

**NEWS**



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**1993**

January - February 1993, Year X, No. 52



Photo/R. Escobar

*The Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica, Seymour Mullings (right), visited IICA Headquarters and met with the Deputy Director General, Reed Hertford, to review the technical cooperation actions of the Institute in his country. They also discussed the issue of banana trade.*

- IICA to Adjust its Cooperation in Central America
- New Deputy Director General Assumes Post
- Central America:  
Participation of Women in Rural EAP on the Rise

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# IICA NEWS

News magazine on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish, English and French editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo 55-2200 Coronado, San José, Costa Rica. Cable: IICA San Jose. Telex: 2144 IICA. Fax: 294741. Telephone: 290222. Editor in Chief: Patricia Leon. Editors: Michelle Mitchell and Danilo Jiménez. English translation and editing: Paul Murphy, Barbara Cohen and Susana Raine. 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 33 member countries and 16 permanent observers.

## Jamaican Minister of Agriculture Visits IICA

**D**uring a visit to IICA Headquarters on January 20, the Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica, Seymour Mullings, met with Institute officials to review IICA's technical cooperation in his country.

Mullings, who visited Costa Rica at the invitation of his counterpart, Juan Rafael Lizano, was received by the Deputy Director General, Reed Hertford. For the last two years, IICA's technical actions in Jamaica have focused on technology generation and transfer and rural development.

In connection with technology generation and transfer, IICA has provided support to Jamaica's Rural Development Agency (RADA) for strengthening and simplifying its administrative systems. Cooperation in rural development has focused on three initiatives: designing methods for training relative to planning farm activities and recording farm data; compiling and processing data on production costs; and, lastly, developing farm models.

Jamaica benefitted from the action of IICA's multinational efforts, through projects dealing with agricultural policy, technology transfer for agricultural development, modernization of quarantine information systems, rural women, and surveillance and monitoring of agricultural pests and diseases.

Banana trade was another issue discussed by Mullings with IICA authorities. Regarding the quota system for bananas, he recognized the "punitive nature" of the conditions imposed on producers from Central and South America

Nevertheless, he said that the quota system is necessary to provide Caribbean countries with access to the European market, under advantageous conditions. He stresses the fact that this situation has been discussed with representatives of producer countries in Latin America.

Last December, European Community authorities agreed to admit up to 2 million metric tons of bananas annually from Latin America, with tariffs varying from 20%-25%. If producers exceed the established quota, the exporter must pay 170% of the value of the fruit in order to enter the EC market. This restriction will go into effect in July.

In this regard, the Minister acknowledged the difficulty of negotiating a possible opening in which producers from the



Photo/R. Escobar

*Minister Mullings discussed the different effects of banana quotas on Caribbean and on Latin American farmers.*

Caribbean and Latin America can compete in a free market, recalling that one of the objectives of the 1989 Lomé Convention was to prevent former African, Caribbean and Pacific colonies from being placed in a position that is less favorable than they enjoyed in the past, or currently enjoy.

## Headquarters

**R**eed Hertford, a U.S. citizen, who assumed the position of IICA Deputy Director General in December 1992, believes firmly that "agriculture plays and will continue to play a key role in development."

Hertford, who occupies the second highest position

at the University of New Jersey, where he also served as an associate professor of Agricultural Economics and Marketing. He also taught at other universities, including Princeton.

At the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), he was Chairman of the

Colombian Agricultural Institute/ Universidad Nacional Escuela de Graduados. He began his professional career at the United States Department of Agriculture, as-

## New Deputy Director General Reaffirms Agriculture's Key Role in Development

within the Institute, holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago, and is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley in agricultural economics and business administration.

Since 1989, he served as Executive Director of the South-East Consortium for International Development (SECID), the largest regional consortium of universities in the United States, which brings together 29 universities and one research center.

From 1982 to 1989, he was Director of the International Agricultural and Food Programs at Rutgers, the State

University of New Jersey, where he also served as an associate professor of Agricultural Economics and Marketing. He also taught at other universities, including Princeton. At the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees (1981-1985). During this period, he also presided over meetings of the Group of Chairmen of all international centers in the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Twelve years with the Ford Foundation gave him an opportunity to learn more about the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as Asia and the Pacific. He was advisor for Agriculture and Resources for Asia and the Pacific from 1979-1981, for Latin America and the Caribbean from 1977-1979, and for the Andean Region and the Southern Cone from 1975-1977.

Previously (1970-77), he served as advisor for the Ford Foundation's Agricultural and Economics Program in Colombia and Venezuela, and was a visiting professor at the Universidad de los Andes and at the

signed to Mexico City.

Hertford maintains that all models of technical cooperation are changing rapidly, given developments around the world, with cooperation that divides countries into donors and beneficiaries being replaced by "two-way cooperation and real collaboration among equals." Also, there is a need for balance between cooperation aimed at the public and private sectors.

In this regard, he stated that IICA, in its search for new mechanisms, will be enhancing its relations with the private sector. "This is a great challenge," he added.

### THE TASK AHEAD

In addition to supporting and advising the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro - whose term is ending early next year - Hertford expects to help ease the transition of



Photo: R. Escobar

Reed Hertford

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*The type of cooperation that divides countries into donors and beneficiaries should be replaced by one of "two-way cooperation and real collaboration among equals."*

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administrations. In his first months, he has focused on financial and administrative matters. He has also assisted in the delicate task of decentralizing the administration of IICA, and of granting greater responsibilities to unit heads and, especially, to Representatives in the countries."

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*During his many years with the Ford Foundation, Hertford was able to become well acquainted with the Latin American and Caribbean countries.*

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# Experts to Draw Up Guidelines for the Next Four Years

**A** group of experts will evaluate IICA's 1987-1993 Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the actions taken by the Institute during the time it was in effect, with a view to proposing guidelines and recommendations to serve as inputs for drafting the 1994-1997 MTP.

The group is coordinated by Roberto Vasquez Platero, of Uruguay, and is made up of Doug Daniels, of Canada; John Pino, of the United States of America; Rafael Villeda Toledo, of Honduras; Lincoln Meyers, of Trinidad and Tobago; and Carlos Gustavo Cano, of Colombia. The G-6, as the group is known within IICA, has prepared a work plan for the coming weeks that includes the following activities:

March 8-16: Visit to Headquarters to study documents and meet with Institute officials.

March 17-April 5: Visits to nine IICA Offices. During this period, the group will also travel to the United States of America, more specifically, to the United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

April 19-30: Drafting of the final document at IICA Headquarters



*The MTP is a working instrument approved by the IABA that orients the Institute's actions for specific periods of time.*

Gonzalo Estefanell, Chief of DIPROE's Division of Technical Cooperation Strategies and Projects, reported that the document will be presented to IICA authorities. Subsequently, the Director General will present the principal guidelines and conclusions to the Executive Committee and to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), which will meet in Mexico this September.

This is the third time a group of experts has analyzed IICA's MTP.

**S**peaking in Paris on February 8, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that the globalization of the economy will be the principal challenge of the coming century, and that, to meet it, the countries of the South must apply new technologies and diversify agricultural production.

Piñeiro made these comments during his address to the colloquium entitled "Agriculture and Society: Questions for Research," which brought together researchers, technical personnel, businessmen and representatives of the public agricultural sector.

Noting that in the Third World the agricultural sector may become the driving force behind economic growth, he said, "The trend toward globalization has had an impact on agriculture in three main areas: foreign investment, the trade of

merchandise and agroindustrial commodities, and sustainable production."

In the judgement of the Director General, the wealth of natural resources found in Third World countries will enable them to participate in the global economy. Nonetheless, he warned, these countries must diversify production, create effective institutional structures and change their legal frameworks so they can gain access to new technologies.

Organized by the Descartes Association, an organization that fosters the use of science and technology in areas such as agriculture, the colloquium also received support from the EEC, and the Ministries of Agriculture, Environment and Research and Space of France.

## Director General of IICA: Globalization of the Economy is the Challenge of the Coming Century

# IFAD Holds Sixteenth Meeting of its Governing Council

ICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, represented the Institute at the Sixteenth Meeting of the Governing Council of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), held in Rome from January 20-22, at which time he met for the first time with the new authorities of this United Nations agency.

IICA's participation in the meeting, during which Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan of Kuwait was elected the new president of IFAD, demonstrates the good cooperative relations between the two organizations, motivated by their common interest in serving the poorest rural sectors.

Technical support for IFAD's missions in Central and South America and the Andean countries, as well as the joint publication of studies on the impact of rural poverty in certain nations of the region, are some examples of the inter-institutional work that has been carried out over the past years.

Representatives of IFAD's 147 member countries, delegates from international cooperation and funding agencies and special guests, including the First Lady of Colombia, Ana Milena Muñoz de Gaviria and the President of Botswana, Ketumile Joni Masire, attended the meeting. In addressing the group, Hamad Al-Sultan called for the fourth replenish-

ment of funds, which are necessary to continue with IFAD's work program. The 49-year old new President of IFAD studied economics at the American University in Beirut and subsequently received a Ph.D. from Yale University in the United States. He was the Executive Director of the World Bank from 1984 until he was elected to his current position.

IFAD's principal donor countries advocated that the Fund's activities should focus on the most important issues of the international agenda: the mitigation of rural poverty, implementation of Agenda 21 with special emphasis on sustainable development, work in support of rural women, efficient project execution, identification of co-funding and cooperation agencies to work with the Fund, and training programs on the gender issue.

ICA officials who will be involved in implementing an upcoming Korea/IICA project to promote trade between that nation and Latin America, including IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, recently attended a seminar on the topic in Seoul, South Korea.

The activity, entitled "The Effect of Promoting Trade between Korea and Latin America," took place in late December 1992, and was organized by the Korean

International Institute for Agricultural Research. It was also attended by 50 officials from local institutions.

Speaking on behalf of IICA, and after discussing in detail the socioeconomic situation in Latin America and the integration efforts under way, Werthein focused on the issues the project should address and the operating mechanisms that will be necessary for it to succeed.

In his judgement, cooperation between Korea and our region will be a mutually beneficial initiative. In the case of Latin America, agricultural development will be enhanced if the initiatives help overcome current trade constraints and increase the production potential of our

natural resources. As for Korea, its people and industries will benefit through their access to high quality products and attractive markets for many of their commodities.

During his visit, the Director of External Relations met with senior government officials representing agriculture, international relations and cooperation, and with the directors of research agencies. He also met with ambassadors from Latin America to inform them of progress to date on this trade promotion initiative.

## Korea Analyzes Trade with Latin America

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*The Republic of Korea and IICA are preparing to implement a project to promote trade between that Asian nation and Latin America.*

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ICA's Director of Programming and Evaluation, Manuel Otero, represented the Institute at an international seminar held last December in Pakistan to present the book "The State of World Rural Poverty."

The meeting was convened by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and Pakistan's Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

"The State of World Rural Poverty", written by IFAD, was presented by the then President of IFAD, Idriss Jazairy. Specialists from throughout the world spoke on the situation in South-east Asia and Africa, while Otero focused on poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## IICA Participates in World Seminar on Rural Poverty

### Recognition for IICA Staff Members



*IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, was honored for his 15 years of service to the Institute.*

The ceremony was organized by the Directorate of Human Resources and was presided over by Manuel Otero, in representation of the Director General. In reviewing the major events of the year, he noted that we can be proud of what IICA accomplished in 1992. He added that 1993 will be a year of intense work in which a new technical cooperation scheme will be drawn up for Central America; a group of experts will propose guidelines for a new Medium Term Plan; and a meeting will be held of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in Mexico.

IICA staff members who have worked with the Institute for five, ten, fifteen or more years were honored during a ceremony held at Headquarters last December.

Speaking to the gathering, the President of the IICA Staff Association (ASEIICA), Yanco Goic, underscored the value and creative input of each person working at the Institute, and singled out Juan Mata, of Costa Rica, and Jorge Werthein, of Argentina, as representative of this event.

Mata, who works in the Print Shop, was honored for forty years of uninterrupted service. Werthein, IICA's Director of External Relations, was recognized as the member of the international staff with the longest period of service at IICA.

Photo/R. Escobar



*Ruth Chacon, a member of the general services staff, was one of the employees honored for ten years of service.*



The objective of the book *Ajuste Macroeconomico y Pobreza Rural en America Latina*, published in Spanish recently by IICA's Program I, Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, is to provide a clearer understanding of the overall impact of adjustment policies on agriculture and, more particularly, on the rural poor.

This book is a component of a process to analyze, disseminate and exchange experiences in this area. The experts conducting the research attended several workshops to discuss their results and, in 1991, two international seminars were held in Colombia and Brazil to examine the findings. The Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC) provided financial support, while the Integrated Rural Development Fund (DRI) of Colombia and the National Department of Cooperatives (DENACOOB) of Brazil co-sponsored the seminars.

The book, edited by Costa Rican economist Rafael A. Trejos, contains seven case studies conducted with a standardized methodology that facilitates comparison. The seven countries studied were Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico and Peru. The Director of Program I, Carlos Pomareda, explained that the study covers both large and small countries in which the relative importance of agriculture varies, and which have undertaken macroeconomic adjustment programs having different objectives, duration, procedures and speed of implementation. The variety of the cases, he added, provides sufficient inputs for a wide gamut of strategy options.

According to Pomareda, along with competitiveness and sustainability, equity is one of the key elements of the development strategy, and a prerequisite for growth advocated in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

He added that continued poverty in rural areas has serious economic and social consequences which will hinder efforts to revitalize the sector and build a society that is dynamic and enduring.

In his judgement, a clearer understanding of this topic will make it possible to formulate better strategies and programs aimed at alleviating rural poverty and more efficiently

involving these groups in the modernization of production and efforts to revitalize the sector.

Despite the difficulty of gathering reliable information and the complexity of the issue, the researchers who contributed to the book were able to identify certain elements that characterized the different ad-

justment processes applied during the 1980s, as well as some basic relationships with the agricultural sector and rural poverty.

- \* Although a considerable number and variety of policies were implemented during this period, all the countries under study were working to open up to the world economy.

- \* Financial difficulties experienced during the decade constrained further structural change in the region. Stabilization policies ranged from orthodox to heterodox and included populism, depending on the importance of external constraints, inflation or political pressures.

- \* In general, the agricultural sector performed better than the rest of the economy in times of crisis and during periods of macroeconomic or structural adjustment.

- \* There is no evidence to show that liberalization and orthodox adjustment methods improved the situation of the rural poor. It was noted that the incomes of rural laborers declined. Available information showed that rural poverty is essentially structural in origin and directly linked to the ownership of land and other production assets, issues which orthodox policies failed to address successfully.

- \* Under the heterodox programs, the incomes of small farmers and rural laborers rose at first, due to increased demand, price policies that benefitted them, the creation of subsidy programs, and increases in nominal wages that were greater than increases in consumer prices. In some cases, such as Peru and Argentina, once the heterodox programs concluded, the incomes of both groups fell to levels approaching the worst of the decade.

## Programs on the march

**R**esearch on the participation of women in food production, conducted as part of an IICA/Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) project, revealed that women account for between 26% and 30% of the economically active population (EAP) in Central America.

According to Rebeca Grynspan, coordinator of the

project on sectoral policies as they relate to women food producers, these figures differ from official statistics in the subregion, which, on average, place the percentage of the rural EAP represented by women at 8%.

agricultural policies that recognize women's share in agricultural work and provide them with the requirements they need (land, credit, training and technical assistance) to boost

### Central America: Participation of Women in Rural EAP on the Rise

food productivity and increase food security.

For the study, which covered Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, four

#### HALF A WORKDAY

Regarding the participation of women in the work force, the study revealed that their contribution is not negligible.

According to Grynspan, "On the contrary, we are talking about women who, on average, spend four hours a day working on the farm; in other words, half a workday."

In order to ensure uniformity of the information, the study only looked at small farms (1 to 20 hectares) on which corn and bean production was the only, or one of the most important, activities.

Two other interesting findings of the studies revealed women's growing role in applying fertilizers and using agrochemicals - especially in Costa Rica and Panama - and their importance in "coordinating the production process."

The documents on sectoral policies, technology and marketing showed that, in general, women seldom benefit from credit, land distribution, training and technical assistance programs. To reverse this situation, it was recommended that agricultural policies be designed that take women into account as important participants in the production process and that consider their unique characteristics and needs.

The project will conclude with a regional seminar-workshop this March 2-3, which will be attended by the ministers of agriculture, labor, planning, the economy or their representatives, as well as public and private sector organizations. The purpose is to follow up on the initiative to ensure that achievements are consolidated and recommendations are carried out.



Photo/Diane Beckley, Guatemala

*On average, women spend half their day in farm work.*

"An analysis of the dynamics of small-farm production systems and small farms reveals that women play an important role not only in the strategies to ensure the survival of the family, but also in agricultural production," she noted.

The objective of the IICA-IDB project is to assist the countries in designing

documents were drawn up for each country: an assessment of the role of women in the agricultural sector, an analysis of general agricultural policies -land, credit and training- and those directly affecting women, as well as documents on technology and marketing.

**B**etween 1990 and 1992, the project "Women and Communication" carried out an exhaustive training process on social communication theory and techniques, from the perspective of gender, for representatives of governmental and non-governmental organizations in Central America. In 1993, it will enter a new stage.

Under its new title "Communication, Gender and Sustainable Development," it will continue for another three years, thanks to an extension of the original agreement signed recently by IICA and the Swedish In-

ternational Development Authority (SIDA).

One new element of this new stage is the participation of the Regional Office for Central America of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). The objectives of the second stage will be to train technical personnel and specialists from governmental and non-governmental organizations in three areas of interest (communications, gender and sustainable development), to strengthen and

## "Women and Communication" Project Enters New Stage

expand the network of institutions working in these fields in Central America, and to produce and exchange communications and educational materials.

The topic of sustainable development was added in recognition of the role women play in decisions made at the family and community levels concerning the environment and natural resources.

During its first stage, the project became one of the

key instruments of action for the advancement of women of the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA), a specialized Unit of IICA.

It fostered and provided instruction in gender analysis, with a view to addressing and developing solutions to the problems that make up the difficult lives of rural women. Its activities focused on four basic areas: diagnosis, training, production and information networks.

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## Proposal for Hemispheric Conference

**A** Central American working group meeting at IICA Headquarters prepared a draft of the declaration the First Ladies of the region will present at the Hemispheric Conference on the Handicapped, to be held

in Washington, D.C. from March 14-18. Made up of the vice ministers of education of Central America or their representatives, as well as delegates from international agencies and specialists in the field, the group

appointed a committee to fine tune the proposal and write a technical report on the situation of the handicapped in Central America, to be attached to the declaration.

Currently under study by the First Ladies, the declaration is a policy document that calls for a pooling of efforts for serving the handicapped in Central America.

Convened by the Organization of American States (OAS), the Hemispheric Conference on the Handicapped will evaluate what the United Nations declared the "Decade of the Handicapped" (1983-1992).

The Conference, to be attended by the First Ladies of the Americas, will formulate common proposals and strategies for the rest of this century.



Photo/R. Escobar

*The working meeting in Costa Rica was organized by the Office for Cooperation and Support for the First Ladies of Central America. It received support from the UNICEF Area Office.*

**T**he Single European Market: A new framework for agricultural trade policies" was the theme of a high-level seminar held at IICA Headquarters in December. The meeting was attended by government officials, members of the private sector, officials from regional and subregional cooperation and funding agencies, scholars and journalists.

## New European Trade Policies Analyzed

The activity was sponsored by IICA through its Trade and Integration Program, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA). According to the organizers, the meeting provided the participants with new and timely information on vital current issues, such as the future of the Uruguay Round of the GATT, the outlook for international trade in light of the new Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), and the harmonization of plant and animal health norms, which constitute the cornerstone of agricultural trade liberalization.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, stressed the need for the Latin American and Caribbean countries to double their efforts in the political and technical arenas, so that the region can develop the capability to have an impact on changes taking place worldwide.

The Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica, Roberto Rojas, indicated that it was possible that the establishment of the Single European Market could give rise to a hardening of restrictive policies, a situation which would go against the very spirit of the regulations of the GATT.

Seminar participants agreed with the draft agreement on agricultural subsidies achieved late last year in Brussels by the United States and the European

Community. They saw this as a good sign for a successful conclusion of the negotiations of the Uruguay Round of the GATT.

According to figures presented at the seminar, should the negotiations conclude successfully, the trade of goods worldwide would surge by approximately US\$2 billion, 15% of

products. These commodities receive the greatest protection and usually create the most marked distortions in international trade. In addition to making production more competitive, added Milan, the CAP seeks to bring agriculture into harmony with nature.

Another important topic discussed during the seminar was the relationship between trade and the environment. Alejandro Jara, SELA's Coordinator for Trade, stated "...nothing justifies the unilateral imposition of trade restrictions to curtail environmental problems."



*The meeting provided participants with new and timely information on vital current issues, such as the future of the Uruguay Round of the GATT.*

which would correspond to exports from Third World countries.

Another key topic of discussion were the CAP reforms, which go into effect this year. Rafael Milan Diaz, advisor to the Minister of Agriculture of Spain, described the scope of the initiative and its impact on trade in and outside of the EC, in addition to its impact on GATT negotiations.

The package of reforms, viewed as the most important adjustment made to the CAP over its 30 years of existence, seeks to reduce the output of the Community by cutting prices to stem the accumulation of surpluses- principally for three items: cereals, meat and dairy

Instead he favored a multilateral consensus in designing a global agreement, possibly within the framework of the GATT, "...each participant has the same rights and responsibilities."

The participants also discussed the experiences of the European Community and of Spain in harmonizing plant and animal health norms, which are indispensable to agricultural trade. Along these same lines, they discussed the scope of the free trade agreement among the United States, Mexico and Canada.

# World Conference Planned on Ecological Economics

Scientists, economists and environmentalists from around the world will meet in Costa Rica in October 1994 to attend the Third World Conference on Ecological Economics.

Robert Constanza, President of the International Association of Ecological Economics and representing the University of Maryland, announced the conference at IICA Headquarters on February 1. The event will be co-sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the National University (UNA) of Costa Rica.

Entitled "Down to Earth: Practical Applications of Ecological Economics," the world conference will work to identify practical methods for achieving environmental sustainability at the local, regional and global levels.

In a meeting with IICA's Deputy Director General, Reed Hertford, Constanza discussed the content and

organization of the event, which will be attended by some 1,000 people.

During his visit to IICA, Constanza delivered a lecture entitled "Dimensions and Applications of Ecological Economics."

During his talk, he noted that the allocation of resources, the distribution of wealth and the imbalance between the economic system and the ecosystems that supply it are three problems that threaten sustainability on our planet.

He also recommended that the network of researchers working on energy use, equitable distribution of wealth, and the relationship between trade and the environment be expanded in order to exchange information and promote reciprocal cooperation. Lastly, Constanza called for a multidisciplinary approach in proposing

formulas for economic growth, so as to take environmental considerations into account.

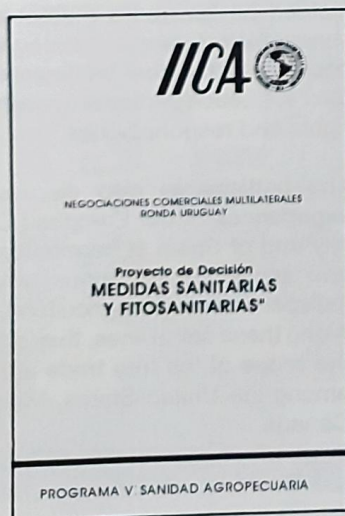


Robert Constanza

## Book Published on Project Submitted to the GATT

IICA's Agricultural Health Program recently published a book containing the draft resolution "Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures," which was submitted to the consideration of the current Uruguay Round of the GATT.

In addition to the draft resolution, the book contains three appendices to the proposal: one defining concepts such as sanitary or phytosanitary measures, harmonization, risk assessment, pest- or disease-free zone, etc.; the second on the transparency of sanitary and phytosanitary measures; and the third on inspection, control and approval procedures. In general, the proposal on sanitary and phytosanitary measures stresses that contracting parties are to ensure that their regulations do not discriminate arbitrarily, so as not to serve as a hidden barrier to international trade.



# IICA to Adjust Cooperation in Central America

Photo/Courtesy of "La República"/Costa Rica



*Meeting in Panama from December 9-11 last year, in an event that focused on agriculture, democracy and development, the six presidents issued a declaration, one component of which was entitled "The Agricultural Commitment of Panama" and which aims to facilitate agricultural modernization in the subregion.*

**A**s this edition of IICA News went to press, the Institute was working on a proposal to tailor its technical cooperation actions in Central America to supporting the countries' efforts to comply with the commitments on agriculture adopted at the Thirteenth Summit Meeting of Central American Presidents.

Meeting in Panama from December 9-11 last year, in an event that focused on agriculture, democracy and development, the six presidents issued a declaration, one component of which was entitled "Agricultural Commitment of Panama" and which aims to facilitate agricultural modernization in the subregion.

This instrument for action consists of five sections, preceded by a statement in which the Presidents reiterate their commitment to making Central America a region characterized by peace and political, economic and institutional stability, in order to promote agriculture, livestock activities, agroindustry and the provision of support services.

The following is discussed in the five sections of the Commitment: the regional strategy for agricultural and agroindustrial exports; improving the free trade of agricultural commodities within the region; the transformation and modernization of production sectors; the role of the private sector in development, integration and economic opening; and assessing the value of natural resources and environmental protection.

The Institute's support stems from an offer made by IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, to the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of the Countries of the Central American Isthmus (COMACA) for support in executing the Commitment. He made this offer during a meeting with them at the time of the Summit.

Piñeiro, who had been invited to attend the Summit as a special guest, made a presentation on the challenges and opportunities for agriculture in Central America, given the trend toward economic opening and trade liberalization.

IICA will present the ministers of agriculture of Central America with a preliminary version of its adjusted technical cooperation program during a meeting to take place in Managua this March 3-4.

To this end, the Directorate of Central Area Operations has begun preparation of this document. A technical team has been set up for this purpose, coordinated by Costa Rica's former Minister of Planning of Costa Rica, Juan Manuel Villasuso, and which receives technical support from the Institute's five Programs, CEPPI, the IICA Offices in the countries of the isthmus and a group of consultants.

IICA presently has numerous technical cooperation activities under way in Central America, including initiatives of sub-regional scope and national projects drawn up in consultation with the authorities of each country, based on their individual priorities. Both types of initiatives are carried out through the Institute's five Programs.

The Institute also provides support to the Technical Secretariat of CORECA, the Regional Technical Unit of the RUTA II Project, and the First Ladies of Central America, through its Office for Cooperation and Support.

CONASUR:

## Standardization of Animal Health Requirements to Facilitate Trade



The Fifth Meeting of CONASUR took place in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Appearing in the photograph, from left to right, are Carlos Rucks, of IICA; and the ministers of agriculture of Paraguay, Raul Torres; Brazil, Lazaro Barboza; (Secretary of Agriculture) Argentina, Marcelo Regunaga; Chile, Juan Figueroa; and Vice Minister of Agriculture of Uruguay, Pedro Saravia.

**D**uring the next meeting of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR), to be held in May in Brazil, the Ministers of Agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay will sign an agreement on animal health requirements.

Prior to the meeting, technical teams from the countries will iron out details of the initiative, which seeks to facilitate agricultural trade among these nations.

The decision, approved during the Fifth Meeting of CONASUR, calls for the harmonization of animal health regulations affecting the trade of live animals, semen, embryos and fertilized eggs.

During the same meeting, the Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Area (COSAVE), the Regional Animal Health Council (CORESA)

and the Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Area (PRO-CISUR) were designated to propose a plan for regulating the exchange of genetic materials.

For its part, IICA, which provides support to CONASUR, will compile the necessary information in each of the member countries for periodically updating its guide to foreign agricultural trade.

In the final declaration of the Fifth Meeting of CONASUR, the ministers reiterated the need to accelerate the process of harmonizing macroeconomic policies with a view to facilitating the intraregional flow of agricultural products and byproducts.

They also called for a resumption of the negotiations of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in order to stimulate international trade.

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*The ministers called for a dismantling of protectionist measures and subsidies that distort the trade of goods and services.*

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In the same vein, the ministers advocated the elimination of protectionist measures and subsidies that distort the trade of goods and services.

ICA and the Secretariat of Natural Resources and the Human Environment of Argentina recently signed an agreement to provide support for the World Conference on Natural and Forestry Resources, to be held in that country in January 1994.

The agreement, signed last December, establishes organizational mechanisms and the funds required for the event.

The Secretariat of Natural Resources and the Human Environment of Argentina, under Maria Julia Alsogaray, agreed to host the Biannual Convention of the World Conservation Union (IUCN).

The Secretariat asked IICA for administrative assistance in executing the technical aspects of this world ecological conference. Moreover, IICA has a cooperation agreement with the IUCN.

## In Argentina: IICA to Collaborate in Organizing of World Conference on Natural and Forestry Resources



Photo/Maria M. Machado, Brazil

The institutions involved in the activity are united in their concern for protecting natural resources and improving the quality of life, through support for the efforts of governments and non-governmental organizations.

In order to review the cooperation provided by the Institute in Brazil, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, met with that country's new Minister of Agriculture, Lazaro Ferreira Barboza (right). Also participating in the meeting was Victor E. Machinea (left), IICA Representative in Brazil. Also discussed was the progress being made in the area of integration by the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Southern Area (CONASUR), for which Ferreira Barboza and Machinea served as Chairman and Secretary for Coordination, respectively.

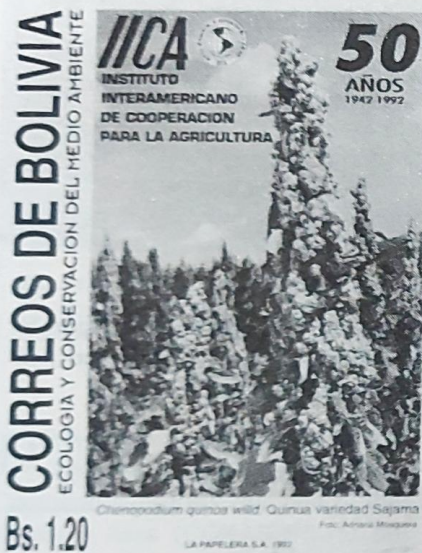
## Meeting in Brazil





**P**araguay and Bolivia joined the list of countries that have issued a special series of postage stamps commemorating IICA's fiftieth anniversary.

At a ceremony held in Asuncion, the IICA Representative in Paraguay, Luiz Carlos Pannunzio, officially presented the stamps, which depict some of the key areas of the Institute's



## Around the World on Postage Stamps



*The four commemorative stamps issued in Paraguay were designed by the Brazilian artist Isabel Persijn.*

cooperation, such as rural development and technology.

The Bolivian stamp was issued as part of a collection entitled "Ecology and Environmental Conservation." It shows a quinoa plant, symbolizing

agriculture's role in linking different peoples. Both series of stamps were accompanied by their respective postmark, which call attention to IICA's fifty years of technical cooperation.

*Quinoa, a traditional Andean crop, will be seen around the world on a postage stamp issued in commemoration of IICA's fifty years of cooperation.*

## Small Farmers in Bolivia Receive Training

**U**nder an agreement signed last December by IICA and the CORDECRUZ farmers' association, small farmers in Bolivia will receive training and technical assistance.

The agreement aims to strengthen the project to develop and consolidate small-farmer settlements (PRODEPA), which receives funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

The agreement will benefit farmers of the Huaytu and Antofagasta rural set-

tlements in the western part of the country, who will receive training related to extension assistance,

acquisition of infrastructure and training for rural women.



*Photo: Jorge Ruiz Calbimonte, Bolivia*

# IICA and IFAD Identify Project Profiles for Costa Rica

With support from IICA, a mission from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) identified profiles for four projects seeking to reduce rural poverty in Costa Rica and which may be funded by this specialized agency of the United Nations.

Some 12,000 small-farm families, smallholders and rural women will benefit from these initiatives, each of which will involve an investment ranging from US\$7 to US\$15 million, depending on its geographic coverage and the size of the target population.

The projects, which will vary slightly in accordance with their location, will foster and implement activities for rehabilitating soils, cultivating vegetables and fruits, boosting the production of handicrafts, promoting tourism, strengthening indigenous organizations, and creating a rural agroindustry fund.

The seven-week mission was headed by Alberto Hintemeister of Uruguay, and included economists, as well as experts in rural development and the gender issue, agricultural production, marketing and post-harvest handling, and rural agroindustry. The team followed a heavy schedule of activities including field trips to observe at first hand the structure and operation of farmer organizations.

Since the projects must respect Costa Rican government priorities for the agricultural-forestry sector, the mission worked closely with the Ministries of Planning and of Agriculture, which served as national counterparts. Participating for IICA were officials from the Center for Programs and Investment Projects (CEPPI), the IICA Office in Costa Rica and its Program on Organization and Management for Rural Development.

In addition to the four initiatives which will be considered for funding, and which may be executed within the next five or

six years, the mission also presented assessments of the principal aspects of the agricultural sector in Costa Rica, including the situation of the small-farm population and its evolution over time.

IICA staff provided technical and logistic support, and also worked with the mission chief in writing and publishing the final report.

## PROJECT PROFILES

Hintemeister explained that, although the project profiles cover poor rural areas facing major problems, they are located in parts of Costa Rica "...that offer great potential for development, as yet untapped."

The first project targets the province of Guanacaste, in the Pacific region of the country, and covers the cantons of Hojanca, Nicoya, Nandayure and Santa Cruz. In all four cantons, a growing portion of the agricultural and rural work force is being steadily expelled from the field because of the growing importance of range livestock activities. Nevertheless, they offer "interesting possibilities" for growing vegetables and fruits, once micro-irrigation systems are installed.

The second project targets the El General Valley, in southern Costa Rica, and covers the cantons of Buenos Aires and Perez Zeledon. In the latter, the project will promote alternatives to coffee cultivation on farms less than two hectares in size. Although

coffee is the leading agricultural activity in the zone, it is in serious decline as a result of falling prices on world markets. In the other canton, indigenous organizations will be strengthened through training.

The third project will cover the Talamanca Valley, a somewhat forgotten and very poor region where indigenous communities exist side by side with small farmers. Support will focus on strengthening existing organizations and promoting new activities such as tourism and the manufacture of handicrafts.

The fourth project is national in scope and will establish a fund to promote rural agroindustry, to help boost the value added of output.



*Some 12,000 small-farm families, smallholders and rural women will benefit from the initiatives.*

# Technical Personnel Receive Training in Sustainable Development with a Gender Perspective

analyzed, in order to learn how the variables of gender and sustainable development were introduced, and what effect they had.



Photo: R. Escobar

*Hector Morales, Coordinator of the IICA Plan of Action in Costa Rica; Alicia Barcena, Executive Director of the Organizing Committee of the Earth Council; and Manuel Chiriboga, Director of Program III, were some of the speakers participating in the inauguration of the seminar.*

Costa Rican technical personnel from government and non-governmental organizations received training in gender issues and sustainable development, through a course organized by the Socioeconomic Program of the Regional Office for Central America of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the IICA Office in Costa Rica.

Natural resource conservation and sustainable development, the gender

perspective and useful instruments for analysis, as well as various methods to foster community participation, were some of the topics covered in the course.

The course gave participants tools that they could incorporate into the projects they execute through their respective organizations. During a second stage, scheduled to begin in March, the initiatives in which the participants are involved will be

This activity is part of a regional training effort being promoted in Central America by IUCN. Throughout the year, similar courses will be offered in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama.

As part of this effort, a subregional network will be established to work with IICA and IUCN in the preparation of case studies and bulletins, the exchange of materials and the design of new courses.

Last December, a video was prepared showing the training activities carried out by the IUCN Regional Office and explaining how the topics of gender and sustainable development are addressed.

The video, which will be used as support material for upcoming courses, was prepared by the Communications Division of CIDIA, a specialized unit of IICA, with support from IUCN and IFAD.

The goal of a seminar held in Kingston, Jamaica, which brought together representatives of the public and private sectors, was to promote the cultivation and marketing of coconut in Latin America and the Caribbean.

During the activity, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, IICA and the Bureau for the Development of Research on Tropical Perennial Oil Crops, attention was drawn to the need to increase technical assistance and encourage the exchange of information relevant to potential markets for this crop.

The participants agreed that high yields per hectare, low production costs, job creation, and soil conservation are

some of the advantages of this native Caribbean crop which should be tapped.

## Outlook for Cultivation and Marketing of Coconut Studied

The Coconut Industry Board, through its research department, provides support in cases of hurricanes or diseases, which, in 1988, destroyed fifty per cent of the palm trees in Jamaica.

Oils, soaps, copra and other coconut derivatives are some of the products with great marketing potential in the developed countries. According to figures presented at the seminar, the Caribbean nations foresee a 47% increase in the consumption of oils and fats worldwide over the next 15 years.

## Cooperation with Permanent Observers

**A**fter Africa and Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean are among the priority areas for German cooperation, whose stated objective is "to bring an end to the vicious cycle of poverty, the problems of development and the destruction of the environment."

To achieve this objective, the government of the Federal Republic of Germany created the Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ), which not only advises the government on development policy and the planning of cooperation programs and projects, but also carries out German initiatives in beneficiary countries.

### German Cooperation Agencies Set their Sights on Latin America and the Caribbean

is the responsibility of GTZ, and financial, through which capital is provided to boost the production potential of developing countries. Financial cooperation is handled by the Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW), which works closely with GTZ.

GTZ, a private, non-profit enterprise, may work directly with developing countries and international organizations, so long as it has the approval of

specialists posted in Latin America and the Caribbean in 1991, that is, approximately 18.2% of its field personnel.

In addition to its support for IICA, GTZ is also involved in other initiatives in this hemisphere. For example, GTZ designed and implemented an ambitious project to improve the nutrition of the rural poor in Peru.

Another example is its work to reactivate the Nicaraguan economy by cooperating with business associations in the areas of professional training, job creation, credit and advice for small- and medium-scale industries. In Brazil, it collaborated in forming a multilateral alliance for protecting tropical forests.

Aware of the profound political and economic changes taking place worldwide, the officials in charge of German cooperation have reaffirmed their commitment to providing effective long-term aid, attaching top priority to the most disadvantaged groups in society and fostering the creation of structures that can sustain the development process.

In this regard, the German Minister of Economic Cooperation, Dieter Spranger (as quoted by Wighard Hardtl, Chairman of the GTZ Monitoring Committee, in the preface to the 1991 GTZ Annual Report), reaffirmed that the priorities of German cooperation in light of the new circumstances continue to be to struggle against poverty, preserve natural resources, and foster education.



Photo/Chris M. Bonilla, Peru

*In Peru, GTZ designed and implemented an ambitious project to improve the nutrition of the rural poor.*

In that European nation (356,854 km<sup>2</sup> and 79.8 million inhabitants), development assistance policy is part of overall policy, and is on an equal standing with foreign and economic policy.

The Federal Republic of Germany provides two types of cooperation for bilateral development: technical, which

the federal government. This gave rise to a fruitful relationship between GTZ and IICA, which took the form of a technical and financial cooperation agreement that gave rise to the IICA/GTZ Project. (See separate article.)

With activities in 112 countries, GTZ had 258 technical personnel and

## IICA/GTZ Project : Sustainable agriculture to ensure future harvests

In the philosophy that underlies the cooperation actions of GTZ, a concern for the well-being of the peoples of the developing world and the stability of their natural environment is a guiding principle.

These ideas are closely linked to two concepts of particular importance today in Latin America and the Caribbean: equity and sustainability. The desire to contribute effectively in both areas led GTZ to join forces with IICA and establish a strong working relationship.

According to Sabine Muller, Coordinator of the IICA/GTZ Project and representative of this German agency, "We recognize IICA to be a responsible and efficient institution, whose multinational operations enable us to multiply the effect of our actions." IICA's counterpart is Eduardo Trigo, Director of the Program on Technology Generation and Transfer.

The IICA/GTZ project came on line in July 1990 with a budget of 1.7 million deutsche marks, with its main objective being to provide support to the Institute in connection with sustainable agriculture. "It is a multi-Program project of hemispheric scope," stated Muller, adding that it provides direct support to IICA's five Programs and its specialized units, CEPPI and CIDIA.

During the first stage of the project, which concluded in December 1992, support was provided to Programs I, II and III, CEPPI and CIDIA. The second stage, which began this January and is scheduled to conclude in mid-1995, will include work with Programs IV and V. It will have an operating budget of 2.5 million deutsche marks.

Muller is a member of the inter-institutional team made up of Ronnie del Camino -a natural resource specialist attached to GTZ- and technical personnel and specialists from IICA -coordinated by Trigo. In her judgement, efforts to date have been positive and valuable, with actions focusing on five major areas: development of a conceptual framework, institutional considerations, training, information and projects.

The task of developing a conceptual framework was enormous. It includes coming up with a common definition of sustainability, which is complicated by the considerable number of definitions that already exist and the new ones constantly being suggested. Moreover, it was necessary to determine how the term applies to each of IICA's areas of concentration and to design indicators for measuring when development is sustainable and when it is not. Muller noted

that "It is an ongoing learning process and we are continuously acquiring new information. Work to develop the conceptual framework will be completed during the second stage. We have written documents that illuminate certain aspects of the topic." Nevertheless, for practical purposes, the definition of sustainable development adopted by the project encompasses ecological, economic and social factors.

Regarding institutional considerations, the project has supported IICA in its relations with other agencies with which it executes or promotes activities; for example, the networks and consortia in which Program II is involved. Also, the work to upgrade capabilities at the Institute itself were strengthened through the definition of tools and guidelines for IICA's work.

In relation to training, the project provided support for workshops and meetings organized by CIDIA. In Curitiba and Curiaba, Brazil, seminars were held on methods for evaluating the environmental impact of integrated rural development projects, in collaboration with the IICA Office in that country and national institutions.

CIDIA collaborated in preparing a bibliographic information system. Work is under way on a statistical data base that will be used to evaluate the sustainability of development at the macro level. The goal is to expand Program I's Agricultural Information System (SIAPA).

Work with projects has been carried out in close collaboration with CEPPI and has sought to incorporate the concept of sustainability into all initiatives formulated by the unit. Furthermore, in Brazil, the IICA/GTZ project is collaborating in the design of settlement projects in agrarian reform zones, the goal being to ensure that from the very beginning, they take into consideration the ecological potential of the areas and the economic and social needs of the beneficiaries.

In the new stage, the project will concentrate on the same five lines of action, placing special attention on technology generation and transfer. It will also continue to work with the IICA Offices in the countries, which, in the past, provided the facilities for conducting case studies in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Jamaica, and one on Central America.

The IICA/GTZ project has also served as a liaison for securing additional funds for projects. Thus, for example, a GTZ forestry research program recently provided funding for drawing up a project by PROCITROPICOS, an ambitious cooperative program headquartered in Brazil and supported by IICA.

**A** publication on technology and agricultural sustainability in Latin America (*Tecnología y Sostenibilidad de la Agricultura en América Latina*) was written and published under the technical and financial support agreement signed by IICA and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

It is one of a series of documents on the topic, which includes "Lineamientos conceptuales para el desarrollo sostenible" (Conceptual guidelines for sustainable development), published jointly with IICA's Program III: Organization and Management for Rural Development; and "La definición de sostenibilidad, las variables principales y bases para establecer indicadores" (A definition of sustainability, the principal variables and bases for establishing indicators), both of which will be available soon.

*Tecnología y Sostenibilidad de la Agricultura en América Latina* is part of a series aimed at defining a conceptual framework that will facilitate the formulation of policies on the generation and transfer of technology for sustainable agriculture.

A report by the consultant Rolain Borel, who received support from Gerardo Bodowski, for IICA's Program on Technology Generation and Transfer, was used as the foundation for the document.

#### THE STUDY

The purpose of the study was to analyze the relationship between technologies and agricultural sustainability, taking into account the broader context of forestry and livestock activities and coastal ecosystems.

*The most important technological challenge is to strike a balance between the need to produce more and lower priced foods and to protect the environment, ensuring equity within and among generations.*

## Conceptual Framework on Technology and the Sustainability of Agriculture



Photo/João Roberto Ripper, Brasil

*The document attempts to answer questions such as: Why are the technologies currently used not sustainable?*

Answers must be found to the following, and similar, questions, as they are considered key to the future of sustainable development in Latin America and the Caribbean: Why are the technologies currently used not sustainable? Why, if sustainable technologies exist, are they not being used? What are the essential differences between a technology that is sustainable and one that is not?

The document begins by defining sustainable agricultural development, in the context of an overall theoretical framework. Current thinking on the sustainability of agricultural production is then discussed.

This is followed by an analysis of the impact of policies on technological development, and of the criteria that should be used in selecting technologies for different ecological areas, taking into consideration their relationship with land use capacity and the role

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*The technologies most likely to satisfy the requirements are: territorial organization, soil conservation, efficient use of irrigation, integrated management of pests and nutrients, nitrogen fixation, among others.*

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of the different strata of farmers in the problems of sustainability.

Also, the present and potential role of efforts to promote sustainable development are examined. On that basis, technology requirements are defined, and those technologies most likely to satisfy them are identified. Lastly, conclusions and recommendations are presented for policies as well as institutional, technological, research, transfer and monitoring and information considerations.

# 171 Photographers Portray the Face of the Earth



Photo/Antonio Carlos M.S. Guadeticos, Brazil

"Pastures Turned to Sand," by Antonio Carlos M.S. Guadeticos, of Brazil, was the second-place winner in the color category.

In an effort to make society more aware of the need to protect the environment and natural resources, the GTZ and IICA through its Directorate of External Relations organized a photography contest in 1991 that brought entries from more than 170 photographers in the hemisphere.

In 388 photographs, the participants portrayed the dilemma of production versus environmental degradation, and captured on film processes such as desertification, erosion and deforestation.

The contest, entitled "Agriculture and the Environment," awarded prizes in two categories: black and white and color photography.

In each category, there was a first prize of US\$2,000, a second prize of US\$1,000 and a third prize of US\$500. Honorable mentions were also awarded for outstanding entries.

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An international panel of judges, made up of Harold Edward Oxley, of Barbados; Carlos Manuel Uribe, of Costa Rica; and Luiz Claudio Marigo, of Brazil, met at IICA Headquarters to select the winning entries.

"A Torch Without Glory," by Hugo Erik Gil, of Honduras; "Pastures Turned to Sand," by Antonio Carlos dos Santos, of Brazil; and "Furrows," by Elda Harrington, of Argentina, won first, second and third place, respectively, in the color category.

"Burning and Production," by Joao Roberto Ripper, of Brazil; "Brazil Nut

Tree," also by Ripper; and "River: Source of Life and Death," by Mario Rojas, were the first, second and third place winners in the black and white category.

The winning and other outstanding photographs were exhibited in September 1991 at the Madrid Congress Hall on the occasion of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

The same photographs were also exhibited at IICA's booth at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Rio de Janeiro.

In order to maximize the impact of the photographs, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) financed publication of the book "Agriculture and the Environment," which contains the photographs that best depict the environmental realities of the Americas.



Photo/Noel Norton, Trinidad y Tobago

Each photograph is complemented by a message underscoring the need to modernize agriculture and contribute to economic growth, while preserving natural resources and the environment.

"Going Home," by Noel Norton, of Trinidad, was awarded an honorable mention.

# Publications

Smallholders and Structural Change in the Brazilian Economy: Opportunities in Rural Poverty Alleviation.



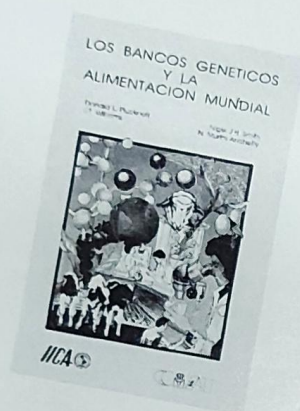
Gary Hecksel,  
David Goodman,  
IICA Editorial Service

This book is the third in a series of studies conducted jointly by IICA and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) aiming to define strategies to alleviate poverty.

The book focuses on the case of Brazil, in which persistent poverty affecting a large mass of landless smallholders exists side by side with a dynamic group of medium- and large-scale farmers.

Incorporation of small farmers into the process of economic expansion, through modernization and a critical attitude on the part of the government in designing its sectoral policies, is the focus of discussion in this book.

Bancos Genéticos y la Alimentación Mundial



Donald Plucknett, Nigel J.H. Smith, J.T. Williams and Murthi Anishetty,  
IICA Editorial Service

This IICA Editorial Service publication, available in Spanish only, focuses on the potential biotechnology offers for improving crops and animal species; it also discusses the use of gene banks to benefit humanity.

In addition, it examines the debate over ownership of genetic material, principally in the hands of the industrialized nations, taking a global approach that underscores the link between the developed countries and the Third World.

Proyecciones del Desarrollo y Competitividad de la Agricultura Chilena.



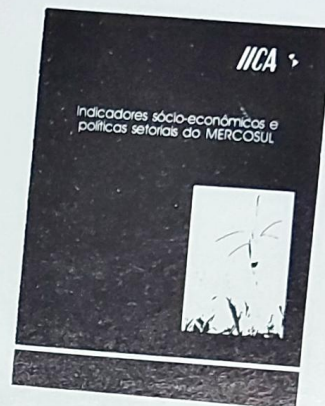
IICA Office in Chile

Published as part of the activities to commemorate IICA's fiftieth anniversary, this report presents the points of view of the government, academia and different production sectors regarding the development of the agricultural sector in Chile.

The papers compiled in the report address the issues of competitiveness, equity and sustainability.

Also discussed in this publication are topics such as modernization and transformation of the production structure, from the perspective of the state and private enterprise.

Indicadores Socioeconómicos y Políticas Sectoriales del MERCOSUR.



IICA Office in Brazil

This study contains a set of easily interpreted social, economic and production statistics, as well as a review of sectoral policies in the four member countries of MERCOSUR (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay).

It summarizes the information exchanged by the member states for the purpose of strengthening this body.

Data on infant mortality rates, inflation, and production indices for commodities such as wheat, coffee and sugar cane, are some of the statistics contained in this compilation, which is available in Portuguese.



## Trinidad and Tobago, El Salvador, Uruguay

### Nombran nuevo subdirector en el IICA

SAN JOSE (AFP). El economista norteamericano Reed Hertford asumirá el programa de diciembre la Subdirección General del Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA). Informaron ayer martes fuentes oficiales. Hertford sustituirá en el cargo al también estadounidense Haclan Davis. Fuentes de IICA, institución dependiente de la Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA) con sede en Costa Rica, precisaron que Hertford es doctor en Economía de la Universidad de Chicago y profesor agrícola por la Universidad de Berkeley, California.

■ The appointment of Reed Hertford, a U.S. citizen, as the new Deputy Director General of IICA, received broad coverage in the press throughout the Americas.

A firm believer that "agriculture is and will continue to be a key motor for development," the new Deputy Director General holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago. He also holds degrees in agricultural economics and business administration from the University of California at Berkeley.

Since 1989 he was Chief Executive Officer of the largest U.S. university regional consortium, the South-East Consortium for International Development (SECID), which brings together 29 universities and one research institute. (Express, Trinidad and Tobago; La Prensa, El Salvador; La Estrella de Panama, Panama; Ultimas Noticias, Uruguay).

## Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama, Argentina



■ The high-level seminar on "The Single European Market: A new framework for agricultural trade policies," was covered by newspapers in Mexico, Costa Rica, Panama and Argentina, among others, which highlighted the importance of the seminar as a useful forum for exchanging new and timely information on key issues of international trade.

The activity, held at IICA Headquarters in December, was sponsored by IICA -through its Trade and Integration Program-, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA) and the Latin American Economic System (SELA). The meeting was attended by representatives from the public and private sectors, officials from subregional cooperation and funding agencies, scholars and journalists from Latin America (Excelsior, Mexico; El Panama America, Panama; Agency Inter Press Service; Cronista Comercial, Clarín and La Nación, Argentina).

## Argentina, Brazil

### Ministros del Cono Sur reclaman fin del subsidio

Los ministros de Agricultura del Cono Sur reclaman la eliminación progresiva de la subsidio de la fertilizantes...

El ministro de Agricultura de Argentina...

■ Newspapers in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay covered the Fifth Meeting of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR).

The meeting, held in Buenos Aires in mid-December, established the groundwork for standardizing animal health norms required for the trade of animals and genetic materials in general. (El Clarin and La Prensa, Argentina; Jornal do Brasil and Correio Braziliense, Brazil).

## Upcoming Activities

■ Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the CORECA Council of Ministers. March 4-5. Managua, Nicaragua.

■ Workshop on Central American agriculture and the challenges of the international market. March 1-4. IICA Headquarters.

■ Central American workshop on livestock quarantine procedures. April 19-22. IICA Headquarters.

March - April 1993, Year X, No. 53



Photo/Jorge M. Gutiérrez, Guatemala

*Rural Women: New Studies Reveal Their Contribution to Production*

- **RUSSIA AND HUNGARY**  
New Permanent Observers  
Will Strengthen Trade Ties with the Region
- **CENTRAL AMERICA**  
Agricultural Modernization Moves Ahead  
Conversion and Training: Top Priorities

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Photo/ Lucinda Simas M., Brasil



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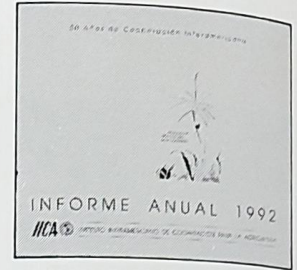
New studies reveal their contribution to production.

## 4 PERMANENT OBSERVERS

Russia and Hungary join IICA as Permanent Observers and plan to strengthen trade ties with the region.

## 7 INTER-AMERICAN PRESS AWARD

IICA, IFAD and GTZ sponsor the second press competition, which is open to journalists from the entire hemisphere.



## 23 ANNUAL REPORT

A summary of IICA's actions in 1992.



## NEWS

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News magazine on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published monthly, in separate Spanish, English and French editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo 55-2200 Coronado, San José, Costa Rica. Cable: IICA San José. Telex: 2144 IICA. Fax: 294741. Telephone: 290222. Editor in Chief: Patricia Leon. Editors: Mishelle Mitchell and Danilo Jiménez. English translation and editing: Paul Murphy, Barbara Cohen and Susana Raine. Director of External Relations: Jorge Werthein.

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 33 Member States and 16 Permanent Observers.

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## 14 AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION

In a recent meeting, the ministers of agriculture of the Central American countries, Mexico and the Dominican Republic reiterated their support for modernization.

## 20 KOREA-IICA

Working together in support of rural development and trade.

LATIN AMERICA

## Myths on Rural Women in Latin America Exploded Studies Reveal Their Contribution to Production

*The Council of Ministers of Agriculture of Central America, meeting in Nicaragua in March, studied the findings of a study conducted by IICA with IDB funding. The study was presented by Rebecca Grynspan, coordinator of the initiative, Marguerite Berger, from the IDB, and Manuel Chirriboga, the project director.*

*The Ministers are expected to discuss a work program for the subregion to strengthen activities for women, in follow up to the agreements reached during the recent summit meeting of presidents in Panama.*

According to Fabiola Campillo, IICA specialist on women's issues and rural development, official statistics hide and distort the true role of rural women in production in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Her statement was based on recent studies of women's participation in the economically active population (EAP) of agriculture.

The studies, which examine different production systems, agroecological zones and working relations, destroy myths and stereotypes about rural women. According to Campillo, for many years, the work of agricultural and rural development analysts and planners in the region was based on the assumption that small family farm units, or the so-called small-farm sector, was a male agricultural system. They believed that most of the field work was done by men, while women took care of domestic chores.

Their assumption was borne out by the statistics they gathered. This male-bias in the perception of agriculture was based on official estimates that women made up approximately 12% of the EAP in the agricultural sectors of the countries of LAC.

However, new studies, by and large conducted by women, have started to "clear up the picture." The most recent of these, which was also the first one of regional scope, demonstrated that in Central America, most of the women who had been classified as "inactive" in censuses, actually produced food for home consumption, were heads of households, or were members of households the heads of which were farmers, livestock ranchers or agricultural laborers.

Thus, while official statistics for the Central American isthmus reported that only 8% of the economically active population in agriculture were women, the study showed

that the figure for Central America was actually three times higher, that is, from 25% to 30%. Far from being mere housewives, they dedicate four hours a day to working on the farm. The usefulness of these studies was underscored by the senior advisor on women's issues and development at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Marguerite Berger, who stated: "Previously, we did not know exactly what type of work women did, what resources they had, what say they had in decision making, what legal framework governed their activities and how they were affected by their role in rural development."

The data revealed by this type of study, added Berger, will help technical experts from organizations such as IICA and the IDB convince their national counterparts of the importance of providing support to women farmers. If the government agencies that set

agricultural policy assume that women make up a small part of the agricultural work force, there would be no reason for giving them priority when proposing strategies



Photo/Mauro Calanchine, México

to improve production. The findings of these studies will be used to improve the design of agricultural policies, an area in which IICA provides technical cooperation. By taking into account the role played by women, objectives can be pursued to benefit the entire population, including increased productivity, food security and judicious use of natural resources.

## Headquarters

RUSSIA AND HUNGARY

### New Permanent Observers

#### Will Strengthen Trade Ties with the Region



Photo/R. Escobar

The incorporation of the Russian Federation and Hungary as Permanent Observers of the Institute will contribute to strengthening agricultural and trade links with Latin America and

*The Hungarian Ambassador to Costa Rica, Zsolt Horvath (left), greets the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro (right). With them is the Ambassador of the Russian Federation, Valeria N. Kalmik.*

the Caribbean. This was the opinion expressed by the ambassadors to Costa Rica of the two countries, during an official visit to IICA Headquarters on February 17.

According to the Russian Ambassador in San Jose, Valeria N. Kalmik, "Our participation in IICA marks a new step in establishing mutually beneficial contacts, especially in the field of agriculture, which is of vital importance to all countries of the world."

This opinion was shared by the Hungarian Ambassador, Zsolt Horvath, a firm believer that the future offers opportunities for reactivating trade between his country and Latin America. He noted, "We purchase products such as coffee, bananas, meat, fish and soy flour, and sell agricultural machinery, fertilizers, agrochemicals and medicine." Kalmik and Horvath met with the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro.

IICA-OAS

### Inter-institutional Cooperation

#### Shared Activities

The Assistant Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), Christopher Thomas, and the Deputy Director General of IICA, Reed Hertford, signed an agreement under which the two inter-American organizations will coordinate actions to strengthen their support to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in several fields.

Under the agreement, signed in February during a visit by Thomas to IICA Headquarters, inter-institutional groups will identify priorities for action in the areas of technology, regional development, the environment and women's affairs, among others. In May, a preliminary list will be drawn up of activities to be jointly undertaken.



Photo/R. Escobar

*The Deputy Director General of IICA (right) converses with the Assistant Secretary General of the OAS (center). They are accompanied by Eduardo Trigo.*

Thomas indicated that this initiative is another example of inter-American cooperation seeking to complement regional efforts to promote economic growth and social well-being.

In this sense, he underscored the importance of undertaking actions to

address sustainability, indicating that although Latin America and the Caribbean possess a wealth of natural resources, inappropriate use can deplete them and thus jeopardize the future of coming generations.

Photo/R. Escobar



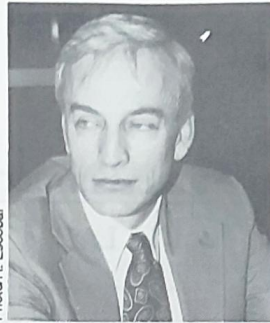
Roberto Vasquez Platero

Photo/R. Escobar



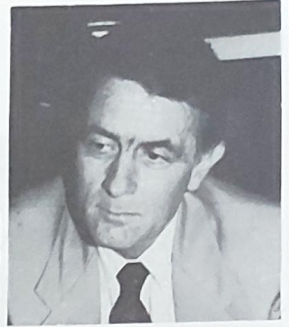
John Pino

Photo/R. Escobar



Doug Daniels

Photo/R. Escobar



Carlos Gustavo Cano

EXPERTS ASSESS IICA'S WORK

## G-6 Initiates Activities

### To Draft Guidelines for Next Four-Year Period

The G-6, a group of external experts hired to evaluate IICA's performance over the last seven years and to prepare guidelines for the work of the next administration (1994-1997), officially initiated its activities on March 8.

In a ceremony attended by all Headquarters personnel, the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, introduced the members of the G-6: Roberto Vasquez Platero (Coordinator), of Uruguay; Carlos Gustavo Cano, of Colombia; John Pino, of the United States; Lincoln Myers, of Trinidad and Tobago; and Doug Daniels, of Canada. The sixth member of the group, Roberto Villeda Toledo, of Honduras, was unable to attend the meeting, but subsequently joined the group.

Piñeiro stated that the guidelines prepared by the G-6 will help to strengthen IICA as a modern Institution.

Speaking on behalf of his colleagues, Roberto Vasquez stated that the Group was faced with "...a serious task and a formidable challenge." In his judgement, the agricultural sectors of the countries are undergoing important changes.

#### THE MEMBERS

**DOUG DANIELS** Mr. Daniels holds an M.A. in economics and

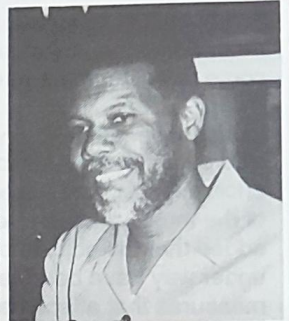
has served as principal advisor to the President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), where he also occupied the post of Director for Planning and Evaluation. He also served as technical coordinator at the International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), and is currently an international consultant.

**CARLOS GUSTAVO CANO** Mr. Cano holds an M.A. in economics and has served as the President of the Colombian Association of Rice Growers (FEDEARROZ) and the Colombian Farmers' Society (SAC). At present, he is Director of the Colombia International Corporation.

**JOHN A. PINO** Mr. Pino holds a Ph.D. in zoology and was an associate professor at Rutgers University. He was Director for Agriculture of the Rockefeller Foundation and has worked at the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the U.S. National Academy of Science. At present, he is an international consultant.

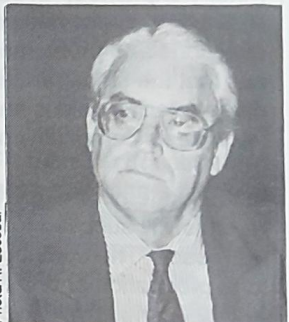
**ROBERTO VILLEDA TOLEDO** Mr. Villeda is an agricultural engineer with broad experience as an agricultural consultant in Honduras. Presently, he is advisor to the Minister of Natural Resources, a post he has held under six other ministers. He is a member of the advisory committees of several educational and agricultural institutions in Honduras.

Photo/R. Escobar



Lincoln Myers

Photo/R. Escobar



Roberto Villeda T.

**LINCOLN MYERS** Mr. Myers holds an M.A. in economic development and is a former Minister of Agriculture and Food, and of Development of Trinidad and Tobago. He is a former Senator of the Republic and National Representative, and is presently an international consultant for agricultural development.

**ROBERTO VASQUEZ PLATERO** Mr. Vasquez is an agricultural engineer holding an M.S. and Ph.D. in agricultural economics. He has served as Minister of Agriculture of Uruguay and worked as a consultant for international organizations and private enterprise. At present, he is a congressman in Uruguay.

DIRECTOR GENERAL IN HAMBURG

## We Must Not Forget Small Farmers

### More than 175 Million Poor in LAC

Speaking in Hamburg, Germany, on March 23, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that Latin America must not forget small farmers as it promotes profound economic reforms and seeks to become more competitive on international markets.

In his presentation during a series of conferences organized by the Ibero-American Studies Institute of Hamburg, prior to the Annual Assembly of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), he added that the adjustment and stabilization initiatives under way have been reinforced recently with other measures that affect the agricultural sector.

Piñeiro explained, "In some countries, substantial progress and success has been reported; in others, there are questions and problems. In any event, there is consensus that the small-farmer sector will be most affected by these reforms unless an express effort is made to improve its competitiveness."

In the judgement of the Director General, economic reforms will succeed to the extent that small farmers progress. "The contribution of small farmers to agricultural production and to the gross domestic product will increase, which will help reduce poverty," he added.

With regard to poverty, he noted that in Latin America and the Caribbean, poverty has increased both in absolute and in relative terms over the last decade. He also stated that, in 1980, 41% of the population lived below the poverty line, and that, in 1986, that figure had risen to 43%. "The number of poor in the region grew from 143 million to 175 million in just six years."

The Director General warned that, "in bypassing poor farmers, we run the risk of promoting accelerated migration, increased violence, and other destabilizing activities."

In his opinion, it is therefore necessary to meet certain challenges in the area of production: diversification of small-farmer production, opting for products of greater value; modernization of the production of traditional crops, to overcome existing shortcomings; and sustainable management of natural resources, both in regions and in micro-regions.

Accompanied by IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, Piñeiro also attended the Annual Assembly of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), from March 29-31.

*"... in bypassing poor farmers, we run the risk of promoting accelerated migration, increased violence and other destabilizing activities ..."*



From left to right are the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro; Waldemar Wirsig, Assistant Manager of the IDB; Freimut Duve, from the German parliament; Claudia Herdt, coordinator of Germany's NGOs and Henner Meyer-Rühen, representative of GTZ.

IICA, FIDA AND GTZ:

## Inter-American Press Award

Environment, Development and Agriculture

Journalists from the entire hemisphere are invited to participate in the second Inter-American Press Award competition, being sponsored by IICA, IFAD and GTZ. The theme of the contest is "Environment, development and agriculture in the framework of Agenda 21."

Prizes will be awarded in two categories: Daily newspapers and international agencies, and weekly magazines. In each category, three prizes will be awarded: First place, US\$4,000; Second place, US\$2,000; and Third place, US\$1,000.

Open to all journalists and correspondents of international news agencies in Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States of America and Canada, the competition aims to promote social communication through the media for fostering analysis of and reflection on the issues of sustainable development, the intimate relationship between agriculture and natural resources, and the contents and proposals of Agenda 21.

*The contest aims to promote social communication that encourages analysis and thought about sustainable development.*

Agenda 21 was approved by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which took place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992.

Through this competition, IICA, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) seek to encourage discussion on the environment and development.

Their goal is also to improve the public's awareness of attitudes, values and measures that are conducive to sustainable development, as set forth in Agenda 21, and to promote journalistic research on the environment, sustainable development, and the link between agriculture and the environment, taking into account the concept of inter-generational responsibility.

### REQUIREMENTS

Different approaches may be used to address the general theme. Each journalist may submit a maximum of 3 articles. Reports, interviews, editorials, etc., published between January 1 and July 16, 1993, will be accepted. Commentaries, technical or scientific articles, and short news items will not be accepted. The deadline for submission of articles is July 23, 1993.

Articles must be clipped and submitted to the IICA Office in the respective country and identified as

MEDIO AMBIENTE, DESARROLLO Y AGRICULTURA, en el marco de la Agenda 21  
ENVIRONMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND AGRICULTURE, in the framework of Agenda 21

PRENSA

PREMIO INTERAMERICANO DE



INTER-AMERICAN PRESS AWARD

1993

IICA

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## EARTH COUNCIL

# Authorities Designated

## Dialogue with NGOs To Be Promoted

Meeting at IICA Headquarters from March 5-6, the organizing committee of the Earth Council, which was created by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), elected its chairman and executive director.

The 35 members of the Committee unanimously elected Maurice Strong, from Canada, as chairman of the Council, and Alicia Barcena, from Mexico, as Executive Director.

Strong, who served as Secretary of the UNCED, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil last June, stated that he would work closely with the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development and NGOs concerned with the environment.

He stressed that the Earth Council would work more closely with those agencies, through public dialogue and joint actions.

The Earth Council was established to support and facilitate follow up on and the implementation of decisions adopted during the Rio summit. These deci-



sions include Agenda 21, a frame of action to orient environmental protection and economic growth, conventions on climatic changes and biodiversity, and a declaration of principles on forests.

He indicated that the Council will be made up of men and women selected through a broad process of consultation, adding that nominations from the entire world will be received.

In this regard, Barcena stated that the Organizing Committee had approved a preliminary list of candidates for the Council, which will be formally established in the near future.

*The President of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderon (fourth from right), Alicia Barcena (center) and Maurice Strong (right), with other participants in the Earth Council Meeting.*

## New Officials Assume Posts

Luis Guillermo Parra, from Colombia, and D. David Wilson, of the United States of America, recently joined IICA as Director of Andean Area Operations and Director of the Agricultural Health Program, respectively.

Parra assumed his post on March 26, replacing his fellow countryman, Dario Bustamente. An agricultural engineer with a degree from Texas Tech University, and further studies in political economy at Oxford

University, Parra has been his country's ambassador to various countries. As a former minister of agriculture, he was also Director and Coordinator of the Agricultural Division for Colombia and the Andean Zone of the Ulrich Shone BASF-ICI Market Union.



Photo/R. Escobar

Luis Guillermo Parra

David Wilson assumed his new post on April 5. He earned his B.S and M.S. degrees from the University of Texas, and his Ph.D. from Colorado State University.



Photo/R. Escobar

David Wilson

In 1974 he began to work with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture, where he became Head of Veterinary Services. He is considered an expert on arthropods.

## BARBADOS FOREIGN MINISTER AT IICA Official Visit

### Calls for Diversification of Agriculture

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Barbados, Maurice King, visited IICA Headquarters in February, at which time he met with IICA's Deputy Director General, Reed Hertford and Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations.

A firm believer in the need to strengthen cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean, the Minister noted that the countries of the region must diversify agricultural production if they are to secure a good position on ever more competitive international markets. IICA offered Barbados

support in gaining access to international agricultural information, and to a data base that facilitates decision making in the area of trade.

King indicated that he was pleased to become more familiar with IICA's programs and to establish contacts for future cooperation agreements



Photo/R. Escobar

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Barbados, Maurice King (center) met with IICA's Deputy Director General, Reed Hertford (left) and Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein (right).

### IN MEMORIAM

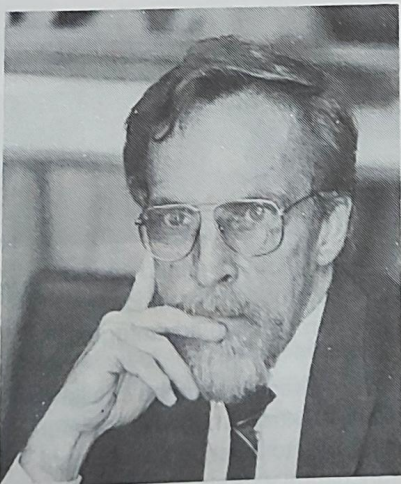
## Farewell to a Colleague and Friend

### J. André Ouellette

Our colleague and friend, J. André Ouellette, Director for Coordination of Institutional Affairs, passed away in Costa Rica, on April 2.

The death of André brought great sadness to those of us who shared long hours of work with him, as well as moments of relaxation or celebration upon conclusion of a job well done. We will long remember his way with words, his good taste, his concern for the slightest detail, his keen perception of the situation, his negotiating ability and that Latin charm which he undoubtedly picked up from living among us.

His organizational skills were invaluable in numerous conferences and several meetings of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Executive Committee, for which he served as Technical Secretary. His enthusiasm and



Photo/R. Escobar

planning abilities enabled him to always attain his objectives and to motivate those who worked with him.

One of his last and most important assignments was to coordinate the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers, which was held in Madrid, Spain in 1991. This was a unique challenge since it was the first time

the meeting would be held outside the Americas. Because of his illness, he was unable to conclude the preparations for the celebration of IICA's fiftieth anniversary, a task he had undertaken with special care and dedication.

The nature of his job enabled André, originally from Canada, to acquire a thorough knowledge of the Institute, where he began his work in May 1983 as the Director of Public Information and Institutional Support. Four years later, in 1987, he was named Director for Coordination of Institutional Affairs.

In saying goodbye to our friend André, IICA News would like to express its most sincere condolences to André's widow, Mrs. Melida Garcia, and their children.

Patricia León

### COMPETITIVENESS

## Challenges Identified

### Central America Must Adapt to Change

Meeting in Costa Rica, specialists from France, Central America and IICA agreed that if the economic agents of the agricultural and agroindustrial sectors in the Central American subregion are to become competitive in the short and long term, they must develop the capacity to adjust to changes in the international market.

He also said, "In this process to open up their economies, pursue integration and trade on world markets, the countries of Latin

*The Director General of IICA (left), Michel Griffon of CIRAD (center) and Carlos Pomareda of IICA during one of the workshop sessions.*



During a workshop on the challenges facing agriculture in Central America, the experts studied the situation regarding coffee, cotton, sugar, bananas, beef, rice, rubber and protein-rich oilseeds.

The meeting, held in March at IICA Headquarters, was sponsored by the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) of France, the French Foreign Ministry and IICA.

IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, noted that the subregion must re-think its approach to agriculture, placing greater emphasis on long-range strategic thinking.

America should begin to specialize in those products for which they have comparative advantages."

Piñeiro stressed that the challenge facing Central America is to determine how to balance the share of agricultural exports generated by traditional products (50%) with new products having greater value added, and which can target market niches that pay fair international prices.

The participants stated that the search for competitiveness should include measures that will "distribute the benefits", such as by facilitating access to information and technology and providing opportunities to

define common strategies for addressing change.

The five-day workshop, which brought together representatives of entities such as the Costa Rican Coffee Institute (ICAFFE) and the Group of Sugar-exporting Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (GEPLACEA), is one of the actions IICA has undertaken in support of the Agricultural Commitment signed in Panama by the Central American Presidents at their summit meeting last December.

### SEMINAR IN BOLIVIA

## Agri-food Indicators

Specialists from 18 countries of the region and from Spain will meet in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia on May 26-28 to attend a seminar aimed at determining the need of Latin American and Caribbean institutions for indicators on the agri-food sector.

Organized by IICA, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain, the event will provide a forum for drafting a preliminary version of a document on the outlook for the agri-food sector in Latin America and information requirements.

Julio Hernandez, an IICA specialist in agricultural policy analysis and planning, stated that the workshop is closely related to efforts under way in the region to convert agriculture into an agri-food sector.

# Follow up on Agenda 21

## Agencies Seek Coordination



Photo/Philippe Hunziker, Guatemala

**I**nternational agencies at work in Latin America and the Caribbean, including IICA, plan to coordinate their support to the countries in implementing the commitments set forth in Agenda 21, the plan of action approved by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which was held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

This initiative to join forces aims to eliminate duplication of efforts and obtain maximum results from international funding, and was agreed upon shortly after the conclusion of the so-called Earth Summit.

The Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) convened an inter-agency meeting of the Follow Up Committee for Agenda 21 in Washington on March 17. Participants included the

Director of IICA's Program II, Technology Generation and Technology, Eduardo Trigo.

Other participants represented the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the OAS, the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).

The topics to be addressed by the Committee, as well as its functions and how it will be organized, are still under discussion. Nevertheless, there is a consensus as to the urgent need to establish a mechanism that will enable multinational agencies to provide cooperation to the coun-

tries, governments, private sector and non-governmental organizations, that will lead to the

identification and execution of national sustainable development strategies.

### PROCISUR

## "Edmundo Gastal" Award

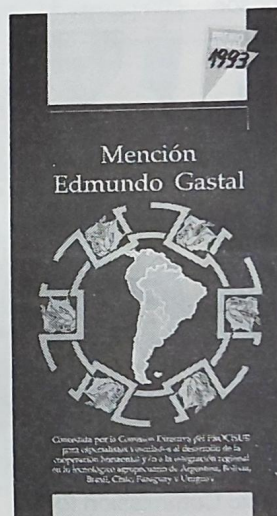
### Stimulates Agricultural Technology

**T**he Board of Directors of the Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR) will present the "Edmundo Gastal Award" for research or other meritorious actions that have contributed to horizontal cooperation efforts and regional integration relative to agricultural technology.

Research institutes in the member countries of PROCISUR (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay); IICA and international agencies and national institutions associated with the Program are eligible to compete for the biennial award, which will be presented in the second half of this year. Entries must be received by May 1.

The panel of judges, made up of Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, or his representative, and two specialists to be appointed by PROCISUR, will issue its final decision before June 30.

The award, which consists of gold medal and a certificate, will be presented to a specialist working in the field of agricultural technology research and horizontal cooperation.



The award, created by the Executive Board of PROCISUR, honors the memory of Edmundo Gastal, a former PROCISUR director who contributed greatly to uniting the efforts and capabilities of the South American countries in the field of agricultural technology.

IICA, IDRC, ECLAC AND OECD

## Consortium Will Promote Competitiveness

### Strategies to Promote Sustainability and Equity

**I**ICA recently joined an international consortium which promotes competitiveness in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean through the application of strategies that promote sustainability and equity.

The consortium is made up of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, the Eco-

nomic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Development Center of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

IICA will participate in this initiative through a research project receiving financial support from the IDRC, on the competitiveness of agriculture and agroindustry in the region.

In February, the IDRC

Regional Director, Fernando Chaparro, visited IICA Headquarters to formalize cooperation between the two agencies, where he met with IICA officials.

According to Walter Jaffe, IICA technology generation and transfer expert,

one of the activities of the consortium will be an inter-institutional seminar to be held in June for promoting the exchange

of information.

## Agricultural Commodity Exchanges

**G**uatemala and El Salvador have made rapid progress in consolidating their Agricultural Commodity Exchanges, in an endeavor that brings together busi-

nessmen, producers and IICA specialists.

The objective of these market mechanisms is to create a transparent market and facilitate the trade of agricultural commodities, using strict standards of quality and providing favorable prices for consumers.

In Guatemala, the National Agricultural Commodity Exchange was launched in February, through the joint efforts of the Ministry of Agriculture of Guatemala and IICA, under a cooperation agreement signed between the two.

This innovative marketing instrument will involve the principal production areas of the country. To this end, it will create and improve storage and transportation infrastructure, and, at the same time, train personnel to certify the quality of the goods traded. Commodities currently traded are coffee, corn and sesame.

The Agricultural Commodity Exchange of El Salvador (BOLPROES) is presently involved in the procedure of registering the association as a legal

entity. It will soon conduct feasibility studies in support of the marketing of commodities such as sugar cane, cereals and several dairy products.

In order to exchange experiences with their counterparts in Costa Rica, members of the provisional Board of BOLPROES visited that country in February, at which time they also met with IICA specialists.

The Salvadoran businessman, Carlos Alegria, stated that the exchanges enable small farmers to participate on an equal footing, "by selling as blocs."

According to Alegria, BOLPROES will be fully operational in 18 months, which will expedite the establishment of the Regional Agricultural Commodity Exchange.

*Guatemala and Costa Rica have installed an innovative mechanism for the marketing of agricultural products.*

CANADA, UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA

## Businesses Negotiate Joint Ventures

### Nontraditional Products to be Exported

**F**orty businessmen from Latin America, Canada and the United States are currently negotiating the conditions for establishing joint ventures for exporting nontraditional products to North American markets.

This is the result of a three-year project executed by IICA,

Agriculture Canada and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Specialists from Canada and IICA officials studied the achievements of the initiative during a workshop in March. At that time, the Institute was asked to prepare a data base with the profiles of companies

involved in the negotiations. As a result of conversations under way, samples of exportable products, including fruits, vegetables, juices and sauces, are being exchanged.

Rodolfo Quiros, Director of IICA's Program on Trade and Integration, stated that there would be follow up on the contacts established among the businessmen through national organizations that promote joint ventures and through the hemispheric project on international agricultural trade and multilateral negotiations, executed by IICA.

U.S. MISSION VISITS HEADQUARTERS

## Agricultural Health

### IICA and USDA to Combine Forces

**I**n February, a mission from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) met with IICA officials to discuss agricultural health in the context of trade liberalization.

While at IICA Headquarters, Lonnie King, Acting Director of the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Alejandro Theirmann, a USDA specialist, stated that they were interested in coordinating actions for harmonizing animal health and plant protection measures.

During meetings with the Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñero, and the Acting Director of IICA's Animal Health Program, Juan Leon, the United States mission underscored their interest in combatting sanitary problems that affect the competitiveness of Latin

American agriculture. As a result, it is expected that the USDA will provide support to the IICA project "Modernization of Quarantine Information Systems for Increasing Agricultural Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean."

IICA/USDA cooperation will focus on harmonizing legislation relevant to sanitary requirements and upgrading information networks and quarantine procedures, with a view to eliminating trade barriers in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Photo/R. Escobar

Harmonization of plant and animal health requirements was the focal point of discussions among (left to right) Lonnie King, Juan Leon and Alejandro Theirmann.

## Action in the Countries

### CENTRAL AMERICA Agricultural Modernization

#### Conversion and Training: Top Priorities



*The ministers were informed of IICA's new proposal for technical cooperation.*

The recent meeting of ministers of agriculture of Central America was another step forward in efforts to modernize agriculture in order to make it more efficient and better able to compete on world markets.

Meeting on March 16-17 in Managua, Nicaragua, first as the Council of Ministers and later as the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA - which included the ministers from Mexico and the Dominican Republic), they approved specific recommendations for addressing new challenges.

During the summit meeting of Central American presidents held in Panama last December, full support was given to the concept of agricultural modernization when they signed what is known as the Agricultural Commitment.

In support of that initiative, IICA submitted for the consideration of the ministers gathered in Managua a proposal containing six new areas of action: changes in the production structure and modernization of agri-food systems; modernization of the small-farm sector and participation of small farmers; support for integration and agricultural trade; creation of a regional agricultural technology generation and transfer system; integration and harmonization of animal and plant health systems; and support for the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of Central America.

The proposal is currently being studied by national authorities and will probably enter into force in late April, after approval by the Council of Ministers.

Other important resolutions approved by the ministers call for adopting a single position on problems related to competitiveness, unfair trade practices and the poor organization of certain agricultural commodity markets, especially grains.

In approving a proposal submitted by Guatemala and El Salvador on the creation of a Central American School of Business Management, the ministers recognized the urgent need to provide training for small- and medium-scale farmers.

There was also movement on other fronts in relation to human resource training. It was

decided to extend the scope of the following training centers to include the entire subregion: the Central American School of Livestock Breeding -headquartered in Costa Rica; the Agricultural Development Center of Honduras, once external funding is secured (irrigation); and the National School of Forestry Sciences of Honduras.

Also, the countries of Central America will continue to work to modernize agricultural technology. In each country, the Minister will set up a technical team that will prepare, with the participation of the private sector, a plan for converting the agricultural sector.

The subregion is interested in securing Mexico's support for several activities. One is a series of workshops on agricultural trade negotiations with third countries. The other concerns the establishment of a regional trade information system for the agricultural sector.

*Other important resolutions call for adopting a single position on problems related to competitiveness, unfair trading practices and the poor organization of certain agricultural commodity markets, especially for grains.*

# Trifinio Plan

## Cooperation Agreement Extended

**G**uatemala, Honduras and El Salvador will benefit from the extension, until December 1997, of a technical cooperation agreement between the Organization of American States (OAS) and IICA to support execution of the Trifinio Plan.

The agreement was extended in order to reinforce efforts to implement several integrated development projects in the border area shared by these three Central American countries.

*The living conditions of some 600,000 inhabitants are expected to improve.*

Victor Tunarosa, Agricultural Coordinator of the OAS/IICA Border Development Unit, explained that the project is expected to improve the living conditions of the 600,000 inhabitants living in the area covered by the Trifinio Plan.

In March, another agreement was signed to execute similar projects in the Atlantic Zone of the Isthmus, particularly the Gulf of Honduras.

In Tunarosa's judgement, the expansion and extension of the Plan reflects the confidence of the governments participating in the

initiative, which seeks to stimulate local economies and foster integration and natural resource conservation in the region.

### MORE COMPETITIVE

## Agreement with Development Bank

**T**he objective of a general cooperation agreement signed recently by the IICA Office in Brazil and the Regional Development Bank of the South (BRDE) is to contribute to improving the competitiveness of agriculture and agroindustry of the states of southern Brazil.

When signing the document in a special ceremony held in Porto Alegre, the Director-President of the BRDE, Jose Paulo Dornelles Cairolli, and the IICA Representative in Brazil, Victor Eduardo Machinea, agreed that the initiative takes on special meaning within the context of integration among the MERCOSUR countries.

*... the initiative takes on special meaning within the context of integration among the MERCOSUR countries ...*

Also in attendance were the Minister of Agriculture, Lazaro Barboza, and the President of the Bank of Brazil, Alcir Augustinho Calliari.

The agreement calls for inter-institutional activities to address rural credit policies, funding for converting the agricultural and agroindustrial sectors, funding for agricultural and agroindustrial development and modernization, among others.

Also, IICA and BRDE will establish working groups and technical missions to monitor the projects and activities carried out under the agreement, with a view to offering recommendations that can be used later for purposes of training.

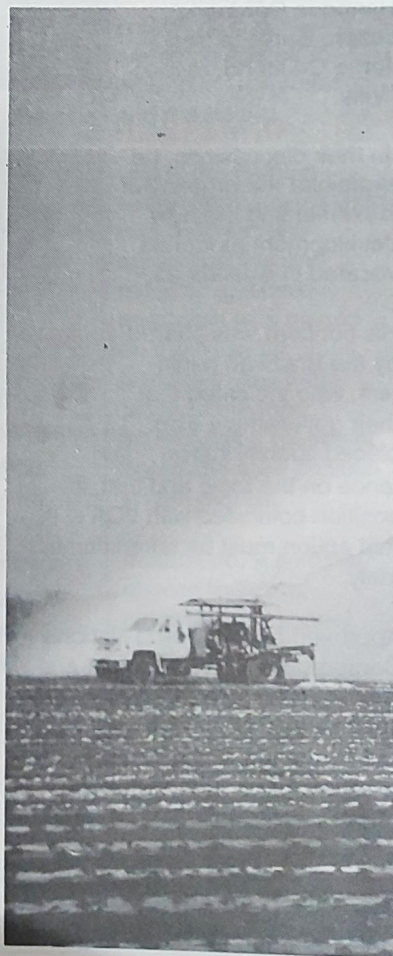


Photo: Horst Von Imer, Chile



DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS IN BRAZIL

## Challenges for Sustainable Development in Agriculture

### Consensus Must be Changed into Action

**D**uring a visit to Brazil on March 15-16, IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, met with top government officials to analyze the challenges that must be met in order to put into practice a sustainable development policy for agriculture.

In Brasilia, Werthein met with the Ministers of Foreign Relations, of Agriculture and of the Environment, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, Lazaro Barboza and Jorge Coutinho, respectively.

In their discussions, he explained the urgency of implementing the new development model advocated in Agenda 21.

His concern was shared by the Brazilian ministers, who indicated that their government also placed special importance on the topic and that, its position coincided with IICA's, in that action must be taken immediately.

Approved by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), which took place in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992, Agenda 21 proposes a frame of action for orienting efforts to address environmental protection and economic growth.

Werthein, Cardoso, Barboza and Coutinho agreed that moving from

the political consensus achieved during UNCED to action is a task the region must undertake immediately because humanity cannot wait until tomorrow to solve the problems

the region to promote trade opening and liberalization. "If not," he warned, "we may accelerate environmental deterioration which would cause economic growth to come to a halt."



of poverty, hunger, illiteracy and environmental deterioration.

The Director of External Relations noted that the adoption of more sustainable patterns of development involves defining a basic strategy for the agricultural sector, given that "... agriculture is and will continue to be the backbone of most of our economies."

Werthein drew attention to the importance of incorporating a greater concern for natural resources into efforts under way in

*Werthein met with the Ministers of Agriculture, Lazaro Barboza (above left), of Foreign Relations, Fernando Henrique Cardoso (right) and of the Environment, Jorge Coutinho (bottom left).*

*Agenda 21 proposes a frame of action for orienting actions to address environmental protection and economic growth.*

## CHILE

# Credit for Women Farmers

## To Strengthen Development of Small Businesses

As part of activities to promote and strengthen the development of small businesses and production groups run by women, IICA has provided support to the creation of a credit fund for women farmers in Chile.

A total of US\$84,000 in funding will be provided by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the technology transfer program of the Agricultural Development Institute (INDAP) of Chile, and IICA.

The fund will be used primarily to open a portfolio of loans and to train technicians involved in technology transfer.

The creation of this funding mechanism is one



Photo/Ramón A. Avila, Argentina

*The initiative will benefit women who farm on a small-scale.*

of the activities of the joint project "Supporting Activities With Women Farmers," being carried out jointly since last year by INDAP and IICA.

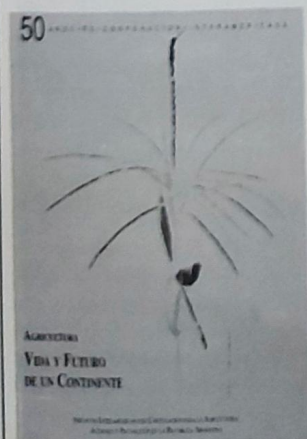
This fund will benefit women producers and farmers who have limited access to technical assistance and often work up to 17 hours a day on the farm and in the home.

## ARGENTINA

# Book Published on IICA's Fiftieth Anniversary

## Agriculture: Strength and Future of the Americas

As part of the activities carried out in con-



nection with the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute, the IICA Office in Argentina recently published the book on agriculture as the strength and future of the Americas (*America: Vida y Futuro de un Continente*).

The book traces IICA's development over its fifty years of institutional life in the hemisphere, focusing on the technical cooperation actions carried out in Argentina over the last thirty years.

At present, the IICA Office in Argentina is supporting the joint efforts of farmers and the government to reactivate and modernize the country's agroindustrial complex, taking into account social equity and sustainability.

## ARGENTINA

# Network a Success

Training and support in building the infrastructure needed by small farmers are two of the lines of action pursued in recent months by the Rural Agroindustry Network (REDAR) of Argentina.

Mercedes Basco, rural development specialist at the IICA Office, stated that these actions involve the participation of small farmers and have contributed to solving, among others, problems related to production, organization and marketing.

Under the training component, a workshop was held on rural agroindustries and marketing, where emphasis was placed on the need for small farmers to sell their crops to the food industry as a means of improving their position on the market.

In addition, a seminar offered technical extension personnel from several provinces further knowledge on appropriate technologies for sustainable rural development.



### Commemorative Plaque

**I**ICA's Representative in Canada, Emani Fiori (left), presents the Minister of Agriculture of that country, Bill McKnight, with a plaque commemorating two important events: the fiftieth anniversary of IICA and the twentieth anniversary of Canada's membership in this specialized agency of the inter-American system.

CENTRAL AMERICA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## Rural Agroindustry

### CIDIA and PRODAR Promote Training

**T**hrough training activities, CIDIA, a specialized unit of IICA, and the Hemispheric Rural Agroindustrial Development Program (PRODAR), are working together to foster the development of rural agroindustries in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

To this end, in late 1992 they joined forces and began a three-year training program designed to produce 15 manuals, three models for promoting agroindustries and managing micro-businesses and one video. It will also train a team of 50 outreach workers/trainers.

Professionals and technicians from governmental and nongovernmental



Photo: Vicente Tolentino, R. Dominicana

institutions, farmers and representatives of rural associations or cooperatives will benefit from the initiative.

According to Francois Boucher, a French expert directing PRODAR, the goal is to provide institutions responsible for rural agroindustry in Central America and the Dominican Republic with a set of teaching materials that will enable them to carry out ongoing training activities to upgrade the management of such enterprises.

In his opinion, the training program fills a need because "there is a lack of qualified personnel in the region who can help farmers manage their agroindustries, especially as concerns technology, business management and marketing."

Boucher explained that the work being carried out in Central America and the Dominican Republic will serve as a pilot project, with a view to transferring the experience gained to the Andean countries and the Southern Cone.

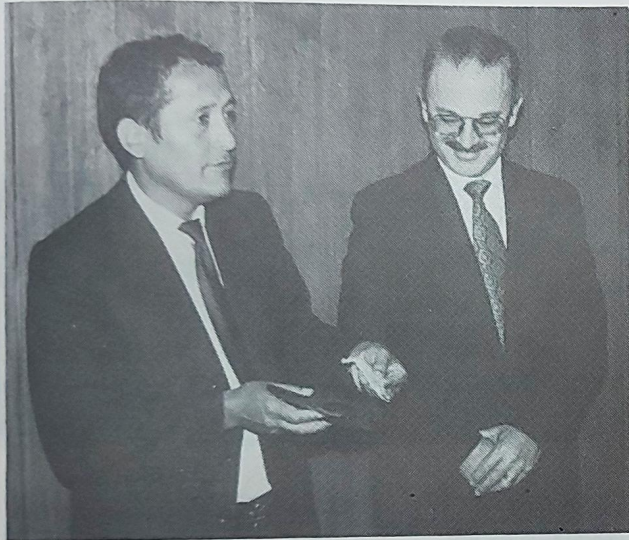
PRODAR is coordinated by IICA and its primary objective is to consolidate rural agroindustry in the region.

PERU

## Adjustment and Agriculture

The impact of adjustment on agricultural policy in Peru was the topic of a workshop held in Lima in February which brought together representatives of the public and private

With regard to the first topic, the participants recognized the efforts Peru has made to adjust and stabilize its economy, and recommended that the country continue to liberalize trade in order to



The Minister of Agriculture of Peru, Absalon Vasquez (left), receives the medal commemorating IICA's fiftieth anniversary.

sectors, universities, non-governmental organizations and funding institutions.

Organized by the IICA Office in Peru and the Ministry of Agriculture of that country, the meeting served as a forum to discuss three topics in depth: economic policy reforms and agriculture in Peru, adjustment and the rural poor, and challenges in institutional organization for bringing about comprehensive and sustainable agricultural modernization.

take advantage of opportunities opening up on the international market.

As to the second topic, participants agreed that poverty in rural areas, which affects 75% of the population, has not been alleviated by adjustment programs. To the contrary, it has been proved that they have had a negative effect on the urban poor, whose purchasing power has declined.

Lastly, with regard to institutional organization

and agricultural modernization, it was stated that Peru must define, by consensus and in line with its priorities and interests, policies and initiatives that will make it possible to move toward this goal.

This workshop was carried out under the IICA/SAREC (Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries) Project, which conducted case studies in eight Latin American countries - including Peru - to analyze the impact of adjustment programs on agricultural policy.

ECUADOR

## Support for Modernization

Agricultural policy, technology, trade and integration, rural development, agricultural health and project formulation are the six areas in which IICA will focus its technical cooperation activities in Ecuador this year in support of agricultural modernization.

These initiatives, as well as others defined in accordance with the priorities of Ecuadoran government and agricultural sector officials, will be executed

by the IICA Office in that country under the leadership of IICA Representative Alex Barril.

In connection with agricultural policy, the Information System for Agricultural Policy Analysis (SIAPA) will be installed in the IICA Office and in one of the specialized units of the Ministry of Agriculture.

As far as foreign trade and integration are concerned, the national project "Support for Public and Private Institutions" will continue to provide important support for activities being carried out by the Undersecretariat of Marketing in connection with bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.

A study will be conducted on competitiveness, with support from the public and private sectors, the objective being to help identify responses to the challenges ahead for Ecuador. Finally, continued support will be provided to PROTECA, an ambitious initiative addressing the topic of agricultural technology.



KOREA-IICA

## Supporting Regional Growth Together

### Rural Development and Trade: Top priorities

The Republic of Korea and IICA are working together in pursuit of a common objective: to promote a style of rural development that allows farmers to build a better future for themselves, and to foster trade between Korea and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

This has been the tenor of relations since 1988, when IICA's Director General, Martín E. Piñero, and Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, met in Seoul with Korean government authorities.

In April 1990, a mission headed by Young Kun Shim, Chief Advisor on Agriculture to the President of Korea, met for the first time with IICA authorities where the topics of trade and rural development were raised for the first time as areas suitable for joint action.

Six months after Shim's visit to IICA Headquarters, IICA and the Rural Development Administration of the Republic of Korea organized a seminar that brought together 50 technicians from 14 countries of the region. (See separate article.)

#### AGRICULTURAL TRADE

With a population of 43 million inhabitants, 2 million hectares of land devoted to agriculture, a per capita income of US\$6,500 and steady growth in agricultural imports, the Republic of Korea is extremely interested in making Latin America one of its chief suppliers of foodstuffs.

essed products such as fruit pulp, canned goods and chocolates.

It also calls for Korean missions to visit the region. (See separate article).

*In 1988, IICA's Director General and Director of External Relations met in Seoul with Korean government authorities. The meetings lead to fruitful cooperative ties.*



Korea purchases some US\$6.5 billion in agricultural commodities annually, half of which corresponds to grains and some US\$500 million to meat.

The Republic of Korea and IICA signed a three-year cooperation agreement in November 1991, the purpose of which is to evaluate the Latin American food market with a view to identifying its advantages, studying its operations and determining how competitive it is, as the basis for establishing trade relations with the countries of the region.

Signed by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of that country, Kyung Shik Cho, and the Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñero, the agreement calls for studies on market opportunities for grains and oilseeds, traditional and nontraditional products, and proc-

At the same time, Korean authorities have organized a series of high-level meetings to study the impact of efforts to promote trade between Korea and Latin America.

At the last of these meetings, held in late 1992 in Seoul, IICA's Director of External Relations spoke about the key issues that should guide trade among the regions, and operating mechanisms to ensure success.



SPECIALISTS UPDATE THEIR KNOWLEDGE

## Around 100 Specialists Receive Training

### Alternative production activities promoted

**A**s part of its technical cooperation program with Latin America and the Caribbean, over the last ten years the Republic of Korea has provided training for some 100 specialists technicians responsible for the administration of rural development projects.

Technicians from Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Suriname updated their knowledge of management of rural businesses; technology transfer, with emphasis on crop mechanization; fruit growing; fish farming and silkworm production.

The objective of this ambitious cooperation initiative, whose first phase concluded in 1990, is to train Latin America and Caribbean technicians to promote, within their projects, the development of alternative production activities that will help boost the incomes of small farmers.

What impact has this training had? Are conditions in Latin America and the Caribbean such that they ensure successful rural development programs? What alternative activities have small farmers taken on to increase their incomes? What are the greatest needs in terms of technology?

These and other questions were answered during an international seminar in Costa Rica sponsored by the

Rural Development Administration of the Republic of Korea and IICA, attended by representatives of the 14 countries that participated in the Korean initiative.

There was almost unanimous agreement among participants that the lack of financing, limited access to land and inadequate technology transfer are the key factors that limit the impact of rural development policies in the region.

They agreed that the importance of Korea's efforts lies in the fact that they focus on improving the production of small farms with the application of new technologies, diversification of production and technology transfer.

Specialists from the Korean Division of Technical Cooperation for Rural Development stated that they are promoting a stratified technological system in Latin America and the Caribbean that can be adapted to the circumstances and needs of the small farmer, and that, at the same time, will contribute to improving output and diversifying crops. With regard to the latter point, some participants pointed out that Korea has promoted mechanized rice production on small farms, given the potential this crop offers when combined with fish farming and silkworm production.

*IICA served as the site for an international seminar that examined the impact of Korean support in the region on rural development.*

Photo/R. Escobar





MISSION OF EXPERTS VISITS LATIN AMERICA

## Korea Assesses Food Market

### Agri-food potential is of great interest

Since 1992, Korean missions have been visiting different subregions of Latin America in order to explore the possibilities offered its food market.

Interested in making the region one of their principal suppliers of agricultural products, the missions have carefully studied the potential of these countries for meeting Korea's needs.

Through IICA Headquarters and the Offices in the countries, the Institute has provided the mission

ica and the Caribbean will have new opportunities to strengthen trade relations with emerging powers such as Korea.

By mid-1992, the missions had visited Central America and Mexico. Headed by Sang Mu Lee, Director General of the Policy Office of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Young Kun Shim, an economist at the National University of Seoul, the

*Young Kun Shim (Left) and San Mu Lee head the Korean delegation exploring the Latin American food market*



Photo/R. Escobar

with technical support and served as liaison in arranging meetings between Korean officials and foreign trade authorities, businessmen and exporters. In the judgement of IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, agriculture will be of great importance in the 1990s primarily because, as economies open up and trade is liberalized, Latin Amer-

mission assessed the efficiency of coffee, banana and vegetable production, and explained that their country is an alternative market for traditional products which are currently constrained by depressed prices and quota systems.

In February of this year, the mission visited Argentina, Brazil and Chile,

where they studied in detail prices, transportation costs and animal and plant health systems. The mission's visit was of particular interest in Buenos Aires, given that Korea currently imports US\$2.5 billion in grains and US\$500 million in meat annually.

Mu Lee explained that his country does not purchase meat from the Southern Cone because of the incidence of foot-and-mouth disease. He added, however, that since large regions have been declared free of that disease, their governments could negotiate special treatment.

In Chile and Brazil, they studied different commodities, but their main focus was on fruit. As for Brazil, the Korean expert noted that agricultural production costs are low, but not domestic transportation, which can affect the country's competitiveness.

As a result of these missions, a Brazilian delegation headed by the Minister of Agriculture (MAG), Lazaro Barboza, the President of the Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA), M. Xavier Flores, the Secretary of Rural Development of the MAG, Ruy Vaz, and representatives of the private business sector will visit Seoul in May to study possible joint ventures.

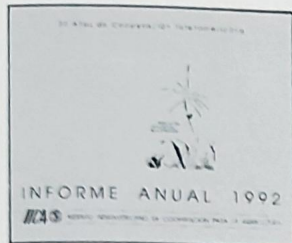
In November, Seoul will be the site of a meeting in which some 300 representatives from Latin America will discuss with Korean authorities and businessmen the advantages of agricultural products from this region.

Finally, the Korean mission plans to visit the Andean nations in June and July, and will conclude their travels next year in Uruguay and Paraguay.

# Publications

## 1992 ANNUAL REPORT

IICA Editorial Service



Under the motto "Fifty Years of Inter-American Cooperation," the Annual Report presents a summary of IICA's actions and orientation during 1992.

In the Foreword, the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, states that 1992 was a year highlighted by the celebrations marking IICA's fifty years of institutional life, which provided an opportunity to underscore the Institute's record of service as well as the growing importance of agriculture in the new national and international contexts.

Chapter 1, entitled "1992: A Landmark Year," summarizes the progress made in complying with the resolutions of the Tenth ICMA in IICA's three key areas of action: modernization and competitiveness; agriculture and sustainable development; equity

and rural development; integration and international trade; rural women; and human resource training.

Chapter 2 describes the hemispheric, multinational and national technical support actions carried out by IICA through its five Programs and its specialized units, CEPPI and CIDIA. Chapter 3 summarizes IICA's action in the countries.

Chapters 4 and 5 discuss cooperative relations with other international agencies and donor countries, and the administrative structure of the Institute, respectively.

### SOSTENIBILIDAD Y AGRI-CULTURA DE LADERAS

### CAMBIO TECNOLÓGICO Y CAMBIO INSTITUCIONAL

Eduardo Lindarte  
Carlos Benito



This book, published by the IICA Editorial Service, discusses the crisis

confronting hillside agriculture in Central America and caused by deforestation, the loss of biological diversity, soil deterioration and pollution of the water supply.

The study, published under the Program Papers Series, proposes that new agricultural technologies be incorporated as a valid mechanism for promoting sustainable production.

The development of national research programs, the establishment of inter-institutional research networks, and the preparation of an inventory of technical resources in the region are some of the proposals discussed in the book.

### DESARROLLO RURAL MICRORREGIONAL Y DESCENTRALIZACION

Manuel Chiriboga  
Orlando Plaza



Decentralization and microregional rural

These publications can be purchased at IICA Headquarters or in the IICA Offices in the member countries.

development are the pillars of democratic, comprehensive and sustainable modernization addressed in this publication written by two specialists from IICA's Program on Organization and Management for Rural Development.

The book underscores the need to strike a balance between economic growth, sustainability and equity, based on the active participation of small farmers and improved competitiveness of agriculture, through the processing of agricultural products.

The book was based on the results of a series of case studies on microregional rural development conducted in several countries of the region.



## Argentina, Brazil



International news agencies and newspapers in Argentina and Brazil covered the visit by a Korean mission to several countries of the Southern Cone in February. The mission was in South America, with support from IICA, to evaluate the Latin American market as a supplier of foodstuffs.

Made up of Sang Mu Lee, Director General of the Policy Office of the Ministry of Agriculture, and Young Kun Shim, an economist at the National University of Seoul, the mission met with authorities and businessmen from Chile, Argentina and Brazil.

The Republic of Korea, which imports US\$6.5 billion annually in agricultural products, wishes to purchase foodstuffs from Latin America. At present, its principal suppliers are the

United States and certain countries in Southeast Asia. (Argentina: La Nacion and El Cronista, Brazil: Jornal de Brasilia and Gazeta Mercantil, Inter Press Service (IPS), and others).

## Central America



In late February, IICA and the Organization of American States (OAS) extended a cooperation agreement to support the activities of the TRIFINIO border area development plan, which was covered by newspapers in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

In operation for seven years, the TRIFINIO Plan promotes the development of ecologically sustainable production activities in the border area shared by these three Central American nations.

Under the extension, the Plan now calls for the social and economic development of the Atlantic zone along

the Gulf of Honduras. Also under study is the possibility of executing a similar project in the Gulf of Fonseca, on the Pacific Ocean, where Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador share a common border. (Guatemala: El Grafico, El Salvador: Siglo XXI, Honduras: El Heraldo, ACAN-EFE and Inter Press Service, IPS).

## United States



**The Earth Times**, a specialized publication on sustainable development, dedicated considerable space in its March issue to reviewing IICA's work and the international scope of its technical cooperation actions.

It describes in-depth the strategic value of the Institute's activities to support the countries in their efforts to consolidate a sustainable agricultural model.

The publication highlights the Institute's five areas of concentration and the work carried out by its specialized units in seeking solutions to the challenges posed by the globalization of the economy and trade liberalization.

## Upcoming Activities

- **International Symposium "Public and Private Sector Roles in the Provision of Agricultural Services."** May 17-19, 1993, San Jose, Costa Rica. Organized by IICA and the World Bank.
- **First Meeting of the Technical Committee for the Transfer of Agricultural Technology between Latin America and the Caribbean.** May 17-21, 1993, Castries, St. Lucia.
- **International Workshop "Agri-food Statistics in Latin America and the Caribbean."** May 26-28, 1993, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. Organized by IICA, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain.

May - June 1993, Year X, No. 54



Photo/R. Escobar

*Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon (second from left to right) inaugurated the seminar «Agriculture and natural resources: the heritage of Ibero-America and a source of competitiveness.» The meeting generated recommendations which President Calderon presented to the Third Ibero-American Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government, held in Bahia, Brazil. Accompanying him are the Minister of Agriculture, Juan Rafael Lizano; the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro; and the Minister of Natural Resources, Energy and Mines, Orlando Morales.*

■ **MEXICO**  
**IABA to Hold Seventh Regular Meeting**  
 Executive Committee Approves Agenda

■ **WORLD SYMPOSIUM**  
**A Call for Concerted Action**  
 Public-Private Provision of Agricultural Services

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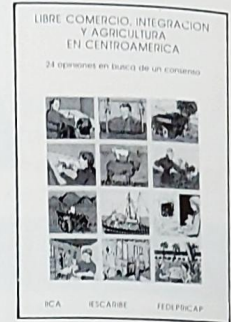


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## NEWS

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News magazine on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published bi-monthly, in separate Spanish, English and France editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo 55-2200 Coronado, San José, Costa Rica. Cable: IICA San José. Telex: 2144 IICA. Fax: 294741. Telephone: 290222. Editor in Chief: Patricia Leon. Editors: Mishelle Mitchell and Danilo Jiménez. English translation and editing: Paul Murphy, Barbara Cohen and Susana Raine. Director of External Relations: Jorge Werthein.

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 33 Member States and 16 Permanent Observers.

## Headquarters

GHANA MISSION VISITS HEADQUARTERS

### Agricultural Trade

#### Regional Model of Interest to Africans



Photo/R. Escobar

A mission from the Republic of Ghana of private and public sector representatives visited IICA Headquarters in April to gather information on how the countries of Latin America organize trade.

*Ghana is interested in improving its agricultural trade.*

The mission, which included members of the Ghana Export Promotion Council (GEPC), met with

the Deputy Director General of the Institute, Reed Hertford, and the Director of IICA's Trade and Integration Program, Rodolfo Quiros.

During the meeting, Hertford and Quiros described IICA's cooperation activities in the hemisphere to stimulate the marketing of agricultural commodities, as well as its training program to upgrade multilateral trade negotiation skills.

Henry Oko, Acting Executive Secretary of the GEPC, praised the success of Latin American countries in promoting their agro-exports. In this connection, he expressed his country's interest in improving the organization, production and sale of its vegetable products, based on the model applied in the region.

During their stay in Costa Rica, mission members met with national exporters to exchange information on the export of vegetable products.

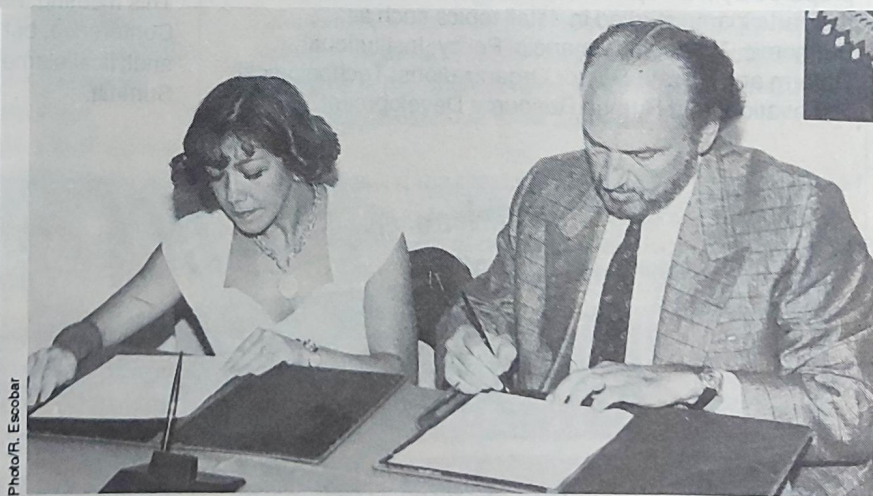
#### CENTRAL AMERICA

### Joint Effort

#### Agricultural Information

United by their interest to contribute to integration efforts in Central America, IICA and *Revista Panorama Internacional* recently signed a cooperation agreement, one of the objectives of which is to work together to increase the output and circulation of agricultural news from the subregion.

The agreement was signed by IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, and the Director of the magazine, Marilyn Cristia. They both indicated that the agreement is non-commercial in nature and will contribute to making agricultural information an instrument supporting integration in Central America.



Photo/R. Escobar

*The cooperation agreement was signed by the Director of Panorama Internacional, Marilyn Cristia, and the Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein.*

*Panorama Internacional* is published in Costa Rica and circulated throughout Central America. Targeting professionals and leaders of the isthmus, it provides information and analyses on current issues and news from the subregion.

Some of the major topics covered by this weekly magazine, which has a network of correspondents and commentators, are economics, politics, development, ecology and agriculture.

## Programs on the March

### AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## Proposal amended

### President Calderon Presents Proposal to Ibero-American Summit

A proposal on agriculture and natural resources, which Costa Rican President Rafael Angel Calderon presented to the Third Ibero-American Summit Meeting of Heads of State and Government, will include proposals for joint action to address poverty, technology, legislation and training.

During a two-day meeting held at IICA Headquarters from June 24-25, delegates from 12 countries, representatives of cooperation agencies and specialists in the field discussed the contents of the document Calderon was to present at the Summit Meeting in Bahia, Brazil, from July 13-16.

The meeting was organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and sponsored by the Earth Council, a nongovernmental organization responsible for following up on the agreements of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Brazil in June 1992.

Discussions centered around the document «Sustainable Agriculture in Ibero-America: Actions to Meet the Challenges of the Immediate Future,» which was prepared by IICA specialists. In four working sessions, the participants studied in detail topics such as: Economic, Trade and Financial Policy; Institutional Reform and Private-Sector Organizations; Technological Renovation, and Human Resource Development.

During the inaugural session of the event, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, said that President Calderon's willingness to present the proposal demonstrates the interest of the Government of Costa Rica in conserving the environment, and the level of social and political maturity the people of Costa Rica have displayed in addressing this issue.

Piñeiro noted that the meeting in Bahia will provide an opportunity to give political recognition to the topic at the hemispheric level, «enabling both countries and agencies to develop a broad framework of action.»

President Calderon praised IICA's efforts in promoting sustainable agriculture and recalled that a year ago, at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, the Institute supported the creation of the Earth Council and its being headquartered in Costa Rica.

He pointed out that, given the current situation, efforts must focus on promoting a style of development that not only serves people but also is in harmony with nature. This meeting, he added, draws on the spirit of the Rio Conference, but also «will provide us with conceptual and analytical elements» for the upcoming Ibero-American Summit.



During the first working session, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro (left), delivered an address on the challenges of achieving sustainable agriculture in Latin America. He is accompanied by the Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, the Executive Director of the Earth Council and the Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program.



Photo/R. Escobar

*Delegates from 12 countries, representatives of cooperation agencies and specialists in the field participated in the meeting.*

play in designing and implementing initiatives to solve the problems of the poor and of the environment.

### THE ROLE OF THE STATE

Regarding the role of the state, which has been very much discussed recently as the result of reforms to reduce its size, emphasis was placed on the need for it to continue to function as «the guardian of the resources of future generations.»

Participants insisted that the state must be modern and flexible, and that, in connection with sustainability, it has responsibilities in areas such as research, human resource training and investments to ensure equity.

### SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The participants agreed that the proposal to be presented in Bahia should define sustainable agriculture in ecological, economic as well as social terms. They also agreed that this is a very dynamic concept about which new knowledge is constantly being generated.

In the area of macroeconomic policy, questions were raised as to why structural adjustment programs promote the elimination of subsidies and the opening of trade, while developed countries not only protect their agricultural sectors, but also put up barriers to and place restrictions on free trade. As regards this latter point, «caution» was urged in opening up trade.

The suggestion was put forth that the document President Calderon will carry to Brazil contain a statement on this practice, which, according to figures presented in the seminar, costs developed countries some US\$300 billion per year.

Another topic discussed at length during the seminar was poverty and its direct effect in deteriorating the environment and natural resources. It was pointed out that this is a problem of inequality which must be met head on, by ensuring an equitable distribution of the benefits generated by development and economic growth.

After recommending that this point be included in the proposal to be presented in Bahia, the participants also highlighted the role the organizations of civil society can

As regards legislation, the Latin American delegates recognized that laws related to sustainability are weak. In recognizing that «the little legislation that does exist is outdated and is not yet a body of laws,» they recommended a region-wide effort to update relevant legislation.

In regard to technology, various ideas were set forth. Latin America has well developed operating capacity including national research institutions and cooperative programs in the Andean Area and the Southern Cone which should continue to be tapped.

Also, in solving the most pressing problems, such as soil exhaustion, pollution and erosion, they recommended combining the use of modern technologies with traditional technologies native to the region. It was also recommended that horizontal cooperation schemes be created, networks be established for the exchange of information and experiences, and that consideration be given to the possibility of establishing a fund to finance such activities.

In the section on human resources, considerable attention was paid to the topic of training. Specifically, the goal is to develop a process in which teaching and research go hand in hand, making it possible to change the public's attitude toward sustainability, to facilitate dialogue and the search for consensus, to restore the region's capacity for generating new ideas, and to foster the development of endogenous technologies.

## WORLD SYMPOSIUM

# A Call for Concerted Action

## Public-Private Provision of Agricultural Services

The public and private sectors should work together, rather than against each other, in providing agricultural services. The aims are to achieve efficient production, improve competitiveness, ensure the access of all groups of producers to these services, and protect natural resources.

mark, was attended by representatives from 51 countries from the Americas, Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe. It provided a valuable opportunity to discuss in depth the issue of who should provide services such as research, seed production, agricultural extension and information, financing



Participants in the symposium agreed that if the private sector is to assume a more active role, it will be necessary for the public sector to become more modern, flexible and efficient.

During a world symposium held at IICA Headquarters from May 17-19, participants discussed the alliance that should exist between the public and private sectors and concluded that in order for the private sector to play a more active role, the public sector must be modern, flexible and efficient.

The meeting, organized by the World Bank and IICA, with support from the governments of France and Den-

and the promotion of trade, among others.

From the very beginning, discussions focused on one concern: the redefinition of public and private responsibilities must take place gradually and in a balanced manner, within the context of efforts to downsize the state.

During the inaugural session, the Director General of IICA, Martin E.

Piñero, stated that although the downsizing of the state was necessary and unavoidable both because of the crisis and the structural fiscal deficit, it was not being done in a balanced fashion. "There is need for reflection and clarity," he added.

Piñero indicated that if the state stops providing certain services, every effort should be made to ensure that the services continue to reach the least advantaged sectors of agriculture who are in a weaker negotiating position on the market. Similarly, it will be necessary to articulate public and private sector activities.

The Director of Agriculture of the World Bank, Michel Petit, stated that when defining the roles that correspond to each sector, the criteria of efficiency and the search for economic growth should be taken into consideration. He stressed, however, that this does not necessarily mean that the public sector must relinquish all its responsibilities.

According to the Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Juan Rafael Lizano, the state must become a better administrator and manager and the private sector should be encouraged to take on roles that will improve production efficiency and promote modernization.

As far as the provision of agricultural research and extension services is concerned, the experts at the symposium acknowledged that the private sector is becoming increasingly more interested and active in these areas. Nonetheless, they also stressed that state intervention is required to ensure that the rural poor share in the benefits and that natural resources are used appropriately.

## BOLIVIA

# Food and Information

## Experts Study How Statistics are Prepared



Experts from Spain and the region who met in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, from May 26-28, agreed that, in order to design policies to strengthen the agri-food sector in Latin American and the Caribbean, it is necessary to have timely and reliable statistics to support decision making.

One of the results of the meeting organized by IICA, the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA), was a preliminary

*At the seminar participants were apprised of the state of agri-food statistics in the region.*

document describing the outlook for the agri-food sector in Latin America and information needs.

Julio Hernandez, an IICA specialist in agricultural policy analysis and planning, indicated that the seminar proved to be a valuable opportunity for assessing the current status of agri-food statistics in the region. Participants reviewed the results of a survey conducted in 18 countries, which highlighted shortcomings and

was useful for designing instruments to eliminate them.

According to MAPA's Deputy Director General of Statistics, Profirio Sanchez, statistics are not being used adequately as a tool for supporting agri-food policy decisions. «Statistics are currently underutilized; use is not made of all the statistics generated because of problems in disseminating them among potential users,» he added.

The technical secretary of the Inter-American Statistics Institute, Evelio Fabbroni, advocated that the use of agri-food information should be systematized through pilot experiences in two countries, the result of which could be extrapolated subsequently to the rest of the countries. In support of this proposal, he stated that there is a solid legal basis in Latin America and the Caribbean to support the generation of statistics.

With regard to the private sector's role in generating agri-food statistics, Hernandez suggested that this process should be regulated and carried out in a concerted manner, in order to ensure that methods guaranteeing greater coverage and timeliness are used. In his opinion, efforts must also be made to avoid the inappropriate use of statistics and to improve dissemination.

## AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY EXCHANGES

# Meeting in Ecuador

## Technical and Trade Cooperation Promoted

Ecuador will be the site of the first hemisphere-wide meeting on agricultural commodity exchanges, which will take place in Quito from July 28-30.

Representatives from 14 countries of the Americas interested in promoting new types of technical and trade cooperation will participate.

The activity, organized by the Agricultural Commodity Exchange of Guayaquil, is receiving support from IICA through its Program on Trade and Integration and the IICA Office in Ecuador.

In addition to encouraging an exchange of experiences among commodity exchanges operating in

the hemisphere in the context of market and trade liberalization, the activity also seeks to establish permanent links among these innovative agricultural commodity trading systems.

The meeting is one of the activities considered in a letter of understanding signed on April 28 by the IICA Representative in Ecuador, Alex Barril, and the Executive Director of the National Agricultural Commodity Exchange, Alvaro Trujillo.



CENTRAL AMERICA

## Private Sector Creates Federation Support for Integration and Trade Negotiations

**R**epresentatives of the private agricultural sector of Central America, meeting in Costa Rica on May 28, established a federation that will work with governments on issues related to integration and trade negotiations.

significant moment when the agricultural sector is carefully following negotiations on a free trade

*Representatives of the private sector supported IICA's efforts to promote the establishment of agricultural commodity exchanges.*



The announcement was made at the conclusion of the «First Meeting of Private Agricultural Sector Organizations of the Central American Isthmus,» held at IICA Headquarters. The main challenge facing the federation will be to assist the private sector in playing a major role in negotiations for free trade agreements.

Marco Vinicio Ruiz, of the Costa Rican Union of Private Sector Entities and Associations, stated that «the Federation of Private Agricultural Sector Entities of the Central American Isthmus provides us with a vehicle to achieve this objective.»

According to Ruiz, the creation of the federation comes at a particularly

agreement with Mexico and is studying the scope of the North American Free Trade Agreement signed by Mexico, Canada and the United States of America.

On this topic, Ruiz called attention to «the speed with which developments are taking place» and warned of the risk to production sectors.

Rodolfo Quiros, Director of IICA's Trade and Integration Program, explained that the free trade agreements currently being negotiated are different from those of the past, because they also deal with investments, intellectual property rights, environmental regulations and the free trade of services, etc.

He added that this means that the private sector, or the organizations that represent it, must have an active role in the process, both in defining positions and in defending its access to reciprocal markets.

Quiros noted that it is not a question of withdrawing from efforts at economic opening, but rather of making it a gradual process, allowing time for the adoption of internal measures aimed at supporting the production sectors, enabling them to make necessary changes and become more competitive.

Business leaders from Guatemala, Honduras, Panama and Belize applauded the creation of the federation. Humberto Preti, Vice President of the Chamber of Agriculture of Guatemala, stated that from now on it will be easier to mesh free trade with integration agreements. Rodrigo Marciaq, Director of the Association of Business Executives of Panama, noted that present circumstances now make it possible to effectively coordinate the efforts of the public and private sectors.

Jose Castellano, an economic policy analyst with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Belize, suggested that another priority of the federation should be human resource training. This idea was seconded by Gilberto Osorio, Secretary of the Federation of Farmers and Livestock Ranchers of Honduras, who added that the integration movement is irreversible, «... and presents challenges we must meet, and opportunities we must take advantage of.»

During the meeting, the representatives of the private sector gave their support to IICA's efforts in the subregion to promote the establishment of agricultural commodity exchanges.

The meeting was organized by IICA, the Federation of Private Entities of Central America and Panama (FEDEPRICAP), and the Costa Rican Union of Private Sector Chambers and Associations (UCCAEP).

## CENTRAL AMERICA AND ECUADOR

# Trade Negotiations

## Professionals Receive Training



*The Ecuadoran Minister, Diego Paredes (right), and the IICA Representative, Alex Barril (center), sign the letter of understanding. With them are Rodolfo Quiros, Director of IICA's Trade and Integration Program, and Reed Hertford, Deputy Director General of IICA.*

**T**rade opening has presented the Latin American countries with the urgent challenge of preparing professionals to participate successfully in trade negotiations currently under way.

Since the present setting is characterized by new efforts to sign bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements, national and subregional capabilities to address agricultural trade policies and formulate trade negotiation strategies must be developed.

What is required are skilled negotiators, professionals who understand that the unilateral trade opening undertaken by their countries may be sharpened by the negotiations under way, and officials who will pursue better access to external markets while, at the same time, being able to reduce the risks of concluding agreements which hurt agriculture, through measures which discriminate against certain products.

In this context, IICA, CORECA, RUTA, GATT and the UNCTAD/ECLAC/UNDP-CAM/90/008 Project joined forces to co-sponsor a worldwide seminar for Central Amer-

ica on trade policies and negotiations for the agricultural sector, held in Antigua, Guatemala, this May 19-22.

The meeting brought together technical personnel from the ministries of agriculture, who discussed and systematized information on trade policies and negotiations in the agricultural sector, and formulated alternative approaches for negotiations under way.

The aim was to strengthen subregional capabilities in the area of negotiations.

High-level specialists spoke on the following: **Basic Principles** -trade and liberalization policy instruments; **Multilateral Commitments** -GATT, codes of conduct for trade and the Uruguay Round; **Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Negotiations** -trade agreements, negotiating strategies and internal organization, criteria for evaluating results; **Experiences in Multilateral Trade Negotiations: Mexico and the Agricultural Sector in NAFTA**, and **Trade Negotiations in Central America** -external framework, ongoing negotiations and integration, and negotiations with third parties.

## SUPPORT FOR ECUADOR

On April 29, IICA and the Ministry of Foreign Relations of Ecuador signed a letter of understanding in Quito, the aim of which is to strengthen public and private sector skills in international trade negotiations.

The document was signed by the Minister of Foreign Relations, Diego Paredes, and the IICA Representative in Ecuador, Alex Barril. Signing as honorary witnesses were Reed Hertford, Deputy Director General of IICA; Rodolfo Quiros, Director of IICA's Trade and Integration Program; and Patricio Izurieta, Undersecretary for International Economic Policy of Ecuador.

The first training activity, for 30 international agricultural trade negotiators, is scheduled for next October. The agreement also calls for the exchange of information and studies on national and international agricultural trade activities; technical cooperation and the organization of seminars and workshops on international agricultural trade; and access to IICA's databases on production and trade worldwide.

## THE ENVIRONMENT

# EC to Apply New Policy Aims to Protect the Environment

Italian legal experts attending a round table entitled «The Maastrich Treaty and the Environment,» held on June 2 at IICA Headquarters, agreed that the environmental policy of the European Community represents a qualitative leap forward in efforts to protect the environment.

Rosalva Alessi, a business specialist; Ezio Capizzano, Director of the Community Institute of Italy; and Pietro Romano, an international law specialist, explained that the new environmental regulations will limit business ownership rights and management in order to protect ecosystems from harmful production practices.

Alessi explained that the state will provide support to farmers who use sustainable methods, and that «the result will be a change from state control to support for production sectors.»

Germany, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, France, Greece, Holland, England, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and Portugal will coexist under a single political and economic system once the Maastrich Treaty -the legal foundation of European monetary and political unity- enters into force.



Photo/R. Escobar

The speakers stated that the free movement of persons, products, capital and services promoted by the EC will improve the standard of living of Europeans. Therefore, every effort must be made to pass on a satisfactory environment to future generations.

In this regard, farmers will be responsible for preserving the natural resource base, with support from the pertinent institutions.

The Italian legal experts were in Costa Rica at the invitation of the Supreme Court, and their talk at IICA was coordinated by the Institute's Program on Organization and Management for Rural Development.

*A satisfactory environment must be passed on to future generations.*

*The speakers pointed out that farmers will be responsible for conserving natural resources.*

## THE CARIBBEAN Livestock Quarantine

In May of this year, experts from 14 Caribbean nations approved a new manual on livestock quarantine procedures.

The specialists endorsed the document during a workshop held in Georgetown, Guyana on May 27-28 of this year, sponsored by IICA's Agricultural Health Program.

The meeting, which received support from the Secretariat

of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), provided veterinarians with training in the detection of exotic pests and diseases, animal inspection and international certification requirements for imports and exports.

According to Sandra Vokaty, IICA animal health specialist in Guyana, the meeting provided an opportunity to identify sanitary requirements for animal products which could become barriers to regional trade.

Participating in the event were veterinarians in charge of animal health in Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Monserrat, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Guyana.



Photo/H. Dowers, Trinidad & Tobago

*The goal is to eradicate exotic diseases that affect livestock ranching in the Caribbean.*



IICA

# Inter-American Board of Agriculture



MEXICO, D.F., 1993

## IABA to Hold Seventh Regular Meeting in Mexico

The Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), IICA's governing body, will hold its Seventh Regular Meeting in Mexico, between September 20-24.

The agenda of the meeting, which will be attended by the Ministers of Agriculture, or their representatives, of the 33 member countries of the Institute, was approved by IICA's Executive Committee. The Committee met at IICA Headquarters from June 21-23, under the chairmanship of Ernesto Enriquez, Undersecretary of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico.

Made up this year of representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the United States of America, the Committee also studied other matters related to the financial and administrative management of the Institute.

The IABA will not only elect a new Director General for the 1994-1998 term, but will also study the guidelines for preparing the plan that will orient the Institute's action between 1994 and 1998.

The Committee approved a total of 28 resolutions on topics to be addressed by the IABA. In addition to those mentioned above, these include the proposed 1994-195 Program Budget, reports on activities carried out by IICA over the last year, a proposal for formalizing relations with the private agricultural sector, and progress reports on

execution of the recommendations issued by the last Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, held in Spain in 1991.

### CHALLENGES

Participating in his last meeting of the Executive Committee as Director

by the member countries, and with external resources provided by cooperation agencies and donor countries.

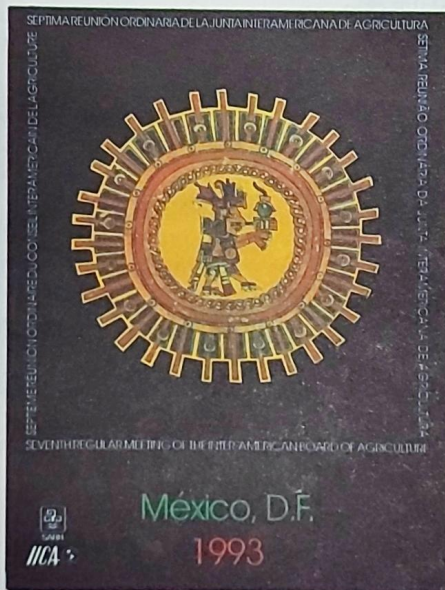
Piñero noted that the delegates' support of this initiative, despite economic difficulties in their countries, reflected the trust of the member countries in the Institute, and the potential of agriculture in generating economic growth.

In a changing international context, he added, characterized by more open trade and economic globalization, the next administration will face the challenge of making further adjustments in IICA, enabling it to meet the changing needs and demands of the countries.

During the last working session of the Committee meeting, delegates focused their attention on the guidelines that will be used in preparing the 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan (MTP).

Roberto Vasquez Platero, of Uruguay, the coordinator of a group of experts who evaluated IICA's actions over the last five years, presented a preview of the group's report, which the next administration will use in preparing the MTP.

In the report it is proposed that IICA assume even greater leadership at the inter-American level in promoting discussion of the problems facing the agricultural sector, and possible solutions.



General, Martin E. Piñero stated that the event had been a success and productive for the Institute; frank discussions had generated a consensus regarding the issues to be addressed by the ministers in Mexico.

He called attention to the proposed Program Budget for 1994-1995, as well as to a 4% increase in the quotas the Member States pay annually. The Institute is funded primarily with resources contributed



# Inter-American Board of Agriculture



MEXICO, D.F., 1993

IICA

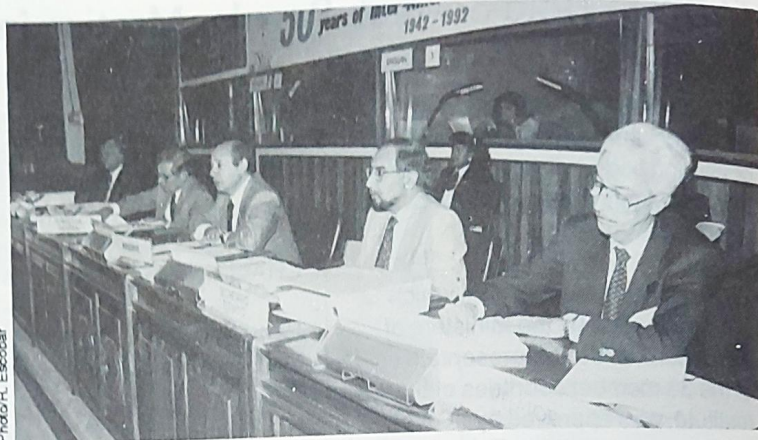
Platero explained that it is not a question of IICA assuming sole responsibility for this task. Rather, the Institute should take the lead in linking the countries with research institutions, educational centers and universities in an effort to take full advantage of the potential of the region.

The report, which will be studied by the IABA, makes recommendations in six areas: strategies, organization, programs, finances, human resources and operations.

Another topic that caught the interest of the delegates was a proposal regarding alternatives for action between IICA and the private agricultural sector.

The topic, which was presented by Manuel Otero, of the Directorate of Programming and Evaluation (DIPROE), was of great interest to the delegates and was included among the issues that should be considered in preparing the new MTP.

Otero explained that IICA's involvement with the private sector has increased in recent years. As an example, he mentioned the incorporation of farmer organizations into



Photo/R. Escobar

*The Undersecretary of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico, Ernesto Enriquez, served as Chairman of the Executive Committee.*

CONASUR - a forum of the ministers of agriculture of the Southern Cone - which is supported by the Institute.

More recently, he added, IICA and several private entities promoted the creation of an Association of Agribusinesses in Central America. As we go to the IABA, he said, it is necessary that we define the limits of our actions with the sector.

**T**he Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is IICA's highest governing body and is made up of the Ministers of Agriculture, or their representatives, of the 33 member countries of the Institute.

It meets regularly every two years, but in special circumstances, may hold special sessions. This body came into existence under the new Convention on IICA, which took effect on December 8, 1980.

Since then, there have been five regular meetings and one special meeting: Buenos Aires, Argentina 1981; Kingston, Jamaica 1983; Montevideo, Uruguay 1985;

## In Brief

Mexico, D.F. 1986 (Special); Ottawa, Canada 1987; San Isidro de Coronado, Costa Rica 1989; and Madrid, Spain 1991.

Its most important responsibilities include the approval of policy guidelines and the biennial Program Budget. It also serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas, information, and experiences related to the improvement of agriculture and rural life.

It is empowered to propose to the General Assembly of the Organization of American States that specialized conferences be held

to discuss technical matters and matters of technical cooperation falling within the purview of the Institute.

The IABA meeting in Mexico will bring together some 150 people, including ministers, ambassadors, representatives of observer countries, funding agencies, cooperation agencies, and government officials.

One of the special activities that will take place as part of the meeting is a round table on the marketing of agricultural commodities between Latin America and the Caribbean and the countries of Eastern Europe and Asia.



IICA

# Inter-American Board of Agriculture



MEXICO, D.F., 1993

## The Site



*Plaza de las Tres Culturas offers a view of the old and the new: the heritage of the Aztecs, the influence of Spain and the challenges of the future.*

**T**he Seventh Regular Meeting of the IABA will be held at the Tlatelolco Conference Center, located across from the Plaza de las Tres Culturas, where modern skyscrapers overlook remnants of pre-Colombian and colonial Mexico.

The Center is located in the heart of Mexico City and is part of the complex of buildings housing the Secretariat of Foreign Relations (SRE).

The huge windows of the hall where the ministers of the hemisphere will meet look out on this beautiful plaza, where old and new come together,

offering visitors an opportunity to see the heritage of the Aztecs, the influence of Spain and the challenges of the future.

The site of countless meetings, the Center offers excellent facilities and a superb staff, coordinated by the Director of Conferences of the SRE, Sylvia Neuman Samuel.

In order to coordinate the meeting of the IABA, Mexico appointed a team made up of Javier Bonilla Castañeda, Director General of International Affairs of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH); Emiliano

Gonzalez, acting Associate Director; and Evangelina Beltran, Deputy Director of Multilateral Affairs of the General Directorate of International Affairs of SARH. IICA is represented by Jose Nagel, Technical Secretary of the IABA.

During the meeting, both teams will direct the work of a battalion of secretaries, editors, word processors, conference room attendants, translators, interpreters, messengers, etc., anonymous heroes and heroines who will help to ensure the success of the IABA.



# Inter-American Board of Agriculture



## IICA Delegates to the Executive Committee Speak Out MEXICO, D.F., 1993

*During its annual meeting, the IICA Executive Committee studied and approved the agenda of the next IABA meeting. Five members of the Committee offered opinions on the importance of the IABA meeting, the challenges facing the agricultural sectors of the region, and the role of IICA in a context characterized by the opening of trade and globalization of the economy.*



Photo/R. Escobar

Hilroy Humphreys

### Antigua and Barbuda

**Rural areas to benefit:** Hilroy Humphreys, delegate from Antigua and Barbuda, explained that the diversification of agricultural production and the sound use of land and water resources are the most important benefits Caribbean farmers have received from IICA's actions. Humphreys, who is the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, underscored the importance of the training and technology transfer activities carried out by the Institute. Also, he commended the decision to include, in the proposed Program Budget the IABA will study, funds for scholarships to be granted to technical personnel and students from the Caribbean.



Photo/R. Escobar

Marcelo Muniagurria

### Argentina

**Current topic:** Marcelo Muniagurria, the delegate from Argentina to the Executive Committee, stated that, given its very specific agenda, the IABA will be able to analyze clearly the agricultural sectors of the region, the problems they face, and the steps to take to ensure that this sector becomes the force behind economic growth. In his judgement, the meeting in Mexico will generate key agreements, such as the definition of a framework for IICA's actions with the private sector, a very current topic, which will make it possible to move forward in areas such as technology generation and transfer, agricultural research and natural resources.



Photo/R. Escobar

Osvaldo Antezana Vaca

### Bolivia

**Institutional strengthening:** The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean understand clearly that the strengthening of cooperation agencies such as IICA will help them to meet new challenges and to take full advantage of opportunities, according to Osvaldo Antezana Vaca, delegate from Bolivia. Antezana, Minister of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs, added that the countries of the region place great trust in the work being carried out by IICA in promoting agricultural development. He also said that the Institute is flexible, adapts to change and displays great maturity, as illustrated by its interest in working with the private sector.



Photo/R. Escobar

John Miranda

### United States of America

**Partners in development:** Looking ahead, the United States has decided to redefine its traditional role of donor, becoming instead a partner in the development of the hemisphere. This opinion was offered by John L. Miranda, United States delegate to the Executive Committee. Miranda, who called the meeting «positive and fruitful,» stated that the coming IABA meeting would provide an opportunity to reinforce regional integration initiatives and, in particular, to support the establishment of trade links between the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean.



Photo/R. Escobar

Ernesto Enriquez

### Mexico

**An opportunity for progress:** According to Ernesto Enriquez, Undersecretary of Agriculture of Mexico, the upcoming IABA meeting will provide an opportunity to make decisions that will enable Latin America and the Caribbean to move forward in modernizing their agricultural sectors and in achieving the objectives of justice, equity and economic growth. Enriquez, who served as Chairman of the Executive Committee, added that this is taking place at a significant moment in the region, when most of the countries are emerging from a period of adjustment and are trying, with the help of institutions such as IICA, to find solutions to problems such as rural poverty and environmental deterioration.

## Action in the Countries

### URUGUAY

## Rural Poverty

8,700 Families affected

According to a study conducted by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), approximately half of the families living on livestock farms in Uruguay live below the poverty line.

The study, prepared by the Center for Programs and Investment Projects (CEPPI), a specialized unit of IICA, also

proposes strategic guidelines for reactivating the economy within the framework of regional integration and opening up to other markets.

Entitled «Uruguay: current situation and outlook for the agricultural sector within the framework of regional integration,» the study reveals that some 8,700 families involved in livestock activities cannot fully satisfy their basic needs.

Farm laborers, smallholders and inhabitants of poor rural settlements are part of the mass of rural poor in this South American nation, where cattle ranching and the cultivation of cereals such as corn, wheat and oats are the main agricultural activities.

According to the study, in 1990 the rural population of Uruguay was estimated at 346,000, of whom 175,000 were classified as economically active.

The Department of Canelones, in the southern part of the country, is home to one fifth of the country's poor rural

families, who do not have appropriate technology for maximizing the output of traditional vegetable farming in the area.

Furthermore, large sectors of the population in the departments of Cerro Largo and Rivera, that border on Brazil, and the area around Tacuarembó, cannot satisfy their basic needs.

Dairy farmers are comparatively better off, since they represent only 7% of all poor farmers in the country.

According to the study, the principal cause of rural poverty «is fewer permanent job opportunities, caused by a decline in small-scale family farming.»

Other factors include the depletion of the agricultural frontier and technological changes that sharply reduce the demand for rural laborers.



Photo/M. Cid, Chile

For the most part, the rural poor are landless farm workers, small farmers and inhabitants of poor rural settlements.

Until 1985, rural poverty, measured by the degree of unsatisfied basic needs, involved some 200,000 people. Poverty was most severe among families where the heads of household were rural laborers (74.5%).

In the study, IICA used the classification criteria of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which establishes that families whose incomes are less than US\$3,200 a year live below the poverty line.

*The Department of Canelones, in southern Uruguay, is home to one fifth of the country's poor rural families.*



## ANDEAN AND SOUTHERN AREAS

# Post-graduate Agricultural Studies

## Research and Education to be Strengthened



Photo: F. Escobar

In an effort to upgrade agricultural research and education, IICA has joined forces with several entities to implement post-graduate programs in the Andean and Southern Areas.

In the Andean countries, IICA and the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (OUI) of Canada are working to establish the Andean Post-graduate Agricultural Studies System (SAPOA).

The SAPOA, a network of public and private Andean institutions of higher education, will offer courses with support from national research institutions.

According to Enrique Alarcon, a specialist with IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, the initiative fills

*The specialization of technical and professional personnel is key to agricultural modernization in the Americas.*

a need for specialization in various areas of the agricultural sciences, adding that «only one in four agricultural professionals has a post-graduate or specialized degree.»

In the Southern Cone, a master's degree program in computerized management of agroindustrial enterprises was inaugurated in April for Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

This new curriculum, which targets the business sector in the Southern Cone, aims to help boost the competitiveness of agricultural trade in the subregion. Some of the

courses to be offered are strategic planning, technology management and management of information sources.

This post-graduate program is being developed jointly by IICA, the Informatics School of Uruguay, and Seragro-Agrotec, an agricultural consulting firm.

## CHILE

# ALACEA Holds Fourth Congress

The Latin American and Caribbean Association of Agricultural Economists (ALACEA) held its fourth congress in Viña de Mar, Chile, from April 21-23. The meeting brought together more than 300 specialists in the field, including agricultural economists from Spain, to discuss the topic «Economic Opening, Competitiveness and Agricultural Sustainability.»

During the meeting, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, spoke on economic and institutional reforms and agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Piñeiro noted that although considerable progress has been made in the region to bring about economic reform, the same cannot be said for institutional reform. In this connection, he indicated

that the private sector should play a more active role.

With regard to competitiveness, panelists and speakers agreed that it will be difficult to become competitive in times of economic opening if protectionist arrangements are still in place with third countries. They agreed that the major benefits of the current strategy of economic opening will be felt when opening is multilateral.

As concerns equity, participants agreed that it is not an economic problem, but rather a political problem concerning income distribution. «As progress is made in eliminating poverty, economic programs will be more likely to succeed and growth with equity will become more possible,» they affirmed.

The participants stated that the issue of sustainability involves solving the ethical problem of «income distribution among generations,» and that it is not a matter of short-term economic efficiency, as previously raised.

During the Congress, Carlos Pomareda, from Peru, was installed as the President of ALACEA for the 1993-1996 term. Pomareda is currently Director of IICA's Program on Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning. The fifth congress of ALACEA will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica in 1996.

## COSTA RICA

# NAFTA Will Not Limit Exports Expert Plays Down Negative Impact

According to Ricardo Krajewski, of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will not affect the export of nontraditional agricultural products from Costa Rica to the United States.

Krajewski made this statement during a seminar entitled «Marketing

Outlook for Nontraditional Products from Costa Rica to the United States,» held on May 27-28 at IICA Headquarters.

According to IICA figures, in 1990 Costa Rica exported US\$244 million in nontraditional agricultural products to the United States.

Krajewski indicated that the outlook for Costa Rica's agricultural

sales, currently valued at about US\$525 million, continues to be encouraging.

The USDA economist stated that the best way for Costa Rica to boost the competitiveness of its nontraditional exports is for exporters and export-promotion institutions to work together.

Representatives of public and private export organizations agreed that, in order to meet the challenges posed by the new economic blocs, it is necessary to develop an «export mentality» in order to foster the provision of comprehensive services to the sector.

## EL SALVADOR

# Agricultural Fair

Several organizations that work to support, promote and modernize the agricultural sector in El Salvador, including IICA, participated in the AGROEXPO '93 fair, held in the capital of that Central American nation from April 23 to May 2.

The exposition, which received support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and the executive committee of El Salvador's International Fair, was the showplace for progress that has been made in areas such as environment, agroindustry and institutional organization.

Set in the international pavilion, IICA's exhibit presented a sampling of its principal publications on the cooperation it has provided over fifty years of institutional life.



President Alfredo Cristiani (center) inaugurated the fair and visited the IICA stand. He is accompanied by the IICA Representative in El Salvador, Mariano Olazabal (left), and the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, Antonio Cabrales.

Mariano Olazabal, IICA Representative in El Salvador, reported that audiovisual materials illustrating the support IICA provides to complement national efforts in

pursuit of agricultural reactivation and modernization were also shown.

Currently, El Salvador generates more trade flow than any other country in the subregion. Its agricultural sector, which accounts for 23% of its gross domestic product (GDP), is one of the most dynamic sectors of the economy.



*Rural Women: At a workshop in Bogota, which brought together representatives of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, IICA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) launched the project «Policies for Women Food Producers.»*

*In the photograph are the Minister of Agriculture of Colombia, Jose Antonio Ocampo (center), the IICA Representative in Colombia, Edgardo Moscardi (left, rear) and Fabiola Campillo (right), IICA specialist in women and rural development.*

#### NORTHEASTERN BRAZIL

### Support for Small Farmers Nine States to Sign Agreements

Nine states in northeastern Brazil will sign agreements with IICA to support small farmers, as part of efforts to modernize agriculture in that country.

The initiative involves the states of Maranhao, Sergipe, Alagoas, Bahia, Rio Grande do Norte, Paraiba, Piaui and Ceara, whose governments will sign individual agreements with IICA for executing the Small-Farmer Support Program (PAPP).

Authorities of the northeastern state of

Pernambuco recently defined with IICA the technical cooperation to be provided under the PAPP.

Maranhao, the second state to sign the agreement, has been provided US\$60 million by the World Bank for executing the program.

These agreements constitute a new form of cooperation under the framework of a general project being carried out since 1983 by IICA and the Superintendency of Development for the Northeast (SUDENE).

The PAPP is funded by the World Bank and will enable rural communities to participate in the planning and execution of specific projects under the program.

Brazil has some 5,834,779 small farmers; those in northeastern Brazil have been suffering the impact of a prolonged drought, which has depressed agricultural activity and forced farmers to overexploit their land.

#### VENEZUELA

### Letter of Understanding

In April of this year, IICA and the Agricultural Credit Fund (FCA) of Venezuela signed a letter of understanding for joining forces in promoting the modernization of agricultural credit and financial institutions.

The agreement provides a framework for the technical cooperation between the two institutions during 1993, which includes execution of a plan of action for restructuring the Agricultural and Livestock Credit Institute (ICAP).

The agreement also calls for the establishment of a center for studies on agricultural financing and competitiveness which, in turn, will operate an inter-institutional network in IICA's member countries aiming to secure loans for agriculture.

## Cooperation with the member countries



### IICA - UNITED STATES

## Partners Over the Years

### 51 Years of Active Cooperation

The United States has played a major role throughout IICA's history. Its contributions were of fundamental importance to the founding of IICA in 1942, and its cooperation has grown over the years, helping the Institute to become a strong voice for inter-American cooperation.

In addition to the financial support provided during these 51 years of cooperation, the United States has also had considerable impact by:

- providing high-level human resources to work as members of the Institute's professional staff;
- adapting the objectives of its cooperation to new demands, in order to complement regional efforts to modernize agriculture and foster rural well-being;
- promoting the exchange of researchers, educators and students with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, giving them the opportunity to experience first hand the challenges of agriculture in the region and to work together in designing proposals to overcome them;
- improving animal and plant health systems, with a view to enabling the region to increase the volume of its agricultural exports, among others.

Over the last seven years, the Institute has established efficient channels of communication with the United States government and its agencies. In this effort, the IICA

Office in Washington has played a key role in forging closer ties between IICA and authorities in the United States.

Through these efforts, ties have been strengthened with the United States Congress, the Departments of State and of Agriculture, and nongovernmental organizations such as universities, private-sector agencies and foundations (**see separate article**).

The Institute has worked closely with key members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate who hold important positions on committees that authorize and allocate funds for agricultural development and for related international agencies.

The Institute has participated actively in several meetings of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development and Economic Cooperation (BIFADEC), an agency of USAID, and strengthened ties with the Office for International Organizations and the Permanent Mission of the United States to the OAS.

Equally fruitful relations have been established with the Agency for International Development (AID). The Institute has worked with the AID offices in Central America and the Eastern Caribbean on initiatives to help coffee and cacao growers in Central America, and fruit growers in the Caribbean (**see separate articles**).

Special mention must be made of work carried out with the Department

of Agriculture (USDA) and its agencies, especially in executing actions to modernize animal and plant health systems in Latin America and the Caribbean (**see separate article**).

The USDA has provided the Institute with numerous opportunities for joint efforts, through its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS); the Forest Service; the Agricultural Marketing Service; the Economic Research Service; the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Science and Education; and the Office for International Cooperation and Development (OICD). The Institute has also worked with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The IICA Office in Washington, D.C. also works closely with the Organization of American States (OAS), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank.

*The Office in Washington, D.C. has played a key role in forging closer ties between IICA and authorities in the United States.*



USDA - IICA

## Joint Action

### Plant and Animal Health Systems

As the key trading partner of Latin America and the Caribbean, the United States is supporting IICA in the execution of an ambitious project aimed at improving animal and plant health systems in the region.

The principal objective of the project is to harmonize legislation and sanitary requirements throughout the Americas, with a view to facilitating the access of regional commodities to third markets.

The work being carried out by IICA, through its Agricultural Health Program and with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), focuses on protecting crops and livestock from exotic pests and diseases and providing information on this topic.

The hemisphere-wide project «Modernization of Quarantine Information Systems for Expanding Agricultural Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean» has played a major role in generating information needed to develop the agricultural sector.

A pillar of this initiative is the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network (CARAPHIN), created within the framework of cooperation between IICA and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The objective of this network, which began operations in 1988, is to provide 14 countries in the region with information on animal and plant diseases and sanitary restrictions that affect trade.



One product of this network is HandiSTATUS, a database serving more than 100 countries worldwide. Given its interest in filling a void in agricultural health data, the USDA will provide funding over the next two years for this worldwide inventory of animal diseases.

IICA and the USDA have also worked together in eradicating pests and diseases. Specifically, they have implemented projects to eradicate Mediterranean and other fruit flies in Central America and the Caribbean. They are also studying a possible action to prevent the introduction of and to contain exotic diseases.

The USDA, through its Animal Health and Plant Inspection Service (APHIS), has supported the governments of Suriname and Guyana in combatting the carambola fly.

In the Caribbean, both institutions are carrying out preliminary studies to eradicate the *Amblyomma variegatum* tick, which affects livestock herds in this subregion.

Training is another area in which joint efforts have been carried out, by sponsoring seminars on regulations and pesticide tolerance levels for agricultural exports, aimed at technical personnel, farmers and exporters.

As a complement to this effort, the USDA has supported the preparation and dissemination of manuals, such as «Instructions for Fruit Fly Trappers. A Manual of Techniques Used for the 1986-1987 Surveys in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.»

In addition to its joint actions with the USDA, the Hemispheric Project carries out actions in Latin America and the Caribbean related to the modernization of quarantine systems. Such actions include seminars, workshops and the preparation of manuals for livestock quarantine personnel.

It is also working on the design of an easily used and understood computer system which will contain information on quarantine procedures, plant and animal health laws, agrichemicals and biological products and other topics, as part of a strategy to update agricultural health systems.

*Through joint actions, crops and herds are protected from exotic pests and diseases.*



IICA-ROCAP

## PROMECAFE and PROCACAO

### Two successful experiences

With financial support from the Regional Office for Central American Programs (ROCAP), of USAID, IICA has been successful in implementing two initiatives aimed at bringing technology to small- and medium-scale coffee and cacao growers in Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic.

Since 1978, the Regional Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation (PROMECAFE) has been promoting agricultural research and the strengthening of activities intended to introduce modern methods into an economic activity of great importance to the subregion.

Already suffering from depressed international prices, coffee cultivation in the subregion has been hurt by the presence of pests and diseases such as the coffee berry borer and coffee rust, which threaten some 1.3 million hectares. Both represent a major threat to this activity, which employs some 1.13 million people on a permanent basis, and another 4.5 million on a temporary basis.

In response to this situation, PROMECAFE promotes the use of low-cost technologies that will enable growers to make it through these bad times and to ensure that their crops remain profitable. In the 15 years since it was founded, the program has reported numerous achievements.

These include the development of three rust-resistant varieties of coffee; the generation of technology to control the berry borer; the dissemination of technology generated and validated by 600 working groups operating in Guate-

mala, Honduras and El Salvador; the training of 500 growers in workshops, courses, seminars, congresses and study trips; and the establishment of the REDCAFE database, which contains more than 13,000 bibliographic references on coffee. Training activities have also



included efforts to prepare trade negotiators, and the periodic distribution of information on international negotiations. Such activities have benefited more than 500,000 small- and medium-scale coffee growers, agricultural laborers, coffee researchers and government officials.

A more recent initiative, the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO), enjoyed much the same success as PROMECAFE. The network, which covered Central America and the Dominican Republic, began operations in 1987 and concluded in 1992. During that period, the network laid the groundwork for relaunching cacao as one of

the most ecologically sustainable crops for the humid tropics. It is hoped that in the future the work carried out by the network will lead to increased production and income for small- and medium-scale producers.

In five years of work, PROCACAO improved the quality of and access to research findings on cacao in Central America and the Dominican Republic. Activities were carried out jointly by IICA, the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), the Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation (FHIA) and the member countries of the network. Also, agreements were signed with the Hersheys Foods Corporation and the Pan American

*PROCACAO laid the groundwork for relaunching cacao as one of the most ecologically sustainable crops for the humid tropics.*

Development Foundation (PADF), with a view to conducting research on post-harvest handling and institutional development, respectively.

In the area of research, cultivars were improved in order to increase productivity and to increase resistance to disease. At the national level, advisory groups were set up to provide support in coordinating the activities of the network in each country. These groups also played a key role in organizing the relaunching of the crop in each country.



**IICA, UNIVERSITIES AND FOUNDATIONS**

## A concerted effort

### Working together to achieve agricultural modernization

Several universities and foundations in the United States, whose goals include promoting agricultural modernization and rural well-being in Latin America and the Caribbean, have worked with IICA in achieving these objectives.

These include the universities of Cornell, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Maryland, North Carolina and Kansas, and the Midwestern Universities Consortium for International Activities (MUCIA), as well as the Kellogg Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Graduate School of the United

States. This cooperation goes back to the 1950s, when several countries of the region were implementing agrarian reform programs.

As the years passed, the objectives of cooperation were adjusted to reflect new needs. As a result, today they are in accord with efforts to ensure the equitable and sustainable modernization of agriculture.

Through agreements, contracts and letters of understanding, actions have been carried out in connection with research on rural development policies, the modernization of animal health systems, the training of

economic globalization and growing concerns over the environment and natural resources, the University of Vermont plans to support IICA in studying the relationship between free trade and the sustainability of agriculture. Under an agreement signed in 1992, this university will also work with the Institute in coordinating courses and seminars intended to strengthen technology generation and transfer projects.

These universities and foundations have also provided financial support that has made it possible to publish various works on current topics in agriculture. Two of these are: «Bancos Genéticos y Alimentación Mundial,» based on research conducted at Princeton University, and «Sistemas Agroforestales: Principios y Aplicaciones en los Trópicos.»

In an effort to gain first-hand knowledge about agriculture in this region, researchers, educators and students from the United States have participated in exchange programs in several countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

For example, a group of students from the United States participated in a program in Brazil in which they worked with the Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR).

Also, students from Latin America and the Caribbean have had the opportunity to earn master's and doctorate degrees in the United States, under a program carried out with the Graduate School of the USDA.



Photo A. Izurieta, Ecuador

*Through agreements, contracts and letters of understanding, actions have been carried out in many areas.*

States Department of Agriculture (GS/USDA).

Even though efforts have intensified in the last seven years, this cooper-

ation goes back to the 1950s, when several countries of the region were implementing agrarian reform programs.

As an example, given the current world situation, characterized by

# PUBLICATIONS

## LIBRE COMERCIO, INTEGRACION Y AGRICULTURA EN CENTROAMERICA

CARLOS POMAREDA, RAFAEL TREJOS  
AND JUAN M. VILLASUSO (COMPILERS)



In this book, IICA, the Association of Economic and Social Research Institutes of the Caribbean Basin (IESCARIBE) and the Federation of Private Entities of Central America and Panama (FEDEPRICAP) present the issue of integration from a viewpoint that calls for complementarity and solidarity to overcome the challenges of economic opening.

The book, in Spanish, is published as part of IICA's research and development collection. It compiles the views of 24 Latin American professionals on the nature of economic opening in the isthmus and its impact on the agricultural-agroindustrial complex.

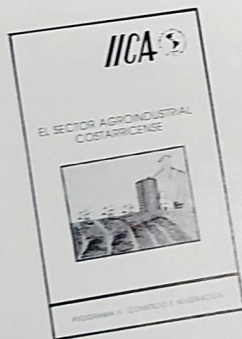
The articles are based on discussions held during an international workshop in 1991 on free trade initiatives and the agri-food sector in Central America.

They review the progress of the integration movement in light of world trends, such as economic globalization and the formation of economic blocs.

The publication recognizes the growing importance of the merging of markets, which, it claims, represents opportunities and challenges for improving social and economic conditions for the people of Central America.

## EL SECTOR AGROINDUSTRIAL COSTARRICENSE

PABLO ARAYA AND JORGE TORRES



The authors present a comprehensive view of the agroindustrial sector and its links to other production groups, filling an information gap existing in this Central American country.

The document, published in Spanish by IICA's Trade and Integration Program, reviews the operations of organizations that support, provide services to and monitor agroindustrial activities.

It also traces the evolution of this sector, together with other sectors of the economy, from 1980 to 1990. During this period, a period of crisis (1980-1982) and a cycle of sustained and fluctuating growth (1983-1990) are identified.

The authors describe the prevailing economic environment and the implications of economic policies for agriculture and agroindustry.

The publication also discusses the organizational framework of agroindustrial enterprises, the leadership role of participating institutions and articulation among enterprises.

## TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR AGROBIOLOGICAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM II: TECHNOLOGY  
GENERATION AND TRANSFER



This document was prepared by IICA's Program II, in an effort to help the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean enhance their

capabilities to generate and transfer technology. It provides guidelines for directors of research and other decision-makers and also describes the personnel, equipment and facilities needed to establish services and techniques for the new biotechnologies.

The document was based on a study conducted by R.G. Downer, E.B. Dumborf, B.R. Glick and J.J. Pasternak, of the Biology Department at the University of Waterloo, Canada.

Within the framework of Program II's project on strategic planning and new technological options, IICA explores the potential of agrobiotechnologies in Latin America, taking into account the natural wealth of the countries of the region.

*Publications may  
be acquired at  
IICA Headquarters  
or in the IICA  
Offices in the  
member countries.*



## Argentina, Central America, Venezuela

### Recomiendan técnicos Banca privada debe atender agricultura

El presidente de la Comisión de Estudios de la Banca Privada, Juan Carlos Rodríguez Cordero, recomendó que el Banco Central (BC) y el Banco de la Nación (BN) atiendan a la agricultura. En un informe presentado al Comité de la Banca Privada, el presidente de la Comisión de Estudios de la Banca Privada, Juan Carlos Rodríguez Cordero, recomendó que el Banco Central (BC) y el Banco de la Nación (BN) atiendan a la agricultura. En un informe presentado al Comité de la Banca Privada, el presidente de la Comisión de Estudios de la Banca Privada, Juan Carlos Rodríguez Cordero, recomendó que el Banco Central (BC) y el Banco de la Nación (BN) atiendan a la agricultura.

The World Symposium on the provision of agricultural services, which brought together 125 people from four continents in May, was covered by journalists in Latin America and the Caribbean and international news agencies.

During the meeting, the participants called on the public and private sectors to work together in providing such services, and focused on the need to ensure that the process of reducing the state is carried out slowly and in a balanced manner.

The participants also concluded that a modern, flexible and efficient public sector is a necessary complement to the efforts of private enterprise.

(**Argentina:** Ambito Financiero, **Costa Rica:** The Tico Times, La Nacion, **Venezuela:** El Globo, **Dominican Republic:** Listin Diario, Agence France Presse **AFP, Notimex,** Inter Press Service **IPS**)

## Panama, El Salvador, Jamaica, Brazil

### IICA organiza concurso sobre medio ambiente

El Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA) organiza un concurso sobre medio ambiente. El concurso se realizará en el marco del Año 21 de la Agricultura y el Medio Ambiente. El concurso tiene como objetivo promover la conciencia ambiental y la sostenibilidad en el sector agrícola. El concurso se realizará en el marco del Año 21 de la Agricultura y el Medio Ambiente. El concurso tiene como objetivo promover la conciencia ambiental y la sostenibilidad en el sector agrícola.

News items on the 1993 Inter-American Press Award, whose theme is «Environment. Development and Agriculture, in the Framework of Agenda 21,» appeared in the written press in Panama, the Caribbean, Brazil and Paraguay.

July 23, 1993, is the deadline for the receipt of entries in the contest, which seeks to foster the use of social communications to analyze and reflect on sustainable development. Entries must be submitted to the IICA Offices in the countries.

Prizes will be awarded in two categories: daily newspapers and international press agencies; and weekly magazines. In each category, a first prize of US\$4,000, a second prize of US\$2,000 and a third prize of US\$1,000 will be awarded. (**Brazil:** Correio Braziliense, **Panama:** La Prensa, **Ecuador:** El Mercurio, **Jamaica:** The

Agriculturalist, **Paraguay:** Hoy)

## Argentina, Uruguay

### Seminario el 21, 22 en Piriapolis Promueven inversión frutihortícola

El Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA) organiza un seminario sobre inversión frutihortícola. El seminario se realizará en el marco del Año 21 de la Agricultura y el Medio Ambiente. El seminario tiene como objetivo promover la inversión en el sector frutihortícola. El seminario se realizará en el marco del Año 21 de la Agricultura y el Medio Ambiente. El seminario tiene como objetivo promover la inversión en el sector frutihortícola.

Newspapers in Argentina and Uruguay reported on a seminar dealing with the promotion of joint ventures in fruit and vegetable growing, aimed at entrepreneurs in the Southern Area.

The meeting, held in Piriapolis, Uruguay,

brought together exporters of nontraditional products and representatives of the public and private sectors, who studied progress made in terms of integrating and opening up trade among Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The meeting, coordinated by the IICA project «Supporting Agricultural Trade and Integration in the Countries of the Southern Area,» focused on identifying legal and economic barriers to the execution of joint ventures.

It also provided an opportunity to identify products that show the greatest potential for joint ventures.

(**Argentina:** La Nacion, **Uruguay:** El Observador, El Dia)

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

\* **International Symposium** for Journalists: «Agenda 21: A New Model for Development.» July 26-28, 1993, San Jose, Costa Rica. Organized by IDB, IFAD, OAS, Earth Council and IICA.

\* **International Seminar** «Communications Strategy for Rural Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.» July 29-31, 1993, San Jose, Costa Rica. Organized by IICA, IFAD and UNIFEM.

• **Seminar** «New Regulations and Tolerance Levels for Pesticide Residues in Agricultural Exports.» August 11-13, 1993, Quito, Ecuador. Organized by IICA, AID and PROEXANT.

July - November 1993, Year X, No. 55



The conference center of Mexico's Secretariat of Foreign Affairs (SRE) was the setting for the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). During the inauguration, from right to left, Ira D'Auvergne, Minister of Agriculture of Saint Lucia and outgoing Chairman of the IABA; Martín E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; Carlos Hank Gonzalez, Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) of Mexico and Chairman of the IABA; speaking, Patrocinio Gonzalez Blanco-Garrido, Secretary of the Interior and representative of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari; João Baena Soares, Secretary General of the OAS; Andres Rozental, Under Secretary "A" of the SRE; and Ernesto Enriquez Rubio, Under Secretary of the SARH.

## ■ IABA IN MEXICO

### Agriculture Approaches the New Century

### Ministers Endorse Springboards of Modernization

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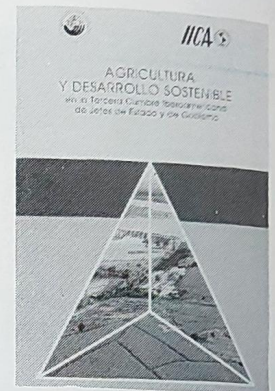
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## NEWS

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News magazine on activities of the  
Inter-American Institute for Co-  
operation on Agriculture, IICA.  
Published bi-monthly, in separate  
Spanish, English and France edi-  
tions, by IICA's Communications  
Division, Public Information Unit.  
Address: Apdo 55-2200 Coronado,  
San José, Costa Rica. Cable: IICA  
San Jose. Telex: 2144 IICA.  
Fax: 294741. Telephone: 290222.  
Editor in Chief: Patricia Leon.  
Editors: Mishelle Mitchell and  
Danilo Jiménez. English transla-  
tion and editing: Elizabeth Lewis  
and Susana Raine. Director of  
External Relations: Jorge Werthein.

The Inter-American Institute for  
Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)  
is headquartered in San Jose, Cos-  
ta 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 33 Member States and 16  
Permanent Observers.

MEXICO

## Agriculture Approaches the New Century Ministers Endorse Springboards of Modernization



*The most significant outcome of the hemispheric meeting was its confirmation that agricultural modernization in the region should be firmly established on the cornerstones of competitiveness, equity and sustainability.*

**M**exico City was the backdrop for the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), which took place from September 19 to 23 and was attended by delegations from 33 member nations, including 22 ministers of agriculture.

The participants strongly reaffirmed that the process of modernizing agriculture in the region should be built on a foundation of competitiveness, equity and sustainability. The delegations also elected a new Director General to guide the destiny of IICA over the next four years, and approved resolutions on the administrative and financial management of the Institute.

The Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico, Carlos Hank González, was unanimously elected to chair the meeting, which was also attended by representatives of observer

countries from other continents and delegates of 17 international organizations.

The inaugural ceremony on Monday, September 20 provided an opportunity to hear from a number of notables in the region's agriculture. They shared their thoughts on the challenges and opportunities facing the sector in the final countdown to the new century. They also expressed their admiration of the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, for his steady leadership during eight years at the helm of the Institute, and urged the countries to redouble their efforts to consolidate the process of modernizing agriculture in the region.

Patrocinio Gonzalez-Blanco, Secretary of the Interior of Mexico and personal representative of President Salinas, stressed that the countries of the inter-American system were facing major challenges that necessitated their

participation in forums such as this one, to share their ideas and engage in discussion. The challenges ahead, he noted, included addressing the areas in which agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean had fallen behind, and seeking access for the region's economies to the revolution of scientific knowledge and to the world's great food markets.

The outgoing Chairman of the IABA and Minister of Agriculture of St. Lucia, Ira D'Auvergne, praised IICA for its determination to promote a new agriculture, modern and dynamically harnessed to other sectors of the economy; and for the personal dedication the Director General had brought to this task.

His views were shared by the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), João Clemente Baena Soares, who stated that the presence of Piñeiro "has been of fundamental importance in

renewing the Institute's effectiveness and vitality."

Under his sure, dynamic leadership, added the Secretary General, the Institute's activities had focused on lines of action holding high priority for the Member States, and IICA had thus been able to lend them better services.

Piñeiro then took the floor to offer an analysis of the situation facing agriculture throughout the hemisphere, and described what the Institute had done to respond to the transformations brought about by the end of the Cold War.

He went on to summarize IICA's work to promote a modern agricultural sector based on the foundations of competitiveness, equity and sustainability, and stressed the need to balance economic growth objectives with goals for environmental protection and natural resource management.

The work of the meeting formally began upon conclusion of the

inaugural ceremony. Delegates examined and approved agenda items on the Institute's administrative management and elected a new Director General (**see separate story**).

The Secretary General of the OAS then opened a challenging discussion, which produced guidelines for IICA to follow in developing its medium-term plan for 1994-1998. The assembly also approved the budget for the 1994-1995 biennium (**see separate story**).

Following a field trip on Wednesday, September 22, the meeting entered its final phase on Thursday, when Secretary Hank summed up the progress made so far and identified challenges ahead for the Institute's work: to proceed with technical cooperation activities in high-priority areas as defined by the countries, and to help find solutions to the problems of social backwardness and poverty in rural areas.

"The humanistic tradition in the countries of the Americas, and their

will for freedom and democracy are the best possible underpinnings for the work of the Institute, because they will guide its actions," he stressed.

Finally, he thanked the Board for having given his country the opportunity to host a meeting whose achievements would help bring "better living conditions for our peoples."

The agreements reached in the IABA clearly revealed the Board's important role as a forum for ideas and strategic decisions that will hasten agricultural development in a framework of harmony and social justice.

The IABA will meet again in Bolivia in 1995 to inspect the results of the agreements made in Mexico for the benefit of agriculture and rural well-being in the nations of Latin America and the Caribbean.

## IABA

### Highlights

- \* Dominican Republic's Carlos Aquino elected Director General
- \* Ministers criticize protectionism
- \* Consensus on guidelines for MTP
- \* Program Budget approved

**C**arlos Aquino Gonzalez, from the Dominican Republic, was elected by the IABA to serve as Director General of IICA for the 1994-1998 term.

The election of the Dominican agronomist, who majored in agricultural economics at Texas A&M University, stood out as one of the most far-reaching decisions made in Mexico this past September.

On October 11, in a meeting with IICA Headquarters staff, Aquino noted that the Institute enjoyed high prestige and recognition throughout the hemisphere and even beyond.

He explained that work was already in progress to prepare a plan of Institute action for the upcoming five years, and lauded the achievements of the present administration, particularly the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, who, he added, had given a stamp of quality which had earned IICA its fine reputation throughout the region.

"It will not be easy," noted Aquino, "to succeed such a talented person. But I look forward to this challenge and this opportunity. In the new administration, we shall attempt to build on the solid foundations set in place by the Piñeiro administration."

The Director General-elect is 56 years old and has garnered considerable professional, business and managerial experience, both in the public sector of agriculture and in the private realm. He served as his country's minister of agriculture from 1973 to 1975, and stayed on as agricultural advisor to the president from 1975 to 1976. Since 1978, he has held various positions with private producer associations and has sat on boards of directors for private banks.

He currently presides over the advisory council of the Foundation for the Development of Rural Youth



Following his election as Director General of IICA for the 1994-1998 term, Dominican Carlos Aquino Gonzalez receives the congratulations of Martin E. Piñero.

(FUNDEJUR), which he helped found in 1979. He is also president of the Loyola Educational Foundation. He exercises leadership in a number of professional organizations in the Dominican Republic and has chaired the Ibero-American Rural Youth Advisory Council since 1985.

He has been called upon to represent his country at many meetings in this hemisphere and in Europe, and has performed consulting services in various countries of the region. He has been a guest speaker in forums both at home and abroad, and has coordinated seminars and technical courses inside and outside his country.

Agriculture is the common thread in publications by the Director General-elect, who has earned awards and distinctions for his service to the sector.

The Seventh Regular Meeting of the IABA, IICA's highest governing body, marked the first step in a process of

transition for this specialized agency of the inter-American system.

## A HEMISPHERE-WIDE DIALOGUE

During the course of the meeting, the Secretary General of the organization of American States (OAS), João Clemente Baena Soares, mediated a discussion in which the delegations of the 33 Member States explored strategic guidelines for the Medium-Term Plan that will guide IICA's action from 1994 through 1998.

In introducing the discussion topic, "Thoughts on the Americas in the 1990s," Ambassador Soares left no doubt that the consolidation of democracy in the hemisphere would depend largely on efforts made by the countries to achieve economic growth, stop the spread of poverty and do away with inequalities.

In his view, any progress in this direction would depend on whether agriculture was given the strategic role it deserved. Thus, he called on sectoral authorities from the region's countries to strengthen IICA so it

might continue its efforts toward modernizing rural activities, integrating the region and the subregions, and above all, improving living conditions and well-being for rural farming populations.

Many of the ministers of agriculture present in the meeting took the floor after listening to the comments by

*The Director General-elect is 56 years old and has garnered considerable professional, business and managerial experience, both in the public sector of agriculture and in the private realm.*

the Secretary General of the OAS, and leveled harsh criticism against protectionist policies set in place by developed countries. Such policies, claimed the ministers, stood in stark contrast to efforts made by the countries of the region to open their own markets and liberalize trade.

The industrialized nations, stated the speakers, had failed to respond. Instead, discriminatory practices and other obstacles continued to abound.

*"Consolidation of democracy in the hemisphere would depend largely on efforts made by the countries to achieve economic growth, stop the spread of poverty and do away with inequalities."*

*João Baena Soares*

The delegations from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile and Uruguay denounced the "spurious rhetoric" of the industrialized nations, which on the one hand proclaimed openness, but on the other, imposed restrictions on free trade. They also expressed their concern about the uncertain future of the Uruguay Round of GATT, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

The Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico and Chairman of the IABA, Carlos Hank, spoke at some length about GATT, stating, "we have witnessed the disagreements and watched with skepticism and concern as the accords fall behind schedule and the discussions bog down."

He claimed that, in all fairness, the developed countries should acknowledge and appreciate the high costs borne by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in carrying out adjustment processes, opening their markets, and undertaking the titanic task of putting their economies in order. "We have more than paid with our efforts, and now it is time for the more advanced countries to weigh the facts and understand the value of what we have done," he stressed.

With these arguments as his point of departure, Hank then proclaimed that it was time to define new rules for agricultural trade and, at the same time, establish trade and integration mechanisms that could guarantee a better future.

The agricultural sector authorities from the countries generally agreed that IICA should serve as a forum for analyzing these all-important issues. The Institute could nurture regional opportunities for analysis and discussion, and support efforts to strike joint positions in international forums.

The participants engaged in a very productive discussion of the directions along which the sector should develop in the closing years of the millennium, which Professor Hank described as a "cascade of creative ideas" to be reflected in IICA's new Medium Term Plan. The assembly also strongly reaffirmed that the region's agriculture should be modernized on the basis of competitiveness, equity and sustainability.

The ministers urged IICA to intensify its efforts toward achieving competitiveness, which they held up as essential if the region was to assert itself in the dynamic, increasingly demanding world of international trade. They asked IICA to continue helping its Member States build a new technological foundation and develop a new profile of human resources.

In view of present environmental degradation and the conviction that the greatest comparative advantage held by countries of the New World was their natural resource base, the delegates underscored the pressing task of



*Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico, Carlos Hank Gonzalez, was designated by his colleagues to preside over the meeting of the IABA.*

promoting production models that respected the environment and ensured well-being for present and future generations.

Faced with the problem of rural poverty in the lives of one third of the 460 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean, the ministers stated that the quest for competitiveness and sustainability should go hand-in-hand with efforts to achieve equity. Small-scale producers and campesino farmers should receive full support, they insisted.

The sector's highest authorities in the hemisphere again discovered their basic consensus when they discussed the Institute's ability to face the challenges of the end of the century. The delegates stressed that IICA should place top priority on technical cooperation activities in the areas of technology development, trade and integration, plant and animal health, work with the private sector, and human resource development. Moreover, the Institute should further strengthen its ability, acquired in recent years, to adjust to a dynamic, changing environment.

Felix Cirio, the delegate from Argentina, stated his view that the outgoing Píñeiro administration would leave behind an IICA well positioned to meet the needs of the countries and the region. "In recent meetings of the ministers of agriculture," he noted, "IICA received very specific mandates which made it possible to correctly interpret circumstances and thus anticipate changes."

## BUDGET

Another important outcome of the IABA meeting was the approval of the 1994-1995 Program Budget, IICA's guide for allocating human and financial resources.

*The Ministers underscored the importance of promoting production models that respected the environment and ensured well-being for present and future generations.*

The total budget for the upcoming biennium, nearly US\$60 million, will cover the implementation of a portfolio of 130 projects designed primarily to encourage and support agricultural development.

The summit meeting of ministers of agriculture also provided a backdrop for bestowing a number of awards.

The Inter-American Press Award made its debut in 1993, with first prizes going to Adriana Silveira of Brazil,

in the "Newspapers" category, and Darwin Juarez of Nicaragua, in the category of weekly magazines.

Peruvian researcher Carlos Ochoa Nieves was awarded the Inter-American Agricultural Medal in recognition of his work on potato genetics and taxonomy. The Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Peru, Rodolfo Masuda, stated that this award was a meaningful incentive for researchers in his Andean nation to continue their work to benefit all of humankind.



*The ministers leveled harsh criticism against protectionist policies practiced by developed countries.*



## Martin E. Piñeiro

### IICA Stands Ready to Support the Countries

The Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Martin E. Piñeiro, told the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) of his conviction that IICA "has fulfilled its mission and stands ready to help the member countries succeed in the 1990s, a

region had undergone due to the processes of democratization, trade opening and a renewed push toward integration.

In line with the political mandate of its governing bodies, he added, IICA "has kept abreast of and often anticipated the changes, showing strategic

Integration (Program IV), and Agricultural Health (Program V).

IICA concentrates its efforts by funneling available resources into a limited number of subject areas, and thus strives for greater impact and more appropriate use of the Institute's resources.

In 1991, IICA received a mandate from Madrid to pay more attention to the issues of competitiveness, equity and sustainability. This called for several changes to cut across traditional program approaches and actions.

As an example, the emphasis on competitiveness embraces policy design for the agri-food sector through Program I, technological innovation based on Program II, the incorporation of small-scale producers into agricultural modernization processes through Program III, and the promotion of trade and removal of plant and animal health barriers, through Programs IV and V.

The same mechanism was also used for the two other focal points, sustainability and equity. After a little more than a year of working with this new approach, the necessary conceptual groundwork is in place for all three areas, and technical cooperation activities have begun in the countries.

Today IICA has an ensemble of activities that strike a careful balance among hemispheric, regional and national projects. Thus, it is well equipped to respect the many priorities of Member State governments, as expressed in hemispheric meetings, area encounters that set the pace for subregional integration, and finally, bilateral discussions between the IICA Representatives and national authorities in each country.

The Institute's portfolio presently contains a total of 122 projects, of which 18 are of hemispheric scope, 26 are multinational or subregional, and 78 are national.



The IABA granted Martin E. Piñeiro title of Director Emeritus of IICA. He is shown receiving congratulations from the IABA chairman. With him are the Director General-elect, Carlos Aquino Gonzalez, and IICA's Deputy Director General, Reed Hertford.

decade ripe with challenges and opportunities."

Piñeiro, who has led IICA since 1986, was to provide the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere's countries with a sum-up of the past two years' activities. However, because this was to be his final report, he broadened the scope of his message to cover the work of his entire mandate.

The agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, he stated, had not been immune from the profound economic and political transformations of the past decade. These changes were part of the worldwide process of opening that had occurred following the end of the Cold War, as well as the extraordinary transformations the

foresight and an ability to adapt to new circumstances." As examples, he cited the political mandates that emerged from the meetings in Ottawa (1987) and Madrid (1991), as well as the implementation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

#### CONCENTRATION OF EFFORTS

Since 1987, the Institute has focused its work on five areas, distributed among five programs: Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning (Program I), Technology Generation and Transfer (Program II), Organization and Management for Rural Development (Program III), Trade and

## HUMAN AND FINANCIAL RESOURCES

The Institute has pursued a policy of reducing its international staff so it can become more flexible and responsive in meeting the growing demands for technical cooperation. By the 1994-95 period, IICA will have 133 international professionals on staff. This cutback has been offset by making more use of local professionals and consultants.

The emphasis continues to be on maintaining high levels of excellence, reducing the average age of the staff, increasing the percentage of women, and seeking a balance among nationalities.

One of IICA's most significant achievements has been the growing influx of external resources. From 1987 to 1992, external resources surged by 252 percent. In 1993, through the month of September, US\$73.8 million in external resources had been programmed. Of the total budget approved for 1994, 70 percent comes from resources transferred by the countries themselves, while the remaining 30 percent is from multilateral or bilateral organizations.

These figures take on added significance in light of the stagnation of international aid flows and increased competition among cooperation agencies for obtaining these resources.

## INTER-INSTITUTIONAL RELATIONS

One of the essential thrusts of IICA's strategy over the past eight years has been to intensify its relations with other institutions, as evidenced by the considerable increase in the number of legal instruments signed (168 in 1992) and cooperation activities covered by these agreements.

IICA has also improved its relations with funding agencies. The most important development is its stronger ties with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and

the steps toward new relations with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). From 1990 to 1992, the Institute conducted 17 joint activities with these agencies—seven with IFAD and 10 with the IDB. Other IDB activities have focused on women food producers, the restructuring of rural development projects, and the identification of environmental-impact indicators.

The Institute has forged closer ties with other organizations as well, including the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), and the Latin American Association of Development Finance Institutions (ALIDE). In cooperation with the World Bank, IICA helped hold a world seminar on experiences in providing services to agriculture, attended by 56 countries.

IICA also strove to work more closely with academic institutions, signing 15 agreements with universities in the United States and Canada.

The outlook is very good for cooperating with several regional United Nations agencies and for

acquiring valuable experience through joint activities.

## PRIORITIES FOR THE REST OF THE DECADE

In presenting his report to the IABA, the Director General also outlined a few items that would require the attention of the countries and IICA during the remainder of this decade. He stressed reform of the public sector to make it more efficient and more closely focused on the needs of society; the coordination and mobilization of private-sector organizations; agroindustrial development as a means to increase the added value of agricultural output and to gain access to new market niches; and the application of biotechnology to agricultural production.

"All this," concluded Piñeiro, "will require human and financial resources if we are to meet the needs and challenges of agriculture in our countries. The skill and dedication of all IICA staff members, and the continued political and financial support of the member countries, are essential elements for strengthening the Institute and ensuring its success in the future."



At a press conference, IABA Chairman Carlos Hank Gonzalez explained the scope of the meeting. He is shown here with Director General Martin E. Piñeiro and the Director General-elect, Carlos Aquino Gonzalez.

## Agriculture and Sustainability

For agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Third Ibero-American Summit was a true milestone. Presidents and heads of state recognized the strategic contribution of the sector "for overcoming hunger and poverty," and stated this position in their final document.

Thus, in the Bahia Declaration, the most important result of this meeting held from July 14 to 16 in Bahia, Brazil, top governing authorities put out a call to intensify international cooperation in the field of agriculture, through programs that might include financial resources, technology transfer, and trade liberalization measures for agricultural products.

The Declaration proposes a program with an emphasis on social measures to bring about development. It reaffirms confidence in cooperation among countries and identifies common themes for joint action.

At the meeting, IICA was represented by the Director General, Martin E. Piñero, and the Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein.

For IICA, it was particularly gratifying to see the presidents and heads of state include agriculture and sustainable development in their deliberations and include this as one of the imperatives for cooperation in the region. It was the successful



Presidents and heads of state endorsed the proposal on agriculture and sustainable development prepared by IICA.

culmination of considerable advance work.

In preparation for the event, the Institute had held an international meeting at its headquarters from June 24 to 25. It had worked closely with the Earth Council in preparing a document that the president of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderon, would place before the chief executives at their meeting in Brazil.

The authorities not only backed the proposal, but

*Agriculture and sustainable development were included among the imperatives for cooperation in the region.*

also acknowledged the Institute's efforts to make sustainable agriculture a reality based on a sense of

\* reduce poverty levels that affect six out of every ten rural dwellers

shared responsibility between developed countries and developing countries.

IICA's presentation, "Agriculture and natural resources: Source of competitiveness and heritage of Ibero-America," identified nine high-priority actions that translate the agreements of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) into a strategy for sustainable agriculture to:

- \* endorse the political commitment expressed in the Rio Declaration
- \* amend laws and regulations on the agricultural sector, in line with the Rio accords
- \* protect the region's biological heritage, to keep it intact and ensure its continued use as a production asset

- \* include criteria and objectives of sustainability in the design and management of macroeconomic and trade policies
- \* encourage technological renovation to make sustainable agriculture possible
- \* define the region's strategies for regulating patent rights on living resources, attending global forums with negotiating positions that accurately address real situations in the region, and bringing about technology transfer schemes that are more equitable between North and South
- \* seek commitments to control the use of pesticides
- \* create a regional fund to support the Ibero-American science and technology system

## Headquarters

### AGENDA 21

## Group to Promote Sustainable Agriculture IICA and Earth Council Combine Efforts

**I**IICA and the Earth Council have launched an Inter-American Group to conceive and implement a new vision by which the countries of the Americas can develop their agriculture and natural resources sustainably in the framework of Agenda 21.

The Group held its first working meeting from August 25 through 27 at IICA Headquarters to explore how it would be organized and operated, and to set a working agenda.

Group hopes to take shape as the region's arena for discussion from which would arise initiatives and action proposals.

"We hope," she added, "to spark a constructive dialogue among the various sectors traditionally interested in these issues, buttressed with the contributions of university and academic groups."

*Alicia Barcena, Executive Director of the Earth Council, took part in the meeting of the Inter-American Group. With her are IICA's Manuel Otero and Eduardo Trigo.*



Photo/R. Escobar

Margarita Marino de Botero, a Colombian who is one of the 18 people involved in the new organization, stated that the Group had singled out two broad subject areas on which to focus its attention over the next twelve months: "poverty, environment and patterns of consumption" and "technology."

Marino, a former member of the United Nations Commission on Environment and Development (the Brundtland Commission), and a member of the advisory team for the Rio Conference, added that the

In the same vein, she noted that the Group was interested not only in setting a conceptual framework, but also in drafting policies, actions and strategies to undergird the sustainable development of agriculture and natural resources in the context of Agenda 21.

Agenda 21, the main product of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), held in Brazil in June 1992, calls upon nations, international, regional and subregional organizations and nongovernmental

organizations to come together in a global commitment to sustainable development.

The Colombian expert noted that the decision to promote the creation of this group held paramount importance for the region. She thus applauded the initiative by IICA and the Earth Council, a nongovernmental organization headquartered in Costa Rica and responsible for following up on UNCED agreements.

"It is an ideal setting," she explained, "for implementing Agenda 21 items that target the agricultural sector."

Lincoln Myers, former Minister of Agriculture of Trinidad and Tobago and a member of the Inter-American Group, stated that a valuable opportunity was opening up.

"The idea," he explained, "is to decentralize our meetings." He went on to explain how Group members would be able to understand better the various processes underway in the Americas by seeing them in the field, and incorporate input from the many meetings, forums and seminars discussing agriculture, the environment, economics and development planning.

Myers felt that a sustainable model to ensure the region's future should be built on a foundation of concerted decisions.

He stressed that it was very important for the region to reassess its tremendous natural wealth and draw from it the clout to approach international forums on an equal footing and negotiate more equitable conditions in such areas as trade, essential for guaranteeing economic growth.

## PRESIDENT OF IFAD VISITS IICA Focus on Poor Farmers

### Productivity Must Rise

Rural poverty, which affects nearly one billion people throughout the world, can be eradicated only through initiatives to help poor farmers become more productive, according to statements made at IICA by the President of the International Agricultural Development Fund (IFAD), Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan.

The leader of this United Nations agency specialized in financing for the rural poor added that farmers also need guaranteed access to land, technology, services and capital.

The President of IFAD was at IICA on July 29 to inaugurate an international seminar which charted communications strategies to support rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The initiative was launched by IICA and IFAD with support from the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). It will seek to strengthen communications processes and give farm women a broader role in development proposals.

#### OVERLOOKED POTENTIAL

According to Al-Sultan, a recent IFAD study showed that the rural poor comprise an extraordinary social and economic resource that has been ignored or

relegated to a marginal role in development efforts.

Faced with this challenge, he felt that poverty could be turned around through productivity gains for those

institution with US\$600 million over the next three years, for addressing rural poverty in the world.

In his opinion, all national development programs should pursue the eradication of poverty as one of their main objectives, and these should include initiatives

Fund had financed 62 projects in 27 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, for a total of US\$525 million. These initiatives had benefitted nearly one million families of poor farmers.

He applauded the "very positive" relationship of cooperation between IICA



Photo/R. Escobar

*The President of IFAD, Fawzi Hamad Al-Sultan; the First Lady of Costa Rica, Gloria Bejarano de Calderon; and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, spoke at the inauguration of the international seminar.*

activities most commonly conducted by poor farmers, who could then become the authors of their own processes of change.

Al-Sultan, elected last January 23 to head IFAD, stated that his administration's top priority would be to streamline negotiations for obtaining the fourth fund replenishment, which would provide the

targeting groups that live under extreme conditions, especially rural women.

He noted that IFAD's specific projects in the countries were providing solutions in this area, but acknowledged that their funding initiatives could achieve full impact only if the governments showed firm political determination.

"Political determination can take many forms, including counterpart funds and human resources to guarantee that projects come to fruition," he stated.

Al-Sultan noted that from 1978 through 1993, the

and IFAD, "two organizations that share the ideal of bringing about better living conditions for poor producers."

This inter-institutional cooperation has posted a number of achievements. Joint missions of experts have identified and prepared investment projects in Uruguay, Ecuador, Honduras, Costa Rica, El Salvador and Mexico. Sectoral studies have been drawn up in Jamaica, Haiti, Colombia and Guyana, and a communications strategy was designed for rural women.

## INTER-AMERICAN PRESS AWARD

# Brazil and Nicaragua Garner Awards Four Other Countries Also Place

The Inter-American Press Award for 1993 was claimed by Brazilian Adriana Silveira, in the category of "Newspapers," and Nicaraguan Darwin Juarez, in the category of "Magazines and Weeklies."

The international jury for the awards announced its verdict last September 3 at IICA Headquarters, and also revealed the names of second- and third-place winners in each category.

Under "Newspapers," second prize went to Mireya Tabuas of Venezuela, while Luisa Limachi Flores of Bolivia took third place. Second place in "Magazines and Weeklies" went to Oscar Nuñez of Costa Rica, and third place, to Carlos Ayala Ramirez of El Salvador. Honorable mention was given to Celia Sankar, from Trinidad and Tobago.

Silveira and Juarez received their awards in Mexico City on September 23 at the closing ceremony of the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

Members of the international jury were Gerardo Bolaños (Costa Rica), Regional Director of the Central American Journalism Program (PROCEPER); Sabine Müller (Germany), agricultural economist; Ronnie de Camino (Chile), specialist in natural resources; and Jorge Werthein (Argentina), IICA's Director of External Relations.

The competition was organized by IICA, the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The theme was "Environment, Development and Agriculture in the Framework of Agenda 21," and entries were received from journalists in 18 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Of the US\$14,000 in total winnings, first prize in each category took US\$4,000, second prize, US\$2,000 and third prize, US\$1,000.

## WINNING PIECES

Adriana Silveira won her first-place award for her article "Agro-toxins: Bane of farmers," published in Portuguese in the **Jornal Estado de Minas**. The article offers a serious, balanced analysis of the use and abuse of agrochemicals and their repercussions on agricultural production, water and human health.

Juarez' blue-ribbon piece was entitled "Nejapa: Mirror of Asosca," published in Spanish in the magazine **Gente** (affiliated with **Barricada** newspaper). The article explores the relationship between people and their



Photo/R. Escobar

The international jury was made up of Sabine Müller, Gerardo Bolaños, Ronnie de Camino and Jorge Werthein.

environment and efforts that should be made to restore the environmental order.

Second-place awards were given for the articles "I long to see you green" (in Spanish), by the Venezuelan Mireya Tabuas in **Reporte de la Economía**, and "Deforestation in Costa Rica: The nightmare and the hope" (in Spanish), by Oscar Nuñez, in the newsweekly **Esta Semana**.

Third place went to Luisa Limachi of Bolivia, for her piece "Reclaiming Andean technology: The *suka kollus* system that protects the environment" (in Spanish); and Carlos Ayala Ramirez, from El Salvador, for his series "Ethical dimensions of the environmental proposals contained in Agenda 21" (in Spanish).

## Environment

### Improving News Production



Martin E. Piñero, Director General of IICA; Orlando Morales, Minister of Natural Resources of Costa Rica; Jose Joaquin Acuña, Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica; Alicia Barcena, Executive Director of the Earth Council; Eduardo Trigo, of IICA; and Juan Jose Castro, of the OAS, at the inauguration of the seminar.

Photo: R. Escobar

News coverage on the environment and development in Latin America and the Caribbean needs to be produced and disseminated more efficiently, according to journalists from 22 countries in the region, who met at IICA Headquarters at the end of July for a seminar on Agenda 21.

The newspeople recognized that Agenda 21, the main product of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED, Brazil, June 1992), makes sustainable development the touchstone of our times.

In their final document, they stated, "Journalists and the media need to understand this and embrace it," thus summing up the conclusions of the international seminar "Agenda 21: A new model for development," sponsored by IICA, the Earth Council, the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Agricultural Development Fund (IFAD) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The journalists described themselves as providing a bridge between technical and scientific circles and the general public; in this role, they can put to use the knowledge, capacity and infrastructure already in place in the hemisphere "...to step up the flow of news and information" on these topics.

They admitted that the production of new scientific and technological knowledge is one of the keys, and therefore they considered the support given by technologists and scientists to be absolutely essential.

"One of their social responsibilities is to provide clear, concrete information, so we can exercise due responsibility when we write on issues of the environment and development, in their full dimensions."

#### PROPOSALS

In order to begin moving in this direction, the journalists proposed that projects submitted for funding to international cooperation

and financing agencies and NGOs should include budgetary items on communication and dissemination to "publicize the findings, results and difficulties,...and to share knowledge and assist in better gauging the importance of their results."

They also urged these organizations and the media themselves to help build working relationships between journalists, technologists and scientists by offering opportunities for contact and for sharing ideas and views. In the same connection, they stressed the importance and value of holding field trips and tours in which specialists could help journalists view the

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*The newspeople recognized that Agenda 21 makes sustainable development the touchstone of our times.*

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problems for themselves, along with solutions and results.

The reporters also targeted NGOs and cooperation and funding agencies, urging them to promote new flows of concise, clear information for distribution, backed

with figures and statistical data. They recommended that journalistic criteria be applied in selecting and producing such materials, and asked IICA, IFAD, the IDB, the OAS and the Earth Council to cooperate in carrying out this initiative.

The journalists acknowledged the important role of training, and drew attention to the need for higher education institutions and international organizations to set up permanent training programs for journalists, providing them an opportunity to acquire more in-depth, up-to-date knowledge on the environment and development.

Finally, they shouldered the professional challenge of making the environment and development an integral part of their coverage in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural activity, to improve the content of their reporting, and to seek opportunities for discussion, exchange and training on these subjects.



Photo/R. Escobar

IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein (left), and the Head of the IDB Press Office, Santiago Real de Azua, at a session of the seminar.

#### EARTH COUNCIL

## Officially Inaugurated Council Members to be Selected

The Earth Council, a nongovernmental organization whose mission is to provide follow-up to agreements signed at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), will be formally inaugurated on November 29 in San Jose, Costa Rica, where it is headquartered.

The Council is made up of 21 well-known experts in sustainable development, representing civil society from the entire planet. It will seek global consensus at the highest political level for bringing about sustainable development and equity.

The entity's new authorities will meet on November 29 and 30 at IICA Headquarters to specifically identify the

guidelines needed for ensuring the preservation of natural resources, focusing on such key issues as integration of environmental and trade considerations, eradication of poverty, population and consumption, technology generation and transfer, and others.

The president of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderon, will attend the inaugural ceremony, along with representatives of the diplomatic corps accredited to Costa Rica and of international organizations, including IICA, according to statements by a Council spokeswoman shortly before press time.



Photo/R. Escobar

Maurice Strong, President of the Earth Council



# Cooperation for Development

## DIREX Prepares Publications

As part of the drive to obtain external resources for modernizing agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, IICA is preparing an up-to-date edition of a directory of international cooperation and funding agencies.

The publication, under the responsibility of the Directorate of External Relations (DIREX), will include a set of quick-reference cards on each institution, listing its objectives, areas of action, operating priorities, procedures for approval of assistance funds, and names of the people responsible for projects already under way in Latin America and the Caribbean.

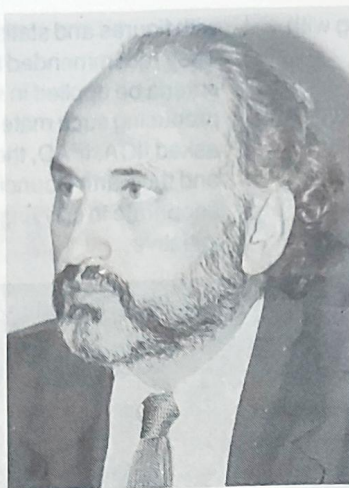
The book will be a source of information to help technical specialists and professionals in IICA and in the ministries of agriculture learn what they need to know about institutions offering assistance for the agricultural sector.

As a part of the same publishing effort, DIREX will soon release a study on the trends of external resources negotiated by IICA from 1986 through 1993.

It will identify how the funds were used at the country level, the subject areas addressed, geographic areas covered, types of projects involved, amount of resources, and others. This analysis will be helpful for pinpointing the general orientation given to negotiated funds, thus laying a sound basis for guiding future negotiations for external funds.

A third publication will review the Institute's approach to public information activities. It will take a look at how dissemination of information was handled in the framework of the new strategy to modernize agriculture, launched when it became clear that the import-substitution model had reached the limits of its usefulness. It will also gauge the effort to create currents of public opinion favorable to the new role assigned to agriculture in the development agenda.

Finally, the publication will examine various types of relationships with agricultural, economic, social and environmental journalists.



*Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations*

## Associate Personnel

A number of institutions interested in modernizing and reactivating the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean have combined efforts with IICA, assigning specialists in high-priority areas to work at IICA Headquarters, where they can develop and carry out projects.

The Asian Vegetable Research and



*Robin Marsh*

Development Centre (AVRDC), has appointed Robin Marsh to head a project for setting up a network on vegetable research and technology development for Central America.

Marsh, an agricultural economist from the United States, will also coordinate research on the socioeconomics of family gardens on the isthmus, in cooperation with the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE).

The German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) is focusing on issues of sustainability, adding Dr. Jurgen Carls to the team of specialists assigned to IICA Headquarters.



*Jurgen Carls*

Carls, a specialist in ecology and natural resource protection in the tropics and subtropics, joins Ronnie de Camino and Sabine Müller in their work for agricultural sustainability, concentrating on the field of sustainable alternative agriculture.

## Programs on the March

ECUADOR

### Agricultural Commodity Exchanges

#### American Association to be Spearheaded

Representatives from 14 countries of the hemisphere created the American Association of Agricultural Commodity Exchanges in the framework of an international encounter held last July 28 to 30 in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

The new Association was the main result of the "First Hemispheric Encounter of Agricultural Commodity Exchanges," organized by the Ecuadorean National Commodity Exchange and IICA's Trade and Integration Program.

As a catalyst to economic integration in the region, the Association will

promote cooperation among its members (initially the 14 exchanges in the hemisphere), and will support the deregulation and internationalization of commodity markets.

It will also encourage the establishment of bilateral and multilateral systems for negotiating and bidding on commodities through the agricultural exchanges.

By sponsoring the sharing of information, the Association will foster closer ties among the agricultural commodity exchanges in the different countries. The idea is to facilitate access to experiences acquired in



Participants in the meeting commented that the Inter-American Association would provide permanent links among agricultural commodity exchanges.

each country with exchange operations, market behavior, and legislation.

Participants in the hemisphere-wide meeting commented that in a world characterized by market liberalization and trade opening, the Association will help forge links among the agricultural commodity

exchanges. They also underscored IICA's efforts and support in promoting and consolidating commodity exchanges, which provide an excellent tool for supplementing other activities to modernize agriculture in the countries of the hemisphere.

#### PROJECT PROPOSAL

### Communications, Women and Sustainable Development

#### 250 Beneficiary Organizations

IICA and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) are carrying out a project called "Communications, women and sustainable development." Funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the project will benefit some 250 grassroots organizations in Central America.

The purpose of the three-year project is to follow up on the training in communications theory and

techniques with a gender perspective, which began two years ago, and add a component on sustainable development.

The training will follow a four-part sequence: a) general training on communications, women and sustainable development, with a gender approach; b) training in the use of audiovisual materials to enhance communications techniques; c) methods and validation techniques for assessing audiovisuals; and



d) training in techniques for reproducing the know-how after it is acquired.

The project will directly benefit 300 technicians responsible for training, outreach, extension and production of training and communications materials in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

The project will also target 300 technicians and administrators of public- and private-sector organizations belonging to a regional network of institutions working for rural development, who will receive assistance for exchanging information.

## Pesticide Control Call for Public-Private Dialogue

The public and private sectors in the Andean countries must combine their efforts and work together if they are to counteract nontariff trade barriers such as controls on pesticide residues in export products headed for the United States market.

*Participating in the inauguration (left to right) were: David Black, IICA Representative in the United States; John Wessel and John Jones, from the FDA; Scott Wood and Ray Carvajal from USDA-APHIS; and the Director of IICA's Agricultural Health Program, David Wilson.*



This was the consensus of representatives of the ministries of agriculture of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela at a seminar on new regulations and pesticide tolerance levels in agricultural exports, held in Quito, Ecuador.

Ecuador's Minister of Agriculture, Mariano Gonzalez, underscored the importance of achieving the highest possible quality in products, meeting and even surpassing the demands of the international market.

Business leaders and producers drew attention to their need for United States authorities to provide up-to-date information on pesticide regulations, in order to

streamline trade between that market and the Andean countries.

The meeting, sponsored by IICA, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA-APHIS), the National Agrochemical Association and PROEXANT, was attended by officials of the Organization of American States' Scientific Studies Department and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

## Structural Adjustment and Rural Poverty

Stockholm, the capital city of Sweden, was the site of an international meeting that brought together experts from Latin America and the Nordic countries to discuss macroeconomic policies, the adjustment process and rural poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The activity, which took place from September 2 to 3, was held by the Swedish Agency for Research Cooperation with Developing Countries (SAREC), the Stockholm School of Economics and IICA, for the purpose of presenting and analyzing the results of IICA/SAREC research in this area.

In the working sessions, the 60 participants shared their views on the impact of structural adjustment and trade liberalization policies. They reviewed strategies for modernizing agriculture in Latin America, and asked whether these strategies are consistent with the region's social needs.

The Director of IICA's Program on Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, Carlos Pomareda, expressed satisfaction with the broad scope of the seminar and added that it produced a fruitful discussion on the shape and direction of the process of reforming economic policies, and what this implies for institutions of the agricultural sector.

The research projects presented in Sweden were designed to help elucidate the implications of the crisis that the region experienced in the 1980s and measure the impact of macroeconomic reforms on the poor population. During those years, characterized by profound crisis and a process of adjustment, Latin America and the Caribbean posted high rates of poverty. A significant proportion of these poor, approximately 34 percent or 136 million people, lived in rural areas and were associated with agriculture.

## Credit Fund Proposed Support for Farmer Organizations

The project "Agricultural sector policies vis-a-vis women food producers in Central America and Panama" recently drew to a close, and project leaders recommended that, as follow-up, a credit fund be created for developing small-scale agricultural holdings in the region.

This proposal was given in the final project report, presented in a seminar at IICA Headquarters last July. The activity was attended by the First Lady of Costa Rica, Gloria Bejarano de Calderon, Costa Rica's Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Jose Joaquin Acuña, and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro.

The purpose of the fund will be to encourage self-sustainability in small-scale farm production and to guarantee access to external credit sources and national savings reserves. It will also ensure equitable credit access for women producers.

This is considered essential. Studies conducted by the project show that, in recent years, women food producers in the subregion have encountered serious obstacles to obtaining financing.

In Panama and Guatemala, only one third of all credit applications by

women produced loans, while in Nicaragua, 10 percent of women's credit applications for cooperatives and small farms were granted. The figure for Costa Rica was only four percent.

Similar initiatives have been launched in the Andean Area and the Caribbean Area in order to prepare assessment studies and help women producers obtain better access to credit, land and technical assistance.



Photo/R. Escobar

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Jose Joaquin Acuña (right), described the scope of the project. With him are the Director General of IICA and the First Lady of Costa Rica.

## Funding Approved Agricultural Research to Improve

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) recently approved a total of US\$345,000 in nonreimbursable technical cooperation financing for IICA.

The grant, approved on October 7, will be part of the

US\$7,345,000 that the Bank has allocated to different institutions in the region to promote agricultural research, natural resource management, and economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA will allocate US\$225,000 of these moneys to fund the activities of the Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion (PROCIANDINO). The remaining US\$120,000 will be used for a similar initiative in the countries of the South American tropics.

## Uruguay Round of GATT Organizations Prepare Document

The Uruguay Round of GATT is the target of a new study prepared in a cooperative effort by four organizations in the region. Entitled "Latin America and the Caribbean and the Uruguay Round of GATT," the paper asserts that the outcome of the GATT negotiating process, scheduled to conclude next December, should offer a "positive and effective" response to the region's needs.

The paper was prepared by the Latin American Economic System (SELA), IICA, the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). It provided a basis for discussions last September 16 and 17 in Montevideo, Uruguay when the ministers of the countries of the Rio Group, whose task is to follow up on the Uruguay Round, met with Peter Sutherland, Director General of GATT.

The region's spokesmen voiced their concern over how the negotiations have bogged down. They reiterated their interest in seeing final results that meet the needs of Latin America when the Round winds up on December 15.

Because the agricultural sector is of such paramount importance, they added, the Round must guarantee substantial liberalization of market access, reduction of internal supports and export subsidies, and implementation of human and agricultural health measures consistent with the provisions and disciplines set forth in the draft Final Report.

At the same time, the ministers expressed regret that the region's incipient efforts to take "autonomous, meaningful" measures for liberalizing access to their markets, in accordance with the objectives of the Uruguay Round, had encountered no response in the developed nations, and that new protectionist measures had therefore been adopted in violation of commitments made.

### COSTA RICA First Ladies Meet

The First Ladies of Latin America and the Caribbean met in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica, from September 7

through 9, 1993. This was their third summit meeting, and they took the opportunity to call for political, economic, social and cultural conditions that will improve the situation of families in the region.

The Office of Cooperation and Support for the First Ladies of Central America, which receives technical support from IICA, was instrumental in preparing and carrying out this meeting.

The participants in the meeting, eager to "promote integrated development" of the family, adopted a declaration articulating the urgent need to design public policies for the family and implement investment programs targeting families that live in poverty or at special risk.

The wives of the presidents made a special plea to UNESCO and UNICEF to help enrich family life by providing guidance and funding, in coordination with the governments, for the preparation and dissemination of media programs directed toward children and youth.

The hostess of the meeting, Costa Rica's First Lady Gloria Bojarano de Calderon, expressed her satisfaction with the event and underscored the First Ladies' pledge to persevere in their efforts to solve the problems affecting families in Latin America and the Caribbean.



The region's First Ladies will promote integrated development for families.

### Director General Visits Canada Authorities Highlight Achievements

At the invitation of Canadian government authorities, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, was in Ottawa on October 14 and 15 to meet with officials in the Chancellory, the Ministry of External

The Director General expressed gratitude to Canada's public-sector agencies and cooperation organizations for their support, through IICA, for the process of reactivating the region's agriculture. He recalled that it



Stanley Gooch, head of the Latin America and Caribbean section of the Department of External Affairs and International Trade (left), greets IICA's Director General.

Affairs, and organizations that work closely with the Institute.

During his stay in Ottawa, Piñeiro received awards for the strong momentum he has given to the agricultural sector of Latin America and the Caribbean during his eight years at the helm of IICA, promoting a strategy for modernization based on competitiveness, equity and sustainability.

Ceremonies in his honor were held on October 14 at the Ministry of External Affairs and International Trade, where he received recognition from Stanley Gooch, head for Latin America and the Caribbean. October 15 found him at a ceremony in the Department of Agriculture, where he was singled out for special honors by Rob Wright, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Canada.



Rob Wright, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Canada (left), congratulates Piñeiro for IICA's work to support the region's agricultural sector.

was in Canada in 1987 that the hemisphere's ministers of agriculture, with great vision, had agreed to adopt a strategy for reactivating agriculture.

In their final declaration, known as the Ottawa Mandate, the ministers had charged IICA to draw up a Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

The Director General went on to note that this strategy, first envisaged six years ago in Ottawa, had provided a means to position agriculture as the engine of a new era of economic and social growth in the region. The recognition of the role of agriculture as a strategic sector was later confirmed in Spain in 1991, when the ministers of agriculture again gathered together.

While he was in Canada, Piñeiro also visited with Keith Bezanson, president of the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and authorities from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), including CIDA Vice-president Charles Basset, and the Director General for the Americas, Elizabeth McAllister.

## TRIFINIO PLAN

# Trinational Market Shows Promise

## Vice-presidents Laud Progress

The plan for developing the border zone where El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras come together, known as the Trifinio Plan, has entered a new phase with steps being taken to set up a trinational market and eventually consolidate a free-transit zone.

The Trifinio Plan first went into effect in 1986 under the sponsorship of IICA, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the European Economic Community (EEC).

Other members have since signed on, including the governments of

Spain and Finland, the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The move toward trinational integration processes also sparked the interest of such entities as the Central American Parliament.

The representative of the president of Honduras, Jacobo Hernandez, and the vice-presidents of Guatemala, Arturo Herbruguer, and El Salvador, Francisco Merino, offered an assessment of

achievements so far, stressing that standards of living had improved, productivity had risen, and natural resources were being protected in the 45 participating municipalities.

Many of the projects launched 18 months ago have begun to alleviate the conditions of extreme poverty characterizing 60 percent of the inhabitants of the zone, and offer an alternative to the unemployment affecting half of the region's economically active population.

Several feasibility studies have already been completed for implementing new projects. In this phase, the Trifinio will begin to expand its legal framework, adapting it to the evolving needs of the area.

## GUATEMALA

# Modernizing Agriculture

## Minister Introduces Agenda

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Pifeiro, was in Guatemala last October 25 for the unveiling of the "Agenda for reactivating and modernizing the agricultural sector." The ceremony was also attended by the President of Guatemala, Ramiro de Leon Carpio.

The Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, Luis Arturo del Valle, introduced the document in the presence of representatives of the diplomatic corps and international cooperation agencies.

Also present on behalf of IICA were the Director of Central Area Operations, Reynaldo Perez; and the Secretary of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation

in Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), Roger Guillen.

The agenda for agriculture grew out of an intensive process of consultation with the private agricultural sector. It outlines actions in such key areas as technology, credit, investment, human resources, sustainability, equity, foreign trade and public institutional development.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) had received support from IICA to promote an intersectoral dialogue with the participation of farmers, business leaders, nongovernmental organizations and academics, through 10 working meetings held

from August 18 through October 12, 1993.

These discussions provided input for a document that charts the needs and actions expressed by the participating groups and embodies such principles as equity, competitiveness and sustainability in agriculture.

During his stay in the capital city of Guatemala, the Director General of IICA met with Minister del Valle to sign seven cooperation agreements in such areas as marketing and agricultural statistics, preinvestment, a forestry plan of action, regional planning and fruit crop development.

Pifeiro also signed an agreement with the National Peace Fund (FONAPAZ) for contributing to socioeconomic rehabilitation for the rural population.

## IICA Action Evaluated

### High-priority Areas Established

IICA recently held meetings of its Representatives in the countries from two different geographic areas to evaluate its technical assistance activities and propose new directions for the future. The Representatives in the Caribbean Area met in Barbados, and those in the Southern Area, in Uruguay.

At the meeting in the Caribbean last August 16, IICA's Deputy Director General, Reed Hertford, and the Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, discussed the Institute's priorities and achievements in the subregion in the framework of the Medium Term Plan, the instrument that has shaped IICA's work over the past five years.

Werthein presented a document entitled "External resources in support of IICA operations in the Caribbean," analyzing the present situation and future prospects for fund raising. He also offered a proposal for implementing a new strategy to increase the Institute's visibility in the subregion.

IICA's Representatives in the Caribbean agreed that the Institute had built a bridge between Latin America and the English-speaking Caribbean by establishing close ties with their Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Agriculture (SCMA).

The meeting highlighted the need to do more for diversifying the area's output and to build cooperative relations with other agencies in the area.

The Institute's Representatives in the Southern Area, meeting with the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, on August 28 in Uruguay, discussed such issues as decentralization and better follow-up.

Piñeiro drew attention to the need for decisions of the subregion's ministers of agriculture to be expressed more clearly and specifically, so they could be incorporated into the MTP that will govern Institute affairs for the next five years.



Photo/Michael Leregnaud

*IICA evaluated the technical cooperation it provides the Caribbean nations.*

In their discussion of decentralization, the Representatives emphasized the considerable progress already made in this direction, which "gives IICA comparative advantages over other technical cooperation organizations."

Sessions included expert reports on the progress of subregional initiatives such as the Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Area (COSAVE) and the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR).

The latter focuses attention on natural resources and sustainability in agriculture, genetic resources, biotechnology and institutional development. The Executive Secretary of PROCISUR, Amelio Dall' Agnol, warned, however, that national agricultural research institutes need to contribute more in such critical areas as agroindustry.



## VENEZUELA

# Dialogue on Agriculture IICA Sponsors Cycle of Meetings

The IICA Office in this Andean country is promoting a cycle of meetings called "Venezuelan Agriculture in the Twenty-first Century." Attended by representatives of the public and private sectors, the meetings are designed to lay the groundwork for

implementing a program for agriculture based on consensus.

The initiative is fully backed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAC), the Agricultural Credit Fund, the Confederation of Chambers, and a number of trade-union



The round of events began last May 7 in Caracas.

organizations, including the Venezuelan Chamber of the Food Industry and the Agricultural Confederation.

More than an encounter of specialists and technical experts, the cycle of events was conceived as a forum that will help devise an action proposal to support the process of modernizing agriculture during the 1994-1998 period.

The activities formally began last May and will conclude by year-end with the presentation of a National Program of Consensus.

Throughout the period, discussion has focused on such issues as the impact of international events on the development of agriculture and agroindustry, and alternative policy approaches for the sector. A number of workshops have also reviewed the present setting for agriculture and agroindustry in terms of financing, marketing, technology, human resources, infrastructure and services.

## URUGUAY

# Seminar on Small Farms

A seminar held last September 1 and 2 in Uruguay examined possibilities for development of the *granja* sector, which consists of small, self-sufficient farm units. Holding the sector up as an investment challenge for both public and private sources, it closed with a proposal that could facilitate the flow of more resources.

The forum was attended by over 700 people, including producers, technical specialists and international speakers. It was organized by IICA, the Mercantile Chamber of Domestic Commodities (CMPP) and the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) of Uruguay. Present at the inaugural ceremony were Uruguay's Minister of the Economy Ignacio de Posadas, Minister of Agriculture Pedro



The seminar brought together government officials, producers, technical experts and international speakers.

Saravia, and Arnaldo Veras, IICA Representative in Uruguay.

The purpose of the seminar was to facilitate the flow of funds from local

private-sector resources or from international agencies to encourage development of the *granjas*.

## Director General Visits Paraguay President Inaugurated

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, was a special guest at the inaugural ceremonies of the President of Paraguay, Juan Carlos Wasmosy, last August 15 in Asuncion.

Piñero was on hand at the National Congress to greet the new president shortly after the swearing-in ceremony, when Wasmosy received the presidential sash from the hands of outgoing leader General Andres Rodriguez.

In the capital of Paraguay, the Director General also spoke with authorities of the agricultural sector, including Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Raul Torres, with whom he reviewed the achievements of the Institute's technical cooperation to this South American country.

Piñero later addressed the Senate Agrarian Reform Committee and talked about the prospects for agriculture and rural development in Latin America. He stressed the importance of consolidating the process of agricultural



*IICA's Director General greets President Juan Carlos Wasmosy of Paraguay at the National Congress.*

modernization, based on the three pillars of equity, competitiveness and sustainability.

Speaking more specifically of agriculture in Paraguay, Piñero pointed out that the country was

facing both opportunities and challenges. He commented that MERCOSUR, the common market of the Southern Cone countries, should continue to work toward genuine specialization of production in order to compete more effectively.

### ARGENTINA

## Agricultural Research Impacts and Investments under Scrutiny

In late August, a group of specialists from Argentina and other countries of the hemisphere gathered in Buenos Aires for a symposium to examine the impact and investment needs of agricultural research in Argentina.

Representing IICA at the activity were the Director General, Martin E. Piñero, and the Deputy Director General, Reed Hertford.

Piñero was a guest commentator on the subject of future investment in agricultural research. He noted the

need for an increase of at least 15 percent in resource allocations, especially in the area of technology.

Hertford moderated discussion of various countries' experiences with investments in agricultural research and rates of return, including a look at future demands for institutional development.

The international symposium was sponsored by the School of Agricultural Sciences of the Argentine Business University (UADE), with support from the IICA office, the

National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA), and the University of Minnesota's Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

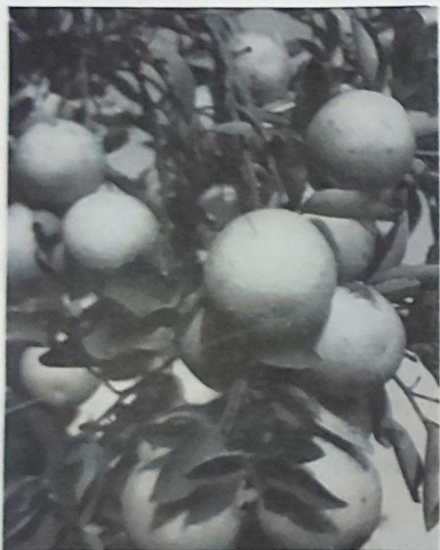
The activity took place in the UADE auditorium and was inaugurated by the Secretary of State for Agriculture, Felipe Sola.

Other items on the agenda included: the contribution of agriculture to economic growth, presented by Edward Schuh; the impact of agricultural research on sustainability and equity, by Aldo Biondolillo; and the impact of agricultural research in Argentina, based on an analysis of six production lines, given by Luis F. Macagno.

## Fruit Fly

### Insect Population Reduced

The incidence of fruit flies in the border area separating Peru from Chile has been slashed by more than 95 percent thanks to an IICA-backed project to fight the pest.



This initiative, which has been under way since 1991, has particularly benefitted fruit growers from Azapa and Arica in the valleys of northern Chile, and from Tacna in southern Peru.

IICA and the Chilean Livestock Service (SAG) recently signed an agreement that will provide US\$723,000 for training and technical assistance, and formalize

the third consecutive one-year extension of the bilateral agreement underpinning the project.

The Mediterranean fruit fly was causing losses that ranged

from 25 percent to 40 percent of the total value of fruit and vegetable output in the zone. Since 1991, the project has released nearly 720 million sterile flies, sharply reducing the presence of this pest.

If Peru can bring this

insect under control, it will be free of one of the main obstacles to producing, marketing and exporting high-quality fruits and vegetables. For Chile, it is an insurance policy for the production of asparagus, tomatoes, olives, figs, and the like.

Since IICA began to encourage a closer working relationship between the ministries of

agriculture of Chile and Peru, efforts have focused on fighting the fly on two fronts: a pest-control campaign, and a program to produce sterile insects.

#### ECUADOR

## Upgrading Trade Negotiating Skills

A workshop to train international agricultural trade negotiators was held last October 19 to 21 in Quito, Ecuador, attended by 38 people, including technical staff and officials from public and private organizations and institutions, experts on the subject and government authorities.

Organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the IICA office, the event was one of many efforts taken by Ecuadorian authorities, with Institute support, to upgrade local skills for trade negotiations on agricultural products.

In the words of the Ministry's Under Secretary of International Policies, Patricio Izurieta, "With this type of seminar,

our country will be able to penetrate the international milieu more effectively," particularly in the field of agricultural marketing.

He went on to express his gratitude to IICA's Representative in the country, Alex Barril Garcia, for the Institute's cooperation with and support of efforts being made to modernize agriculture and agroindustry in Ecuador, "since much of the country's economic activity is grounded in these sectors."

Barril stated that the workshop and other training activities to take place subsequently would provide a means to develop a "multi-disciplinary core of agricultural trade negotiators" equipped with skills and abilities for meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

*Ecuador aims to improve its trade negotiation capabilities.*

IICA-CANADA

### A New Agriculture

#### Modernization Yields Development

Latin America and the Caribbean traversed the early years of the 1980s in the midst of an acute economic crisis intensified by debt payment difficulties, uncontrollable fiscal deficits and relentless inflationary pressure.

It became increasingly clear that the development model in use for years had run its course, and as the countries began to cast about for new answers, their eyes eventually settled on agriculture.

The problem began to be discussed in 1986, when the agricultural authorities of the hemisphere's countries gathered in Mexico for a special meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), IICA's governing body. They sensed that the sector's role needed to be rethought, to give agriculture a more active part to play in development strategies.

One year later, in Ottawa, Canada, the ministers of agriculture met again and began to focus their thoughts on modernization. They asked IICA to translate their ideas into a plan of operation which became known as the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. This program, PLANLAC, received final approval by the Institute's member countries in 1989.

The view of agriculture as the pivot of a new development proposal for the region was clearly stated in the 1987-1993 Medium Term Plan (MTP), a planning instrument that guides Institute activities. This Plan articulated and organized IICA's response to the challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean at that time.

The government of Canada took an active interest in this process and offered technical and financial support. Canada wanted to see agriculture take on a more dynamic role in the region's

economies, so that through modernization, the sector could fulfill its true potential as a source of foreign exchange, employment and foodstuffs.

The resulting project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), called for activities under all five of IICA's programs: (I) Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, (II) Technology Generation and Transfer, (III) Organization and Management for Rural Development, (IV) Trade and Integration, and (V) Agricultural Health.

Special attention in Program IV trained on designing methods to help the countries expand their nontraditional agroindustry exports to northern markets, with an emphasis on setting up joint ventures that put companies in Latin America and the Caribbean together with interested partners in the United States and Canada.

*In 1987 in Ottawa, Canada, ministers of agriculture from around the hemisphere introduced the concept of modernization and asked IICA to translate it into a concrete plan of action.*



The issue selected for special attention under Program I was modernization of agriculture and its effect on revitalizing the entire economy, as well as the generation of macroeconomic information for analyzing and designing agricultural policies.

Under Program II, cooperation focused on improving the region's capabilities for managing and monitoring new agricultural technologies and biotechnologies, while Program III activities involved taking a look back at experience accumulated in formulating alternative strategies and policies for rural development.

Finally, Program V activities emphasized strengthening institutional structures for the protection of animal and plant health as a means of promoting trade in agricultural products.

CIDA was joined by three other Canadian organizations—IDRC, the Desjardins International Society and the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (OUI)—in helping IICA develop projects on rural agroindustry, animal production systems, training for human resources, and strengthening small-scale farm businesses (see separate story).

## CIDA-IICA PROJECT

# Model for Cooperation

## Five Years of Success

**T**he multinational IICA-CIDA project covered the entire hemisphere, and took place from July 1988 through March 1993, with a total investment of US\$7.33 million, of which CIDA contributed US\$3.97 million, IICA US\$1.69 million and the countries of the region, US\$1.65 million in counterpart contributions.

The purpose of the project was to strengthen IICA programs in the framework of the 1987-1993 MTP, and to spark development of the agricultural sector as the key source of economic growth, to intensify modernization of agriculture in a framework of equity, and to deepen the processes of integration.

The project was carried out by the Institute's five Programs and by Agriculture Canada, the agency designated by CIDA to implement the project with support from the IICA Office in Canada. It had a steering committee which worked all five years to coordinate project implementation and approve operating changes. Below is an outline of some of the main activities conducted under this project.

**PROGRAM I:** The project selected eight countries in which to identify determining factors and multiplier effects

of successful experiences with modernization: grain production in Argentina, fruit in Chile, poultry in Peru, soybeans in Brazil, shrimp in Ecuador, cut flowers in Colombia, milk in Costa Rica, and fruits and vegetables in Mexico.

The findings, after being evaluated in a seminar, provided the basis for a follow-up meeting for specialists to examine the formulation of agricultural policies. Later, five of the original eight experiences were selected for a more in-depth study of multiplier effects. The results of these studies were then presented in a high-level seminar on agricultural modernization.

Another important achievement was the development and implementation of the Information System for Agricultural Policy Analysis in Latin America and the Caribbean, known by its acronym SIAPA. It is comprised of three basic components: the data base, data analysis and processing, and word processing. It is now in place in most of the Institute's Offices, and also operates in the offices of the ministries of agriculture in Central America and the Southern Area.

**PROGRAM II:** A methodological and conceptual framework was developed for helping the countries set policies under which new agricultural biotechnologies can be developed in the region. At the same time, analytical studies examined the prospects for and general impact of agricultural biotechnologies and their implications for policy and strategy.

*The project had a steering committee to coordinate activities and approve changes in operation.*

Photo/R. Escobar



The process continued through a high-level seminar in Colombia, and three books were published on the subject. Meanwhile, work was under way on three other fronts: a) an evaluation of the region's capabilities for generating, transferring and using the new biotechnologies in agriculture and agroindustry; b) support for formulating and implementing specific policies on the new technologies in agriculture; and c) support for improving management performance in the processes of generation, transfer and use of biotechnologies in agriculture.

**PROGRAM III:** The emphasis was on consolidating a conceptual and operating proposal for rural development by promoting the modernization of agriculture in a way that will embrace all farmers and groups, and give equitable treatment to the rural poor.

As a result, opportunities have been discovered for government institutions to join multinational projects that are setting up subregional networks for exchanging know-how, experience and technical materials, and for discussing and formulating possible rural development policies for small-scale producers.

The approach to the issue of women in agriculture has also evolved substantially, moving away from a view that focused on women and rural development, toward one that takes a gender perspective in viewing all processes of agricultural modernization.

**PROGRAM IV:** Work focused on seeking out market niches where nontraditional agroindustrial products of Latin American and the Caribbean could be sold in the

markets of the United States and Canada, and promoting joint ventures to facilitate exports.

Studies on these subjects revealed a number of products that could be placed on the market in the two target countries, along with a list of businesses interested in entering into negotiations with companies in the region. The results of these studies were presented in three regional seminars, and as a result, groups of entrepreneurs from Northern, Central and

South American entered into formal talks.

**PROGRAM V:** One of the most valuable contributions was the establishment and operation of the CARAPHIN data base. This network, headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago, brings together 14 different countries. It has already provided Caribbean countries with a means to monitor and control pests and to develop a region-wide surveillance system for pests and diseases of interest to the participating countries.

An animal health data base developed under this project provides information on the status of livestock diseases throughout the

world. In a matter of seconds, the system, called HandiSTATUS, gives information and maps on the incidence of diseases and possible restrictions on agricultural trade. It includes recommendations from the International Office of Epizootics (OIE) for the international trade of animals and livestock products.



Photo/José Luis Oviedo

*With CIDA's support, Program III incorporated the gender perspective into discussions on agricultural modernization.*

IICA, IDRC, OUI

## Multiplier Effect Agroindustry, Technology and Training

Canada's specialized agencies and organizations for

IDRC supports rural agroindustry in Latin America and the Caribbean.



cooperation have found that, with IICA as a partner, they can multiply the scope of their actions to support Latin America and the Caribbean. They have built a solid working relationship with the Institute in such areas as rural agroindustry, animal production systems and human resources training.

In 1989, the Canadian International Development Research Centre (IDRC) joined hands with IICA, the French Cooperation Agency, and the French Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research

for Development (CIRAD) to promote rural agroindustry.

In the first stage, completed in mid-1993, IDRC provided technical and financial support to the Rural Agroindustrial Development Program (PRODAR) for setting up national networks in Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic. The results were so impressive that the Canadian agency expressed interest in continuing with PRODAR. In July, it decided to extend its support through 1996.

Another example of the productive working relations between IICA and IDRC is the Latin American Research Network for Animal Production Systems (RISPAL), which has also had participation by the Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, Peru's Center for Agricultural Studies and Development, and similar projects in Costa Rica, Colombia, Chile, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Peru and Venezuela.

The second phase of this initiative began in November 1989, under the IICA-IDRC agreement. All in all, the project has helped national and regional research organizations develop better technical abilities for generating animal production systems and transferring them to small-scale producers.

Canada and the Institute have also cooperated in training people to contribute to the modernization of agriculture. In the Andean countries, IICA and the Inter-American Organization for Higher Education (OUI) set up the Andean System for Graduate Studies in Agriculture (SAPOA).

SAPOA is a network of public and private educational centers. With the support of national research institutes, it offers courses designed to fill a gap that existed in the subregion by providing specialization in different areas of agricultural sciences.

IICA-DESJARDINS SOCIETY

## Cooperation Agreement Credit Systems to be Designed

IICA and the Canadian Desjardins Society for International Development (SDID), interested in promoting rural well-being, signed a general cooperation agreement last July for establishing funds to finance production activities for peasant farmer organizations in Central America and the Dominican Republic.



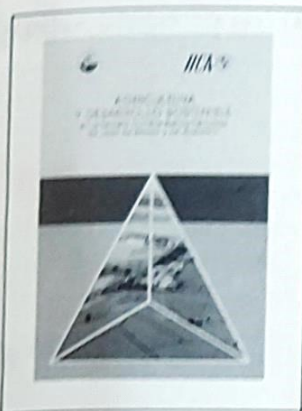
Photo/R. Escobar

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro (center), and the SDID Program Director for the Americas, Jean Marc Lampron, sign the agreement as IICA's Manuel Chiriboga looks on.

# PUBLICATIONS

## AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AT THE THIRD IBERO-AMERICAN SUMMIT

IICA EDITORIAL SERVICE



This book sums up the achievements of the Third Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government held in Bahia, Brazil from July 14 to 16, 1993.

For the agricultural sector, this event was a landmark. In their final declaration, the chief executives recognized the strategic importance of agriculture and stressed the need to guarantee sustainable development.

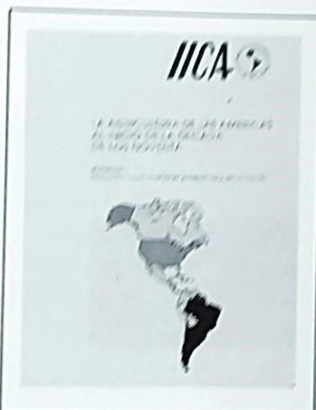
In the book's introduction, the President of the Earth Council, Maurice Strong, and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, assert that sustainable development in agriculture is one of the greatest challenges facing the countries of Ibero-America.

The book, available both in Spanish and in English, contains the Declaration of Bahia and a document presented by President Rafael Angel Calderon of Costa Rica, which contains

recommendations to his counterparts in the rest of Latin America produced during an international meeting organized by IICA.

## LA AGRICULTURA DE LAS AMERICAS AL INICIO DE LA DECADA DE LOS NOVENTA

IICA EDITORIAL SERVICE



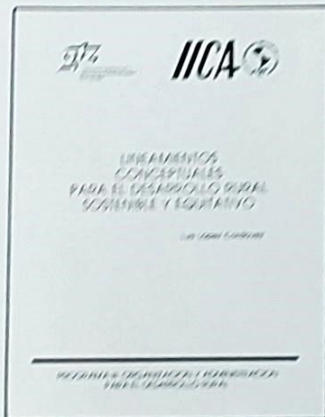
What are the dimensions of the agricultural sector in the region? What major changes has the sector experienced over the past 20 years? These questions are discussed in this new book on agriculture in the Americas at the beginning of the 1990s, recently released by IICA's Editorial Service.

The book, in Spanish, was compiled under the guidance of Carlos Pomareda, Director of IICA's Program on Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning. Information was collected from various sources, including the Institute's Information System for Agricultural Policy Analysis in Latin America and the Caribbean, and World Agriculture: Trends and Indicators, 1961-1989 (USDA/Economic Research Service).

The book offers an analysis of prospects for the agricultural sector at the threshold of a new millennium, enhanced with information and color graphics on the availability of arable land, new crops, perennial crops, export trends in the hemisphere during specific periods, and the like.

## LINEAMIENTOS CONCEPTUALES PARA EL DESARROLLO RURAL SOSTENIBLE Y EQUITATIVO

LUIS LOPEZ CORDOVEZ



This book offers a conceptual framework for rural development based on sustainability. The book was prepared by IICA and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and is available in Spanish.

Using a historical perspective, the text analyzes concepts, approaches and operating models of rural development that have been adopted by the countries of Latin America.

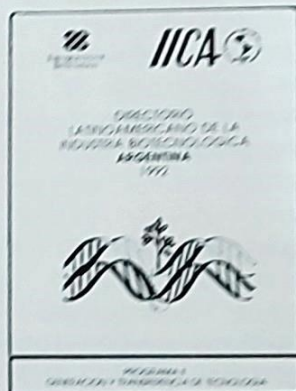
Thus the publication contributes to the debate under way internationally in

governments, the private sector, and academic circles, on how to rethink development for the rural population.

The author also takes a look at the models used and institutional arrangements needed in national experiences targeted by this study.

## DIRECTORIO LATINOAMERICANO DE LA INDUSTRIA BIOTECNOLOGICA: ARGENTINA

TECHNOLOGY GENERATION AND TRANSFER PROGRAM



IICA's interest in improving skills for planning and generating biotechnologies in the public and private sectors led to the publication of a series of directories to fill the information gap on this subject.

The document was produced by the Institute's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, together with the Argentine Forum on Biotechnology. It provides a listing of companies whose primary activity is the fermentation process.



## MEXICO, ARGENTINA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Carlos Aquino es el nuevo director del IICA



\* The election of Dominican agronomist Carlos Aquino González as Director General of IICA for the 1994-1998 term captured the attention of the press throughout the hemisphere.

Aquino was elected during the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), which took place in Mexico City from September 19 to 23, with the participation of delegates from 33 countries.

The meeting of the IABA, IICA's governing body, included discussion of the general orientation for development of the agricultural sector in the countdown to the new millennium.

(Argentina: La Nacion; Colombia: El Tiempo; Costa Rica: La Republica; Dominican Republic: Hoy, El Siglo, Nuevo Diario, El Caribe;

Honduras: La Tribuna; Guyana: Stabroek News; Mexico: Excelsior, El Heraldo, Ovaciones, Notimex; Peru: El Comercio)

## BRAZIL, HONDURAS, PARAGUAY

Deforestación amenaza a Latinoamérica



\* Newspapers from around the region reported on activities of the Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS).

This initiative, promoted by IICA, covers Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela. Its purpose is to apply sustainable technologies to conserve and make rational use of the three ecosystems represented in the area shared by these nations.

(Brazil: Correo Braziliense; Honduras: La Tribuna; Panama: La Estrella de Panama; Paraguay: Ecologia)

## ARGENTINA, ECUADOR, VENEZUELA



\* The first hemisphere-wide meeting of commodity exchanges in the Americas, held in Quito, Ecuador, was publicized in newspapers in Argentina, Ecuador and Venezuela.

The meeting was attended by representatives of 14 agricultural commodity exchanges who agreed to create a Latin American association of exchanges.

This new grouping will promote economic integration in the hemisphere, encourage cooperation among its members and support market deregulation.

Participants in the hemisphere-wide meeting commented that in a world characterized by market liberalization and trade opening, the Association will help forge links among the agricultural commodity exchanges.

They also underscored IICA's support and efforts to promote and consolidate agricultural commodity exchanges.

(Argentina: El Cronista; Ecuador: El Universo; Venezuela: El Globo)

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- \* **Inaugural ceremony** for the new Director General, Carlos Aquino Gonzalez. IICA Headquarters, January 14, 1994.
- \* **International Interdisciplinary conference** on ecological economics. Cosponsored by the International Society for Ecological Economics, Costa Rica's National University (UNA), IICA and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). San Jose, Costa Rica, October 24-28, 1994.
- \* **Fourteenth Regular Meeting** of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA). Organized by the CORECA Secretariat. Guatemala, March, 1994.

December 1993, Year X, No. 56



*The President of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderón, bestows on the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, the National Order of the Cross "Juan Mora Fernandez," the highest awarded by Costa Rica to foreign personalities. In an emotional ceremony held at the Presidential Office, Calderón stated that the decoration awards Piñeiro's efforts to strengthen the inter-American system, modernize agriculture and promote the comprehensive development of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.*

■ **DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA**

Approval of NAFTA in the United States

Clear sign of support for more open trade worldwide

■ **IICA**

New Medium Term Plan being Prepared

Participation is key aspect of process

■ **IFAD-IICA**

Program to Develop South American Camelidae

Resources exceed US\$1 million

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INFORME ANUAL 1993

IICA INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO DE COOPERACION AGRICOLA



## NEWS

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News magazine on activities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA. Published in separate Spanish and English editions, by IICA's Communications Division, Public Information Unit. Address: Apdo 55-2200 Coronado, San José, Costa Rica. Cable: IICA SAN JOSE. Telex: 2144 IICA. Fax: 294741. Telephone: 290222. Editor in Chief: Patricia Leon. Editors: Mishelle Mitchell and Danilo Jiménez. English translation and editing: Paul Murphy and Barbara Cohen. Director of External Relations: Jorge Werthein.

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 33 Member States and 16 Permanent Observers.

**DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA**

## Trade Opening

### Satisfaction with Approval of NAFTA

According to the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, the approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) by the Congress of the United States, sends a clear political message of the United States' confidence in greater world trade opening.

The Director General of IICA added that the approval of NAFTA will strengthen the economic position of the United States and improve its negotiating position in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

After the House of Representatives of the United States approved the treaty among the United States, Canada and Mexico by a vote of 234 to 200, Piñeiro assessed the repercussions this would have on agriculture in Latin America in general and Central America, in particular.

According to the Director General of IICA, the impact on Central America will be different than in the rest of the countries. In the short term, the subregion will be faced with increased competition from Mexico, in terms of attracting capital investment and in placing agricultural commodities on United States markets.

In the long term, he added, NAFTA will have a positive impact since it offers the possibility for "greater economic growth and economic reactivation for Mexico, the United States and Canada, which will have a favorable impact on possible exports from Central America."

In Piñeiro's opinion, the approval of NAFTA should produce a feeling of

relief in Latin America, since it indicates that the United States' political forces and thinking favor greater trade liberalization and strong support for regional integration.

The Director General of IICA insisted that the repercussions of

are detrimental to developing countries," he added.

Piñeiro indicated that Central America should carefully plan its next moves. One strategy to follow would be to expedite negotiations to enter NAFTA.

In order to deal with Mexican competition in certain agricultural commodities, the Director General suggested that the countries of the region take rapid measures to enhance their competitive capabilities so that they are not



Photo/Alvaro Izurieta González

*In Piñeiro's opinion, the approval of the treaty should produce a feeling of relief in Latin America, since it reaffirms support for trade liberalization and regional integration.*

NAFTA will vary from one subregion to another. Colombia and Venezuela, which together with Mexico make up the Group of 3, can expect greater access to major markets in the North.

He also stated that this is an encouraging sign for the rest of the world, especially in the context of the GATT negotiations. "It is difficult to predict the outcome of the Uruguay Round. Nevertheless, the approval of NAFTA sparks hope and could contribute to the successful conclusion of the Round, which would establish clear rules that would eliminate trade wars, which

displaced by Mexican products which, through NAFTA, will have easier access to North American markets. A study prepared by IICA specialist Mauricio Perez indicates that this is especially important for three products: cucumber, pineapple and cantaloupe.

Lastly, Mexico will be a magnet for investments. Therefore, Piñeiro stated that Central America must provide similar or more favorable conditions for investment. Consequently, it will be necessary to establish the necessary legal and economic framework.

## DIRECTOR GENERAL-ELECT

# Participation Fostered

## Carlos Aquino Visits Member States

In recent weeks, the Director General-elect, Carlos Aquino Gonzalez, has visited several IICA Member States for the purpose of ensuring broad participation in the process of preparing the 1994-1998 Medium Term Plan (MTP).

Mr. Aquino, who was elected during the Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in Mexico in September of this year, will take over as Director General of IICA on January 14, 1994.

While in Mexico, the Director General-elect began this series of meetings with the IICA Offices in the countries, government authorities and representatives of the organizations of civil society.

His goal is to gather information and criteria for the MTP, which will orient IICA's technical cooperation actions for the next four years. It is expected that this highly participatory process will make it possible to produce a preliminary version of the Plan by January.

This current round of visits took him to Washington, D.C., Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Colombia.

By the time of his inauguration, Mr. Aquino, from the Dominican Republic, will have visited almost all the member countries of the Institute.



Photo/R. Escobar

*The Director General-elect, Carlos Aquino, will assume his new post on January 14, 1994.*

## IICA

# New Medium Term Plan being Prepared

## 1994-1998

Participation is the foundation of the process initiated recently by IICA to prepare its Medium Term Plan (MTP), which will orient policy and resource allocation within the Institute for the 1994-1998 period.

This process involves, of course, the member countries of the Institute, through their ministries of agriculture, as well as all units at Headquarters and the IICA Offices in the countries.

During the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), held in Mexico in September 1993, the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere set forth the guidelines that should be used in preparing the MTP. At that time, the ministers reaffirmed competitiveness, equity and

sustainability as the three pillars of agricultural modernization.

In addition to these guidelines, other inputs include the recommendations of the G-6, a group of six agricultural experts from the hemisphere, which are aimed at improving the impact of future technical cooperation activities, and the guidelines prepared by the Director General-elect, Carlos Aquino Gonzalez.

At Headquarters, a working group has made progress in defining the elements that will characterize the external context in coming years. One aspect of their work has been to forecast future demands for cooperation, and to establish the strategy the Institute should adopt in meeting these demands. As a result, a series of objectives have been

identified, and are currently being studied by the countries.

The new MTP should increase existing capacities for strategic thinking and, at the same time, enhance the impact of cooperation actions at the national level. Both objectives should be mutually supportive, within the context of an Institute that recognizes the priorities of the national and regional agricultural sectors, and takes action to solve problems.

The new MTP will be ready in late March, so that it may be studied during the next meeting of the Executive Committee, to be held in June. This meeting will be especially important, inasmuch as two of the items on the agenda are adjustments in the Program Budget and a differentiated policy for the Caribbean.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*After eight years, my term as Director General of IICA is coming to a close. These eight years have involved long and sometimes difficult workdays, but they have also been a source of joy and satisfaction.*

*I was Director General during one of the most complex periods in the history of our region, one in which many profound changes took place. I feel that the Institute has been successful in recognizing how these changes have translated into problems, challenges and concerns for our member countries and, in particular, their agricultural sectors.*

*During these years, a myth and a mistaken vision left over from the import substitution model began to crumble, in which agriculture was negatively linked to the traditional, the backward, the undeveloped. Agroindustrial production is regaining the status it never should have lost in our growth and development strategies, it is beginning to recover its real economic dimension and to link a larger number of social actors, and again has political importance and negotiating capacity in society.*

*My two terms at the helm of IICA gave me the opportunity to work closely with our Member States, their authorities and organizations. I thank them and pledge to continue working on behalf of agriculture and the well-being of the men and women who work the land in our countries.*

*I also want to express my sincere appreciation to each and every member of the IICA Staff, without whose commitment and dedication little would have been accomplished. They are the heart and soul of IICA. They make the Institute useful and strong. They, with the support of the member countries, are building the IICA that will be needed to enter the next millennium.*

  
Martin E. Piñeiro

## Baena Soares and Enrique Iglesias Acknowledge the Work of Martin Piñeiro IICA Presents Gold Medals to OAS and IDB

The Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA),

agriculture is a source of pride for the inter-American system. The ceremony took place within the

framework of a meeting of governments and donors. The meeting, which discussed the development of border areas in Central America, was attended by the Vice Presidents of the Republic of Costa Rica, German Serrano Pinto; El Salvador, Francisco Merino Lopez; and Nicaragua, Virgilio Godoy.

The President of the IDB deemed it an honor to have collaborated with the Director General of IICA in activities to promote agricultural development. He also noted that during these past eight years, the ties between these two institutions have grown stronger.

During his visit to Washington, the United States Department of Agriculture honored Piñeiro with a certificate in recognition of his efforts to promote agriculture in the region. Ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps of IICA's member countries met with Piñeiro in a ceremony organized by the Embassy of Argentina.



The Secretary General of the OAS, João Baena Soares (right), presents a plaque to the Director General of IICA, who is completing eight years at the head of this organization.

Martin E. Piñeiro, presented gold medals commemorating the founding of IICA to the Secretary General of the OAS, João Baena Soares, and to the President of the IDB, Enrique Iglesias, in recognition of their "constant support to the agricultural sectors of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean." They, in turn, praised Piñeiro for his work during his eight-year administration.

On November 23, in separate activities, Piñeiro expressed his gratitude for the ongoing cooperation and solidarity that IICA has received during these past eight years and added that these awards echo the sentiments of the 33 member countries of the Institute.

Baena Soares stated that, during Piñeiro's administration, the work carried out by IICA to reactivate



Martin E. Piñeiro presents Enrique Iglesias, the President of the IDB (right), with a gold medal commemorating IICA's fiftieth anniversary, in recognition of the agency's collaboration in promoting agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, during his administration.

COSTA RICA

# President Honors Director General Highest Award Bestowed

On December 4, the President of Costa Rica, Rafael Angel Calderón Fournier, bestowed the National Order of the Cross "Juan Mora Fernandez" on the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, in an emotional ceremony held at the Presidential Office and attended by members of the President's cabinet, members of the

IICA to Carlos Aquino Gonzalez, of the Dominican Republic, who was elected as Director General for the 1994-1998 period by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

Created by executive decree, the National Order of the Cross "Juan Fernandez Mora" is granted in

improved social and economic well-being of our peoples." The President described the Director General as a "tireless worker and a fervent advocate of a more just international order" whose legacy includes: effective contributions to the modernization of agriculture, with a view to strengthening the sector's role in reactivating the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, and the design of a proposal for achieving sustainable agriculture, which was studied and approved by the Presidents of Ibero-America during their meeting in Bahia, Brazil, in July of this year.

After summarizing the many professional accomplishments of Piñeiro, who is a former Undersecretary of Agriculture and Livestock of Argentina and a member of the International Commission for the Recovery and Development of Central America -known as the Sanford Commission-, President Calderón noted that over the last eight years "the Institute had achieved its highest levels of technical and professional excellence and had deepened its commitment to develop agriculture."

Upon receiving the decoration, Piñeiro stated that it represented recognition of the work the Institute had carried out, and was a true expression of friendship by Costa Rica, "a friendship that strengthens my commitment to the ideals, interests and hopes of this country, which I consider my second home."

The Director General commented that his 12 years in Costa Rica had allowed him to observe first hand the democratic values of the citizenry, "which make this a unique and special country of which you are rightfully very proud." In addressing the President, Piñeiro said, "All of this is the result of the complex process that defines the economic and political history of the country. However, I am sure that the social policies that have contributed so much to making this a more just society have contributed greatly to making Costa Rica what it is today."

In concluding, the Director General expressed his gratitude for the hospitality and constant and generous support of the Government and people of Costa Rica.



Photo/R. Escobar

President Calderón described the Director General as a "tireless worker and a fervent advocate of a more just international order". Accompanying him are Cecilia de Piñeiro, the Director General and the First Lady of Costa Rica, Gloria Bejarano de Calderón.

diplomatic corps and representatives of international agencies. In presenting the decoration, the highest awarded by Costa Rica, Calderón stated that it was being given in sincere recognition of the Director General's efforts to strengthen the inter-American system, modernize agriculture and promote the comprehensive development of the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean.

He added, "Your administration is coming to an end, but your work will long be remembered. You, like the farmers of the Americas, have sown many seeds. And, as they have harvested their crops, you have reaped the gratitude of all those who have benefitted from your actions." On January 14, 1994, Piñeiro will conclude eight years at the helm of the Institute, and transfer stewardship of

recognition of the efforts of persons who, although they are not Costa Rican citizens, have earned the gratitude and respect of the Government of the Republic. It is awarded to foreign personalities for their contributions in the field of international relations.

President Calderón recalled that in 1986, when Piñeiro was elected for the first time, by acclamation, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean were in the midst of a profound socioeconomic crisis: the industrial development model had collapsed and the region was in the middle of what became known as the "lost decade." Given that context, he added, this election represented, from the very beginning, "hope for change and the



## COOPERATION

### New possibilities explored

#### Director of External Relations Visits Europe

In November, the Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein, visited several European Nations and the city of New York.

He visited Vienna, Paris and Rome to analyze agricultural modernization actions being carried out with different agencies, as well as others programmed for 1994.

In Austria, he visited the OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) Fund and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO). At the OPEC Fund, he met with members of the Department for Latin America and the Caribbean -headed by Luis Vargas-, with whom he discussed new joint efforts, particularly in the areas of rural poverty and training. With the Director General of UNIDO, Maruricio de Maria y Campos, and other officials, he explored possibilities for joint endeavors, especially in the area of agroindustrial development.

In France, he met with authorities from the Ministry of Cooperation to review IICA's close relations with its Office for Central America and the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research and Development (CIRAD). The meetings at the ministry were chaired by the Director for Technical and Scientific Cooperation,

Phillipe Zeller. At CIRAD, Werthein met with the Director General, Michel De Nus De Lamothe.

In Paris, he also met with officials from institutions with which IICA carries out joint activities, such as INRA (National Agronomic Research Institute) and the nongovernmental organization SOLAGRAL. He also had a meeting with the IDB Representative in Europe, Jorge Elena, and with the Coordinator of UNESCO Intersectoral Projects for Latin America, Gloria Lopez Morales.

In Rome, he represented the Institute at the FAO General Assembly and met with senior officials from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), signing a cooperation agreement with IFAD President, Fawsi Al-Sultan. While in Italy, he also met with the Director of Inter Press Service, Roberto Savio, an agency with which IICA has a long tradition of cooperation.

On the final leg of his trip, the Director of External Relations stopped in New York, where he met with the Regional Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Latin America, Fernando Zumbado, and other officials, to discuss possibilities for expanding cooperation in 1994.

## EARTH COUNCIL

### Inaugural Meeting

#### Objectives and Program of Activities Defined

During a meeting held at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on November 29-30, the Earth Council, a nongovernmental organization created as a result of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, defined its objectives and approved a program of activities to be carried out in the coming months.

Made up of 21 representatives of different regions of the world, the Council will focus its activities on monitoring and supporting efforts to implement the agreements

approved during the Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992.

These agreements include the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, Agenda 21, the United Nations Framework Agreement on Climate Change, the Agreement on Biodiversity, Principles for the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of Forests, and the Alternative Treaties of the NGOs, produced during the Rio Global Forum.

The multiple activities to be carried out will support national and local

organizations involved in the issue of sustainability, with a view to giving those who are seldom heard the opportunity to make their concerns known to political decision makers. The Council will support existing groups in publicizing the work they do, and facilitate their access to information networks.

The program approved during the meeting also calls for the preparation of an annual report, which will provide an overview of the progress achieved by countries and organizations in matters related to sustainable development.

The Chairman of the Earth Council, Maurice Strong, of Canada, stated that this organization will promote neither confrontation nor conflict, but

rather will build bridges of understanding that will enable people to achieve their common purposes and overcome differences.

"We seek to empower those who are usually overlooked in decision making related to matters that affect them," he added.

In his opinion, a worldwide transition to a new style of development that is sustainable in human and economic terms can be achieved through an alliance of rich and poor, North and South, based on fundamental changes in behaviors and economic relations.

## REPORT

The annual report to be prepared by the Earth Council, entitled the Earth Report, will have as its objective to monitor progress regarding commitments assumed in Rio. It will be a valuable tool in influencing decision makers during the transition toward sustainable development, and in strengthening grassroots organizations and indigenous peoples.

The report, which will be independent, objective in the presentation of information, and illustrated with figures, data and testimony from peoples and communities, will reflect the public's perception of environment and development. It will contribute to discussions on topics of interest, inasmuch as it will report on research at the world level, offer political options and propose ideas.

In addition to its 21 regular members, the Council also has honorary members: Sadruddin Aga Khan, of Switzerland; Ingvar Carlsson, of Sweden; ex-President of the United States, Jimmy Carter; ex-Secretary General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar; Erivan K. Haub, of Germany; Nicholas Hayek, of Switzerland;

Robert McMamara, of the United States; Julius Nyerere, of Tanzania; Desmond Tutu, of South Africa; Shridath Ramphal, of Guyana, and Mostafa Tolba, of Egypt.

Headquartered in San Jose, the Council began operations in September 1982, when an Organizing Committee, after consulting with 2,500 entities worldwide, drew up a preliminary list of the topics the Council should

the Council. Given their common interests in the areas of sustainable development and natural resources, these two organizations have established a dynamic working relationship.

Last August, they established an inter-American group, made up of 18 specialists, who will work to promote the sustainable development of agriculture and natural resources.



The Director General receives an award for the support IICA has provided in establishing the Earth Council. The award is presented by the acting President of Costa Rica, Arnaldo Lopez. Accompanying them are the Chairman of the Council, Maurice Strong, and the Minister of Planning of Costa Rica, Carlos Vargas.

address, and received recommendations on criteria for their selection.

The formal establishment of the Council took place on November 29 at Costa Rica's National Theater. This ceremony was attended by authorities of the Government of Costa Rica, representatives of the diplomatic corps and delegates from international agencies.

During this ceremony, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Pifeiro, was recognized for the support provided by the Institute in creating

*"We seek to empower those who are usually overlooked in decision making related to matters that affect them".*

*Maurice Strong*

## Programs on the March

### CHICAGO BOARD OF TRADE

## Training on Futures Markets

### Agricultural Commodity Exchanges Will Benefit

Under a recently signed agreement, IICA and the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT), the longest standing agricultural commodity exchange in the United States, will provide training to buyers, sellers and brokers, on procedures and transactions for futures markets and options contracts.

The agreement was signed by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, and the Vice President of the CBOT, Patrick J. Catania. The initiative is the result of a visit to IICA by the

Marketing Manager of the CBOT, Eugene Mueller, to learn about the Institute's technical support in setting up agricultural commodity exchanges in several countries of Latin America.

The Director of IICA's Program on Trade and Integration, Rodolfo Quiros, in pointing out possibilities that are opening up of working with the Chicago Board of Trade, stated that the CBOT has become a model for other exchanges in the world, with regard to market conditions and prices for grains and other agricultural commodities.

Four or five national or subregional annual training and dissemination activities on issues related to stock exchanges will be held, beginning in 1994. These activities will be organized by IICA, CBOT and the agricultural commodity exchange or promoting group of the host country.

Quiros indicated that, in Latin America, only the oldest commodity exchanges, such as the Grain Exchange of Buenos Aires and the Agricultural Commodity Exchange of São Paulo, operate with futures,

which they consider to be a financial mechanism, as well as a mechanism for transferring risks.

Several countries that recently set up agricultural commodity exchanges have shown interest in learning how futures markets work and, particularly, how to link inter-exchange transactions.

The CBOT is considering the possibility of joining the Pan American Association of Commodity Exchanges, which was set up during the First Meeting of Agricultural Commodity Exchanges, sponsored by IICA and the Commodity Exchange of Guayaquil and held in Ecuador.

### CENTRAL AMERICA

## Rural Agroindustry

### Training in Management and Finance

Professionals from public institutions and nongovernmental organizations in Central America, who provide training and technical assistance to rural agroindustries, participated in a regional course on administrative and financial management, held in Costa Rica from November 29 to December 3.

The activity was organized by the Rural Agroindustrial Development Program

(PRODAR), the Nutrition Institute of Central America and Panama (INCAP) and the Directorate of Information, Communications, Training and Institutional Affairs (DICCAI) - a specialized unit of IICA.

The participants - food technicians, agronomists, agricultural economists, industrial engineers, business administrators, educators, economists and nutritionists - validated a series of manuals that will serve as the basis for training

events on the management of rural agroindustry, which will be held in Central America in the near future.

The manuals cover five topics: accounting principles, financial analysis, cost analysis, personnel administration and marketing of agroindustrial commodities.

PRODAR, a cooperative program that aims to strengthen rural agroindustry in the hemisphere, is developing a training project in Central America and the Dominican

Republic, with a view to promoting this important production activity.

Francois Boucher, the French expert in charge of PRODAR, indicated that the goal of the training initiative is to fill a void; the countries of Central America lack trained personnel who can support small farmers in managing their agroindustries, principally in areas related to technology, entrepreneurial management and marketing.

### COLOMBIA

## The Sociedad de Agricultores Honors IICA with the Order of Agricultural Merit

The President of Colombia, Cesar Gaviria, presented the Deputy Director General of IICA, Reed Hertford, with the Order of Agricultural Merit, which the Sociedad de Agricultores de Colombia (SAC) bestowed on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

According to the SAC, "In Colombia, IICA's activities have been instrumental in strengthening our agricultural economy, which has made it possible to carry out numerous initiatives that have had profound socioeconomic repercussions."

The SAC added that, since IICA's creation, fifty-one years ago, the Institute has contributed significantly to agricultural development in the Americas, in general, and in Colombia, in particular, through

technical cooperation programs which have provided invaluable support in enabling the member countries to move forward in achieving rural well-being."

The award was presented during the twenty-seventh national agricultural congress on rural well-being as a guarantee of peace and social stability, which was held in Cali, Colombia from November 25-27, and brought together the principal producers' organizations and high-level authorities from the agricultural sector of that country.



President Gaviria greets the Deputy Director General of IICA, after presenting him with the award.

### SELA

## IICA to Become Observer

In October, IICA was given the status of International Observer Agency in the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

The decision was approved in Caracas, Venezuela, during the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Latin American Council of SELA. The agreement will enable IICA to designate observers to the meetings of the Council when topics under discussion are related to agriculture and rural development.



Photo/Gabriela Córrova

IICA will be entitled to designate observers to the meetings of the Council when the topics under discussion are related to agriculture and rural development.

## Development of South American Camelidae

### Resources Exceed US\$1 Million

**I**ICA will coordinate the regional South American Camelidae Development Program, which received a donation of US\$800,000 from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), and US\$500,000 from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The initiative seeks to improve the standard of living of small-scale breeders (*comuneros*), or small-scale entrepreneurs who depend on livestock breeding in the Andean highlands or on the processing or marketing of their products. The direct beneficiaries of the Program will be approximately 4,800 families in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru. Llama and alpaca breeders and shepherds are some of the poorest inhabitants of these countries, and it is hoped that the Program will make it possible to overcome extreme poverty and, at the same time, contribute to the preservation of the fragile ecosystems of the Andean highlands.

The contract was signed in Rome in mid-November by the Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein, and the President of IFAD, Fawsi H. Al-Sultan. The President of IFAD pointed out that this first IFAD/IICA joint financial operation is the culmination of years of cooperation activities between the two institutions, which have included project preparation missions, training events and joint publications. He added that IICA's mandate is appropriate for guaranteeing the necessary regional coordination.

IICA's Director of External Relations noted that this Program is a good example of coordination between a United Nations agency and an agency of the inter-

American system. He added that the Institute and the Fund share the goal of achieving rural development within the framework of equity.

The Program, which will carry out activities from 1994 to 1997, will be executed by IFAD, IICA, the participating countries and liaison institutions. The coordination unit will be located in La Paz, Bolivia. In Argentina, the liaison institute will be the Federal Investment Board (CFI); in Bolivia, it will be the National Union of Social Action Institutions (UNITAS); in Chile, the Center for Studies on Development of Norte Grande (CODESDEN); and in

Peru, the Inter-institutional Coordinator of the Alpaca Sector (CISA).

The principal components include technology transfer through horizontal cooperation and the establishment of a technology promotion fund. This financial support program will provide resources to facilitate the adoption of technologies and increase the

value added of camelidae products. It is estimated that some 80 small-scale initiatives will be funded.

The objectives of the Program are to raise the indices of production and productivity; improve marketing and negotiating skills; support the consolidation of grassroots organizations; and promote the active participation of these organizations in society. Since rural women play an important role in breeding camelidae and marketing the products, they will be given equal opportunities to benefit from the program. The strengthening of grassroots organizations is a key element in successfully channeling production, marketing and processing proposals.



*The President of IFAD, Fawsi H. Al-Sultan (right) and the Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein, sign a technical assistance contract for US\$800,000, which will benefit camelidae producers in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile and Peru.*

## Journalism Award

Recognition from IICA, IFAD and GTZ

Over the past few weeks, the 1993 IICA/IFAD/GTZ Inter-American Press Award was presented in several countries of the region, among them Bolivia and Costa Rica.

During the First National Congress on Oil Palm, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, Jose Joaquin Acuña, presented Oscar Nuñez, with a certificate and a check for US\$2,000, as the second place winner in the category Magazines and Weekly Newspapers.

Nuñez, who received his award for an article on deforestation in Costa Rica, indicated that he was particularly pleased that the IICA Office in Costa Rica had decided to present the award at a meeting made up mostly of farmers. He also stressed the importance of the theme of the contest, "Environment, Development and Agriculture." During the ceremony, the journalist



The GTZ Advisor to the Executive Directorate of the Campesino Development Fund, Roland F. Steurer (right) presented Luisa Limachi with the third place award in the IICA/IFAD/GTZ Inter-American Press Awards. They are accompanied by the IICA Representative in Bolivia, Benjamin Jara.



Photo/R. Escobar

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, Jose Joaquin Acuña, presents the Inter-American Press Award to Oscar Nuñez, the winner of the second prize in the category of Magazines and Weekly Newspapers.

Victor J. Barrantes received a certificate as the national winner in the same category.

Luisa Limachi, from Bolivia, who won third prize in the category Daily

Cooperation Agency (GTZ), Roland F. Steurer; the Director of the daily newspaper *Presencia*, Ana Maria Campero, and the President of the Association of International Correspondents in Bolivia, Miguel Longo.

Upon receiving her certificate and a check for US\$1,000, Limachi -the author of an article on restoring the ancient Andean agricultural technology, the "suka kullus"- stated that this prize "is a way to motivate honest, courageous journalism, identified with sustainable development," and congratulated IICA, IFAD and GTZ for their initiative.

The 1993 International Press Award drew participants from 22 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. During the regular meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), held in Mexico in September, awards were presented to the two first prize winners.

Newspapers, received an award in a ceremony hosted by the IICA Representative, Benjamin Jara. Other participants included the adviser of the Germany Technical

## Agricultural Commodity Prices Information System to be Expanded



Photo/R. Escobar

In 1994, the Secretariat of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) will expand its price information system for agricultural products and inputs.

According to Reinaldo Perez, Director of Central Area Operations of IICA, the expansion of this data base responds to a recommendation

*Participants in the seminar-workshop incorporated 32 new commodities into the price information system.*

of the ministers of agriculture of the subregion, to "develop reliable, quantitative information that will serve as the basis for making decisions related to trade."

During a seminar-workshop on this topic held in November,

representatives from the ministries of agriculture of the subregion decided to incorporate 32 new products such as potatoes, tomatoes and onion, among others.

Roger Guillen, Secretary of CORECA, indicated that the information system will complement other available services such as the Information System for Agricultural Policy Analysis in Latin America and the Caribbean (SIAPA) of IICA and the Foreign Trade Information System (SICE) of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Gilberto Galvez, an official of the Ministry of Agriculture of Guatemala, stated that "Central American integration requires trade information that can be handled rapidly."

Galvez added that, in the short term, there are plans to gather data on bank interest rates for the sector, and to include prices for food concentrates for beef cattle, hogs and poultry.

### COSTA RICA

## African Oil Palm Plans to Expand Cultivation

Costa Rica plans to add 50 thousand hectares to the area already cultivated with African oil palm, which could make this Central America country the leading oil producer in Latin America.

During a national congress held at IICA Headquarters from November 10-12, producers, businessmen, government officials and national and international specialists agreed that Costa Rica has the conditions needed to take the lead.

The activity was inaugurated by the acting Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Jose Joaquin Acuña. Speakers included the acting Director General of IICA, Manuel Otero; the Coordinator of IICA's Plan of Action in Costa Rica, Hector Morales; the Representative of FAO, Constantino Tapio; the President of the National Association of Palm Oil Producers, Marco A. Bolaños; and the President of the Numar Group, Rodolfo Echeverria.

Some of the issues discussed during the Congress included the technological development of oil palm, market performance and its

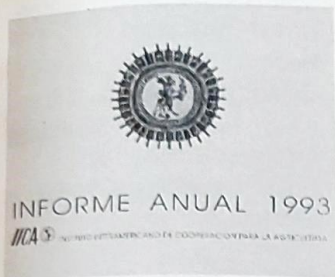
impact on national and international demand for oil, and the search for alternatives to promote the production of this important crop.

African palm (*Elaeis Guineensis*) belongs to the family of oilseeds and annual production per hectare is approximately 5 tons of oil. The crop is grown mainly in the cantons of Aguirre, Corredores, Golfito and Osa, where approximately 26,500 hectares are under cultivation. Some three thousand families depend directly on this crop.

# PUBLICATIONS

## 1993 ANNUAL REPORT

IICA EDITORIAL SERVICE



The Annual Report provides an overview of IICA actions during 1993, a year which saw the consolidation of a new view of agriculture in the hemisphere and the culmination of eight years of work that have enabled the Institute to respond to the enormous changes that have taken place worldwide and in the region.

The Report highlights the efforts made by IICA, on the basis of the mandates issued by the Inter-American Conferences of Ministers of Agriculture -held in Ottawa and Madrid-, to adjust its conceptual and operating framework to the demands of today, with a view to undertaking a process of agricultural modernization based on three pillars: equity, competitiveness and sustainability.

Another important event addressed in the Report is the Seventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), held in

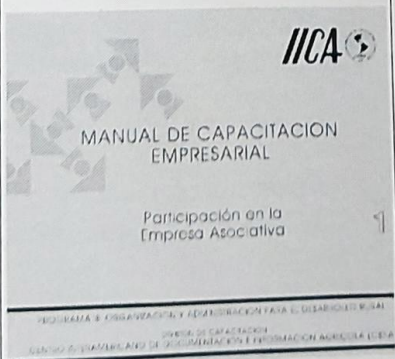
Mexico, which reaffirmed these pillars and elected a new Director General, who will be at the helm of the Institute for the next four years.

Other aspects of IICA covered in the Annual Report are relations with international cooperation agencies, the increased receipt of external resources, and the work of the Institute's five Programs and specialized units.

Also highlighted are topics that will be of the utmost importance as IICA enters the new century: state reform, coordination and mobilization of private sector organizations, agro-industrial development, and the use of biotechnology in agriculture.

### MANUAL DE CAPACITACION EMPRESARIAL: PARTICIPACION EN LA EMPRESA ASOCIATIVA

PROGRAM III -ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT- AND THE DIRECTORATE FOR INFORMATION, COMMUNICATIONS, TRAINING AND INSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS (DICCAI)



This manual is the result of a joint effort between the Directorate for Information, Communications, Training and Institutional Affairs (DICCAI) and Program III -Organization and Management for Rural Development-.

It is one of a series of six volumes intended to provide support for the training activities carried out by the Cooperative Rural Development Project for the Countries of the Southern Area (PROCODER), with a view to upgrading the management skills of small-farm enterprises and small farmers.

After numerous consultations with farmers in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, a team of experts prepared the technical content of the manuals, which were then adapted by DICCAI. The manuals will be validated subsequently in terms of their linguistic diversity and other aspects.

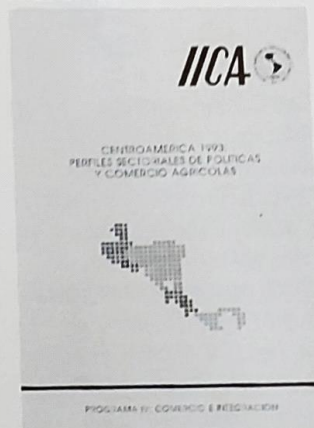
The topics covered in the manuals are: participation, organization, marketing, accounting, financing and investment projects, within the framework of associative enterprises.

In order to reinforce the knowledge acquired by the users of the manuals, each contains an evaluation sheet to grade

the instructor and the content of same.

### CENTROAMERICA 1993: PERFILES SECTORIALES DE POLITICAS Y COMERCIO AGRICOLA

PROGRAM IV -TRADE AND INTEGRATION-



This document, prepared by IICA's Program IV -Trade and Integration-, presents statistics and data relative to agri-food decisions.

This is an updated version of an earlier publication prepared at the request of the economic cabinets of the isthmus. It is intended to provide data on new sectoral and foreign trade policies.

The book also contains the Agricultural Commitment signed in Panama, signed by the Presidents of Central America, and the text of the Common External Tariff.



## CENTRAL AMERICA



\* Two Central American publications, the magazine **Panorama Internacional** -distributed in the region- and the weekly **Esta Semana** -published in Costa Rica-, recently reproduced interviews with the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, in which he took an in-depth look at the current situation in and the outlook for agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

He addressed topics such as where agriculture is headed as the twentieth century come to a close, how the outcome of the Uruguay Round of the GATT will effect the sector and what the consequences of the approval by the U.S. Congress of the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) will be, and offered a review of his eight years at the helm of IICA.

Regarding the international trade of agricultural commodities, the Director General recognized that the short-term outlook is less than favorable, but that "...in the long term, there is reason for optimism. I agree with those who think the world will be moving toward greater world trade."

"One indication of this is the fact that the industrialized countries, which had implemented policies

to protect agriculture, have begun to reverse these policies and are gradually dismantling mechanisms to protect markets, and subsidies for exports." (Panorama Internacional, No. 208, December 13, 1993).

With regard to the work carried out by IICA over the last eight years, Piñero stated that the Institute had helped the countries to understand and foresee changes that would be taking place in the world, and to understand the changes that they would have to make to enable their agricultural sectors to keep up with changes occurring worldwide and in the region. (Esta Semana, November 23-29, 1993).

## COSTA RICA



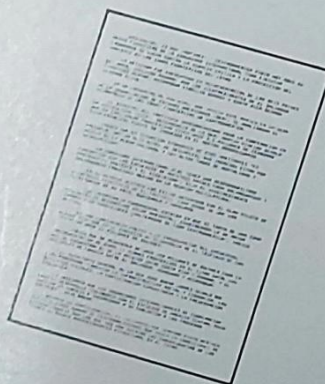
\* The approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in the United States captured the attention of international news agencies, which provided broad coverage before, during and after the historic vote in the House of Representatives.

Contacted by the Agence France Presse (AFP), the Director General of IICA noted that the approval of this agreement was a positive sign for Latin America, inasmuch as it showed the willingness of the developed

countries to open up their markets.

NAFTA, according to Piñero, will not have a direct and immediate impact on the economies of the countries of Latin America, except for Mexico, and to a lesser extent Central America, but will foster the development of international agricultural trade, which, by itself, offers hope for these economies.

## UNITED STATES



\* Correspondents of news agencies in Washington, including Inter Press Service (IPS) and NOTIMEX, reported

on a meeting that brought together the Vice Presidents of Central America and authorities from regional cooperation agencies. The meeting, held on November 23 at the Headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), was convened to discuss border areas shared by Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

IICA was represented by the Director General, who stressed the need to promote agricultural, artisanal, industrial, trade and service activities as part of this trinational development effort.

Referring to challenges inherent in this project, known as TRIFINIO, Piñero noted that in order to achieve the key objective of conserving forests and other natural resources, it will be necessary to ensure that populations in the surrounding areas have economic alternatives that will enable them to meet the needs of their families without overexploiting forest resources.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

\* **Second Meeting** of the "Inter-American Group for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Natural Resources." February 23-25, 1994, Bogota, Colombia. Organized by IICA and the Earth Council.

\* **Workshop on Integrated Pest Management.** March 7-11, 1994, San Jose, Costa Rica. Organized by IICA and the Integrated Pest Management Working Group of England.

\* **Nineteenth Session** of the General Assembly of the World Conservation Union (IUCN). January 15-26, 1994, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Participants include IUCN, IICA, NGOs and private enterprises.

