern region was lost, which means that Guatemala will not produce enough beans in the 1987-1988 agricultural year to meet domestic consumption needs. Information on rice and sorghum was insufficient to provide an analysis.

HONDURAS

The drought did not affect the rice crop in Honduras because all rice production in that country is irrigated. Also, rice production goals were met during the first harvest, and no national deficit is expected.

Corn losses, calculated at 7.5 percent, were due exclusively to excessive rainfall in the northern and coastal regions of the country. There, in addition to reduced yields, these rains causes floods and other damages.

The greatest drought-induced losses were in the bean and sorghum crops. Losses were calculated at 57 and 85 percent respectively.

EL SALVADOR

Despite the fact that the land under cultivation for the second corn crop was almost completely destroyed, good yields from the first harvest will allow this country to meet its consumption needs.

However, the situation is very different as regards the bean crop. Losses of more than 66 percent were recorded for the second harvest, and the country will inevitably face a bean shortage.

Rice will also be in short supply, because 21 percent of the rice crop was lost. Finally, the sorghum crop suffered the greatest losses: almost 84 percent of the crop was hard hit by the drought. This means that El Salvador will be unable to fill its domestic demand for this crop.

NICARAGUA

Nicaragua's greatest loss was in the bean crop, where almost three-quarters of the second harvest was lost. The second harvest has traditionally provided nearly 50 percent of total production during the agricultural year.

Losses in the sorghum crop were calculated at 46 percent. The ensuing shortage presents an additional problem: the animal feed processing plants will have to shut down for 6.7 months, producing a very harmful effect on poultry and hog production.

Despite 43 percent losses in corn production, the success of the first harvest has offset the losses and there will be no corn shortage. In addition, the European Economic Community (EEC) has made significant donations of corn to Nicaragua.

Smaller losses in the rice crop (less than 14 percent) allow for surpluses that will satisfy domestic demand and provide export alternatives.

COSTA RICA

In Costa Rica, the dry Pacific region was hardest hit by the drought. As a result, the rice harvest decreased by 9.5 percent, and imports will be necessary to meet domestic demand.

Sorghum production fell by 13 percent, further increasing national shortages of this grain. In contrast, Costa Rica reported corn surpluses in spite of light drought damages (8.3 percent of the harvest).

Because all surplus will be used for animal feed to compensate for sorghum losses, Costa Rica will be unable to meet domestic demand for cattle feed and will be compelled to import corn or sorghum.

OVERALL BALANCE

Total corn availability in the region is enough to satisfy demand, maintain a minimum one-month reserve for consumption, and provide a surplus of around 270,000 tons. No corn shortages are predicted in any of the countries except Honduras, in which case there are plans to create a one-month reserve for consumption.

One alternative suggested in the CORECA report is that corn be used to compensate for the sorghum shortage, which is also calculated at 270,000 metric tons for the Central American region. Every country in the region with the exception of Honduras is expected to face a sorghum shortage.

A regional surplus is expected for rice which would

CENTRAL AMERICAN DROUGHT CAUSES...

provide a one-month contingency reserve, after filling annual demand for the region.

There will be a regional bean deficit and it is already necessary to import from outside the region. All countries except Costa Rica are expected to have shortages in this crop.

SOLUTIONS

Based on the CORECA report, the Central American countries took immediate steps to obtain the necessary resources from the international financial community, and especially the EEC, to assure adequate food supplies for their populations, and normal basic grain production in the 1988-1989 period.

One measure, suggested by the vice-presidents, ministers of foreign relations, ministers responsible for economic integration and rural development and planning ministers of each country, was to create an emergency food supply plan for the people of Central America.

This plan calls for immediate funding of more than US\$71 million, to cover the countries' food needs in basic products such as corn, beans, rice, sorghum, powdered milk and vegetable oil.

Another plan, aimed at ensuring basic grain production for the 1988-1989 agricultural year, was prepared jointly in February by CORECA, the Central American Bank for Economic Development (BCIE), the Support Action Committee for Economic and Social Development in Central America (CADESA), and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

...The plan calls for US\$147 million worth of additional credits that basic grain producers will need in order to be able to meet the harvest goals set for 1988...

The plan calls for US\$147 million in additional credits

that basic grain producers will need in order to be able to meet the harvest goals set for 1988. The largest portion of the funds, \$84.7 million, would be used for corn, amounting to 57.6 percent of the total. Beans would rank second with \$28.6 million; sorghum third with \$17.3 million, and unhulled rice next with \$16.4 million.

As regards the needs of the countries, Nicaragua requires the largest proportion of funds, \$58.3 million (39.7 percent); El Salvador, \$44.6 million (30.3 percent); Honduras, \$21.7 million (14.8 percent); Guatemala \$20.9 million (14.3 percent), and Costa Rica \$1.4 million (less than 1 percent).

...Nicaragua requires the largest proportion of funds, \$58.3 million; El Salvador, \$44.6 million; Honduras, \$21.7 million; Guatemala \$20.9 million, and Costa Rica \$1.4 million...

RECOMMENDATIONS

The two plans mentioned above were presented to the EEC in Hamburg in late February, where preliminary support was obtained for funding. The amount and conditions are currently in negotiation.

Several special recommendations proposed by the authors of the second plan to assure basic grain production and supply are worthy of mention.

One involves the proposal that a complementary regional strategy be developed, based on specialized food production. In other words, countries having comparative advantages for certain products could specialize production accordingly and offer their surpluses well in advance to countries having shortages in those products.

The plan also suggested that the Central American countries import as a region, and that a Coordinating Committee be set up to follow this process in each country, overseeing the detailed programming, execution and evaluation of the plan.

IICA SUPPORTS MARKETING SYSTEMS IN PERU

Given the social and economic implications of marketing problems for farmers and consumers alike, the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru requested that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) help strengthen Peru's marketing systems.

...Each of the 42 community markets planned for Lima will serve approximately 2,500 families, for a total of more than 500,000 people...

After identifying factors that work against profitability and stable supply in the sector, such as an inefficient food storage and distribution network, a project was proposed to restructure the systems, based on an operating mechanism that will use installations constructed three years ago at an investment cost of \$73.4 million (1985 dollars).

Ownership and management patterns were identified for 12 marketing centers, seven urban distribution centers, and 80 community markets related to Peru's agricultural products infrastructure (PROCOMPRA).

Concurrently, the Ministry of Agriculture drew up a strategy to coordinate operations of the various government entities involved in marketing agricultural products, also with IICA's support.

In this way, the foundation was laid for the creation of the National Corporation for Food Support (CONAA), a public organization created by the new basic law of the agrarian sector, approved by supreme decree on January 6, 1988.

The Corporation's operating plan was put into practice when the community markets were brought into the CONAA framework. Each of the 42 community markets planned for Lima will serve approximately 2,500 families, for a total of more than 500,000 people.

These community markets are part of a supply and price-regulating system that also includes a voluntary network of affiliated retailers, street bazaars, supply services for community kitchens and dining halls, and

distribution of basic food baskets in the direct-assistance program.

The community markets coming under the umbrella of CONAA will be managed by MESA S.A., a semi-autonomous government firm. It has an urban distribution center that will guarantee a supply of the most important basic foods to the people's markets and affiliated stores.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Luis Salinas, an IICA agricultural communications specialist stationed at the IICA Representation in Peru, offered a course in Lima to professionals from northeastern Peru on agricultural communication. The course lasted from January 11 to 15.

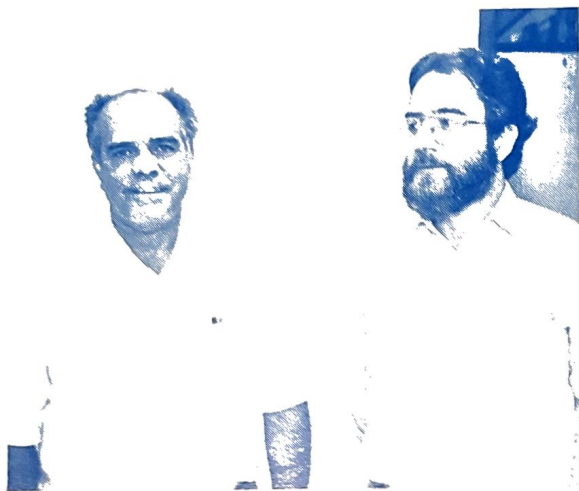
Attending were 38 professionals from the National Agricultural University of La Selva (UNAS) who are involved in agricultural extension efforts in the Rio Huallaga basic area, the cacao program and the United Nations agroindustrial project.

The course dealt with organization and planning of agricultural extension, concepts, methods and planning for agricultural communication, writing and layout.



Opening ceremony of a community market

IICA AND IFAD TO UNDERTAKE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT IN BRAZIL



From left to right, Dr. Carlos Miranda, IICA rural development specialist, and Sergio Sepúlveda, IICA project preparation specialist

Four thousand families living in extreme poverty in the Cerrado region of the Federal District of Brazil will benefit from an ambitious rural development project that contemplates an investment of approximately \$30 million over a five-year period.

Brazilian officials and technical experts will participate in defining and formulating the project with support from an expert mission from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The mission was created last August and has just completed its second visit to the project region.

This effort between IICA and IFAD is the result of a cooperation agreement signed some months ago for jointly identifying and preparing priority agricultural development projects in the countries.

The overall aim of the project in Brazil is to improve the economic and social conditions of low-income farmers in the Federal District by providing an infrastructure of support services needed for carrying

out productive activities, improving well-being and generating true participation.

In specific terms, the project aims to encourage the use of production systems and technology that are both crop and climate-appropriate, promote organization and training for small farmers, expand the infrastructure providing economic and social support to farmers, and improve workers' access to land and credit.

It is hoped that IFAD will finance one third of the \$30 million required for the project, and that Brazil's National Bank for Economic and Social Development and the Brazilian government will provide the rest.

Sergio Sepúlveda, an IICA project preparation specialist and one of the experts involved in formulating the project, identified eight basic components to be focused on: irrigation, soil conservation, mechanization, technical assistance, community infrastructure, rural settlements, standardization of land tenure, and rural credit.

Sepúlveda stressed that the community must get organized to carry out these efforts, and that it will be expected to contribute to identifying subprojects and evaluating the project as a whole.

To this end, the project envisages a community development fund playing a vital role in organizing small farmers living in extreme poverty. It would also encourage productive agricultural and non-agricultural activities such as crafts, sewing, agroindustry and others.

Sepúlveda also mentioned IICA's possible participation in future technical cooperation activities, especially in training for management and production, and irrigation. In these two areas, IICA has developed a considerable expertise and holds a significant comparative advantage in Latin America.

Based on the agreements signed by IICA and IFAD, similar support will be provided in Mexico starting in March, 1988, in response to the needs of the large impoverished population of the Federal District of that country.

COSTA RICA BOOSTS NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORT PRODUCTS

With a surge in exports of non-traditional products, Costa Rica has hit upon a new alternative for generating foreign exchange.

The so-called "change in agriculture" policy, announced by government officials in 1986, has steadily increased both expectations and results.

Because Costa Rica is primarily an agricultural country with excellent farming conditions, the government is striving to develop new production options.

...According to Central Bank statistics, non-traditional export earnings by July 1987 totaled US\$248 million...

This decision also rests on the awareness that traditional products such as coffee, bananas, sugar and meat are increasingly vulnerable to fluctuations in international trade, unstable prices, and introduction of biotechnology-engineered substitutes in consumer countries.

In order to contribute to true crop diversification, Costa Rican officials provide training and direct advisory services to farmers, making use of skilled personnel in organizations that promote exports and facilitate marketing and bank loans.

Feasibility and profitability studies quickly demonstrated the value of a variety of non-traditional products that now provide new hope to the country and a good source of foreign exchange.

Some noteworthy examples are roots, tubers and vegetables including yams, tiquisque, ginger, squash and chayote. Because of the excellent quality of these products, they are readily imported by Caribbean countries such as the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico and by the United States.

Also important is the increased volume of cacao, fruit, vegetables, and spice exports, which, along with the above, has contributed significantly to foreign currency earnings in recent years.

According to Central Bank statistics, non-traditional

export earnings in 1985 totaled US\$294 million. In 1986, these exports brought in US\$248 million and by July 1987 they had brought in US\$248 million.

Flower and ornamental plant exports also made a significant contribution. Central Bank statistics show that in 1985 they brought in US\$368,000, in 1986, US\$1.2 million, and during the first six months of 1987, US\$570,000.

Besides these economic benefits, non-traditional exports also boost production and employment levels, according to José Miguel Carrillo, Executive Director of the Ministry of Agriculture's Regional Agriculture Program.

Carrillo said that in order to ensure competitiveness on the international market, these products must be of the highest quality. Farmers should take steps prior to planting to ensure this. The use of certified seed, soil and climate studies, and the most appropriate technology for each case will contribute to achieving that end.

Carrillo said the employment-generation figures were encouraging, especially as regards family members hired to plant, harvest and pack agricultural products. He also recognized, however, that the country is still not ready to export value-added, processed products.

He added that before this can be achieved, improved organization and coordination is needed among entities promoting the marketing of these new products, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Production Council, the Center for Export and Investment Promotion, and the Costa Rican Coalition for Development Initiatives.

Carrillo also mentioned that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is providing support to a training program for technical experts that aims to consolidate the agriculture sector.

Rodolfo Quirós, Director of IICA's Marketing and Agroindustry Program, commented that IICA's support stems from its desire to collaborate in the search for new agricultural development alternatives.

IICA AND CIRDAP SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

An agreement was signed between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Centre on Integrated Rural Development for Asia and the Pacific (CIRDAP) to facilitate the exchange of experience and knowledge on rural development between the Asia-Pacific region and Latin America and the Caribbean.

Upon signing the technical cooperation agreement on March 1, the Director of CIRDAP, A.T.M. Shansul Haque, downplayed the differences separating the Asia-Pacific region from Latin America and the Caribbean. He said that "it will clearly be of mutual benefit to exchange the wealth of experiences and knowledge of similar conditions that we have accumulated in this field."

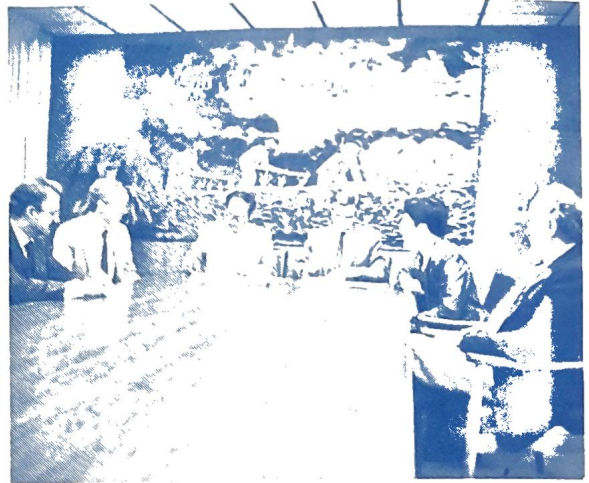
The agreement was signed at IICA Headquarters, where Director General Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro highlighted the potential that regional organizations have in promoting development, and agreed on the usefulness of exchanging experiences on rural development.

One of the main objectives of the agreement signed by the two organizations is to coordinate actions and thus contribute to accelerating agricultural and rural development in the countries of the two regions. In addition, the document seeks to establish a legal framework for specific cooperation agreements in the future.

Priority areas for cooperative action identified are: organization and management for rural development, technology generation and transfer, training, and international cooperation.

CIRDAP is an autonomous regional, intergovernmental organization headquartered in Bangladesh. It was founded on July 6, 1979 with the backing of the United Nations. It has 11 member countries: Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Haque explained that 50 percent of the world's population is concentrated in the Asia-Pacific region, "and that half of these people live in poverty."



The Director General of IICA and the Director of CIRDAP sign the agreement.

"This is why agrarian reform programs are necessary for stimulating rural development in the region," he stated, adding that CIRDAP also gives special importance to promoting activities that are not strictly agricultural in order to improve the well-being of the rural poor. Examples provided were crafts and small-scale agroindustry.

Haque indicated that the ties established with IICA were brought about through the auspices of the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, with which both organizations maintain active working relationships.

CIRDAP's activities focus on agricultural development, institution building, infrastructure development, upgrading physical resources, training, and employment generation.

In addition to the above, Haque mentioned that special attention was also placed on research on agrarian reform, the problems associated with landlessness, and the development of cooperatives. He also described the "action research" method used, which combines theory and practice in the formulation of "innovative, experimental projects."

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San José, 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 made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

IICA



April 1988. Year V, No. 15

NEWS

REGIONAL ACTION TOUTED AS KEY TO SOLVING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

Economic problems will be solved only through region-wide programs and projects, according to Emiliano Fossati, a high-level official of the General Directorate of External Relations of the European Economic Community, who on April 18 met with authorities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

"This is why it is so important for IICA to keep in contact with people who are responsible for and aware of the real situation in the agricultural sector; those who will decide the future in this field," added Fossati, who is head of the Division of Projects and Programs for Cooperation and Development with the countries of Latin America and Asia.

During their meeting with IICA authorities, headed by the Institute's Director General, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, the EEC visitors exchanged opinions with experts in agriculture and economics and with members of the International Advisory Commission that is working with the Institute to prepare a Plan to Reactivate Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Fossati made particular mention of IICA's work for preparing the Plan, stating that the Institute "plays a highly visible role in conceptualizing and implementing agricultural sector projects in the region."

"Because EEC cooperation with the poorest countries of



Left to right, George Ponette, Economic Counsellor to the European Community Mission for Central America; Emiliano Fossati, of the EEC General Direction of External Relations; Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; and Mendel Goldstein, Head of International Development Cooperation for Central America, of the EEC General Directorate of External Relations.

REGIONAL ACTION TOUTED AS KEY...



Dr. Emiliano Fossati, executive of the General Direction of External Relations of the Commission of the European Economic Community.

Latin America focuses on the agricultural sector, there is great potential for the Community and IICA to work together. This is why we must strengthen our points of contact," he stated.

The Institute's Director of External Relations, Dr. Jorge Werthein, commented on IICA's interest in "moving ahead to strengthen our ties of cooperation with the EEC for the benefit of rural development and well-being in the countries of Latin America."

Mr. Fossati visited IICA in the company of Mendel Goldstein, who is in charge of the Community's International Development Cooperation for Central America, during their recent tour of the Isthmus.

He observed that "Central America has expressed its interest, which the EEC shares, in attaching highest priority to region-wide actions."

...To strengthen our ties of cooperation with the EEC for the benefit of rural development and well-being in the countries of Latin America...

"The specific objective of this mission is to analyze projects and programs that the Community might finance this year," he added.

Fossati explained that the Community has budgeted financial resources totalling 80 million ECUS (EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNITS), approximately equivalent to US\$98 million, to support development activities in Central America in 1988.

...IICA plays a highly visible role in conceptualizing and implementing agricultural sector projects in the region...

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PROCISUR: PROGRAM ROOTS ARE DEEPENED

The "specific project" approach is a key component of a new proposal to institutionalize the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR). This approach encourages new, dynamic ties of technological cooperation among countries.

The proposal was discussed in a meeting of the PROCISUR Steering Committee, held in Montevideo, Uruguay from March 8 to 9, 1988.

The Steering committee is the governing body of the Program; members are the directors of research centers in Bolivia, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina and Chile. Also sitting on the Committee are representatives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the agency responsible for PROCISUR, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The "specific project" model was designed to keep the Program flexible and guarantee that it will always reflect the shared interests of the countries themselves. This approach is also expected to facilitate the process of seeking additional financial support and will be useful in distributing any resources that the participating countries contribute to this type of effort.

"The specific projects," according to the proposal, "can be identified, designed and structured taking full advantage of the wealth of experience acquired by PROCISUR. The best methods and instruments observed in the subprograms currently under way can be selected for project execution."

The specific projects possess a number of special characteristics that will tend to maximize efficient project management, allow for better coordination of objectives and activities, and improve follow-up and evaluation of results. With the projects, it will also be possible to estimate the economic and social impact of productivity increases or production growth when single products are at issue, or to improve methods used for institutional strengthening in the case of projects that tackle broader questions.

PROCISUR was established in 1984 as the second phase of the IICA/Southern Cone/IDB agricultural research program for the countries of the Southern Cone. It was structured into four subprograms, each based on a specific product (beef, winter grains, summer grains and edible oils), and included activities for technology

transfer, training, information and documentation. The Program will terminate in September, 1989.

The Program Steering Committee agreed during its meeting that Program implementation in recent years "has been more stable, with a better defined institutional structure, higher-level contact with research organizations in the countries, and an impressive list of actions completed."

It was also recognized that the southern subregion had well-established institutions in place, and thus considerable potential for reciprocal cooperation in science and technology. This was viewed as an important asset for institutionalizing the Program as PROCISUR II.

The proposal states that the Program should organize an executive secretariat to serve as its central operating group, to be financed with contributions from the countries and from IICA. This secretariat will be responsible for planning, supervision and follow-up of activities, and will identify and prepare the specific projects set forth as the essential program tool for conducting cooperative activities.

Dr. Edmundo Gastal, Director of PROCISUR, placed particular stress on the need for the countries and IICA to commit on-going financial resources for maintaining the central group. Additional financial support will also be sought from other international funding sources.



Members of the PROCISUR Steering Committee.

IICA and the Government of Bahia: EIGHT YEARS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the government of the state of Bahia, Brazil, recently celebrated eight years of technical cooperation. Together they have drafted programs and projects, conducted sectorial studies, and worked in technology generation and transfer, farmer and community organization and training for national technical personnel.

Brazil has a total land surface area measuring 8.6 million square kilometers. It is the fifth largest country on earth and has the eighth largest economy in the western world. From 1960 to 1980, the country registered an average annual economic growth rate of 7.3 percent.

...Per capita income in the zone hovers around 40 percent of the national average....

Nevertheless, deeply entrenched in the midst of this extraordinary potential can be found pockets of extreme poverty, particularly in the semi-arid northeastern region of the country.

The adverse climatic conditions in this zone, irregular rainfall and inappropriate land distribution all conspire against the economy of the region by limiting production and productivity and impeding development of the rural sector.

Nine states make up the northeastern zone, an expanse measuring approximately 1.6 million square kilometers, or 18.2 percent of the nation's total territory. This region is home to nearly 39 million people, which means that 29.5 percent of the population of Brazil occupies the country's poorest land.

Per capita income in the zone hovers around 40 percent of the national average, and unemployment, illiteracy and mortality rates are all high.

It was in this setting that IICA began to work in 1980 with the support of the Regional Development and Action Office (CAR), a public agency of the State Secretariat of

Planning, to start up a regional development program that would emphasize the use of appropriate methods for formulating, implementing and evaluating rural development programs and projects. Professionals from national technical teams could then be trained in the use of these techniques.

During the period that the agreement has been in effect, courses, seminars and technical meetings were held to discuss the formulation and evaluation of agricultural projects and the development of two community irrigation projects. Special interest focused on generating and transferring technology from integrated rural development projects in Paraguacu, in northeastern Bahia, and in Irecé, and from a small farmer support program in the region of Sobradinho in Bahia.

A course was held in Fortaleza on methods for programming farm systems, and a training course was given on using DASI computer software for economic and financial project evaluation.

Seven international specialists have taken part in the Bahia project from the very beginning: three in irrigation, one in projects, one in farmer organization, one in technology and one in socioeconomic research.

Beginning in 1987, the project shifted its focus, giving top priority to technical action in agrarian reform, in cooperation with the National Agrarian Reform Program (PNRA), working to strengthen and organize small-scale farmers using a self-management approach.

For 1988, IICA has assigned four international specialists to work with the project in Bahia. They will strengthen such institutions as: the technical and Rural Assistance Agency (EMATERBA), the National Settlement and Agrarian Reform Institute (INCRA), the Agricultural Research Center of the Semi-arid Tropics (CPTSA) and the Superintendency of Development of the Northeast (SUDENE).

All these agencies are working to improve standards of living among small-scale farmers. IICA will train national technicians in such areas as rural development on settlements, irrigation and drainage techniques, and natural resource assessment.

PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL CULTURAL REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

IICA AND JUNAC TO WORK TOGETHER ON PLAN TO REACTIVATE AGRICULTURE

The Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will combine efforts on the Strategic Plan to Reactivate Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. Their work together will focus on the section addressing the Andean subregion.

April 15 marked the signing in Lima of an agreement in response to the mandate of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Member Countries of the Cartagena Agreement which, in Resolution No. 1, charges "the Board and IICA to prepare a proposed plan for reactivating agriculture in the Andean subregion." The agreement was signed by JUNAC's coordinator general, Pedro Luis Echeverría, and the Direc-

tor General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro.

"It is clear," according to Echeverría, "that our two institutions should be interacting to rekindle the role of agriculture as the pivotal sector for the development of our peoples and for encouraging greater integration among the countries of Latin America".

The ministers of agriculture of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, meeting in the Peruvian capital from April 13 to 15, agreed in the "Lima Declaration" that "The development of agriculture is a cornerstone for improving the economic and social conditions of the most disadvantaged population groups in the countries. It will also help secure democratic pro-



The ministers of agriculture of the five member countries gathered together for the first time in the history of the Andean Pact.



Dr. Martín E. Piñero, Director General of IICA, and Dr. Pedro Luis Echeverría, Coordinador a.i. of JUNAC, signing the agreement for the preparation of a pilot plan to reactivate agriculture in the Andean subregion.

cesses, preserve peace and further the subregion's move toward integration.

The ministers went on to state that "The development model that prevailed in past decades, giving top priority to industry, has undergone a change, and different countries have reestablished their belief in the agricultural sector as an essential factor in economic growth, social development and the subregional integration process."

"This new situation should be reflected in the sectorial plans and programs of the Cartagena Agreement," adds the Lima Declaration.

The role of the agricultural sector as a fundamental factor in economic growth was highlighted by the hemisphere's sectorial authorities in September, 1987, when they attended the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) in Ottawa, the capital city of Canada.

The Ottawa Mandate, approved unanimously during the conference, reflects the view of the region's ministers of agriculture that agriculture can and must play a central role in reactivating the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In order to translate this political consensus into prac-

tical action, the ministers charged IICA to work with specialized organizations, the governments of the member countries and specialists in the field to prepare a "Strategic Plan of Joint Action to Reactivate Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean."

The Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñero, was present at the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Andean Group, where he reported on progress made to date in preparing the Plan. He took the opportunity to listen to the opinions and beliefs of the top authorities of the five countries and to formalize a mechanism by which the Institute and JUNAC could work together on the chapter about the Andean nations.

"This agreement," stated Dr. Piñero, "simply puts into concrete form the mandate given by the ministers in Ottawa, when they stressed the need for us to prepare a Plan, working together with the countries and other organizations so as to maximize the degree of complementarity and synergism of different initiatives to revitalize the agricultural sector."

"We are hereby agreeing to undertake a process in which JUNAC and IICA will interact on a series of technical tasks," he added. "We will also maintain regular contact. The first step has been our presence in the meetings of the ministers and deputy ministers; and we look forward to participating in future technical events."

The agreement signed by IICA and JUNAC calls on the two organizations to work together in preparing "a strategy proposal that will provide a frame of reference for joint action by the countries to reactivate and develop the agricultural sector of the Andean subregion."

"Concrete action proposals" will also be prepared, taking the form of programs, projects and mechanisms for inter-institutional action in areas identified as holding high priority.

The agreement calls for "a process of information and consultation at the national and subregional levels covering all the different facets of preparing the Plan."

A committee was set up to coordinate the implementation of this agreement. Members include Felix Cirio, IICA's coordinator of the Strategic Plan, and Luis Paz Silva, head of the JUNAC Department of Agriculture.

Bolivia: TOP PRIORITY FOR HORIZONTAL COOPERATION AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Highest priority must be attached to encouraging activities for horizontal cooperation and strengthening the process of integration among the countries of the Andean subregion, according to Dr. José Guillermo Justiniano, Minister of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs of Bolivia.

"All too often," stated the minister, who was on hand for the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Andean Group, held in Lima from April 13 to 15, "we in developing countries maintain vertical relations with those who are producing technology. We now want to reverse this. We would like to institutionalize a mechanism or system, preferably through supranational organizations such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), that will facilitate the broadest horizontal cooperation among us, not only in technology, but also regarding our commodities, which are basic for our economies."

In this context, he added, "I agree fully with IICA about the importance of joint actions, both regional and subregional, for reactivating agriculture."



Dr. José Guillermo Justiniano, Minister of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs of Bolivia.

"Our countries must begin looking toward the twenty-first century. The importance of the Plan of Joint Action is that it clearly traces the macrotrends to be found in the world today and reveals the influence they might have on our development," according to Minister Justiniano.

"I see this as a very valuable contribution consistent with the political orientation of the countries that were present in Ottawa," he stressed.

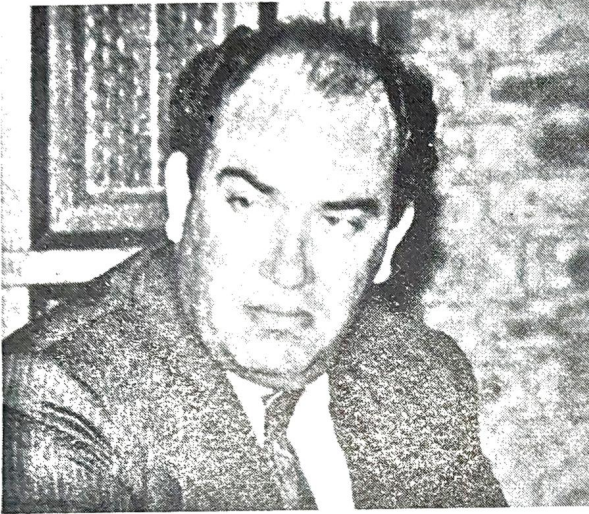
During the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which took place last September in Ottawa, the highest authorities of the region's agricultural sector agreed that agriculture was critical for economic reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. They entrusted IICA to prepare a strategic plan for reactivating the sector in the region.

Minister Justiano also discussed the particular situation in his own nation. "Bolivia," he stated, "is a country with an essentially agrarian base. Forty-seven percent of our population lives in rural areas, where critical poverty levels resemble those of many countries in Africa."

"The rural sector holds the key to social, political and economic stability. Bolivia will not be a viable country over the long run if rural issues are not addressed," he asserted. However, he warned, "The outlook for the rest of this century is that the economic crisis will continue."

The minister went on to list some of the high-priority tasks lying ahead for the Andean subregion: "The whole area of coordination, of horizontal cooperation, of facilitating trade; the implementation of shared programs for animal and plant health; binational projects; fiscal and customs integration: In my opinion, these are the specific areas where we need to work in the immediate future."

Colombia: HOW TO MAKE AGRICULTURE MORE DYNAMIC



*Dr. Luis Guillermo Parra, Minister of
Agriculture of Colombia.*

Colombia has decided that the agricultural sector must recover the vitality it once had. Consequently, agricultural policies are oriented toward increasing production and productivity of both commodities and export goods, according to recent statements by the country's Minister of Agriculture, Luis Guillermo Parra.

"We fully concur with the central themes of the Plan to Reactivate Agriculture, being prepared by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), "stressed the minister, who was present in Lima, Peru from April 13 to 15 to attend the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Andean-Group, "and we are already putting many of them into practice."

The meeting provided an opportunity for the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, to present the ministers from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela with a progress report on work being done to prepare the Strategic Plan of Joint Action to Reactivate Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. He also took the time to listen to the views of the

countries in the Andean Area concerning the Plan.

One of the ideas discussed by Dr. Piñeiro was that of encouraging agroindustry development for input production and for processing raw materials of agricultural origin. Minister Parra took up this view, stating that "An important area of action for reactivating agriculture must include improved efficiency in our production, marketing and agroindustrial transformation processes."

"We need to devise policies and techniques that will help improve the marketing and processing of primary goods from our agricultural sector, especially those produced by small-scale farmers. This is essential if we hope to improve farmer income without affecting consumers, cut down the present high rates of post-harvest losses, and attenuate the havoc wreaked by wild price swings," explained the minister from Colombia.

"In our country we have instituted an adjustment program for the agricultural sector, moving in directions very similar to those discussed in this meeting. This tells us that we are on the right track," he added.

He explained that in Colombia, "we are encouraging the movement of capital into agriculture by increasing public investment and offering incentives for private investment to raise the profitability of agricultural production."

"We are meeting these objectives," noted Minister Parra, "by encouraging more rational and intensive use of the soil, modernizing patterns of production and improving the efficiency of commodity marketing."

The Minister of Agriculture of Colombia closed his comments by stressing the importance of modernizing small farmer production, noting that "any effort to reactivate agriculture in Latin America must allow small-scale farmers to produce as efficiently as medium-scale or modern producers."

Ecuador: TECHNOLOGICAL MODERNIZATION IS CRUCIAL

The countries of Latin America as a whole, and particularly those of the Andean Area, must incorporate modern technology into agricultural production, according to statements made by Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, Mr. Marcos Espinel Martínez, during the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Andean Group. Otherwise, he explained, they run the risk of losing their present comparative advantages for food production.

The minister went on to discuss "the need by most of our countries to restore the top priority once enjoyed by the agricultural sector in the framework of overall policies in each country, and also as a part of the integrationist strategies of the Andean subregion. Today we find that other sectors have had only limited success in driving true development and integration."

"My feeling is that the meeting took a very accurate view of present and future problems and of the effect that international conditions will have on the future of



Economist Carlos Espinel Martínez, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador.

agriculture, especially in the field of biotechnology," asserted Espinel.

Addressing the topic of biotechnology, the minister of Ecuador stated, that "I found Dr. Piñero's presentation useful. He called our attention to the risk that our countries run of being left behind today's process of technological change. I believe that, in fact, our countries must raise their awareness of this situation and take measures to modernize agricultural production."

He added, that "His ideas concerning the Plan of Action are fully consistent with the intentions of the ministers of the Andean Area for giving new momentum to our economies and to the process of regional integration. Our strategy is based on developing the agricultural sector."

The theory is that the agricultural sector must undergo a process of modernization and thus be equipped to play a central role in economic reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. "We set this idea in motion during the Ottawa Conference. IICA has picked it up and has guided it into the international arena. We fully support this effort and feel proud to have initiated it," claimed Minister Espinel.

The Ecuadorian minister went on to stress the importance of the agricultural sector in his country's development. "From 1984 to 1987, the agricultural sector in my country generated 15.2 percent of all goods and services", he said.

He further noted that "Agricultural production has increased by 8.2 percent per year, substantially outpacing population growth. This means that the sector has maintained a regular, stable flow of goods to markets and has produced an exportable surplus of such products as rice and corn."

"I hope this meeting in Lima will mark the beginning of a new phase of cooperation in the field of agriculture among the countries of the Andean Pact," he concluded.

Peru: AGRICULTURE LEADS TO INTEGRATION



*Deputy Remigio Morales Bermúdez,
Minister of Agriculture of Peru.*

"The path to integration among our countries lies in agriculture," according to the Minister of Agriculture of Peru, Remigio Morales Bermúdez.

"The five countries of the Andean Area (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) have once again turned their attention to agriculture, assigning it a primary role in development schemes and integration plans for the region," stated the minister, who presided over the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Andean Group, held from April 13 to 15 in Lima, Peru.

"For the first time since the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC) was established in 1968," commented Minister Morales, "this meeting was attended by all the ministers of agriculture of the area. Ministerial representatives have always been present, but never in our history had all five ministers attended. This alone speaks eloquently of the importance that the agricultural sector now holds."

"There is no question that this meeting will help consolidate the process by which agriculture has acquired greater importance as a key factor for integrating our countries," he went on to say.

Morales made special mention of a presentation for the ministers by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) concerning its progress in preparing the Plan of Joint Action to Reactivate Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. He stressed that "Peru has already done its part and is putting into practice its belief that agriculture should play a key role in establishing a new development model."

He explained that the ascendancy of agriculture should be interpreted in the context of a new push to revitalize and redirect the process of Andean integration, set forth in the signing of the Quito Protocol and the Declaration of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Andean Group, who met recently in Cuenca, Ecuador.

"In this new phase of a revitalized Andean Group, there is no question about the importance that should be attached to actions for cooperation and integration in the field of agriculture. This reflects the priority being given to agriculture once again in the different countries and the desire to work together to promote agricultural reactivation throughout the continent, endorsed last year in Ottawa by the ministers of agriculture of the entire hemisphere," Minister Morales told his colleagues.

The Peruvian minister spoke specifically of the situation in the Andean subregion, expressing his views on major actions to be promoted. He urged that a subregional fund be established for food security; that Andean multinational marketing enterprises be founded; that joint positions be adopted in the present round of trade negotiations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); and that technology generation and transfer activities, presently conducted through the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program of the Andean Area (PROCINDINO), be strengthened.

Venezuela: RURAL POVERTY UNDER SIEGE



Dr. Wenceslao Mantilla, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of Venezuela.

One of the top priorities of agricultural policy in Venezuela, according to the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of that country, Dr. Wenceslao Mantilla, is to raise standards of living for rural men and women.

"I do emphasize the need to improve overall standards of living, not just production conditions. This challenge goes far beyond mere productivity to include such issues as education, health, recreation and employment," he added. The minister was in Lima from April 13 to 15 for the Sixth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Andean Group.

"When I talk about employment," he explained, "I refer particularly to the development of small-scale agroindustry and primary agroindustry. This is because there is a great deal of land in the area which is not producing."

The minister also discussed the agrarian reform process being carried out in Venezuela, calling it an essential step toward the elimination of rural poverty.

"In Venezuela, this process has enabled us to break away from the latifundio," he noted. "At least in the northern part of the country, which is the most heavily populated, we have broken the back of these large haciendas, allowing small - and medium - scale producers to aspire to land ownership."

He also talked about a series of measures and programs sponsored by the government for meeting the challenges of poverty in zones populated by peasant farmers.

As an example, he explained, "We are moving ahead with broad-based programs of nutritional supplements, such as the school milk program which benefits two and a half million school children every day. Another is the Popular Milk Program, which supplies 47 tons of whole milk every year for the low - income population."

These measures are part of the comprehensive agricultural policies that Minister Mantilla presented to his colleagues from other countries of the Andean Area.

"Venezuela has established and is carrying out agricultural policies consisting of a full spectrum of measures designed to ensure that agricultural activities remain profitable. This is the only way to lay a sound basis for increasing production, introducing advanced technology, improving productivity and conserving natural resources."

He held up these policy measures as the driving force behind the achievements of the past four years: food production increased by 9.4 percent annually, and the 1987 harvest covered 2.28 million hectares of land, an increase of 687,000 hectares over the previous year.

This also means that "in 1987, food production reached 15.8 million tons, a 43.3 percent increase over 1983. We now have a stable supply of the major, strategic commodities consumed by the population," he concluded.

LIMA DECLARATION

The Ministers of Agriculture of the republics of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, meeting in the city of Lima from April 13 to 15, 1988, for the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Andean Group; aware that efforts made to date primarily toward establishing an expanded market and implementing Sector Programs for Industrial Development, and that the level of participation by the agricultural sector in the process of Andean integration has therefore been low:

DECLARE:

1. That the development of agriculture is a cornerstone for improving the economic and social conditions of the most disadvantaged population groups in the countries. It will also help secure democratic processes, preserve peace and further the subregion's move toward integration.
2. That the development model that prevailed in past decades, giving top priority to industry, has undergone a change, and the different countries have reestablished their belief in the agricultural sector as an essential factor in economic growth, social development and the subregional integration process. This new situation should be reflected in the sectoral plans and programs of the Cartagena Agreement.
3. That they are deeply concerned by the effects of the narcotics traffic; they recognize the shared responsibility of producers and consumers of these products, and agree on the serious damage that this scourge is causing, specially among the young. They similarly set forth the need to correct the distortions that this trade is causing on the overall economy and therefore echo the sentiments expressed by the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Andean Group at their meeting in Cuenca, when they urged the international funding agencies and the governments to contribute toward implementing rural development programs and projects for the ultimate purpose of substituting illegal crops.
4. That they will make every effort to harmonize domestic policies so as to:
 - A. Strengthen formal trade of agricultural products, and take action to prevent the distortions that encourage unregistered trade.
 - B. Introduce a plan of joint action to revitalize agriculture in the countries.
 - C. Promote and support diversified programs for the production of foodstuffs and raw materials and for agroindustry development in the Andean subregion.
5. That it is necessary to promote the establishment of an Andean multinational enterprise and an Andean Food Security Fund as instruments of integration for programs of marketing and services in the subregion.
6. That they are willing to give decisive support to promoting food security programs, appraising them periodically to ensure that proposed objectives are met.
7. That they are willing to encourage compliance with the commitments acquired in the Transitional Program and recognize that the Quito Protocol is in effect to favor trade of agricultural and agroindustrial goods both inside the subregion and with third countries, and they will support the implementation of an Andean Program for Cooperation in Marketing for Agriculture and Agroindustry.
8. That they are determined to develop and carry out the Regional Food Program of the Andean Pact (AREPA), beginning with specific projects for the production, processing, distribution and consumption of commodities such as corn and potatoes so as to substitute imports and reduce the subregion's food dependency.
9. That they understand the importance of encouraging closer contact among agricultural producers in the Andean subregion, through producer associations;

and of promoting and supporting farmer initiatives to ensure participation in the process of Andean integration.

10. That they acknowledge the importance of continuing and strengthening the animal health and plant protection programs that the Board is carrying out with the member countries, with the support and participation of other governments and international organizations.

11. That it is necessary to conduct specific actions for horizontal technical cooperation among the member countries, for which purpose they recommend that a permanent system of information and consultation be created.

12. That they support the activities being carried out by the Andean Federation of Livestock Producers (CON-

FAGAN) to consolidate its work.

13. That they have decided to hold annual meetings of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Andean Group as special sessions of the Commission of the Cartagena Agreement, in accordance with Article 17 of Decision 182.

14. That they endorse the decision to hold the Ninth Meeting of the Agricultural Council next September in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, as a preparatory session for the subsequent meeting of the Commission of Ministers of Agriculture, which should be held during the course of this year.

Finally, they express their gratitude to the people and government of Peru for their kind hospitality and congratulate the organizers of the Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Andean Group.

Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Member Countries of the Cartagena Agreement

RESOLUTION No. 1

Plan to Reactivate Agriculture

The Sixth Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Member Countries of the Cartagena Agreement:

CONSIDERING:

That the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture called for the preparation of a strategic plan of joint action to reactivate agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean;

That this Plan should be prepared with the participation of the member countries, other agencies of the inter-American system and other specialized organizations and should concentrate on defining joint actions at the regional and subregional levels;

That there is a pressing need to expedite the development of agriculture in our five countries, and it is therefore advisable to make the most of the possibilities and complementarities of the subregional and hemispheric technical cooperation agencies;

RESOLVES:

1. To charge the Board and IICA to prepare a proposed pilot plan for reactivating agriculture in the Andean subregion, as an integral part of the cooperation agreement signed by the two institutions.

2. That the proposed pilot plan should be presented to the consideration of the agricultural planning agencies of each country, prior to approval by the Ministers of Agriculture of the member countries of the Cartagena Agreement.

First meeting: INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION

A number of basic factors must be considered in setting new directions to reactivate the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. They include developing agroindustry and technological capabilities, promoting and strengthening the small farm economy, and improving the capacity of the region to acquire access to international markets for traditional and non-traditional goods. Such were the conclusions reached during the first meeting of the International Advisory Commission, held from April 18 to 20 in San José.

The Commission is made up of individuals associated with agriculture and reknowned for their ability and expertise. They agreed to participate on the Commission to guide and advise the preparing of the Plan of Action to Reactivate Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The first meeting was attended by David Ibarra, from Mexico, Roberto Junguito, from Colombia, Edward Schuh, from the United States, Lucio Reca, from Argentina and Ralph Campbell, from Canada.

"Our purpose in establishing the Commission," commented Félix Cirio, Coordinator of the Plan of Action, "is to provide a forum for contributions from acknowl-

edged experts in the field. The members come from the different geographic areas in which IICA organizes its work in the region."

The experts agreed that agriculture, in the framework of the present economic crisis affecting the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, can play a key role as the pivotal point of a new strategy for development.

Nevertheless, they noted, if agriculture is to meet this objective, the public institutions of the sector need to be modernized, and the relations between the public and private sectors need to be clearly defined so that the two can work in harmony in the interest of greater production and productivity in agriculture.

Félix Cirio reports that the next meeting of the Advisory Commission will take place in August, after the initial proposal of the Plan of Action is presented to IICA's Executive Committee. The final proposal will be presented to the region's Ministers of Agriculture in October, 1989, during the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), scheduled to take place in Brazil.



From left to right, Roberto Junguito, Ralph Campbell, Lucio Reca, Edward Schuh and David Ibarra, members of the International Advisory Commission.

Lucio Reca, from Argentina, studied agronomy at the University of Buenos Aires. He went on to earn his master of science and PH.D. in economics from the University of Chicago in the United States.

His professional activities date back to the year 1968, when he held the position of associate director of the Project for Agricultural Economics (PPEA), sponsored by the Ford Foundation. His work as an economist has led him to a series of important positions in his country since then.

From 1978 to 1980, he served as a consultant to the United Nations Development Programme in Uruguay, to the United Nations, Food and Agriculture Organization in Ecuador, and to the Economic System for Latin America, in Venezuela.

He was a World Bank consultant in Agricultural Economics for South America from 1983 to 1987. In March, 1983, he sat on the Board of Directors of the International Center for the Improvement of Corn and Wheat (CIMMYT) and in 1987 was elected chairman.

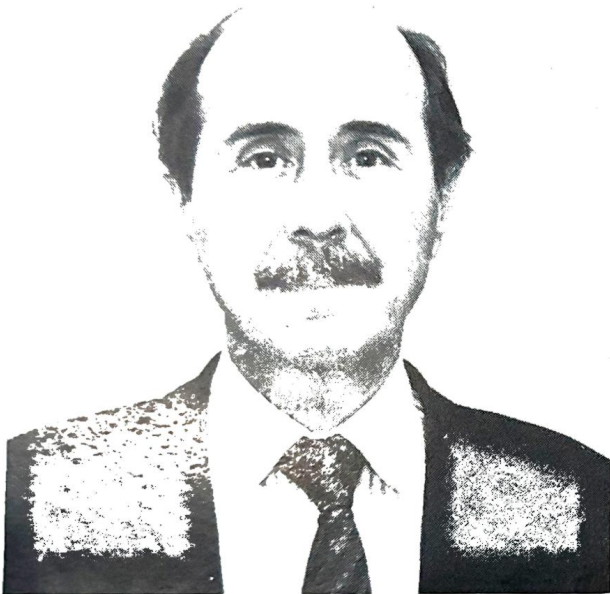
He twice served as Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina and is presently an advisor to the president of Argentina, Dr. Raúl Alfonsín.

His recent publications include the following:

"El sector agropecuario pampeano: situación actual y posibilidades de crecimiento" (the agricultural sector in the pampas: present status and growth potential). Mimeograph. Foundation for Development and Cooperation in Colombia (FUNDECO), January, 1982.

"Price Policies in Developing Countries." Mimeograph. Presented in the conference "The Role of Markets in the World Food Economy," Minneapolis, Minnesota, October, 1982.

"Guyana: Incentives and Comparative Advantages in the Production of Agricultural Commodities." Mimeograph. In collaboration with E. Maffuci for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB/ Government of Guyana), November, 1982.



Dr. Lucio G. Reca



Dr. Donald Ralph Campbell

Ralph Campbell, a Canadian, retired in 1987 from his position as Director of the International Development Office of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada.

As a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, he received his master of arts degree in philosophy, politics and economics in 1958.

His international academic activities have led Dr. Campbell to diverse high-level positions. He was Principal of Scarborough College at the University of Toronto, Canada, and served as President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Manitoba.

He was president of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and a member of the Canadian Government Task Force on Agriculture. He also sat on the Liaison Committee of the International Development Organization and consulted on a development project in Barbados.

His publications include the following:

"Narrowing the Gap between Theory and Practices in Development." Paper presented at the Rockefeller Foundation Workshop in Bellagio, Italy, 1983.

The Role of Agricultural Economists in the Development Process." Paper delivered at the annual meeting of the Canadian Agricultural Economics Society, 1975.

"Agriculture - A Developing Crisis in Developing Countries." Purdue University, April, 1975.

"Canadian Agriculture in the Seventies." Report by the five members of the Canadian Government Task Force on Agriculture, December, 1979.

"Alternatives and Opportunities for Canada in International Trade in Agricultural Products." Paper presented in the Conference on International Trade and Canadian Agriculture, Economic Council of Canada, January, 1966.

Roberto Junguito is an economist from the University of the Andes in Bogota, Colombia. He conducted master's and doctoral studies in economics at Princeton University in the United States.

He has also taken special courses in international trade at the London School of Economics and at the Free University of Brussels, Belgium.

Dr. Junguito is Colombian. He presently chairs the Board of Directors of Sudameris Bank in Colombia, provides independent consultancy services and conducts economic research.

He has held a number of important positions in the field of economics in his country beginning in 1972, when he was the Colombian representative to the International Coffee Organization in London.

He also served on the faculty of the University of the Andes in Bogota, Colombia and from 1974 to 1978, was director of the Foundation for Higher Education and Development (FEDESARROLLO) in Bogota, Colombia.

In 1979 and 1980, he served as an advisor on international finance missions. From 1981 to 1982, he was president of the Colombian Society of Agronomists.

In 1982, he was named Minister of Agriculture of his country and held the position until 1983, when he was designated Colombia's ambassador to the European Economic Community.

In 1984, Roberto Junguito assumed the position of Minister of the Treasury of his country, and in 1986 was appointed ambassador to France.

His most recent publications include papers, articles and research reports in the field of the Colombian coffee economy and farm credit.

He has also published extensive analyses of the external debt in Colombia in the nineteenth century in the U.S. journal "The International Economy," and in the Colombian publication "Estrategia Económica."



Dr. Roberto Junguito



Dr. Edward Schuh

Edward Schuh, from the United States, is presently the director of the Institute of Public Affairs of the University of Minnesota. Before assuming this position, he was Director of Agriculture and Rural Development of the World Bank, headquartered in Washington.

Dr. Schuh's academic achievements include a master's degree in agricultural economics from Michigan State University and an M.A. and Ph. D. in economics from the University of Chicago.

Dr. Schuh has professional experience dating back to the year 1959. He was a professor of agricultural economics at Purdue University until 1979 and was the first director of the Center for Public and Policy Administration of the same university from 1977 to 1978.

While on the faculty at Purdue, Dr. Schuh served the Ford Foundation as a Program Advisor in Brazil and was a Senior Staff Economist on President Ford's Council of Economic Advisors.

From 1978 to 1979, he was Deputy Under Secretary for International Affairs and Commodity Programs in the United States Department of Agriculture.

From 1979 to 1984, he was a professor and head of the Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota.

His fields of special interest include food and agricultural policy, economic development and international trade. He is author or coauthor of three books, has edited six, and has over 80 scientific and technical papers to his credit.

Dr. Schuh has received four professional awards from the American Agricultural Economics Association. In 1961, he was recognized for the best Ph. D. dissertation; in 1971, for the best published research paper; in 1974, for the best journal article; and in 1979, for his contributions to national and international policy analysis.

David Ibarra Muñoz is an Advisor to the Director General of the Mexican Petroleum Company (PEMEX) and a consultant to the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ELAC).

Dr. Ibarra, of Mexico, holds degrees in accounting and economics from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and a doctoral degree in economics from Stanford University in the United States.

From 1967 to 1969, he was head of the Department of Advanced Studies in the School of Economics of the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He also taught at the university until 1970.

From 1970 to 1973, he was director of the office in Mexico of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). He was then named Assistant Director of the private company Nacional Financiera S.A., of which he became general director in 1976.

From 1977 to 1982, he was Mexico's Secretary of the Treasury and Public Credit. In 1982, he served as general director of the National Bank of Mexico, and from 1983 to 1986, was a consultant to the Inter-American Development Bank.

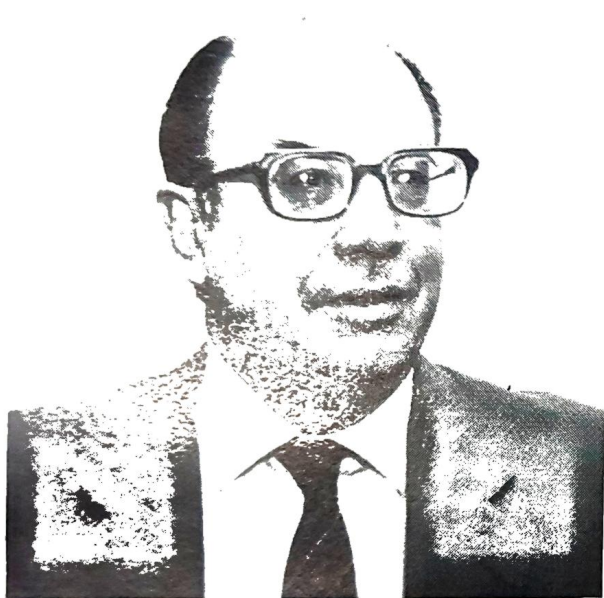
His recent publications include:

"Comments on the Mexican Financial System." United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan, April, 1985.

"Política monetaria y financiera" (monetary and financial policy). Secretariat of the Treasury and Public Credit of Mexico, 1981.

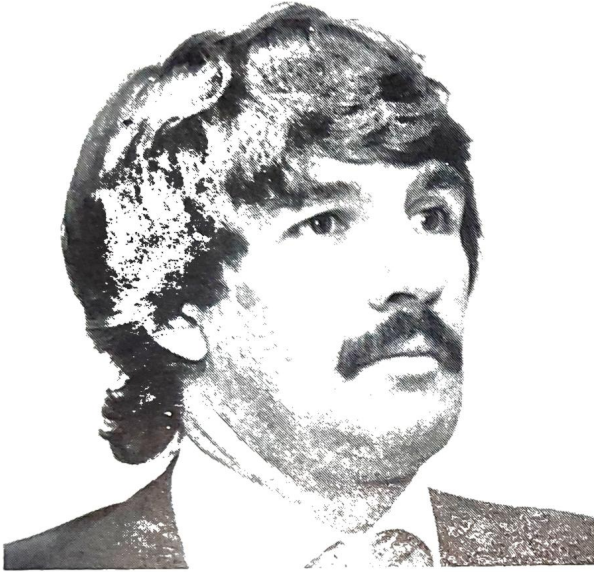
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Dr. David Ibarra Muñoz

PLAN FOR REACTIVATING AGRICULTURE



Felix Cirio, Coordinator of the Plan of Action.

The Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in September, 1987, in Canada, charged the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to prepare a plan for reactivating agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"The ICMA reached an express conceptual consensus during the meeting," explained Félix Cirio, coordinator of the Plan of Action. "The basic idea of the Plan is to provide the means for translating this consensus into concrete action that will help to reactivate the economy and the development process in the region."

He stressed that the Conference had been attended by representatives of all 31 of the Institute's Member States, including 22 ministers of agriculture. Thus, according to Cirio, it constituted a "true agricultural summit for the hemisphere."

"The initiative for this work," continued the coordinator of the Plan, "not only received the unanimous support of agricultural sector authorities of the region, but was also applauded by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, which approved a supporting resolution during the

Seventeenth General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), held in Washington D.C. in November of last year."

The preparation of the Plan will require intensive activity over a period of 20 months, for which purpose the work has been divided into two phases. The first, from December 1, 1987 through August 1, 1988, focuses on developing a general framework and identifying possible actions. The second, to be completed in August, 1989, will be used to prepare concrete action proposals.

Cirio noted that the Plan will be prepared through a process of on-going consultation with participation by the governments of IICA's member countries. Contact will also be maintained with specialized international organizations and with technical offices in different developed countries interested in providing technical and financial cooperation for the preparation and eventual implementation of the Plan.

A special role will be played by the different subregional organizations, such as the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC).

An International Advisory Commission is made up of Lucio Reza of Argentina, Roberto Junguito of Colombia, Edward Schuh of the United States, Ralph Campbell of Canada and David Ibarra of Mexico.

According to Cirio, IICA will set up an in-house technical group of the directors of the Institute's five programs, the assistant deputy director general for operations, the director of programming and evaluation, and the coordinator of the Plan. This group will hold basic responsibility for drafting proposals and for coordinating all the activities associated with preparing the Plan.

Rural Agroindustry: A DEVELOPMENT OPTION FOR LATIN AMERICA

During the last week in February, a group of Latin American and European experts met together at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia. They concluded from their discussions that rural agroindustry could be a new way to strengthen farm economies and develop the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The people of Latin America are increasingly drawn to urban areas, where in some countries over 70 percent of the total population is now concentrated. Two important questions that arise are: How is this population to be fed? How can rural employment be encouraged, as a way to improve the standards of living of rural dwellers?

The meeting in Colombia was sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) of Colombia, the Latin American Center for Rural Technology and Education (CELATER) of Colombia, the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), French Technical Cooperation, and the Network of Appropriate Technology for Rural Agroindustry Development (RETADAR) of Costa Rica. These organizations brought together representatives of governmental, nongovernmental and international organizations for six days of working meetings.

One of the sessions was a specialized workshop on Methodological Strategies for the Development of Rural Agroindustry. Participants discussed ten projects designed to establish conceptual and methodological frameworks for developing new agroindustry activities.

In their discussion of the conceptual framework, the participants concluded that rural agroindustry has an important role to play in the food chain. It is the point of contact between producer activities and consumer demands.

They also agreed that rural agroindustry is an excellent means to strengthen farm economies and producer organizations, which have presently been weakened in favor of other economic groups.

It was stressed that one of the major problems holding back the rapid development of rural agroindustry is the



Dr. François Boucher, Specialist in Agroindustry of the French Technical Cooperation Agency.

lack of proper training for those who operate and run processing plants and for technical personnel responsible for providing advisory services. It was therefore suggested that educational programs focus on training technical "generalists" better adapted to the socioeconomic conditions of the rural environment.

In analyzing project experiences, participants concluded that results already obtained provide encouraging examples. They found that the procedures used for setting up "miniplants" administered by the small farmers fully justified the introduction of similar projects in the future. Possibilities include plants for drying cassava, processing fruits, making cheese and tortillas, and milling cassava flour.

The participants recommended that the possibility be explored of creating poles of agroindustry development in rural zones. They suggested that the concept of "industrial parks in rural areas" be adapted for this purpose. The idea is to share expenditures and infrastructure and maximize advantages.

The meeting concluded with the recommendation that a document be drafted setting forth the basic concepts of a Program Plan for Development of Rural Agroindustry (PRODAR). This plan would be presented to the Latin American Congress on Food Science and Technology, to take place in Bogota next October.

Bolivia: AGRICULTURAL SECTOR CONCURS WITH DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS

Institutional strengthening and integrated agricultural development are key components of a program of activities being promoted by the Inter American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Bolivia this year.

These activities took shape through a process of dialogue with Bolivia's agricultural sector policy making bodies, under the tutelage of the Ministry of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs (MACA). The Bolivian Institute of Agricultural Technology (IBTA) also took part.

Two specific projects now under way are considered of particularly high priority by national authorities. The first is to improve management of integrated agricultural development programs, and the second is to design and operate agricultural marketing systems.

Other projects to be conducted will support agricultural and livestock research, develop rational use of renewable natural resources in the humid tropics; strengthen the animal health laboratory and improve epidemiological surveillance services, and establish a system of integrated pest management for the fruit fly.

The project to improve management of integrated agricultural development programs emphasizes support for planning, programming and organizing regional projects by the Development Agencies in Beni, Pando and Potosi.

... Institutional strengthening and integrated agricultural development are key components of a program of activities being promoted by IICA in Bolivia ...

The project in Pando will improve the production of processed chestnuts and beef cattle. It includes subprojects to improve credit access for processing chestnuts and for producing double-purpose beef cattle, and to provide technical assistance and marketing support.

The project for the design and operation of agricultural marketing systems will improve MACA's capability to design policies and instruments for agricultural market-



Dr. Benjamin Jara, IICA Representative in Bolivia.

ing, identify integrated production and marketing systems at the national and regional levels, and support the identification and structuring of export projects for both traditional products.

The project to support IBTA in agricultural and livestock research includes such activities as technical meetings, coordination assistance, courses, seminars and other activities to provide training and advisory services.

LEGISLATORS PAY A VISIT

The prospects that IICA might expand its work in Bolivia were stressed during a meeting of Institute authorities and members of the Agricultural Policy and Settlement Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of that country.

Eight legislators, representing the departments of Potosi, La Paz, Santa Cruz and Beni, visited the Institute office on March 10 to learn more about IICA's projects in Bolivia.

The deputies praised IICA for the integrated agricultural development model being used in implementing the projects and agreed, after this first visit, to support the Institute's work for technical cooperation in Bolivia.

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San José, 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 made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

News bulletin on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo. 55-2200 Coronado, San José, Costa Rica. Cable: IICASANJOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Telephone: 290222.

IICA



May 1988. Year V, No. 16

NEWS

JOURNALISTS AGREE THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE TO AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION

The media can make a significant contribution to agricultural reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, affirmed a group of 16 agricultural journalists from 10 Latin American countries who participated in a week-long, international seminar that began on May 18. It was held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in San Jose, Costa Rica.

The journalists, gathering to analyze the "Role of the Press in Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean," resolved to promote a new organization of reporters called the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Journalists (see page 3).

In an atmosphere of constructive criticism and mutual support, the journalists exchanged information, bringing

each other up to date on the state of the agricultural sector in the region. They also shared their views on press coverage of agricultural matters, specialization of journalists in the field of agriculture, and mechanisms for coordinating the media and participants in the Plan for Agricultural Reactivation in the region.

Concluding the seminar, they warned that the "reactivation does not depend on information" generated by this Plan, which has been promoted by IICA since 31 ministers of agriculture from the region agreed last September to adopt it as a strategy of economic development. However, they identified a series of mechanisms for "contributing concretely to rural development."

As part of their guidelines, they noted the importance of "contributing to making the right decisions for the agricul-



Sixteen journalists from the region analyze the role of the press in agricultural reactivation of Latin America and the Caribbean, during a week-long seminar.

JOURNALISTS AGREE THEY CAN CONTRIBUTE...



Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro addresses the journalists. At left, Tito Drago, Director of IPS in Spain and Miguel Martí, Chief of IICA's Communications Division.

tural sector, decisions that emphasize the well-being of the population; provide information to the general public on rural problems without overreacting or seeking easy answers, and - given that the agricultural press not only informs but also teaches - attend to the educational needs of the rural population and maintain direct contact with it."

Given "the growing complexity of agriculture and the needs of modern agriculture," participants agreed that to fulfill their tasks journalists would need adequate and ongoing training, to provide the general public with information on the main problems of the sector, which is presented in a clear, straightforward way." They also emphasized the need to train human resources on the regional and national levels.

The journalists recommended that the media provide more space and coverage of agricultural events, including those that occur in other countries. They also stressed that information provided by international organizations should be timely, objective and not influenced by interest groups.

They considered it pertinent that the media - in addition to providing information on local, regional and national issues - also report on the international crisis, the

biotechnological revolution, international trade and other matters influencing rural development. These matters were also addressed by the directors of IICA's five Programs during the seminar.

The Director General of the Institute, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, opened the seminar with a presentation on IICA organization in light of the economic and agricultural situation of Latin America and the Caribbean. Felix Cirio, coordinator of the Plan of Action for Agricultural Reactivation, spoke about the process of preparing this initiative.

An opportunity was also provided for the journalists to express criticism and suggestions on the usefulness of the Rural Development Monthly Bulletin as a journalistic tool, after the chief of IICA's communications division, Miguel Martí, spoke about the publication.

The journalists' seminar was sponsored by the IICA-Radio Nederland project, IPS, CIESPAL, Frederick Ebert Foundation, the Ibero-American Cooperation Institute (ICI) and the Ministry of Agriculture of Spain.

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Seminar Declaration: MESSAGE TO AGRICULTURAL REPORTERS OF THE AMERICAS

San Jose , May 24, 1988

In San Jose, Costa Rica, sixteen Latin American agricultural reporters meeting at a seminar on "The Role of the Press in Reactivating Agriculture in Latin America" have issued a call to form a professional association. Once created, its name would be the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Journalists.

National associations of agricultural journalists have already been formed in Argentina and Uruguay. It is the hope of the undersigned that new organizations of this nature will be established in the different countries, and that in the short term, a strong and dynamic hemispheric organization will take shape, to provide a concrete and realistic contribution by groups of professionals and individuals throughout the hemisphere.

The objectives of this organization will be to serve as an instrument for strengthening the ties among our countries and promoting integration; encouraging communication and the exchange of information and experiences in each country and among countries; supporting and promoting the professional advancement of its members; and encouraging the development of national working groups whose main objective will be to integrate the interests of the journalists of the Americas.

We cordially invite you to participate in this venture.

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IICA, SELA AND ECLAC ADVISE GOVERNMENTS ON AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS



Dr. Rodolfo Quirós, Director of IICA's Marketing and Agroindustry Program.

In order to provide advisory services on negotiations for agricultural products in progress at the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), an agreement was reached between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

Dr. Rodolfo Quirós, director of IICA's Marketing and Agroindustry Program, announced this agreement while addressing journalists from 12 countries who participated in the seminar on the "Role of the Press in the Agricultural Reactivation of Latin America and the Caribbean," held at the Institute's Headquarters in San Jose late last month.

According to Dr. Quirós, the organizations cooperate with the governments of the 31 Member States of IICA during the multilateral negotiating process providing training and information analysis, in an effort to better equip the countries for their agricultural negotiations within the framework of GATT.

The expert emphasized the fact that negotiations on agricultural products were introduced for the first time during the Uruguay Round, that began last September,

and called on Latin America and the Caribbean to make use of this opportunity in their pursuit of agricultural reactivation.

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Agreeing to support the governments of the region, the entities called for a considering of policies proposed by the ministries of agriculture during GATT negotiations, rather than just those from organizations in charge of the economy or foreign trade. They also cautioned that the results of these negotiations should be taken into account when implementing decisions in the field of agriculture.

Dr. Quirós added that agriculture is a new issue in this round of negotiations, and most of the representatives of our delegations are not as well prepared to negotiate in this field as they are in others. In this respect, the support offered by SELA, ECLAC and IICA can be very useful.

Because the majority of IICA Member States are also members of GATT, the Institute is very interested in studying and obtaining information on the agreements that can have an impact on agriculture.

Last September, IICA received a mandate to prepare a Plan of Agricultural Reactivation for Latin America and the Caribbean, as a result of the consensus reached by the ministers of agriculture and other sector representatives of the 31 countries during their meeting in Ottawa, Canada.

AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATION

Dr. Quirós emphasized that GATT is the only negotiating forum where trade conflicts can be settled and countries can defend themselves against aggressive trade policies. "For the first time, GATT has become a broad forum for negotiations on the trade of agricultural prod-

IICA, SELA AND ECLAC...

ucts. Now, two issues will be considered: general agricultural policy and tropical products," he added.

He also stated that foreign investment, copyright law and agriculture-related services will be discussed under three fundamental GATT principles, namely, the interest in improving access to markets, competition, and the status of animal and plant health trade barriers.

...GATT is the only negotiating forum where trade conflicts can be settled and countries can defend themselves against aggressive trade policies...

Five negotiating proposals have been made to date: by the United States, the European Economic Community (EEC), Canada, a group of five Latin American countries and Japan.

Dr. Quirós explained that the United States proposes total elimination of subsidies for agricultural exports by the year 2000, including tariffs and subsidies for domestic production. This will take place gradually beginning in 1990.

...Dr. Quirós explained that the United States proposes total elimination of subsidies for agricultural exports by the year 2000, including tariffs and subsidies for domestic production...

It is also calling for uniform regulations on health barriers. Furthermore, only direct income subsidies that do not affect production will be allowed for producers.

In the view of the IICA expert, the EEC proposal is more gradual. It seeks a moderate and progressive reduction of subsidies for only three items: grains, sugar and cattle. Europeans agree that government support for measures that lead to overproduction in agriculture or

imbalances in international trade of agricultural products should be dismantled. They also support direct subsidies on income earned by the product, so long as they do not affect production.

The Canadians support both proposals and call for their implementation withing a negotiated period. They support a five - year period after the conclusion of the GATT negotiations for eliminating the obstacles that affect access of products to markets.

The Latin American group (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay and Chile) propose a 10 -year period for freeing trade from harmful tariff measures. They also recommend standardizing health legislation and freezing all subsidies at their present levels.

...commodities, which 10 years ago accounted for 30 percent of world trade, now account for only 17 percent...

Japan, as a net importer of agricultural products, supports individual product agreements and understandings that allow for a balance between the rights of importers and exporters, Dr. Quirós explained.

DIFFICULT SITUATION

Dr. Quiros' analysis of the present state of agriculture in Latin America reveals that commodities, which 10 years ago accounted for 30 percent of world trade, now account for only 17 percent. Trade has increased, but only among developed countries, and irreversible changes have occurred in demand for products such as sugar and cacao, both of which have fallen by 40 percent.

He revealed that the EEC, Japan and the United States spend some \$100 billion a year on export subsidies and protectionist policies. Quirós emphasized that participation in international trade must be accomplished with this in mind.

ERTEC 88: TRAINING FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS IN AGROINDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Given the existence of a number of institutions and entities in Central America and the Caribbean that promote agroindustrial projects; seek solutions for specific marketing, post-harvest and processing problems; and search for dietary supplements, the Appropriate Food Technology Network for Rural Agroindustrial Development (RETADAR) organized the Second Course-Workshop for Technologists Working in the Rural Sphere (ERTEC) of Central America and the Caribbean, which was held April 18-29, at the Food Technology Research Center (CITA) of the University of Costa Rica.

These entities and institutions face serious obstacles in understanding and addressing rural problems. They also lack a comprehensive outlook with which to coordinate and direct different components of a project of this nature. Therefore, this course-workshop was held to promote better understanding of the problems of rural areas, of encouraging the development of small agroindustries and of the role of technology in development of rural areas.

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The course used two different approaches. One included a group of technical modules providing some basic elements for a theoretical understanding of the small farmer and rural development. It also involved a discussion of small farm economies and organization, rural and agroindustrial development strategies, and the role of technology in development.

The second approach considered modules for implementing agroindustrial development, such as forms of production and marketing, enterprise and administrative structures, and strategies for preparing projects. As a follow-up for the latter, participants were instructed in the use of agroindustrial project evaluation guides.



Central American and Caribbean technology specialists analyze the role of technology in rural development.

Participants also analyzed two concrete CITA experiences in the field of rural agroindustry: the cases of Coopefruta and Coopedelicias, businesses that process annatto, blackberries and other fruits.

This ERTEC course-workshop was preceded by one held in Cali, Colombia, in 1987. Both paved the way for establishing permanent training centers for professionals in various aspects of rural agroindustrial development.

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In this context, two additional ERTEC course-workshops are scheduled this year for Bolivia and Peru. For 1989, an ERTEC event is scheduled for Ecuador and Colombia, and a Latin American ERTEC will be held at the International Tropical Agriculture Center (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia.

PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

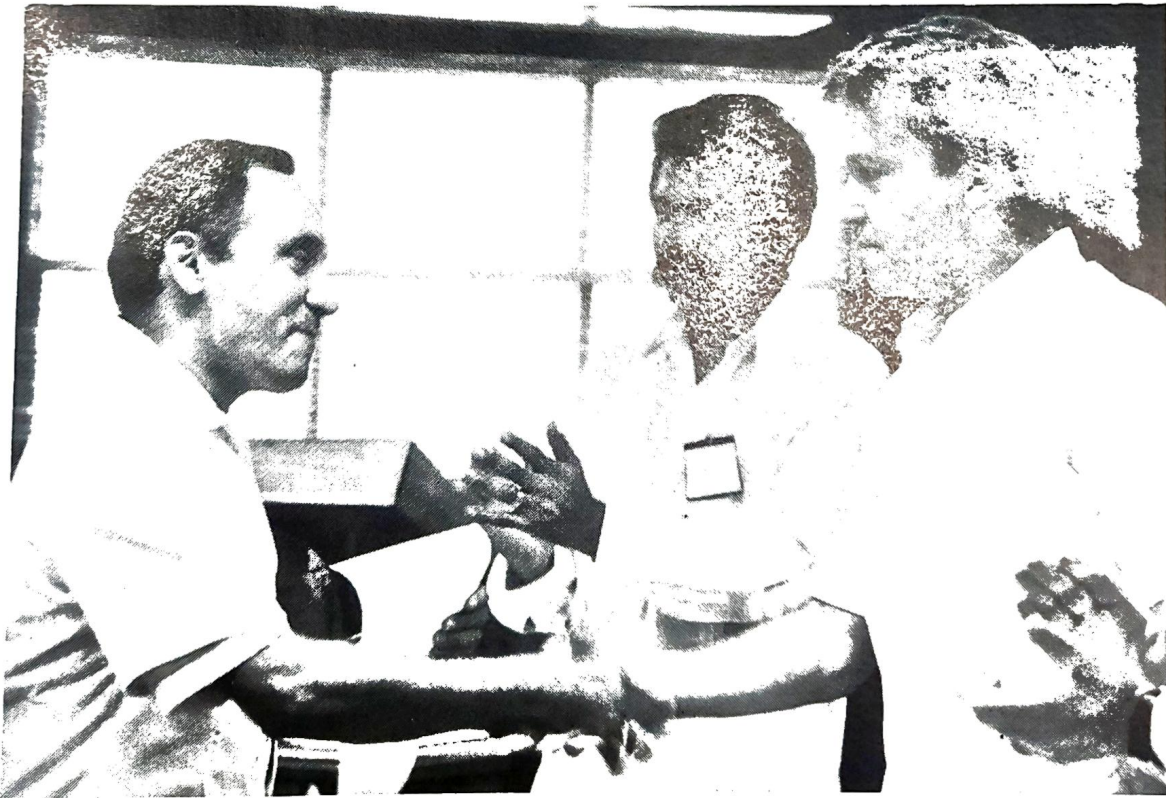
AGRICULTURE MUST BE THE AXIS OF A NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Agriculture must serve as the axis for redefining an alternative regional development strategy, which is based on increased sectoral modernization and industrialization, declared the ministers of agriculture of the member countries of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

"We believe that the alternative development strategy

must be based not only on national projects but also on a true scheme of economic integration in the area of agricultural and industrial production, markets, technology and financing," the ministers added in their Managua Declaration, issued in that city during their Eighth Regular Meeting, held April 20-22.

During the meeting, the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture



Rodolfo Estrada Hurtarte (left), outgoing CORECA president and Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Nutrition of Guatemala, and Nicaraguan counterpart Commander Jaime Wheelock, the new CORECA president.

(IICA) presented the ministers with a progress report on the "Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean."

Preparation of the Plan was entrusted to IICA (together with other specialized organizations, governments of Member States, and specialists in the field) by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (IICOMA), held in Ottawa, Canada, in September 1987, where it was unanimously declared that the agricultural sector should perform a central role in reactivating the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In his remarks, Dr. Piñeiro emphasized that the Plan of Agricultural Reactivation is not so much a document, but rather a process for formulating ideas that are convincing, forceful and advisable. For this reason, he added, a broad process of hemisphere-wide, subregional and national consultation has been planned, which included his participation in the CORECA Council of Ministers Meeting.

He also asserted that the Plan is essentially a group of

concrete proposals for action, and the institutional mechanisms for implementing them, within the context of a overall strategic proposal on the role the agricultural sector should play in regional economic reactivation.

He stressed that formulating and presenting specific regional and national-level development projects is extremely important for Central America now because of the various initiatives being considered in the international community to channel financial resources to the region in support of the on-going peace process there.

Dr. Piñeiro referred to four specific subjects that can be of importance to the CORECA countries as concerns the Plan of Reactivation: technological development, especially in the field of biotechnology; priority attention to rural poverty through a policy for food security; increased intraregional trade; and setting priorities for and organizing investment programs and mobilizing financial resources.

MANAGUA DECLARATION

The Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture of Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic, meeting in Managua April 20-22, 1988 for the XXXV CIRSA Meeting and the Eighth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of CORECA, have analyzed the state of the agricultural sector in our countries and discussed measures and actions to address the problems it faces.

1. We recognize that the economic and social problems faced by each of our countries, while they may be manifested in different ways, are caused by the same factors, most notably the oppressive foreign debt; the constraints and distortions of international agricultural trade, especially with regard to the protectionist prac-

tics and subsidy policies of developed countries; and the loss of markets, as well as the deterioration in terms of trade and other phenomena that were thoroughly analyzed during the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and set forth in its Ottawa Declaration.

In the case of Central America, the situation has been aggravated by a serious deterioration in the regional market, which has contributed to paralyzing the manufacturing sector and affected production and trade of some agricultural products.

2. We agree that these structural factors seriously

influence the development of regional agriculture. Furthermore, food self-sufficiency has seriously deteriorated in the region, and this has given rise in some cases to the use of food aid as a political tool. Moreover, economic stabilization and structural adjustment programs have contributed to a recession in the agricultural sector, because macroeconomic policies have been applied that primarily target national and international financial problems, without adequate consideration for their negative impact on agricultural development.

3. Also important, the crisis has revealed the inability of individual countries to keep pace with the challenges of science and technology and, in turn, the search for urgent solutions to the problems of food supply and overall agricultural modernization. This provides an enormous contrast to the tremendous progress made in developed countries. This has broadened the technological gap and decreased the possibilities for true and effective national solutions.

4. Conflicts affecting a number of countries of the region have produced countless victims, mainly among the rural population, displaced thousands of campesino families, and caused extensive damage to economic and social infrastructure. This has produced a noticeable reduction in the capacity of regional agriculture to produce food and other goods.

5. We agree that peace is essential to agricultural reactivation, sustained development, and effective democratization of the member countries of our Regional Council.

THEREFORE:

1. We reaffirm our conviction that agriculture must constitute the axis for redefining an alternative regional development strategy that is based on a process of increased agricultural modernization and industrialization.

2. We believe that the alternative development strategy must be based not only on national projects, but also on true economic integration in the areas of agricultural and industrial production, markets, technology and finance.

3. We call upon the industrialized countries to collaborate in creating economic conditions that favor agricultural reactivation and development, and eliminate protectionist policies that limit the productive capacity of agriculture in the region.

4. We call upon the international community to offer firm support for the agricultural reactivation plans and programs that the countries decide on together. Especially at this time, expeditious emergency aid is needed to overcome the effects of the drought that has severely reduced production of basic grains in various member countries of the Council, and to provide support for medium-term security and self-sufficiency plans in the countries of the region.

5. We accept that the basic responsibility for developing our agriculture and resolving the problems of hunger rests in the determination with which our countries work to benefit our people.

6. We exhort the countries that apply exclusionary and discriminatory policies in cooperation programs to avoid them, and to abstain from using food as an instrument of political pressure, as is the case in some countries of the region.

7. We exhort the international community to give firm support to the peace efforts in Central America in keeping with the Esquipulas accords, as well as the concrete actions later carried out by the governments of the region on their own initiative. We call for respect of national sovereignty in the region in support of these efforts to reach a lasting peace.

Nicaragua: AGRICULTURE ESSENTIAL TO DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY



Commander Jaime Wheelock, Minister of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform of Nicaragua, and president of CORECA Council of Ministers.

Agriculture has been recognized as the most important sector in the strategy of national development, because of its potential for food production and export generation, as well as its capacity for industrializing the country by processing our national resources, said Commander Jaime Wheelock, Minister of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform of Nicaragua, during the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), held in Managua April 20-22.

Economic backwardness, poverty and stagnation can only be changed with simultaneous and vigorous action(...) if agricultural modernization, increased production, and greater efficiency are to be achieved, added the Commander, who will serve as Chairman of the Council of Ministers of CORECA for one year, succeeding his Guatemalan counterpart Rodolfo Estrada Hurtarte.

The Nicaraguan Minister of Agricultural Development

and Agrarian Reform added that his country views "the proposals made by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere in the Ottawa Declaration, at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), as correct and completely appropriate."

During the conference, held in Canada in September 1987, the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere agreed unanimously that the agricultural sector can and must perform a central role in reactivating the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Commander Wheelock explained that attaining agricultural modernization in Nicaragua will depend on two key factors.

First, an agrarian reform that brings people closer to the land must be carried out. "We can not envision modernization without a transformation of the latifundia land tenure system - which promotes poverty and inefficiency."

He added that since 1980 three million manzanas (1 manzana = aprox. 7000 square meters) of land have been granted and deeded to 100,000 rural families, "while large landed estates have been virtually eliminated."

The second key factor, he said, was "application of advanced technology to make use of our resources." He added that since 1979, "we have made progress and are gradually incorporating agricultural machinery, seeds, inputs and techniques into production. We can be described as passing from primitive into modern agriculture."

Commander Wheelock agreed with the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martín E. Piñero, that "in these times of crisis, the agricultural sector has demonstrated its resilient capacity and its potential for moving forward." He also observed that it is essential that "internal conditions, especially macroeconomic adjustment policies, support efforts to modernize agriculture."

Costa Rica:

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES MUST BE BASED ON EFFICIENCY

Under current economic conditions it is necessary to promote export of agricultural products, but the comparative advantages we have must be based on productivity and efficiency and not on low wages, said Antonio Alvarez Desanti, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock in Costa Rica.

"We cannot promote an export system based on low costs resulting from low wages," he said. "We cannot foster an export system that relies on standards of living that are lower than those in other countries, because we would then be institutionalizing poverty and exporting the misfortune of our people," said Minister Alvarez Desanti, who was addressing his colleagues of the Council of Ministers of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), held in Managua, Nicaragua, April 20-22.

"This must be taken into account so we can establish a policy emphasizing increased exports that reactivates both production and social development," he added.

Likewise, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock



Antonio Alvarez Desanti, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica.

advocated substantial changes in international economic conditions, without which national economies will be unable to carry out the process of economic adjustment.

"Nothing is gained if an economy like Costa Rica's, for example, makes internal adjustments while the international market continues to be based on subsidies, prices resulting from 'dumping,' and protectionist policies," the Minister said.

"If adjustment process are seen as the efforts of individual countries to adapt to the international economic system, it becomes clear that they cannot be implemented in isolation," he said. "The world economy must also undergo a process of adjustment."

He also pointed out that the agricultural adjustment process in each country must occur in the context of overall economic adjustment.

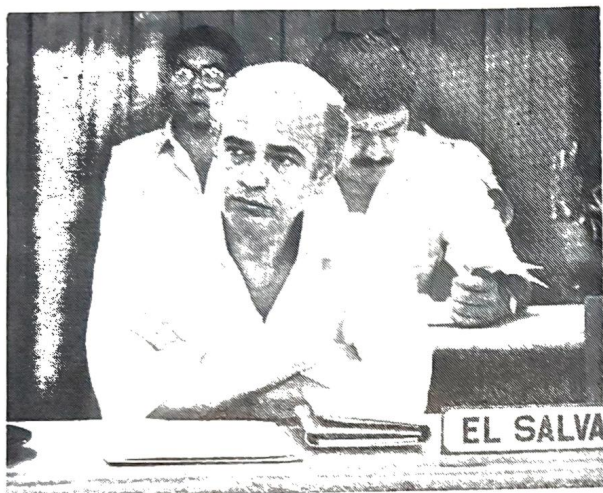
Moreover, "these adjustment processes must be promoted gradually, so as to avoid restructuring the economy at the cost of social stability," he warned.

The Minister expressed his agreement with the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martín E. Piñero, that officials of the agricultural sector must participate in the decision-making process on the macroeconomic level.

"Neither credit nor pricing policies are in the hands of the ministries of agriculture," remarked Minister Alvarez Desanti.

In closing his remarks, he advocated immediate reduction of subsidies by the developed countries for agricultural export products, sharing "the reasonable optimism" expressed by Dr. Piñero, "with regard to indications, particularly from the European Economic Community, that a process of subsidy reductions is imminent."

El Salvador: AGRARIAN REFORM KEY ASPECT OF MODERNIZATION



Dr. José Antonio Morales Erlich, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador.

Agrarian reform is essential to agricultural modernization in the countries of the region, said Dr. José Antonio Morales Erlich, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador.

"The great success of agrarian reform (in El Salvador) lies not only in giving the small farmer access to land, but also in substantially improving the economic situation of all the beneficiaries," Dr. Morales Erlich stated while attending the Eighth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA).

"In my country we have put an end to large landed estates," the Minister said. "No one can have more than 245 hectares of land. This means that we need better technology to improve efficiency on farms of this size."

He added that to date the agrarian reform process has involved some 300,000 hectares. He emphasized the importance of this fact by pointing out that El Salvador's total of arable land stands at about 400,000 hectares.

Until now, agrarian reform has benefited 100,000 families, "But in the next four years we hope this figure will reach 200,000," he asserted.

Regarding the agrarian reform process underway in El Salvador, the Minister said he agreed with the central ideas of the Strategic Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation that is being prepared by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), together with the governments of the region and other specialized organizations. The new development strategy promoted by the Plan seeks a modern, technologically advanced agricultural sector.

"I agree with the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, that it is difficult to base our development strategies on the famous theory of industrialization through import substitution, which really only amounted to an assembly process using raw materials from outside," he said.

"This industrialization must be encouraged, but with the goal of adding value to our own raw materials, especially agricultural ones, all within the context of a regional process," observed the Minister.

"Furthermore, Dr. Piñeiro has spoken about the comparative advantages of the agricultural sector, and the need to improve our technological capacity, so that we can begin to compete as a region in the international market. It seems to me that this is an area in which IICA can perform a valuable service," Minister Morales Erlich said.

The Minister explained that policies are implemented in an integrated manner in El Salvador, and that his ministry is responsible for carrying out seven macro-policies. They include: small-farmer development, agricultural development, agrarian reform, democratization of credit policies, marketing, agricultural recovery and institutional development. "Truly, our countries must make agriculture and agroindustry a platform from which to launch development efforts," the minister concluded.

Guatemala: INTEGRATION IS TODAY'S CHALLENGE

Countries that participate in the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA) will enjoy vast potential if they can strengthen their mechanisms of integration. We must unite to face this challenge, said the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food in Guatemala, Rodolfo Estrada Hurtarte.

Estrada took part in the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of CORECA, which is made up of Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. The meeting was held in Managua, Nicaragua, April 20-22.

With regard to the search for mechanisms that encourage integration of the countries in the area, the Minister of Agriculture of Guatemala favored the idea of coordinating trade, so the countries do not all produce the same products at the same time.

Referring to the presentation by Dr. Martín E. Piñero, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, in which he described the progress made to date on the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, Estrada attached special attention to the

subject of poor, small-scale farmers.

He warned that the impact of new technology on small farmers must be considered in the process of agricultural modernization.

He also cautioned against importing foods for reasons of price alone. "If we import this grain, we will be putting 200,000 Guatemala families out of work," he warned.

"It is of crucial importance to be self sufficient in food production," he said. "We cannot fall into the trap of importing food, even if it is being given away."

During the meeting of the CORECA Council of Ministers, Minister Estrada signed an agreement with the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martín E. Piñero, for the "Design, Follow-up, Evaluation and Dissemination of Emergency Projects of the Public Agriculture and Food Sector."

Minister Hurtarte explained that the Ministry of Agriculture has taken steps to draw up emergency projects in response to the socioeconomic crisis facing the entire country, and especially low-income farmers.

The ministry has launched a program to consolidate and strengthen emergency projects that are in progress, and design new ones. IICA will administrate funding for the program.

During the same ceremony, a letter of understanding was signed between the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food and IICA regarding Guatemala's participation in the regional network of technology generation and transfer for cacao (PROCACAO).

Commenting on the signing of the two agreements, Eduardo Pesqueira, Secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources of Mexico, noted that the CORECA meetings should always provide a framework for strengthening technical cooperation among its member countries, as well as between them and international cooperation organizations.



Rodolfo Estrada Hurtarte, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Nutrition of Guatemala.

Honduras: AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION URGED



Luis Alonso Quesada, Vice-Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras.

A basic policy promoted by Honduras to stimulate agricultural reactivation entails crop diversification and emphasis on the cultivation of non-traditional export products, asserted Luis Alonso Quesada, Vice Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras.

Melons, plantains and shrimp are some of the non-traditional products that Honduras is now introducing on the international market, explained the Vice Minister, who was attending the Eighth Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), held in Managua, Nicaragua, April 20-22.

The official emphasized the economic importance of the forestry-agricultural sector in Honduras, noting that it generates nearly 80 percent of the country's foreign exchange earnings.

He also supported the view that agriculture must perform a central role in a new development strategy that

promotes economic reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"We believe that promotion of a Plan of Agricultural Reactivation is a positive development, and I believe that IICA is on the right course," the Vice Minister said, while commenting on the presentation by the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, on the Plan's progress.

Another strategy of agricultural policy in Honduras is food self-sufficiency, the Vice Minister said.

He explained that his country now imports beans "because of the drought that affected a large part of Central America." He added that Honduras is importing corn for the same reason.

However, another reason for increased corn imports is the demand for the grain to produce concentrated chicken feed. This particular case demonstrates the possibility of developing a strong agroindustrial sector, he said.

"Shrimp production also requires enormous amounts of grain," he added.

He also stressed the importance of integrated rural development programs, noting that, "We have strongly emphasized... aspects such technology transfer, training, loans, and infrastructure improvement, as well as road building."

"We also have important programs in agroforestry, because an estimated 60 percent of our territory is covered with forests," he said.

In conclusion, he remarked that "Agricultural modernization will require large amounts of financial resources to improve productivity and lower the costs of production this is the only way to successfully compete in the international market."

Mexico: CALLS FOR ELIMINATION OF SUBSIDIES

The Secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources of Mexico, Eduardo Pesqueira Olea, called for elimination of subsidy policies that developed countries apply to their agricultural products.

"Behind the allure of cheap agricultural products in the international market, lurk truly sinister and dangerous problems for our economies," the Secretary warned his colleagues at the meeting in Managua, Nicaragua, April 20-22.

"Some economists and financial experts accuse our farmers of inefficiency when they compare their costs with those of the developed countries," he said. "But they forget that the developed countries use substantial subsidies."

To illustrate the possible danger posed by the sale of subsidized products in international markets, the Minister referred to the case of milk.

"Since subsidies make the market cost of a ton of powdered milk perhaps one fourth to one tenth less expensive than that which we produce, we import milk,"



Eduardo Pesqueira Olea, Secretary of Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources of Mexico.

he said. "As a result, our dairy farms go broke, cows are auctioned off, and the herds decline."

However, "at any given moment the subsidy can be lifted and the ton of powdered milk that costs \$500 will jump to \$1400 or \$1600. This is happening, or will happen, with wheat, commodities and, shortly, with tropical products," he asserted.

"It is important to keep this in mind so we can unite behind the idea of agricultural modernization and Latin American integration, as Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro pointed out," he added, referring to the presentation made by the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). Dr. Piñeiro had explained the advances made to date on the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin American and the Caribbean.

The Agriculture and Hydraulic Resources Secretary emphasized that in addition to modernization and integration, "regional and national self-sufficiency" must be obtained.

However, he put equal stress on the importance of designing flexible regional strategies, "taking into account all possible variables, without boxing countries into a rigid framework."

Otherwise, he added, solutions and working plans could be presented that are not applicable to real conditions.

Finally, the Secretary, who is also the President of the World Food Council, emphasized the urgency and importance of fighting hunger and malnutrition, and called for achieving food security.

"We believe there is a direct relationship between peace and the agricultural process," he said. "Agriculture cannot exist without peace in the world, and lasting peace will not be achieved if we are unable to strengthen the integrated development of our rural communities," he asserted.

Panama: GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

The importance of the agricultural sector in Panama to the economy is on the rise, and this trend will continue in the future, assured Vice Minister of Agricultural Development Cayo Julio Rodríguez.

"As a result of the crisis in Panama, its trade, construction and finance sectors have contracted sharply, but the agricultural sector remains fully active because there is always a demand for its products," he asserted.

"The agricultural sector must take priority over any other because a country that is unable to produce its own food will have to purchase it at high prices, thus it is essential that we improve and modernize the production of basic crops to meet national demand," he stated at the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Agricultural Council for Agricultural Cooperatives in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CCCA/CAC), held in Managua, Nicaragua, April 20-22.

He also noted that his country has significantly increased production of non-traditional crops for export to international markets, such as melons and water-



Cayo Julio Rodríguez, Vice Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama.

He said that melon cultivation began five years ago on some 50 hectares of land, while today some, 2,000 hectares of land grow the crop, yielding an export volume of 500,000 crates a year.

The agricultural sector in Panama accounted for 3 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) last year. Of an estimated population of 500,000 people, some 150,000 farmers work 2 million hectares.

The Vice Minister pointed out that of all these farmers, only about 35,000 produce to meet market demands with modern technology and through adequate marketing channels.

These farmers work nearly 140,000 acres of land, growing 22 crops. Rice is the most important crop, accounting for about 45,000 acres. "This provides us with an estimated 4 million quintales of unhulled rice a year," Rodríguez said.

Given the high number of small farmers in the country who do not grow enough for commercial purposes, one of Panama's fundamental efforts in this field is to promote technology generation and transfer.

"This project, implemented through the Agricultural Research Institute, aims to offer technology to farmers, especially isolated small-scale farmers," he commented.

He also observed that another priority area of agricultural policy in his country is improved delivery of services to farmers, especially as concerns financing and marketing.

"We attach special importance to marketing that is geared directly to production for the domestic market and the people of Panama," he stated.

In conclusion, he noted that the experience gained through the Union of Banana Exporting Countries (UPEB) indicates that positive functions can be developed for agriculture, leading to greater integration among Latin American countries.

Dominican Republic: MODERNIZATION INCLUDES PUBLIC SECTOR



Dr. Luis Pérez Cuevas, Under Secretary of State for Agriculture of the Dominican Republic.

The agricultural modernization process must include the public sector, so that the efficiency of the entities that offer services to the agricultural sector can be improved, asserted the Under Secretary of State for Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Luis Pérez Cuevas.

The institutional organization for agricultural development was affected by the economic crisis affecting the Dominican Republic, and by the adjustment measures that were applied accordingly, he said.

Institutions comprising the public agricultural sector of the Dominican Republic are the General Directorate of Forestry, the Institute of Hydraulic Resources, the Dominican Agrarian Institute, the Price Stabilization Institute, the Agricultural Bank and the Secretary of State for Agriculture, which coordinates the entire sector.

"Right now, the agricultural sector generates between

40 and 45 percent of the country's foreign exchange," the Dominican official said. He added that for the sector to fully reach its potential, a strategy for agricultural development must be established "to reflect an overall economic development strategy."

The official described the impact of the agricultural sector's links with other sectors of the national economy, such as tourism and trade.

"We have seen that as these sectors develop, demand for products increases considerably. This favors agriculture with higher prices," he said.

By way of example, he said that while food production increased by 7 percent in 1987, demand jumped by 11 percent, which provided an incentive for agricultural production.

He also emphasized the need to promote agricultural diversification, in light of the Dominican Republic experience. "Sugar cane production represented 60 percent of our exports. The plunge of international prices produced great suffering in our country," he said.

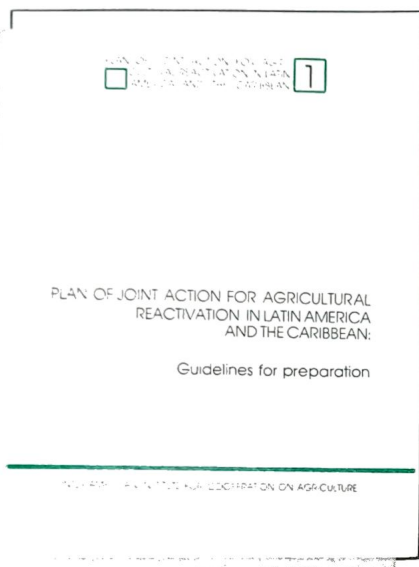
"However, we had begun to implement a diversification strategy for non-traditional products such as fruits (pineapples, melons, citrus), vegetables and other products such as yams, which now accounts for 20 percent of the country's foreign exchange earnings," he added.

In this context, he emphasized the need to modernize agricultural technology, especially with biotechnology.

"I have great hope for biotechnology," he said. "It represents a tremendous potential and we are now working with tissue cultures to produce vegetative materials."

Moreover, he emphasized that "agriculture based on biotechnology can be small-scale in terms of the amount of land used, but capital-intensive. This is an advantage for small countries with a high proportion of small farmers."

FIRST PROPOSAL OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION PREPARED



The first document containing activities and a timetable for the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation was finished this month and will be presented to the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in August, said Félix Cirio, Coordinator of the Plan of Action.

This first proposal will also be distributed to the International Advisory Commission in August. A corrected, final version will then be presented to the ministers of agriculture of the region in October 1989, at the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in Brazil.

The task of preparing a Plan of Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held last September in Canada.

This document proposes dividing the activities into two phases: development of the conceptual framework and

identification of possible actions, which covers December 1987 to August 1988, and Preparation of action proposals, which covers August 1988 to August 1989.

The first phase seeks to prepare documents heavily geared toward action. For each subject addressed, successful activities in the countries are outlined. To prepare for this phase, a series of base documents have been prepared that explain the scope and objectives of the Plan, and address raising funds both in the countries and from international technical cooperation organizations.

For each of the four subregions, a joint strategy of action will be prepared. They include an analysis of problems and opportunities in the agricultural sector, and identification of potential areas at the subregional level in which joint actions can be applied.

Also, a number of consultation and discussion mechanisms will be designed that include a series of technical meetings, with the participation of the countries of the region and technical and financial cooperation agencies that work with agriculture. Consultations with the countries will also be held on the national, subregional and hemispheric levels.

Based on what evolves from the first phase, a more detailed set of action proposals will be developed for the second phase.

Once the Plan has been reviewed by the IABA, implementation is to begin. In October 1989, the initial design of the Plan of Action will be completed, and implementation of recommended actions will begin. Mechanisms that provide evaluation and follow-up, give rise to new action proposals, and assure continuity for the Plan will have to be set up beforehand, in accordance with the document titled "Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean: Guidelines for Preparation."

BRAZIL CALLS FOR CREATION OF A PLANT PROTECTION COMMISSION

7

After holding three meetings - two on the regional level with the participation of some 250 technical experts, Brazil concluded the diagnosis of its plant protection situation and called for creation of a National Commission for Plant Protection, as well as a counterpart organization in each Brazilian state.

Some of the main issues requiring action include the need to establish a national emergency plan to combat the eastern fruit fly (*Dacus dorsalis*); draft up-dated plant protection legislation, because current statutes were passed in 1934, and create a national system that serves as a basic instrument for generating adequate, timely plant health information for efficient decision making.

As work on the diagnosis came to an end, a socio-economic study was proposed on the present and potential impact of plant protection problems in Brazil. The study would include genetic diseases whose introduction may pose a high risk for agriculture in the country. The diagnosis revealed a current shortage of this kind of information.

Short-term recommendations included preparation of a national plant protection plan that serves as a base for annual plant protection activities, and establishment of better international coordination with border countries and plant protection organizations.

It is hoped that the national and state plant protection commissions, in addition to addressing these problems, will serve to coordinate a variety of efforts and resources for developing plant protection programs and activities in the country. The diagnosis also emphasized that each Brazilian state should have the necessary physical infrastructure and equipment needed to strengthen units that identify, diagnose, analyze, verify and control plant protection products.

The Ministry of Agriculture received assistance for this diagnosis from the project on integrated systems management of plant protection problems, which is directed by plant protection specialist Macao Tadano of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

According to the conclusions, the plant protection problem in Brazil is unparalleled in Latin America and the Caribbean: with a 15,721-kilometer border with 10 countries, and 8,000 kilometers of sea coast, Brazil is more vulnerable than any other country in the region to the entry of new pests and diseases. Also, the country's

vast expanse and the constant extension of its agricultural frontier make increased and improved plant protection services all the more essential. The diagnosis also noted the increasing importance of providing plant protection for agricultural products, to guarantee their competitiveness in international markets.

The research confirmed that the magnitude of Brazil's pest control and prevention problems exceeds the capacity of diverse organizations throughout the country to handle them. There are a number of legal and institutional deficiencies which constrain effectiveness, such as lack of coordination, planning, programming and operations, added to serious limitations in technical, human, material and financial resources.

This study was based on preliminary diagnoses carried out from February 29-March 5 in San Jose de Mipibu, for the northern and northeastern regions and in the state of Espirito Santo; March 13-19 in Curitiba for the central-west, southeastern and southern regions and the state of Rondonia. National Secretary for Agricultural Defense, Manuel Eugenio Prada Vidal, participated in the third event in Brasilia, April 4-8, where the goal was to evaluate the results of the regional meetings and of both diagnoses, in order to prepare the national diagnosis for plant protection.

Also participating were 250 technical experts specialized in production, extension, education and plant protection, as well as representatives of the private sector. The efforts were coordinated by IICA consultant Alfonso Garcia Escobar, with collaboration from Jefferson Firth Rangel, consultant; Macao Tadano, chief of plant protection at the IICA Representation in Brazil, and technical expert Luis Felipe Fontes, of the National Association for Agricultural Protection, which has an agreement with IICA.

The main subjects covered in the meeting included plant protection control; prophylaxis and control of pests in vegetables; international and interstate shipment of vegetables; quality control; security; application and use of plant protection products; and plant protection education.

IICA expert Dr. Federico Dao, deputy director of the Institute's Plant Protection Program at Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, emphasized that inadequate plant protection regulations in Latin America are chiefly responsible for the largest losses in trade of Latin American products and the inability to gain access to larger markets.

Eastern Caribbean: STRENGTHENING OF AGRICULTURAL DIVERSIFICATION URGED

The heads of government of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States met in Saint Lucia, March 1-2, and agreed on short- and long-term strategies for strengthening agricultural diversification in the subregion and extending the search for extraregional markets.

The Prime Ministers of Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia, and the Ministers of Agriculture of Grenada and Monserrat, as well as government representatives of St. Kitts, Nevis, France, Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, spent two days studying new ways to identify crops that are suitable for intraregional as well as extraregional marketing. They also considered means of obtaining technical and financial assistance in these areas.

To this end, they entrusted the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) with preparing two basic documents entitled: "The Fruit Sub-Sector in the Windward Islands, Diagnosis, Strategy, Actions," by Jerry La Gra and Rafael Marté, and "The Cooperative Programme for the Production / Marketing of Priority Fruit Crops in the Windward Islands," which analyzes the strategies and results of studies and project profiles presented to overcome specified obstacles.

IICA specialists Everton Ambrose (plant protection), Gonzalo Estefanell (coordinator of the Regional Projects Unit), Rafael Marté (specialist in fruit crops) and Antonio Pinchinat (specialist in technology generation and transfer) emphasized during the analysis that diversification must be market-led and recommended a commodity systems approach.

Also proposed - by IICA's Area II Director, Dr. Reginald Pierre, and by IICA Representative in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Lucia, Dr. Franz Alexander - was creation of a regional agricultural advisory council, composed of representatives of national councils of the Eastern Caribbean countries. It would serve as a coordination mechanism.

The main points of consideration for the short term included:

1. Identifying existing crops-or those that can be produced rapidly - that have the potential for successful marketing in sufficient volumes through joint supply.
2. Determining markets and crops that can be absorbed

in terms of volume, quality, price and profitability.

3. Identifying and consolidating appropriate marketing agencies / entrepreneurs / commodity associations which can take charge of coordinating product supply and marketing.
4. Establishing an appropriate system of incentives, access to raw materials, and production services, including credit, to facilitate active farmer participation in the program.
5. Coordination of public sector policies that strive for appropriate land use practices, research, donor assistance, and internal protection for exportable grains.
6. Arrangements for transportation to the marketplace.

Participants also agreed that the next meeting of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) should attempt to identify a select number of products for cultivation that have good marketing potential, so the heads of government can make the corresponding decisions. Within this context, they agreed to prepare documentation on the back-up facilities necessary for development of these crops, and on the requirements for effective marketing.

Participants noted that crop diversification must be taken into account when organizing long-term strategies and action programs, bearing in mind the forthcoming establishment of full liberalization of trade within the European Economic Community and the need for access to markets in the United States.

It was agreed that the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), as the regional funding agency, and IICA as the specialist agency concerned with fruit crops investigation for the sub-region, will undertake a coordinating function in preparation of the Work Plan. These will liaise with the OECS Secretariat as the link agency to the OECS ministers of agriculture and to the OECS Authority, which would be the central decision-making institution as concerns the diversification program.

In preparing the Work Plan and its implementation, the coordinating agencies will work with the national ministers of agriculture to ensure that the Work Program fully involves the orientation of member governments. They, in turn, will provide links to other regional and extraregional agencies and private sector organizations that support agricultural development in the region.

SMALL FARMER ORGANIZATIONS IN THE WINDWARD ISLANDS

Of the 35,000 farmers in the Windward Islands, nearly 80 percent belong to one or more farmer organizations - a hardly surprising figure, considering that the average farm does not exceed 6 acres, and that these organizations are the only means for small farmers to obtain ready access to production inputs and marketing services.

In most cases, the organizations were formed during the 1930s, 40s or 50s to provide marketing services and, almost always, to supply farm inputs and other services to their members, who represent a large percentage of the farming population.

A by-country analysis of commodity associations indicates the comparative advantages for respective agricultural subsectors. For example: St. Vincent has an association of arrowroot industries; Dominica has one for citrus growers and a cooperative for production of essential oils; Saint Lucia has a association of coconut growers and Grenada has one for nutmeg producers.

Each country has a banana producers' association except for Dominica, which has two - one for growers and one for marketing.

More recently, in the 1970s and 80s, non-traditional farmers' groups have formed. They are made up of small farmers, most of whom grow a variety of crops that are marketed nationally. Membership is low and only a few of the larger associations offer production, processing and marketing services. Access to physical, financial and technical resources is almost always obtained through non-government organizations.

...Some non-traditional farmers organizations have successfully tapped financial and technical assistance channels of non-government organizations and other regional and international assistance agencies...

In Saint Lucia, there is the highest degree of development and organization of producers of small animal

products, while Dominica is making efforts to organize the production and marketing of plantains. Grenada is the only country that has made an organized effort to produce sugarcane for the local market. All four islands have various farmers' groups producing mixed crops, but membership tends to be low, fluctuating between 10 and 40 members.

Some non-traditional farmers organizations - especially through the efforts of federations like STAFCO-OP (Saint Lucia Association of Farmers' Cooperatives) and ORD (Organization for Rural Development) in St. Vincente - have successfully tapped financial and technical assistance channels of non-government organizations and other regional and international assistance agencies.

...Access to physical, financial and technical resources is almost always obtained through non-government organizations...

Besides these core groups, there is a farmers' union on each of the four islands (in St. Lucia it is the National Farmer's Welfare Association), which attempts to provide an effective voice on issues that affect small farmers.

Only Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent have farmers' organizations that function as second-level federations of farmers' groups. In Saint Lucia the federation is STAFCO-OP, while in St. Vincent it is ORD, a federation of rural subcommittees of farmers. Both organizations have impressive track records for providing necessary services to their members.

In all four islands, members of these organizations have access to credit unions. Dominican membership includes 43 percent of the island's population. Loans made by these unions have been used for major industrial and agricultural projects.

IICA AND RNTC STRENGTHEN COMMUNICATION IN THE CARIBBEAN

A three-week course on Planning Communication for Agricultural Extension and Rural Development was held for 10 communications specialists from ministries of agriculture of the Caribbean between April 25 and May 13, at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Coordinated by the Radio Nederland Training Center (RNTC) and IICA, the activity's primary aim was to strengthen horizontal communication in the Caribbean.

The activity forms part of a joint project on "Applied Communication for Education and Rural Development in Latin America, with Emphasis on Central America and the Caribbean," which seeks to train representatives from governmental and non-governmental institutions working in the rural development field, through courses, workshops, and seminars.

Participating in the course were communications and extension specialists from the information and communications services of the ministries of agriculture of Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. Juan Díaz Bordenave, a communications and education consultant and instructor in the course, also took part.

According to José Pérez, chief of the RNTC project, the course provided an important contribution to the Caribbean, because "There is a need for greater coordination of efforts among Caribbean countries and because experiences in Latin America can be useful, mainly with regards to use of the radio in extension work and development of rural zones, now that significant strides have been made in form and style of work in this field."

Pérez noted that the course was also rewarding because of the experiences exchanged among the Caribbean extensionists. He added that Bordenave is a "great instructor, "who has done much to further participatory communication, stressing horizontal aspects that the students called "original" and a true contribution.

He explained that the main aim was to provide practice in communications planning and radio use, to reflect the specific goals of each organization and place of origin of the seminar participants. This allowed for styles to be

compared and experiences shared. He also observed that such a short course must strike a careful balance between time spent in lectures and on field trips.

Pérez added that this was pilot course that allowed Caribbeans to share information on their use of the communications media in rural development in that region. The IICA-Radio Nederland Project sought to impart an up-to-date perspective of participatory communication that promotes improved links between farmers and the ministries of agriculture.

...The IICA-Radio Nederland Project sought to impart an up-to-date perspective of participatory communication that promotes improved links between farmers and the ministries of agriculture...

During the closing session both parties expressed satisfaction with the course. Recommendations were also made for IICA and RNTC to continue technical cooperation efforts in the different countries.

Course participants visited the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center (CATIE), in Turrialba; the Costa Rican Institute of Radio Education (ICER), in San Jose; as well as the agricultural extension agency and some experimental farms in Heredia province, where coffee, broccoli and cauliflower are grown.

The Caribbean communicators prepared a communications plan that included analysis of a specific problem in the field of agriculture, and the population group affected by it. Based on their findings, they formulated a strategy of messages and means of communication.

Recognizing that radio is the most frequently used medium in rural areas, the participants recorded original radio programs that lasted 15 minutes each, and put new techniques into practice, such as the radio-magazine, the socio-drama, and the interview. This exercise in programming and planning formed an essential part of the course.

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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 made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

News bulletin on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo. 55-2200 Coronado, San Jose, Costa Rica. Cable: IICASANJOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Telephone: 290222.

IICA AND IDB AGREEMENT TO INCREASE COOPERATION

At a recent meeting, officials from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) discussed their organizations' many areas of agreement, and reiterated their interest in strengthening relations and cooperation to benefit Latin America and the Caribbean in the field of agriculture.

The new president of the IDB, Dr. Enrique Iglesias, and the Director General of the IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñero, met to discuss ways of strengthening their organizations' joint efforts to address agricultural problems in the region. Dr. Iglesias also accepted an invitation from the IICA Director General to visit IICA headquarters on Friday June 17, during the Bank president's visit to San José, Costa Rica.

Previously, each institution sent a high level team to a working lunch at IICA headquarters, in order to prepare for the June 17 meeting. At that time, IICA and IDB staff reviewed the main subjects of common interest to the two institutions, including renewing the agreement that establishes a joint project preparation unit, and funding some important initiatives, such as PROCENTRAL (Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Central Subregional). The subjects addressed were resolved very favorably, and a series of new areas of joint efforts between IICA and IDB was also discussed, with the aim of increasing cooperation for reactivating and modernizing agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

A number of IDB officials also attended a lunch offered



IICA Director General Dr. Martín E. Piñero and Dr. Enrique Iglesias, President of IDB, discuss ways to improve cooperation mechanisms for agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA AND IDB: AGREEMENT TO INCREASE...



IDB officials, including Deputy Manager Abayubá Morey, Manager Jorge Ferraris, and Deputy Manager Juan Pérez Castillo (in rear, conversing with IICA Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein) meet with IICA Director General, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro (right), at IICA headquarters.

by Dr. Piñeiro for the IDB president: Manager of the Project Analysis Department, Jorge Ferraris; Deputy Manager of Region 1 of the Department of Operations, Abayubá Morey; the Deputy Manager for Technical Cooperation, Juan P. Pérez Castillo; the Deputy Manager of Integration, Félix Peña; IDB representative in Costa Rica, José Villegas, and the Assistant Legal Adviser, Sara Ordoñez. Accompanying Dr. Piñeiro were the Assistant Deputy Directory General for Operations, Cassio Luiselli; the Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein; the Advisor to the Director General, Félix Cirio, and the Director of the Program for Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, Carlos Pomareda.

As a result of the conversations, IDB agreed to collaborate with preparing and implementing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end, Dr. Miguel Urrutia, Manager of Economic and Social Development at the Bank, will participate as a member of the International Advisory Commission for the Plan, which will allow IDB to contribute to the overall formulation of the Plan. Likewise, it was agreed that the chapter on the problems of agricultural investment would be written jointly, both as concerns the conceptual treatment of the subject and for preparing investment projects to modernize agriculture.

IICA and IDB officials also analyzed other matters that were considered essential to all present, regarding the

development and reactivation of the agricultural sector, and around which new joint actions can be developed. These areas of action include designing new mechanisms for providing loans to the agricultural sector, given the consensus on the need to link investment projects to changes in public policies that have often effected the outcome of these projects. Modernizing government and strengthening its institutions was also discussed. Likewise, it was established that postgraduate training has great potential and importance, in view of the sharp deterioration in the region and the advent of the technological revolution - which will present new demands.

Dr. Iglesias and Dr. Piñeiro agreed that this agricultural reactivation process must benefit not only the most developed sectors of the countries, as it has in the past, and that "modernization with equity" is the objective.

On Saturday, IICA representatives were invited by IDB to a meeting, which was also attended by IDB governors in Central America and officials from international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the Organization of American States (OAS), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), where economic and social development in Central America were given special consideration.

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JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA SEEKING INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

During an official visit paid to Japan and South Korea between May 20 and June 6 by Director General Martín E. Piñeiro and Director of External Relations, Dr. Jorge Werthein of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), cooperation between IICA and the two Asian countries was expanded.

In their journey to these two IICA observer countries, the official representatives encouraged Japan and South Korea to participate more actively in IICA projects and programs, which contribute to agricultural and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Piñeiro and Werthein met with representatives from ministries of external relations and agriculture and specialized research and development-aid organizations to inform them of the Institute's activities. They emphasized IICA's efforts to reinvigorate agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, as was delineated in the Plan announced by the Ministers of Agriculture and other senior agriculture officials of 31 countries in the region last September in Canada.



During an official visit, IICA officials sought more active participation from Japan and South Korea in Institute projects to further agriculture and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The new course being steered by Japan and South Korea for cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean became apparent recently when Japan announced that it will double its foreign aid disbursements, bringing the total to US\$50 billion. In addition, the Asian countries were very receptive of the role IICA plays as an organization of the inter-American system.

...Japan announced that it will double its foreign aid disbursements, bringing the total to US\$50 billion...

Directors of the various Japanese and South Korea organizations expressed considerable interest in studying possible forms of cooperation with the Institute, and suggested some feasible alternatives for cooperative efforts between the two countries and IICA.

The means of cooperation discussed included involving Japanese and South Korean experts in IICA projects, and identifying and formulating projects that the countries of the region can present to Japan and South Korea for possible funding.

...The means of cooperation discussed included involving Japanese and South Korean experts in IICA projects...

Also discussed was the possibility that Japanese volunteers participate in IICA activities and that technical experts from Latin American and Caribbean countries receive training in South Korea and Japan.

For indigent, small farmers: TECHNOLOGY MUST BE ADAPTED TO REAL PRODUCTION CONDITIONS



Despite the lack of adequate technical support, small farmers play a key role in the socio-economic structure of the region, affirmed Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro at a seminar on technology transfer, held in South Korea.

At a time of rapid population growth in Latin America, from 126 million people in 1985 to 134 million by the year 2000, technology generation must be transformed so that it responds to real conditions under which poor, small farmers work, said the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro.

Although institutions that generate technology have not provided viable options to small farmers in the form of technical support that is consistent with their needs and resources, this sector nonetheless performs a key role in the socio-economic structure of Latin America, where practically half the cultivated are dedicated to the main crops is in the hands of small farmers, added Dr. Piñeiro in his paper "Issues and Options Regarding Generation and Transfer of Technology for Poor Small Farmers."

The paper was presented at a seminar on the topic - organized by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the government of South Korea - that was held in Seoul, May 30 to June 7.

Referring to the trend in Latin America toward concentration of the rural population on small farms, Dr. Piñeiro cited statistics from Brazil: Between 1960 and 1980, the agricultural population working on plots of land of less than 50 hectares increased by 39.4 percent.

"We define small farms as those that have a small-scale labor component and rudimentary means of production. "That is, those units in which the process of production is achieved fundamentally through a combination of land and family labor," said the IICA Director General in Seoul. Dr. Piñeiro's visit to Seoul was part of a tour of the region - also including Japan - in which possible ways for these countries to cooperate for the benefit of agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean were explored.

To emphasize the importance of family labor on small plots, Dr. Piñeiro pointed out that in 1970, family labor in Brazil accounted for 92 percent of the work of the small farm sector, while in Mexico and Panama, the figures were 72 and 79 percent, respectively.

Recent data indicate that "there is a clear trend toward subdivision and conversion of small farms into minifundia. The present crisis confronting the Latin America countries dangerously magnifies the above tendencies," he warned.

PRECARIOUS EQUILIBRIUM

Small rural production units, based on family labor and use of rudimentary means of production, are part of a precariously balanced system, whose transformation can lead either to the proletarianization of small farmers - and their loss of control over the land - or improved productivity, increased capitalization and investment surpluses, and more market-directed production.

"(This) brings us to the crucial question: Is it possible, through regulation of technological factors, to make a positive impact on the precarious balance of the production system, ... to gradually and consistently strengthen its productive capacity?" he asked.

TECHNOLOGY MUST BE ADAPTED...

Dr. Piñeiro said that before answering the question, it should be understood that the small farmer "needs a constant income to cover these basic needs." For that reason the small farmer instinctively makes decisions that are based more on an assessment of gross profits than on any cost/benefit ratio.

He is also more likely to reduce costs, in order to ensure steady income, than to try to increase productive efficiency by using external inputs.

"This, added to his special relationship with the land, his habits and other factors, means that he will have a logical and natural resistance to any proposal involving significant changes in the production system with which he is familiar," he said.

The Director General added that "one valid way to strengthen their productive systems (...) is to generate and make available to small farmers a type of technology that will improve their ability to combine and manage the resources they have, hence increasing their efficiency."

He warned that the small farmer is often encouraged to adopt technology that is essentially exogenous, requiring, to some extent, intensified use of capital. Furthermore, he said, "Such technology is usually part of a package of complementary technologies which often do not fit the needs and possibilities of the small farm."

However, he said that for improving the capacity to combine and manage available resources, "The possibility arises of generating and offering some kind of acceptable low-cost, low-input technology."

In this context, Dr. Piñeiro affirmed that real possibilities exist for making positive changes in the technological practices of small farmers.

Among other examples he mentioned tissue cultures, which allow for high-yield, disease-resistant crops to be multiplied, and which decrease the cost of using agrochemical products.

Nonetheless, to generate the kind of technology that is suited to the conditions, need and possibilities of the small farmer, it is imperative that institutions involved in

this process seek to change the strategies and methods now being used.

RESEARCH AND EXTENSION WORK

Dr. Piñeiro affirmed that the practice of carrying out research and extension activities more or less independently must be changed.

(This) "led researchers to generate technological products without taking responsibility for their adoption, usefulness, or their capacity to really help the small farmer; extensionists, in turn, have received finished products without having had any responsibility for their generation, and consequently for their adaptability, usefulness, and capacity to make an economic contribution," the document read.

Furthermore, "Since there is no natural and inevitable linkage between the two, there has been an unsatisfactory flow of technological solutions between research centers and production units."

For that reason, on-farm research programs offer an attractive alternative. What is needed is to make extensionist personnel active participants in the research stage itself.

Dr. Piñeiro also sustained that "A closer, more formal link between technological institutions and farmer organizations will also enhance coherence between technology and other elements of rural development strategies like marketing, health and education services, and infrastructure development."

"In brief, the issue is that technology, in and of itself, is not sufficient to bring about significant changes in the current economic and social situation of small farmers in Latin America, but that it can be the central component of a "start up" strategy, designed to strengthen small farms, favoring their differentiation towards a state in which they will be able to adopt other type of technological innovation and in which they will have greater management capability, all of which would foster savings, self-sustained growth and improved living standards."

DECENTRALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH BOTH ADVISABLE AND VIABLE

At a seminar on agricultural research attended by Latin American and international research and lending agencies, a consensus emerged on the advisability and viability of decentralization.

The three-day meeting, held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) June 8-10, brought together representatives from research organizations of eight Latin American countries, as well as from entities such as the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT), The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) of the Netherlands, the World Bank, The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Cooperation Ministry of West Germany, and the National Academy of Sciences of the United States.

"It is important for national and international research centers working to improve species to have a world per-



Representatives from EMBRAPA (Elmar Wagner), INIFAP (Mario Salazar), INTA (Carlos López) and ICA (Enrique Alarcón) made number of proposals for decentralizing agricultural research, during a meeting at IICA in Costa Rica.

spective, which will help them place priority on products that are fundamental to world nutrition - and the decentralization process is a significant step in this direction. This is the right idea at the right time, but it is also a great challenge calling for ingenuity in selecting problems that can be adequately addressed by joint research efforts. It calls for generosity as well, so that all participants can benefit. The fact that we are meeting here today is proof to me that this ingenuity and generosity do indeed exist," said Dr. Martín E. Piñero, during his opening remarks.

...that decentralization is indeed advisable and viable, that the process must be given the opportunity to develop, and that it should begin with specific projects...

At the close of the meeting, seminar participants agreed that decentralization is indeed advisable and viable, that the process must be given the opportunity to develop, and that it should begin with specific projects, which will serve as a testing ground for the operational and organizational mechanisms to be used in the decentralization process.

...decentralization must be geared toward specific problems, and organized around and focusing on the activities of the international research institutes in which national institutes have taken interest and made important efforts...

The group also agreed that decentralization must be geared toward specific problems, and organized around and focusing on the activities of the international research institutes in which national institutes have taken interest and made important efforts.

Among their conclusions they determined that independent organizations should evaluate the technical merit and viability of the projects proposed and that the more advanced national institutes, beneficiary or target

PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

SOUTHERN CONE COUNTRIES ESTABLISH MECHANISM FOR PLAN OF ACTION

After two days of discussion, the vice ministers of agriculture of the Southern Cone established an ongoing mechanism for consultation among the five countries of the region, for defining the Southern Cone chapter of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Preparation of the Plan was entrusted to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

(IICA) at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held last September in Ottawa, Canada.

When discussing the Plan in early May with Southern Cone vice ministers, IICA Director General, Martín E. Piñero remarked that "the spirit of the mandate is that the Plan is not, nor should it be, an IICA Plan, or just a document, but rather a process through which impor-



The vice ministers established an ongoing mechanism for consultation among the five countries of the region, for defining the Southern Cone chapter of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

tant strategic ideas are generated, and a group of actions is identified for developing this process."

...this mechanism will function for one year, with perhaps two meetings along similar lines, among the five countries of the region...

Dr. Piñeiro said he was pleased with the establishment of this consulting mechanism, noting that until now the Southern Cone - unlike other subregions where consultations are already underway - did not have a subregional vehicle of this type.

He added that this mechanism will function for one year, with perhaps two meetings along similar lines, among the five countries of the region. The first is to be held September 19 -20.

This mechanism of ongoing consultation will function on the viceministerial level, until the Plan of Action is presented to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in September 1989.

...The vice ministers evaluated and defined the preliminary steps that have been taken for structuring the Plan of Joint Action...

The vice ministers evaluated and defined the preliminary steps that have been taken for structuring the Plan of Joint Action, endorsing its guidelines and proposals, as well as the progress made to date.

Participants agreed on the need to increase technological integration among the five countries, based on the experience gained by the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Southern Cone (PROCISUR), which is coordinated by IICA and funded by the International Development Bank (IDB).

Participants also agreed that there are concrete possibilities for improving this experience and embarking on

a new era of joint planning for biotechnological research, which in turn will provide an opportunity to structure joint investment projects for this sector.

In analyzing their particular form of economic integration, representatives from Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay identified one concern that could be addressed in the Plan: The need for institutional and operational strengthening of the ministries or secretariats of agriculture in the countries of the region, to equip them to play a more active role in integration processes.

...Participants agreed on the need to increase technological integration among the five countries, based on the experience gained by the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Southern Cone (PROCISUR...)

It was also observed that there is great potential, not only as concerns trade flows, but also in terms of joint negotiation in third markets and the joint undertaking of agroindustrial projects or production of inputs, among other things. As an example of the latter, seed production was mentioned.

This process of institutional strengthening - in which it was emphasized that IICA can play decisive role - would lead to the identification of potential projects or areas of action, generating concrete proposals that would be given top priority by existing integration mechanisms, or those being formulated.

...This process of institutional strengthening - in which it was emphasized that IICA can play decisive role - would lead to the identification of potential projects or areas of action...

During his closing remarks, Dr. Piñeiro emphasized that "one of the principle elements of the Plan, which we have discussed and studied in depth, concerns the needs, opportunities and possibilities of policies that encourage the integration process in its various forms."

Argentina: SPIRIT OF REGIONAL INTERDEPENDENCE HOLDS SWAY AT BUENOS AIRES MEETING



Dr. Eduardo Manciana, Under Secretary for Agrarian Economy of Argentina.

The spirit of looking inwards, into the region, with a true interest in carrying out joint projects, was the overriding theme of a recent meeting in Buenos Aires, Argentina. "Shortly after proclamation of the Mandate of Ottawa, we can already see concrete results," remarked the Under Secretary for Agrarian Economy of Argentina, Eduardo Manciana. "In this case, they took the form of a meeting of vice ministers and under secretaries, during which each of ideas was discussed and specific tasks and responsibilities were assigned."

The Under Secretary emphasized the role of agriculture with reference to Argentina, a country with a heavy foreign debt burden and thus a pressing need for increased trade surpluses.

Manciana affirmed that because of these conditions, Argentina's production levels were hit hard by the crisis in the international market - to the extent that beef exports were practically paralyzed, and agricultural exports were reduced dramatically. As a result, produc-

tion plummeted: grain and oilseed crop yields fell sharply from almost 44 million tons to just over 33 million.

For this reason, and because of economic conditions that characterize the Southern Cone subregion, the Under Secretary of Agrarian Economy declared that the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation "is a program that appears to have been tailor-made to the needs of the Southern Cone, in as much as an analysis of the Plan's proposals reveals that they respond exactly to the needs, possibilities and aspirations of this subregion. In other words, we are fully in agreement with the proposals made," he added. "At any rate, how they can be applied to other subregions of Latin America and the Caribbean must be studied."

"Seeing the agricultural sector as the driving force in our economy, reorienting industry in our five countries toward the use of our own raw materials, making agriculture a key factor in foreign trade again: these aspirations guide our daily activities and goals," he stated.

The Under Secretary stated that the conclusion of the meeting calling for regular and periodic consultation mechanisms at the policy-making level of the agricultural sectors of the countries of the subregion was important. "We are not going to meet to see how IICA is progressing with the Plan, or hold bilateral consultations with IICA; rather, the need to supervise and monitor the effort, and hold consultations with the policy-making sectors for designing the guidelines of future action has been clearly established," he said.

Manciana also noted that institutional strengthening of the ministries or secretariats - with an eye toward more active participation in the overall integration process - "is already being fully achieved in Argentina".

"Perhaps of the five countries represented here, Argentina will be where IICA works most actively in institutional strengthening - which is being achieved through an agreement with the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries."

Brazil: THE TREMENDOUS CHALLENGE OF IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF LIVING

"The tremendous challenges of absorbing labor in the rural sector while providing acceptable living and income standards confront the government of my country as well as those throughout Latin America and the Caribbean," said the Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Brazil, Senator Lázaro Ferreira Barbosa.

Brazil, the Latin American giant, is no different from the rest of the countries of the region in terms of the absolute pre-eminence of the agricultural sector in the economy and as a source of foreign exchange. National policies have yielded very good sectoral performance, with a growth rate of 14 percent in 1987. According to Barbosa, this "offset low industrial growth, and brought in, with raw materials or semi-manufactured products, nearly 70 percent of exported goods, precluding a domestic supply crisis.

However, the Brazilian delegation chief to the meeting in Buenos Aires added that all was not well, because in contrast to the development of large-scale production, there are some areas with high concentration of small farmers, and some regions where it is hard to make a living and there is scant access to government or private social service.



Senator Lázaro Ferreira Barbosa, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Brazil.

The Agriculture Secretary expressed his "full agreement" with the basic aims of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation, "in that political stability and peace in most parts of the continent depend on a balanced development of agriculture." He emphasized one of the premises included in the spectrum of strategies proposed in the Plan, an increased flow of capital to Latin America and the Caribbean, adequately linked to the transformations envisaged, is essential to the agricultural reactivation strategy.

The official put particular emphasis on matters of research and technology generation and transfer, explaining that efforts carried out by PROCISUR since 1980 "have shown concrete results with real benefits for participating countries, to the extent that there is now a consensus with regard to the need to institutionalize this program by the year 1990."

In overall terms, with respect to integration of agricultural research, he remarked that "it is obvious that everyone will win with this integration; moreover, cooperation is urgent because it will allow us to share the enormous burden involved in keeping pace with the more developed countries, and to progress rapidly in this strategic area. Brazil has cooperated most actively in joint cooperative efforts in the areas of livestock breeding, agricultural information and documentation, and in developing new grain and legume strains."

The Secretary General attached equal importance to a new strategy for biotechnology. "This is a promising field for inter-American cooperation," he said. "The countries of the region must advance together in this area, because developed nations invest heavily to maintain their expensive research and experiment centers, where they develop more productive and rational technology. Some countries of the region have already take important steps in this field, but their consolidation on the international level requires the contribution of other countries, because the quality and sophistication requirements of human, financial and material resources are high".

Chile: STABILITY AND GROWTH LINKED TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT



Dr. Arturo Venegas Palacios, Under Secretary of Agriculture of Chile.

Arturo Venegas Palacios, Under Secretary of Agriculture of Chile, and that country's delegate to the Buenos Aires meeting, expressed total agreement with the preliminary documents prepared by IICA for the Plan of Joint Action, as well as some points for reflection on the integration process.

"The conclusions we can draw are positive in all respects," he said. "IICA's efforts have few gaps and little needs to be completed, because the Institute was highly efficient in carrying out its task. This was reflected throughout the meeting, where the comments of the delegates centered on specific matters, which in turn called for a high degree of consensus."

"The background material used in the Plan, and the terms used to establish that social and political stability in Latin America and the Caribbean are dependent on agricultural growth and development correctly fit in with the framework of liberalization policies geared toward external markets, and macroeconomic strategies that further this aim." The Chilean delegation put special emphasis on agricultural modernization, and incorporation of new technology.

"Technological and financial issues, as well as market

trends, are all linked to external activity, and we cannot be overly optimistic about seeing increased capital flows into the region, given the external debt situation," the Under Secretary of Agriculture of Chile said. "With regard to the transfer of technological skills from the developed countries, we understand that serious obstacles will arise if we are looking for large-scale transfers, because these countries are unlikely to want to share their technological leadership."

"For this reason, we believe it is more feasible to achieve the technological development that the Plan contemplates by strengthening or creating regional mechanisms that will enable us to develop our own technology," he said. He added that PROCISUR has proven to be a highly beneficial mechanism for the horizontal transfer of technological knowledge. Thus, the Southern Cone does not need to create new mechanisms, but rather to strengthen the existing one and make it permanent.

With regard to extra-regional trade negotiations, the Chilean representative remarked that "although the Plan should not specify concrete actions for reducing agricultural protectionism; it should propose a common strategic framework that contributes to the establishment of these actions in our countries."

With respect to the goal of integration, the Under Secretary remarked that this "inevitably implies specialization and that in the different countries, production of some products must be stopped or cut back. In other words, there are producers and families that must stop producing these items. We must use concrete estimates and work to find the mechanism with which we can change activities or products rapidly without incurring a high social or economic cost. From this point of view, technological innovation and the incorporation of new research developments must be undertaken in concert with imaginative action. These points for reflection should in no way overshadow the future possibilities of the Plan," the Under Secretary concluded. "They are merely intended to call attention to some issues that, if not analyzed closely, will impede the successful results we all hope for."

Paraguay: WE MUST STEP UP AGRICULTURAL INTEGRATION EFFORTS



Dr. Luis Pampliega Caballero, Director General of Paraguay's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock

In recent years, agricultural and forestry activity in Paraguay has changed dramatically, especially as concerns production of raw materials, which now provide 95 percent of foreign exchange earnings. Bearing in mind that exports are directly influenced by international market conditions, and consequently by the policies applied in industrialized countries, Luis Pampliega Caballero, Director General of Paraguay's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, envisages the Plan of Joint Action as a way for the countries of the region "to get to know each other better and join together in international trade, in order to promote development for our people."

Paraguayan agricultural policy claims important advances in specific product lines, such as cotton. Until the 1970s, an average of 30,000 tons a year was produced - now this figure has soared to almost 500,000 tons. Another success is the soybean crop, which had barely started in the late 1960s, and now yields some 1.5 million tons a year. In both cases the domestic market absorbs barely 10 percent of the total: 90 percent is exported.

"Because foreign exchange is of utmost importance to our country, we depend completely on the price policies applied on the international market, and we are prepared for everything involving subsidies, tariffs, and other trade barriers - factors that constitute unfair competition," the Director General said.

He also remarked that with regard to the Plan, "We stand together and are very pleased with the initiative that our group of countries, has adopted to become more fully integrated in an areas, that provides our most important source of national income. Therein lies the importance of this integration effort that will involve the Southern Cone with the other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. We must all work to advance this Strategic Plan of Joint Action - first to get to know each other better; then, to join together in international trade in order to promote development for our people; and finally, through this common program, to achieve a more rational use of our resources, and improve the efficiency of both actions and funding in our joint strategies."

While acknowledging the momentous challenge of coordinating a joint plan among nations with varying criteria, he also noted that "In many of our countries, problems are similar: structurally, our troubles are identical, and often when one country finds a solution, others can benefit."

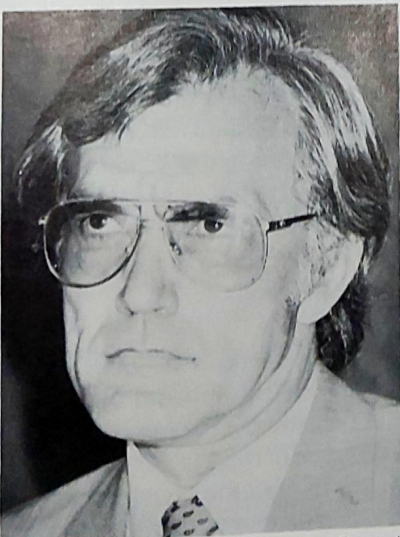
Other issues emphasized by the Paraguayan delegation include regeneration of industry through agriculture and export infrastructure. "Many countries have serious problems with regard to infrastructure that links industries and ports, and the solution should be approached, once again, through joint effort," the Director General said. "In Paraguay, for example, soybean exports must be sent 800 kilometers by truck, or by ship to the River Plate. This implies an extra cost of \$50 for each \$250 ton of soybeans. Imagine if we were to attempt to export corn, which sells for \$100 a ton. But with these actions, who is to say the future won't see storage silos in Brazil and Argentina, as well as soybean processing?"

Uruguay:

A DETERMINATION TO TRANSFORM THE PLAN INTO CONCRETE ACTION

"We are in full agreement with the various specific strategies found in the preliminary documents and particularly with those aimed at increasing the exports of agricultural products, the cornerstone of our economies. Therefore we must confront tariff and non-tariff barriers and subsidies applied by the industrialized countries in an aggressive policy toward countries such as Uruguay that, despite their natural comparative advantages, cannot gain access to the international markets because of their perverse strategy," said the Uruguayan representative, Under Secretary of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, Alberto Brause Berreta.

The Uruguayan economy is based mainly on agricultural activity, and an industrial sector has grown up to process its raw materials. For this reason, the current government administration has implemented a group of sectoral development policies aimed at improving productive growth in some sectors. In some cases they proved successful. But in others, the process "has not succeeded with the desired velocity and intensity, mainly because of unfavorable conditions on the international market, which affect not only the Uruguayan economy, but also the majority of the countries of Latin



Dr. Alberto Brause Berreta, Under Secretary of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries.

America and the Caribbean," the Under Secretary said.

This is why the Plan of Joint Action is necessary, he said. "We have publicly stated our satisfaction with its general approach, because it is not merely a plan on paper," he added. "Rather, it is the search for a process that culminates in concrete actions."

"In our view this is extremely important, mainly because in recent years we have accumulated an enormous body of experience in preparing plans for agricultural development and reactivation in our countries, which have never gone beyond the theoretical plane," he said. The hour is upon us, and we are determined to transform this Plan into concrete actions in our countries."

Brause Berreta explained that "in Uruguay, we advocate greater liberalization of international markets, of world trade, so our countries can expand agricultural exports. Here we emphasize how important it is that agricultural products receive greater attention and specific treatment in GATT. These issues are fundamental to us, because we firmly believe that economic growth is the principle source of freedom and peace in our countries."

Another element of the Plan for Joint Action, or of the basic strategies mentioned by Dr. Martín Piñeiro at the Buenos Aires meeting and given special emphasis by the Uruguayan representation, was the need to increase the level of intraregional exchange. "It meshes with the policy designed by the government of Uruguay, in response to the strategies put into effect over the last three years in our trade relations with Brazil and Argentina," the Under Secretary said.

"The third aspect of the strategies proposed in the Plan's preliminary documents involves providing more incentives to expand agroindustries; that is, those industries directly linked to the processing of raw materials produced by the agricultural sectors in each of our countries. This aim also fully reflects our national policies. Therefore, we believe that the Institute is carrying out its task in a very appropriate way," concluded Brause Berreta.

IICA AND CARICOM COORDINATE ACTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION IN THE CARIBBEAN

The Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) evaluated the advances made in preparing the Plan of Joint Action for Reactivating Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

During its Eleventh Meeting, May 26-28, in Port-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the Standing Committee of CARICOM suggested and recommended to IICA what could be considered key points in the Caribbean Chapter of the Plan of Reactivation.

The task of preparing the Plan was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture last September, in Ottawa, Canada.

With this aim, Plan Coordinator Félix Cirio presented a report to the ministers of agriculture of the Caribbean on the advances made in preparing the Plan, briefly identifying some characteristics shared by all Caribbean countries, and that should be taken into consideration when preparing the Caribbean Chapter of the Plan of Action.

He added, "Keeping in mind that CARICOM is also in the process of preparing a development plan for the Caribbean region, we must collaborate, not only to prevent duplication of efforts and keep costs down, but also to assure that the interests of the small Member States are considered during all preparatory phases of the Plan." For that reason, it was agreed to continue analyzing this matter at the next meeting of ministers, to be held September 15 and 16 in Guyana.

In addition, the Standing Committee of CARICOM supported the cooperation program with IICA in the following areas: CARICOM regional program in the agricultural sector; information systems for animal health and plant protection; program to eradicate *Amblomyia*; crop protection, research channels and

coordination; development of markets; and formulation of regional standards, presented by Dr. Reginal Pierre, Caribbean Area Director at IICA. He also presented a joint report with Program V Director Dr. Harry Mussman, on the Animal Health Program, and information systems for crop protection. The Standing Committee of CARICOM endorsed the project proposed for measuring and monitoring animal and plant diseases and pests aimed at increasing production in the Caribbean.

This three-year project presented by IICA will begin in July 1988, and will serve as a catalyst for other activities that will also strengthen development of CARICOM's agricultural sector.

The proposed area of action for the project is the Caribbean. Headquarters is to be located in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, where the necessary contacts will be made with specialized agencies, which will work with participating countries. IICA will act as the executor for this technical cooperation project. It will be staffed with international animal health and crop protection information specialists, who will coordinate the project with assistance from local specialists.

With the aim of developing an adequate system and achieving good results, data will be processed to determine the current state of the diseases (rate of occurrence, incidence, etc.), risk factors of the diseases, and economic variables. Data will also be evaluated for evidence of the influence of outside variables, prevention and control methods.

The system will also have a data bank, which will process and maintain in standardized form all information from participating countries. The system will publish three types of reports: monthly reports, emergency bulletins to alert the countries as needed, and reports providing estimates for physical and economic losses caused by plant and animal pests and diseases.

DECENTRALIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH...

national institutes, international institutes and donors should be assured full participation in decision making. Clear administrative guidelines must also be established to govern resource management.

The proposed process is based on the concept of associated national institutes that together with international institutes will assume the responsibility of the research that has been decentralized, under the general technical direction of a committee composed of representatives from associated institutes, beneficiaries, international organizations and donors. This technical committee would review and approve the working program, through annual or biannual meetings. It would be in charge of implementing research projects, and made up of an international agricultural research institute and associated national institutes.

...independent organizations should evaluate the technical merit and viability of the projects proposed...

The group of researchers decided that the Brazilian Institute for Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA), the National Institute of Agricultural Technology in Argentina (INTA) and the National Institute of Forestry and Agricultural Research in Mexico (INIFAP), as well as the more advanced national institutes, will work with the CIMMYT, and begin immediately to prepare complete projects that include both research and training components, based on the profiles delineated at the meeting. It was also decided that CIMMYT will advise INTA on developing a proposal for wheat-production related training activities, since the seminar was convoked specifically to analyze decentralization mechanisms for wheat research.

...the more advanced national institutes, beneficiary or target national institutes, international institutes and donors should be assured full participation in decision making...



At the seminar, inaugurated by IICA Director General Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, participants agreed on the viability of decentralizing agricultural research and the need to accomplish it gradually through specific projects.

Meanwhile, IICA will continue cooperating with this process "by calling a meeting of the technical committee once the projects are ready. IICA will give continuity to the process, producing the minutes, keeping files, and maintaining contact with specific donors in order to carry out specific activities," said Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Director of Technology Generation and Transfer Program.

Finally, Dr. Enrique Alarcón, who represented the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) and had been elected Chair of the meeting, said its aim has been to create "a system sufficiently attractive to make all participants feel they are contributing to a common goal, regardless of the fact that some countries and international centers will have a leadership role in the research. And if at a given time one country plays a more important role than another receiving the benefits of decentralization, the second one will also be strengthened and become a leader, and an equitable distribution of responsibilities will result."

8 11 organizations agree to formulate strategy: OBSTACLES TO AGRICULTURAL GROWTH ACCENTUATE HUNGER PROBLEM

Hunger is on the rise, reversing the trend of recent decades, and nutrition and health levels among low-income groups in Latin America and Africa are deteriorating at alarming rates.

At the same time, the economic crisis in combination with adjustment programs have cut back agricultural investments, blocking urgently needed reactivation efforts in the agricultural and food-producing sectors of many developing countries.

Leaders of 11 nutrition, finance and trade-related international organizations agreed on this perspective and on the importance of formulating a world strategy to reduce hunger, although they acknowledged that opinions vary with regard to policy priorities and focus.

Representatives of those institutes attended in Rome the Consultative Meeting of the World Food Council with international funding, trade and food organizations, in November 12, 1987.

REACTIVATING AGRICULTURE

One of the main topics discussed at the meeting was how to reactivate the agriculture and food sector within the constraints of the crisis and economic adjustment process.

On this note, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), mentioned the deliberations of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which culminated in the Declaration of Ottawa and emphasized the specific role of technical and financial cooperation organizations in the agricultural sector.

Conference participants recommended that the organizations design structural adjustment programs that incorporate the objectives of growth and that they promote agricultural development by establishing a flow of resources.

They also called for increasing available resources with



an eye toward financing investment projects for technology generation and transfer on the national level, and for modernizing the public agricultural sector.

In Latin America more than anywhere else, agricultural results depend on export markets; and both the depressed conditions of world agricultural trade and protectionism and subsidies in other countries are endangering prospects for growth in the region's agricultural sector.

ADVERSE OUTLOOK

The adverse outlook for medium-term economic growth, primarily because of the heavy burden of debt service, will inhibit the expansion of domestic markets, agricultural growth and improvements in nutrition.

- The rise in the number of hungry people demonstrates that the present response of organizations and governments they serve is far from adequate.

Representatives from IICA, the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the European Economic Community (EEC), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Food Council (WFC), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Islamic Development Bank, and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), met in Rome, where they recognized that basic differences of opinion concern the application of adjustment policies that protect the poor.

ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS

The approach taken by some organizations centers on conventional stabilization and adjustment programs that aim to balance the economy.

These are accompanied by measures that compensate the poor for the harm they may have suffered during this process.

Other organizations view the prevailing adjustment programs as an opportunity to integrate the problems of poverty and hunger more fully into adjustment processes underway, thereby generating sustained benefits for low-income populations.

CONSIDERING THE POOR

The representatives acknowledged the growing consensus among international organizations that economic adjustment processes are necessary and attention should be given to how the adjustments are made, especially as concerns how the poor are affected.

"Any adjustment program that ignores the interests of

the majority of the populations has failed," said Piñeiro.

The Rome meeting allowed for a frank exchange of opinions and information regarding the activities of the organizations, and inconsistencies and contradictions were apparent.

It was also recognized that many questions remained unanswered concerning the way various entities approach hunger and nutrition problems in light of the present economic conditions.

However, participants took the first step toward evaluating these matters, and representatives stated their firm desire to exchange information more frequently under similar, unofficial circumstances.



GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS DONATES NEW OFFICES TO IICA

The government of Barbados, represented by the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries, Warwick O. Franklin, M.P., donated a house to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for its new office.

The Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, expressed his appreciation to Minister Warwick for his country's show of support, which will reinforce the activities of the Institute on the island.

Barbados has been a member of IICA since 1976 when it became an independent country. Given its limited resources, it has made significant progress to improve the standard of living and diversify the economy.

Important sources of economic growth include tourism, manufacturing and agriculture. The principle crop is sugarcane, but fishing is also becoming an increasingly important economic activity.

Agriculture's contribution to economic development in Barbados continues to be very important. The government is pursuing a diversification strategy that consists of two mutually supportive, interrelated parts: increased efficiency in the sugar industry, with clearly defined production goals stated in tons, and introduction of other crops to expand the agriculture subsector.

With this strategy, increased foreign exchange earnings from exports will permit increased import substitution within a framework of greater agroindustrial development.

IICA actions in Barbados during 1987 were consistent with the diversification policy pursued by the government, with a strong emphasis on technology generation and transfer and a national program to promote fruit production.

Another IICA action in Barbados is a project to support planning and administration for rural development in the Caribbean, which led Barbados to strengthen management of its information systems for decision-making in the agricultural sector.

To this end, a joint study was carried out through consultations with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MAFF), to identify priority areas where the government can develop its information systems rapidly.



The new IICA office in Barbados.

With regard to technology generation and transfer, IICA provided technical assistance for food and fruit production in response to high import costs of these products, the plunge of sugar prices on the world market, and the steady reduction of quotas in preferential markets.

Within this framework, the government of Barbados requested IICA's cooperation in diversifying its agriculture sector, especially as concerns its fruit crops. IICA supported this process through the generation and transfer of appropriate technological packages for fruit production. To this end, the project has concentrated on training activities, with special emphasis on fruit production and orchard management, plant propagation and coordination between research and transfer.

Another IICA cooperation activity in Barbados involved providing training for the staff of the Scotland District Soil Conservation Unit in animal breeding, soil management and conservation techniques, in order to ensure maximum productive investment in these areas.

In the field of organization and management of rural development, IICA began a program to train administrators of micro-agribusiness, and a consultation project through which more than 90 people from state institutions and small agrarian enterprises received training.

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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 made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

News bulletin on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo. 55-2200 Coronado, San Jose, Costa Rica. Cable: IICASANJOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Telephone: 290222.

IICA



July 1988. Year V, No. 18.

NEWS

CANADA BOOSTS RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Under the terms of a agreement signed with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Canada will contribute the equivalent of US\$3.75 million for carrying out projects of benefit to agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

"This contribution is being made in recognition of IICA's excellent work to promote the economic and social development of its member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean," was the comment made by Mr. Stanley E. Gooch, the Canadian Ambassador to Costa Rica (where IICA headquarters is located), on the occasion of the signing of the letter of understanding on July 5.

Canada will contribute human and financial resources

during the next four years to work in a number of innovative areas considered critical for strengthening the Institute's capacity to work with its member countries. The design and implementation of activities will place special emphasis on promoting and broadening the participation of women as active agents in the development process.

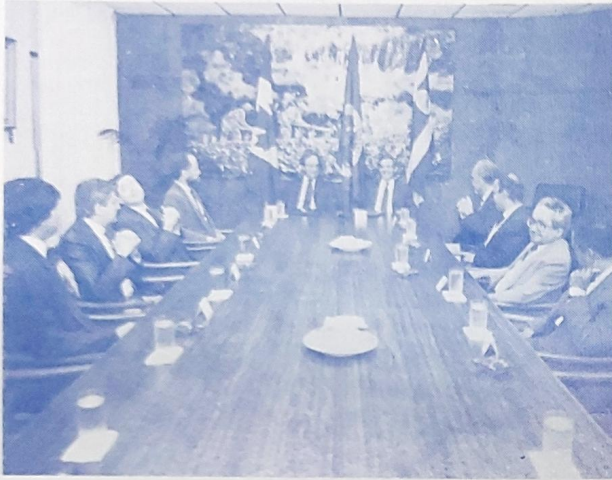
Canada's decision to encourage development in the region with this major contribution was announced initially by Monique Landry, Minister for External Relations and International Cooperation, during opening ceremonies of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture.

In expressing his satisfaction with the Canada's contri-



Mr. Stanley E. Gooch, Ambassador of Canada in Costa Rica and Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, signed a co-operation agreement for the execution of projects benefitting the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

CANADA BOOSTS...



High-level IICA officials attended the signing of the cooperation agreement between Canada and the Institute.

bution to the development of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñero, said, "The signing of this letter of understanding marks a new phase of cooperation between the Institute and Canada, the principal beneficiaries of which will be our member countries."

This Canadian contribution will be earmarked for the implementation of five specific projects, one in each of the program areas in which IICA concentrates its activities. The first, entitled "Intersectoral Relations as the Basis for Reactivating Agriculture and Economic Growth," is designed to aid the countries in the formulation of strategies for the modernization of agriculture, to ensure proper coordination of macroeconomic and sectoral policies.

"Access to New Developments in the Field of Biotechnology," the second area of work, will work with national research systems, improving their capabilities to generate, acquire, use and assimilate the latest technological breakthroughs in the field of biotechnology.

The project in the area of rural development, "Differentiated Policies and Systems for Participation in Rural Development" will provide a means to support the process of policy formulation and institutional strengthening in the public management systems for rural development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The fourth area of work will be "Identifying and Penetrating Market Niches," designed to single out an array of agroindustrial products that could be marketed in the United States and Canada. These products will be studied for the possibility of developing coinvestment projects, targeting commercial activities *per se* as well as investment potential.

Finally, an "Information System for Animal Health and Plant Protection in the Caribbean" will be established in the countries of the Caribbean. It will provide information and monitoring services on the presence, incidence and distribution of animal and plant pests and diseases, facilitating government decision-making on priorities and programs for pest and disease control.

Agriculture Canada will be the executing agency for this four-year project, slated to begin on July 1, 1988, and will serve as a channel for the CIDA contribution to IICA.

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EEC, Sweden and Belgium: FOCUS ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA

Governmental representatives and spokespersons from cooperation agencies in Europe recently indicated their interest in the process of agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and their desire to offer support through a joint effort with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

This was the message conveyed to the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñero, and the Director of External Relations, Dr. Jorge Werthein, during an official visit to Europe, from June 26 to July 1.

During their visit, they had the opportunity to exchange ideas with representatives of the European Economic Community (EEC), as well as government officials and executives of cooperation agencies in Sweden, Belgium and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Conversations were continued with the EEC on possibilities for joint participation to launch cooperative actions, especially in Central America.

In Sweden, discussions covered opportunities for cooperating with Central America through the establishment of a fund for regional projects, and it was agreed to present various ideas. Conversations took place with the government of Belgium on the possibility of IICA serving as the executing agency for bilateral projects under way in Suriname, Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

The IICA visitors were also informed that the government of Sweden is considering the possibility of applying for IICA permanent observer country status.

WITH THE EEC

Meetings with EEC officials provided a forum to examine possibilities for closer cooperation between the Community and IICA. Discussion focused especially on possible projects in Central America that are under consideration for funding by the EEC.

Representatives of the Community emphasized IICA's proven technical and administrative capability in the field of project management. This background, they stressed, provides a comparative advantage for the institution and qualifies it to implement EEC-funded projects.

The Community attached particular importance to statements made in support of IICA's work by the Ministers of Agriculture of the region, in the framework of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA).

The EEC is presently in the process of selecting an institution to conduct a research project in Central America, which would be implemented over a four-year period with funding of US\$19 million. It was revealed that IICA is currently being considered.

IN SWEDEN

Dr. Piñero and Dr. Werthein continued conversations in Sweden with the Swedish Assistance Agency for Research in Developing Countries (SAREC), on a project being prepared in Program I. Drafting of the proposal is nearly complete, and the outlook for obtaining funding is very positive.

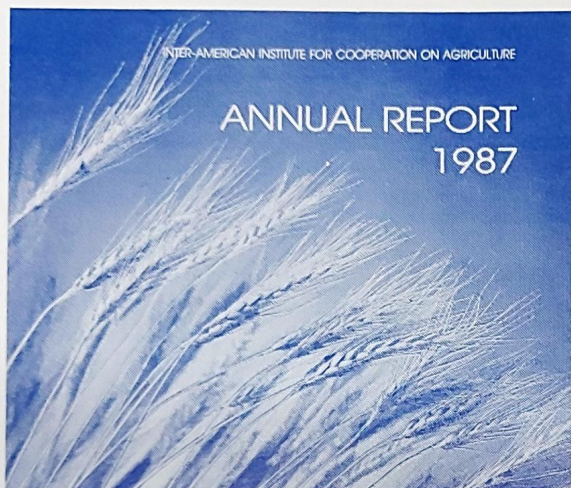
Conversations with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) - which has approved US\$8.5 million for projects in Central America - focused on Institute activities now under way in the isthmus. SIDA representatives expressed interest in working with the Institute, and pointed to the need for regional projects that have the political support of the countries. They then called on IICA to submit this type of initiative for their consideration.

IN BELGIUM

Belgium allocates only eight percent of its total world cooperation funds to Latin America, but opportunities arose whereby IICA might share in the country's work by having the Institute formulate and implement projects.

Belgium is already active in Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Suriname, and this would provide a framework for the Institute to present projects for study during bilateral negotiations. These projects - to last two to three years with funding ranging between US\$1 million and US\$3 million - could begin immediately in Suriname, where talks will begin in August.

IICA Annual Report: MEDIUM TERM PLAN MOVES INTO SECOND YEAR



In the 1987 Annual Report, published by the Institute this month, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), states that in the year in question IICA was able to carry out the 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan and further develop its underlying philosophy.

According to Dr. Piñeiro, the Medium Term Plan, which sets forth the basic orientations and guidelines of IICA actions, was endorsed at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) in Ottawa, Canada, a meeting convened by the OAS and IICA, and a true "summit conference" on agriculture in Latin America.

According to Dr. Piñeiro, "The Ottawa Declaration clearly demonstrates the consensus achieved on the central role the revitalization and modernization of agriculture must play in the economic reactivation and development of the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)... It also evidences general agreement on the changes that must come about if agriculture is to assume a leading role in the recovery. This would include improving and adjusting conditions intrinsic and extrinsic to the countries, stepping up joint actions for solving specific problems, and strengthening the renewed regional and subregional integration process."

He points to the growing recognition that political stability and peace in most of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean hinge on the region's ability to resume the path of sustained growth with economic and social development.

The ICMA, eager to put into action the political consensus achieved in Ottawa, entrusted IICA with the preparation of a strategic plan for joint action to revitalize

agriculture and economic development in LAC.

The Director General emphasized that this is not a study, but rather a plan for concrete actions that will trigger the reactivation and modernization of agriculture in the region.

In accordance with the mandate of the IABA, IICA began to draft the strategic Plan in 1987 and will present a preliminary version to be considered by the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, to be held next month. The Plan will address the principal points on which consensus was reached during the Ninth ICMA, said Dr. Piñeiro.

The Director General stresses that "The dissemination of the ideas forthcoming from the Ninth ICMA and the aforementioned preparation of the Plan of Action are undoubtedly the most important tasks carried out in 1987 to comply with the Mandate of Ottawa."

"Efforts to disseminate this information have included publication of the book "Reactivating Agriculture: A Strategy for Development," which contains the technical working documents of the Conference, as well as the Ottawa Declaration and the recommendations. In addition, the recommendations were delivered directly to agencies and institutions by the Conference Chairman, Mr. John Wise, Minister of Agriculture of Canada."

The 1987 Annual Report also states that the Director General was present at the meeting of the OAS General Assembly in Washington in November, at which time the foreign ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean endorsed the agreements reached in Ottawa and the initiative to promote a "Plan of Action."

Other good news was the incorporation of Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines into IICA as its two newest Member States. This exemplifies the trust and interest the Institute has gained over the years.

The Director adds that the staff of IICA's programs, with new orientations and organizational structure, are already hard at work to generate news ideas and provide direct technical cooperation. "Proof of this is the publications and dissemination of the official documents describing the guidelines of technical cooperation for each of the five Programs, and the new Program Papers Series, that focuses on specific topics of interest in these areas and already includes seven titles. Furthermore, many technical meetings were held with participation from specialists and officials of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, and other countries and international organizations."

IICA AND IDB DEFINE THIRD PHASE OF AGREEMENT FOR PREPARING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

At least eight agricultural development projects will be prepared during the next three years through a joint effort of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as the organizations begin a new phase of cooperation.

The third phase of an agreement signed in 1981, now in the final stage of negotiation, would benefit the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, according to project preparation specialist Roberto Casás, of IICA's Investment Projects Center (CEPI).

Preparation costs for the projects are estimated at US\$3 million, most of which will be contributed by IDB. IICA's contribution will consist of technical and professional resources from the Project Preparation Unit (PPU).

This unit, established in 1981 as a result of the technical cooperation agreement signed by IICA and IDB, directs the joint effort between the organizations, and aims to furnish the infrastructure necessary for preparing agricultural development projects for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean that are likely to be taken over and financed by IDB through loans.

This third phase of the technical cooperation agreement also provides for specific studies to support preparation of projects by individual countries, which, for various reasons, may need technical assistance to carry them out.

Preparation of each project will last approximately six months, beginning when the interested country requests IDB assistance in preparing a specific project for the agricultural sector.

IDB and IICA will coordinate actions for sending a reconnaissance mission to the country making the request, to determine the conditions under which the project will be carried out. Based on the final report delivered by the mission after several weeks of work, the possibility of forming a technical group to take charge of project preparation is considered.

The PPU official will serve as leader of the mission, and will select other experts to participate in the group. The

IDB will then assign one or more technical experts to accompany IICA personnel in this effort.

The IICA mission will arrive in the country to sign an agreement that formalizes the terms for preparing the project, its scope, cost and other factors. This legal instrument will serve as a base for the work, under IICA supervision and with support from the IDB representation in the given country.

Once its work is finished, the mission will return to IICA Headquarters to prepare the final version of the project. After it is approved by the Institute, the project will be presented to IDB for final approval; lastly, the beneficiary country is notified.

This mechanism benefits the country that requested cooperation, because it leaves behind technical experts who are qualified to perform functions similar to those of the PPU officials.

In the last six years, the IICA-IDB unit prepared a dozen projects, of which eight are in implementation with loans granted by the Bank. According to Casás, the sum of this investment is US\$400 million.



Roberto Casás, Project Preparation Specialist of IICA's Investment Projects Center (CEPI).

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS

The Executive Committee, one of the governing bodies of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation of Agriculture (IICA), will meet at Institute Headquarters in Costa Rica during August 1-4, 1988.

The Committee acts on behalf of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) between the meetings of the latter, and, in its capacity as an executive organ, makes decisions on matters that do not lie strictly within the competence of the IABA. Members of the Committee are determined by a system of partial rotation and equitable geographic distribution. Member States serve on the Executive Committee for two-year terms.

At present, the Committee consists of Argentina, the United States of America and Venezuela (Group 1); Bolivia, Ecuador and Paraguay (Group 2); El Salvador, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic (Group 3); and Barbados, Grenada and Suriname (Group 4).

During the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, the following topics, among others, will be discussed: the 1987 Annual Report; reports on compliance with the resolutions of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and of the Fourth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture; as well as the report on compliance with the resolutions of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

For his part, the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, at the request of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, in 1987, will present a report on IICA's programs, with emphasis on the Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program (Program I) and the Technology Generation and Transfer Program (Program II).

With regard to Program I, Dr. Piñeiro explains in his report that during 1987 the Program has oriented "its actions towards achieving the specific objective of collaborating with the countries in designing and implementing agricultural policies that will serve as effective tools to ensure that the sector plays a substantive role in stimulating the economy."

Thus, in this report, the activities carried out under Program I are analyzed, and, according to Piñeiro, they constitute "a series of actions aimed at clarifying the role of agriculture in economic recovery, taking into account intersectoral relations."

With regard to Program II, the report states that during 1987, the Program was oriented "toward developing the technical cooperation instruments required in the strategy of the Medium Term Plan, for consolidating, implementing and expanding a series of projects already underway in some priority areas, principally in regard to technical cooperation networks and the international transfer of technology, and toward establishing complementary relations with institutions similar in nature to IICA, so as to avoid duplication of efforts."

With regard to the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Director General will present to the Executive Committee the first proposal of the Plan, which describes the activities and schedule for its preparation. This document proposes that activities for the preparation stage be divided into two: "Development of the conceptual framework and identification of possible actions," which would cover December 1987 to August 1988, and "Preparation of the proposal for action," which would begin August 1988 and continue until August 1989.

In the first stage, action-oriented papers will be written that review successful activities carried out in the countries with respect to the topics addressed. In preparation for this stage, a series of basic documents has already been prepared that explain the progress made and the objectives of the Plan; it will be used in efforts to obtain funding from countries and from international technical cooperation organizations.

Also, a number of consultation and discussion mechanisms will be designed and set into motion. These include a series of technical meetings involving the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, agricultural cooperation and funding agencies, as well as consultation meetings with the countries, at the national, subregional and hemispheric levels. Based on developments achieved during the first stage, the proposals for action will be prepared in greater detail.

This proposal, in addition to being considered at the meeting of the Executive Committee, will be presented to the International Advisory Commission in August. A modified version, the final proposal, will be presented to the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere in October, 1989, on the occasion of the fifth meeting of the IABA, to be held in Brazil.

PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL CULTURAL REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

For Technological Innovation: INTERACTION BETWEEN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS MUST BE STEPPED UP

Participants in the High-Level Seminar on Policies and Mobilization of Resources for Technological Innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean concluded that interaction between the public and private sectors as concerns technological innovation must be increased.

The activity, which took place in Montevideo, Uruguay from June 27 to 29, is part of a cycle of high-level seminars organized by the Inter-American Institute for

Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in an effort to gather input and feedback for the process to prepare the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Dr. Eduardo Trigo, explained that the seminar, which was co-sponsored by the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank, was a valu-



Appearing from left to right are Dr. Edmundo Gastal, IICA Representative (in charge) in Uruguay; Dr. Cassio Luiselli, IICA Deputy Director General for Operations; Dr. Alberto Brausse Berreta, Undersecretary for Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries in Uruguay; Dr. Carlos Enrique Fernández, from the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank; and Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program.

able opportunity for bringing together representatives from the government and private sectors, as well as from international cooperation and lending organizations in order to promote the exchange of ideas.

Participants stressed the need to establish clear priorities and a scope of action for public and private sectors in the process to generate and transfer technology.

There was agreement on the need for the public sector to have a leading role in the development of technologies that are readily accessible to farmers (non-appropriable technology), and for the government to intervene in cases where potential beneficiaries need the support and organization that the public sector can provide.

Government participation was also recommended in matters concerning small-scale farmers, so as to guarantee equity, ensure a broad dissemination of technology and avoid duality in agricultural systems.

The government sector was also considered to have an important contribution to make in generating and transferring technology for the conservation of natural resources.

As concerns the role of the private sector, participants agreed that its growing participation in the technological innovation process was positive.



Representatives of international organizations, the private and public sectors and national research agencies exchange views at the seminar on technology.

To take full advantage of this participation, it was felt that specific proposals must be developed for establishing a legal framework regulating relations between the private and public sectors in the area of research, "given the complexities arising from the high level of uncertainty and the increasingly commercial nature of the results of this type of research," stated Trigo.

...the seminar was a valuable opportunity for bringing together representatives from the government and private sectors, as well as from international cooperation and lending organizations in order to promote the exchange of ideas...

The consequences of the privatization of knowledge will also have to be studied, especially as concerns biotechnology. Thought will also have to be given to recognizing the commercial value of the products of public sector efforts.

The experts meeting in Montevideo pointed out a number of areas where public and private sectors are already at work together and where these joint efforts can be further enhanced.

They include, among others: export promotion agencies engaged in technological research related to their export products; public research centers (state, universities) that contract work out to private agencies; and joint ventures between national agricultural research institutes and private companies or farmers' organizations.

Another subject given importance by seminar participants was the idea of promoting joint actions between the countries, with the support of international cooperation agencies, for increasing technology generation and transfer.

To this end, it was recommended that support be given to efforts contributing to subregional cooperation and integration, because it was felt that one of the most effective mechanisms for encouraging integration at the subregional level is through the exchange of experiences and technological knowledge.

Eduardo Trigo: MEETING ON TECHNOLOGY TARGETS NEW OPPORTUNITIES



Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Director of the Program of Technology Generation and Transfer at IICA.

IICA held a recent seminar on policies and resource mobilization for technological innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The seminar, according to Dr. Eduardo Trigo, was designed to bring together a varied group of participants in the technological innovation process, including representatives from the public and private sectors, specialists in shaping agricultural policy, representatives, from international centers, and spokespersons from producer organizations, all interested in identifying opportunities and lines of action.

Trigo, Director of the Program of Technology Generation and Transfer at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), was in charge of coordinating the seminar, held in Montevideo from June 27 to 29. While he acknowledges the presence of a "crisis in the public research sector and heavy financial restrictions deriving from the foreign debt," he also emphasizes that "coupled with the crisis are new opportunities."

One such opportunity available today, according to Trigo, is that the conclusions and lines of action emerg-

ing from an event such as this can be reflected in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation that IICA is presently preparing. "(This will) give us a direct channel to the highest levels of policy decision making in the sector," he said.

Such an opportunity casts this type of seminar in a whole new light. In Trigo's judgement, preparation of the Plan of Action served as a special asset for the meeting, providing "a catalyst to spark discussions that proved dynamic, very participatory and highly productive."

He explained that, historically, technological discussions took place in the management circles of agricultural research, but that this seminar allowed for broader debate.

IICA's Program Director explained that the seminar had set up a new standing group for discussing technological innovation in Latin America, with the participation of all the agents in the process. With regard to the role the private and public sectors must play, he said it was clear now that although the public sector is of central importance and has essential responsibilities for certain areas, sectors and problems, there are matters that the private sector can attend to more efficiently. "The task before us is to find mechanisms for joint action," he said.

He added that there was a clear acceptance that national budgets could not be expected to provide all the funding. Instead, a legal framework must be created to mobilize resources between the private and public sectors.

He also mentioned a consensus within the group that biotechnology is "an inescapable reality. We are not talking about alternative paths, but rather complementary ones. This is a new, dynamic environment; it cannot replace present approaches, but stands to make them more efficient and ushers us into new worlds where we could not go before. It remains clear, however, that major investment is needed in this area, and not just financial investment."

Edgardo Moscardi: AGRICULTURE BACKED BY TECHNOLOGY WILL TRIGGER ECONOMY

Agriculture can reactivate the economies of Latin America, but not without technical support, said the Director of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) of Argentina, Dr. Edgardo Moscardi, in a seminar on policies and resource mobilization for technological innovation in the agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Research must make its contribution, he affirmed at the seminar in Montevideo. The sector will be able to revitalize the economy only if it is modernized, "and modernization is regarded as an inexhaustible source of new technologies that increase productivity and competitiveness."

He stressed that the idea is not just to improve the competitiveness and the comparative advantages of traditional products such as coffee, cacao, bananas, wool, meat and cereals, but also to concentrate on non-traditional export products.

In his judgement, this poses an important challenge for research, because Latin America must have access to the best technology so it can work, export and produce more competitively in the international market.



Dr. Edgardo Moscardi, Director of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) of Argentina.

"We think agricultural research must put forth a new institutional model for technology generation, moving beyond the purposes for which our national research institutes were created some 25 years ago. They initially served as what we could call converters of available international technology, but today we have to generate our own technology," Moscardi said.

He asserted that with the phenomenon of privatization of science and the patenting of innovations, international technology is no longer so easily available. "It ceases to be a public good and becomes a private one that is patentable and appropriable. Public research institutes cannot ignore this new situation and must also modernize," he observed.

Moscardi explained that from INTA's point of view, the process of restructuring these public research institutes encompasses at least five important elements. The first is to combine efforts with the private sector. In his judgement, the few national resources available in Latin America must be integrated with those of the private sector, to induce a sense of shared responsibility for the process of generating and transferring technology. "It is a form of joint venture," he said.

The second ingredient in the restructuring, he said, is the availability of information systems on markets and technologies.

The third important element is the sharing of certain responsibilities with international research centers. "These centers must move toward more basic, strategic research, with increased emphasis on genetic engineering. Because these fields are more sophisticated, they require additional capital and greater investment in staff and training, which we do not have."

Fourthly, opportunities are available to develop cooperation mechanisms between our programs and universities, in order to begin organizing graduate programs. The fifth important element is work aimed specifically at resource-poor farmers, who run the risk of "remaining on the fringes of the process of technology generation and transfer," he concluded.

Dr. Rodrigo Zeledón: TECHNOLOGY REQUIRES COMBINED EFFORTS



Dr. Rodrigo Zeledón, Minister of Science and Technology of Costa Rica.

The need to combine efforts in a number of fields, including technology, was emphasized by Dr. Rodrigo Zeledón, Minister of Science and Technology of Costa Rica, in a seminar on policies and resource mobilization for technological innovation in the agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean.

"It is not a question of simply getting together the individuals who work in different spheres of modern technology, especially in the agricultural field," he said. "We are also talking about cooperation among countries."

In his view, "The wealthy countries have unquestionably made great strides, and the phenomenon that has made them increasingly wealthy is simply the development and use of modern technology. Our countries have only one alternative if they wish to strengthen their economies and offset this advantage of the developed world."

"The sensible path for us to take is to complement one another; and Latin America faces the challenge, perhaps as never before, of seeking more efficient and effective mechanisms to coordinate actions among

countries, institutions, research centers and producers," he observed.

Dr. Zeledón sustained that in many ways, the countries of Latin America share a common destiny. "There are 325 million of us, and I think the time has come to start thinking about mechanisms that will allow us to work together for higher standards of living for everyone."

He underscored efforts made during the seminar, which in his opinion was successful. He rated it as a highly valuable opportunity to bring together a group of specialists in different fields and put them in contact with representatives of the vital forces of change in the countries of Latin America.

"Specifically, the private sector has some very important figures, people directly linked to production, marketing and export of agricultural commodities; there are also representatives of academia and research institutions, whether run by the government or working with the government at this time."

The minister emphasized the need to apply technological innovation in the field of agriculture because "Latin America has always been close to the land, which fortunately in our countries is fertile and generous."

He commented that modern know-how was invaluable for taking full advantage of this greatest of natural resources, the land.

He also mentioned that the technologies available today lie fully within Latin America's grasp. "For example, biotechnology is a powerful tool for our countries to wield in production, to maximize efficiency and lower the costs of agricultural production, which currently are very high."

Dr. Zeledón stressed that for this reason, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean must combine their efforts on many fronts, knowing that together they can raise standards of living, increase social justice, and achieve greater freedom - from hunger, from poverty and from misery in the region.

Fernando Homem de Melo: THE CHALLENGE OF BALANCED TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT



Dr. Fernando Homem de Melo, professor at the University of Sao Paulo.

The most important challenge is to achieve balanced technological development so as to benefit many different agricultural sectors, and not just selected groups, according to Dr. Fernando Homem de Melo, professor at the University of Sao Paulo and renowned Brazilian economist.

Dr. Homem de Melo, in attendance at the seminar on policies and resource mobilization for technological innovation in the agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean, pointed out that Brazil has made technical progress, but the advances have not been balanced; export producers have been the primary beneficiaries.

He singled out the soybean crop as an example, as this product currently brings in foreign exchange earnings of nearly US\$4 billion; by contrast, beans, cassava and corn have made far less technological progress.

Consequently, he explained, Brazil now faces the challenge of bringing technological development to those subsectors of its agricultural population that have lagged behind.

Nonetheless, he added that his country has achieved

"quite reasonable" growth in agricultural output, especially given the increase in grain production and the rising international prices for products such as soybeans.

This is Brazil's principle farm export, and soybean production rose by 1.5 million tons since last year. Moreover, because of the drought conditions presently affecting the soybean crop in the United States, prices rose more than they had in the last 10 years, to more than US\$350 per ton, Dr. Homem de Melo said.

However, he highlighted the importance of the technological innovation process, to which he attributed much of the increase in gross agricultural output.

"Despite the fact that Brazil still has considerable potential to expand its agricultural frontier, especially in the central region, we have chosen to concentrate on upgrading technology, particularly in states that have long-standing agricultural traditions (Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Catarina, Parana, Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais.)

Dr. Homem de Melo stressed that the new know-how and technology had been supplied mainly by public research organizations, although some had also been contributed by the private sector.

He added that the Brazilian Institute for Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA) has had a decisive role in developing agricultural technology since the 1970s. He also saluted private sector participation, particularly noting the work of the AGROCERES enterprise, which is the main source of hybrid corn seeds in the country and has a major department of genetic research in swine and poultry.

"Private sector participation, although not as broad as that of the public sector, is important, in terms of contributions by national companies as well as firms of international parentage. I believe the role of private companies must grow, especially now, with increased agricultural use of biotechnology becoming a real possibility," he concluded.

Carlos Gustavo Cano: RESEARCH PAYS OFF WHEN TECHNOLOGY IS ADOPTED

Research will yield social gains only to the extent that organized groups of users adopt technology, use it, market the results, convert it into a source of increased production to the benefit of consumers, and put it to work to increase the flow of investment in our societies, stated Dr. Carlos Gustavo Cano, General Manager of FEDEARROZ, of Colombia.

Dr. Cano, who was in Montevideo for a seminar on policies and resource mobilization for technological innovation in the agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean, underscored the important role of the user.

"Conflicts generally arise when researchers and scientists have differing views, or when the government begins to set medium-and long-term research goals," he explained.

This is because "research must be marketed; it must have a mechanism for asking the right questions and finding the answers, and this mechanism must operate in constant contact with users and, ultimately, with producers," he added.

He explained that producers must be asked what they



Dr. Carlos Gustavo Cano, General Manager of FEDEARROZ, of Colombia.

want and what they expect from research, because they are in constant contact with the market, which is composed of consumers. "If this part of the process is overlooked, I'm afraid the risks would be very high during the long-term research process," he warned.

He noted that during the seminar, discussion focused on approaches for obtaining research funding and ways to present a stronger case to multilateral banks and private or public national banks, and convince them of the benefits to be gained by funding for research.

"I am convinced that the key is to hold out technological innovations that will be adopted by the private sector, by the producers," he said.

"As a banker, I would never fund a project that was not going to be put to use," he affirmed. "And who will put it to use? The farmer. This is why I continue to insist that producers should play an ongoing and increasingly visible role in discussions on options for technology research and transfer."

"This will give us access to the viewpoint, the voice and the stance that can effectively guide the entire research effort," he continued. "It will provide a shortcut between basic research and practical applications of new technology in the fields of Latin America."

In his judgement, this feedback process is falling short in Latin America. Only to the extent that feedback is effective, beginning with the farmers themselves, will research centers produce a higher return on funds invested in them.

As an example, Dr. Cano mentioned a new cultivation technique for rice, known as "fangueo," in which rice fields are leveled. The Institute of Hydrology, Methodology and Land Improvement was assigned to develop the technique, with funding from the World Bank.

Cano explained that a subsequent step in the program is the presentation of a series of visual displays for teaching the new technique to small-scale farmers in zones where agrarian reform has taken place.

Ney Bittencourt: AGRICULTURE CANNOT STAND ALONE



*Dr. Ney Bittencourt Araujo, President of
Brazil's AGROCERES.*

Agriculture, no longer bound by the traditions of the last century, cannot be an island, isolated from the rest of today's economy. It must be integrated into the stream so that farmers can have rapid, efficient access to the technology that will allow them to compete for meeting the demand of the world's consumers, said Dr. Ney Bittencourt Araujo, President of Brazil's AGROCERES.

"In the developed countries, agriculture is the sector that assimilates technology most rapidly," said Dr. Bittencourt at the seminar on policies and resource mobilization for technological innovation in the agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean, held from June 27 to 29 in Montevideo.

"Research, production inputs and information make up the full complex of services to farmers," he pointed out. "It encompasses storage, transportation, processing and distribution."

In this context, he said that in most Latin America countries the paternalistic model of government has

reached the limits of its usefulness. "Conditions are no longer suitable for the governments of our countries to play the same role as they did in past decades. Thus we must make an effort to keep the government within its own realm, where it is competent and can be efficient, and see that other responsibilities are left to private enterprise, which - because of its flexibility and organizational structure - can attend to them more successfully."

He emphasized that calling for the government to work with the private sector is nothing new, as developed countries have used this approach for decades.

Dr. Bittencourt asserted that there is an area of activity in which the government, public institutions and universities are uniquely qualified to carry out basic research. "This is the government's responsibility. Afterward comes the process of transforming basic research into technology."

He explained that the technological transformation phase of the process provides an opportunity to incorporate the private sector, which is geared toward the market and is in tune with real problems and needs.

This phase - in which research and technological developments in basic areas are transformed and made available to users - must fall to private enterprise, he added.

He called on the private sector to play a strong role in research programs, inasmuch as it is this sector, in his opinion, that can provide feedback to research centers, indicating which lines of research are most important to the market. "Scientists, for lack of true contact with the needs of rural areas, are often devoted to raising awareness of problems that are not really pressing, and neglecting those that are," he said.

Dr. Bittencourt advocated balance among the different participants in the agricultural sector of the economy. For example, he cited the problem of pricing and said, "If there are no price incentives, if no profit is to be made, technology will never be adopted."

Central America and the Dominican Republic: CACAO NETWORK TO SPARK RESEARCH, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND TRAINING

7

Research, technology transfer and training are the key components of a network recently established to improve cacao production. Assistance was provided for this project by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with economic support from the Regional Office of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID-ROCAP).

The network, which began operation in April, brings together research and technology transfer institutions in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Panama, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic.

The goal of the network is to augment the incomes of small- and medium-scale cacao producers in the area, by increasing their production and productivity levels.

IICA studies in the subregion reveal that 160,000 hectares of land are planted to cacao, most of which is characterized by low yields.

"Current production is between 150 and 200 kilos per hectare. However, appropriate technology could increase these yields to 1000 to 1200 kilos per hectare", according to Dr. Eduardo Lindarte, of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program.

He noted that of the total area under cultivation (160,000 hectares), only 25,000 hectares are on the Central American isthmus. This is why it is necessary to encourage more production, especially in view of the high quality of Central American cacao, with an almond-like flavor much sought-after on the world market.

"This cacao sells at a premium, above and beyond the normal price," said Lindarte, "since it is especially suited to the production of fine chocolates."

...Current production is between 150 and 200 kilos per hectare. However, appropriate technology could increase these yields to 1000 to 1200 kilos per hectare...



Dr. Eduardo Lindarte, Specialist in Transfer and Technology Generation of IICA

mented, are interested in developing ties with the subregion, and this holds great promise for cacao cultivation.

Activities associated with the network are expected to cost US\$2.5 million dollars. Work will focus on disease control, the production of high-quality germplasm, the improvement of cropping practices, technology transfer, and training.

Technical assistance will be provided by the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) and the Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research (FHIA).

In Dr. Lindarte's opinion, "This network will offer far more than conventional networks, as it will develop close ties with countries as well as producers".

The network is based on a structure consisting of a Regional Advisory Committee and an Executive Committee. Representatives from various spheres of the public sector will also participate, as will private organizations engaged in production, marketing and other aspects.

Chocolate manufacturers the world over, he com-

Ecuador: IICA TO ASSIST WITH NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is participating in a project to support the management of the Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve in Ecuador, with activities ranging from supplying funds to establishing an on-going environmental education program.

The project will also protect communities surrounding the reserve, where severe earthquakes shook the region on March 5 and 6 of last year. The landslides and flooding following the quake claimed many lives and caused heavy damage to homes and livestock.

Given the situation and the damage inflicted on the oil pipeline and various communication networks, this initiative is of key interest to Ecuador. For eight months, the Ecuadoran government has had to depend on Colombia's oil pipeline through a branch line constructed to keep the petroleum fields in production.

Thus it was felt that a program to support the proper management of Cayambe-Coca could provide an opportunity to ward off future risks and safeguard the well-being of surrounding communities.

...Under the agreement, initiatives can be put forth to enhance the protection and appropriate use of natural reserves, at the same time guaranteeing safety for the inhabitants of the region who were affected by the earthquake last year...

The agreement providing the funding was signed by IICA and the Ecuadoran State Petroleum Corporation (CEPE) on April 8, in the presence of Under Secretary for the Amazon Region of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, Virgilia de Rodríguez; General Manager Jaime Sánchez Valdivieso signed on behalf of CEPE, and the IICA representative was the director of the Institute's office in Ecuador, Dr. Jaime Román.

Under the agreement, initiatives will be implemented to enhance the protection and appropriate use of natural reserves, at the same time guaranteeing safety for the

inhabitants of the region who were affected by the earthquake last year.

The current management plan is also under evaluation, and work is being done to identify and zone high-risk areas, examine boundary markers already in place and proceed with the process of marking the borders of the reserve, so as to prepare specific training plans.

SUBPROJECTS

The project is made up of four subprojects: administration, environmental education, boundary markers of the reserve, and institutional strengthening.

The purpose of the first is to identify relevant management programs; it is subdivided into protection of resources, research, tourism potential, and development programs.

Environmental education includes training technical personnel responsible for the ecological reserve; it also calls for informal training to be provided by faculty of schools located near the reserve.

An additional component of the second goal consists of popular environmental education using the mass media and targeting the population settled near Cayambe-Coca, as well as in urban areas.

Plans for the third subproject include planting easily distinguishable exotic forest species as boundary markers for the reserve.

These species will be planted in belts at least 20 meters wide, surrounding the entire reserve and providing a low-maintenance, highly visible demarcation line to protect the zone.

The institutional strengthening subproject will identify areas where the country needs temporary technical assistance from consultants specialized in biological research of plants and animals, looking to develop areas of interest for tourism; management of nature reserves will also be included.

IICA TO ASSIST...

Before the whole project could be written, it was necessary to conduct a diagnostic study of available information on flora and fauna, with special attention to endangered species.

These species include a number of native birds, most notably the South American condor and several rare varieties of partridges, herons and parrots. Also targeted will be several large mammals, including mountain cats and the Andean tapir.

This subproject will also compile documentation on geology, ecology, current biological usage, plant formations, population, volcanic risks, earthquakes, geomorphological mass movements, and places of touristic and scenic interest.

...Before the project could be written, it was necessary to conduct a diagnostic study of available information on flora and fauna, with special attention to endangered species...

IICA presented the initiative to CEPE at the request of the Under Secretary for the Amazon Region of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador.

The Institute pledged funds for the project, to be prepared with the assistance of an advisory consultant. CEPE agreed to provide financing of 1.5 million sucres.

Participants in the project include staff members from the Under Secretariat for the Amazon Region, the National Forestry Bureau, the Ecuadoran Institute of Mines and the Ecuadoran Institute of Agrarian Reform and Settlement.

A six-month period was set for meeting the project's objectives.

THE RESERVE

The Cayambe-Coca Ecological Reserve was created in 1970 for the protection, conservation and research of natural resources found there.

This reserve includes large expanses characterized by high geological and volcanic risk, such as the Reventador Volcano, formed only recently, the snow-capped Cayambe volcano, and the Sarahurco, whose peaks tower over 4,000 meters above sea level.

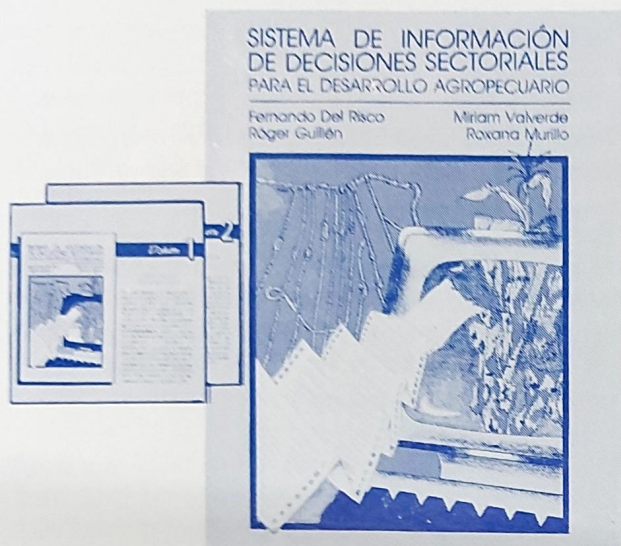
The instability of this area, together with its very rough terrain, pose a real danger to people living at lower elevations and to high-cost infrastructure projects such as highways, oil pipelines, bridges, hydroelectric projects and potable water operations.

The Cayambe-Coca reserve covers 390,375 hectares of land and contains ecosystems found nowhere else in the world, ranging from areas of perpetual snow, like the Cayambe Volcano, to humid tropical zones receiving more than 6,000 millimeters of rainfall per year. The reserve is a source of abundant quantities of water.

The effects of the March 1987 earthquake compelled officials to devote more attention to the protection and use of resources in the reserve and to the safety of the area's inhabitants and infrastructure. This is the main reason that IICA became involved, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador; IICA hired a consultant to identify projects for the area affected by the earthquake, mainly in the reserve.

...This reserve includes large expanses characterized by high geological and volcanic risk, such as the Reventador Volcano, formed only recently, the snow-capped Cayambe volcano, and the Sarahurco, whose peaks tower over 4,000 meters above sea level...

Editorial Service: AN INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR SECTORAL DECISIONS



The Editorial Service of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) recently published a book on SIDES, an information system for sectoral decisions. The usefulness of the publication is that it can serve as support to the policy analysis process because it provides information that will facilitate the work of policy analysis and decision makers.

The 160-page book includes two diskettes: one a manual and the other presenting data bases for applying the system.

The first part contains an explanation of the sectoral decisions information system, which describes the process for analyzing agricultural sector policies, and establishes the need for developing and using computer systems for managing information. The second part describes techniques for collecting data to be incorporated into SIDES. These include directed interviews, specific surveys, Delphi surveys and case studies. Several appendices provide instructions for completing the six record slips that are recommended for SIDES data entry.

The first diskette contains the operating manual for the system and a special file ("LEAME.1RO"), with a support program for printing up the files that describe general features of microcomputer operation, and give a brief introduction to CDS/ISIS, providing an operating manual for the SIDES data bases.

The second diskette includes the system's five data bases with information on sectoral decisions and how to

enforce them; the opinions of qualified informants; the outcome of an evaluation of the impact of decisions; alternative solutions to problems; and updated information on problems which are constraints on the development of each agricultural activity by region. This diskette is used with the CDS/ISIS program.

One of the great advantages of SIDES is that it can be applied to other sectors of the economy or can be used for managerial decisions within any organization.

Members of the technical and professional team responsible for developing the data bases and manual are: Fernando del Risco, Head of IICA's Programming Division; Eduardo Hernández, from Costa Rica's Executive Secretariat for Sectoral Planning of Agricultural Development and Natural Resources; and Alberto Morales, an IICA consultant on fourth-generation languages. The publication was edited by Fanny de la Torre de Kingsley.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Michael Snarskis, Head of IICA's Editorial Service, reports on recent donations that made possible the production of two new publications.

The first, *Compendio de Agronomía, Tomo 2*, is a new version of the well-known French treatise *Memento de L'Agronome*, adapted to the conditions of tropical regions in Latin America, and translated into Spanish.

The production process was greatly expedited by a US\$2500 donation obtained by Michael Ribard and Phillpe Cujo, representatives of the French Embassy's, Regional Office for Scientific and Technical Cooperation in Central America and Panama, who took a special interest in the project.

The second recent publication is a reprinting of "Ecología basada en zonas de vida," a Spanish translation of L. Holdridge's "Life Zone Ecology." The work was facilitated with a donation of US\$1500 from the Regional Office for Central American Programs (ROCAP) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID), obtained through the good offices of Ronnie de Camino, Coordinator of the MADELEÑA Project of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE).

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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 made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

News bulletin on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo. 55-2200 Coronado, San Jose, Costa Rica. Cable: IICASANJOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Telephone: 290222.

IICA



August 1988. Year V, No. 19.

NEWS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HOLDS EIGHTH REGULAR MEETING

Representatives of 12 American nations which are members of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) gathered at Headquarters in Costa Rica, from August 1-4, for their Eighth Regular Meeting.

The Executive Committee examined the Institute's activities in 1987 and the prospects for this year. It also studied the first proposal on "Guidelines for the Preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean."

Preparation of a Plan for Agricultural Reactivation was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Confer-

ence of Ministers of Agriculture, held in Ottawa, Canada, last September.

The first proposal on guidelines for the Plan, which seeks to turn the agricultural sector into the axis of a new development strategy, was approved by the representatives of Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Paraguay, Suriname, United States of America and Venezuela, the current members of the Executive Committee.

The group also examined reports presented by the General Directorate of IICA on programs being carried out, efforts to increase funding for cooperation through



Left to right: Dr. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of IICA; Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; Dr. Elvira Vargas, Chair of this Executive Committee; Dr. J. André Ouellette, Technical Secretary of the Executive Committee, and Dr. Jaime Muñoz Reyes, Representative of Bolivia, who served as Rapporteur.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HOLDS...



Dr. Elvira Vargas, Chair of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA.

external resources, and systems for evaluating the Institute's projects.

With economist Elvira Vargas Rodríguez, Representative of Venezuela, serving as Chair, the Executive Committee studied the 1987 Annual Report presented by IICA Director General Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, and resolved to congratulate the Director and the staff of the Institute for the work carried out during the year.

Dr. Piñeiro emphasized the importance of the Committee's meeting, held at the halfway mark of the present administration, and noted that it could facilitate a retrospective analysis of the Institute's accomplishments, as well as providing an opportunity to consider guidelines for the coming two-year period.

In his report, the Director General stressed that IICA now had two new members, Antigua and Barbuda, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. He also emphasized the advances made in the securing of external resources, and pointed out that in order to improve the quality of technical cooperation, IICA and its Member States must discern the priority issues in hemispheric agriculture, and recognize the distinctive features of the different subregions.

IICA PROGRAMS

For the first time, at the request of IICA Member States, the agenda included an item providing for a report to be given on the programs that make up the cooperation system. At this meeting, the Committee discussed two of them: Program I, "Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning," and Program II, "Technology Generation and Transfer."

Dr. Piñeiro explained that each program carries out three main tasks: it maintains a dialogue with the appropriate agencies and individuals in each country where it carries out actions, through seminars, other technical events

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE HOLDS...

and substantive actions; it also coordinates and / or administers multinational technical cooperation networks that help the Member States to join forces at the national level.

The Committee resolved to accept with satisfaction the report on the programs presented by the Directors of Programs I and II, Dr. Carlos Pomareda and Dr. Eduardo Trigo. Dr. Pomareda's recommendation to set up multidisciplinary teams of regional specialists to prepare the basic documents on policy analysis for these regions was accepted.

SECURING OF EXTERNAL RESOURCES

Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations, spoke on the securing of external resources, emphasizing IICA's efforts to identify new donor countries and to consolidate relations with different international funding agencies with interests in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in agriculture in general.

...Piñeiro emphasized that this meeting could facilitate a retrospective analysis of the Institute's accomplishments and provided an opportunity to consider guidelines for the coming two-year period...

He explained that between 1986 and 1988, more resources were obtained than had been originally planned, and that recently IICA's efforts had also targeted agencies based in Europe and Asia. France, Germany, Spain, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) were among the countries or agencies which, to date, had agreed to provide financial assistance for the Plan of Agricultural Reactivation.

Members of the Committee accepted with satisfaction the document on the securing of external resources, requested that the Institute's Member States support IICA's efforts to obtain more resources to strengthen IICA's action in the countries, and thanked the donor



Representatives of Permanent Observer Countries and international agencies attended the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

countries and organizations for their trust in IICA. They also called for ongoing political support for these efforts, "given that, at IICA, external resources represent a real benefit to the Member States."

EVALUATION SYSTEMS

The Executive Committee also accepted the Director General's document on IICA's system for evaluating technical cooperation, which, as explained to the delegates by Dr. Diego Londoño, Director of Programming and Evaluation, seeks "to support the decision-making process in order to improve the Institute's performance, inspire confidence in IICA among the member countries and other institutions, expand the institutional and financial base of support, and, finally, to encourage a learning process within the Institute that will ensure repeated success in these endeavors."

...Members of the Committee requested that the Institute's Member States support IICA's efforts to secure more resources to strengthen IICA's action in the countries...

Executive Committee: PRESENT AND FORMER CHAIRS HIGHLIGHT IICA'S ACHIEVEMENTS

The present and former Chairs of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Elvira Vargas (Venezuela) and Brian Perkins (Canada), emphasized the achievements obtained by the organization in 1987, especially those concerning promotion of the Plan for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Canadian Representative Brian Perkins, who presided over the Executive Committee in 1987 and turned the office over to Venezuelan Representative Elvira Vargas at the August 1-4 meeting in Costa Rica, expressed his satisfaction at the work carried out by the Institute, not only in the Member States, but also in conjunction with other agencies and institutions in the region.

He emphasized that this was the only way that joint actions could truly be worthy of the name.

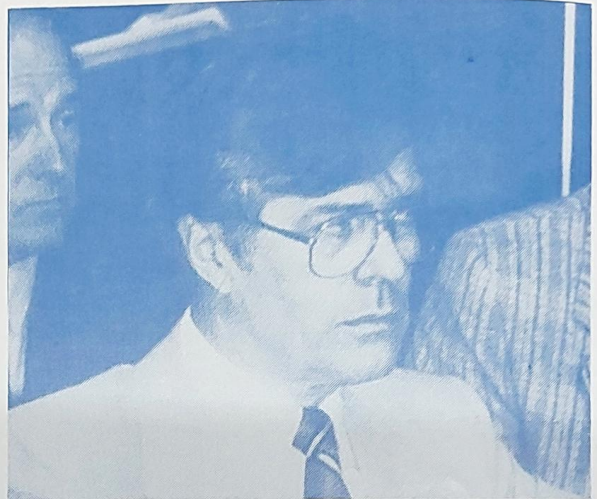
He stressed that during Canada's tenure as Chair of the Committee there had been a significant strengthening of relations between Canada, IICA and its Member States.

In his judgment, 1987 was a year of important achievements and accomplishments for IICA, especially with regard to development of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean that the Institute was preparing, in accordance with the mandate of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

Perkins agreed that the meeting in Ottawa, Canada, where the Board issued the resolution last year, could be considered a milestone, given the importance of the decision taken.

The recommendations adopted at that meeting had not been mere suggestions, but rather had served to initiate an intense effort to make them a reality. That, in his opinion, gave true meaning to the Ottawa Declaration.

Presiding this year at the Executive Committee meeting, Dr. Vargas said the strategic guidelines set by IICA were of utmost importance; however, the situation was different in the various countries, as were the political structures. "For that reason," she said, "if we want a successful regional plan, we must seek opportunities for as much common action as possible, in order to ensure that the goals sought in the region are the same, and the policies used are in keeping with those of each country."



Dr. Brian Perkins, outgoing Chair of the Executive Committee of IICA.

The Chair expressed her satisfaction with IICA's concern and its search for ways to improve agricultural policies.

Referring to the deteriorating situation of the agricultural sector in developing countries, she said that those countries were aware that one of the ways to achieve balanced growth is through international cooperation among countries, be it binational, multinational or with the participation of international agencies.

Dr. Vargas urged IICA to step up conversations before the next IABA meeting in Brasilia, in order to make it possible to present "well-delineated actions that we can follow up on immediately, so as to achieve the development we have proposed."

She asked the Institute to continue supporting agricultural cooperation and to make efforts to expand the guidelines for the Plan for Agricultural Reactivation, as well as to obtain the economic resources necessary to put it into practice.

"We believe that all Latin American countries place great emphasis on making development of the agricultural sector a national priority, because, to the extent that we produce our own food, we will be able to reduce our dependency," she added, agreeing with the outgoing Chair on the significance of the Plan for Agricultural Reactivation.

Caribbean Representative: REACTIVATION PLAN WILL ENCOURAGE SWEEPING CHANGE IN THE REGION

The Plan for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean will be one of the main achievements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and when it revitalizes agriculture and other economic sectors, a transformation will occur in the region that the rest of the world will envy.

This opinion was expressed, in the closing session of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, by Clifton E. Maynard, Delegate from the Caribbean country of Barbados and Secretary of that country's Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries.

Addressing the meeting of representatives from the 12 Member States that make up the Executive Committee, 10 delegates from other IICA Member States, representatives of four Permanent Observer Countries and some 14 international observer organizations, Maynard emphasized that in one year IICA had managed to construct "a skeleton as close to perfection as any skeleton can be, on which to build the body of actions" to be implemented

He thus described the proposal for Guidelines for Preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation, which was presented at the Committee meeting, attended by Caribbean delegates from the Dominican Republic, Grenada and Suriname, and from other Member States Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and St. Lucia.

"All we need is the political will to walk a hard road, at the end of which we will create an atmosphere and an environment: a better life and larger freedoms for all our peoples," said Maynard. Adding that this Executive Committee meeting was his first, he called it a very positive experience and emphasized the vitality of the organization.

The delegate from Barbados noted that the "breath of fresh air" which had come to the Institute with the new Director General, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, was still blowing, in order to provide the transparency and the new approach required in dealing with matters of importance to Member States. He stressed his satisfaction with the efficiency of the Institute's administration, its vitality and the excellent organization of the Executive Committee meeting.

On earlier occasions, Caribbean delegates had discussed with IICA officials their needs and the contribu-



Clifton E. Maynard, Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of Barbados.

tions they could make to the Plan for Agricultural Reactivation.

The Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture of the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) and IICA evaluated the progress made on preparation of the Plan at a meeting held May 26-28, 1988, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago. At that meeting, CARICOM recommended to the Institute some key points to be taken into account in the Caribbean chapter of the Plan for Reactivation.

On that occasion, Plan Coordinator Felix Cirio reported on the progress achieved in connection with the project, and added that, keeping in mind that CARICOM was also in the process of preparing a development plan for the Caribbean, the two agencies must collaborate, not only to avoid duplication of efforts and wasting scarce resources, but also to ensure that the interests of the small Member States were considered at all stages of preparation of the Plan.

For that reason, it was agreed that the question would be studied further at the next meeting of Ministers, to be held September 15-16 in Guyana. The final proposal for the Plan will be presented to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture at its meeting in October 1989 in Brazil.

6 The first 100 days of the new government: IICA CONTRIBUTES TO A PLAN FOR THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN ECUADOR

Dr. Rodrigo Borja, President of Ecuador, requested a support mission from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to help draw up a plan of work for the agricultural sector for the first 100 days of his administration.

"We have actually been involved in preparing the plan since last May, through the Commission for Agricultural Affairs," noted Dr. Diego Londoño, IICA's Director of Programming and Evaluation and head of the mission.

"We held meetings with the Commission, headed by Luis Felipe Borja, Dr. Manuel Chiriboga, Dr. Pablo Bettes, Dr. Luis Bonifaz and Dr. Luis Parodi, Vice President of Ecuador, with a view to identifying the key areas in which IICA might collaborate," Londoño added.

In this context, five priority areas were identified. With regard to the first, an exhaustive revision of Ecuador's rural development programs, Dr. Londoño noted that IICA worked with its rural development specialists at the Office in Ecuador, who made a diagnosis of the situation and prepared proposals for reorganizing the rural development programs over the next four years.

The second area identified by the team of experts was that of food distribution in urban zones. Marketing specialist Miguel Angel Lara was hired to prepare a plan for the operation of Ecuador's Vital Products Enterprise (EMPROVIT), as well as an estimate of the demand for eight basic products to be distributed through EMPROVIT.

Lara also established a mechanism for creating mobile markets that will serve poor neighborhoods in Guayaquil and Quito.

"The third priority aspect was an analysis of price policies; this was assigned to Luis Guillermo Parra, former Minister of Agriculture of Colombia," said Londoño, who added that Parra works with the Economic Front of Ecuador, made up of the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of Finance and the President of the Central Bank.

The fourth point covers animal health and plant protection, with emphasis on pests such as the coffee berry



Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations of IICA, greets the new President of Ecuador, Dr. Rodrigo Borja.

borer, black Sigatoka and the Mediterranean fruit fly.

The fifth area involves the sending of a joint mission from IICA and the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) to evaluate the research system being implemented by Ecuador's National Institute of Agricultural Research (INIAP).

Dr. Londoño also reported that he had met with the new Ministers of Agriculture and Social Welfare, Drs. Enrique Delgado and Raúl Vaca.

"Together we examined specific support being provided by IICA, and began discussions on IICA's Plan of Action for the 1988-1992 period," he said.

These officials also considered the possibility of holding a meeting, in mid- or late September. Participants - including IICA's Program Directors, its Directors of Operations and Programming, and the Director of the Andean Area, as well as officials from the Ministry of

IICA CONTRIBUTES TO A PLAN...

Agriculture and Social Welfare of Ecuador - would specify the areas of work to be covered during the term of the new administration," Londoño added.

IICA ATTENDS INAUGURATION

Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations, and Dr. Diego Londoño represented IICA at the inauguration of new Ecuadoran President Dr. Rodrigo Borja.

Dr. Werthein remarked that, during this month, which marked the twentieth anniversary of its membership in IICA, Ecuador was reiterating its concern that agriculture should be one of the elements contributing to the democratic process.

In his inaugural address, President Borja also emphasized the important role played by the agricultural sector

in the national economy.

"The rural sector is the base of the Ecuadoran economy," he said. "One of every two Ecuadorans lives in the rural areas, which provide food for the population, raw materials for industry, and crops for export."

He pointed out, however, that this sector faces serious problems of production and productivity. "Most crops, especially those intended for the domestic market, have a very low yield per hectare."

He also referred to the critical situation of the small-scale farmers, campesinos, subsistence farmers, indigenous communities and the landless rural population.

He noted that these groups "comprise an estimated 600,000 families, who are undernourished and neglected and live in poverty, despite the fact that they produce roughly 62 percent of all food for domestic consumption.

"In keeping with my campaign commitments, and as part of a comprehensive, long-term agricultural development plan, we will provide sustained support for agricultural work. Despite the profound fiscal crisis, we will implement our program of feeder roads and irrigation and drainage systems; we will promote regionalized agrarian reform, including two aspects that have been neglected - credit and technical assistance. We will promote land settlement and encourage forestation and reforestation. We hope to arrange with the agricultural center to set up stores where inputs can be sold at reasonable prices. We will promote comprehensive rural development programs, carry out our low-cost tractor project, strengthen State marketing of agricultural products through ENAC and EMPROVIT, coordinate production in the field with that of agroindustry, establish agricultural mechanization centers, provide technical assistance to farmers, supply research and seed-improvement services, and take such measures as may be necessary on behalf of agriculture.

Rodrigo Borja
President of Ecuador.

IICA ATTENDS TWENTIETH INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF AGRARIAN ECONOMISTS

The recession, inflation and terms-of-trade problems that afflict Latin America and the Caribbean to an unprecedented degree call for design of a new development model based on the modernization of agriculture, according to Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

In Dr. Piñeiro's view, "the region is faced with a serious crisis which, although exacerbated by external conditions, brings to light the weaknesses of the development model we adopted, which is now inoperative".

The Director General of IICA emphasized the importance of re-evaluating the agricultural sector and increasingly tying it in with the manufacturing industry, as a means for implementing the economic reactivation process in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Speaking at the Twentieth International Assembly of Agrarian Economists, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 24-31, Dr. Piñeiro stressed that in the long-term context, agriculture must be modernized if it is to grow and contribute to the overall development of the economy.

He pointed out that no other sector of the economy has a greater capacity to improve the trade balance per unit of investment, adding that, from the point of view of overall economic development, agricultural modernization would imply increased downward (input supply) and upward (final products) interdependence with agroindustry, thus raising the possibility of generating a significant multiplier effect on economic activity through a process of industrialization strongly supported by the agricultural base of production.

Dr. Piñeiro emphasized that in order to attain this objective, the old concept of agriculture as the primary sector must be abandoned, giving way to the concept of an integrated, technically-advanced agroindustrial complex. The old agriculture-versus-industry controversy must be replaced with the realization that there is a clear possibility for joint growth.

Piñeiro made a diagnosis of economic trends in the region (Latin America and the Caribbean), which became a net exporter of capital in 1982, because of both the debt crisis and the sharp deterioration in the terms of trade-the latter being a result of the decline in interna-

tional prices for the main tradeable goods of the region and the protectionist policies of the developed countries.

He pointed out that this situation had particularly affected agricultural products and canceled out the significant gains that had been made in production volume.

The performance of the 20 major agricultural products of Latin America and the Caribbean (which in 1985 accounted for 91 percent of total agricultural exports from the region) shows that between 1970 and 1986, the volume of these products - except for wool and cotton fiber - increased sharply (11 grew by more than 80 percent). In total value, however, they increased by 40 percent, because of the sharp drop in prices.

After reviewing the ample opportunities that are opening up for generation and transfer of new technologies, as well as the factors conditioning and limiting them, and pointing out the need to integrate poor farmers into the overall production process as a means for combatting rural poverty, Dr. Piñeiro stressed the importance of coordinating macroeconomic policies with sectoral strategies.

By the same token, industrial policy must be coordinated with agricultural policy. The extent of liberalization in the two economic sectors is often uneven, and this is reflected by input-product price ratios that are not conducive to modernization.

Finally, Dr. Piñeiro pointed to the need to redefine and modify the role of the State in the countries of the region, with a view to rationalizing it, making it more efficient and enhancing international competitiveness; attention should also be given to the increased possibility that new types of links with the private sector will open up new opportunities in the field of technology.

He also emphasized the merits of regional and subregional integration schemes as elements of development and explained the scope of the plan of joint action for the reactivation of the sector, which the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is preparing in accordance with the mandate issued by the ministers of agriculture of the region at their last meeting, held in Ottawa, Canada, in September 1987.

For Agricultural Development in Central America: REFORMS IN STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS PROPOSED

In pursuance of the mandate of the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, who met in Ottawa, Canada, in 1987, and a resolution of the ministers of agriculture of the member countries of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) entrusted economists Helio Fallas and Eugenio Rivera with a study on agriculture and structural change in Central America.

According to these authors, the countries will need to define their development strategy as completely as possible before holding negotiations with external financing agencies, as a necessary condition for ensuring that structural adjustment programs respond more clearly and appropriately to national needs. Their study also suggests that it may be advisable for countries to hold discussions and reach agreement among themselves before entering into individual negotiations with funding agencies on issues that affect the entire region.

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The authors believe that experience with structural adjustment programs in Central America demonstrates the need to design more appropriate methodologies for evaluating the policies on which they are based, and that international cooperation could contribute to this effort.

They also point out the importance of developing a capacity for evaluating the impact of adjustment policies on the economic and social structure of the agricultural sector. In this regard, the authors argue that it is essential to quantify those production activities that are becoming more dynamic and those that are losing capital, those activities and types of producers which respond best to economic incentives under export-promotion policies, and those social groups that benefit the most from such policies. They also feel it is important to carry out comparative studies on adjustment programs being implemented in the region.

The economists hold that the agricultural sector can increase its efficiency; they add, however, that if this goal



Economist Helio Fallas, IICA Specialist in Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning

is to be achieved, policies must become more flexible. They acknowledge that there is clearly a need for structural adjustment, but they emphasize that the distributive effects of such programs must be evaluated carefully. In this regard, they say that it is essential to design and implement policies for offering production options that are both profitable and feasible as compensation to the low-income groups and sectors of production that bear the brunt of adjustment.

They add that it is necessary for the countries to redesign or develop more effective mechanisms for intersectoral coordination within the government in order to ensure that the policies, programs and projects of the public institutions in the countries, particularly those of the agricultural sector, will have a more significant impact on this sector. These mechanisms must guarantee participation of the private sector as a means of unifying efforts.

SAPs IN CENTRAL AMERICA

The economists state that a positive aspect of structural adjustment programs is that they encourage serious

REFORMS IN STRUCTURAL ADJUSTMENT PROGRAMS...

reflection on approaches to development and the search for more appropriate alternatives for overall region growth. They emphasize, however, that the analysis of structural adjustment programs financed by international funding agencies in Central America is difficult because of their short history and limited number.

They offer several explanations for the limited number of SAPs in effect in the region, including the conditions for the loans, the low amount of credit per investment, the potential political cost of applying the SAPs, and the bilateral financial assistance received by some countries.

...it is essential to design and implement policies for offering production options that are both profitable and feasible as compensation to the low-income groups and sectors of production that bear the brunt of adjustment...

They emphasize, however, that any analysis of the Central American economies would have to begin by noting that all the economies in the region are quite open to foreign trade, as a result of which the domestic economies are highly sensitive to the situation on the international market.

Fallas and Rivera argue that the analyses carried out by some financing agencies do not pay enough attention to a particularly important feature of the international economy, i.e. the fact that there is very little vertical articulation, as well as very little articulation between production structures within individual countries and in the region as a whole.

It is important to bear this situation in mind because it has led to dependency on imported inputs and capital goods and made it impossible to develop dynamic comparative advantages that would allow for greater competitiveness outside the regional market.

The lack of agriculture-related industrialization is related

to the fact that agricultural exports are almost constantly exposed to deteriorating terms of trade, which at the same time makes effective diversification more difficult.

The authors also state that using exchange-rate policies as a basic export tool has not brought the desired results. Often the changes generated in relative prices are rapidly reverted as a result of accelerated inflation.

Furthermore, elimination of the anti-export bias of an over-valued exchange rate does not seem, in and of itself, to guarantee an effective and substantial increase in exports.

One problem they identify as crucial is the relative absence of a well-articulated overall export-promotion strategy which is implemented in coordinated fashion by public institutions.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Their studies establish that one of the factors which most seriously limits exports would appear to be the lack of information systems on technologies, prices and markets for the most promising products. They note the frequently-voiced fear that the export sector might base its international competitiveness on excessive protection and low wages.

Fallas and Rivera noted that in some Central American countries it can be established that, historically, export agriculture has received greater support than production geared toward the domestic market.

They believe there are indications that a process of liberalization of foreign trade could bring about a fall in production and, consequently, a reduction in the incomes of basic grain producers, at least in the short term.

They conclude that in the context of the effort for peace and democratization, it is important to consider very carefully the impact which structural adjustment has on some of the groups involved in the production of these grains, inasmuch as they are often among the poorest groups of the population.

Technology:

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH HIGH IN DIVIDENDS, SAYS NOBEL PRIZE- WINNING ECONOMIST

Agricultural research produces significant social and economic dividends, said Nobel Prize laureate economist Theodor W. Schultz in San Jose.

Speaking at the Seventh Latin American Meeting of the Econometrics Society, Schultz indicated that there was evidence (in the United States) that funds for agricultural research were not viewed by urban people as harmful; on the contrary, they appeared to perceive them as beneficial.

Schultz, whose participation was sponsored by IICA's program on agricultural policy analysis and planning, presented the first paper of the meeting, on the value of research, endogenous technology and economic progress: the case of agriculture.

In introducing the winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics, IICA Director General Martín E. Piñero pointed out that the fact that Schultz's paper was the first one to be given at the meeting of the Econometric Society amounted to both a warning and a recognition of the importance of agriculture in promoting the economic growth of Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the current crisis.

The meeting was opened by Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, who also emphasized the importance of technological innovation in the development process.

According to Dr. Schultz, one of the main fruits of agricultural research is what he describes as "the consumer surplus." Research is responsible, to a large extent, for decreasing food production costs, "since poor families benefit relatively more from the decline in costs of food... what occurs is some reduction in the inequality in the distribution of real income. It is high time that we see clearly the economic importance of the consumer surplus that results from successful agricultural research."

He went on to say that the subject of public financial support for agricultural research should be strongly linked to the achievable consumer surplus.

"The long view of the economic value of agricultural research is such that it calls for a continuation of large



IICA Director General Martín E. Piñero and Nobel Economics Prize winner Theodor W. Schultz took part in the inaugural session of the Seventh Latin American Meeting of the Econometrics Society.

increases in agricultural research to serve modernization and, in so doing, create consumer surpluses," said Dr. Schultz.

To illustrate the economic importance of agricultural research, Dr. Schultz said that in 1979, research expenditures by industries that produce farm inputs to supply modernized agriculture were between US\$814 and US\$909 million, in addition to US\$270 million for research on farm machinery and equipment. Furthermore, during that same year, total purchases by U.S. farmers of fertilizer, pesticides, chemical and biological agents, equipment and machinery, and other inputs totalled US\$71 billion.

He emphasized that an increasing share of agricultural research is being done by private firms and that the demand for such research is stimulated by the search for profits. Demand for agricultural research by the public sector arises because the social benefits of this activity are numerous.

Finally, Dr. Schultz emphasized the importance of and need for good salaries and other incentives, in order to promote agricultural research.

IICA JOINS INTERNATIONAL REFRIGERATION NETWORK

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was accepted as an associate member of the International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR), reports Dr. Rodolfo Quirós Guardia.

Dr. Quirós, Director of IICA's Marketing and Agroindustry Program, applied for membership on behalf of IICA during a recent trip to Europe, inasmuch as IIR is based in Paris.

IICA's membership will enable all its member countries to enjoy the benefits and services provided by the International Institute of Refrigeration, even if they have not joined the organization, by using IICA as an intermediary.

This is particularly important in view of the fact that of IICA's 31 Member States, only Canada, Mexico, Brazil, the United States and Argentina are members of the International Refrigeration Institute.

As a new feature, André Gac, President of the IIF, has assured Dr. Quirós that since the IIR's official languages are French and English, IICA will be authorized to reproduce all its publications and translate them into any language, thus making them accessible to all IICA Member States.

It will also handle and seek funding for technical assistance requests presented by IICA for its projects in Member States.

IIR was established as an international, intergovernmental organization in agriculture, industry and the medical sciences, by means of an international agreement signed in June, 1920, by 43 nations. At present, 57 countries on five continents are members of IIR.

In addition to receiving publications and books, IICA Member States may also request manuals, findings of studies, and reports on technical advances in the use of refrigeration. They will have access to the IIR data bank, and will be kept up to date with the bimonthly IIR publication known as IIR Magazine. This publication reviews the documents produced by the International Institute on Refrigeration, as well as relevant studies generated around the world. It is, according to Dr. Quirós, one of the best magazines in the world in its field.

The IICA specialist emphasized that this represents a contribution in an area in which IICA has no experience, hence the significance of its membership in IIR.

The IIR works especially in the following areas:

1. Cryophysics, cryoengineering, liquefaction, and separation of gases.
2. Refrigeration machinery, thermodynamics and refrigerated transportation procedures.
3. Lyophilization, cryobiology, medical applications and food science and technology.
4. Refrigerated storage and transport.
5. Air conditioning, thermal pumps, and energy recovery.

Eleven committees, made up of representatives of Member States who serve in an honorary capacity, work in these fields of specialization.

IIR also holds international conferences and technical meetings. Between 1980 and 1987, it held 17 conferences.

According to Dr. Quirós, IICA's membership in IIR creates a capacity for scientific and technological intermediation in the field of refrigeration, as well as a mechanism for modernizing the marketing of perishable agricultural products.



Editorial Service: ANATOMIA APLICADA DEL BOVINO

The book entitled *Anatomia Aplicada del Bovino* (Applied Bovine Anatomy) may be considered the most ambitious and comprehensive work to date on this animal species, especially in view of its broad, multidisciplinary approach and its practical contribution to the field of veterinary, clinical and surgical medicine.

This larger-format publication, now being printed by the Editorial Service of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), is designed as a textbook and manual for applied anatomy of cattle, including topographical, functional, clinical anatomy, for practical, everyday use.

The work offers basic information on anatomy, emphasizing its functional importance in surgical and clinical settings. Thus, it omits some details which can be found in standard texts.

...The work is designed to offer basic information on anatomy, emphasizing its functional importance in surgical and clinical settings...

Anatomia Aplicada del Bovino features an extensive bibliography based on recent literature.

The author, Hanan Gloobe, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Bologna, Italy, draws from his vast direct experience in the field of human and animal anatomy.

The book contains six chapters that describe the important aspects of the bovine thoracic limb, thorax, abdomen, pelvic limb, neck and head. It also includes approximately 203 illustrations to complement the explanations in each chapter.

This book reflects Gloobe's broad academic experience, especially as a professor in the disciplines of anatomy applied to human medicine, physiotherapy and

ANATOMÍA APLICADA DEL BOVINO

Hanan Gloobe



veterinary medicine.

Among his many professional accomplishments, he was cofounder of the Department of Human Anatomy at the School of Medicine of the University of Tel-Aviv, and of the School of Veterinary Medicine of the National University of Costa Rica, where he is now a professor and Head of the Department of Anatomy of Domestic Animals.

Dr. Gloobe is also a member of the European Association of Veterinary Anatomists, the Association of Veterinarians of Israel, the Association of Veterinary Anatomists of the United States and the World Association of Veterinary Anatomists.

This publication of IICA's Editorial Service may also be used as a dissection manual for anatomy students, and as an aid in solving problems in the fields of radiology, clinical medicine and surgery.

IICA AWARDS PRIZES TO THREE COSTA RICANS

Awards in recognition of the work of citizens of Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding contributions to agriculture and the improvement of rural life were granted to three Costa Ricans by the IICA Director General, Martín E. Piñeiro and the Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Antonio Alvarez Desanti.

Agronomist Alvaro Jiménez Castro was awarded the 1986 Inter-American Agricultural Development Award, Willy Loria Martínez received the same award for 1987, and Floria Bertsch Hernández received the 1986 Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals.

"The winners represent the broad spectrum of professionals in agriculture who with their intelligence and dedication have contributed to the progress of agriculture, which today more than ever plays a crucial role in the future of our countries," said Dr. Piñeiro at the awards ceremony.

The Costa Rican Minister of Agriculture, Antonio Alvarez Desanti, stressed that this was the first time one country had monopolized the Inter-American agriculture awards granted by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the governing body of IICA that is made up of the ministers of agriculture of the region.

Speaking on behalf of the awardwinners, Jiménez expressed their deep satisfaction at receiving the awards, "which showed recognition of the love with which they had worked for many years in their profession and their efforts to ensure that farmers made the best use of their land, which was a gift from God."

At the awards ceremony, which was also attended by Osvaldo Pandolfo, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Piñeiro pointed out that in view of the difficult situation in which the Latin American and the Caribbean countries found themselves, new growth strategies must be devised which will be suited to the existing crisis conditions of the region, as well as to those of the international economy, so as to allow the countries to resume a reasonable rate of economic growth and development.

In this regard, he said that a modernized, highly productive agriculture, duly coordinated with agroindustry, could be an important axis of economic growth. Thus focused, agricultural activity would no longer be considered merely as a primary sector and would instead

become a central element of economic development and growth, based not on the extraction of agricultural surpluses, but rather on the improvement of income as a result of increased productivity and efficiency.

To that end, economic policy in our countries must give high priority to agriculture, encourage and promote it in intersectoral relations, and provide the incentives needed to make modernized, diversified agricultural production possible.

In that regard, he emphasized the fundamental role to be played by the professionals of agriculture; only with their help would it be possible to break the vicious cycle of rural poverty and constant decapitalization and impoverishment of the agricultural sector, the lack of incentives, and the scarcity of appropriate innovations to promote modernization of the sector.

He then stressed that the accomplishments of the award winners would serve as an example to other professionals and point to the opportunities for service that open up every day to those who, like these three, were willing to devote their talents to science and technology applied to agricultural production.



Left to right: Willy Loria Martínez, Floria Bertsch Hernández and Alvaro Jiménez Castro, Costa Ricans who won awards for their outstanding contributions to agriculture and the improvement of rural life.

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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 made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

News bulletin on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo. 55-2200 Coronado, San Jose, Costa Rica. Cable: IICASANJOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Telephone: 290222.

IICA



NEWS

AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE AXIS OF NEW CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION MODEL

Central America should follow a development and integration model based on the agricultural sector, in which full use would be made of all natural resources, with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in food production throughout the isthmus, according to Marco Antonio Villamar Contreras, Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

On September 7, when signing a cooperation agreement with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), represented by its Director Ge-

neral, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, he said that in order to be viable, the model must be based on the actual situation and potentialities of the Central American countries.

Villamar went on to say that it was not a question of underestimating the importance of the other sectors of the economy, but simply of recognizing that for many years, the Central American countries had been learning to manage the agricultural sector; however, this had occurred in the context of an overall structure that was not consistent with the interests of the majority of the people, and a one-sided approach had been followed,



On September 7, at IICA Headquarters, Mr. Marco Antonio Villamar Contreras, Secretary General of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, signed an agreement and a letter of understanding for the purpose of contributing to regional integration.

AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE AXIS...

on the assumption that efforts should be concentrated primarily on foreign trade rather than on meeting the basic needs of the population.

IICA Director General Piñeiro, recalling that agriculture had been neglected in the integration processes promoted over the past few decades in Central America, said it was encouraging that SIECA was now also sharing in the rediscovery of the key role of agriculture in development strategies.

SIECA and IICA, which share the view that agriculture should be promoted as an essential factor of development, signed an agreement and a letter of understanding, with a view to contributing more effectively to regional integration, improving the living conditions of the rural population in general, and promoting the development of agriculture in particular.

AGRICULTURE THE NEW AXIS

At the signing ceremony held at IICA Headquarters, the Secretary General of SIECA said that the organization he represented would present this concept of a new development model for Central America in November to the ministers of integration of the isthmus and other political authorities.

He stressed that agriculture would play a key role in the model he had in mind, the goal being to achieve self-sufficiency in food production for the Central American peoples by taking advantage of the existing complementarity of the different ecological zones of the countries and hence, of their comparative advantages. Another goal was to achieve self-sufficiency in the production of inputs for a far-reaching process of industrialization of natural resources, essentially those pertaining to agriculture.

He said SIECA was confident that was the right course to follow, and stressed the absolute necessity of achieving Central American integration, of holding discussions to settle the existing political conflicts and, especially, of moving towards the economic reconstruction of Central

America as a whole.

Following Villamar's remarks, Dr. Piñeiro noted that the Secretary General of SIECA had raised two very important banners: the first was the banner of integration (the fundamental reason for the creation of SIECA). In light of the current crisis of the region, it must be given high priority, especially in view of the fact that, now that the future of the region might be at stake, there was a real possibility for economic and political integration.

The second banner, according to Piñeiro, was that of

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agriculture as an important axis of the economy, a concept which had not been duly considered in previous integration efforts in Central America and other regions of Latin America.

Piñero went on to point out that now, partly because of their current economic situation, the countries were all rediscovering agriculture. To a large extent, the banner of agriculture was being carried by IICA, as the specialized agricultural agency, but the alliance of the two institutions around both banners could in fact lay the foundation for a significant cooperative effort, not only between the institutions but among the countries of the region as well.

...to contribute more effectively to regional integration, improving the living conditions of the rural population in general and promoting the development of agriculture in particular...

The agreement they had just signed, therefore, was sounder than those which had preceded it, as it was broader and provided for letters of understanding on specific subjects. Considerable progress had already been made, and he trusted that even greater strides would be taken over the coming months.

A NEW DEVELOPMENT MODEL FOR THE REGION

The agreement between IICA and SIECA would allow for the coordinated implementation, in the field of agriculture, of projects relating to Central American integration and the integrated channeling of resources. It would also help attract technical and financial contributions from countries and agencies outside the region.

It also provides for the institutions to work together in preparing a strategy for reactivation and development of the agricultural sector to be used by SIECA as an input as it works on devising a frame of reference for a new development model for the region, and by IICA as it



With Mr. Marco Antonio Villamar Contreras and Dr. Martín E. Piñero is Dr. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of IICA.

draws up the Plan of Agricultural Reactivation requested of it by the Ministers of Agriculture of the hemisphere.

At the ceremony held at IICA Headquarters, IICA and SIECA also signed a letter of understanding which provides for two meetings to be held, one in September and one in October, for the purpose of discussing at length the documents prepared by the two institutions on the subject of a new development model for Central America and the reactivation of the agricultural sector.

The letter of understanding also provides for IICA to prepare a new version of the document entitled "Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation...", based on ideas brought up at working meetings with SIECA, consultations with member countries and discussions with various cooperation agencies.

FIRST LADY OF GUATEMALA STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IICA - RADIO NEDERLAND PROJECT

Mrs. Raquel Blandón Cerezo, First Lady of the Republic of Guatemala, stressed the importance of the training efforts and the production work being carried out in the field of communications for development as a result of the joint efforts of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) from Holland.

The wife of Guatemalan President Vinicio Cerezo recently visited the facilities of the IICA-Radio Nederland project at IICA headquarters in San José, Costa Rica.

The First Lady, who was accompanied by Mrs. Aracelly Molina, Secretary of Social Welfare; Vilma López, her assistant; Mrs. Irma Odette Rodríguez, her secretary; and Mrs. Rodríguez's daughter María Teresa, as well as the Ambassador of Guatemala in Costa Rica, was greeted by Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of IICA; Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations, and Rodolfo Martínez Ferraté, advisor to the Director General.

Miguel Martí, Chief of IICA's Communications Division, and José Pérez, Chief of the IICA - Radio Nederland project, described the scope of the program, which emphasizes the Central American and Caribbean area, to Mrs. Cerezo, who is also a journalist.

Martí explained that the project was intended to provide training in communications techniques for persons working in fields related to rural development, some of whom may not necessarily be journalists. A workshop on printed media was also underway which provided training in the use of radio broadcasting as a tool of development; in early 1989, training in video techniques will be offered.

He also stressed the production of materials under the project, including a series of radio programs on health, co-sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

He informed Mrs. Cerezo that the project offers training in the preparation of programs specifically designed for women, and expressed his appreciation at her suggestion that the Project facilitate the participation of a volunteer from the Casa del Pueblo program, a social welfare program she sponsors in Guatemala in which many women take part.

In her visit to the IICA/Radio Nederland project facilities, Mrs. Cerezo recalled that she had once worked on a radio program, and expressed her deep interest in radio broadcasting. She stressed that in Guatemala, radio broadcasting was the fundamental vehicle for communications; the State had only been able to develop an



The First Lady of Guatemala, Raquel Blando de Cerezo, listens to an explanation by Mr. Miguel Martí, Head of the Communications Division at IICA, of the operation of the IICA/RNTC Project equipment. To the left is Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of the External Relations of IICA.

incipient structure in that area, despite the opposition's complaints that official propaganda was overwhelming.

She felt the cooperation offered under the IICA/Radio Nederland project in regard to training was most timely and she expressed her satisfaction at the fact that IICA was in favor of promoting the broadcasting of programs by Radio Integración.

She explained her own proposal for the creation of a module to train women to use their power to decide on family consumption, their power as consumers, to control, for example, the prices of products. She said she wanted to create a radio program for this purpose in Guatemala, and requested the support of the IICA/Radio Nederland project.

She explained that she was currently sponsoring a Consumers League (LIDECOM) in Guatemala, which so far had received support from the President in the amount of 270,000 quetzales.

Finally, she expressed her desire to return to IICA, possibly in November, in order to learn more about the project. Jorge Werthein, IICA Director of External Relations, and Miguel Martí, Chief of the Communications Division, assured her that she would be most welcome.

Cooperation: IICA AND UNICEF SIGN AGREEMENT TO WORK IN THE AREA OF RURAL COMMUNICATIONS

An agreement that will promote a wide range of activities in the field of rural communications was signed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

One of the objectives of the agreement, signed recently at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica by Director General Martín E. Piñeiro, and the UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America, Teresa Albáñez, is to contribute to the use of group and mass communications to promote rural development in general and the well-being of women and children in particular, in the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Albáñez pointed out that the signing of the agreement was especially important in view of the fact that the two institutions had already worked together in the past, with positive results.

Indeed, under the IICA/Radio Nederland project, they had offered, in May 1987, a course for health workers in Central America. In addition, a seminar on "Women, Radio and Development" had been held in Honduras in June. Similarly, a meeting on social communications and childhood problems had been held at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica in March.

The joint efforts of the IICA/RNTC project and UNICEF in Central America also included the production of a series entitled "Cristina y los Niños" ("Cristina and the Children"), consisting of 40 episodes to be broadcast by several radio stations in the region.

The Director General of IICA said that, inasmuch as the Institute was working to promote rural development, it was also concerned with issues pertaining to women and children. He acknowledged, however, that much remained to be done in that field. The association with UNICEF, which had so much experience and authority in the field, would greatly enhance IICA's activities, especially those aimed at improving the well-being of the rural population.

Albáñez, for her part, stressed that UNICEF was interested in women, not only because of the role they played as mothers, but also, within a broader context, because of their role as agents of development.

In that regard, she stressed the importance of the work of rural women and their participation in the production of basic foodstuffs, not only for their families, but also for their communities.

José Pérez, Chief of the IICA/RNTC project, and Ajop Kayayán, UNICEF Representative for Central America

and Panama, reported that other activities to be promoted within the context of the agreement just signed included three international courses on women and radio broadcasting, women and the media, and women and video programs for the rural population.

A course will also be offered for producers from the ministries of education of the Central American countries who work mainly in rural areas.

Plans also include co-production, on an international scale, of a program entitled "The World of the Future"; UNICEF, IICA/RNTC and the Voice of Germany will take part in this effort.

Finally, he reported that a course on production of radio programs for women will be held from October 3 to November 4, for participants from throughout Central America.

Pérez expressed the hope that the course will also provide the basis for launching a series of radio programs.

The signing ceremony was also attended by IICA officials Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General; Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations; Miguel Martí, Chief of the Communications Division, and, on behalf of UNICEF, by Ajop Kayayán, Representative for Central America and Panama, who is based in Guatemala, and by Atertia Montejo, Project Officer, who is stationed in Costa Rica.



Dr. Teresa Albáñez, Regional Director of UNICEF for Latin America, and Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, sign an agreement to promote activities related to rural communications.

6 At Special Session of the Permanent Council of the OAS: IICA STRESSES THAT AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE THE AXIS OF A NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

In the context of the current economic crisis, the reactivation and modernization of agriculture offers Latin America and the Caribbean its best opportunity for economic recovery, thus becoming the axis of a new development strategy for the region, said Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) at a special session of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Dr. Piñeiro went on to say that over the short term, the reactivation of the agricultural sector would make it possible to increase economic activity and employment; reduce fiscal deficits and inflation; improve the trade balance, as well as raise income levels and improve income distribution, thus reducing poverty.

Pointing out that the model of industrial development based on import substitution had become obsolete, Dr. Piñeiro said that prospects for exports from the industrial sector appeared even more limited than those for agricultural exports. (...) Because of non-competitive struc-

tures that had developed under protectionist policies, industry would need heavy investment and costly promotion programs in order to compete in the international market or to carry out import substitution in a competitive context.

Agriculture, on the other hand, had a lower imported inputs/gross production value (GPV) coefficient than the rest of the economic sector, and a greater value added/GPV ratio.

That indicated both the possibility of expanding without affecting foreign exchange earnings, and a great mobilization of national resources per product unit. In that regard, no sector of the economy was in a better position to improve the balance of trade per unit of investment than agriculture.

He noted, however, that it was not a question of contrasting the agricultural sector with the industrial sector, but rather of developing a vigorous, technically modernized agroindustrial sector based on the countries' natural



In the photograph are: Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; Dr. João Clemente Baena Soares, Secretary General of the OAS; and Ambassador Eladio Knipping Victoria, Chairman of the Permanent Council of the OAS, during the Special Session of the Council held on September 14, in Washington, D.C.

IICA STRESSES THAT AGRICULTURE SHOULD BE THE AXIS...

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resources, which would be capable of competing successfully on the international markets.

He explained that technical modernization of agricultural production had created a growing demand for industrial inputs. In various countries, that had encouraged the development of important new industries, such as those producing agricultural machinery, fertilizers and seeds.

That type of industrial development was particularly appealing, inasmuch as it allowed for the possibility of applying state-of-the-art technology, such as robotics and computerization in agricultural machinery, and biotechnology in seed production.

Dr. Pifeiro went on to say that, unfortunately, despite the potential for development based on the industrialization of agriculture, a large quantity of raw materials were exported as such, thus bypassing the possible multiplier effect of agriculture within the economy.

That was partly due to a belief that agroindustrial development was somehow "backward."

agriculture of the hemisphere, a strategic plan for agricultural reactivation.

...the Chairman of the Permanent Council of the OAS, Ambassador Eladio Knipping Victoria, emphasized that the outlook for agricultural development in our countries is highly subject to the severe crisis created by foreign debt...

In conclusion, he stressed that IICA, as the specialized agricultural agency of the inter-American system, had accepted, modestly but with conviction, its role as an agent for the mobilization of ideas and proposals, and was helping the countries to identify the main issues of agricultural development and to draw up priority programs of action, especially in those areas in which joint efforts among the countries themselves would be particularly useful.

Also, the Chairman of the Permanent Council of the OAS, Ambassador Eladio Knipping Victoria, of the Dominican Republic, emphasized that "the outlook for agricultural development in our countries is highly subject to the severe crisis created by foreign debt."

He went to say, "I don't want to give the impression that I'm leaning on the old, worn-out excuse of the foreign debt as a scapegoat for our current problems. However, the negative linkages between the debt crisis and agricultural development simply can not be ignored."

In assessing the regional agricultural situation as "distressing and depressing," the Chairman of the Permanent Council of the OAS said that these circumstances could be attributed to "the current situation on the international agricultural market, which is plagued by irritating protectionist policies, tariff barriers, domestic government subsidies, quotas and other limiting and restrictive measures."

He concluded by saying, "the present situation must be reversed immediately. To do so we must strive for ongoing international cooperation, both within our region and worldwide."

...IICA, as the specialized agricultural agency of the inter-American system, had accepted, modestly but with conviction, its role as an agent for the mobilization of ideas and proposals, and was helping the countries to identify the main issues of agricultural development and to draw up priority programs of action...

Circumstances were changing, however, and that assumption must be revised. The possibilities of greater liberalization of international trade, and of applying state-of-the-art biotechnology to the processing of agricultural raw materials promised a bright future for agroindustry and opened up new paths for diversification of agricultural products, said Dr. Pifeiro.

With a view to moving towards that end, IICA was preparing, pursuant to a mandate from the ministers of

8 Experts conclude: AGRICULTURE SHOULD PLAY A DYNAMIC ROLE IN DOMESTIC ECONOMIES AS PART OF THE INTEGRATION PROCESS

Experts and officials from the ministries of planning, of finance and of agriculture, and from the central banks of member countries of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), meeting in Antigua, Guatemala, concluded that agriculture should play a dynamic role in the reactivation and development of domestic economies, within the context of the integration process.

To that end, said the experts, the countries should promote new patterns of consumption and increased vertical and horizontal integration of agriculture, in the context of an endogenous view of development, and they should reallocate domestic savings in order to intensify the development of agricultural and agroindustrial production structures.

Likewise, they saw the need to develop long-term plans for national and regional development, and to direct the participation of national and multinational agencies towards actions that would help achieve the objectives of the countries and of the region.

From July 10 to 13, participants discussed the processes of planning and structural adjustment and their relation to agriculture, at a seminar sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), through the Directorate of its Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program, in collaboration with the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES), the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA) and the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

With regard to the question of structural adjustment programs (SAPs) and their potential for contributing to the implementation of national strategies, the experts' recommendations dealt with the strengthening of the national planning process through the establishment of consultation and advisory mechanisms to assist in decision making which would be representative of all sectors of society; and with the need for coordinating regional efforts in matters pertaining to the foreign debt and for taking a stand with regard to protectionist and subsidy policies of the developed countries. They also discussed policies regarding SAPs which affect the region as a whole.

To that end, they suggested that a body be created or strengthened which would set up mechanisms for coordinating efforts, as mentioned above, and they stressed the importance of seeking new markets for the region's

exports, of conducting research, training and exchange programs in connection with markets for nontraditional products, and of designing and negotiating SAPs and ASAPs (agricultural sector adjustment programs).

The experts felt that priority should be given to designing a new framework for integration that would be based on the agricultural sector and on the revitalization of the integration process, as a means of strengthening the efforts of the Central American countries to achieve peace. They also reaffirmed the importance of agreement among the countries of the region with regard to the debt and to certain policies embodied in the SAPs.

The role of institutional systems in the reactivation and development of agriculture was discussed at length, and the experts pointed to the need for improving the linkages between agricultural sector planning systems and those of the rest of the national planning systems, in order to ensure that improved plans for the sector fit within the overall plans of the nation.

They suggested, among other things, that dynamic ongoing mechanisms be designed or existing ones strengthened to foster agreement among the different public and private sectors which play a part in the reactivation and development of agriculture, and that mechanisms for coordinating decentralized actions also be designed and strengthened, in order to allow for consensus among producers and authorities, thus facilitating implementation of the sectoral development strategy. They also stressed that technical cooperation projects should be devised to enhance the overall performance of institutional systems at the national, regional and local levels.

In addition, participants at the seminar discussed the design, negotiation and execution of SAPs/ASAPs. In this regard, they suggested that greater attention be paid to components having to do with investment, technological progress and the organization of production. They recommended that new adjustment programs should cover periods of over 15 years, in order to allow for greater flexibility. This way, changes could be made which, by their very nature, would not be feasible over the short term.

Finally, they recommended the strengthening of a mechanism to foster horizontal exchanges of SAP/ASAP experiences that would not be limited to the countries of the area but would cover Latin America as a whole. Hence, they requested that the agencies sponsoring the seminar further develop their capability for providing training and technical assistance in the design, negotiation and execution of SAPs and ASAPs.

PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

PREPARATION OF PLAN FOR REACTIVATING AGRICULTURE IN SOUTHERN AREA MOVING FORWARD

With the definition of priority areas of work, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay have embarked on a new stage in the process of joint policy making and integration in the field of agricultural development.

Meeting in Asunción on September 19 and 20, the vice ministers of agriculture of the five countries agreed that their efforts would be aimed mainly at penetrating and securing a position as a group on the international markets for agricultural products.

According to Félix Cirio, Coordinator of the Strategic Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin

America and the Caribbean, the approach taken at the meeting was different from that adopted by the integration movements, since the idea was not so much to expand trade among the countries of the region as to coordinate their participation in world trade.

The representatives of the five countries of the Southern Area met to discuss a preliminary proposal for the strategy of joint action for agricultural reactivation in the Southern Area countries presented by the Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The five countries agreed that if they were to achieve



From left to right: Dr. Alberto Brause Berreta, Undersecretary of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay; Senator Lázaro Ferreira Barbosa, Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture of Brazil; Dr. Luis Pampliega, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay; Dr. Arturo Venegas, Undersecretary of Agriculture of Chile; and Dr. Eduardo Manciana, Undersecretary of Agrarian Economy of Argentina

the objective of increasing and improving their participation in the international market, they would have to improve the efficiency and productivity of their export-oriented agricultural production.

To this end, they decided that in their joint efforts, priority should be given to implementing programs pertaining to the generation and transfer of technology.

Another area for joint efforts would be that of plant protection and animal health.

They noted that with the international market becoming increasingly aggressive and competitive, they must meet adequate standards of health, otherwise, they would run the risk of being displaced by competitors.

In addition to those two areas, they should also make every effort to present a united front in the international fora where negotiations on trade are held.

Recalling the precedent set by the Cairns Group, Cirio pointed out that in order to play a meaningful role in the international negotiating fora, the countries of the region would have to strengthen the technical capabilities of their ministries of agriculture in the area of foreign trade.

They would also have to promote specific programs aimed at enabling the countries to come together to analyze market conditions and propose trade policies.

In order to move forward in this direction, it was agreed that each of the five countries would set up a technical working group, with a view to developing, in coordination with IICA, a package of specific projects.

These specific projects for joint action by the countries will be discussed by the vice ministers at their next meeting, to be held in Santiago, Chile, in March 1989.

As one of the participants remarked, by that time, the countries will have progressed from the stage of discussions to that of action.

By the same token, the Vice Minister of Agriculture of Paraguay stressed that the high degree of consensus that had been evident throughout the meeting showed that the countries had the dedication and the political will to move towards increased integration, despite the



Dr. Luis Pampliega Caballero, Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay

differences between them.

In that regard, the fact that the vice ministers had considered the possibility of establishing a permanent mechanism for their meetings, in order to hold systematic consultations, represented a step forward towards a united approach.

In its document on strategies for joint action for the Southern Area, IICA stresses the potential for exporting agricultural products from the countries of the region, which have already managed to develop significant comparative advantages for certain items.

IICA also holds that intraregional trade could be enhanced by working to make the production cycles of the different countries complementary to each other.

The vice ministers agreed that by taking advantage of the different ecological conditions and harvesting seasons, production could be organized in such a way as to enable one country to supply another, especially with fruits, vegetables, grains and meat.

It was noted that these products, which are considered wage goods, play an important part in controlling inflation. If an effort were made to ensure a constant and adequate supply, so as to avoid shortages, that would

help prevent prices from going up and thus help control inflation.

Referring to the work done by IICA in drawing up the strategy, Eduardo Manciana, Undersecretary of Agrarian Economy of Argentina, said that the countries finally had an international organization that did not work for itself, but for the countries; they should be proud of the institution.

IICA received a mandate from the ministers of agriculture of the entire hemisphere, when they met in Ottawa, Canada, in 1987, to draw up a specific plan of action to be taken to reactivate agriculture in the region, as a means of relaunching the development process.

The final version of the plan will be submitted to the ministers of the hemisphere, for their approval, in October 1989, in Brasilia.

UNITED FRONT ON INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

Meeting in Asunción, Paraguay, the vice ministers of agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay advocated the establishment of a "united front," with a view to improving the position of their countries on the international market and protecting

themselves from the abuses of buyers.

Noting that so far, the main efforts toward integration had been directed at trade within the subregion, Eduardo Manciana, Undersecretary of Agrarian Economy of Argentina, said that the countries should also ask themselves what to do with regard to third countries.

That concern, he added, was justified by the present circumstances. The five countries rely mainly on agriculture, and their external sectors are in a state of crisis; hence, they have to seek ways to generate resources and improve their positions on international markets.

For his part, Luis Brause, Undersecretary of Agriculture of Uruguay, remarked that for a long time, the countries had been subjected to abuses on the part of buyers, who benefitted from the fact that these countries entered the market individually and in competition with each other.

His counterpart from Brazil, Senator Lázaro Ferreira Barboza, stressed the fact that several countries currently belonged to blocs organized to protect their economic interests, but that the Southern Area countries kept themselves isolated from each other.

Luis Pampliega, Director General of the Ministry of Ag-



The undersecretaries of agriculture of the Southern Area emphasized the need for creating a "united front" in order to improve the position of their countries on international markets.

riculture of Paraguay, said that integration should not be limited to the agricultural sector, but should also include the central banks and the ministries of finance and of foreign trade.

An effort should be made to create a national consensus among public and private sectors in the countries, with a view to improving their access to international markets.

The vice ministers of agriculture of the five southern nations met in Asunción, Paraguay, from September 18 to 23, to discuss the preliminary proposal for a strategy of joint action for agricultural reactivation in the Southern Area countries, prepared by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The final proposal for a strategy of joint action for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean will be submitted to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) for its consideration when it meets in Brasília in October 1989.

The IICA document for the Southern Area countries stresses the importance of exporting agricultural products.

In that document, IICA indicates that one important consideration is the major role played by agricultural commodities and agriculture-based products in total exports from the countries of the area. Agricultural products account for over 50 percent of total exports of all these countries except Chile, where they represent 15 percent of the total value of exports.

Considering individual countries, in 1985, agricultural or agriculture-based exports represented 68 percent of total exports from Argentina, 95.9 percent of exports from Paraguay, and 54 percent of exports from Uruguay.

The IICA study also notes that, although agricultural products only account for 37 percent of the total value of Brazilian exports -because of the significant share of industrial exports-, between 25 and 33 percent of industrial exports represent manufactures based on agriculture.

According to IICA, the high share of agricultural prod-

ucts in the total value of exports is an indicator of the development model being followed, in relatively uniform fashion, by the five countries of the Southern Area.

Indeed, the industrialization process is geared towards meeting demand on domestic markets, and exports still originate in the traditional primary sectors, especially the agricultural sector.

Nevertheless, despite the fact that the volume of agricultural exports from the countries of the area increased in recent years by 4 to 8 percent, their value increased at the same rate, partly because of a fall in prices.

This situation explains the interest of the five countries in presenting a united front, with a view to penetrating third markets on better terms and increasing their bargaining power vis à vis their buyers.

The vice ministers of agriculture noted that this integration effort should not only be concerned with the sale of the final products, but should also envisage joint action in areas such as the generation and transfer of technology, the training of human resources and the search for adequate sources of financing.



Dr. Arturo Venegas Palacios, Undersecretary of Agriculture of Chile, offered Chile as the site of the next meeting of undersecretaries, to be held in March 1989

Specialists concur: SMALL FARM ECONOMY EXPECTED TO BOOST GROWTH IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The small-farm economy, which already plays an important role in the development of the agricultural sector of Latin America and the Caribbean, can further improve its performance and help boost the region's growth if certain policies are implemented to meet this group's most pressing needs.

A seminar was held in San Jose, Costa Rica at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), last September 26 to 28, and allowed a group of specialists to discuss various facets of small-scale farming. The seminar's conclusions singled out adequate technical assistance, access to credit and land, and programs to improve production and marketing as the highest priorities of any strategy targeting the needs of small farmers.

The small-farm economy consists of a vast group of smallholders, some of them beneficiaries of agrarian reform programs, as well as landless farmers and rural wage laborers. This group produces 20 percent of all exports in Latin American and Caribbean countries and

provides 30 percent of the foodstuffs consumed domestically.

Economist Fausto Jordán, Director of IICA's Program on Organization and Management for Rural Development, rated the seminar a success because it cast special light on the impact the small-farm economies can have on the reactivation process in the region.

The meeting was one of a series of activities IICA has undertaken in response to a mandate received last year in Ottawa, Canada, when the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) charged the Institute with preparing a plan for reactivating and modernizing agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

THE CHALLENGE

The experts agreed that all strategies designed to encourage the participation of small-farm agriculture in the growth process should address issues of policy formulation as well as the shape of specific projects.



Along with Dr. Martín E. Piñero, Director General of IICA, from left to right are: Mr. Fausto Jordán, Director of Program III, Organization and Management for Rural Development; Dr. Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations; Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations; and Mr. Félix Cirlo, Coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

These issues should be approached in a way that is compatible with the sector's potential, its special characteristics and structural trends, past experiences with development programs and projects, and the precise nature of the economic and social crisis in each country.

The specialists claim that this is the way to correct errors of the past. The impact of projects designed to assist the sector has often been minimal because of macroeconomic policies that are too far removed from the real needs of the farm population, and the lack of the political will necessary to carry out structural transformations.

The seminar found, however, that economic policy adjustments, largely in response to the crisis, have prompted many countries to adopt a more favorable view of the agricultural sector, at least in managing certain macroeconomic variables. Agriculture has become the most dynamic sector of the economy since 1980, because, despite a slowdown in its growth rates, it has continued to expand at a faster pace than either industry or services. The sector has thus proven to be more resistant to the crisis.

The participants in the seminar attribute this pattern to economic stabilization programs which, by restructuring exchange rates, have exerted a beneficial effect on agriculture. The new exchange rates encourage exports of agricultural commodities and reduce the tax on overseas sales. Another underlying cause of the growth trends in agriculture is the level of productive inertia in this sector, which is always subject to the biological cycle and the lengthy maturation period for investments.

The specialists recommended certain economic measures that could optimize the contribution of agriculture in the region. For example, stabilization policies should not hinder the purchase of agricultural inputs; nor should they block credit access for farmers. Both of these negative effects continue unchecked in many cases. Accordingly, they suggested that structural adjustment programs should reduce public expenditures by adopting measures to cut costs of public programs and goods, rather than by looking to the agricultural sector for funds, "as so often happens."

SOURCE OF FOOD SECURITY

The analysts stress that, if these recommendations are followed, the small-farm economy could become the pivot of food security. A steady flow of basic staples such as corn, beans, rice, meat and milk is an effective response for reducing external dependency. Such

measures will also help raise incomes for rural producers, save large amounts of foreign exchange, generate employment and trigger product demands by other sectors of the economy.

The role of the government, they explain, should be to focus on modernizing the system of public management mechanisms that enjoy broad political backing and to make sure that agricultural support programs fit into the framework of overall national strategies.

The seminar also discussed assistance programs, noting that technical training activities should target all the different groups that make up the small-farm economy. The various groups should benefit from the process simultaneously, exchanging experiences among themselves and actively joining the process of decision-making and program execution.

Participants examined issues of access to the land, suggesting that lands located at the edge of the agricultural frontier that be turned over to small-scale farmers. They also mentioned the possibility of re-vamping farming systems such as sharecropping or leasing, which have generally fallen out of use.

The experts made recommendations on the granting of special funds for rural development. They warned that extra care should be exercised when funding activities which would be of benefit to the country, such as reforestation and land reclamation, but which could be economically detrimental to small-scale farmers.

They cautioned that, before entering into negotiations for external resources, each country should clearly articulate its own views on the design and content of policies, strategies and programs. The conditions attached to the use of these resources should never overshadow the country's decisions or national sovereignty.

In discussing technological options, the seminar stressed the importance of assessing the nutritional value of foodstuffs produced by subsistence farmers. This consideration should take priority over such factors as yield or prices, as these items are grown for on-farm consumption.

Finally, the experts discussed agricultural production systems, clarifying that technological innovations in the small-farm economy should be consistent with the real needs of farmers. Cases were cited of producers who had fallen into ruin by making large investments that their small scale of production proved unable to sustain.

INSTITUTIONS ENRICH STRATEGY TO REACTIVATE AGRICULTURE IN CENTRAL AMERICA

A number of regional and subregional organizations met together in Tegucigalpa, Honduras from September 29 to 30. As a result of their discussions, they were able to enrich their strategies to reactivate the agricultural sector in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

The meeting, convened by the Inter-institutional Group of the Agricultural Sector (GISA), allowed the participants to frame common lines of action for organizing their work. The first specific outcome is expected to be a project associated with the reemergence of the agricultural sector in the region.

The gathering was attended by representatives of the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), the Action Committee in Support of the Economic and Social Development of Central America (CADESCA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Also present were members of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

The list of participants included authorities from the Regional International Organization of Agricultural Health (OIRSA) and the Regional Office for Central American Programs (ROCAP), an office of the United States Agency for International Development (AID).

The GISA was founded earlier this year and is made up of the BCIE, CADESCA, ECLAC, SIECA, and CORECA. It coordinates the work of regional and subregional organizations active in the agricultural sector, so as to prevent duplication of effort.

The CORECA Council of Ministers of Agriculture, which held its fourth special meeting in Panama last July, agreed to expand the scope of the GISA so the Group could respond efficiently to the needs of the sector. As a result, it included IICA, CATIE, OIRSA,

FAO and the organizations, all to be coordinated by the SIECA.

The Ministers also charged the GISA to study a document prepared by IICA, which they themselves had already seen - the "Strategy of Joint Action to Reactivate Agriculture in the Countries of the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic." They asked the Group to coordinate the various activities needed for implementing projects in the high-priority areas described in the document.

All these activities are part of the ensemble of tasks assigned to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which took place in Canada in September, 1987. At that time, the ministers asked IICA to prepare a Strategic Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. These activities also fit in with the tasks being performed by the various organizations and the countries of the region in the context of the Special Plan of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC), promoted by the United Nations.

In this setting, the plan prepared by IICA is designed to increase and diversify exports, boost the productivity and efficiency of the economy, and encourage higher growth rates and modernization with equity.

Juan Alberto Fuentes, representative of the UNDP, stated that the strategy proposed by IICA is compatible with the Food Security Program conducted by the European Economic Community (EEC) and CADESCA, and that the two are mutually reinforcing.

It was agreed to establish lines of coordination between the PEC and IICA's Action Strategy so that, as soon as possible, all interested sectors could work together to draft a project based on the reactivation of agriculture in the region.

The GISA set up various working committees to concentrate on this task. They will be expected to sort out and harmonize the criteria governing the strategy to reactivate agriculture, and the projects that each institution will be responsible for designing and carrying out.

Ministers from the Caribbean: ENHANCING THE SUBREGION'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Agriculture ministers from the countries of the Caribbean met in Georgetown, Guyana from September 14 to 16 to consider proposals for a Caribbean Community Programme for Agricultural Development, drawn up by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). The ministers agreed that this Programme, prepared at the urging of the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture in participating governments, should incorporate the various hemispheric and subregional initiatives already being undertaken; this would enrich the Programme and maximize the benefits that the region's countries could derive from the overall effort to reactivate agriculture.

The ministers specifically stressed that consideration should be given to the "Strategy of Action for the Reactivation of Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean" (especially the component that addresses the countries of the Caribbean) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Agricultural Diversification Programme of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the FAO Plan of Action for Agricultural and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The presentation of the strategy to reactivate agriculture in the countries of the Caribbean is the Caribbean component of the "Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean," which IICA has been preparing since it received a mandate from the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which met in Ottawa, Canada in September, 1987.

The subregional proposal was outlined for the consideration of the ministers' meeting in Guyana. It included a detailed discussion of several basic economic and social traits of the region.

The Caribbean component of the Plan of Action is based on several fundamental issues, including the need for Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen their ties when seeking market opportunities, sources of inputs and investment capital, and activities for technology development and transfer; the need to explore new opportunities in the framework of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM); and the need to identify areas of strategic importance that should form the core of the modernization process.

These basic issues are all addressed in four principal settings. The first is trade and joint cooperation between the Caribbean and Latin America. The Caribbean strategy makes note of the vast size of Latin American markets and the small volumes of production originating from the Caribbean islands, concluding that individual Latin American countries could provide inviting market niches for Caribbean products. It also underscores the Caribbean Basin Initiative, by which these countries have preferential access to the United States market; this offers promising opportunities to develop joint ventures between Latin America and the Caribbean.

In this area, IICA could provide a link between the countries of the Caribbean and the research and development institutions in Latin America. It is also well-placed to overcome the language barrier, which has been one of the major difficulties in establishing trade ties between the two regions.

Discussion of the second point, technology generation and transfer, focuses on the future supply of technology for farmers. The usefulness of this technology will depend on the operation of a system for development, research and extension services that can identify new and appropriate technologies offering competitive margins for farmers in national and international markets.

The third basic point has to do with the farmer, who in the past was often overlooked when plans for the sector were designed and implemented. Motivated farmers hold the key for reactivating agriculture, so they must be integrated fully into this process. The first requirement for motivating farmers should be to train them in marketing; pest management, including biological control; and agroindustry management. Also, the strengthening of farmer organizations in the countries is critical.

As a fourth key area, the proposal points out the need to establish communication channels and networks among research and development institutions and production systems whenever activities are carried out in the Caribbean. The work should fit into the framework of the Regional Agricultural Development Programme of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), with IICA devoting its attention to strengthening high-priority areas compatible with its own five programs.

JUNAC WILL DRAW FROM IICA EXPERIENCE TO PROMOTE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC) will draw from the experience of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in order to promote rural development, said Ernesto Pollarolo, head of the Andean subregion's program for the sector, during a seminar on the subject held at IICA Headquarters.

Stressing the importance of the September 26-28 seminar on the Role of the Small-Farmer Economy in the Strategy for Agricultural Reactivation and Development, Pollarolo said that IICA and JUNAC shared an interest in gaining experience with and disseminating information on projects designed to promote the economic growth of the Andean subregion.

Pollarolo added that this would help improve the living standards of two thirds of the rural population of the Andes, estimated at 15 million, who live in poverty, yet make a significant contribution to the production of foods both for domestic consumption and for export.

He mentioned that the vice ministers of agriculture of the JUNAC countries had met in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from September 21 to 23, to define the main objectives of the new rural development strategy; they had attached great importance to the small-farmer organization and participation as a vehicle for enhancing the process of agricultural reactivation.

This initiative is related to the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, preparation of which was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada, in 1967.

Pollarolo noted that the seminar would serve as a basis for drawing up programs that would help solve the traditional problems of the small-farm economy, i.e., those related to production, postharvest management, access to credit, agroindustrialization and marketing.

His views were endorsed by Manuel Chiriboga, a researcher with the Andean People's Action Center (Centro Andino de Acción Popular), and Patricio Molina, an official of the National Planning Department of Colombia.

According to Chiriboga, IICA has mobilized human and technical resources to promote rural development programs which, in fact, reflect one of the priorities of the Government of Ecuador, his country. In that regard, he noted, however, that the efforts of IICA and of the Andean Pact were still isolated, and pointed out that they should be oriented towards regionalization, in order to ensure that political decisions be taken that would enable all small-farm sectors to have access to land,



Dr. Ernesto Pollarolo, subregional head of JUNAC's Andean Program for Rural Development.

employment, credit and markets.

Describing the situation of small-farm groups in his country, he said there was a sector of small-scale farmers who owned land and benefitted from rural development programs, another group that owned smaller plots but that were not taken into account in development policies and, finally, a majority who lived in dire poverty and who made their living by selling their labor.

Patricio Molina, for his part, said that the options proposed by IICA for promoting rural development followed the same lines as those decided on by the Government of Colombia, inasmuch as both see the small-farm economy as playing a key role in the generation of employment and the production of food stuffs. In particular, he said there were four strategies for meeting the needs of the sector: a comprehensive development program for small-scale farmers, a national rehabilitation plan, a plan for the elimination of poverty, and agrarian reform. In his view, IICA could play a major role in areas such as agricultural planning, by proposing mechanisms to help consolidate the incipient process of decentralization.

He also said that the Institute could help greatly by providing training in the management of macroeconomic variables, in view of the fact that, as participants in the seminar agreed, many of the important issues which concerned the sector -such as marketing and credit policies- were settled outside its framework.

IICA SPURS RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN ARGENTINA

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), working together with governmental and non-governmental organizations, has focused its full attention on promoting rural development in Argentina.

IICA's work is unfolding in the northwestern and northeastern provinces of the country, where the Institute is collaborating with the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (SAGP), the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), the provincial governments and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), on projects designed to improve the quality of life for small-scale producers.

Mercedes C. de Basco, an IICA rural development specialist, explained that Argentina is known primarily for its pampa region, an area where poor farmers are few and have little impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and on export production.

"Even so," she cautions, "small farms and rural poverty are all too common in regions outside the pampa, particularly in provinces of the northern, western, and southern parts of the country." In these zones, poor, small-scale producers make up over 50 percent of the farming population.

"In provinces such as Misiones, in the northeast, or La Rioja, in the northwest, the figure rises above 60 percent," stressed de Basco.

She noted that, since Raúl Alfonsín became president of Argentina in 1983, rural development programs have gathered force.

Early in 1987, IICA responded to this new setting when it took part in setting up the SAGP's National Rural Development Bureau; in December, 1987, the Institute helped establish an Office of Plans and Projects for Small-scale Producers, in the INTA.

The latter Office has an Advisory Council made up of representatives of the INTA (the host organization), the SAGP, the Ministry of Health and Social Action, IICA, several NGOs and the small-scale producers themselves.

SPECIAL HELP FOR SMALL-SCALE FARMERS IN THE NORTHEAST

One of IICA's main projects in conjunction with the SAGP is known as the "Program for Credit and Technical Assistance for Small-Scale Producers in Northeastern Argentina." The program covers the provinces of Chaco, Misiones, Formosa and Corrientes.

"This program will benefit some 4800 small-scale farm producers," explained de Basco, adding that resources have been received from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Program activities will last six years, beginning in 1989, with the additional participation of the INTA, the provincial ministries of agriculture and several NGOs.

IICA's role will focus specifically on training technicians and on the follow-up and evaluation of the overall program.

The program's thrust will be primarily in the areas of credit, technology generation and transfer and land titling as a way to normalize tenure arrangements.

"The entire program," stressed de Basco, "is imbued with a single core philosophy - the need to promote farmer organization and training."

The 4800 beneficiary farmers are engaged in a wide spectrum of activities, such as cotton production; truck farming; and cultivating corn, cassava, aromatic spices or bananas; as well as pig farming.

THE CACHI PROJECT

The Cachi Project, located in the northwestern Argentine province of Salta, is an example of a successful joint endeavor by institutions and small-scale farmers.

The experience provided a springboard for establishing the Association of Small-Scale Farmers of Cachi, a group which enjoys a high degree of organizational and self-management skills.

"This is one of the basic components of the project," explained the IICA specialist. "It consolidates self-management skills of producers, who now collectively use machinery donated by the Secretariat of Agriculture."

The project attaches special importance to such concerns as marketing, generation of appropriate technology and mechanization.

"It is also worth mentioning that the project particularly encourages women to participate in various production activities, such as industrializing the waste products of fruits and vegetables," said de Basco.

"IICA, working in conjunction with the SAGP, is active in educational activities, training the farmers in participatory methods of self-diagnosis, planning and evaluation," she added.

Four one-week seminars for this purpose were attended by delegates from the Association of Small-Scale Farmers of Cachi.

One of the most exciting results of the Cachi experiment is that it persuaded the SAGP to promote a program of support for small-scale farmers in all six of Argentina's northwestern provinces, using the "local projects" strategy.

When this strategy is in use, the small-scale producers, working through their own organizations, are responsible for formulating their projects in a participatory fashion, in response to their real needs.

...One of the most exciting results of the Cachi experiment is that it persuaded the SAGP to promote a program of support for small-scale farmers in all six of Argentina's northwestern provinces, using the "local projects" strategy...

"These methods and this type of project not only boost productivity and small-farm income, but also give more negotiating power to grass-roots groups," affirmed de Basco.



Mercedes C. de Basco, IICA rural development specialist.

Another very meaningful end product that she credits to the local project strategy is that, by directly addressing the problems and needs of small-scale farmers, it provides a useful channel for promoting policy adoption.

A democratic environment, explained de Basco, builds linkages between local projects, regional programs and national policies.

As an example of how these linkages are manifested, she cited the decision by the INTA to set up an Office of Plans and Projects for Small-Scale Producers.

Mercedes de Basco claims that 30 technicians working with the SAGP, the INTA and NGOs in the northwestern provinces have been trained in methods of self-diagnosis and participatory project formulation. They are now equipped to work directly with local farmer organizations.

"By next December, we hope to have 25 or 30 local projects under way, to the benefit of some three thousand poor farmers, at an average per-farmer project cost of one thousand dollars," she concluded.

The Trifinio Plan: AN EXAMPLE OF INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Trifinio Plan is an example of integrated rural development, inasmuch as its 28 projects cover aspects pertaining to agriculture, mining, tourism, ecology and archaeology, said Leopoldo Sandoval, Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Trifinio Plan, during his speech in the seminar on the Role of the Small-Farmer Economy in the Strategy for Agricultural Reactivation and Development, held at IICA Headquarters from September 26 to 28.

The Trifinio Plan covers an area of 7,584 square kilometers along the borders of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, with a population of 583,000. The center of the area, which is where the project originated, is the Montecristo Range, located between Esquipulas (Guatemala), Metapan (El Salvador) and Nueva Otopec (Honduras). It has been declared an international biosphere reserve and named "La Fraternidad Reserve."

The 28 projects carried out under the Trifinio Plan fall within three major headings, i.e., economic growth, infrastructure and social development.

According to Sandoval, there are 13 economic growth projects, including projects for the recovery of the La Fraternidad Forest Reserve, the recovery of watersheds, support to campesino development, development of crafts, exploitation of non-metallic ores and development of agroindustries.

With regard to infrastructure, projects deal with the road system, feeder roads, radio broadcasting, energy, rural electrification and development of the urban infrastructure in the city of Esquipulas.

The third area, he said, includes projects concerned with health, services, water treatment, environmental education, appropriate technology and housing.

Sandoval added that two additional projects might be considered in this area. One, to be carried out in cooperation with the Government of Sweden, would have to do with refugees, and the other would be in the field of archaeology, in view of the great historic significance of certain sites in the region.

According to Sandoval, the projects fall within the sphere of integrated rural development; the one on support for campesinos is directly related and complementary to rural development, inasmuch as it is directed at the poorest campesinos of the Trifinio area.

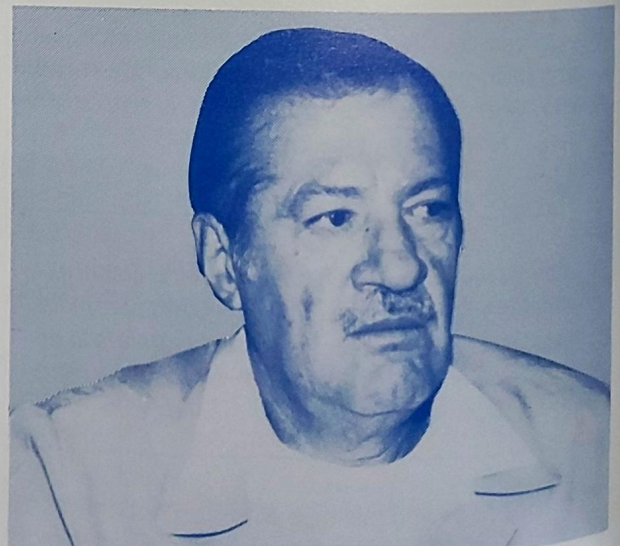
In his view, the most important component of the Plan is that pertaining to the forests, which cover 80 percent of the land area, and are in a serious state of deterioration. Every year 7,000 hectares of forest are consumed solely to supply the population with firewood. Reforestation is absolutely essential, not only because the forests are part of the ecological environment, but also because the river basins must be rescued.

He explained that the Plan would be put under way shortly, thanks to financing provided by the European Economic Community. The stages to be followed would be: reforestation, construction of feeder roads, health centers, schools, and so on.

This project will be carried out by the subsistence farmers of the region themselves, in order to give new impetus to the economy of the poorest campesino inhabitants.

Under the project, campesinos will be paid in three different forms: with food provided in exchange for work, agricultural supplies, and with cash to be used as capital, since these people have been neglected by the credit and technical assistance institutions.

Sandoval concluded that the only way to accomplish anything is through non-reimbursable financing for activities designed to benefit these people, the region, and the countries.



Leopoldo Sandoval, Executive Secretary of the International Commission for the Trifinio Plan

The Editorial Service of IICA announced the forthcoming publication of the book entitled *Fundamentos de comunicación y redacción técnica* (Basic Technical Communications and Writing), to appear as number 88 in the Educational Texts and Materials Series. This publication is designed to bring together in organized fashion the main works in the field of scientific communications and technical writing by specialists and technical personnel of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

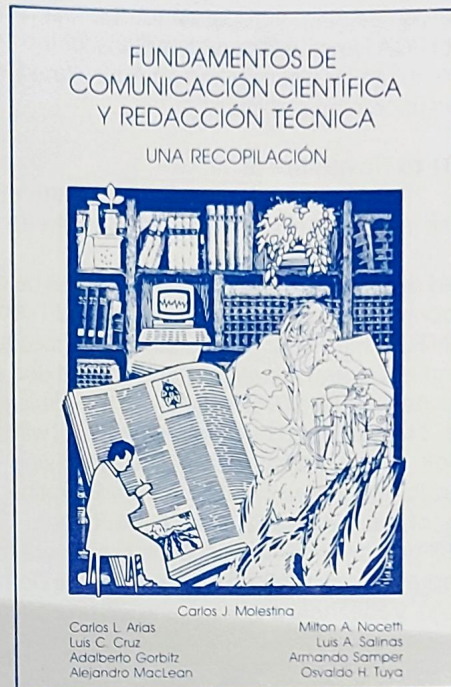
The 266-page book offers readers information on aspects ranging from the scientific method to a description of how a scientific magazine specializing in agriculture is prepared, edited and published.

It includes chapters on how to gather and organize materials, different types of scientific and technical works, writing articles in the field of the agricultural sciences, writing technical reports, writing information pamphlets (which require a different methodological approach), documentation, information and drafting of bibliographical references.

The annexes cover techniques for preparing tables and figures, and for using scientific nomenclature and standards in scientific and technical publications. The work concludes with an extensive bibliography which supplements the individual ones presented with each chapter.

This book was edited by Peruvian agronomist Carlos J. Molestina, who is also its main author as well as Chief of the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA). It consists of a collection of articles by specialists such as Colombian agronomist Armando Samper, Emeritus Director General of IICA, founder of *Turrialba* magazine and currently Director General of the Sugar Cane Research Center (CENICAÑA) in Colombia; Peruvian agronomist Adalberto Gorbitz, Emeritus Editor of IICA and an internationally recognized authority in the area of technical writing; and Costa Rican agronomist Carlos Luis Arias, a former IICA staff member who has had a long and successful career in the field of agricultural communications.

Other authors are Peruvian agronomist Alejandro MacLean, who has devoted his professional life to this field and has published many works on the subject; Peruvian agronomist Luis Salinas, founder of the Technical Information Office of his country and currently on the staff of IICA; Colombian agronomist Luis Carlos



Cruz, former professor at the Graduate School of IICA-CEI (now CATIE) and now Chief Editor of the magazine *Pesquisa Agropecuaria Brasileira*, published by the Brazilian Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) in Brazil; Uruguayan agronomist Milton Nocetti, a well-known authority in the field of documentation and data processing who is now on the staff of EMBRAPA in Brazil; and Argentine agronomist Osvaldo H. Tuya, Chief Librarian of the Anguil Experimental Station operated by the National Institute for the Agricultural Technology (INTA) of Argentina.

The bibliographical references and the bibliography itself were prepared by a highly qualified team of Latin American librarians and documentalists who work for IICA, namely, Ghislaine Poitevien, of Haiti; Laura Coto, Ana María Arias, Lupita Rodríguez and Margarita Castillo, of Costa Rica; and the Brazilians María José Galrao, an IICA staff member, and Cléa Lúcia Lira and Miriam Dalva Martínez, of EMBRAPA.

This most useful book is made available to researchers, professors and university students - both undergraduates and graduates - as a tool for learning the techniques, methods and standards of scientific communication and technical writing.

ACTIVITIES

The "Activities" section, introduced for the first time in this issue of IICA News, will provide a place for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to report on upcoming activities.

October 31 to November 5.

Seminar: "The Role of the Media in Reactivating Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean II."

This second seminar on the role of the media will be held by IICA in conjunction with the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC), the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Spain. It will take a fresh look at the agricultural sector, stressing the important role agriculture must play in reactivating the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean. The seminar will be attended by agricultural reporters from various media in Central America, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela and Haiti, and will take place at IICA Headquarters.

November 7 to 11.

Seminar: "Europe's Common Agricultural Policy, and Cooperation for Development."

This seminar, organized by IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Spain, will bring together authorities from the ministries of agriculture in Latin America and representatives of technical and financial cooperation institutions in the region. They will examine recent experiences of the European Economic Community (EEC) and its Common Agricultural Policy. The seminar will also touch on the institutions, legislation and funding mechanisms that have made this policy a reality.

November 17 to 18.

"Fifth Meeting of Government Marketing Institutions that Distribute Basic Foodstuffs in Latin America and the Caribbean."

The Action Committee for Regional Food Security (CASAR) of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) will meet at IICA headquarters to examine the different ways in which shrinking stocks on international markets for grains and other basic foodstuffs affect Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA IN THE NEWS

LA NACION

Argentina, September 24, 1988: The Argentine press reports that a proposal prepared by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has provided a foundation on which the deputy ministers of agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay and Chile agreed to forge a "common front" to improve the conditions under which they participate in international markets.

The project prepared by the Institute is entitled "Strategy of Joint Action to Reactivate Agriculture in the Countries of the Southern Area."

EL DIA

Uruguay, September 16, 1988: The newspapers report that the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martín E. Piñero, recently addressed the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS). In his message, Piñero stressed that agriculture should be the focal point of a new development strategy in Latin America and the Caribbean.

El Sol de México

August 30, 1988: Under the headline, "OPEC Pledges Financial Support for the Latin American Plan of Agriculture," the media announced that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries had donated US\$30,000 to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), to help finance the preparation of the Strategic Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

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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 made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

News bulletin on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo. 55-2200 Coronado, San Jose, Costa Rica. Cable: IICASANJOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Telephone: 290222.

October 1988, Year V, No. 21.

IICA



NEWS

GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS PROJECTS TOTALLING US\$878 MILLION SUBMITTED

A total of 220 projects, with a value of US\$878 million, and aimed at developing the Trifinio area, were presented by the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, to the Vice-Presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

After stating that the project "is of strategic importance in the search for a consensus among three neighboring countries," Dr. Piñeiro added, in the Honduran city of Santa Rosa de Copan, that "in the Trifinio, not only does the geography of three neighboring countries converge, but also the possibility of forging, through a shared development venture, the political determination

needed to achieve well-being in peace and freedom".

Complying with the agreement signed on November 12, 1986 by the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the Organization of American States (OAS) and IICA, Dr. Piñeiro delivered the projects for developing the Trifinio to the Designee to the Presidency of Honduras, Dr. Alfredo Fortín; the Vice-President of Guatemala, Mr. Roberto Carpio; and the Minister of the Economy and Representative of the Vice-President of El Salvador, Mr. Ricardo Perdomo.

After highlighting the "political support received at the highest level" from the Vice-Presidents in the task of



Above, left to right: Dr. Shiaaki Tomita, Representative of the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resources Exploration; Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; Mr. Roberto Carpio, Vice President of Guatemala; Dr. Alfredo Fortín, Designee to the Presidency of Honduras, and Mr. Ricardo Perdomo, Minister of the Economy and Representative of the Vice President of El Salvador.

GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS PROJECTS TOTALLING...



Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, presents the Trifinio Plan development projects to Dr. Alfredo Fortín, Designee to the Presidency of Honduras.

preparing the projects, IICA's Director General explained that the projects are designed to fit into three priority programs: economic growth, infrastructure development and improvement of the living conditions of Trifinio inhabitants.

He pointed out that 117 of the projects concerned economic growth; 44, infrastructure development and 59, social development, for a total value of US\$878 million.

Of these, US\$458 million are earmarked for 29 trilateral projects to be carried out under the joint responsibility of a commission established by the three countries for working on the Plan, which is scheduled to last 10 years.

Dr. Piñeiro made special reference to the project entitled "Providing support to the development of the campesino sector," describing it as a "key and pivotal proposal for developing the Trifinio region."

"This project seeks to provide campesinos with capital by paying them for their work in reforestation activities, building feeder roads and digging hillside irrigation ditches for improving farming lots," he said.

In addition, he stated that a technological package had been designed that will provide full family employment during the entire year and improved production of basic grains.

"Thanks to the European Economic Community, a pilot project is already under way which will be repeated throughout the rest of the area," added Dr. Piñeiro.

He indicated that it was hoped that international lending institutions would contribute to the funding of these important projects, which would be complemented with funds from each of the countries. The Director General went on to call on the Governments of these countries to adopt the projects as their own, "so that, with the collaboration of all, we can put them into action."

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JOINT DECLARATION OF THE VICE-PRESIDENTS ON THE TRIFINIO PLAN

The Vice-Presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala and the Designee to the Presidency of Honduras,

CONSIDERING:

- On this date we have seen the final report and the General Plan for the Trifinio Plan, which was drawn up on the basis of the Technical Cooperation Agreement signed on November 12, 1986 by the Governments of the Republic of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, for designing a Comprehensive Development Plan for the area on the borders of the three countries;

- The nineteen documents making up the Plan, which were presented by the technical authorities indicated in the Technical Cooperation Agreement, provide valuable material for conducting specific studies for some projects and for the immediate implementation of others;

- The technical and financial support of the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the European Economic Community has been invaluable for preparation of the Plan;

- Implementation of this Plan will contribute enormously to the process of Central American integration and to achieving a firm and lasting peace in the Central American region;

- Implementation of this Plan requires broad political and financial support;

- The formulation of this Plan is a good example of what could be done in other border areas shared by two or three countries in the Central American region;

- An outstanding response has been received from the international economic, financial and technical assistance community and from friendly nations, for purposes of implementing the Plan;

- Honduran Government authorities, as well as the mayors and inhabitants of Copan Ruinas and Santa Rosa de Copan, have interpreted the feelings of the inhabitants of the region by showing a high degree of collaboration and kindness, as well as an elevated desire for a united Central America, all of which have contributed to the success of the Trifinio Plan;

DECLARE:

1. Their great satisfaction with the fact that the Plan was formulated within the established time limit and that the anticipated objectives and goals have been met.

2. Their gratitude to the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the European Economic Community for the support provided in carrying out this first stage of the Plan, and to all the experts who participated in drawing it up.

3. Their gratitude to the European Economic Community, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, the United Nations Revolving Fund for Natural Resource Exploration, the United Nations Development Programme, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Governments of Spain, the Netherlands, the Federal Republic of Germany, Sweden and Italy, for their positive response to requests for assistance to the TRIFINIO Plan.

4. Their intention to continue providing full political support throughout the various stages of Plan implementation.

5. Their recommendation that the experience gained from the Trifinio Plan be used in other border areas of their countries and of other countries of the region, to encourage comprehensive development of the same.

6. Their intention to establish as soon as possible the Trinational Sectoral Operating Commissions, which will serve to coordinate and execute the projects entrusted to each of them.

7. Their heartfelt thanks to the inhabitants of the Departments of Copan and Ocotepeque, to the Government of Honduras and especially to Dr. Alfredo Fortin, for the hospitality and kindness with which they received the delegations participating in the second Meeting of the Commission, which contributed to the success of the deliberations and to the results of this meeting.

Finally, ISSUE A CALL TO:

- The international financial community and to friendly nations to continue providing support to Plan implementation.

- The inhabitants of the Trifinio region, to participate actively and enthusiastically in implementing the Plan.

4 In light of poor results of adjustment programs: IICA REITERATES NEED FOR DESIGNING NEW DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) holds that, considering the poor results obtained from adjustment and stabilization programs and the existence of a dramatic economic crisis, it has become necessary to propose new development strategies which will make it possible to increase economic growth rates, based on solid foundations.

Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations of IICA, speaking at the Regional Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Recife, Brazil, stated that under those conditions, which included a large external debt, agricultural protectionism, exchange-rate and financial-market instability and profound changes brought about by the technological revolution, the idea that agriculture can and should play a significant role in new development strategies took on new significance.

Luiselli said that, despite the economic crisis, countries were returning to democracy, and that implied the need to accelerate the return to economic growth, in order to respond to foreseeably greater social demands. It was therefore necessary to resume a process of accumulation; at the same time, the distribution of wealth must be improved and political participation strengthened.

To illustrate the gravity of the current situation, Luiselli mentioned that the decline in the per capita gross domestic product in the region had been 9% between 1982 and 1986, and as much as 20% in some countries. In addition, he indicated that levels of investment, as a percentage of GDP, had dropped from 24% to 16% during the same period, while there had been a simultaneous drop in real wages of 4.5% annually in the last five-year period; moreover, nearly 70% of the rural population was living below the critical poverty line.

The Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations of IICA said that, considering that agriculture contributed 18% of the region's GDP and 32% of its foreign exchange from exports, and employed 38% of the work force, its revitalization would obviously have a short-term beneficial impact on the level of economic activity, the trade balance, employment and inflation. Likewise, he pointed out that because of the concentration of poverty in the rural sector, equitable agricultural revitalization would contribute to solving that problem.

He advocated economic growth based on agriculture, through the promotion of a process of reindustrialization based on agricultural raw materials, in which the countries would be able to compete on international markets.

According to Luiselli, the current situation explained the growing leadership role being assumed by the ministers



Dr. Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations of IICA.

of agriculture in the search for alternatives to enable our countries to get back on the path to development.

After recognizing that those ideas had already been proposed by the ministers of agriculture at the previous regional conference of FAO, held in Barbados in 1986, and at the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), organized by IICA in Canada in 1987, Luiselli asserted that the complementary mandates given to both agencies represented a series of advances in the discussion of those topics.

Luiselli said that the Plan of Action presented by FAO at its current meeting and the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, being prepared by IICA in response to a mandate from the ministers, represented complementary initiatives which would contribute to the mobilization of resources and an increased willingness to tackle the difficult task of modernizing and revitalizing the agricultural sectors of our countries.

In the same vein, he added that the multilateral approach, which had been the basis for the foundation of international organizations, had now taken on a new meaning. Those organizations faced, among other things, the challenge of finding areas of specialization and developing new means of collaboration and complementarity which, while respecting the individual mandates of each institution, would still respond to the real needs of the member countries.

Mr. Luiselli headed the IICA delegation, which also included Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations; Reginald Pierre, Director of the Caribbean Area, and Felix Cirio, Coordinator of the IICA Plan of Joint Action.

Technology: A FACTOR IN THE GROWTH OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR

The nature of technology generated and disseminated recently has important implications for the role to be played by the private sector in research and technological development.

Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Director of the Technology Generation and Transfer Program of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), makes this statement in a study on the participation of the private sector in agricultural research.

This document provides a detailed analysis of some of the main phenomena underlying the growth of the private sector and the way in which it has affected the performance of the technological systems of developing countries.

Thus, the author argues that technological innovation and its impact on the social and economic organization of different societies is one of the most outstanding characteristics of the twentieth century.

In light of this phenomenon, there is concern that mechanisms must be created to enable society to control the direction and intensity of technical change.

According to Dr. Trigo, in Latin America, and probably in less developed countries, discussions on this topic have centered on the creation of national research institutes, which ensure the participation of the state in agricultural research.

He notes, nonetheless, that economic and institutional development in these countries over the last two decades has brought about the creation of private and semi-public organizations which work on specific aspects of the generation and transfer of technology.

According to the report, this development is a natural consequence of the evolution of the market economies, and has to do with the appearance of certain conditions, such as the growth of technological input markets and the growing possibility of private appropriation of the benefits arising from investment in research.

Likewise, during the last decade, these trends have been reinforced by the birth of biotechnology, which brought about a substantial change not only in the scientific base, but also in the very nature of the technologies discovered and in the institutional context of the modernization of agriculture.

According to Dr. Trigo, this situation has far-reaching implications both for the policies and organization of the national agricultural research and development systems, and for the potential advancement of science and technology in the developing countries.

THE ROLE OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Initial efforts at developing research in the public sector, specifically through the national agricultural research systems, focused on the development of human resources and the creation of data bases, which are essential to research and technological development.

As a result of this process, the countries developed a substantial pool of highly qualified human resources, and accumulated a good amount of information in areas critical to technological development, thus significantly reducing the risks and costs of private sector research.

Dr. Trigo states that this made the appearance and consolidation of private sector research and development units possible. On the one hand, the private firms do not have to train their own researchers; they are able to recruit them from the ranks of the public institutions, particularly in view of the low salaries offered by the latter. On the other, the increased availability of basic information provides a greater degree of certainty that the desired results will be achieved, and allows for investments to be made in certain areas not dealt with previously, such as the evaluation of fertilizers and agrochemicals.

Another aspect of the process of modernization and development to be considered, which affects both the private and the public sector, is the increased participation in the generation and transfer of technology of non-governmental research foundations and cooperative agricultural production organizations.

In his report, Dr. Trigo explains that the growing use of technologies which are not neutral in terms of their impact on the distribution of income has led certain social sectors to concern themselves with the direction and intensity of technical change.

In this context, producer organizations play an important role in situations where there are homogeneous production structures and the technological potential is obvious.

A FACTOR IN THE GROWTH...

In Dr. Trigo's opinion, some of these organizations have assumed the role of public extension systems by developing their own technical assistance mechanisms. A good example of this is the CREA groups in Argentina, which today consist of 150 local groups and more than 1500 members.

The document identifies two types of non-governmental research foundations: those dedicated solely to research, and those which grant funds for research. Both play an important role in that they provide the countries with additional access to research, and offer an effective means for broadening the base of support for research activities.

MARKETS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL RAW MATERIALS

Another factor which has helped strengthen the private sector has been the growth of markets for technological inputs.

Dr. Trigo notes that in the case of trade in seeds, agrochemicals and machinery, which play a key role in increasing production, the private sector has been strengthened thanks to patent laws which make it easier to protect research inputs.

Also, the trade sector has grown as a result of having increased access to institutional raw materials, such as credit and technical assistance.

Along with the growth of commercial agriculture, it has become necessary to develop information channels and the infrastructure required to get these innovations to producers, and thus expand even further the market for raw materials.

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND THE PRIVATIZATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Dr. Trigo states that the rise of biotechnology is another important factor in the institutional changes that have taken place in the national systems of generation and transfer of agricultural technology.

In this regard, the public sector is hampered by its limited access to the sources of information on new biotechnologies, as a result of its not being associated with the institutions that develop this know-how.

Likewise, the public sector must hire personnel specialized in areas such as molecular and cellular biology, virology and immunology.

According to Dr. Trigo, another factor affecting the public sector is the special relationship which exists between biotechnology and the private sector, as a result of which the latter participates actively in research on new technologies and plays a key role in their development.

In view of the above, the author points to the need for defining a technology policy which takes into account new developments which are a result of the modernization of and the changes in the agriculture sector.

To define such policies, it will be important to consider, from a broader perspective, the role played by the private sector and its relation to sectoral and macroeconomic policies, as well as policies on science in general.

In view of the fact that the public sector no longer enjoys the monopoly on research it did two decades ago, it is necessary to redefine its role in light of the existence of specific alternatives and areas of competence. In this regard, one possibility is for it to concentrate more on creating technological capabilities (basic and strategic research), and on tending to the technology needs of specific sectors (small-scale farmers, regional scenarios), which, because of their small size, are of no interest to the private sector.

Finally, Dr. Trigo points out the importance of the role played by international agencies, which should complement efforts at generating technology, considering the new characteristics of this activity and the tremendous task that still lies ahead, in both human and economic terms.

These efforts will have to be funded jointly, and priorities must be established based on the evolution of demand on the international markets.

GERMAN MISSION DEFINES AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH IICA

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The Ministry for Economic Cooperation of the Federal Republic of Germany is interested in collaborating with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in its efforts to reactivate the agricultural sector of Latin America and the Caribbean.

A four-member official mission recently made a one-week visit to Institute Headquarters, where they identified priority areas for aid to be provided under a cooperation agreement to be signed in the next few months.

In this regard, Germany's cooperation would concentrate initially on supporting efforts pertaining to the planning and analysis of policies and projects within the context of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Preparation of this plan was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in September 1987 in Canada.

Mr. Werner Knipschild, advisor to the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation (GTZ), stressed the Bonn Government's interest in entering into technical cooperation arrangements with IICA.

Elaborating on his Government's position, he explained that his country attached priority to discussing and analyzing agricultural development problems with the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The German official also stressed the importance of coordinating the objectives of economic growth with those of conservation of natural resources and of the environment. In that regard, he said, "we are duty-bound to pass on to future generations a world that can still be lived in."

Specifically, the Federal Republic of Germany's collaboration will consist of the assignment of two specialists to work with the team that is drawing up the Plan of Joint Action and with IICA's Investment Project Center (CEPI).

In addition, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation (GTZ) will provide advisory services in connection with the establishment of a hemisphere-wide training program in policy design and implementation, and will provide financial support to help cover the operating expenses involved.



The German cooperation mission met with IICA officials to discuss support for IICA's work in the planning and analysis of policies and projects, in the context of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Other members of the German delegation were Rudolf Schlotz, advisor for economic affairs to the embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany; Peter Dietz, GTZ coordinator of regional rural development projects for Latin America, and Herbert Froemberg, coordinator of the GTZ Forestry and Agricultural Development Project in Costa Rica.

IICA was represented in the discussions by Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General; Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations; Felix Cirio, Advisor to the Director General and Coordinator of the Plan of Action; Carlos Pomareda, Director of Program I, and Carlos Luis de Miranda, Rural Development Specialist.

Knipschild said that the information concerning the Institute which he had gathered during his stay in the country showed that it played a significant role in the design and promotion of strategies aimed at reactivating agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In his view, IICA and the Ministry of Economic Cooperation can contribute towards the achievement of a proper balance between agricultural development and environmental conservation, inasmuch as joint action can make a greater impact.

IICA PROMOTES RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN URUGUAY

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is promoting three programs aimed at improving the production capacity of several sectors that can have an impact on rural development in Uruguay, the results of which will be seen in the medium term.

The projects are entitled "Institutional support to the *granja* sector," "Support to rural development actions of regional agencies," and "Agricultural development and technical cooperation." They are administered with assistance from the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP).

Since January 1988, IICA has assisted the Regional Development Office, the Agroindustrial Project Evaluation and Support Unit, and the Directorate for the *Granja* Plan, all of which are agencies of the MGAP, in providing support to small- and medium-scale farmers.

Specifically, the Institute focuses its efforts on identifying and preparing projects for the *granja* sector, which consists of fruit and vegetable farmers, as well as small-livestock breeders.

A strawberry production and marketing project grew out of this effort, its aim being to organize farmers to generate an economy of scale, which would receive input from a special fund set up by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

As concerns information and dissemination efforts in support of the *granja* system, the most important action taken this year was the organization of three seminars on the following topics: "Onions as an export product for Uruguay," "Status and outlook for the production and marketing of table grapes," and "Prospects for pear and apple production."

Another of IICA's interests has been to provide training to MGAP staff and to nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in the identification, preparation and execution of *granja*-related agroindustrial projects.

Over the short term, this task includes drawing up a project for funding by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to encourage coordination among countries of the region and to monitor implementation of the project.

It also involves designing a strategy of horizontal technical cooperation for technical personnel and farmers, and

an exchange of experiences and know-how among specialists in this area, through travel to other countries.

Low-income farmers are another of IICA and MGAP's principal targets; thus, studies are currently under way for preparing an investment project aimed at incorporating this sector into the national economy.

SUPPORT TO REGIONAL AGENCIES

Progress has been made on the project "Support to rural development actions of regional agencies" in identifying preinvestment programs for the sector, in coordination with MGAP's Extension Office.

In this vein, several months ago the Departments of Artigas, Cerro Largo, Durazno, Florida, San José and Rio Negro were designated beneficiaries of the Plan. A document containing an interpretation of departmental strategies for rural development was also drawn up as part of this process.

This subject was discussed during a seminar held in July in the city of Fray Bentos, where IICA and MGAP representatives, as well as technical personnel from the intendancies, drafted the guidelines that will govern the preinvestment programs for department-level rural development.

IICA is similarly involved with requests from several intendancies, such as that of Artigas, which is interested in drawing up a small-scale project on the restructuring of local trade, to be submitted to the Government of Canada for funding.

Within this broad context of cooperation, the Institute also provides support to MGAP in other regional agricultural development actions, like those undertaken between 1984 and 1987 with cooperatives in the northeastern part of the country, where marketing, irrigation and agroenergy projects have received IDB funding.

During 1988, technical cooperation efforts have concentrated on the Calagua cooperative, which is promoting a project on the production of vegetables to supply a freezing plant to be built over the medium term.

IICA is also conducting a study of strategies and mechanisms to be used in promoting the cooperative sector as a vehicle of rural development, and is therefore currently engaged in compiling all existing information on work carried out so far in this area.

PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

IMPORT SUBSTITUTION MODEL HINDERS EFFORTS TO OVERCOME ECONOMIC CRISIS

Although their strict adherence to the "import substitution model" has enabled most Latin American and Caribbean countries to achieve rapid economic growth over the last two decades, it has kept them from playing a greater role in the international economy, and limited them to exporting raw materials. According to Dr. David Ibarra, this has seriously hampered their efforts to recover from the crisis under the new economic circumstances of the 1980s.

"We are late in our efforts to increase exports, and it is imperative that we create new development models," he added.

These statements were made on the occasion of the presentation, in Mexico, of a progress report on preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Dr. Ibarra, who is a member of IICA's International Advisory Commission on preparation of the Plan, pointed out that the region had been placed in an extremely difficult situation as a result of its late arrival on the international market, of increased protectionism in international trade and of the substitution of raw materials; indeed, it could not expect to sell on the external market products which no one wanted to buy.



Officials of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and of the General Directorate for International Affairs of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) of Mexico meet in Mexico City to discuss the Plan of Action for the Mexican subregion, to be presented to the new agricultural authorities, with a view to facilitating the work of the sector.

Speaking to representatives of the Mexican Government and campesino organizations and to academic researchers, Ibarra explained that Mexico was one of the countries that had most suffered the consequences of a lack of foresight, inasmuch as it had concentrated excessively on promoting oil exports, which at one time had dominated its trade.

At the presentation ceremony, organized jointly by the General Directorate of International Affairs of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) of Mexico, and IICA, David Ibarra said that the serious crisis which the countries of the Area were experiencing was due to two causes. In the first place, the fact that all the countries were in a state of crisis, regardless of system of government, national strategy or size, was an indication of the existence of causes of a general nature which affected the region as a whole. In the second place, Latin America's maladjustment with respect to the rest of the world economy had caused it to lose approximately 50% of its share in the export market.

He pointed out that Latin America could not continue to grow while in the throes of internal and external crises. The gross domestic product of these countries had fallen by 12 to 15%, and the situation was worsening, since their budgets had also plunged by between 20 and 40%.

In view of all the above, according to Ibarra, the agriculture sector will have to get organized in order to recover the political power required to generate the support and the incentives it needs to keep on going.

For his part, Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations of IICA, explained that the Plan of Action was being drawn up in response to a mandate issued by the ministers of agriculture of the 31 member countries of IICA at the latest Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada.

The Plan was intended to draw on the efforts and experiences of the member countries; to seek technical, technological and commercial cooperation with a view to finding solutions, in as short a time as possible, to longstanding deficiencies, and to enable the region to compete on the international market, making the most of its comparative advantages and reducing its technological backwardness.

He pointed out that the Plan of Joint Action was not

meant to replace national plans, but rather to help all IICA member countries with their specific projects, through international cooperation and cooperation with other multinational agencies. He added that a specific plan was being drawn up for Mexico because of its unique situation; for example, it had a large but not very productive agricultural sector which required technology in order to increase production.

Dr. Carlos Vidali and Mr. Victor del Angel, who are in charge of the Directorate of International Affairs of SARH, pointed out that while Mexico was not a major agricultural power, it did have a large market and hence offered excellent opportunities for countertrade in grain and oilseed crops, which could be exchanged for fertilizers or other products.

The Plan of Action for the Mexican subregion covers five basic points, as follows: economic and social diagnosis of the situation in the rural areas of Mexico, identification of strategies for reactivating production, cooperation, trade and international financing. The results of this effort will be presented to the new agricultural authorities in order to help ensure continuity in their work.

The diagnosis includes a discussion of how and to what extent natural resources have been utilized, how the factors of production have been used, and what yields, jobs and income have been generated. Under the second point, an analysis is made of the causes which have led to the existing structure of production and its overall performance, in light of the macroeconomic policies currently in force. The section on strategies stresses the leading role which can be played by agriculture in the immediate future, in terms of the policy proposals of the new administration.

The purpose is to consolidate Mexico's sovereignty as regards food supply; hence, priority is attached to achieving self-sufficiency in the production of basic grains, in order to reduce the country's extreme vulnerability to external circumstances.

The Mexico Plan, therefore, takes into account the fact that international cooperation can serve as a useful complement to the technological development achieved to date; at the same time, it stresses the contributions that can be made, along with other nations, in areas such as irrigation technology, animal health and others, in order to help advance regional integration efforts.

In Mexico: AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISTS TO FORM ASSOCIATION

Journalists who took part in the seminar on the participation of the press in the agricultural reactivation of Mexico and Latin America, held near Queretaro from October 20 to 22, decided to begin working on the creation of a national association of agricultural journalists.

In an atmosphere of great enthusiasm, the journalists decided to entrust Ricardo Rodriguez, of the daily *El Dia*, with drawing up a directory of all agricultural journalists in Mexico. At the same time, they designated Bertha Becerra, of *El Sol*; Jose Luis Aguilar, of *El Nacional*, and Carlos Lara, of the Notimex news agency, to make the necessary preparations for a meeting to be held to establish the association. In principle, this meeting should take place in early December in the southern state of Oaxaca.

The seminar, which was opened by Mariano Palacios Alcocer, Governor of Queretaro, was organized by the Directorate of International Affairs of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) and by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The purpose of the seminar was to discuss how journalists and the press in general might contribute to agricultural reactivation, and to discuss a proposal for the establishment of an inter-American association of agricultural journalists.

This proposal was made last May by reporters of 10 Latin American countries who met at IICA Headquarters to discuss the role of the press in agricultural reactivation.

"This is the first time we have been convened to play an active role in a seminar, rather than just reporting on subjects discussed by others; it is the first time we have been given the opportunity to analyze and discuss our own work," said Bertha Becerra, who was elected coordinator of the Queretaro seminar by her colleagues.

During two days of intensive deliberations, the journalists shared their experiences with each other, pointed out the limitations and difficulties they encountered in carrying out their work, stressed the need for ongoing training in agriculture, and agreed that the press can play a significant role in the process of agricultural reactivation in our countries.

They also emphasized the importance of promoting efforts to strengthen ties between the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean. In that regard, they endorsed the idea of establishing an inter-American association to enable agricultural journalists throughout the hemisphere to get to know each other better and to improve their professional training.

REUNION ANUAL DE LA PRENSA EN LA REACTIVACION AGRICOLA DE MEXICO Y AMERICA LATINA



Left to right: Armando Sinecio Leya, Dr. Hector Morales Jara, Jaime Nieto Martinez, Dr. Rodolfo Martinez Ferraté, Mariano Palacios Alcocer - Governor of the State of Querétaro, Sergio Osorio, Carlos Vidali Carbajas and Demetrio Mondragon Barajas.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN: BARRIERS HINDER FREE AND MORE FAVORABLE TRADE

The impact of agriculture as a moving force in the economic reactivation of Latin America and the Caribbean will depend on the efforts the region makes to overcome the barriers set up by the developed countries, which hinder the development of a free, differentiated and more favorable trade.

A study prepared for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) by Carlos de la Ossa shows that the trade policies applied by the industrialized nations severely restrict the agriculture and the foreign trade of the poor nations.

The study, which deals with the international trade situation of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as with the impact of the agricultural policies of the developed countries, issues a warning about the implications of the current trade system.

FROM IMPORTERS TO EXPORTERS

The study shows that, as a result of their policies on agriculture, such as the purchasing of products at guaranteed prices, excessive protectionism and tariffs on imports and exports, the developed countries have become major exporters and reduced their share as importers.

Thus, according to data supplied by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), their share as importers on the world market fell from 73% to 63% during the period 1970-1984, while their share as exporters rose from 59% to 63% during the same period.

This change was the result of changes in their production programs, inasmuch as they became producers of goods which they had formerly imported, such as cereals and grains, and accumulated great surpluses which they subsequently sold on the world market, causing a drop in prices.

The document on market access and agricultural trade is being published as Appendix 8 to the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, currently being prepared by IICA.

The task of preparing this plan was entrusted to IICA by

the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada, in September 1987.

To deal with the problem, de la Ossa recommends that the nations of the region should join their efforts and seek the liberalization of agricultural trade, in order to ensure that they receive differentiated and more favorable treatment, according to the principles already accepted at the Tokyo and Uruguay Rounds.

The multilateral trade negotiations began in 1973 with a declaration by the United States, the European Economic Community and Japan. They were resumed in 1979 as the Tokyo Round, and the most recent ones were held during the GATT meeting in Uruguay in 1986.

COMPLEMENTARY TASK

In addition to these efforts, it will be important to comply with the provisions set forth in the ministers' declaration on the Uruguay Round of talks on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), regarding the eventual elimination of measures which restrict trade.

The expert also suggests that subsidies for exports of agricultural products should be eliminated as a matter of the highest priority, and prices should be supported through international agreements between producers and consumers, within the framework of the Integrated Program on Commodities.

In this regard, the author attaches great importance to the Generalized System of Preferences, an agreement establishing duty-free access to the markets of the major developed countries, as a nonreciprocal and unilateral measure designed to benefit the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

De la Ossa also considers it advisable to increase intraregional trade in agricultural products by reducing or eliminating tariff and nontariff barriers, as required by the relevant integration agreements. The author warns, however, that intraregional agricultural trade cannot be revived and expanded unless financing and payments systems are strengthened so as to ensure liquidity for trading activities.

STAFF CHANGES IN PROCACAO, CEPI AND IICA'S OFFICE IN BRAZIL

During October, three new officers began their duties at IICA. Guillermo Villanueva is the new Coordinator of PROCACAO, the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer; Fernando Maida Dall'Acqua became the Director of CEPI, IICA's Investment Projects Center; and Manuel Rodolfo Otero came on board as IICA Representative in Brazil.

PROCACAO

Guillermo Villanueva, a native of the Dominican Republic, is an agricultural engineer and a regional specialist in technology generation and transfer. He has broad experience in agricultural research, and his duties at IICA include having served as the Institute's Representative in Suriname from October 1981 to March 1987. His main objective is to consolidate the cacao network, which began operations in April 1988. PROCACAO is composed of research institutions from Belize, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama.



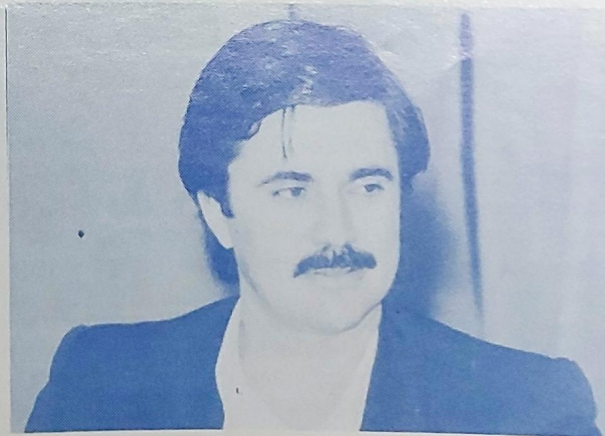
CEPI

The new Director of CEPI, Fernando Maida Dall'Acqua, is a Brazilian who has specialized in the field of development. He brings with him vast experience in the areas of economics and administration. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin in the United States, he has written several publications, including "Public Deficit," with the researcher L.C. Bresser; "Agriculture, Credit and Recession," and, in Spanish, *Impactos antiinflacionarios del control de precios y salarios* (The anti-inflationary impact of price and wage controls).

IICA OFFICE IN BRAZIL

Manuel Rodolfo Otero, from Argentina, is a veterinarian with a Master's degree in the agricultural sciences. He served as Minister Counsellor, with headquarters in Washington D.C., of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries. He also had an impressive career at the School of Veterinary Medicine of the University of Buenos Aires.

He has to his credit a number of publications on the agriculture sector, such as "Export Programs and Trade Issues. Perspectives from Argentina" and, in Spanish, *Cambios recientes en la política agrícola de los EE.UU.: implicaciones y perspectivas para la agricultura norteamericana y el comercio mundial* (Recent changes in the agricultural policy of the United States: implications and outlook for North American agriculture and world trade).



RADIATION, AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS FOR INCREASING NONTRADITIONAL EXPORTS

The radiation of vegetables, fresh fruits and seafoods in order to prolong their useful life and eliminate microorganisms is an alternative which will soon be available as a means for increasing nontraditional exports from Latin America.

According to specialists who participated in a meeting held October 10-13 at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the technique, which scientific studies have shown to be noncarcinogenic, will help reduce by 40% the postharvest losses of a large number of perishable products.

The meeting, sponsored by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), brought together experts from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Uruguay and Venezuela, for an exchange of information on the status of radiation research in their countries.

Dr. Harry Mussman, Director of IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection Program, said that although the Institute was not itself involved in research on the subject, it had made its facilities available for the meeting because of its interest in the impact which radiation could have on the agricultural economies of Latin America.

"IICA is aware of the importance of this technique for all the countries of the region, in view of its potential for solving the problem of access to international markets," said Mussman.

Radiation consists of exposing products, under controlled and safe conditions, to the effect of gamma rays from cobalt or cesium; these rays penetrate the fruits, vegetables and meat, killing microorganisms or insects without damaging the product.

The researchers urged the Governments of the region to update all available information on the radiation of foodstuffs, in order to facilitate the introduction of this technology in the food industry. This would be a first step towards the development of marketing programs.

To justify their recommendation, they explained that radiation extends the life of products four weeks longer than refrigeration and dehydration, the other techniques used. In addition, because it destroys insects and bacteria, it provides the safest means for enforcing quarantine policies.

The specialists added that the technique would eliminate the problem faced by many Latin American countries, whose nontraditional exports are usually rejected by the

purchasing countries because of spoilage.

They also suggested that, in order to take maximum advantage of radiation technology, the organizations that work with it should discuss with regional authorities the possibility of reorganizing the existing systems for the marketing and transport of foods for domestic consumption and for export.

The specialists stressed the importance of radiation as an economic alternative, and pointed out that it has the added advantage of offering a substitute for the use of chemicals as food preservatives.

In this regard, it makes it possible to eliminate the use, for that purpose, of highly toxic substances such as ethylene dibromide and methyl bromide, which is less harmful but still widely used.

Beyond whatever resistance may be put up by bacteria and insects, however, the use of radiation must still face the opposition of the major buyers of perishables, whose Governments have not yet accepted it and are calling for further research.

According to the experts, this is due to the fact that consumers are still under a cloud of confusion as to the difference between radiated foods and radioactive elements.

To clear up this confusion, they explained that radiation is the process of freeing energy through gamma rays, not violently, as is the case with nuclear explosions. The gamma-ray method ensures that no residues are left in the treated product.

The researchers recommended that, in order to erase this stereotype from the minds of consumers, an educational campaign should be conducted through the mass media, and a constant flow of information should be made available to the press. Lectures on the usefulness of the technique should also be delivered at institutions and corporations.

Chris Rigney, the IAEA representative at the conference, said that the meeting on the subject will be held in Geneva, Switzerland. The meeting which will bring together representatives not only of IAEA and FAO, but also of governments, of the World Health Organization (WHO) and of the International Trade Center (ITC), will be extremely important because it will produce up-to-date information on radiation, in order to enable consumers to decide whether to accept it or not.

IICA COSPONSORS COURSE ON PRODUCTION OF RADIO PROGRAMS FOR WOMEN

More and more, the phenomenon of the "feminization" of agriculture is becoming an issue of concern: with the increasing migration of men to the cities in search of better employment opportunities, women are left at home to perform many of the chores involved in food production.

Women play an extremely important role, especially in the poorer regions of Latin America, according to several experts who took part in a workshop course on the production of radio programs for women. The course, held at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), was organized by the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Center, and cosponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Campesino women take part directly in farm work, either as owners of small subsistence farms or as wage workers, explained the experts.

Nevertheless, living conditions in the country have also led large numbers of young women to migrate to the cities, where they seek jobs as maids or in the informal sector. These migratory flows are so significant that in some cases they have even changed the composition by sex of the urban population. Thus, for example, in the cities of several Latin American countries, there are fewer men than women between the ages of 15 and 49.

INVISIBLE WORK?

Several research studies have shown that the economic activities of women in campesino families are often overlooked.

In addition, their work - cooking, taking care of the children, gathering firewood or carrying water, etc. - is not viewed as work, but rather is perceived as "help" and hence, there is no question of their being paid for it.

On the other hand, according to several analysts, when women perform certain farm chores, such as planting or weeding, which are viewed as typically "female" jobs, these are no longer considered work but, again, are taken as "help."

That is why it is now being recommended that, in order to obtain more accurate statistics, certain methodologies should be revised, and ideological factors should be taken into account, since in surveys neither the inter-

viewers nor the respondents are truly aware of what information is needed.

In the absence of clear criteria for defining "female" work, it is being described in terms of stereotypes and cultural factors. Women's activities are assumed to be an extension of their domestic chores, and the women themselves see it this way.

Recent studies carried out in Latin America show that the actual participation of rural women in income-generating activities is higher than what the statistics show: 25% of the women considered inactive perform some kind of work outside the home; 40.2% of women engage in agricultural activities, working an average of 16 hours per day. Other studies show even higher rates of female participation in rural production, with the figure for Latin America being higher than 60%.

MODERNIZATION AND WAGE EARNERS

Another phenomenon which has been noted in some Latin American countries is the rapid increase in the number of wage earners, and the resulting breakdown of campesino family production. Family members are leaving their work on small farms to become wage earners. The family is no longer a supplier of labor for subsistence; instead, its members are selling their work individually in exchange for wages.

In some cases, this process goes hand in hand with the modernization of agriculture, with women working as wage earners in competition with men.

Some features are common to female labor throughout Latin America, namely: women are paid less than men; they often take their children with them to work; they are not permanent workers, which means they do not enjoy certain guarantees and rights. Thus, some authors speak of a "triple burden": household chores, unpaid family farm work, and seasonal work.

RADIO BROADCASTING TO BREAK THE ISOLATION OF WOMEN

Radio broadcasting is an appropriate medium for breaking the isolation and neglect of Latin American campesino women, according to specialist Ana Hirsz, who has extensive experience in the field of education and mass communications. Ms. Hirsz was one of the instructors at the workshop.

IICA COSPONSORS COURSE ON PRODUCTION...

According to Ms. Hirsz, women in rural areas and in lower-income sectors need information and training even more than men, because men, in any case, work outside the home and have contact with other people. Women, on the other hand, spend more time alone and suffer from illiteracy, for example, on a much greater scale than men.

Radio broadcasting can break through that isolation of women because it is a medium that can be used very effectively. Women can easily identify with the situations presented in a radio play or a radio report, and thus reflect on their own situation. The programs, of course, should be of good quality.

In that regard, Jose Perez, Head of the IICA/Radio Nederland Project, suggests that communicators should learn not to use the microphone as an extension of the classroom, as that could "bore the listener to death".

Perez argues enthusiastically that radio programs can be very entertaining. Although the "soap opera," for example, may have a bad reputation, it is a valid format for encouraging listeners - in this case, women - to think.

THE COURSE

During the first week, course participants discussed the situation of women in general, especially in the rural areas, in order to set up a frame of reference for the subsequent stage of radio production.

Participants also discussed the difficulties women encounter in gaining access to basic services, their lack of information on family planning methods, their health and educational problems, the situations of violence they have to endure and the fact that they often have to act as the head of household. In this regard, it was pointed out that in many parts of the region, between one fourth and one half of all campesino families are headed by women, either permanently or as a de facto situation.

According to Ileana Ramirez, another expert who took part in the discussions, poverty is the common denominator of all the problems of rural women. The communications media, however, rarely touch on that fact.

The picture of the ideal woman usually presented by



Participants in the workshop course stressed, among other issues, the importance of the role of women in the poorer regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the potential of radio broadcasting as a means for providing training and information.

advertisers and the press contrasts sharply with the raw truth of daily life for Latin American women, she added.

During the practical stage of the workshop, participants worked on the preparation of two serial programs, one a radio play about a small-town midwife named Doña Candelaria, and the other a radio report on the work situation of lower-income women, to be entitled "Why do you work, María?"

In 1989, IICA and the Radio Nederland Training Center will offer three similar workshop courses as part of their work on Women, Communications and Development. Follow-up programs relating to these workshops will then be held in different countries. In addition, several radio serials will be produced, as well as an educational yet entertaining bulletin for rural women.

Editorial Service: MARKETING COMPENDIUM OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

The Marketing Compendium (published in Spanish under the title *Compendio de Mercadeo de Productos Agropecuarios*) applies basic concepts of economic theory to the analysis and interpretation of marketing and supply problems facing most of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This second version has been revised and expanded to update the concepts and methodological scope of the first edition, which was published in 1980. Its main objective continues to be to provide a complete course in the marketing of agricultural products.

The book is currently in press at the Editorial Service of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and is listed as No. 82 of IICA's Educational Texts and Materials collection. It measures 6" x 9" and is 344 pages in length.

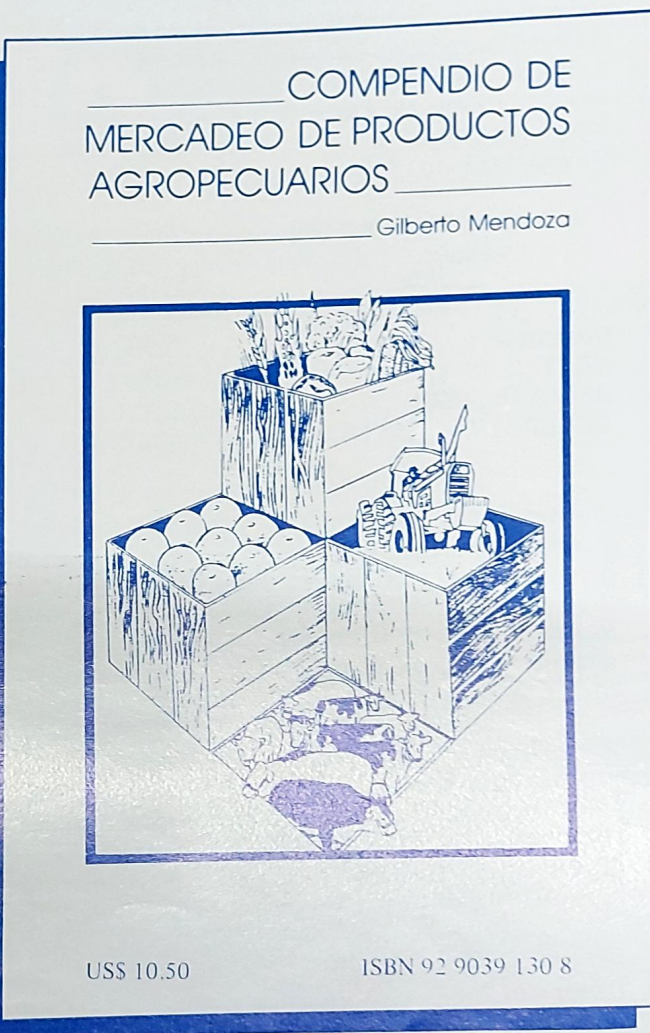
Because of its very clear and concise text, *Compendio de Mercadeo* has proven to be a valuable teaching, training and research aid in this field.

The new, revised edition contains two new chapters, one which defines elements to be used in analyzing marketing projects, and the other which contains marketing case studies. Both contribute to clarifying current problems encountered in the marketing of agricultural products by our countries, while setting them in proper perspective.

The author, Gilberto Mendoza, is a Colombian agricultural marketing specialist at the Inter-American Agricultural Marketing Institute (FAO-National University).

He studied at the School of Economics of the National University in Bogota, at the National and International Marketing Center (CICOM), at the OAS - Getulio Vargas Foundation (Brazil) and at the National School for Public Administration (FNAP), in Madrid, Spain.

His professional career has always been closely linked with international organizations and national planning and agricultural marketing organizations. As an IICA specialist, he has worked in the Dominican Republic and



Chile, and is now in Bolivia.

In addition to teaching at Latin American and Caribbean universities, Mendoza has published a number of other publications in his field.

ACTIVITIES

November 28 to December 2 IICA-CIDA SEMINAR WORKSHOP

This event will be held at IICA Headquarters and will serve to discuss methods for carrying out research on differentiated policies for rural development and decentralization and small-farmer participation. It will be attended by technical experts from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Peru.

The Seminar-Workshop comes under the IICA-Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) project.

December 1 MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL NETWORK FOR CACAO TECHNOLOGY GENERATION AND TRANSFER (PROCACAO)

The institutions making up the PROCACAO Technical Committee will meet at IICA Headquarters to analyze progress made by the network and to decide on activities to be carried out in 1989, within the context of the project to establish the network, conduct research, improve cultivation practices and upgrade agricultural management and training.

Participating in the meeting will be the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), the Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation (FHIA), IICA and USAID's Regional Office for Central American Programs (ROCAP).

December 2 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONAL NETWORK FOR CACAO TECHNOLOGY GENERATION AND TRANSFER (PROCACAO)

The Executive Committee of the PROCACAO network will hold its annual meeting to approve the program proposed by the Technical Committee and to assign the budget for the activities included in the program.

Represented on the Executive Committee are Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama.

IICA IN THE NEWS

LA NACION

San José, October 10. Under the headline "Small-farmer economy given special role," the Costa Rican daily newspaper reported that this sector can play a key role in the economic reactivation of Latin America and the Caribbean, according to experts who participated in a seminar organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

LA PRENSA GRAFICA

El Salvador, October 2. This Salvadoran newspaper reported on the approval by the European Economic Community of US\$650,000 for implementation of the Trifinio Plan. According to the report, the EEC plan, to be carried out over a maximum period of 5 years, provides for irrigation works, stockraising, forestry development, soil conservation, development of small-scale industries and women's programs, as decisive factors in fostering production in the Trifinio area.

El Sol de Mexico

Mexico, D.F., October 7. This Mexican daily informed its readers that Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), reported in Brazil that between 1982 and 1986, the gross domestic product (GDP) of Latin America had fallen by 20%. His statement was made during the regional conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), held in Recife, Brazil.

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News bulletin on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo. 55-2200 Coronado, San Jose, Costa Rica. Cable: IICASANJOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Telephone: 290222.

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IICA



NEWS

SPAIN REAFFIRMS WILLINGNESS TO PROMOTE STRONGER TIES BETWEEN THE EEC AND LATIN AMERICA

Spain reaffirmed its willingness to promote actions that would encourage the European Economic Community (EEC) to attach greater importance to its relations with Latin America, in an effort to ensure that its cooperation programs have a greater impact on the development of the region.

Representatives of the Spanish government made a statement to this effect at a seminar on European Common Agricultural Policy and cooperation for development that was held at IICA Headquarters.

The seminar, which was attended by 50 Latin American

government officials, and was held from November 7 to 10, was organized by IICA Program I, Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, and the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA).

Spain, which will assume the presidency of the European Council during the first half of 1989, holds the view that when European development cooperation funds are distributed, in the case of Latin America, not only the variable of per capita income should be taken into consideration, but also the per capita external debt.

The Spanish counselor for cooperation to Central



The Ambassador of Spain in Costa Rica, Dr. Alfonso Ortíz Ramos (center) said, in his opening remarks, that relations between the EEC and Latin America were at a crucial stage. With him are Dr. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of IICA (right) and Dr. Carlos Pomareda, Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program (left).

SPAIN REAFFIRMS WILLINGNESS TO PROMOTE...



Seventy Latin America officials participated in the seminar on European Common Agricultural Policy and cooperation for development, sponsored by IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain.

America, Jesus Gracia, said that there were countries in Latin America which needed aid despite their high per capita incomes, which was the variable given the greatest consideration by the EEC in granting cooperation for development.

Gracia went on to say that the fact Spain was going to occupy the presidency did not mean that all existing problems would be solved but it should help promote and increase European presence in development cooperation initiatives in Latin America.

In this regard, he recognized the need to grant more favorable treatment to the Andean countries, and to promote the inclusion of the Dominican Republic and Haiti in the group known as Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP), which is favored by European cooperation plans.

LATIN AMERICANS URGE REVIEW OF EUROPEAN AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

The participants in the seminar urged the EEC to review its agricultural policies in order to allow for more imports from Latin America.

The Latin Americans expressed reservations with regard to the possibility of increasing agricultural exports to European markets, in light of the current protectionism exercised by the EEC with respect to third countries.

Responding to the comments made by the Latin Americans, MAPA expert Luis Esteruelas said that the EEC had decided to reduce the rate of growth of expenditures caused by agricultural intervention to 54 percent of the total budget by 1992.

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The EEC's agricultural policy is financed through the European agricultural orientation and guarantee funds, which account for between 60% and 70% of its budget. The EEC's budget for 1988 is over US\$48 billion.

On numerous occasions, Latin American countries have expressed concern over tax and protection barriers which hinder their entry into international markets.

Studies conducted by IICA indicate that the cost of the protectionist and development policies applied by Japan, the United States and the European Community reached US\$43 billion per year between 1982 - 1985, while domestic taxes on consumption of tropical products were estimated to be US\$36 billion in 1983.

Spanish specialist Javier Benito explained that the European Community's agricultural policy was designed to increase agricultural productivity, guarantee well-being to the rural population, stabilize markets by balancing supply and demand, ensure self-sufficiency, and guarantee reasonable prices for consumers.

The European agricultural policy was based on the principles of a unified market (one market for all the countries and identical constraints on all products), preferential treatment for EEC products, and, finally, financial solidarity in covering the costs which a single market entailed.

Mr. Benito went on to say that there had been success in achieving the objectives of the agricultural policy, although efforts to stabilize supply and demand had not been so successful. The EEC would have to use considerable resources to promote its agricultural exports.

He pointed out, however, that there was a willingness to carry out actions and establish mechanisms to implement the European common policy.

In response to this, Latin American participants referred to the experience of Central America, where agriculture had not played an important role in integration. On the contrary, agricultural exports had been taxed and domestic production had been left unprotected.

The seminar provided a forum for discussion on integration processes in Latin America, and for comparison with the European experience.

In Europe, integration, in which politics played an important role, had come about as a matter of survival in the post-war period. In economic terms, agriculture had been part of the foundation on which later industrial and technological development had been built.

Representatives from the region noted that in Latin America, by comparison, the process of integration had been carried out as an economic project based on the import-substitution model, and had strengthened the industrial sector to the detriment of agriculture.

In the opinion of Santiago Tobon, a specialist from the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC), the agriculture sector should play a leading role in the process of integration, and contribute to the economic reactivation of Latin America and the Caribbean.



The Spanish delegation listened with interest to the concerns of the representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean.

BAENA SOARES UNANIMOUSLY RE-ELECTED AS SECRETARY GENERAL OF OAS

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), João Clemente Baena Soares, was unanimously re-elected to another five-year term at its Twenty-Eighth General Assembly, held in San Salvador from November 14-19.

After thanking the Ambassadors for placing their trust in him, Baena Soares added that the challenge the Organization faced was to undertake a vigorous plan of action aimed at strengthening its role as the major "political forum" of the inter-American system.

In this regard, he said that the OAS was aware of the need to strengthen its role as an instrument of understanding and cooperation between Latin America, the Caribbean and the United States.

"The OAS provides a channel for solving problems which must be used. It should not be a mechanism for scattered and isolated actions, but rather a means for harmonizing and organizing concepts and ideas that will lead to a definition of strategies and of terms of reference for action," he remarked.

General Assembly sources said that, in order to strengthen the work of the Organization as the political forum of the hemisphere, successive meetings would be

held in 1989, first of the Permanent Council and later of the Ministers of Foreign Relations of the hemisphere, to define mechanisms of action that would make it possible to achieve those goals.

In addition to adopting agreements aimed at combatting drug trafficking and the arms trade, and issuing a call to respect human rights, the Twenty-Eighth General Assembly also adopted and put into effect the Protocol of Cartagena de Indias, by which the Charter of the Organization is amended.

The new document strengthens the role of the Secretary General, and opens the way for membership of countries such as Belize and Guyana, which had been excluded under the former Charter.

Under Article 16 of the new Charter of the OAS, the Secretary General may submit for consideration by the General Assembly or the Permanent Council any matter which, in his opinion, affects the peace and security of the hemisphere or the development of the Member States.

The Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, expressed his satisfaction at the re-election of Baena Soares.



Dr. João Baena Soares, Secretary General of the OAS, and Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA. Baena Soares was elected to another five-year term at the recent General Assembly held in San Salvador.

AGRICULTURE THE MOVING FORCE OF LATIN AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT, SAYS OAS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL

Latin America's development process will be moved forward by its agriculture, according to Val T. McComie, Deputy Secretary General of the Organization of America States (OAS).

McComie made this statement during a visit, on November 22, to the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), following the Twenty-Eighth General Assembly of the OAS, held in San Salvador.

McComie met with the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, who informed him of the progress made by IICA in preparing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This task was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada, in September 1987.

THE KEY ALTERNATIVE

According to the Deputy Secretary General of the OAS, because Latin America has so many comparative advantages with respect to other countries, agriculture will be the key to the development of the Latin American economies.

Noting that development strategies had usually ignored agriculture, despite its significant contribution to overall exports, he said the time had come for a change.

In this regard, he recommended that governments and all groups included in the sector should work together as a team, inasmuch as experience had shown that integration and joint efforts always brought about satisfactory results.

McComie mentioned as an example of close cooperation the efforts of IICA and the OAS in connection with the Trifinio Plan, which was aimed at the comprehensive development of an area bordering on El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

At the request of the OAS, IICA has drawn up projects



Dr. Val McComie, Deputy Secretary General of the OAS, visited IICA Headquarters, where he met with the Director General, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro.

aimed at improving food production, fostering economic growth and developing infrastructure in the Trifinio area.

McComie took advantage of his visit to IICA to become familiar with the IICA - Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) Project, which is training rural development workers in the application of communication techniques.

He commended the project as a means for enabling people in the rural areas to play an active part in the development process through the application of communication techniques.

IICA AND OAS PUT UNDER WAY SECOND STAGE OF TRIFINIO PLAN

On November 16, in San Salvador, Joao Clemente Baena Soares, Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), and Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), signed an agreement providing for comprehensive development of border areas in Central America.

Work on the project, which will have a duration of 24 months, will begin with the implementation of tasks falling within the second stage of the Trifinio Project, as set forth in the instrument to amend and extend the technical cooperation agreement between the Governments of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, the General Secretariat of the OAS and IICA.

The central objective of the project is to collaborate with the governments of the Central American countries in carrying out studies and drawing up plans, programs and projects for the comprehensive development of the border areas.

It also envisages the creation or strengthening of institutional structures with a view to moving towards integration on the borders and arranging for funding of joint actions and investments.

The project, which will be based in Guatemala, was described as the second stage of the cooperation agreement between IICA and the General Secretariat of the OAS on implementation of the plurinational project on the development of the border areas of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, which expired on November 12.

According to OAS Secretary General Baena Soares, this agreement provides for the five Central American countries and Panama to work together in several border areas on projects similar to the Trifinio Plan. It also provides for an extension of the plurinational project on development of the border areas of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

Present at the ceremony were Dr. Ricardo Acevedo Peralta, Minister of Foreign Relations of El Salvador and Chairman of the General Assembly of the OAS, and Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo, Minister of Foreign Relations of Guatemala, as well as representatives of other countries of the region and high-ranking officials of inter-American organizations.

Baena Soares noted that the technical cooperation provided by the General Secretariat of the OAS and by IICA, as well as the financial contribution of the Commission of the European Communities, had been crucial to

completion of studies and the taking of decisions aimed at making the border integration project a reality.

In this regard, he stressed that with the completion of the institutional consolidation stage, the foundations would be laid for the border integration process to proceed in a normal fashion.

Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, said that the Trifinio Project had begun as a dream, and after two years of hard work, the first stage had been successfully completed.

The second stage, he added, could prove to be very important, from the political and technical standpoints, to the development of the Central American countries and Panama.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE OAS

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAVING SEEN:

The presentation made by the Delegation of Guatemala, supported by the Delegations of El Salvador and Honduras, on the important project on comprehensive regional development of the border area of the three countries, known as the Trifinio Plan, which is being carried out with the support of the OAS, IICA, the European Economic Community, UNDP, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, IDB and friendly countries;

CONSIDERING

That projects for the comprehensive development of border areas provide a very effective tool for achieving integration and development in Latin America and the Caribbean;

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate the Governments of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador for the efforts they are making to achieve integration and regional development in the Trifinio area.
2. To urge the General Secretariat of the OAS, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the other agencies which make up the inter-American and the United Nations systems, as well as the rest of the international community, to support this plan and other similar initiatives carried out in the Central American region and in the rest of the OAS member countries.

INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO EXPAND PROGRAMS CARRIED OUT IN COLLABORATION WITH IICA

Dr. Theodore Van Der Pluijm, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), announced that in 1989 the Fund will strengthen and expand the programs it carries out jointly with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Dr. Van Der Pluijm visited IICA Headquarters on December 7 to hold meetings with Dr. Martín E. Piñero, Director General; Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations, and Dr. Fausto Jordan, Director of IICA's Program on Organization and Management for Rural Development.

Van Der Pluijm discussed with the aforementioned IICA officials the programs to be carried out in 1989 and the progress made under the IFAD/IICA cooperation agreement signed in October 1987, the purpose of which is to promote agricultural development projects in the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The agreement provides for joint missions to conduct studies and draw up agricultural projects based on the capabilities of each country.

It also provides for IICA to take part in identifying and drawing up the terms of loans funded by the IFAD, and to organize seminars, workshops and other technical cooperation activities.

The IFAD representative stressed that the two agencies had similar philosophies, and that, in particular, they shared the view that agriculture and rural development were fundamental factors in the overall economic structures of each country.

The reactivation of agriculture, he said, would enable countries to play a greater role in markets for agricultural products and would help improve the economic and social situation of subsistence farmers.

Van Der Pluijm pointed out that IICA was playing an increasingly important role in discussions on agricultural policies and on programs directed at IFAD target groups, such as poor farmers, the landless, and rural women and youth.



The Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Dr. Theodore Van Der Pluijm, announced that relations between his organization and IICA would be stepped up in 1989.

Those efforts, however, must go hand in hand with government programs channeling resources to those projects or target groups, within a framework of economic policies designed to benefit the rural poor, he added.

He said he felt such discussions were useful, inasmuch as they enabled IFAD to ensure that their programs were truly geared towards those groups.

He stressed that IICA and IFAD would be increasing their collaboration, with regard both to project preparation and to the discussion of development strategies by country.

He explained that IICA and IFAD would continue to send joint missions such as those carried out in Mexico and Brazil, where credit programs were being implemented as a result of identification efforts undertaken jointly by the two agencies.

MERCEDES SOSA VISITS INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

The internationally renowned Argentine folk singer Mercedes Sosa, on tour in Costa Rica, visited with Latin America communicators at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

On request, she sang "Maria, Maria," a song which, she stressed, she did not want to turn into a feminist theme song, but which was a song for women. Singing a capella in her deep voice, with closed eyes and softly beating the rhythm on the table, she sang this forceful song for participants in the first workshop-course on radio broadcasting for women, which included 22 representatives of Central American countries, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

This activity was organized within the framework of the IICA/Radio Nederland project on rural communications and with the sponsorship of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

The communicators had previously selected the song "Maria, Maria" as the theme song for a series of radio programs entitled "¿Para quién trabaja María?" (Who does María work for?). The series deals, from various angles, with the question of women entering the labor force.

Mercedes Sosa answered many questions from the participants, who were mostly women. "I am not artist here," she stressed. "I am speaking as a woman, sharing with other women."

To the classical question, "How do you, Mercedes Sosa, see the Latin American woman?", she answered that it was difficult to generalize. In Brazil, for example, the African heritage was very deeply rooted, while in other countries, there was a strong influence of indigenous cultures, she explained.

She went on to say, however, that women in Latin America had opened up a place for themselves: at work, in the factory, in schools.

She harshly criticized the commercialization of the media, and recommended that those who worked in this field should make a great effort. She pointed to the example of some television soap operas, which were truly sinister.

She acknowledged, however, that some modern rock stars, despite their international fame and their participa-



tion in the international mass media, "do stand up for the cause of needy children and human rights."

She was emphatic in stating that artists should not take sides in politics, but should be politically aware. "That is our role," she said.

Mercedes Sosa is a fervent advocate of peace and understanding among people, especially as regards Latin Americans. She recalled the words of the poet Tejada Gomez, "...and he cut the bread on the table and doesn't know that that is peace." In that regard, she said that many interests were working against peace, and she appealed to the audience to defend it.

During one of her presentations at the National Theater in Costa Rica, the audience had shouted "Mercedes, don't die." As if responding to this, she said at IICA: "I am like a cricket. You will hear me singing as long as I live."

During her visit to Costa Rica from November 3 to 6, Sosa had lunch with IICA's highest authorities, including Director General Martín E. Piñeiro, who introduced her as a symbol of Latin America's finest values.

PROCACAO BEGINS TO CONSOLIDATE ITS WORK

Eight months after its establishment, the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO) has begun a process of consolidation, reported Guillermo Villanueva, coordinator of the program.

"We have made progress in all the areas of work covered by the network: management, research, training and transfer of technology," he explained, adding that "we are very close" to meeting the objective of increasing production and farmer incomes.

PROCACAO, which covers the Central American countries, Panama and the Dominican Republic, was set up with the economic support from the Regional Office of the Agency for International Development (USAID/RO-CAP).

It was put under way by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which manages the project; the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), and the Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation (FHIA).

The technical and executive committees of the Network met at IICA Headquarters on December 1 and 2 to approve the work plan for 1989, which is focused on developing programs aimed at the training of technical staff, improvement of seed quality, disease control and technology transfer.

A POSITIVE BALANCE

Villanueva reported that the balance for 1988 was very positive. In research alone, several studies had been completed; these dealt with management of high-yield hybrids, disease prevention and treatment, and improvement of cultivation practices.

With regard to training, he said that from October 24 to 28, an international course on cacao production and technology had been carried out at CATIE. This course had given 21 specialists from the region the opportunity to exchange their experiences on the status of cacao-related activities in their countries.

He also attached great importance to the national seminar, carried out in Costa Rica from November 30 to December 2, on the disease known as "witch's broom" (*Crinipellis pernicioso*), which had been detected in Panama and which presented a serious threat to the incipient cacao production of the isthmus.

Reviewing the activities carried out in other areas, he said that several publications on crop management and disease control had been prepared and distributed throughout the countries. The response to these had been very favorable.

Looking ahead to 1989, the PROCACAO coordinator said that prospects were very encouraging, as two new specialists would be working with the program: Dr. James Corven, a specialist in institutional development, and Dr. Jairo Cano, an expert in training and transfer of technology.

Villanueva said that Cano would be responsible for drawing up a regional training plan in which each country belonging to the network would take part, while Corven would be working with the national advisory groups envisaged in the program.

...In research alone, several studies had been completed; these dealt with management of high-yield hybrids, disease prevention and treatment, and improvement of cultivation practices...

Speaking in an optimistic tone, he said that the technology available in the region and the progress that would be made through the network would make it possible to improve cacao productivity in the region. It was estimated that yields could be increased from 300 to between 800 and 1,200 kilos per hectare.

IICA AND GEPLACEA SIGN TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Group of Sugar-producing Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (GEPLACEA) signed a general technical cooperation agreement which is aimed at promoting the sugar sector.

In signing the document, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Institute, and Dr. Jose Antonio Cerro, Executive Secretary of GEPLACEA, stressed the importance of furthering the development of sugar-cane production and sugar agroindustries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA and GEPLACEA undertook to draw up programs and projects for developing agroindustries that would help regenerate the countries' installed capacity for sugar cane production.

The two organizations will exchange information and studies on agroindustrial activities linked with the sugar industry, as well as information on the status of and the outlook for international trade.

The agreement also provides for the carrying out of joint research studies and for the transfer and adoption of

agroindustrial technology, with a view to making use of the capital already invested in sugar mills.

GEPLACEA is a regional Latin American and Caribbean agency which provides its member countries with consultative, coordination and information services on matters pertaining to the production and marketing of sugar and its by-products.

The agreement, which will have a duration of four years, also provides for courses, seminars and workshops to be carried out, in order to improve the training of human resources in the sector.

The operations set up under this agreement may include the participation of one or several technical cooperation and funding agencies -either public or private-, as proposed by IICA or GEPLACEA.

The signing of this agreement is very timely, inasmuch as GEPLACEA studies have shown that the difficulties being experienced by the sugar industry in Latin America have been aggravated by the situation prevailing on the international market.



IICA and GEPLACEA agreed to draw up programs and projects to help regenerate the countries' installed capacity for sugar cane production.

PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

BRAZIL REITERATES SUPPORT FOR IABA MEETING

Roberto de Abreu Sodre, Minister of Foreign Relations of Brazil, reiterated his country's support for the meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), which is due to approve, at its 1989 meeting, the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the meeting, to be held in Brasilia with the participation of 31 ministers of agriculture from the region, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will be presenting the Plan, preparation of which was entrusted to it by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, held in 1987.

At a meeting with IICA representatives, held in Brazil in late November, the Foreign Minister said that the Plan represented a step forward in efforts to modernize agriculture, and added that institutions like IICA were necessary in order to enhance relations among the Latin American countries.

His opinion was endorsed by the Brazilian Minister of Agriculture, Iris Rezende, who said that the Plan of Joint Action prepared by IICA would be instrumental in improving economic and social relations among the Latin American and Caribbean countries.

In an optimistic tone, he added, "There is no reason



Above, left to right: Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations of IICA; Dr. Manuel Otero, IICA Representative in Brazil; Dr. Abreu Sodre, Minister of Foreign Relations of Brazil; Luiz Augusto de Araujo Castro, Head of the International Agencies Department, and Dr. Carlos Rucks, IICA Director of Operations for the Southern Area.

why there should be barriers between us and our neighboring countries. We need to work together to overcome the crisis."

According to Manuel Otero, recently appointed IICA Representative in Brazil, joint efforts and exchanges of experiences such as those envisaged in the Plan of Joint Action will enable the Latin American countries to pursue their own development.

IICA representatives informed Abreu Sodre and Rezende of the scope of the Institute's work in Brazil, where it provides technical cooperation for 19 projects aimed at small- and medium-scale farmers. In this regard, Otero said that the Institute was also studying the possibility of carrying out a plan to eradicate foot and mouth disease; Uruguay and Argentina would also take part in this plan.

Abreu Sodre said that the Brazilian Foreign Ministry would help establish contacts with other nations, in the interest of breaking down barriers between Brazil and its neighbors.

This initiative was welcomed by Otero, who said it would enable IICA to expand its work considerably. "We are happy to hear that the doors are open. Together we will work better," he said.

REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTHERN AREA DISCUSS PLAN OF JOINT ACTION

Parallel to the meetings between IICA officials and the Brazilian Ministers of Foreign Relations and of Agriculture, a meeting of Institute Representatives in the Southern Area countries was also held in Brasilia.

One of the main issues discussed at this meeting, held from November 21 to 23, was the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of the Institute, stressed that in the immediate future, IICA would be assigning high priority to the proposal. Felix Cirio, Coordinator of the Plan, briefly reviewed those aspects which had been completed to date and commented on those which still required attention.

Cirio also confirmed that the meeting of vice ministers of agriculture to examine the Plan of Joint Action would be held in Santiago, Chile, on March 6 and 7.

The Southern Area Representatives, for their part,



The Minister of Agriculture of Brazil, Dr. Iris Rezende, reiterated his country's support to the holding of the meeting of the Interamerican Board of Agriculture in October 1989, to Dr. Manuel Otero, IICA Representative in Brazil.

described the steps that had been taken in their respective countries to collaborate in the preparation of the Plan.

At this meeting, Juan Felipe Yriart, consultant to IICA, reported on the progress made in designing a project for setting up a preinvestment fund for the preparation of integration projects, in which special emphasis would be placed on agroindustry.

Participating in the meeting were L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General; Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations; Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations; Felix Cirio, Advisor to the Director General and Coordinator of the Plan; Diego Londoño, Director of Programming and Evaluation, and Carlos A. Rucks, Director of Operations for the Southern Area.

Also attending were IICA Program Directors Carlos Pomareda, Fausto Jordan, Rodolfo Quiros Guardia and Harry Mussman. Edmundo Gastal, Director of PROCISUR, represented the Director of Program II.

IICA Representatives in the Southern Area who took part in the meeting were Carlos J. Garramon (Argentina), Manuel Otero (Brazil), Alfredo Alonso (Chile), Luis Carlos G. Pannunzio (Paraguay) and Arnaldo I. Veras (Uruguay).

International Advisory Commission holds third meeting: PLAN OF JOINT ACTION REPRESENTS A CHALLENGE TO THE REGION

According to members of the International Advisory Commission (IAC), the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean poses a real challenge to the region, inasmuch as it is being put forth at a time of crisis in which the countries are being forced to change their development model.

At their third meeting, held December 5 and 6, 1988, at IICA Headquarters, the experts discussed subjects such as "Industrial development: towards a new model of intersectoral coordination" and "Human capital for agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean."

They also studied reports on access to markets and intraregional trade and on a joint strategy for agricultural reactivation in the Southern Area countries. They discussed some preliminary proposals on investment and funding mechanisms, as well as on institutional mechanisms for the preparation and implementation of the Plan of Joint Action.

The IAC is made up of distinguished personalities concerned with agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean who provide guidance in connection with IICA's efforts to prepare the Plan of Joint Action, pursuant to a mandate issued in September 1987 by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

The members of the International Advisory Commission, who serve in their personal capacity, are Ralph Campbell, of Canada; David Ibarra, of Mexico; Fernando Homen de Melo, of Brazil; Miguel Urrutia and Roberto Junguito, of Colombia; Edward Schuh, of the United States; Lucio Reca, of Argentina; Alister McIntyre, of Grenada, and Michel Petit, of France.

A TIME FOR NEW STRATEGIES

Dr. Fernando Homen de Melo, professor of agricultural economics at the University of São Paulo and Director for Brazil on the International Fund for Agricultural



The International Advisory Commission meets to discuss progress in the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Development, noted that the external crisis which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean were experiencing at this time made it necessary to devise new strategies aimed at achieving the development which had not been achieved through the import-substitution model.

The Plan of Joint Action, which will be submitted to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in October 1989, will provide a new economic model for the next 10 to 20 years, said Homen de Melo.

Another member of the Commission, Dr. Alister McIntyre, former Secretary General of UNCTAD and of CARICOM, added that now that the region was finding it necessary to reconsider its development strategy, it would have to assign a leading role to the agriculture sector.

Agriculture acts not only as a generator of food for the population, but also as a significant source of foreign exchange, noted IAC members. Thus, they added, agricultural exports would have to increase, if the sector was to act as an axis of development.

McIntyre went on to point out that the Plan of Joint Action represented a response to the guidelines drawn up by the governments themselves; hence, the task now would be to discover practical ways to implement it, and to draw up the main initiatives to be proposed to governments.

The International Advisory Commission was working on this with IICA officials, with emphasis being placed on research, education and training of human resources, and promotion of exports, said McIntyre.

Although IICA was already working very actively in those areas, the region's efforts must still be stepped up, he added.

SUPPORT TO GOVERNMENTS

According to McIntyre, one of IICA's main tasks was to help the Governments of the region clarify those macroeconomic objectives and policies which directly or indirectly affect agriculture.

He suggested that attention should be given to designing policies that would make farming more profitable both for the farmers themselves and for investors.

According to Homen de Melo, the goal of reactivating the agriculture sector called for drastic changes to be



Dr. Alister McIntyre, member of the International Advisory Commission.

made. It was a question of breaking with the past and facing the future with a new type of development.

In a realistic tone, Dr. McIntyre pointed out that the changes proposed in the Plan of Joint Action could not be carried out overnight. It would take time to put effective policies into action.

Felix Cirio, Coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation, said that the International Advisory Commission would meet again in July, in order to make some final observations on the proposal to be submitted to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in Brasilia.

Prior to that, the document would be studied by the Executive Committee of IICA. In addition, several subregional consultative meetings were being planned. The first would be held in March, in the Southern Cone; the meeting for the Andean Area would be held in April; the meeting on the Caribbean would possibly be held in May, and two meetings were planned for Central America, one with the vice ministers and another with the ministers of agriculture.

"Action on this proposal must be absolutely dynamic, in order to comply fully with the Ottawa Mandate," stressed Cirio.

SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF JOURNALISTS

The second seminar on the role of the press in the agricultural reactivation of Latin America and the Caribbean was held recently at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in San José, Costa Rica. The main purpose of the seminar was to enable journalists to share an up-to-date vision of the agricultural sector.

Seventeen Latin American and Caribbean journalists working in the area of agriculture took part in this activity, which was organized by the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) and the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

The seminar provided an opportunity for participants to exchange and systematize their experiences as journalists responsible for handling agricultural information in the written press and in other media.

They also discussed the mechanisms required to coordinate the use of the media in connection with the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Specialists and IICA officials participated in discussions on subjects such as the organization of IICA in the light of the economic and agricultural situation; agricultural and rural development and macroeconomic policies; and the importance, to trade and agricultural development, of the Uruguay Round of multilateral negotiations in GATT.

They also discussed matters relating to rural development and agricultural reactivation, the role of animal health and plant protection in ensuring effective participation in international markets, the impact of the biotechnology revolution on agricultural production, and several aspects of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Several sessions were devoted to discussing the experiences of participants in connection with their work in the area of agricultural information, as applied to their

own particular media. They were also introduced to the methodology of message analysis, as applied to specialized agricultural journalism; this section of the seminar also included a practical workshop.

In the final resolutions of the seminar, participants expressed their support for the effort to organize an inter-American association of agricultural journalists. They also undertook to promote, in their own countries, the results of the meeting and the program and strategy guidelines developed by IICA to foster agricultural reactivation in the region.



Journalists from Central America, Panama, Mexico, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic took part in the Second Seminar on the Role of the Press in the Agricultural Reactivation of Latin America and the Caribbean.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISTS

The Second International Meeting of Agricultural Journalists has taken due note of the efforts made by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to organize, promote and bring together the professionals of the hemisphere who work in the area of social communication, specializing in agricultural affairs.

These efforts of IICA are in keeping with our peoples' desire and legitimate aspiration for peace and development.

This initiative of the Council of Ministers of CORECA, which has been transmitted to IICA, reflects the agreements and concerns of governmental and nongovernmental institutions and individuals and of communications specialists who are receiving training in these disciplines.

In view of these initiatives, the Second Meeting welcomes and endorses IICA's concern for reactivating agriculture in Latin America, with a view to improving the living conditions and the quality of life of our peoples, especially the rural populations. Realizing that journalists and social communicators concerned with agricultural affairs in general can and should play a leading role in the economic, social and cultural development of the hemisphere, we hereby present the following proposal, which is aimed at reinforcing the initiatives undertaken by IICA in this regard.

To request IICA to use the most expeditious mechanisms to establish a permanent seminar or training course in the field of agricultural communication, which should be directed at three levels:

- To editors of social communication media;
- To agricultural communicators, both governmental and nongovernmental, who are active in the profession;
- To technical personnel of extension services;
- To students of social communication.

To create an ongoing unit for research and study on social communication specializing in agricultural affairs, in order to study in depth and expand on existing know-how and progress in this discipline. This unit could be set up in collaboration with CIESPAL and FLACSO, with special attention being paid to subjects pertaining specifically to agriculture.

To encourage IICA to include in its agenda, and periodically review progress at the regional level, in matters pertaining to communications, as well as its role in the reactivation of the sector. This concern should be reflected in the conceptual and program documents sponsored by IICA and other specialized international agencies.

To appeal to all communicators of the hemisphere, and especially to agricultural communicators, to express their solidarity with the victims of the recent hurricanes which have struck several countries, especially Nicaragua, by collecting concrete aid to be used for recovery from the damage caused, especially to agriculture.

To continue encouraging IICA to pursue its efforts to carry to fruition the establishment, within the shortest time possible, of an inter-American association of agricultural journalists, the guidelines for which were established at the first meeting.

To place on record our commitment to promoting, in our own countries, the results of this Second Meeting, as well as the program and strategy guidelines developed by IICA in connection with the reactivation of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. Likewise, to consolidate existing organizations of agricultural communicators and contribute to the establishment of such organizations.

The second international meeting of agricultural journalists takes note of IICA's efforts in publishing the bulletin entitled *Desarrollo Rural en Marcha*, as well as of other special news services. In pointing out this positive development, the Second Meeting proposes that IICA further open up its information services so as to include in these news bulletins the participation of other communications professionals, who work with either governmental or independent news agencies, provided they deal with agricultural affairs.

Signed in San Jose, Costa Rica, on the 5th day of November, 1988.

In Chile and Uruguay: JOURNALISTS SUPPORT ESTABLISHMENT OF INTER-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Agricultural journalists from Chile and Uruguay, meeting in Santiago and Montevideo, spoke in favor of establishing an inter-American association to promote the ongoing improvement of the profession and to strengthen ties between colleagues of the region, with a view to fostering the integration processes of our countries.

On November 29, more than fifty members of the Uruguayan Association of Agricultural Journalists (A.U.P.A.) gathered at the facilities of the Uruguayan Rural Association.

At the meeting, in addition to discussing matters pertaining to their association, the journalists heard statements on the Strategic Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which were delivered by Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and Dr. Pedro Olmos, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay.

In addition, Osvaldo Grieco and Daniel Gomez, president of A.U.P.A., shared with their colleagues what they had learned at the first seminar on the role of the press in the reactivation of agriculture, held in May, 1988, at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, with the participation of journalists from 10 Latin American countries.

At the seminar, the representatives of Uruguay, Grieco and Gomez, proposed to their colleagues the idea of establishing an inter-American association, bearing in mind the fact that national associations had already been set up in Argentina and Uruguay.

After emphasizing the importance of pursuing efforts to establish the association, the Uruguayan agricultural reporters expressed their interest in establishing ties with their colleagues from the rest of the hemisphere, and with their associations.

In this regard, they said that the establishment of an inter-American association could represent a valuable contribution towards the achievement of the objectives of reactivation of the agricultural sector and the strengthening of integration processes in the hemisphere.

They also stressed the need to enter into a closer relationship with IICA, bearing in mind the journalists' needs for information and training in matters pertaining to the agricultural sector.

CHILE

The idea of establishing an inter-American association of agricultural journalists to serve as a tool for collaborating in the reactivation of agriculture, promoting integration and furthering the professional advancement of reporters was also welcomed in Chile.

A meeting was held on December 1 with the participation of journalists from the newspapers *La Tercera*, *El Mercurio*, and *La Epoca*, and of the magazines *Chile Agrícola* and *Agroanálisis*. The Assistant Dean of the School of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Chile and the Dean of the School of Agronomy of the Catholic University also took part.

Sandra Novoa, of *La Epoca*, said that the seminar held in Costa Rica in May had proved to be a valuable professional experience, both for herself and for her colleague from *El Mercurio*. She suggested that the proposal on the establishment of an inter-American association which had emerged from that meeting should also be taken up in Chile.

The participants welcomed the proposal and stressed that their current meeting represented an important step towards that end, inasmuch as it had provided an opportunity for many colleagues to meet each other for the first time.

They agreed that, in cooperation with the IICA Office in Santiago and with the support of the School of Agronomy of the Catholic University and of the School of Veterinary Sciences of the University of Chile, they should organize another meeting. This meeting should be national in scope and should be open to a broader range of participants. Its purpose would be to discuss the role of the press in the reactivation of agriculture and the establishment of a national association, as a first step towards the establishment of an inter-American association.

To implement the Plan of Reactivation: IICA MAINTAINS CLOSE COORDINATION WITH INSTITUTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN

In order to ensure maximum efficiency in its efforts, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) maintains close coordination with various Caribbean agencies participating in the implementation of agricultural reactivation programs in the area.

At a recent meeting of the International Advisory Commission which is participating in the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, Dr. Reginald Pierre, Director of the Caribbean Area of IICA, said that, with a view to providing for proper coordination among the various initiatives, the Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture (SCMA) of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) had requested that all projects and programs promoted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and IICA join the Regional Agriculture Sector Program (RASP).

Addressing the IAC at a meeting of that body held at IICA Headquarters on December 5-6, Dr. Pierre added that the Plan of Joint Action for the Caribbean Area proposed by IICA would thus serve to complement and support the Diversification Program being promoted by OECS and RASP.

He also pointed out that the institutional mechanisms proposed for RASP and for the Plan of Joint Action were the same.

Dr. Pierre explained that in 1986, the SCMA had requested the Secretariat of CARICOM to draw up a plan for agricultural development in the area which would address, among other issues, an evaluation of the performance of the sector since 1975, the formulation of objectives for its development, the identification of priority areas and of projects for complying with these objectives, and the assignment of institutional responsibilities for carrying them out.

In conjunction with several regional and international agencies, including IICA, CARICOM has prepared a regional plan of action, which was approved by the SCMA at a special meeting held two months ago.

The plan provides for approximately 47 projects in areas such as macroeconomic policies; agricultural, forestry, livestock and fishery projects; planning and administration; surveillance and quarantine systems; generation and transfer of technologies, and development of human resources.

In late November, in Saint Lucia, the OECS approved an agricultural diversification program designed to enhance the contribution of nontraditional exports to the generation of foreign exchange.

The plan, drawn up by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and IICA, calls for the production and joint marketing of nontraditional products, and for the upgrading of embassies located in extraregional markets, for the purpose of promoting the export of these products.

INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

To properly coordinate all these initiatives, the Standing Committee of Ministers of Agriculture of CARICOM has established a ministerial subcommittee (MSC), made up of the current chairman and the incoming and outgoing chairmen of the Standing Committee.

To assist the subcommittee in its duties, the Regional Agricultural Coordination Committee (RACC) was established. The RACC is made up of the members of the MSC, the directors of the regional agencies responsible for project implementation, the Secretary of OECS, the Caribbean Industry and Commerce Association, IICA and FAO.

Finally, Dr. Pierre said that it had been suggested that, at the national level, each Member State should designate an official who would be responsible for monitoring project implementation and reporting to the RACC and SCMA through the Secretaries of OECS and CARICOM.

Dr. Pierre noted with satisfaction that IICA was participating actively in the deliberations of SCMA, and was fully involved in CARICOM's decisions regarding agriculture.

DIRECTOR GENERAL VISITS CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), visited several Caribbean countries, including Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados and Dominica, from November 6 to 12, 1988.

Dr. Piñeiro's meeting with Government representatives and officials of several organizations were highly positive, reports Dr. Reginald Pierre, IICA Director for the Caribbean Area, who accompanied the Director General on his trip.

In Dominica, Prime Minister Eugenia Charles undertook to support the Institute in its negotiations with donor agencies. In general, says Dr. Pierre, IICA's work in the Caribbean is viewed in a very favorable light.

The Government representatives indicated that IICA should play a central role in promoting ties between Latin America and the Caribbean, especially by facilitating technological exchange. They stressed IICA's contribution in this regard, but recommended that it increase these efforts in future.

There was also a positive response to the decisions to strengthen support for the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and to move the office of the Director of Caribbean Area Operations to the subregion.

The Government officials also commended IICA for its rapid action in assisting with locust control efforts in the Caribbean.

They pointed to the need for coordinating the work of regional organizations in order to ensure maximum benefits for the countries. This was stressed especially by the Minister for External Affairs of Trinidad and Tobago, Senator Sahadeo Basdeo.

In all the countries, the Director General examined the proposed Reactivation Strategy for the Caribbean, which was prepared by IICA in collaboration with the governments of that region, and that complements the plan for the agricultural sector which was recently approved by CARICOM.



IICA Director General, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro paid a visit to several Caribbean countries. In Trinidad and Tobago he went with the Minister of Food Production, Dr. Lincoln Myers (right). Accompanying them are IICA Representative Chelston Brathwaite and Reginald Pierre, Director of Caribbean Area Operations.

MEETINGS

In Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Piñeiro met with the aforementioned Minister of External Affairs and with Mr. Lincoln Myers, Minister of Food Production, Marine Exploitation, Forestry and the Environment. He also met with representatives of CARDI and of the University of the West Indies.

In Barbados, he held discussions with Neville Nichols, Acting Minister of External Affairs and President of the Caribbean Development Bank, and with Warrick Franklin, Minister of Agriculture. He also held working meetings with officials of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and of the Caribbean News Agency (CANA).

In Dominica, the Director General met with the President, Sir Clarence Signoret, with Prime Minister Eugenia Charles and with Charles Maynard, Minister of Agriculture. He also held working sessions with the staff of the IICA Offices in the three countries.

ECONOMIC POLICY AND THE GENERATION AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY IN AGRICULTURE

The modernization and technification of agriculture should help ensure the international competitiveness of the region's agricultural production, at a time when technology plays a greater role in determining comparative advantages.

This view was put forth by Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, and Dr. Carlos Pomareda, Director of the Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program. Dr. Pomareda presented a paper on this question at the First Latin American and Caribbean Conference on Economic Policy, Technology and Rural Productivity, held in Mexico from October 26 to 28, 1988.

According to Piñeiro and Pomareda, price policies for exportable products should be aimed at linking domestic prices with international prices, in order to ensure the competitiveness of exports and of the factors which influence production costs. Such policies would thus provide an incentive to farmers who are fully involved in the market by giving access, on favorable terms, to the factors of production.

The traditional agriculture sector, however, needs to be able to rely on specific systems and to be organized in such a way as to enable it to gradually get involved in commercial production and receive the concomitant benefits of technification and participation in international trade.

In this regard, the State must play a more active and selective role, making use of instruments such as guarantee prices, provision of inputs and credit, training, etc., in order to offset the adverse bias of overall macroeconomic and sectoral policies.

If the campesino sector is to benefit from the modernization and revitalization of agriculture and overcome poverty, it must have adequate access to the factors of production, become better organized and market its products, and see some public investments in infrastructure works, such as roads and schools, observed Piñeiro and Pomareda.

Economic policy is managed in the light of overall objectives, but these must be consistent with specific goals;



Dr. Carlos Pomareda, Director of IICA's Program on Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning.

hence, the modernization of agriculture must be accomplished in an equitable manner.

According to Piñeiro and Pomareda, complications are arising in connection with efforts to carry out this vision of covering both general and specific objectives, and the task will become more difficult unless those concerned have a clear idea of the existing and potential levels of technology that are available to the different social strata in the agriculture sector of the countries of the region, and realize the extent of the challenge posed by the new technologies.

With regard to the issue of new technologies and economic policy management over the next few years, Piñeiro and Pomareda hold the view that technological development in agriculture will continue for quite some time to be strongly linked to at least three components: genetic materials, agrochemicals and mechanization.

The greatest potential benefits are still to be found in the use of genetic materials, but economic policy must

encourage the production of improved seeds and embryos, inasmuch as there is evidence that producers are willing to pay the value of their marginal product for an increase in productivity.

As regards agrochemicals and fertilizers, statistics do not reveal the sharp contrast in practices: most small-scale farmers do not use them at all, while a few producers use them excessively -and hence inefficiently- as a result of the application of price subsidies.

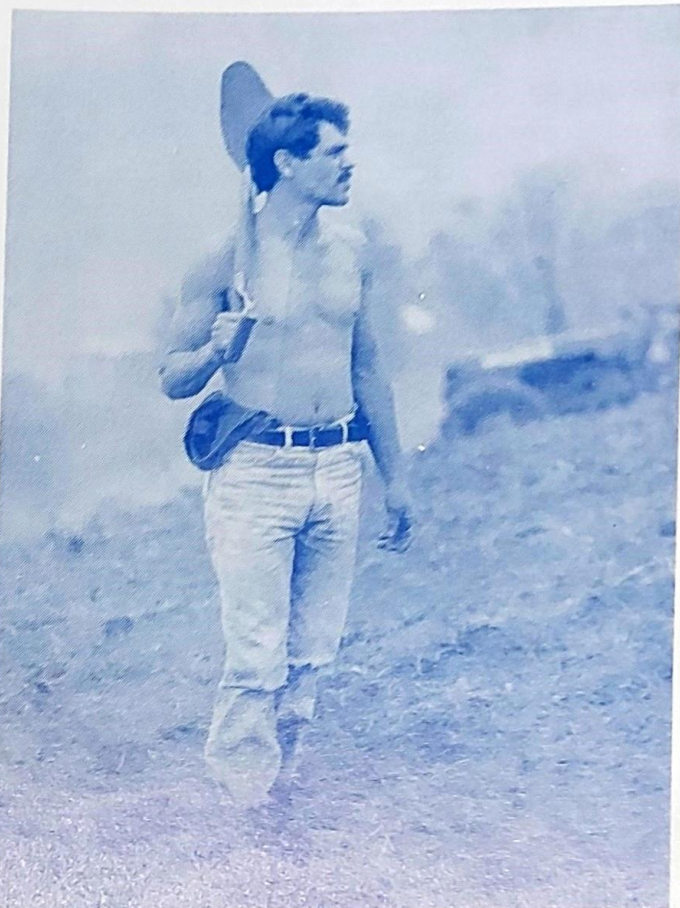
In this regard, Piñeiro and Pomareda recommend that, until such time as the shortage of financial resources is overcome, small farmers should be given access to technology for obtaining low-cost inputs.

With regard to mechanization, they point out that, since there is evidence that substantial economic and social gains can be obtained by increasing the productivity of labor, there is no question that any increase in the mechanization of agriculture in order to raise productivity and retain rural manpower will call for implementation of a public investment policy designed to develop human resources in the rural sector. This must go hand in hand with a wage policy that is compatible with the process of increasing marginal productivity as a result of training.

At the same time, State interventionism still accounts for a substantial share of public expenditures, both for financing price differentials and for expenses relating to infrastructure and bureaucracy. Expenditures on technology generation and transfer, on the other hand, have been minimal.

Piñeiro and Pomareda note that the ratio of expenditures for price management programs to amounts spent on agricultural research and extension range -depending on the country concerned- from 10.1 to 50.1.

Obviously, they add, in view of the challenge posed by the new technologies and the need to use them rationally, public expenditure patterns will have to be revised; this means that institutional changes will also have to be made. In this regard, domestic financial institutions must be modernized rapidly in order to enable them to serve a variety of needs, including the production of improved seeds or modern technological inputs (hormones,



embryos, etc.), and to provide technical assistance and other services.

In conclusion, Piñeiro and Pomareda point out that, in order for an equitable process of modernization to take place in the agriculture of the region, clear policies regarding the potential role of agriculture must be followed, and there must be consistency between macro-economic policies, agricultural policies and policies relating to industrial and agroindustrial development. This consistency must be based on a proper knowledge of the social and technological level of current agricultural undertakings and of how the adoption of new technological patterns will create a multiplier effect both within and outside the sector.

Latin America: STUDIES TO BE MADE ON IMPACT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Latin America specialists will conduct studies in seven countries of the region, with a view to measuring the impact of policies promoting decentralization and farmer participation on rural development programs.

The studies will be carried out in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru, according to Fausto Jordan, Director of the Program on Organization and Management for Rural Development of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The studies will be concluded in mid-1989, he said, and "then we will be able to systematize these experiences, discuss them with specialists and draw up a document which will be useful to the public and private sectors in carrying out their support programs."

From November 28 to December 1, twelve rural development experts met at IICA Headquarters to discuss the terms of reference for the studies, as well as the timetable, the methods and the strategies to be followed in carrying them out.

This activity was carried out in the context of a seminar-workshop on differentiated policies, decentralization and farmer participation which, according to Jordan, "brought together people who are very knowledgeable in the specific field we wish to study."

The research will be funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), which in August 1987 signed an agreement with IICA through which it will support the five Programs carried out by IICA pursuant to a mandate of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

...in Latin America, some 55 million small farmers, working an area of around 20 million hectares, generate 41% of production for domestic consumption and 21% for exports...

At that meeting, held in Ottawa, Canada, in September, 1987, IICA received a mandate to draw up a Plan of Joint

Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin American and the Caribbean.

DIFFERENTIATED POLICIES

Mr. Jordan described differentiated policies as those strategies which governments include within their macroeconomic and sectoral programs for providing State services and benefits to the sectors making up the small-farmer economy (small-scale producers, minifundio farmers and landless farm workers). He acknowledged, however, that in the region, policies directed at those groups were usually not singled out for special attention.

Jordan quoted figures to show the importance of the small-farmer economy; in Latin America, some 55 million small farmers, working an area of around 20 million hectares, generate 41% of production for domestic consumption and 21% for exports.

...a study of Latin American policies and experiences in this field should bear in mind the economic, political, social and fiscal contexts in which strategies have been applied...

Policies on decentralization and small-farmer participation, he said, were those policies aimed at producing concentration in power centers and encouraging local governments and small-farmer organizations to become involved in decision making on matters concerning rural development.

Dario Fajardo, an expert on rural development, explained to workshop-seminar participants that a study of Latin American policies and experiences in this field should bear in mind the economic, political, social and fiscal contexts in which strategies have been applied.

He said this would make it possible to look at the process more objectively and move ahead in the task of ensuring that Latin America's new development model provides for an equitable allocation of resources to the different sectors of production as well as a well-balanced distribution of the benefits of development.

In Memoriam:
DR. PEDRO N. ACHA

IICA recently lost one of its most distinguished officials with the death, on August 27 in Baltimore, Maryland, of Dr. Pedro N. Acha.

At the time of his death, Dr. Acha was Coordinator of Inter-institutional Relations at the IICA Office in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Acha came to IICA after a long and successful career with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), where he served in several high posts, including those of Area Director for Health Service Infrastructure, Director of Regional Programming and Operations, and Representative in Argentina.

While at PAHO, he had developed a close working relationship with IICA when, from 1980 to 1982, thanks to an agreement between IICA and PAHO, he worked with the Institute in several very successful coordination and planning activities. He helped organize IICA's program on animal health, a field which specially interested him and in which he had considerable experience.

A native of Peru, Dr. Pedro Acha received his degree as a veterinarian from the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos, which later also granted him an honorary doctoral degree. He did graduate study at the University of California at Berkeley, where he received a master's degree in public health.

Dr. Acha wrote and published a large number of works, and presented papers at some of the most distinguished scientific meetings. His book *Zoonosis and Communicable Diseases Common to Man and Animals*, co-authored with Dr. Boris Szyfres, has been translated into several languages, and represents one of the greatest contributions to human and animal medicine in recent years.

Through his successful and fruitful career, Pedro N. Acha, an impeccably honest professional and untiring worker, has left an indelible mark and will not be forgotten by his friends and colleagues.



DR. PEDRO N. ACHA

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY SHOULD INCLUDE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Latin America should promote an industrial development strategy that involves the agricultural sector, in order to allow for the consolidation of agroindustry and enable it to play a greater role in the reactivation process of the region, recommended one specialist.

In a preliminary study for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Eduardo Jacobs suggests that the strategy he proposes should be managed by the secretariats of industrial development or by the secretariats of agriculture.

... in Latin America, the share of agroindustry in manufacturing value added fell from 31.8% in 1960 to 25.8% in 1981, as a result of the great emphasis given to industrial development...

He stresses, however, that in order to obtain satisfactory results, it is essential to build both an administrative and a political space, so as to allow for the full operation of nuclei of "agroindustrial revitalization," that is, enterprises which are suitable and high-yielding.

Jacobs describes the situation of the sector in detail in a research study dealing with agroindustrial development in the agricultural reactivation strategy and economic development, focusing on prospects and requirements.

According to the official figures he was able to obtain, trade in agroindustrial products, with the exception of coffee and cacao, totalled US\$254 billion in 1985, or 13% of all world trade for that year.

According to Jacobs, an overview of the status of agroindustrial development in Latin America will show that it has been geared mainly towards the production of food for the domestic market; this explained its relative growth over the last few years.

He adds that the few products that are exported are generated by external stimuli, i.e., through firms concerned with marketing or direct investment, and by specific demands within the sector.

In the author's view, policies specifically designed to promote agroindustrial development have not yet been developed in Latin America. Thus, the relative growth of this sector has been due to its taking advantage of incentives promoting industrialization and the availability of low-cost raw materials.

Another shortcoming discovered by Jacobs concerns the lack of attention given to rural agroindustry. In general, it has been neglected in official strategies which see centralism as the only way to produce food that satisfies foreign consumption patterns.

To correct this situation, he recommends that strategies be redefined and geared toward ensuring that rural agroindustry play a major role in integrating the agricultural and transformation sectors, influence food supply and contribute to the growth of the small-farmer economy.

In another section of his study, the expert notes that in Latin America, the share of agroindustry in manufacturing value added fell from 31.8% in 1960 to 25.8% in 1981, as a result of the great emphasis given to industrial development.

...trade in agroindustrial products, with the exception of coffee and cacao, totalled US\$254 billion in 1985, or 13% of all world trade for that year...

Jacobs attaches great importance to the role of transnational corporations (TNCs) and recommends that the Latin American countries apply a policy which goes beyond the classic emphasis on control, monitoring and transfer of profits, which is applied at present.

Specifically, he advises the countries to take advantage of the control which the TNCs have over the flow of international trade in agroindustrial products so as to promote sales of Latin American commodities. This would, of course, benefit both parties.

HANDBOOK ON THE COMMERCIAL STORAGE OF FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND FLORISTRY AND NURSERY STOCKS

book entitled *Almacenamiento comercial de frutas, hortalizas y existencias de floristerías y viveros* (The commercial storage of fruits, vegetables and floristry and nursery stocks), to be published soon by the IICA Editorial Service, describes factors which can have an important impact on the preservation of the quality of fresh fruits and vegetables and floristry and nursery stocks during cold storage.

Some of the factors mentioned are precooling, the production heat of each product, the recommended environment, air movement, sanitary requirements, refrigeration supplements and several types of damage which can occur. Recommended storage conditions as well as an indication of potential life span are given for each type of product.

In each case, the conditions should not be considered absolute or definitive, but rather as safe limits within which the various products can be stored under normal conditions.

Temperatures recommended are optimum for prolonged storage; for short-term storage, however, higher temperatures than those indicated might prove satisfactory.

Products that are more sensitive to cold, however, can be stored for several days at temperatures lower than those recommended.

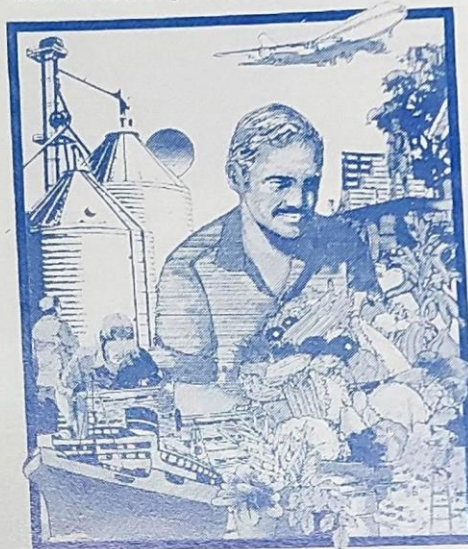
Exceptions included bananas, cucumbers, eggplant, okra, pumpkins, potatoes for processing, sweet potatoes, ripe tomatoes and orchids.

The key words in the text are air circulation, ammonium damage, damage caused by cold, storage of merchandise, controlled atmosphere, damage caused by freezing, fumigation, evolution of heat, radiation, precooling, quality, refrigeration, relative humidity, respiration rate, sanitation, temperature, waxing and weight loss.

The handbook was written by Robert E. Hardenburg, Alley E. Watada and Chien Yi Wang, and translated by Fernando Duran Ayanegui from *Agricultural Handbook* No. 66, published by the United States Department of Agriculture. It is an extensive revision of the 1968 edition written by R. E. Hardenburg and the late J. M. Whiteman, of the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Beltsville, Maryland.

ALMACENAMIENTO COMERCIAL DE FRUTAS, LEGUMBRES Y EXISTENCIAS DE FLORISTERIAS Y VIVEROS

Robert E. Hardenburg • Alley E. Watada • Chien Yi Wang



The book, which measures 8 1/2" x 11", is 150 pages long, and the first Spanish edition is No. 16 in IICA's Research and Development Collection.

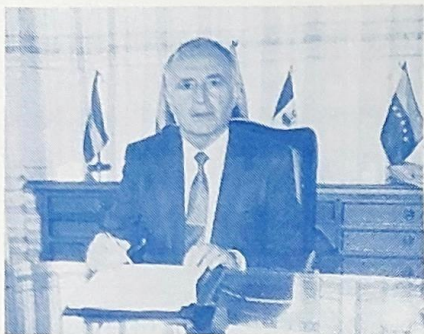
Since the 1968 edition was published, much new information has been generated as a result of research on temperature and humidity requirements and refrigeration supplements.

This handbook provides a summary of up-to-date recommendations on the storage of vegetable crops.

For readers seeking further information, there is a lengthy, though far from complete, list of references.

The handbook is directed mainly at those involved in marketing (storage operators, warehouse personnel, transporters, distributors, inspectors, etc.), researchers, and persons concerned with preserving the quality of

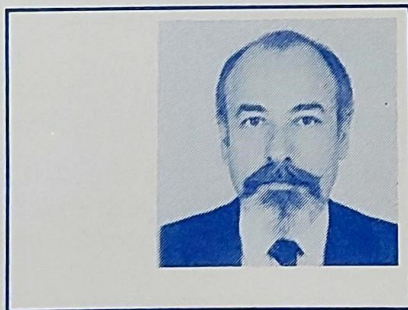
APPOINTMENTS IN IICA OFFICES



**IICA
REPRESENTATIVE
IN ECUADOR**

Mario Blasco Lamenca is the new IICA Representative in Ecuador. He studied law and agricultural engineering at the University of Barcelona, Spain, and at the National University of Colombia, in that order. He subsequently obtained a master's degree in agricultural chemistry and a doctoral degree in soil biochemistry at the University of London in England.

A native of Spain, Dr. Blasco has held many posts, including the following: Dean of the School of Agricultural Sciences of the University of Nariño, Colombia; professor at CATIE in Turrialba, Costa Rica; agricultural research specialist for the IICA Andean Area, in Lima, Peru; and IICA Representative in Colombia.



**IICA
REPRESENTATIVE
IN PARAGUAY**

Dr. Luiz Carlos Giotto Pannunzio, of Brazil, is the new IICA Representative in Paraguay. He studied economics at Mackenzie University in Canada.

Throughout his professional career, he has held important posts, including the following: From 1971 to 1977, he was a project specialist for the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Washington, D.C. From 1979 to 1985, he served as advisor and coordinator for bilateral cooperation on the Brazilian National Council for Scientific and Technological Development. From 1985 to the present, he served as head of international advisory services of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA).

IICA IN THE NEWS

La República

Montevideo, November 26. Under the headline "Regional cooperation stressed in negotiations with EEC," this Uruguayan morning paper covered a seminar offered on the European Common Agricultural Policy and cooperation for development. The seminar was co-sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Spain's Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA).

The officials attending the seminar reaffirmed the need for integration and cooperation so as to increase the impact of cooperation programs on the development of the region.

THE SUN

Trinidad and Tobago, November 8. This newspaper gave ample coverage to the visit of Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to Trinidad and Tobago. During his visit, Dr. Piñeiro presented the report on the agriculture sector of Trinidad and Tobago prepared by Byron Noble, agricultural economist of the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community in Guyana, to Lincoln Myers, Minister of Food Production, Marine Exploitation, Forestry and the Environment, with a view to establishing technical cooperation programs between IICA, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and that Ministry.

LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA

PER LA CALIDAD QUE SE ENCUENTRA EN SU PAGINA
EN EL MUNDO QUE MERECE SU RESISTENCIA

FUNDADO EN 1853

Miembro de la Sociedad Interamericana de Prensa

Panama, November 9. This Panamanian newspaper reported on the general technical cooperation agreement signed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Group of Sugar-producing Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (GEPLACEA).

This agreement provides for the development of agroindustrial programs and projects in order to help regenerate the countries' installed capacity for producing sugarcane.

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Editor in Chief: Miguel Martí. Editors: Beatriz Jáuregui, Danilo Jiménez, Patricia León. Translator: Barbara Bryan de Rojas. Design: Jimena Ugarte. Art: Beatriz Jáuregui. Director of External Relations: Jorge Werthein.

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 made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

News bulletin on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo. 55-2200 Coronado, San Jose, Costa Rica. Cable: IICASANJOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Telephone: 290222.

