

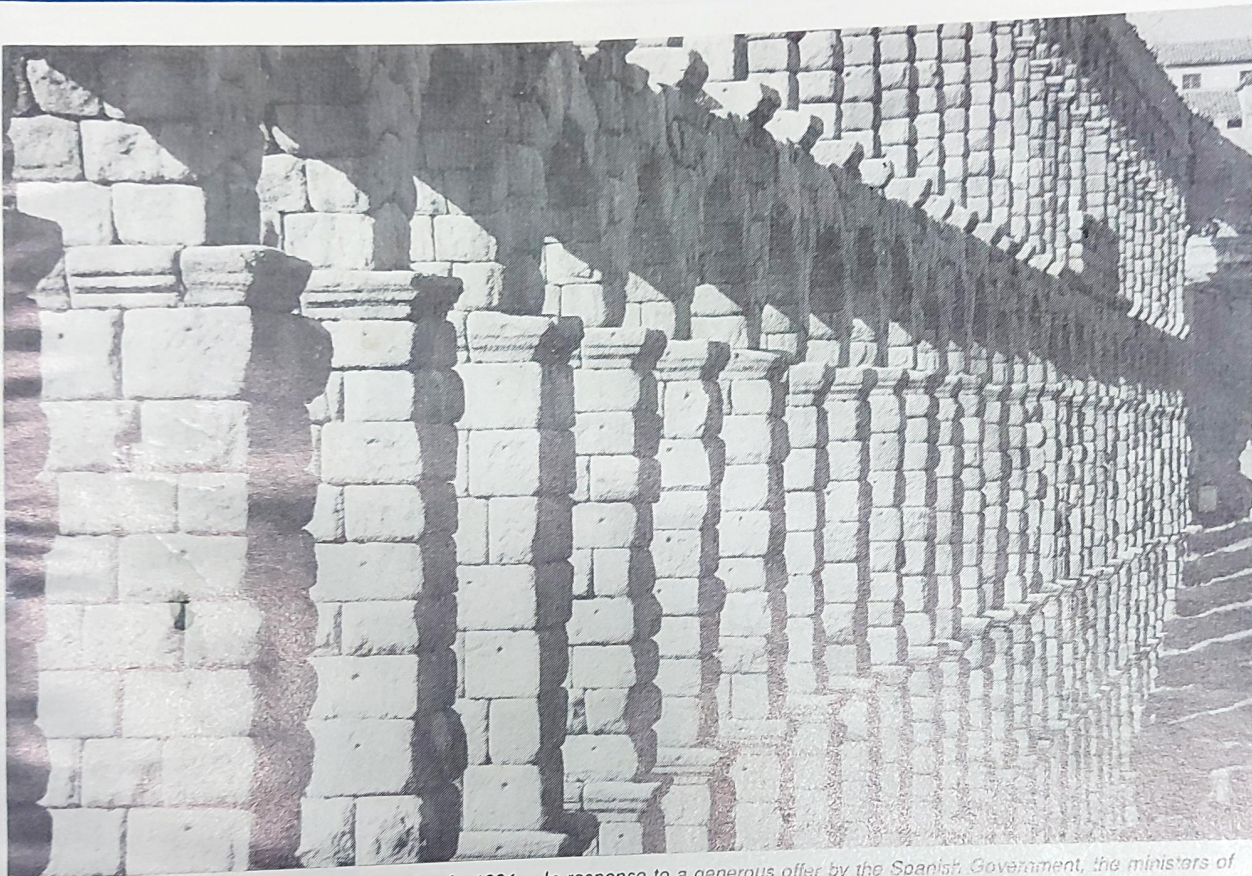
**IICA**  **News**



**1991**



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*Spain to host agricultural summit meeting in 1991. In response to a generous offer by the Spanish Government, the ministers of agriculture of the Americas will meet in Madrid in September. The meeting, called jointly by the Organization of American States and IICA, will focus on developing strategies for agriculture in the twenty-first century.*

- Ministers of Agriculture of the Southern Cone Strengthen Integration Process
- Koreans Analyze Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Biotechnology: Adoption of Legislation to Protect Plant Varieties Recommended



# In this issue

## Focus

Southern Cone:  
Ministers of Agriculture  
Strengthen Subregional Integra-  
tion Process 3

## Headquarters

IFAD Studies Financing Strate-  
gies for Poor Farmers 5

Latin America and the Carib-  
bean: Experts Assess Korean  
Support in Rural Development 6

Latin America and the Carib-  
bean: Librarians Work Towards  
Integrating Agricultural Informa-  
tion Systems 7

Canadian Ambassador to the  
OAS: "IICA Enhances the Im-  
pact of Resources Allocated for  
the Region" 7

Central America:  
Guidelines Established for Sup-  
porting Agricultural Develop-  
ment 8

Head of CIDIA Assumes Post  
**PLANLAC** 8

Modernization of Agriculture in  
Latin America and the Carib-  
bean 9

Latin America and the Carib-  
bean: Rural Agroindustry Pro-  
gram Implemented 10

## FORUM

Differentiated Policies for Rural  
Development 11

## Programs on the March

Latin America and the Carib-  
bean: Adoption of Legislation to  
Protect Plant Varieties Recom-  
mended 13

Financing of Innovations and  
Technological Transfer Urged 14

Andean Area:  
The Impact of Macroeconomic  
Policies on Agriculture to be Stu-  
died 14

PROCACAO Plans Activities for  
1991 15

Committee of Agricultural Journa-  
lists Created in the Southern Cone 15

Southern Area:  
Support for Modernization of  
Small-farm Agriculture Urged 16

IICA Trains Andean Technicians  
to Train Small Farmers 16

Guatemalans Receive Training to  
work with Rural Women 17

Training Women to Formulate De-  
velopment Programs 17

Costa Rica:  
More Efficient Marketing Services  
Sought 18

Uruguay:  
Harmonization of Quarantine Pro-  
cedures Recommended 18

RISPAL'S Actions Strengthened  
in Latin America and the Carib-  
bean 19

Andean Area:  
Project Presented to Control and  
Eradicate Fruit Flies 19

## Action in the Countries

Director General of IICA Visits Ar-  
gentina and Uruguay 20

Brazil:  
Pfiñero Delivers Book on IICA Ac-  
tivities 20

Ecuador:  
Minister of Agriculture Visits IICA  
Office 21

Letter of Understanding Signed 21

IICA and the Government of Gua-  
temala Sign Cooperation Agree-  
ment 21

IICA Offices in Haiti and the  
Dominican Republic Promote  
Coordination 22

Junior Professional Programme  
Promotes Relations Between  
the Caribbean and Latin America 22

IICA Trains Technicians in Proj-  
ect Preparation 23

## Publications

Centroamerica en Graficas 23

## IICA in the News

The Eighth Latin American Meet-  
ing on agricultural Financing, and  
the official inauguration of activi-  
ties by the Advisory Council for  
Agricultural Cooperation in the  
Southern Area (CONASUR),  
were given extensive press cov-  
erage in Latin America. 24

## Upcoming Activities

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation  
of 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 32 member countries and 12 observ-  
er countries.



Southern Cone:

# Ministers of Agriculture Strengthen Subregional Integration Process.



*The Ministers of Agriculture of the Southern Cone ratified their willingness "to make every effort" to execute the programs and projects included in the PLANLAC.*

The ministers of agriculture of the countries of the Southern Cone met from November 21-23 in Foz de Iguazú, Brazil, and adopted a series of resolutions to strengthen subregional integration. They also issued a statement criticizing the protectionist policies of the European Economic Community (EEC).

The ministers of agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay met for the first time as the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Cone (CONASUR) to put into operation this permanent mechanism for coordinating external and internal policies for the subregion. Also present was Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which serves as the Technical Coordinating Secretariat of CONASUR.

In one of their resolutions, the ministers gave their "decided support" to the objectives of subregional agricultural integration and to a project for the creation of a common market in the Southern Cone. It is their judgement that agriculture must be reactivated if the countries are to get back on the path to economic and social development, and

that such reactivation will be achieved through increased participation of the agricultural and agroindustrial sectors in world markets. To improve coordination between agricultural and macroeconomic policies, they added, the technical capacity of sectoral institutions must be upgraded. They also stated that the integration of the agricultural sector will require the comprehensive and coordinated treatment of all aspects of sectoral policy, especially sanitary issues. In this regard, they requested technical support from IICA in carrying out this task.

They also ratified the principles and objectives of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), especially the strategies for the Southern Area, "giving priority to actions aimed at harmonization of policies and subregional integration."

Specifically, the ministers of agriculture ratified their willingness to make every effort to execute the programs and projects included in the PLANLAC. In this regard, they requested IICA, as Coordinating Secretariat, to seek technical and financial assistance from multilateral and bilateral funding agencies.



In another resolution, the ministers underscored the importance of coordinating and upgrading capacities in the region to diminish and/or eliminate the problems affecting the production and marketing of agricultural and forestry commodities, while taking into account phytosanitary requirements, sustained agricultural development, health considerations and the conservation of the environment.

After giving their support to the coordination efforts being made by the Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Area (COSAVE), they resolved to sign an animal health agreement for the subregion in 1991, the goal of which is to increase production and promote the marketing of agricultural commodities in the subregion.

In the same resolution, the ministers charged a committee made up of a representative of each country with studying other measures needed to make significant progress in the integration of the agricultural sector and in the free trade of livestock products. The committee's report will be analyzed at the next CONASUR meeting, to be held in Arica, Chile in March.

In order to facilitate subregional trade, the ministers of agriculture agreed to prepare a basic agreement on the quality of agricultural products and by-products.

On the topic of ecology, CONASUR requested its Coordinating Secretariat to prepare general proposals related to the conservation of renewable natural resources in the subregion. In the judgement of the ministers, existing agreements and programs for the conservation of such resources

"do not lay the groundwork for a uniform conservation policy in the region".

They also agreed to implement policies on integration and cooperation in the generation and transfer of agricultural technology through PROCISUR, recognizing the importance of having a permanent system for coordination and support, the exchange of information and cooperation in technology generation and transfer.

## DECLARATION

The ministers of Argentina, Felipe Sola; Brazil, Antonio Cabrera; Chile, Juan Figueroa; Paraguay, Raul Torres; and Uruguay, Alvaro Ramos, issued a statement that rejected the position adopted by the EEC in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). These negotiations were suspended in Geneva, Switzerland, last December, with no agreement being reached.

The ministers considered the EEC's agricultural proposal "unacceptable," since it calls for the continuation of current artificial conditions related to production and the accumulation of surpluses, which "limit progress in our nations."

They also indicated their total disagreement with the application of the rebalancing mechanism, which is "contrary to the spirit of the GATT and the trade interests of the countries of the Southern Cone".

### Meeting with Ambassadors

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, met at Institute Headquarters in Costa Rica with the ambassadors of Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay to inform them of the official inauguration of CONASUR and of the tasks that this sectoral forum will undertake. From left to right are: Jaime Moreno Laval, of Chile; Alicia Martinez, of Argentina; Martin E. Piñeiro, of IICA; Raquel Macedo de Sheppard, of Uruguay and Jose Jeronimo Moscardo de Souza, of Brazil.





# IFAD Studies Financing Strategies for Poor Farmers

**T**he International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a United Nations agency that provides financing for poor farmers, held a high-level meeting at IICA Headquarters from November 12 to 17 to review its activities and strategies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meeting brought together 70 officials from financial and international technical assistance agencies, governments and IFAD. Other participants included directors of IFAD-financed projects currently under way in the hemisphere, where, according to statistics, 65 percent of the rural population lives in poverty.

In summarizing the Latin American and Caribbean Project Implementation Workshop, Theodore van der Pluijm, the senior IFAD official for the region, stressed the need to accelerate execution of proposals designed to support the production activities of the poorest small farmers, as a means of alleviating rural poverty.

In order to expedite this process, van der Pluijm recommended that horizontal cooperation be developed among those responsible for the projects; that closer links be forged between international funding and technical cooperation agencies; that regional and local organizations participate in financing strategies; and that entrepreneurial-administrative criteria be used to administer resources earmarked for small farmers.

At the close of what van der Pluijm termed "highly successful working sessions," he indicated that the execution rate of the projects is the principal obstacle faced by IFAD in Latin America and the Caribbean. He added that this is a "very complex, delicate problem, stemming from very different causes."

Among these causes is the lack of coordination among the agencies responsible for execution, a shortage of trained personnel, administrative and legal red tape in granting loans, and the need to obtain further information on the project area and its beneficiaries.

According to van der Pluijm, and participants in the seminar agreed, formulas for dealing with these problems include strengthening horizontal cooperation among project administrators, since the transfer of knowledge and the

success of the projects will be more easily achieved if based on successful experiences.

In order to complement these efforts, he suggested closer ties among international technical cooperation agencies and funding agencies, such as IFAD, which are particularly competent in the area of project management.

Another suggestion was to promote a dialogue with governments that have implemented strict policies regarding public spending and the external debt. The goal is to encourage them to relax such restrictions and disburse funds earmarked for development that have already been approved.

Van der Pluijm was optimistic about the "valuable contributions of the meeting," which will be studied in depth and which will "undoubtedly help improve the design of projects and streamline their implementation."



*During the opening session, the Vice President of Costa Rica, German Serrano Pinto (left), stressed the need for finding new ways to finance the activities of small-scale farmers.*



# Latin America and the Caribbean: Experts Assess Korean Support in Rural Development

Experts from 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries, who met at IICA Headquarters from December 3-11 for a seminar/workshop on rural development strategies, noted that assistance provided by the Republic of Korea in this subject area complements regional efforts aimed at improving production among small-scale farmers.

farmers. Such assistance is offered through training courses for technical personnel and technology transfer with emphasis on introducing mechanization into the cultivation of grains, etc.

In reviewing the event, Moo Nam Chung, of the Division of Technical Cooperation for Rural Development,

cess to land and technology transfer constitute the principle problems limiting the impact of rural development policies in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Chung declared that the technical cooperation program with Latin America and the Caribbean will be strengthened to support regional strategies designed to make small farmers more competitive.

During the closing session, the Korean Ambassador to Costa Rica, Chang-Keun Kim, offered the participants his country's experiences in agricultural modernization.

He indicated that in the past few years Korea has undergone a reactivation process that has made it possible to meet the country's food needs as well as to progress in agricultural mechanization.

## OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, stated that during the 90s agriculture will take on particular importance, mainly because the opening up and liberalization of economies make it possible for Latin America and the Caribbean to strengthen their ties with emerging powers such as Korea.

Piñero stated that, in the current context, IICA hopes to play a role in coordinating relations and exchanges between the countries of the region and Korea, the goal being to ensure that technical cooperation will support actions already undertaken in the region that are aimed at using existing knowledge, technology and experiences to facilitate agricultural development.



The Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Costa Rica, Chan-Keun Kim, opened the seminar-workshop. With him are the Vice Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Jose Joaquín Acuña (left) and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero.

The seminar/workshop, sponsored by the Rural Development Administration (RDA) of the Republic of Korea, with support from IICA, brought together rural development project specialists who received training in Korea between 1982 and 1989 under a cooperation program between the government of that country and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The experts felt that the Korean assistance was extremely useful because it focuses on increasing production on small farms as a means of improving the socioeconomic condition of poor

commented that the seminar had provided an opportunity to exchange experiences "which allowed us to see how well the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are following up on our initiatives on behalf of small farmers."

During the event, the participants exchanged information and experiences on rural development in their respective countries, identified the major weaknesses in government strategies, learned of recent advances and compared the training they received in Korea with the realities they face in the region. The participants declared that the lack of funding, ac-



# Latin America and the Caribbean: Librarians Work Towards Integrating Agricultural Information Systems



Some 200 librarians and information specialists from Latin America and the Caribbean meet at IICA Headquarters.

Approximately 200 librarians and other information specialists from Latin America and the Caribbean who attended a meeting at IICA Headquarters from December 3-7, organized by the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists (AIBDA), agreed to seek ways to coordinate and integrate the agricultural information systems currently in operation in their countries.

This decision was underscored by the outgoing president of AIBDA, Nitzia Barrantes, who stated that this is the

best way to respond to the economic difficulties affecting the region and to increase the potential of each country's resources.

One of the goals of the meeting, entitled "Information and Productivity, Latin America in the World Scenario," was to study the generation, dissemination and use of information as an integral part of agricultural and rural development in the region.

The meeting gave rise to a proposal on the exchange of products generated by national and

international agricultural information systems and the three large worldwide data bases: AGRICOLA of the National Agricultural Library of the United States, AGRIS of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and CAB ABSTRACTS of CAB International of England. National agricultural information systems include all the libraries and documentation centers in each country which specialize in agriculture.

During the meeting, librarians and documentalists from the region presented papers on training, professional exchanges and information resources.

AIBDA was founded in 1953 during the first technical meeting of agricultural librarians from Latin America, held in Turrialba, Costa Rica and sponsored by IICA. Its permanent executive technical secretariat is headquartered at IICA. The Association aims to serve as a link between agricultural information specialists from the hemisphere and to upgrade the professional level of its members.

This inter-American meeting was sponsored by IICA, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica and the National Banana Corporation (CORBANA), with cooperation from other national and international agencies and institutions.

The Canadian Ambassador to the Organization of American States (OAS), Jean Paul Hubert, stated at IICA Headquarters that his country's support to the Institute "helps enhance the impact of dwindling resources."

Canada has been a Member State of IICA for many years and, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), offers a wide range of technical and financial support to the Institute's Programs. According to the diplomat, "IICA

## Canadian Ambassador to the OAS: "IICA Enhances the Impact of Resources Allocated for the Region"

is a pioneer in its field, and that is why we have been active members from the very beginning."

"My country, like any other country," he added, "has economic problems and you cannot just throw money out the window. That is why every dollar spent through a specialized

institute such as IICA has a very important multiplier effect."

The Ambassador was in Costa Rica to participate in CIDA's annual meeting of its 80 officials who work in Latin America.



The Project for Technical Assistance for Agricultural Development in Central America (RUTA II) will focus its actions in 1991 on providing support to the countries in designing agricultural policies, identifying and formulating investment projects and promoting training activities.

Representatives of the ministries of agriculture of Central America, members of the national technical units that carry out RUTA II's actions and delegates from international funding and donor agencies met at IICA Headquarters at the end of November and indicated that, within these guidelines, special emphasis will be placed on activities related to the participation of rural woman in development, the conservation of natural resources and food security.

These are some of the principal matters discussed at the tripartite meeting of RUTA II, an initiative of the United Nations Development Programme, under the Special Program of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC). The Project, financed by the World Bank, also receives funds from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), IICA,

## Central America: Guidelines Established for Supporting Agricultural Development



*Participants in the meeting included representatives of the ministries of agriculture of Central America, members of national/technical units and delegates from international funding and donor agencies.*

the government of Japan and the participating countries - Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Costa Rica.

According to Arturo Cornejo, Director of RUTA II, another agreement reached at the meeting, which was supported by the funding and donor agencies, was to admit Panama into the Project as of June 1991.

RUTA II, which manages approximately US\$8.8 million in resources, will extend its activities until 1993. During the next meeting, planned for November 1991, the beneficiary countries and donor agencies will discuss the future of the Project once funding ends.

## Head of CIDIA Assumes Post

On November 25, 1990, Jose Raimundo Nagel Amaro became the new director of the Inter-American Agricultural



*José Nagel*

Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA).

Nagel is a sociologist-educator,

with a degree in rural development from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

Nagel previously served as the executive director of the Agrarian Development Institute of Chile, advisor to the Director of the International Cooperation Agency of Chile, and secretary general of the cooperative development project in Latin America, of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation.

He was also a full professor of educational sociology and education and

technological change at the University of Chile and the Catholic University. He has also worked as a consultant for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Labor Organization (ILO).

CIDIA was reorganized in December 1989 and placed directly under the General Directorate, in response to the mandate of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture regarding dissemination of the PLANLAC.



## Modernization of Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean

The modernization of agriculture, with equity, is one of the central elements of the development strategy included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), the coordination of which was entrusted to IICA by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere.

The economic difficulties currently faced by the countries of the region have exacerbated their structural problems, particularly with regard to rural and urban poverty, in spite of the social and economic development achieved in the decades preceding the crisis.

It is now recognized that any new proposal for a development strategy must provide solutions to the false contradictions of the past, such as those that supposedly existed between agrarian and industrial development, between production for domestic and external markets, and between economic development and social progress.

One basic aspect of this new strategy is the need to modernize agriculture in Central America and the Caribbean; modernization with equity, which takes full advantage of the region's potential in terms of human and natural resources. The increased production and productivity to be generated by this process will lay the groundwork for the reactivation of the sector, which will have a multiplier effect on the rest of the economy. It will also benefit the rural population, impoverished by the crisis.

With support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), IICA conducted a study on successful agricultural modernization processes in eight specific subsectors of Latin America: grains in Argentina, soybeans in Brazil, flowers in Chile, dairy products in Costa Rica, fruits in Chile, shrimp in Ecuador, vegetables in Mexico and poultry in Peru.

IICA's Program I, Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, published a document on the modernization of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean which analyzes recent processes of growth and modernization, in which incentive policies, technological development, management, union organization and market development were identified as determining factors. The moderni-

zation of the State, access to financing at competitive interest rates and competition were also listed as important factors.

### MULTIPLIER AND ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

The document indicates that the modernization of agriculture has an important impact on the economy and society as a whole. This impact is the result of intersectoral relations with agriculture, the effects on family incomes, employment and wages, and the effects on export and import activities.

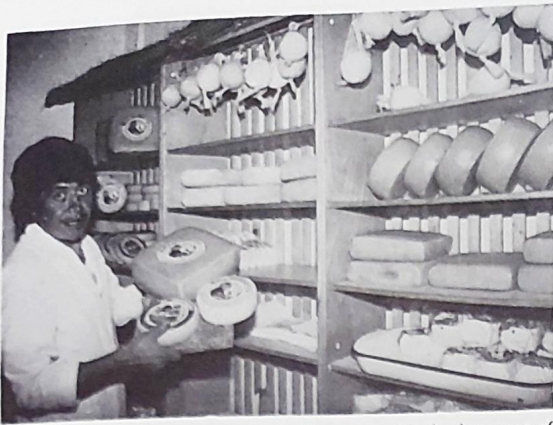
Another direct effect of modernization is the influence it will have on the deterioration or conservation of natural resources. It is essential for sustainable development of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean that the long-term viability of this process be considered, together with an analysis of the expected effects on the stocks of production and natural resources and the environment of the region.

The paper also stresses the feasibility of modernizing other agricultural subsectors in the countries of the region. There are three principle questions that must be considered: which experiences should be transferred, to whom they should be transferred and how they should be transferred. With regard to the first question, it should be noted that not all experiences can be transferred. As to whom should benefit from these experiences, it states that it is imperative that successful experiences be transferred to small-scale farmers, as compared to the case studies, in which modernization was limited to medium and large-scale farmers.

In support of this initiative, the following should be taken into consideration: fostering an understanding of the importance of participation and self-organization; linking small-scale farmers to the modernized sector through cooperatives or associations; training the labor force and; bringing small-scale production and the needs of the modern sector together (for example, animal feed).

In terms of how the experiences should be transferred, the study places special emphasis on IICA's role. It proposes a joint effort by IICA's five Programs - working under a common approach to modernization - and exploratory studies on areas or products susceptible to modernization. It recommends using as a frame of action the fora created under the PLANLAC, among others.





*Agroindustry offers great potential for improving the incomes of small-scale farmers, as in the case of cheese plants in Ecuador.*

## Latin America and the Caribbean: Rural Agroindustry Program Implemented

**A**n ambitious program designed to promote and organize rural agroindustry in Latin America and the Caribbean moved forward with the establishment of national networks in several countries, the recent approval of its bylaws, the creation of an administrative body and the identification of activities to be carried out during the year.

The Rural Agroindustrial Development Program (PRODAR) brings together international cooperation agencies -including IICA-, regional and subregional agencies and national institutions, in an effort to use the work and experience of these entities in applying a cooperation strategy aimed at upgrading the effectiveness of programs and policies in the short term.

The Program is being implemented in Latin America, where rural agroindustry is based on small-scale farmers. There are an estimated

60 to 65 million small farmers, with farms that cover 36% of the arable land, which corresponds to 75% of the total region.

This economic activity, which adds value to small-farm production, presents an enormous potential for the region, where small-scale farmers produce 40% of the food consumed in Latin America and generate 30% of all exports.

### PRODAR AND PLANLAC

PRODAR is one of the hemispheric programs included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

The PLANLAC is an overall development strategy, coordinated by IICA, which proposes the modernization of agriculture and full linkage with industry, as support for the efforts of the countries to achieve equitable and sustainable development. The

Program was conceived in 1988 during a workshop on rural agroindustry and in response to problems affecting the rural population of the region -migration, post-harvest losses, inability to add value to primary production and difficulties in gaining access to marketing channels. After two years of extraordinary effort, the Program has finally become a reality.

National networks have been

set up in Chile, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic and Colombia and the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) of Argentina is currently promoting the establishment of a network there.

### NATIONAL NETWORKS

The national networks act as mechanisms to promote the development of rural agroindustries in the countries of the region and serve as links between PRODAR and groups of small-scale farmers.

The networks will be strengthened with a US\$200,000 contribution from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). IICA will administer the funds and serve as headquarters for the program.

These funds will be used to establish, in each network, information and dissemination services, in charge of preparing a bulletin and es-

tablishing a data bank; training services, responsible for organizing short courses, workshops and seminars and; research services, which will focus on assessing rural agroindustry in the countries, with a view to identifying future projects.

### MEETING IN AMBATO

During a meeting in 1990 in Ambato, Ecuador, PRODAR approved its bylaws, set up its steering committee and appointed its executive director, Francois Boucher, a rural agroindustrial specialist from the French Technical Cooperation Agency.

Boucher, who is a specialist with IICA's Marketing and Agroindustry Program, indicated that during 1991, progress will continue in areas such as training.

As an example, he mentioned the interest some member institutions of PRODAR have shown in conducting post-graduate courses in Colombia, Chile and Venezuela.

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*Rural agroindustry provides opportunities for adding value to small-farm production.*

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# Differentiated Policies for Rural Development

Manuel O. Chiriboga (\*)

**W**e can say that Latin America and the Caribbean have gained experience in rural development, if we interpret rural development as programs and projects aimed at changing any of the problems affecting small-scale farmers there: poverty, low production and productivity in farming and artisanal activities and limited participation in decision making. A brief evaluation of the results shows that in the best of cases, and in spite of resources allocated, little more than ad hoc institutional systems have been established.

The limited results achieved thus far make it necessary to analyze the social dynamics of the farming population in relation to society as a whole, to take a new look at the problems affecting the small-farm economy and rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean and to adopt a new approach that will generate more effective proposals.

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*It is essential to adopt a more comprehensive approach and to develop all the different aspects of the production cycle, including marketing, agroindustrial processing and agricultural services.*

---

In formulating these new proposals, it is necessary to steer away from certain simplistic formulas that are a mere repetition of the import substitution model or that leave the solution of problems related to the small-farm economy to the free operations of the market. It will also be necessary to overcome dependence on different types of assistance provided by the State and the private sector, which equate rural development with subsidies for the rural population.



This task becomes even more urgent in light of the changes taking place in the region: the opening up of trade, a reduced role for the State, restrictions on subsidy and protectionist policies and the weakening of social and other programs. These changes are transforming the situation in the region, in many cases resulting in traumatic social change and deterioration. Phenomena such as international rural migration, violence and drug trafficking are all part of this problem, which poses a serious threat to political and democratic stability in the region.

New proposals for rural development must take into account the variety that characterizes the rural population in Latin America. On the one hand, there are many different types of small-scale farmers, ranging from those whose production is entirely market-oriented and who use the latest technologies, to those who must devise complex strategies for survival and that involve the entire family unit in numerous artisanal, agricultural, labor and commercial activities. There are also diverse types of rural societies, ranging from modern agroindustrial societies to traditional societies characterized by backward marketing sectors.

In our judgement, in order to develop this new proposal it is necessary to do away with certain concepts that have prevailed in the region for years.

The first is the concept that identifies rural development with programs and projects rather than with instigating a process of social change in rural societies, which calls for a high degree of voluntary participation by public and private institutions.

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(\*) Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program.



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*The strengthening of rural societies, decentralization and small-farmer participation are prerequisites for rural development.*

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The second is the view that limits rural development exclusively to agricultural activities, meaning those carried out by the primary sector of the economy. It is essential to adopt a more comprehensive approach and to develop all the different aspects of the production cycle, including marketing, agroindustrial processing and agricultural services.

A third concept, closely linked to the previous one, focuses rural development actions on farmers, bypassing the social institutions and relationships of the rural population. It is



necessary to plan rural development actions for a much larger group: rural society.

The fourth erroneous concept is that rural development can be achieved simply through changes in the agricultural situation and not in the other economic sectors and in the relations between them. This view also overlooks the impact of macroeconomic and sectoral policies on the small-farm economy, since it considers that development is only possible from within and through projects.

Lastly, for the purposes of this article, and although other misconceptions exist, is the view which limits rural development to changes in production activities, overlooking the political systems and the issue of small-farmer participation. Rural development is not justified only in economic terms. First and foremost, it is intended to strengthen democracy in the region, particularly in the rural sector, by addressing problems of equity.

The strengthening of rural societies, decentralization and small-farmer participation are prerequisites for rural development.

Differentiated rural development policies aim primarily to ensure that institutional actions promote change in rural societies, changes that reflect the specific nature of the small-farm economy and rural society.

These policies form part of an overall economic and social development proposal, under which a series of macroeconomic and sectoral policies, programs and projects are coordinated; provide national coverage, yet reflect the specific needs of regions and microregions, the environment and ethnic groups; are long term, since rural development is a process that evolves over long periods of time; are based on small-farmer participation, through their organizations and open institutional systems that, rather than taking the place of such participation, encourage it; are implemented through an institutional system operating at the national and local levels, which will ensure that the necessary national political consensus exists to deal with the problems of poverty, and which will strengthen, through decentralization, local capabilities to implement actions agreed upon;

*The strengthening of the rural population is an essential element of rural development.*

and have the financial, administrative and technical resources needed to ensure full implementation. Many of these resources exist in the region, but are not used to full advantage.

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*Rural development is not justified only in economics terms. First and foremost, it is intended to strengthen democracy in the region, particularly in the rural sector, by addressing problems of equity.*

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1991:

## SPAIN TO BE SITE OF HEMISPHERIC AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT MEETING

A hemispheric agricultural summit meeting, jointly convoked by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will be held this year in Spain.

The Government of Spain generously offered, through its Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to host the Tenth ICMA and the Sixth IABA, which will be held in the Palacio de Congresos in Madrid.

The Palacio has two large auditoriums, with a seating capacity of 1,840 and 814, respectively. The UNESCO Room, one of the new rooms, is the largest. It has an oval table that seats 73 people, and a total capacity of 319 people. The Palacio also contains a theater and several rooms with simultaneous interpretation facilities for nine languages.

This modern building also includes a cafeteria that serves 300 people, a self-service restaurant for 500 people, a banquet room for 1,150, a formal private restaurant and dining rooms. It also houses exhibition halls, telegraph, postal and banking services, tobacco shops, newsstands, medical services, photography laboratories and shops.

This will be the second time that the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) meet concurrently. The first time was in Ottawa, Canada, in 1987.

Four years later, and for the first time outside the hemisphere, the ministers of agriculture of the Americas will meet in Madrid in September to discuss the situation of the agricultural sector as it enters the new century.

### OTTAWA

On August 31, 1987, the Ninth ICMA and the Fourth Regular Meeting of the IABA were held in Ottawa, Canada. The meeting was attended by representatives from 31 American nations, 22 of which were represented by their ministers of agriculture.



*The Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture will be held at the Palacio de los Congresos in Madrid*

The meeting was termed "historic" by the participants, and the results of the discussions were summarized in the Ottawa Declaration and ten unanimously approved resolutions, which were seen as a mandate for the countries of the Americas regarding the future of agriculture.

The Declaration, known as the Mandate of Ottawa, revealed consensus with regard to the central role the revitalization and modernization of agriculture must play in the economic reactivation and development of Latin America and the Caribbean, which are key elements in ensuring political stability and peace in the region.



There was also agreement as to the changes that would be required to consolidate the leading role of agriculture, which include improving and altering conditions inside and outside the countries and expanding joint actions aimed at solving specific problems, in support of the renewed regional and subregional integration process.

The recommendations of the Ninth ICMA set forth important guidelines on how the countries of the region themselves and international funding and technical cooperation agencies should approach problems related to agriculture. The modernization of the public agricultural sector, sectoral adjustment programs, technology, regional integration, and agricultural trade negotiations are some of the specific issues addressed by the recommendations.

Nevertheless, it is necessary to go beyond mere words, and to ensure that the consensus underlying the Declaration be translated into concrete actions within a shared framework. One of the recommendations charged IICA with preparing a strategic plan of joint action in support of agricultural re-

vitalization and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean, to be prepared in collaboration with its member countries, other agencies of the Inter-American system, and other specialized agencies.

### THE PLANLAC

Two years later, and as the result of intense work to reach agreement and a consensus, the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) was approved during the Fifth Regular Meeting of the IABA, held in October 1989.

Since then, our region has had access to an overall strategy for the sector, with specific strategies for the Central Area and Mexico, for the Caribbean and Haiti, for the Andean Area and the Southern Area. The Plan also includes a portfolio of hemispheric and subregional programs and multilateral projects, designed to deal with common problems that affect the agricultural sector. ■

## AGRICULTURE IN THE 90s: Strategies for the Close of the Century

**T**he Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) was convoked to analyze Latin American and Caribbean agriculture in the new international context of the nineties and strategies for the close of the century.

This topic was approved by the member countries of IICA's Executive Committee during its tenth regular meeting, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in August 1990. Much more than simply a topic for the meeting, it reflects the concern expressed by the countries of the region to learn about and study the implications and repercussions of the phenomena which are occurring on the international scene, and to help the region find a new identity and place in this scene.

The topic of regional participation in the new international scenario is one that has been discussed in different fora for integration: CORECA, in the

Central Area; CARICOM, in the Caribbean; the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA), in the Andean Area and CONASUR, in the Southern Cone. As a result of these discussions, there is much expectation, which will increase as September approaches, regarding the agricultural summit meeting to be held in Spain.

Although each ICMA is unique, there must be a certain continuity from one Conference to the next.

The Ninth ICMA (Ottawa, 1987) was held against the backdrop of a serious crisis in the sector, the result of severe confrontations between the United States and the European Economic Community on agricultural protectionism. In general, the economic crisis and the problem of the foreign debt affected the whole region, although structural changes were evident in the international scene. There

was a need to sit down and discuss whether the agricultural sector was ready to become the driving force behind the economic reactivation of our countries.

Today, this topic is no longer discussed. But, it is essential to fully discuss whether modern, industrialized agriculture can effectively and realistically find a place in the new international framework.

### THREE MODULES

Justification for the title of the Tenth ICMA is divided into three modules: **Changes in Agroalimentary Policies within the International Context.**

**The Agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean for the 1990s.**

**Opportunities and Needs for International Cooperation.**

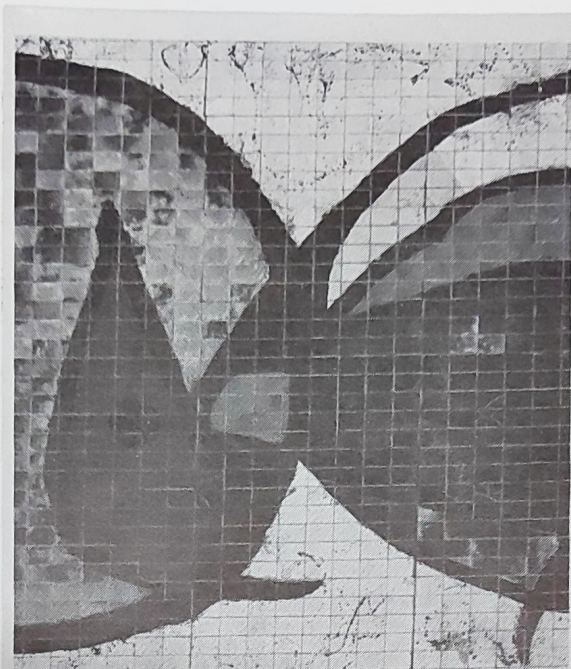


The first module describes the new scenario from the political and economic point of view. It analyzes the decade of the 80s and, more concretely, the second half of the decade, which is characterized by both the quantity and quality of very important phenomena, which began with an agreement between the superpowers to end the arms race- putting an end to the cold war-; the breakdown of the socialist model of Eastern Europe; the decision of the EEC to unify Europe by 1992; the concrete decision to unify the two Germanies and; the trend to form economic blocs.

Similar emphasis should be given to studying equally important changes taking place in our region. These changes have led to adjustment processes, contributed to opening up new markets and have launched a much more pragmatic process of integration aimed at mass production to counteract economic blocs formed in other parts of the world.

Discussions will focus on identifying the effects of these dramatic changes in terms of agroalimentary production. New market niches will be analyzed, for which the region must offer more diversified commodities, with greater added value, that can meet the increasing demands for quality.

The second module, "The Latin American and Caribbean Agenda for the 90s," will review the agricultural areas that should be given priority in order to define a new profile for the sector. The key element will continue to be modernization, although more emphasis should be given to strengthening intersectoral relations, equitable rural develop-



PALACIO DE CONGRESOS DE MADRID  
MADRID CONGRESS HALL

ment and the increasingly important topic of natural resources.

These three aspects of agricultural modernization are the responsibility of the entire world, that is, the responsibility is shared with the industrialized world. Although the North and South see these aspects from different points of view, they are equally important for both.

With regard to the agricultural-agroindustrial complex, if the region intends to retake control of growth, it will require better international conditions: developed countries must eliminate their protectionist policies.

As to rural development, industrialized nations must join efforts with us to eliminate the problem of poverty, if, for

example, they intend to control drug trafficking or stem the massive influx of migrants from our countries.

As to the conservation of natural resources, the reasons that justify joint responsibility are obvious.

The third, and final module, "Opportunities and Needs for International Cooperation," will present the corresponding analysis of the outmoded assistance-oriented model, which was based on the circumstances that existed in the 50s and 60s. The political and economic changes of today's world call for new actors in terms of international cooperation, with regard to both supply and demand.

In this regard, emphasis will be placed on the new relationship between the State and the civilian population. The adjustment and structural reform processes are definitely giving a new, less active role, to the public sector, while giving the private sector a more active role with regard to decision making.

The conceptual framework on which the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) is based will be strengthened and brought up to date, in light of the events of the past two years and through an analysis and discussion of these three modules and their respective documents by the ministers of agriculture ■



# SECOND HISPANO-AMERICAN MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO BE HELD

**T**he Second Hispano-American Meeting on Rural Development, an important preparatory activity for the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), will be held at IICA Headquarters from February 21-22.

This meeting will bring together experts from Spain, Latin America and the Caribbean who will deliberate on agrarian policies and their impact within the international and regional context.

Ideas will also be exchanged on the content of the topical documents that will be presented in Spain during the Tenth ICMA.

The First Hispano-American Meet-

ing: Agriculture and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, was successfully held in Madrid in June, 1990.

## TOPICS

One of the objectives of the meeting was to initiate work for the Tenth ICMA and review the topics on the agenda that will be of interest to both Spain and Latin America.

Based on the topics discussed at that time, a proposal for the general topic and working documents for the Tenth ICMA was prepared, and subsequently approved by the Executive Committee of IICA.

These first meetings generated much interest and led to the need for another meeting to publicize the importance of the ICMA for the region, and, at the same time, make it possible to study the working documents that will be submitted to the Conference in Madrid. ■

*This meeting will bring together experts from Spain, Latin America and the Caribbean who will deliberate on agrarian policies and their impact within the international and regional context.*



## ACTIVITIES PRIOR TO THE TENTH ICMA

**S**everal preparatory activities will take place prior to the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), to be held from September 23-27 in Madrid, Spain.

### February 21-22

Second Hispano-American Meeting on Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

San Jose, Costa Rica, IICA Headquarters.

### June 24-28

Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

IICA Headquarters. Delegates will discuss the status of documents for the ICMA, among other topics.

### September 20

Meeting of the ICMA Drafting Committee.

The drafting committee, made up of a representative from each Member State, will be set up to prepare draft recommendations to the ICMA, and to begin drafting the Madrid Declaration.

### September 21

Meeting of the IABA Drafting Committee.

At this time, the same drafting committee will review the draft resolutions to be presented to the IABA.

### September 22

Preparatory ICMA/IABA Session, attended by the ministers of agriculture or heads of delegations.



## Programs on the March



*Patents will be sought to protect products developed in molecular biology laboratories, such as microorganisms, plants, animals, genes and pharmaceutical products.*

plasm in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In commenting on the importance of the meeting, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that the discussion of the legal protection of intellectual property rights to biotechnological innovations in the agricultural sector is "a vital step for the region because, in agriculture, a biotechnological revolution has taken the place of the so-called green revolution." Piñeiro indicated that the advances made in this field will have a decisive effect on competition in agricultural trade in the year 2000.

The meeting was organized and sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the UNDP/UNESCO Regional Biotechnology Program, the World Intellectual Property

the use of germ plasm. Future activities of the program would be promoted by IICA.

The protection of biotechnological innovations is of particular importance in light of the liberalization of world economies and the integration of international markets. This topic is being addressed in multilateral negotiations such as the Uruguay Round of GATT.

In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, the goal is to protect, through patents, products generated in molecular biology laboratories, such as microorganisms, plants, animals, genes and pharmaceutical products. At the present time, and to different degrees, the developed countries are considering issuing patents for such products. According to the experts, however, almost no Latin American or Caribbean country has considered doing so.

IICA's objective is to encourage immediate discussion of this topic, as it applies to the agricultural sector, and to systematize support for changing existing national policies and legislation and for coordinating positions in the region. It was also decided that existing institutions and facilities in the region should be used to create a network of centers for storing microorganisms and biological material.

The need to hold meetings on the topic in each country, in order to formulate national policies, was also underscored. Discussion also touched on the need for close cooperation, information exchanges and assistance among the countries, which would facilitate the preparation of proposals for legislation.

## Latin America and the Caribbean: Adoption of Legislation to Protect Plant Varieties Recommended

**D**uring a meeting held recently in Caracas, Venezuela, experts in biotechnology recommended that legislation be adopted in Latin America and the Caribbean to protect proprietary rights to plant varieties obtained through plant breeding programs.

They added that the countries could base their laws on the experiences of Argentina, Chile and Uruguay.

Some 70 specialists representing the most advanced countries in the region in the field of biotechnology attended the seminar on policies on the ownership of biotechnological innovations and on the use of germ

Organization (WIPO) and the POLAR Foundation, with financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Legal protection of innovations, they explained, should be based on the system used by the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV), which offers guarantees such as property rights to the innovation and a monopoly on its commercial exploitation.

The specialists recommended that a regional program be established to harmonize policies on the ownership of biotechnological innovations and



# Financing of Innovations and Technology Transfer Urged

According to the participants in the Eighth Latin American Meeting on Agricultural Financing, held from November 7-9 in Caracas, Venezuela, financing for innovations and technology transfer is essential for promoting and developing agricultural activities.

The meeting was sponsored by the Latin American Association of Development Finance Institutions (ALIDE), IICA, the Center for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA) and the Agricultural Credit Fund (FCA) of Venezuela, and attended by 80 representatives from financial institutions, central banks and agencies from the public sector.

The objective of the meeting was to share knowledge and experiences on how funding institutions which support agriculture in the region are responding to the challenge of modernizing agroindustrial complexes, within an increasingly competitive international context.

During a seminar held in Lima, Peru from November 12 to 23, professionals from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela discussed the impact that changes in international conditions and macroeconomic policies have on the performance of the agricultural sector.

The seminar, organized by IICA and the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank, with the collaboration of the Latin American Association of Development Finance Institutions (ALIDE), highlighted the importance of modernizing the agricultural sector and harmonizing sectoral and economic policies.

Specialists from IICA's Agricultural

According to the participants, such institutions must continue to offer soft loans, not subsidies, for innovations and technology transfer. They also suggested the establishment of a regional data base that would gather all current and future information on this matter.

With regard to the State's role in the process, the participants indicated that the State should deal with topics related to the basic and applied research needed for agricultural activity, and that this should not be undertaken by the private sector.

They also indicated that technology packages should be incorporated into technical-economic feasibility projects, since this would guarantee increased revenues and expedite the recovery of credit.

Some of the mechanisms mentioned for financing research and technology



*Participants judged that funding for technological innovation in agriculture is urgently needed.*

transfer include taxes; levies, established by the producers themselves; incentives for farmers who introduce innovations and; joint investment agreements.

## Andean Area: The Impact of Macroeconomic Policies on Agriculture to be Studied.

Policy Analysis and Planning Program indicated that the seminar helped strengthen the analytical capabilities of the participants in terms of preparing, executing and adjusting economic policies and investment programs for agriculture, at a time when Latin America and the Caribbean are re-evaluating the role of the agricultural sector in development strategies.

With this in mind, the meeting was divided into seven segments for the discussion of topics on the interna-

tional, regional and national economic outlooks; modernization and harmonization of agricultural policies; elements of macroeconomic analysis; macroeconomic policies and agriculture; investment programming and methods for analyzing economic policies. The organizers of the meeting indicated that the "extremely valuable" knowledge and experiences of the participants made it possible for the meeting to serve as a forum for providing in-depth understanding of the situations of the countries.



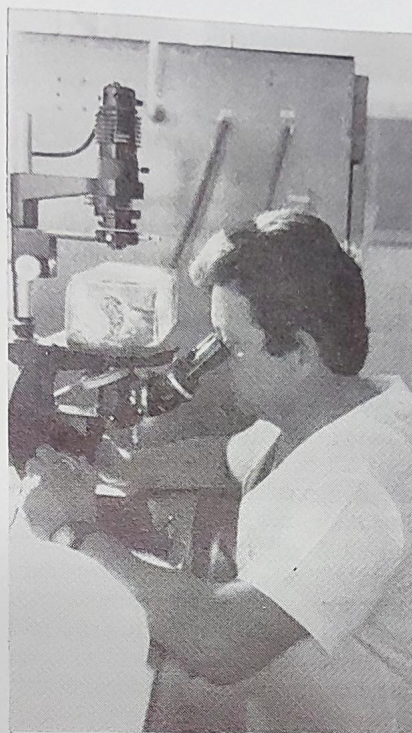
# PROCACAO Plans Activities for 1991

Some of PROCACAO's most important activities for 1991 include strengthening the work carried out by the groups responsible for cocoa development in Central America and Panama, applying biotechnology to cocoa cultivation and providing producers with inexpensive and profitable technology.

The Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO), administered and coordinated by IICA with economic support from the Regional Office for Central American Programs (ROCAP) of the USAID, hopes to move forward this year with its efforts, begun in September 1987, aimed at expanding cocoa cultivation by improving production and productivity.

In addition to IICA, other participants in the work plan include the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), the Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation (FHIA), the Pan American Development Foundation (FUPAD) and the Hershey Food Corporation.

The activities fall within the three components of PROCACAO: management of the Network, research and training and technology transfer. In the first component, special attention will be given to reinforcing the work carried out by the national advisory groups working in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Costa Rica.



search, steps will be taken to apply biotechnology to cocoa cultivation, which will be done by CATIE, with support from the universities of Pennsylvania and Florida. Germ plasm and genetic materials will also be exchanged with the University of the West Indies and the Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA).

In terms of technology transfer, the Network will increase work related to plots that have been modernized, currently under way in several countries. The purpose of this research is to provide the producers with a technology package that ensures increased profitability at a lower cost. Also planned for 1991 is the entry of Nicaragua and Panama into the Network.

## Committee of Agricultural Journalists Created in the Southern Cone

At a meeting in Pelotas, Brazil in October, sixteen agricultural journalists from the Southern Cone approved the creation of a committee to bring together reporters from the region and promote professional training.

This committee will be made up of the presidents of national associations of agricultural journalists from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

The meeting was organized by the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR) and received support from

the National Research Center for Fruits from Temperate Zones, of the Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA), where the meeting was held. PROCISUR is one of the initiatives for the Southern Area included in the PLANLAC, a program prepared by IICA.

The committee, which will receive support from the Institute, through PROCISUR, will hold annual meetings, starting this year, to discuss topics that are of common interest to the journalists of the region. This is the third time in the past two years that IICA has promoted this type of meeting in the Southern Cone to bring together the agricultural journalists of the region.

With regard to re-



Rural development specialists meeting recently in Santiago, Chile recommended that small-farm agriculture in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay be modernized.

According to the experts, small farmers in these countries, most of whom live in

Southern Area:

## Support for Modernization of Small-farm Agriculture Urged

conditions of extreme poverty, must be supported in their efforts to become more competitive, which will enable them to move into dynamic markets, such as export markets.

This is particularly urgent at a time when the countries are implementing economic integration processes.

To this end, the specialists identified

agricultural cooperatives as a key mechanism to facilitate the modernization process, which will allow the small producers to negotiate on more favorable terms with the State and to participate in activities such as agroindustry and trade.

In the countries of the Southern Area, small farmers currently account for 60 percent of the production units of the subregion. Nevertheless, they control only 5 percent of the area under cultivation.

The specialists stressed the urgency of strengthening horizontal technical cooperation among the countries of the subregion in activi-

ties involving small producers. They indicated that IICA can play a major role in expediting this exchange. The seminar on differentiated policies for rural development in the Southern Area was organized by IICA and the Agricultural Development Institute of Chile (INDAP), and sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

According to experts from IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, the objective of the meeting was to discuss alternatives for differentiated rural development policies in the countries of the Southern Area, as well as institutional models for formulating and executing them, according to decentralization processes that involve the participation of civilian organizations.

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## IICA Trains Andean Technicians to Train Small Farmers

IICA conducted a workshop in Ibagué, Colombia on training small farmers. The purpose of the event, aimed at technical personnel from the Andean area, was to provide technical and institutional strengthening for public agencies and non-governmental rural development organizations.

The workshop benefitted technical personnel from training units of agencies responsible for executing rural development programs and projects, as well as trainers of extension and outreach agents linked to public institutions and NGOs involved in organizing and training small farmers. One of the experts who conducted the workshop was Manuel Argumedo, a specialist in rural development from Brazil.

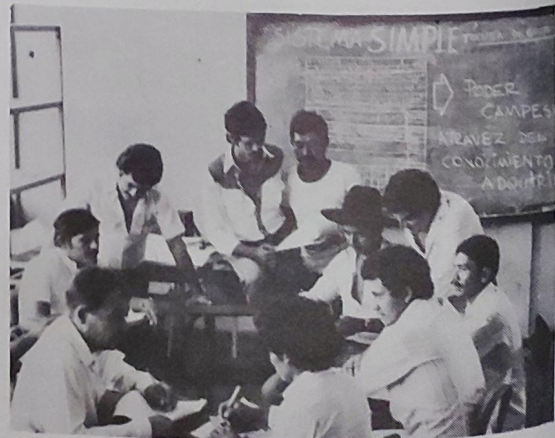
IICA officials explained that it is extremely important for these trainers to

use participatory criteria in carrying out their actions, and to take into consideration the socioeconomic and cultural conditions of the small-farm population.

The activity was sponsored by IICA and Colombian institutions such as the National Agricultural Training Program, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Integrated Development Fund, with support from the National Training Service.

Since January 1988, IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program has been involved in an international small-farmer training project. The first phase included the preparation of docu-

ments on such fundamental topics as literacy and rural development and training rural women, using participatory methods. The second phase of the project is currently under way and includes a series of subregional workshops, similar to the one held in Colombia, geared to promoting the training of national technical personnel.





**A** workshop was recently held at IICA Headquarters for a group of government officials from the Ministry of Agriculture of Guatemala. The objective of the workshop was to update the conceptual framework on rural women and to discuss alternate institutional actions in this field.

These nine women are attached to the project on the management of agricultural, forestry and pasture systems, currently being carried out in Guatemala by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE).

The activity was organized by CIDA and CATIE. A group of specialists

## Guatemalans Receive Training to Work with Rural Women

from IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program spoke on such topics as the conceptual framework and methods used by the Institute in its work with rural women.

According to the IICA experts, the experience was extremely beneficial for everyone involved in the meeting. The Guatemalans were able to update their views on rural women and the Institute was able to verify the validity and efficiency of its conceptual framework and methodology, which were completed only last year.

The work of the women from Guatemala focuses on helping rural women in matters such as nutrition, hygiene and child care, excluding their role in production.

After the training, the officials recommended that similar workshops be held for extension agents of the Ministry of Agriculture of Guatemala, so that together they can more effectively disseminate this new view of the role of rural women, and thus create greater awareness of women's contribution to the economy.

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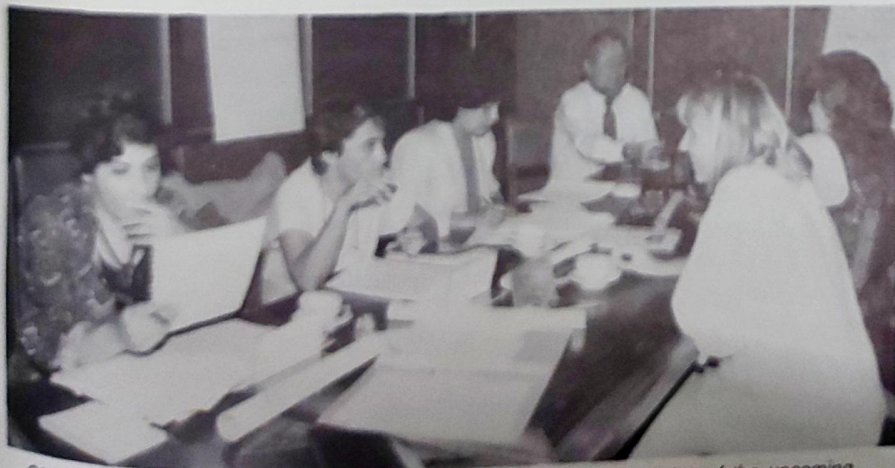
## Training Women to Formulate Development Programs

**P**rofessionals from Central America, the Dominican Republic and Cuba will participate in a training seminar to be sponsored by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and IICA, on the formulation and evaluation of development projects that are specifically designed for the participation of women.

The course, which will take place at IICA Headquarters, will be divided into two stages: the first will be held for three weeks in March, and the second stage will take place during the first weeks of June. Officials of UNIFEM and IICA and a group of specialists in women's studies recently met to discuss the content and methodology of this training event.

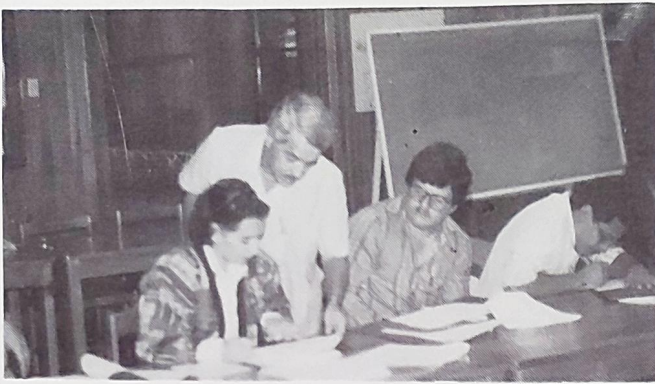
The regional coordinator of UNIFEM for Mexico and Central America, Klaus Bethke, and technical experts from IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, explained that the subregion lacks personnel qualified to design and formulate projects of this type.

In order to improve this situation, IICA and UNIFEM will invite four officials from governmental and non-governmental organizations from each country, who currently work in areas related to women and development, and who have experience and academic backgrounds in this field. Bethke indicated that the objective of the seminar is to prepare the participants to provide support to nongovernmental agencies or state entities in formulating development projects specifically geared to women.



Officials from UNIFEM and IICA meet to discuss the content and design of the upcoming training seminar.





The strategies and guidelines of the plan of action were worked out during a seminar-workshop.

## Costa Rica: More Efficient Marketing Services Sought

The objective of an ongoing managerial program, included in the technical cooperation provided by the Institute to the

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) of Costa Rica, is to increase the efficiency of agricultural marketing services, through a strat-

egy and plan of action to be executed by four Costa Rican entities, with support from IICA. In addition to the MAG, other participants are the National Production Council (CNP), the Integrated Agricultural Marketing Program (PIMA) and the Center for Promoting Exports and Investments (CENPRO), which have made the strategy and plan of action an important item on their working agendas for 1991.

Basically, the strategy aims to make adjustments in the organization of agricultural marketing services, with special emphasis on two of its principal segments: services to exporters and information on international prices and markets.

These aspects are considered to be essential, given the current opening up and liberalization of economies worldwide.

The strategy and the plan of action were designed during a seminar-workshop, coordinated by Arturo Padilla, a marketing expert from IICA, with collaboration from Guillermo Grajales and Jose Lizarazo.

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*The strategy aims to make adjustments in the organization of agricultural marketing services.*

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## Uruguay: Harmonization of Quarantine Procedures Recommended

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) recently sponsored a meeting in Montevideo on plant protection. Representatives from regional and subregional agencies attending the meeting indicated that the harmonization of quarantine procedures will facilitate the trade of agricultural commodities in the hemisphere.

The participants in the Fifth Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Group for Coordination in Plant Protection (GICSV) stated that the

adoption of uniform measures will not affect the plant protection systems currently in effect in each country. On the contrary, it will help strengthen the systems, since these measures include innovative methods of analysis based on biology.

The GICSV is in charge of coordinating plant protection actions in the hemisphere, and is made up of the Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Area (COSAVE) - IICA serves as its coordination secretariat -, the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA), the International Regional Organization for

Agricultural Health (OIRSA), the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) and the Caribbean Plant Protection Commission (CPPC).

The participants also discussed the development of negotiations on plant protection being conducted as part of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), which were suspended last December, in Geneva, Switzerland, for lack of an agreement. IICA was represented at the meeting by the Director of the Agricultural Health Program, Jerry Fowler, and the IICA

Representative in Uruguay, Arnaldo Veras.





# RISPAL's Actions Strengthened in Latin America and the Caribbean



IICA and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) have signed an agreement aimed at strengthening the actions of the Research Network on Animal Production Systems in Latin America (RISPAL), created in 1986.

Under the agreement, RISPAL's activities related to the management and use of information on animal production systems will be strength-

ened. This will involve providing technical support to projects, promoting a continuous flow of information among the members of RISPAL and facilitating the transfer of technology to small-scale farmers.

To achieve this, the Project on an Information System for Animal Production in Latin America and the Caribbean has been created. It will be responsible for upgrading the ability of each project of the Network to provide researchers with information. It will also promote the establishment of a system to link RISPAL members with the coordination center operating at IICA.

RISPAL was founded in 1986, with the signing of bilateral agreements among IICA, IDRC, the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) and the National Agricultural Research and Promotion Institute

(INIPA) of Peru, which has since changed its title to the National Institute of Agrarian and Agroindustrial Research (INIAA).

During its first stage, which lasted until October 1989, the Network contributed to the development and improvement of methods for research into production systems, which enhanced inter-institutional technical support and upgraded technology generation and transfer, with the active participation of small-scale farmers.

Since its founding, RISPAL has issued a quarterly bulletin reporting on Network activities. The latest issue, published in December, contains the last chapters of a research project related to research and development on genetic groups and milk production systems in tropical countries.

## Andean Area:

### Project Presented to Control and Eradicate Fruit Flies

During a meeting in Lima, Peru, IICA presented a project to representatives from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela to prevent, control and eradicate fruit flies, as a part of its support to the countries of the Andean area in the integrated management of this pest.

Alberto Perdomo, a specialist from the Institute's Agricultural Health Program, made the presentation during a meeting of the technical committee responsible for coordinating subregional actions related to this matter.

Perdomo explained to the representatives that the objective of the initiative is to increase the gross value

of production and the income of producers by increasing domestic demand and regaining and expanding external markets.

The project includes a series of actions, including the establishment of a system to assess and gather statistics on the insect population, basic and applied research, training for technical personnel and producers, and an agricultural extension campaign carried out by specialized personnel.

According to figures presented during the meeting, approximately 20 species of flies cause roughly US\$35 million in damages in Latin America annually. In the Andean Area specifically, losses exceed 30 percent

of the value of fruit production, particularly due to attacks of the Mediterranean fruit fly (Wiedemann).

The representatives proposed some administrative changes in the proposal presented by IICA, recognized the value of the proposal and suggested that national plans to combat fruit flies should use the Institute project as a model.

The approval of the Andean project to prevent, control and eradicate fruit flies, and its immediate implementation, programmed for mid-1991, constitute a step forward in executing the subregional program of the same name approved by the ministers of agriculture in September 1989.



### Director General of IICA Visits Argentina and Uruguay

**D**uring a recent trip, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, visited the headquarters of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) in Uruguay and took part in the Twenty-first Annual Meeting of the Argentine Agricultural Economics Association in Argentina.

During a special session in Montevideo of the Committee of ALADI Representatives, Piñeiro stated that "in the future, agriculture will play a more important role in the integration process in Latin America, which is rapidly changing."

He also stated that such increased integration has added a new political dimension to IICA's technical cooperation, and offered as examples sanitary matters and the modernization of production that will result from the opening up of economies. In this regard, he said that coordination between IICA and ALADI could be particularly beneficial to the region.

During the opening session of the meeting of agricultural economists in Argentina, Piñeiro delivered an address on agriculture in the twenty-first century and the outlook for



*In Buenos Aires, Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, meets with the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, Clayton Yeutter.*

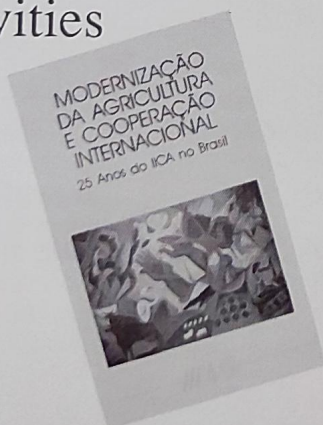
change, which was commented on by Juan Zapata, the Minister of Foreign Relations of that nation.

While in Argentina, Piñeiro had an opportunity to talk with Clayton Yeutter, Secretary of Agriculture of the United States. Yeutter was in Buenos Aires to discuss the upcoming meeting of the Uruguay Round of the GATT with Felipe Sola, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture of Argentina, and other government officials.

### Brazil: Piñeiro Delivers Book on IICA Activities

**T**he Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, delivered a book describing Institute activities in Brazil over the past quarter of a century to Antonio Cabrera, the Minister of Agriculture of that nation.

In its ten chapters, "Modernization of Agriculture and International Cooperation: IICA's 25 Years in Brazil" reviews IICA's actions in Brazil, beginning in 1964



when a group of three specialists set up office in space provided by the Organization of American States (OAS), in

Rio de Janeiro. The book was delivered in Foz de Iguazu during a social gathering attended by the participants in the first meeting of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR).

On this occasion, Piñeiro told Cabrera that the book was "an accurate account of the activities IICA has carried out over twenty-five years, in close collaboration with agricultural sector institutions in Brazil." The book is made richer by the personal comments of both IICA and Brazilian personnel who partici-

pated actively in the many technical cooperation projects. In the preface, Manuel Otero, ex-IICA Representative in Brazil and current Coordinator of the PLANLAC, states that the book commemorates a longstanding friendship and professional relationship, developed throughout the course of the Institute. The final chapter of the book offers a look at the future of IICA technical cooperation in Brazil, emphasizing the need to focus program and policies on modernizing the agricultural sector as a means of achieving equitable, sustainable development.



Ecuador:

## Minister of Agriculture Visits IICA Office



*The Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, Alfredo Saltos Guale (third, from left to right) visits the IICA Office in that country to discuss the proposal for the National Rural Development Program.*

**D**uring a recent visit to the IICA Office in Ecuador, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of that nation, Alfredo Saltos Guale, pledged to work for close coordination between his ministry and the National Rural Development Program (PRONADER).

For the last two years, the Ministry of Social Welfare, with technical

cooperation from IICA, has been implementing this program, execution of which will begin in 1991 with funding from the World Bank.

After hearing an explanation of PRONADER, Saltos Guale expressed special interest in the technical components related to small-scale irrigation and technology transfer. In pledging his support,

## IICA and the Government of Guatemala Sign Cooperation Agreement

**T**he main objective of a cooperation agreement recently signed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala and IICA is to create and put into operation two regional agricultural planning units to update agricultural and forestry development plans and policies.

The technical cooperation provided by the Institute will consist of support to the Agricultural Sector Planning and Food Unit (USPADA) in the organization, management, follow-up and evaluation of the two regional

units that will be set up in Jutiapa and Quetzaltenango.

IICA will also administer the financial resources included in the agreement, provided by the Agency for International Development (AID).

This agreement is part of the National Food Production and Marketing Plan prepared by the Guatemalan ministry, which sets forth the need to integrate the services provided by the Public Agricultural and Food Sector (SPADA) and to upgrade its regional mechanisms.

through close collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, he praised the work of the IICA technical team.

### Letter of Understanding Signed

IICA and the Agricultural Credit Fund (FCA) of Venezuela recently signed a letter of understanding to develop joint technical cooperation actions to modernize the agricultural sector of this Andean country.

The document was signed in Caracas on November 23 by the President of the FCA, Jorge Urdaneta Galue, and the IICA Representative, Miguel Cetrangolo, who stressed the importance of pooling efforts to reactivate the agricultural sector.

The letter states that IICA, in collaboration with other institutions, will prepare subsectoral investment programs that include credit components. IICA will also support the FCA in its negotiations with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on the second stage of its general agricultural loan, and with the World Bank on several other agreements.

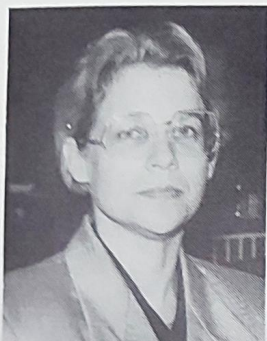
IICA will also provide the Commission on the Reform of the Agricultural Financing System with technical cooperation, and will work with agricultural sector institutions in preparing subsector agricultural and agroindustrial assessments.



The IICA Offices in Haiti and the Dominican Republic are working to promote the coordination of technical cooperation actions that will benefit both Caribbean nations.

## IICA Offices in Haiti and the Dominican Republic Promote Coordination

She also indicated that both countries must make greater efforts to encourage the production of crops for domestic consumption.



Jan Hurwitch

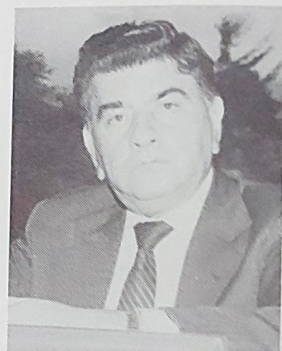
For this purpose, personnel from both offices recently held a meeting in Santo Domingo to coordinate, discuss and plan future activities.

The goal is to develop technical cooperation among the Offices and to identify areas for new bilateral projects that will be financed with external resources. The IICA Representatives

in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, Jan Hurwitch and Gilberto Paez, discussed the work carried out by their Offices exchanged views on the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

They also discussed possible projects within the context of the PLANLAC, and areas of cooperation in which the two IICA Offices would share responsibility, particularly with regard to the development of border zones.

Jan Hurwitch explained that IICA has identified serious problems of erosion and poor management of natural resources, especially in Haiti.



Gilberto Páez

Gilberto Paez stated that this first meeting is part of a strategy being developed by IICA in Latin America and the Caribbean which emphasizes joint actions and inter-regional cooperation.

phases joint actions and inter-regional cooperation.

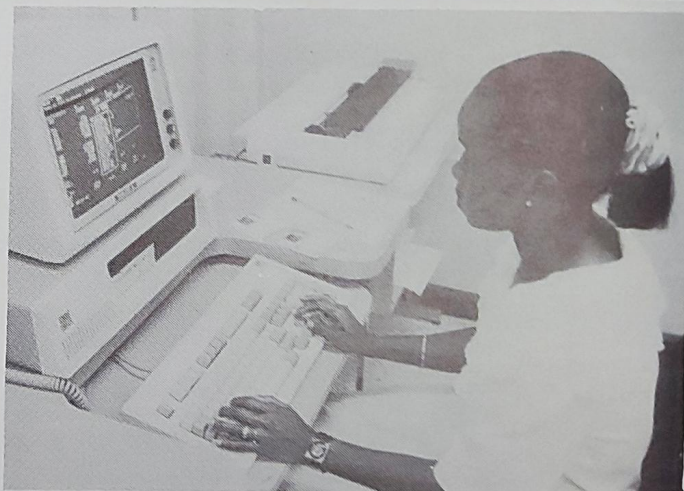
## Junior Professional Programme Promotes Relations Between the Caribbean and Latin America

IICA's Directorate of Area Operations for the Caribbean, through its Junior Professional Programme, seeks to develop a nucleus of Caribbean specialists, competent in Spanish, who are able to participate in the technical cooperation activities promoted by the Institute, and to help develop effective links between this subregion and the countries of Latin America.

Two junior professionals from Antigua and Suriname are currently participating in this initiative, which began in 1987. For one year, they will receive intensive training in Spanish, gain in-depth understanding of IICA's units and Programs, and work in the area of their specializations.

Jennifer Maynard, from Antigua, joined the program last September and Sheela Khoesial, from Suriname, in October. Ms. Maynard holds a

B.A. in agriculture from McGill University in Canada, and an MA in rural sociology from Reading University of England. Ms. Khoesial holds a licentiate in agriculture from the University of Suriname and an M.A. in agricultural economics from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Lystra Fletcher, who recently concluded the



Lystra Fletcher, from Trinidad and Tobago, participated in the Junior Professional Programme.

program, is now working in Saint Lucia with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). Other participants in the Programme include Vincent Little, from Jamaica, who is now a project specialist for the IICA Office in Barbados, and Lorenzo Rock, also from Barbados.



# IICA Trains Technicians in Project Preparation

IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica (MAG) are currently training technicians in six regions of the country in the preparation of production projects geared to small-scale farmers.

The activity consists of a 20-week course for 35 agricultural engineers and specialists involved in outreach and agricultural activities. Each formal, classroom component has an in-service counterpart.

Specifically, participants are trained in the organization of farmers, the preparation of assessments, the elaboration of production proposals, and the financial analysis and management of projects, which will be prepared by the technicians, with the ongoing participation of the small farmers.

The training process is based on the multiplier principle, which involves the participants' returning to their communities to train local personnel. As the final activity of



*Small-scale farmers in Costa Rica will participate in the preparation of the projects.*

the course, the participants will prepare an "on-site" project with the small farmers.

The goal of this type of technical cooperation is to provide small farmers with a production option which they themselves have prepared, and which will make it easier for them not only to request funds from national banks and external agencies, but also to increase their level of employment and income.

## Publications

### Centroamerica en Graficas

IICA, FLACSO



"Centroamerica en Graficas" is a selection of the major economic, political and social indicators for the subregion through 1989, illustrated with graphs that provide an overall and current view of different situations.

The book offers, among others, data on total population, by gender, and the percentage of the total population residing in urban centers. In the chapter on economic indicators, there are data on the gross domestic product, agricultural production and land use. Regarding social indicators, there are figures on overall poverty, open unemployment, the economically active population, etc.

The goal of this book, co-published by IICA and the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), is to contribute to the understanding of the situation in Central America and Panama, and to serve as the basis for decision making by the governments and the private sector. The basic criteria used in selecting and organizing the data were the

availability of indicators for most of the countries in the isthmus, the uniformity of calculations, the internal consistency of individual indicators and the reliability of the source. Two factors were taken into account in preparing the graphs: the comparison of the countries of the subregion to one another, and the current situation with that prevailing in 1970.

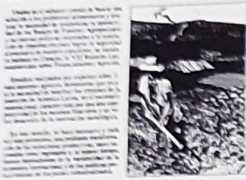
The updating and expansion of the data base used in preparing the publication was conducted by Raul Figueroa Sarti and Juan Huaylupo, with support from Alicia Quintanilla and Vilma Herrera. Victor del Angel, the Head of IICA's International Cooperation Division, was responsible for reviewing results and editorial matters.



# IICA in the News

## Venezuela, Peru

### Redistribución política crediticia Se reúnen en Caracas Bancos de Fomento Agropecuario



Un grupo de representantes de los bancos de fomento agropecuario de Venezuela y Perú se reunieron en Caracas para discutir la redistribución política crediticia en el sector agropecuario. Los participantes, que incluyen a representantes de los Bancos de Fomento Agropecuario de Venezuela y Perú, se reunieron en Caracas para discutir la redistribución política crediticia en el sector agropecuario. Los participantes, que incluyen a representantes de los Bancos de Fomento Agropecuario de Venezuela y Perú, se reunieron en Caracas para discutir la redistribución política crediticia en el sector agropecuario.

■ Newspapers in the Andean area, particularly in Venezuela and Peru, reported on the Eighth Latin American Meeting on Agricultural Financing, held in Caracas in November.

The meeting was called to discuss "the topic of financing technological innovations in agriculture and agroindustry" (*El Universal*, *El Nacional*).

It brought together "80 representatives from financial institutions, central banks and agencies from the public sector" (*Diario Critica*, *La Columna*, *Diario El Informador*) and was "sponsored by ALIDE, IICA, CEMLA and the Agricultural Credit Fund of Venezuela" (*Diario Economía Hoy*, *El Nuevo País*).

The meeting included high level discussions and "led to a consensus on the need to finance innovations and technological transfer, as an important step towards promoting and developing agricul-

tural activities" (*El Impulso*, *Diario Insular*, Venezuela; *Diario El Peruano*, Peru).

## Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay

SE CONVERTIRA EN APOYO SIGNIFICATIVO EN LAS NEGOCIACIONES

### CONASUR fortalecerá proyecto mercado común del Cono Sur

El Consejo del Cono Sur (CONASUR) fortalecerá su apoyo a las negociaciones para la creación de un mercado común en el Cono Sur. El Consejo, que reúne a los países de América del Sur, se reúne en Foz de Iguazú, Brasil, para discutir la creación de un mercado común. El Consejo, que reúne a los países de América del Sur, se reúne en Foz de Iguazú, Brasil, para discutir la creación de un mercado común.



■ Newspapers in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay reported on the official initiation of operations of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR), during a meeting in Foz de Iguazu, Brazil.

During the meeting, ministers of agriculture adopted a series of resolutions aimed at "strengthening the subregional integration process" (*La Nación*, *Clarín*, *Ambito Financiero*, Argentina), and criticized the European Economic Community's position in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)" (*Estado de Sao Paulo*, *Correio Braziliense*, Brazil).

IICA serves as the technical coordination secretariat of CONASUR, a permanent mechanism for coordinating policies and strategies (*El Mercurio*, Chile). One of the most important results to

come out of the "subregionals let agricultural summit meeting was the adoption of a series of resolutions geared to strengthening the integration process". (*Hoy*, *Nueva Patria*, *Noticias*, Paraguay).

## Upcoming Activities

**Seminar-Workshop on Agricultural Documentation, scheduled for March 11-15, San Jose, Costa Rica.**

The purpose of the meeting is to provide a forum in which international and national agricultural documentation institutions operating in Latin America can present their materials, documents, books and technical and scientific journals to the countries of Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific (ACP). Other goals include the discussion of distribution mechanisms and offers of technical information, and the preparation of a Latin American meeting on this topic, to be held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic in 1992.

The meeting is organized by IICA, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain and the Technical Center of Agricultural and Rural Cooperation

(CTA) of the Netherlands.

**Seminar-Workshop on Training Women in Rural Development, March 18-24, Bogota, Colombia.**

One of the objectives of the meeting is to bring together specialists in the areas of training, credit, technology and environment from the Southern and Andean Areas to discuss the situation and needs of rural women. The meeting will also provide the international and local professional personnel of IICA's Program III - Organization and Management for Rural Development - in the Andean and Southern Areas with new perspectives on training rural women and on designing gender-oriented rural development projects. The event, sponsored by IICA, UNIFEM and UNESCO, will be attended by representatives from governmental rural development institutions, independent consultants and IICA officials.



March - April 1991, Year VIII, No. 43

Photo: Daniel Buckles



*Sustainable development, now a key institutional objective, concerns the urgent need to combine worldwide progress in economic and social matters with protection of natural ecosystems and the environment. For IICA, the evident link between environmental conservation and poverty provides a new outlook in the search for development resources.*

- Germany Will Support IICA in Managing Natural Resources
- The Environment:  
Scandinavian Countries Seek IICA's Support in Channelling Support to Central America
- Director General of IICA: Opening of Economies Must Benefit Small-Scale Farmers in Central America



# In this issue

## Focus

The Delicate Balance of Sustainable Development 3

## Headquarters

Germany Will Support IICA in Managing Natural Resources 5

The Environment: Scandinavian Countries Seek IICA's Support in Channelling Support to Central America 6

Rumania Interested in Becoming a Permanent Observer of IICA 7

United States Ambassador to the OAS Hopeful on Results of PLANLAC 7



## PLANLAC

PLANLAC Advances Steadily Programs on the March 8

Costa Rica and Ecuador: Project to Benefit Four Thousand Young Farmers 10

Director General of IICA: Opening of Economies Must Benefit Small-Scale Farmers in Central America 11

Central America and Dominican Republic: Rural Development Institutes Give Priority to Settlement Projects 12



Mexico and Central America: Training in Communications for Professionals Responsible for Pesticide Use 13

PROCITROPICOS Goes Into Effect 13

## FORUM

The Role of Harmonized Agricultural Policies in Central American Integration 14

## Action in the Countries

IICA Identifies Areas for Cooperation in Reactivating Agriculture in Haiti 16

Trinidad and Tobago: Course Offered on Video Production 16

Progress Made in Harmonizing Agricultural Policies in Central America 17

Minister of Agriculture of El Salvador Visits IICA 17

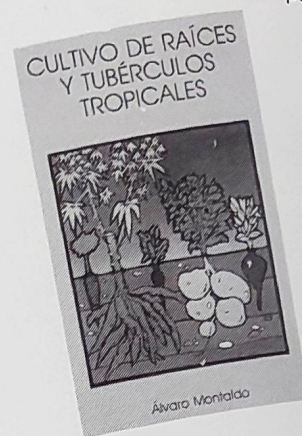
IICA and Government of Chile Sign Basic Agreement 18

New Coordinator of Plan of Action in Costa Rica Assumes Post 18

## Publications

Normative Framework of Agricultural Sector Policies Volume I: Laws 19

Tropical Root and Tuber Crops 19



Sustainable Development: A Guide to Our Common Future 19

IICA in the News 20

Upcoming Activities 20

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18 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 32 member countries and 12 observer countries.



# The Delicate Balance of Sustainable Development

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*These were the thoughts expressed by the Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Dr. Eduardo Trigo, in analyzing the frequently contradictory opinions of those who, on the one hand, promote the conservation of natural resources and who, on the other, seek to rapidly increase agricultural production.*

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**A**t a time when the world is beset by political and military crises and an overall economic crisis - factors that promote short-term planning-, and when the countries of Latin America are undergoing deep structural adjustments, it is difficult, but imperative nonetheless, to implement long-term actions that will increase agricultural production and promote the conservation of natural resources.

These were the thoughts expressed by the Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Dr. Eduardo Trigo, in analyzing the frequently contradictory opinions of those who, on the one hand, promote the conservation of natural resources and who, on the other, seek to rapidly increase agricultural production in order to take advantage of the growing number of open markets.

Contradictions are also to be found within the framework of structural adjustment programs, which call for a reduction in the size the State, and, at the same time, require strong government entities capable of intervening to prevent improper use of natural resources.

Trigo described as "somewhat schizophrenic," the apparent lack of understanding between conservationists and those who defend free markets; and between those who want to reduce the size of the State apparatus in order to make it more efficient and those who feel that national entities must be strengthened in order to ensure proper use of the natural resources.

In view of this paradox, the IICA specialist stresses the need for balance. "This doesn't mean that we have to abandon the concept of market economies, but, at the same time, we must design institutional reforms that will allow the markets to function properly. It's not a question of ignoring the market, but rather of making it work in such a way that aspects not considered previously are taken into account."

For IICA, which, as of 1990, included sustainable development as one of the key objectives of its medium term plans, there is a "sense of urgency" in taking advantage of the opportunities available today, making changes in the technical cooperation it offers to its 32 member countries, to promote pertinent state reforms and to adopt strategies that will allow us "to move toward more sustainable development."

Recently, Trigo and other technical specialists from the Institute, participated in a workshop on ecology and economics, during which internationally renowned European and North American scholars, policy makers and high-level government officials and technicians who work in the field of conservation and natural resource management met to find common ground and ways to achieve sustainable development in the region.

During the meeting, IICA found that its institutional policies on natural resources and agricultural development strategies clearly coincided with those of prestigious academic centers and international funding agencies, such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the World Bank.





The meeting was organized by the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), within the framework of the Conservation Project for Sustainable Development in Central America, executed by CATIE with funding from the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) and the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD).

According to Eduardo Trigo, the meeting was "an unusually high-level meeting that brought together a wide range of professionals in search of ways to achieve sustainable

development, and experts in the two closely-related disciplines of economy and ecology".



Eduardo Trigo

Among the participants in the seminar, which was held in Costa Rica on January 30, were: Kenneth Boulding, Professor Emeritus from the University of Colorado; Robert Costanza, of the University of Maryland; the Minister of

Agriculture of El Salvador, Antonio Cabrales, and the Assistant Secretary of Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic, Ivonne Garcia. Also present were representatives of Scandinavian and European cooperation agencies, regional and international institutions and officials from several Latin American countries.

According to the minister of agriculture of El Salvador, the workshop provided him with "up-to-date, necessary and important information on the cost-benefit ratio of environmental protection projects." For example, he praised the economic analyses presented by Dr. Costanza, who indicated that an acre of mangrove swampland in Louisiana has a real value of approximately US\$17,000 and not US\$5,000, which is the market value.

According to Trigo, "the opinions expressed during the meeting and the recommendations made offer reassurance that our technical cooperation in this area is on the right track."

He added that although there seems to be a common will in the academic world and among certain international cooperation and financial agencies, there are still no concrete proposals on how to translate that will into specific actions.

"It is here that IICA, together with other institutions, can make an important contribution."

One of the recommendations of the workshop was to facilitate and promote this type of dialogue among technicians, academics and policy makers. Nevertheless, there was a general consensus that the world is going through crucial times when, given the economic and political uncertainties, short-term planning is the order of the day.

Thus, although the proper use and management of natural resources is essential to the survival of future generations, according to Eduardo Trigo, "the collective schizophrenia of the times makes it difficult to structure components that guard against the destruction of the environment."

## ADDITIONAL EFFORTS

In providing technical cooperation for sustainable development, IICA will receive support from and carry out joint actions with countries and agencies outside the region, such as the GTZ of Germany (see page 5) and the countries of Scandinavia (see page 6).

IICA is also participating in other international efforts to conserve the environment. For example, Eduardo Trigo is participating in an initiative by the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) to create a consultative group on agricultural biotechnology.

In a meeting in Sweden in late 1990, experts from around the world recommended the creation of this group, which would provide countries with specialized information on the environmental impact of biotechnological innovations or modifications. In March, the SEI again invited Trigo to Stockholm to participate in a meeting to plan the work to be carried out by the group.

Also in March, Trigo attended a meeting in Vienna, Austria called by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), during which a document was prepared on harmonizing the evaluation of risks involved in biotechnology, that is, in the area of biosafety.

Discussions were also held on a code of conduct for the release into the environment of plants and organisms modified through genetic engineering, and terms of reference were studied for an advisory group to assist countries lacking biosafety regulations.

According to Trigo, because of the complexity and wide range of topics related to biotechnology, biosafety, environmental protection and human health, the formation of such a group would complement rather than duplicate existing efforts.





Participants in the meeting included Eduardo Trigo, of IICA; Christian German, Minister Counsellor for Technical Cooperation of the German Embassy; Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations, and Ruth Erlbeck, head of the Division for Latin America, North America and the Caribbean of the GTZ.

## Germany Will Support IICA in Managing Natural Resources

The principal objective of a cooperation project between IICA and the German government, through the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), is to strengthen IICA's technical and operating capabilities in connection with the proper management of natural resources in agricultural production.

This will provide the countries of Latin America, through IICA, with access to conceptual and operating instruments to formulate agricultural policies, programs and projects that include the concepts of sustainability and equity, with an emphasis on activities for small-scale farmers.

The idea for the basic structure of this initiative came out of a planning semi-

nar, recently held at IICA and attended by specialists from both IICA and the GTZ.

The head of the Division for Latin America, North America and the Caribbean, Ruth Erlbeck, indicated that it was hoped that through cooperation with IICA, more and better programs on natural resources will be generated in the countries of Latin America.

According to Ms. Erlbeck, the German government and IICA recognize the importance of making appropriate use of natural resources. The German official added that the GTZ, in making its decision, took into consideration IICA's experience and knowledge in the agricultural sector of the region. This is the first time that

the German Agency for Technical Cooperation will carry out a project with the Institute.

The work will include the formulation of a conceptual and methodological framework for developing sustainable and equitable agriculture, as well as proposals for efficient institutional systems.

The joint efforts will also include the design of a training program on sustainable development in agriculture and an information system on related issues. Projects will also be identified and formulated on agricultural sustainability and for small-scale farmers.

The project will be executed under a technical cooperation agreement between the German government and IICA, to be signed in the near future. This will be Germany's first contribution to the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) promoted by IICA.

As part of the agreement with the GTZ, Sabine Müller, an agricultural economist who has worked in several countries of Africa and Latin America, began work at IICA Headquarters in July 1990. Another natural resource management specialist will soon join IICA.

One of the goals of the GTZ is to carry out cooperation projects in agriculture, health, rural development, science and technology, training and environmental protection.



## The Environment:

# Scandinavian Countries Seek IICA's Support in Channelling Support to Central America

In an effort to contribute to the conservation of natural resources and the environment, the countries of Scandinavia have expressed interest in working with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to channel relevant technical cooperation to Central America.

In a meeting with IICA officials, Reidar Persson, Pierre Fruhling and Jan Roberts, of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA); Kari Silfverberg, of the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA), and Soren Wium-Andersen, of the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) discussed possibilities for joint action.

IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, told the members of the mission that the Institute is "very interested" in working with their agencies in helping to channel technical cooperation to Central America.

Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, informed the mission of activities currently under way in the fields of technological modernization, conservation of the environment, natural resource management and long-term sustainability of agriculture.

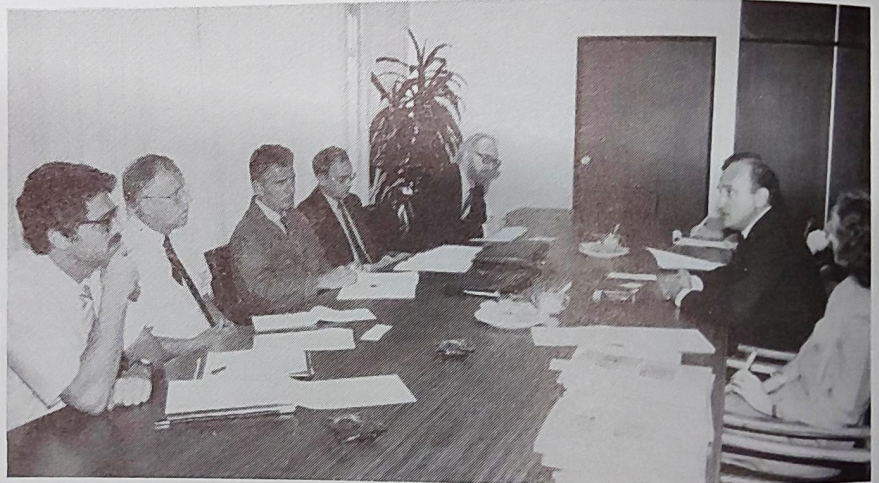
During the Tenth Regular Meeting of its Executive Committee, in August of last year, IICA established agricultural development based on a process of modernization which recognizes the need to conserve natural resources and the environment, as one of the focal points of its actions through 1993.

The mission, which began its visit in Guatemala, will take back recommendations on the most appropriate use of technical cooperation in environmental issues.

Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway are currently involved in several initiatives in Central America aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural and forestry practices and the preservation of certain endangered species, and providing support to public and

natural resources and another on pest control. The other Scandinavian countries provide ongoing cooperation in the area, including support to the Regional Forestry and Meteorology Programs for the Central American Isthmus.

*"Sweden, Finland, Denmark and Norway are currently involved in several initiatives in Central America aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural and forestry practices and the preservation of certain endangered species ..."*



Photo/Rocio Escobar

*IICA Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein (right), informs the members of the Scandinavian mission of the Institute's interest in undertaking joint actions.*

private organizations with similar interests. They have identified deforestation, the destruction of coastal resources, the overuse of agrochemicals and the loss of biological diversity, among others, as the major environmental threats in the region.

Sweden has focused its technical cooperation in Costa Rica and Nicaragua, and in subregional actions related to environmental issues. SIDA, in conjunction with Norway, supports one program on the balanced use of

There are also plans for them to support the Environment and Health Program in Central America, Panama and Belize, and the Central American Commission on the Environment and Development, among others.

*Deforestation and the loss of biological diversity are some of the problems that threaten the region.*



## Rumania Interested in Becoming a Permanent Observer of IICA



The Secretary of State for Foreign Relations of Rumania, Romulus Neagu, is welcomed by the Deputy Director General of IICA, L. Harlan Davis.

During a recent courtesy visit to IICA Headquarters, the Secretary of State for Foreign Relations of Rumania, Romulus Neagu, expressed his country's interest in becoming a permanent observer country of IICA.

The Rumanian official was received by the Deputy Director General of IICA, L. Harlan Davis, the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Alfonso Cebreros, and the Acting Director of External Relations, Victor Del Angel.

Neagu's visit to the Institute was part of the activities programmed for his trip to Costa Rica, during which he met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bernd Niehaus, and other government officials.

During his visit to IICA, Neagu informed the Institute of his country's recent membership in the Organization of American States (OAS) as a permanent observer, as of November 1, 1990. He also indicated his country's desire to strengthen ties with the Institute, especially with the Program on Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning. Neagu expressed Rumania's interest in participating as an IICA

observer country during the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), which will be held concurrently in Spain this coming September.

Del Angel explained that the Institute will take the necessary steps to enable Rumania to join IICA's permanent observer countries, currently consisting of Austria, Belgium, Egypt, France, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Germany and Spain.

## United States Ambassador to the OAS Hopeful on Results of PLANLAC

The Ambassador of the United States to the Organization of American States (OAS), Luigi Einaudi, visited IICA Headquarters in February, during which time he expressed his optimism regarding the results obtained so far to execute the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), a strategy coordinated by IICA in response to a mandate of the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere.

He also noted the work carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean by IICA, as the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system, adding that discussions on the topic of agriculture, within the Uruguay Round of the GATT, have brought the United States and Latin America closer together. "We are all convinced," he added, "that if we produce, we must be able to sell."



Photo/Rocio Escobar

The Ambassador of the United States to the Organization of American States (OAS), Luigi Einaudi (right) and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, study the outlook for agricultural reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Einaudi indicated that the "Initiative for the Americas," launched last year by U.S. President Bush to establish a hemispheric free trade zone, provides an opportunity to improve trade relations between the United States and Latin America.

During his visit, the ambassador met with IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñero; Deputy Director General, L. Harlan Davis; Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein; and Representative in Washington, David Black.



## PLANLAC Advances Steadily

*New proposals have been prepared to deal with the priorities established by the ministers of agriculture in different sectoral fora.*

One and a half years after the PLANLAC was approved by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, considerable progress has been made in executing the Plan. Of the 77 proposals (hemispheric and subregional) originally approved in this comprehensive development strategy, 73 proposals remain, of which 10 are still in the planning stage, feasibility studies are being conducted for 31, and 32 are currently under way.

A mere 18 months ago, 81 per cent of the initiatives included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean were in the idea stage, feasibility studies had been conducted for another four per cent and only 15 per cent were under way.

Because of the dynamics of the PLANLAC and developments inside and outside the region, some of the proposals originally approved have undergone changes. Some projects, determined to be unfeasible, were eliminated, and others were merged. At the same time, new projects are being prepared which respond to new priorities, as expressed by the ministers of agriculture in various sectoral fora.

All PLANLAC proposals are designed to promote agricultural reactivation in the member countries. They seek to boost participation and to modernize production and institutions, while fostering equity and sustainability.

### HEMISPHERIC PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Hemispheric programs and projects are those involving all or most of the countries of the different subregions: Central, Caribbean, Andean and Southern. In 1990, the following proposals were implemented and/or strengthened:

△ IICA/IDB Technical Unit to support countries in preparing agricultural sector programs, which in turn serve as the basis for loan requests. To this end, support was given to Guatemala, Guyana, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay.

△ Promotion of a program of reciprocal cooperation, international relations, institutional modernization and the strengthening of research and technology transfer.

△ Program of joint action for the development and utilization of agrobiotechnology, which seeks to develop and disseminate the theoretical and methodological bases for the formulation and execution of policies, strategies and programs related to biotechnology.

△ Strengthening of rural development institutions.

△ Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS).

### PLANLAC IN THE SUBREGIONS

Regarding implementation of the PLANLAC strategy for the Andean Area, which focuses on increasing agricultural and agroindustrial supply, expanding demand, participating more efficiently in world trade and enhancing the production capabilities of the small-farm economy, progress was made in 1990 in the following projects:

△ Regional project on agricultural policies in the Andean area, headquartered in Colombia.

△ Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Andean Subregion (PROCIANDINO).

△ Supporting the organization and management of technology generation and transfer.

△ Strengthening the Andean network of animal health laboratories.

△ Supporting the integrated control of fruit flies.

### CARIBBEAN AREA

In the Caribbean, where the PLANLAC complements the CARICOM Sector Programme, the following actions were initiated or continued:

△ Design of strategies for policy analysis, planning and management in support of agricultural development.



- △ Supporting the organization and management of technology generation and transfer systems in the countries of the Eastern Caribbean
- △ Supporting the development of tropical fruit crops in the Caribbean
- △ Strengthening farmers' organizations in the countries of the OECS
- △ Surveillance and Monitoring of Animal and Plant Diseases in the Caribbean (CARAPHIN)
- △ Institutional strengthening and promotion of international cooperation for technological development in Haiti
- △ Supporting the development of livestock production systems in Guyana and Suriname.

In the Central Area and Mexico, progress was made on the following proposals:

- △ Harmonizing agricultural policies in the CORECA countries
- △ Regional program to strengthen agricultural research on staple grains in Central America.
- △ Supporting the organization and management of technology generation and transfer.

The PLANLAC sets forth specific strategies for Mexico and Haiti. In Mexico, efforts focused on matters related to foreign agricultural trade and scientific-technological cooperation.

In the Southern Area, the following projects and programs advanced during the year:

- △ Supporting the harmonization of agricultural policies
- △ Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR)

- △ Program to strengthen the ministries of agriculture in activities related to foreign trade and integration
- △ Strengthening international agricultural emergency and quarantine systems to facilitate livestock trade
- △ Strengthening national plant protection services to facilitate the trade of agricultural commodities

## DISSEMINATION

As important as the progress made in executing PLANLAC activities was that achieved in the vital areas of dissemination and financing where activities sought to spread the key ideas of the Plan among the member countries and donor and technical cooperation institutions, as well as among IICA personnel.

Meetings were held with IICA's technicians in the countries and its Representatives to discuss the PLANLAC. Outside the Institute, meetings to publicize the PLANLAC were held in Brazil, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua and Uruguay. Special missions also traveled to donor countries and agencies.

Regarding funding, 1990 was a year for taking preliminary action to develop ideas and to make initial contacts for securing external resources. During the year, IICA continued to work closely with donor countries such as Canada, member countries of the European Economic Community, Finland, France, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United States.

Contacts were also made with cooperation agencies such as USAID, CIDA, IDRC, ORSTROM, GTZ, AECI and CIRAD, among others. Working and cooperation agreements were signed or are under negotiation with several international funding agencies such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank, the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and the Development Fund of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Also, support was provided in organizing donor meetings in the four operational regions of the PLANLAC. The first will be held in Managua, Nicaragua within the framework of the United Nations Special Program of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC). The second, coordinated by CARICOM, will take place in Saint Lucia this June.



Photo: James R. Rudin

*The PLANLAC strategy for the Caribbean includes a project to develop tropical fruit crops.*



## Programs on the March

**F**our thousand young farmers from Costa Rica and Ecuador will be the initial beneficiaries of a project promoted by IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA) to increase the participation of this segment of the population in agriculture.

This is the goal established in the preliminary version of the project, was prepared during a meeting held at IICA Headquarters from February 18-22 and attended by officials from the ministries of agriculture of Spain, Costa Rica and Ecuador as well as by technical personnel from IICA. Also present were representatives from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the European Economic Community (EEC), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Inter-American Rural Youth Advisory Council (CAIJR) and the Agricultural Credit Bank of Spain.

The project will set up a fund to provide resources to 500 small-scale and 280 medium-scale rural enterprises

### Costa Rica and Ecuador: Project to Benefit Four Thousand Young Farmers

over a four-year period. Furthermore, at least 130 technicians will receive training in both Costa Rica and Ecuador. Although the project will cover all the countries of the region, it will be launched in Costa Rica and Ecuador. The estimated cost of the project is US\$10 million.

The initiative will focus on increasing business management skills in order to strengthen the participation of rural youth in the socioeconomic development of their countries, ensuring the creation of new jobs and better incomes.

The Agricultural Credit Bank of Spain has broad experience in financing activities with rural youth and could partially fund the project, indicated the assistant director of the bank, Elias Gomez, who participated in the discussions in order to obtain a better understanding of the

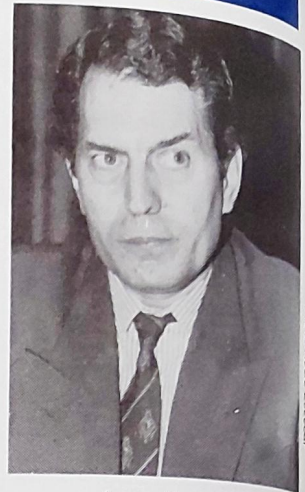
needs that exist in the beneficiary countries.

#### ACTIVITIES

The preliminary version of the project proposes two types of activities: the first will target rural young people living in specific areas or regions of each country, and the second will concern institutional strengthening and the modernization of pertinent institutions.

The target population must be clearly identified. Project specialists agree that the ages could range from 16 to 30 years, and activities should include both men and women.

Beneficiaries should have at least a primary education and the possibility of engaging in production activities in their communities. Rural enterprises that would be eligible for funding include families,



Jesus Alvarez

associations, cooperatives or other groups working with rural youth.

Jesus Alvarez, a representative of the MAPA, indicated that it is still possible to prevent the flight of human capital from rural areas in Latin America and therefore, "the time is right for establishing this type of program to attract and motivate young people to stay in the rural areas." He also indicated that the democratization under way in many of the countries of the region offers optimum conditions for implementing this type of program.



The preliminary version of this project was prepared by officials from the Ministries of Agriculture of Spain, Costa Rica and Ecuador as well as by technical personnel from IICA, with the participation of officials from the IDB, the EEC, the ILO, the Inter-American Rural Youth Advisory Council (CAIJR) and the Agricultural Credit Bank of Spain.



Ambassador of Spain to Costa Rica:

## Tenth ICMA Provides an Opportunity for Mutual Understanding and Strengthening Ties between Latin America and Europe

*"We are very pleased that the ministries of agriculture and IICA have given us the opportunity to host this meeting for the first time outside the Latin American hemisphere..."*

When asked to comment on the expectations for the upcoming agricultural summit meeting, the Ambassador of Spain in Costa Rica, Alfonso Ortiz, stated that the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), to be held in Madrid this September, provides an opportunity for mutual

According to Ambassador Ortiz, "We are very pleased that the ministries of agriculture and IICA have given us the opportunity to host this meeting for the first time outside the Latin American hemisphere, since this indicates the great friendship and understanding that exists between the region and Spain."

Ortiz indicated that the European Market represents 350 million people "who now have strong purchasing power." Nevertheless, he indicated that negotiations are still going on to solve problems related to the access of commodities.

The ambassador made it clear that Spain does not intend to establish itself as the sole link between Latin America and Europe, although, he added, "given our shared interests (...) it serves as the best channel for presenting concerns, mediating and understanding and, finally, obtaining positive results."

The ambassador did not provide any information on the results of these negotiations, but he pointed out that the European Community already participates in a number of subregional economic and trade agreements. For example, he cited the recent agreements signed with the countries of the Andean Area, initiatives to provide support to Central America, such as the San Jose VII meeting held in Managua in March, and similar agreements with the so-called Group of Eight.

The meeting of the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere was called by IICA and the Organization of American States (OAS) and, at the generous invitation of the Spanish government, will be held in Madrid this September 23-27 to discuss the topic "Latin America and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century."

He explained that "There are also opportunities to bring Latin American commodities into Europe through the so-called Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which provides for tariff reductions, but which is not being taken full advantage of."

### Valuable Opportunity

According to the Spanish ambassador, the Tenth ICMA will give the ministers of agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean the opportunity to voice their concerns prior to the establishment of the Single European Market, and to communicate directly with their European counterparts.

Ortiz stated that, given the current international context, Latin America has a unique opportunity to boost the process of integration. In closing, he stated that "Today no country should negotiate alone with economic powers or blocs of nations."



Alfonso Ortiz,  
Ambassador of Spain in Costa Rica

understanding and strengthening ties between Latin America and Europe.

The diplomat indicated that this meeting takes on greater importance given the current world situation, particularly because of the growing trend to establish large economic and political blocs, the most outstanding example of which will be the establishment of the Single European Market in 1992.



Activities leading up to the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) provide an excellent opportunity for Spain to strengthen its agricultural cooperation with Latin America, indicated Jose Alvarez, the Counsellor for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of the Spanish Embassy in Costa Rica and for the rest of Central America.

According to Alvarez, Spain, as a whole, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, in particular, are extremely pleased with the opportunity to host, for the first time, a meeting which brings together the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere to discuss the most salient problems related to the sector and to establish the strategies to be followed in the 1990s.

The Spanish official explained that current economic and political changes taking place in the world call for close cooperation among the countries. "Spain is especially interested in achieving mutual understanding, particularly in light of the historical ties that link us to Latin America." He added that Spain is eager to have its experience as a member of the European Economic Community (EEC) serve as a link between Latin America and this economic bloc.

Alvarez added that the Tenth ICMA has become somewhat of a "catalyst" for strengthening Spain's contacts and agricultural cooperation projects in Latin America, since a number of important activities and meetings are being set up to take place prior to the meeting.

A concrete example of this was the First Hispano-American Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Madrid in June 1990 and which served to generate ideas for the ICMA. Alvarez indicated that "The meeting also provided an important opportunity for experts from Europe and the region to ex-

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*"Spain is especially interested in achieving mutual understanding, particularly in light of the historical ties that link us to Latin America".*

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## Agricultural Cooperation Strengthened Between Spain and Latin America

change experiences and opinions on various topics related to the agricultural sector."

The Spanish official also mentioned that the Second Hispano-American Meeting, to be held at IICA Headquarters this April 8-9, "is a continuation of last year's meeting" and that the main objective will be to discuss the working documents to be presented during the ICMA in Madrid.

In Madrid, the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere will discuss the topic "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century." Discussions will revolve around three main topics: changes in agroalimentary policies in the new international context, the Latin American and Caribbean agenda for the 1990s, and opportunities and needs for international cooperation.

Another activity which has helped strengthen Spain's cooperative ties with Latin America, said Alvarez, was a seminar on rural youth, recently held at IICA, to design a program to incorporate rural youth into the process to modernize agriculture. The Spanish official also mentioned the forthcoming implementation of a project on agricultural policy information analysis, which will involve the participation of the MAPA and receive funding from the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI). He also mentioned a seminar-workshop on agricultural documentation that will make it possible for IICA and the countries of Latin America to make contact with the Agricultural Technical Centre of the European Community.



Jose Alvarez



## IICA and GTZ Sponsor Photography Contest on Agriculture and the Environment

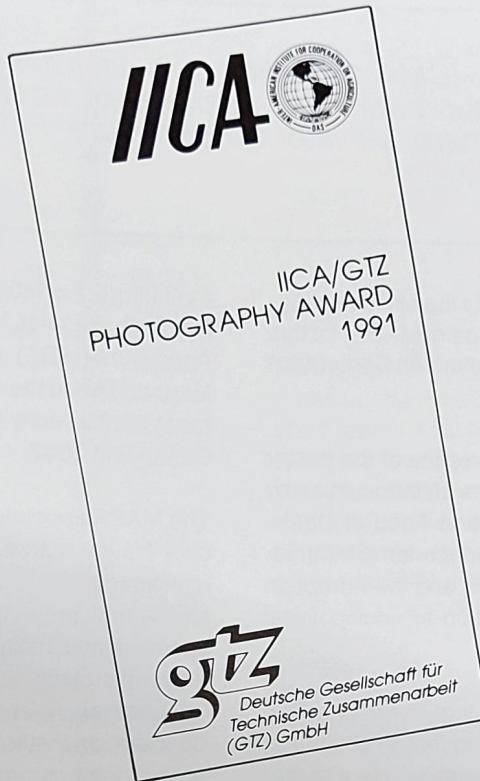
The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Government of Germany, through the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), will sponsor the 1991 IICA/GTZ photography contest on the subject of "Agriculture and the Environment."

The contest seeks to create interest and involve society in the urgent task to protect natural resources, a topic which will be discussed by the ministers of agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean during the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

Among other topics which outline a new role for the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean in the next century, the agricultural summit will address "Agriculture and the conservation of natural resources in Latin America and the Caribbean." Discussions will focus on developing a regional strategy that accommodates both the appropriate use and management of natural resources and the need to increase agricultural production and productivity.

The IICA/GTZ contest is open to all amateur and professional photographers residing in IICA member countries, including those affiliated with public and private institutions and agencies. Contest rules are available at the IICA Offices in the countries. The deadline for the delivery of entries is June 28, 1991.

Prizes will be awarded in two categories: color and black and white. In



each category, first prize will be US\$2,000.00; second prize will be US\$1,000.00 and third prize US\$500.00. As photographs will be judged on the basis of their descriptive qualities and the impact of their message, each original photograph is to be accompanied by a brief description of its subject and its geographic location.

The works will be judged in August at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica by a panel of well-known professionals in the field of photography selected by IICA and GTZ.

Award-winning photographs and others selected by the jury for exhibition will be displayed at the

Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture and the Sixth Inter-American Board of Agriculture, to be held concurrently in Spain. Subsequently, they will be exhibited in several IICA member countries.

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) recently approved funding for a book containing the selected photographs.

IICA, which was founded in 1942, is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. Its objectives are to stimulate, promote and support cooperation among its 32 Member States in order to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. The GTZ is a public organization of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany which plans and implements official technical cooperation projects in developing countries.

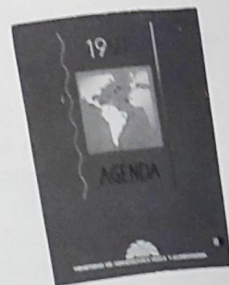
This is the second international photography contest sponsored by IICA. The first contest, on the theme of rural women, was held in 1989 and has been qualified a great success. That contest was co-sponsored by the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The first prize was awarded to Noel Norton, from Trinidad, in the color category, and Julie Anne Coimbra, from Brazil, in the black and white category. Canada will also provide funding for the upcoming publication of a book containing the best photographs from the contest.



# Appointment Book Published by Spanish Ministry of Agriculture Makes Reference To Tenth ICMA



*The Tenth ICMA "should serve to strengthen and enhance our traditional relations of cooperation": Carlos Romero, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Spain.*



The appointment book published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA) for this year was dedicated to the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture.

The publication, whose cover bears a replica of the poster publicizing the summit meeting, contains an introduction by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, Carlos Romero Herrera, as well as socioeconomic information on the American hemisphere, Spain and the European Economic Community (EEC), in addition to sociopolitical data.

In his introduction, the minister recalls that it was only four years ago that Spain joined the EEC, and that since then its agroalimentary sector has improved notably. He also describes the challenges and opportunities presented by a single European market, and the concomitant need to expand Spain's relations with other areas of the world, especially Latin America. According to Romero, "All of this justifies and explains the Latin American focus of this agenda, particularly since we will host the Tenth ICMA in our country this year. This important meeting, which will be held on the eve of the 1992 celebrations, should serve to strengthen and enhance our traditional relations of cooperation." The Government of Spain generously offered, through its Minister of

Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, to host the Tenth ICMA and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), which will be held in the Congress Hall in Madrid. This is the second time that the ICMA and IABA will meet concurrently, the first time having been in Ottawa, Canada, in 1987.

The MAPA appointment book also includes data on Spain's cooperation activities in Latin America, especially through multilateral and bilateral agricultural cooperation projects. Multilateral projects are those executed by international agencies and institutions in which Spain plays a major part. Bilateral projects are executed by the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI), through the Ibero-American Cooperation Institute (ICI) and the MAPA, within the framework of joint committees. At the multilateral level, mention must be made of Spain's cooperation with IICA. The cooperation between IICA and the Government of Spain has led to seminars on topics such as the European Common Agricultural Policy and cooperation for development and other issues involving agriculture, fisheries and rural development, and has made it possible for senior IICA officials to participate in human resources training programs at the Spanish Ministry. Nevertheless, to date, the most outstanding example of Spain's cooperation with IICA is the decision to hold the Tenth ICMA in Madrid.

## Activities Leading Up to the Conference

### IICA/IDB WORKING MEETING

This meeting will be held in Washington, D.C., from May 2-3, with the participation of officials from IICA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The goal

of the meeting is to exchange views and to reach a consensus on the principal political and economic changes taking place in the world and their impact on the agroalimentary situation of Latin America and the Caribbean. Among other topics, the participants

will study the implications of results reached in the Uruguay Round of the GATT, the impact of the new Agricultural Law, changes in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and the dynamics involved in establishing blocs as well as their effect on our region.



## Programs on the March

### Director General of IICA:

### Opening of Economies Must Benefit Small-Scale Farmers in Central America

According to the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, the modernization of agriculture and the expansion of production expected to take place during the 1990s in response to the opening up of the economies must also benefit small-scale farmers in Central America.

During a meeting held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Piñeiro and senior officials from rural development and agrarian reform agencies from Central America and the Dominican Republic studied the new economic and political context and its effect on the small-farm economy of the region. During the meeting, the government representatives approved the final version of a project designed to convert 729 rural settlements into rural enterprises (see page 12).

Piñeiro stated that the first element is the opening up of the economies taking place in the countries of Latin America and, particularly, in Central America. According to the Director General of IICA, this opening up is "inevitable" - without taking into consideration whether it is a negative or positive process- in light of changes that are taking place within the international context, and the economic policy decisions being made by the governments of the countries themselves.

"From the point of view of agriculture," he added, "we must understand its inevitability and prepare ourselves to respond to and live with these processes, which will have an important impact on the rural poor." The Director General indicated that ways must be found to help the small-farm economy adapt to these new economic conditions.

Piñeiro identified the second element as the need for greater participation by Central America in international trade, through increased agricultural exports. "We must ensure that small-scale farmers also benefit from the modernization and expansion of production resulting from international trade." The Director General pointed out that agricultural export activities in Central America have traditionally been tied to large enterprises and have overlooked small-farm economies. "The challenge," he indicated, "is in not repeating the errors committed in the past."

Within the political context, Piñeiro mentioned the need to face the challenges of small-farm economies through joint

actions of the countries, and he voiced his optimism with regard to the new possibilities provided by a renewed integration process in Central America.

In referring to the renewal, in 1989, of the Training and Study Program on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic (PRACA), the Director General described the program as a concrete, important instrument for the integration of Central America, a process which will be expanded in the near future. Piñeiro explained that the expansion of intra-regional trade will soon be discussed in Central America, especially with regard to foodstuffs, including basic grains, which are usually produced on small farms.

He also mentioned the summit meetings of Central American presidents as another positive aspect which constitute a new mechanism for dialogue, reaching agreement and work at the subregional level. The Director General highlighted the agreement to hold a Central American agricultural summit, which "would be a landmark meeting, and would provide new opportunities for those of use who work in the sector and who believe in the potential of the sector to reactivate our economies."

Piñeiro also mentioned the renewed concern for poverty, particularly rural poverty, which in recent years has not been of major concern to the developed world. He gave the example of the United States' new approach to Central America, which strongly emphasizes the ties between development and democracy.

He also mentioned that recently the topic of environmental protection is being linked to the topic of poverty, since over exploitation of natural resources is associated with rural poverty. "Linking these two topics can be a powerful tool in seeking external resources for development, and gives a greater sense of urgency to the topic than if argued solely from the agricultural point of view."

Finally, Piñeiro suggested that officials from the rural development and agrarian reform agencies seek ways to reform the public sector, making it more decentralized and active, in order to become more efficient and flexible in responding to the legitimate needs of the population.





*IICA's Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Alfonso Cebreros (left), the Minister of Agrarian Reform of Nicaragua, Gustavo Tablada (center) and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, at the inaugural session of the meeting.*

Agricultural Sector Meeting of the Central American Governments with Cooperating Governments and Institutions, called by the PEC, which will be held in Nicaragua, April 11-12.

Honduras was unanimously selected to serve as headquarters for the Program. The fact that several other countries showed interest in serving as Program headquarters was taken as a clear indication of the importance of the initiative.

### **BENEFICIARIES**

The inhabitants of settlements make up an important sector of the rural populations of the countries participating in the Program. In Nicaragua, 29% of the population lives in settlements; in the Dominican Republic, approximately 20%; in El Salvador, some 13%; and in Honduras, around 10%.

of the rural poor. This initiative to develop rural enterprises is part of two regional initiatives boosting integration: the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), the execution of which is coordinated by IICA, and the Training and Study Program on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic (PRACA). The Program will also help implement production activities, in response to the call for integration by the ministers of agriculture of the region during the presidential summit meeting held in Antigua, Guatemala, in June 1990, where it was reaffirmed that integration is the region's best option for development.

The Program will benefit small-scale farmers by financing production activities and, at the same time, by contributing to achieving food security and regional integration, as recommended by the ministers of agriculture of the region on many occasions.

Activities will be carried out on the regional and national levels. At the national level, the Program will involve investment projects, while at the regional level, the Program will operate through the Secretariat of PRACA. One of its principal functions will be to provide training to technicians and outreach agents, as part of the technical cooperation IICA offers to PRACA member countries. Institutions involved in agrarian reform and the rural development of the Isthmus, IICA and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEL) will be in charge of promoting and executing the Program.

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*The Program will benefit small-scale farmers by funding production activities and training.*

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## Central America and the Dominican Republic: Rural Development Institutes Give Priority to Settlement Project

**S**enior officials from rural development and agrarian reform agencies of Central America and the Dominican Republic gave their political support to a project to reorganize 729 settlements into rural enterprises, with funding from the United Nations Special Program of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC).

During a meeting held at IICA Headquarters on February 15, the officials approved the final version of a program to strengthen and consolidate rural settlements in Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic, at an estimated cost of US\$100 million. This initiative, formulated by IICA in cooperation with the beneficiary countries, will be presented as a high priority project during the First

There are 6,240 rural settlements in the subregion, distributed over 2.8 million hectares. They house 362,800 families (more than 1.8 million people). Seven hundred twenty-nine settlements will be targeted for Program activities.

According to the experts, indicators show that the settlements have significant production potential, both in terms of the land and the labor available, which can be greatly improved through the allocation of financial resources and by providing management training to small-scale farmers. The aim is to transform this group into "small rural entrepreneurs," and enable them to participate more actively and efficiently in development, and, at the same time, increase the incomes



## Mexico and Central America: Training in Communications for Professionals Responsible for Pesticide Use

Professionals from ministries and public institutions in Mexico, Central America and Panama who are responsible for the appropriate use of pesticides participated in a 10-week course-workshop on communications, held at IICA Headquarters. The activity took place within the project "Communications Applied to Education and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean," jointly executed by IICA and the Radio Nederland Training Center (RNTC).

The course-workshop was divided into seven theoretical-practical modules: policies, use and management of pesticides; planning communications and message analysis; educational campaigns; printed materials; teaching aids; production of radio programs; and tests and validation. This structure enabled 12 participants to systematize and acquire communication tools to work more efficiently with small-scale farmers, and to strengthen educational activities related to policies and the use and management of pesticides.

### IICA's Agricultural Health Program

Photo/Rocio Escobar



Participants learn to use new communications tools in order to work more efficiently with small-scale farmers.

was in charge of the module on pesticide management, during which the nature of these products, their effect on the environment, legal standards and regulations and problems caused by improper use were analyzed.

The Director of the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA) of IICA, Jose Nagel, stated that the course-workshop was part of IICA-RNTC joint efforts to integrate communications into rural development efforts. According to Nagel, "We are interested not only in preparing good messages, but also in making sure

that these messages reach the rural population." Jose Perez, head of the IICA-RNTC project, indicated that in three years more than 2,000 extension agents, agronomists, veterinarians, educators, project chiefs and farmers, among others, have received training in the use of communications. Lastly, Jerry Fowler, Director of IICA's Agricultural Health Program, stressed the importance of the training, as it provides support to educational activities carried out by countries on the proper use of pesticides.

The Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS) went into effect upon Brazil's signature of the agreement on February 27.

The objective of PROCITROPICOS is to establish the conditions and ensure the means for reciprocal support and coordinated action among the national agricultural research institutions of the eight participating countries and IICA for work to be carried out in the tropical subregions of the Amazon Basin that have the greatest potential for developing sustainable agriculture. Only Brazil's ratification of the agreement was pending, since IICA and the other member countries of this multinational endeavor had already done so (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela).

## PROCITROPICOS Goes Into Effect

Murillo Xavier Flores, President of the Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA), signed the agreement. The ceremony, held at EMBRAPA headquarters, was attended by the Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Eduardo Trigo; the Acting IICA Representative in Brazil, Hugo Torres; IICA specialist Rufo Bazan and technicians from EMBRAPA.

PROCITROPICOS will cover 73.7% of the territory of the eight countries (approximately 10 million square kilometers), which includes three ecosystems of very different characteristics having great agricultural potential: the Amazon humid tropics, the foothills and the plains and savannahs. They will receive differentiated technical treatment.





Photo/Rocio Escobar

## The Role of Harmonized Agricultural Policies in Central American Integration

Reynaldo Pérez (\*)

**A**n important aspect of the current political situation in Central America is the progress made in establishing democratic regimes in the region and in searching for negotiated solutions to conflicts.

This, together with international developments, has given rise to a change in approach in the region and has sparked renewed interest in economic integration. Agreements to integrate markets reached among individual countries or blocs of countries -both in the North and the South -, have heightened this interest.

At the same time, the need to address

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*Efforts are being made to form a more stable market for Central American products.*

economic and social issues at the national level throughout the region has led to the development of new mechanisms for solving common problems (meetings of presidents, vice presidents, ministers and joint forums).

Furthermore, there is increased interest on the part of international agencies, which are coordinating actions to boost cooperation for the economic and social development of Central America.

As a result of the clear and ever more successful negotiations for solving political-military conflicts, a number of new initiatives have come about.

International cooperation agencies are now interested in promoting sustained economic development and in solving the most pressing social problems considered to be the root of instability in the region.

Noteworthy efforts have been made to form a more stable market for Central American products; one that goes beyond the quotas established for certain products in the U.S. market and under the Caribbean Basin Initiative. Even though the overall proposal for cooperation is currently being pro-

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*"... the need to address economic and social issues at the national level throughout the region ..."*

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moted only with Mexico, before long the countries of Central America will surely be discussing their integration into broader markets.

The above, combined with EEC collaboration in forming a fully Central American market, provides a modern and competitive agriculture with tremendous opportunity.

In this regard, the PLANLAC was correct in proposing that the modernization of production and access to markets are essential to reactivation. Central America now has clearer options. In light of increased opportunities for the region at the international level, and negotiations to solve foreign debt problems, the challenge for agriculture is even greater.

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*"... the PLANLAC was correct in proposing that the modernization of production and access to markets are essential to reactivation ..."*

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(\*) Secretary for Coordination of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA).



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*From the institutional point of view, harmonization is the phase of PLANLAC activities which enables the countries to work to establish common rules and regulations to facilitate trade and technological integration in the region.*

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Agriculture's role will depend greatly on the degree to which the countries respond to the following challenges: I. the national institutions must be able to work together in joint subregional actions, II. well-planned national macroeconomic policies must be formulated, and III. agreements to engage in complementary production will be required among the countries.

Along these lines, the efforts of the countries should be guided by two basic objectives: I. to increase intra-regional trade as the basis for food security and II. to place more agricultural exports on international markets.

The governments of the countries, which before had little faith that the agricultural sector could have a serious effect on economic reactivation, now look to the agricultural-agroindustrial complex as a focal point for accumulation. In the strategy for development of the region, a reactivated agriculture combined with increased industrialization has a key role.

To achieve this, joint efforts have been undertaken, the first result of which has been the formation of National Technical Committees to harmonize policies and strengthen institutions at the national and regional levels. Harmonization of national policies in this context means establishing ongoing dialogue between agricultural and economic authorities for consultation on macroeconomic policies affecting the agricultural sector. At the regional level, this process is more complex in that it involves legal questions and the harmonization of the legislation of different countries.

In strictly technical terms, harmonization is a process that contributes to connecting the different linkages arising from economic integration and to establishing interdependent rules governing intra- and extra-regional trade.

From the institutional point of view, harmonization is the phase of PLANLAC activities which enables the countries to work to establish common rules and regulations to facilitate trade and technological

integration in the region, and to foster dialogue between economic and agricultural authorities.

The National Technical Committees are headed by the vice ministers of agriculture and made up of senior economic government authorities. This is the most appropriate forum for the harmonization of policies. These committees, which have been established in each of the countries of Central America, as well as in Panama, receive ongoing assistance from IICA. Initially, the committees are addressing four issues: sanitary standards, technological integration, quality control and trade information systems.

The work of the committees has received the firm political support of the ministers of agriculture, who have set the guidelines for their work including the organization of a summit meeting of Central American presidents this April.



*Efforts are currently being made to place more agricultural exports on international markets.*



# IICA Identifies Areas for Cooperation in Reactivating Agriculture in Haiti

IICA recently identified areas in which it can work with Haiti in reactivating the country's agricultural sector, and in the coming weeks will submit a proposal to authorities of the new government there. L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of IICA, explained that a preliminary document containing the details of the proposal has already been drawn up and will serve as the basis for conversations with government officials.

Davis recently participated in the inauguration of the government of President Jean Bertrand Aristide. Davis, along with the IICA Representative in Haiti, Jan Hurwitch, and officials of other institutions of the inter-American system, analyzed new development initiatives intended to benefit the six million inhabitants of this island nation, 85% of whom live in extreme poverty.

According to Davis, IICA is considering cooperating in a program to conserve and improve natural resources. Because of severe deforestation in Haiti, erosion has reached extreme levels and forests cover only 2% of the land. Another objective is to increase the incomes of small-scale farmers and create more employment in the rural sector, inasmuch as these farmers account for 85% of the production of basic grains and exports. Some 5.5 million Haitians earn their living in agriculture, earning an average annual income of barely US\$100.

The technical cooperation IICA currently provides to Haiti includes a project designed to increase the incomes of small-scale coffee growers by upgrading productivity. Coffee production in Haiti has declined over the last fifteen years, falling from 625,000 sacks in 1963, to only 200,000 in 1990. According to Davis, however, this sector shows great potential, and its improvement will make it possible to increase the incomes of small-scale growers. In addition, it will be necessary to modernize public institutions associated with the agricultural sector.

The Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) includes a specific strategy for Haiti, which makes an in-depth study of problems affecting rural areas and small-scale farmers, and makes concrete proposals to enhance development of the small-farm economy.

A project for institutional strengthening and the promotion of international cooperation for technological development is currently under way, and 40 institutions are participating in a survey to determine the current situation in the national system for the generation and transfer of agricultural technology. In 1990, Haiti joined the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network (CARAPHIN), an IICA initiative that receives financial support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and which seeks to facilitate the exchange of information on the incidence of plant diseases and pests in this subregion.

## Trinidad and Tobago: Course Offered on Video Production

Under the auspices of the IICA-RNTC project, nineteen professionals from Trinidad and Tobago participated recently in a course entitled "Planning and Management of Communications for Video Production" on the campus of the University of the West Indies, in St. Augustine.

The participants, including members of the Agricultural Extension Department of the School of Agronomy of that university and representatives of national institutions in charge of extension programs and rural development, became more familiar with the use of videos in their work with small farmers.

The course consisted of seven units, both theoretical and practical, which focused on topics such as "Communications for Rural Development," "Institutions and the Public," "Videos as an Educational Tool" and "The Video Production Process."

The Dean of the School of Agronomy, Lawrence Wilson; the Head of the Agricultural Extension Department, Joe Sepeepersad and the IICA Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, Joan Wallace, participated in the opening session of the event. The course was taught by Marco Polo Torres, head of IICA's Communications Division, and Marijke Haanraads, of the Radio Nederland Training Center (RNTC).



According to the Secretary of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican

The initiative is also a part of the strategy for Central America of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean

exception of Guatemala where work is currently under way to establish such a committee. Guatemalan officials preferred to begin their efforts after the new

procedures, quality standards for intra-regional and international trade, market information systems, and technological development. IICA will support the work of the committees by strengthening its Offices in the countries.

## Progress Made in Harmonizing Agricultural Policies in Central America

Republic (CORECA), Reynaldo Perez, the ministries of agriculture have made good progress in harmonizing agricultural policies in Central America, in keeping with the spirit of integration expressed during the presidential summit meeting held in Antigua, Guatemala, in June 1990.

This process, supported by IICA through a project to harmonize agricultural policies in CORECA countries, seeks to integrate the agricultural sectors of the subregion. CORECA is the sectoral forum for the Central American isthmus, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

(PLANLAC). The PLANLAC, prepared by IICA in collaboration with its Member States and other international agencies, is a comprehensive strategy to promote sustainable development with equity.

The harmonization of the policies is the responsibility of National Technical Committees, presided over by the deputy ministers of agriculture and made up of senior officials from the economic sector of each country, such as the ministries of the economy, the treasury, planning and the Central Bank. According to Perez, these committees have been set up in all the member countries, with the

government was installed in January.

Subcommittees in each country are in charge of specific topics such as agricultural health and technology, as well as other matters the responsibility for which is shared with the economic sector.

Perez added that "as policies are harmonized, agriculture will suffer less from the negative effects of economic policies."

He indicated that four major subject areas are being analyzed in the process to harmonize agricultural policies: plant and animal health regulations and

By harmonizing agriculture policies, Perez added, Central America will achieve a level of technological integration that eliminates duplication in research and other related actions. It will improve the flow of intra-regional trade.

Lastly, the Secretary of Coordination of CORECA explained that the harmonization of agricultural and food security policies seeks to increase the region's self-sufficiency and boost production complementarity. "These are medium-term tasks, and integration is a sure route to accomplishing these goals. The task of harmonizing policies is one of integration," he concluded.

### Minister of Agriculture of El Salvador Visits IICA

During a visit to the IICA Office in El Salvador, the Minister of Agriculture, Antonio Cabrales, highlighted the technical cooperation the Institute provides to his country, particularly with regard to the harmonization of agricultural policies. "IICA," he stated, "is our organization, with which we fully identify." He also called for greater coordination among cooperation agencies and financial institutions that operate in the area. In the photograph, accompanied by officials of MAG and IICA technicians (standing), are the Technical Director of OPSA-MAG, Mercedes Llort; IICA's Representative in El Salvador, Mariano Olazabal; the Minister of Agriculture, Antonio Cabrales; and IICA consultant, Jean Francois Christin.





IICA and the government of Chile signed a basic agreement that governs the operation of

## IICA and Government of Chile Sign Basic Agreement

the Institute in that country, where technical cooperation actions will aim to build a modern agricultural sector that guarantees better living conditions for agroexporters as well as small-scale farmers.

The document was signed in Santiago by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Enrique Silva Cimma, during a ceremony attended by Chilean experts Jorge Ramsay and Jose Marull, personnel emeritus of the Institute.

The Director General of IICA described the agreement as "very generous" since it will serve as a useful

instrument for working with officials from the ministry of agriculture to support national efforts to modernize the agricultural sector.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Chile stated that the agreement is especially important for his country, since it comes at a time when the agricultural sector has continued to develop and shown strong growth in production, marketing and fruit and vegetable exports.

Silva Cimma called attention to IICA's role in reactivating the agricultural sector of Chile and the region as a whole.

## IICA Present at Inauguration of New President in Guatemala

An official delegation from IICA recently attended the inauguration of the President of Guatemala, Jorge Serrano. Representing the Institute were the Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein; the Advisor to the Director General on Central American Integration, Rodolfo Martinez Ferrate and the IICA Representative in Guatemala, Mariano Segura. The delegation delivered greetings from the Director General to officials of the new government and discussed with them technical cooperation currently being carried out and new activities designed to promote agricultural and rural development.

In 1990, the technical cooperation provided by the IICA Office in Guatemala emphasized two strategic lines of action: agricultural policy analysis and planning, and organization and management for rural development. In this regard, the Office helped promote agricultural sector policies and prepare documents on macroeconomic management. An assessment of the institutions involved in rural development was made, and support was given to the Agricultural Representatives' Program, the system of farmers' markets. IICA also cooperated in formulating food security policies. Guatemala benefits from some of IICA's multinational projects, such

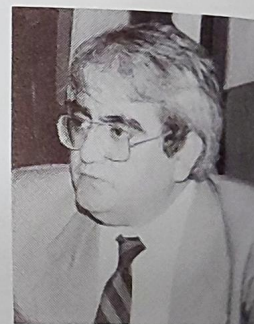
## New Coordinator of Plan of Action in Costa Rica Assumes Post

On February 11, Hector Morales, who served as IICA Representative in Mexico for the last four years, assumed his post as Coordinator of the Plan of Action in Costa Rica.

Morales, who is an agricultural engineer holding a Ph.D. in Economics, explained that IICA would focus its technical cooperation in Costa Rica on rural development, marketing and research.

He added that the Institute's five Programs - Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning, Technology Generation and Transfer, Organization and Management for Rural Development, Marketing and Agroindustry and Agricultural Health - would operate in Costa Rica in close collaboration with his Office.

Morales explained that his Office would also be working in coordinating multinational projects, stating "The goal of coordination is to contribute to the success of proposals to reactivate agriculture."



Hector Morales

as PROMECAFE, relevant to the improvement of coffee cultivation, and TRIFINIO, which seeks to develop border areas shared by Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala.



## Tropical Root and Tuber Crops

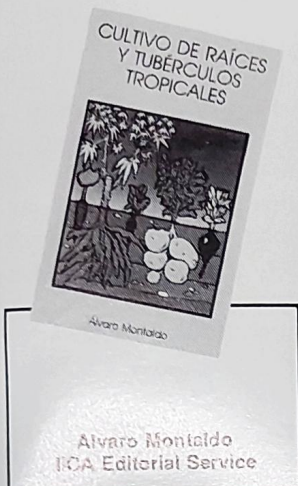
second and third chapters cover species that are cultivated in warm, cool and cold climates, while the last chapter covers species grown in Africa, Asia and the Pacific islands, some cultivated locally and others that grow in the wild and can be used as food reserves in years of low production.

called, was used as the basis for discussions on sustainable development by developed and developing countries. Given the interest generated by the book, IICA decided to reprint the book, this time in Spanish. IICA, in collaboration with the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), reprinted the book as a contribution to the Centre for Our Common Future, headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and was authorized by the Oxford University Press, of Great Britain, and The Global Tomorrow Coalition, headquartered in the United States.

## Normative Framework of Agricultural Sector Policies

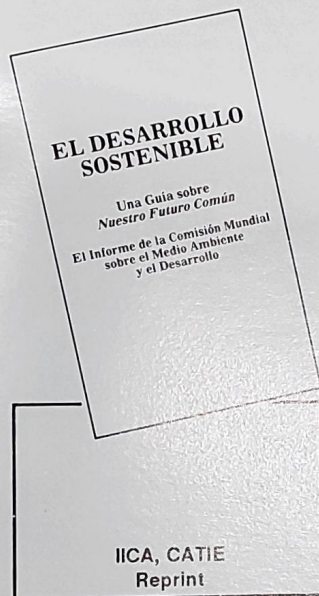
Volume I: Laws

## IICA Publishes "Sustainable Development: A Guide to Our Common Future"



This book, in its second, updated and revised edition, discusses a great variety of tropical species such as cassava, taro, yams, sweet potatoes and ulluco, among others, and their enormous potential as food crops and products that can be used as raw materials. Also stressed is the important role they can play in solving problems related to employment, unemployment and land tenure in developing countries.

The book was written by Alvaro Montaldo, an agronomical engineer and science professor, with broad experience as a university professor and researcher. It is divided into four chapters that discuss general considerations on tropical roots and tubers, as well as the specific characteristics of each plant: agronomical, nutritional and industrial. The first chapter examines the importance of these crops and the potential they represent for the development of the American tropics. The

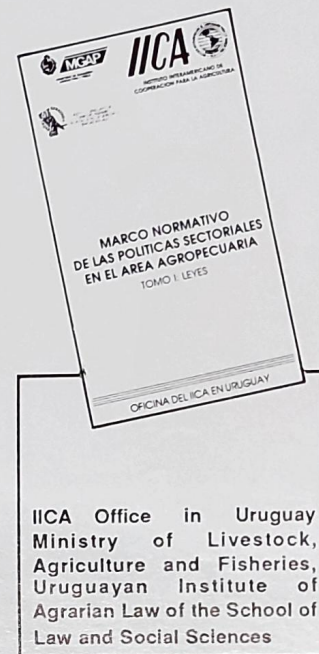


Recently, IICA published the Spanish version of the book entitled Sustainable Development: A Guide to Our Common Future. It presents the final document of three years of work of the World Commission on Environment and Development, set up by the United Nations General Assembly in 1983.

The Brundtland Report, or Our Common Future as the Commission document is

The prologue of the book indicates that the Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development "creates a global agenda for change: change in the way we think about poverty, economic growth, environmental degradation and industrialization."

The book is divided into eleven chapters: Toward Sustainable Development; Role of the International Economy; Population and Human Resources; Food Production and Food Security; Species: Living Natural Resources; Energy Choices; Industry: New Challenges; Urban Pressures; Managing The Commons; Peace, Security, Development, and Environment; and Towards Common Action: Legal and Institutional Change. It also includes sections on the World Commission on Environment and Development and worldwide reactions to the report.



IICA Office in Uruguay  
Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries,  
Uruguayan Institute of Agrarian Law of the School of Law and Social Sciences

This book organizes and systematizes the legal instruments available to the agricultural sector of Uruguay, and was prepared by Carlos E. Delpizzo, Jorge Fernandez Reyes and Roberto Vazquez Platero. It is a simple, practical instrument that can be used by university professionals, administrators, students and others interested in agriculture.

The book is divided into 16 chapters that address major topics pertaining to agricultural policies. Policies related to livestock and agriculture, the key topics, are discussed in the first place.



## France



■ In a recent edition, the French journal **CULTIVAR** published an interview with the Director of the Center for Programs and Investment Projects (CEPPI) of IICA, Fernando Dall'Acqua, who discussed the liberalization of agricultural trade and its impact on poor countries. In order to compensate for the negative effects, developing countries will need the help of the world banking system and a reduction in their external debts.

## Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay

### Call for new type of researcher in agro-industrial processes



■ The press of Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay underscored the fact that agricultural research institutions of Latin America and the Caribbean will have to make changes if they are to continue to play a strategic role.

This statement was made by the Director of IICA's Program on Technology Generation and Transfer, Eduardo Trigo, in a document on national agricultural technology generation and

transfer systems in the 1990s, quoted in the **Trinidad Guardian**.

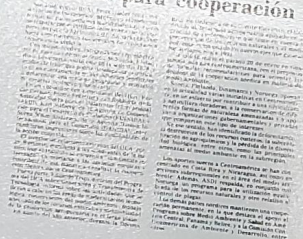
Trigo indicated that these changes are essential because national institutes have successfully served as the basic infrastructure for science and technology in the agricultural sector. They have also helped train the human resources needed to develop agriculture (**El Pais**, Uruguay).

■ In a recent article headlined "Scandinavian Countries Seek IICA Support for their Cooperation," the daily newspaper **La Prensa Grafica**, of El Salvador, indicated that these countries are interested in having IICA serve as a channel for environmental activities they will carry out in Central America.

Other activities covered by international news agencies and subregional daily newspapers (**IPS**, **AFP**, **ACAN-EFE**; **LA PRENSA LIBRE**, Guatemala; **La Nacion**, Costa Rica) include a seminar-workshop, held at IICA Headquarters with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA), to establish a cooperation program for involving rural youth in agricultural modernization.

## El Salvador, Costa Rica

### Países Nórdicos tras apoyo del IICA para cooperación



## Upcoming activities

\* **Donor Meeting for the Caribbean**  
June 6-7  
Saint Lucia

In response to agreements reached during the last meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, CARICOM will hold a meeting, co-sponsored by IICA, during which a package of projects related to the Caribbean Community Plan for Agricultural Development will be submitted to donor agencies and countries. With a view to securing funding, initiatives will be

submitted for topics in which the Institute is recognized as an authority and which are included in the PLANLAC, such as the harmonization of agricultural policies, the establishment of ties between Latin America and the Caribbean and the strengthening of small-farmer organizations. Prior to this meeting, from April 18-19, a seminar on the PLANLAC in the Caribbean will be conducted in Trinidad and Tobago, to disseminate the proposals of this comprehensive strategy and to promote coordination with other organizations working in the subregion.

\* **Seminar to review the priorities of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) by a group of Latin American experts**

June 18-19  
Costa Rica, IICA Headquarters

\* **Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA**  
June 24-26  
Costa Rica, IICA Headquarters



# In this Issue

## Focus

President of Guatemala Pledges Support for Integration in Central America

## Headquarters

New Observer Country

The Environment: Central America in Need of External Technical and Financial Cooperation

CIRAD Opens Regional Office at IICA

IICA-UNICEF-ILO: Joint Work

IICA and Asian Research Institute Undertake Joint Action

## PLANLAC

Trinidad and Tobago: Role of the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean to be Studied



Inter-American Association of Agricultural Journalists Founded

## Forum

The Issue of Biotechnology at IICA

## Programs on the March

CIDIA Changes its Focus

PROCISUR and PROCIANDINO Hold Joint Meeting

3 IICA-UNIFEM: Specialists Receive Training in Preparing Projects for Women

4 New Focus Recommended for Cocoa Production



4

5

5

6

6 Central American Isthmus: Vice Ministers of Agriculture Approve Strategy for Staple Grains Program

Latin America and the Caribbean: Canada Firm in its Support for Agricultural Modernization

## Action in the Countries

Director General Calls for Greater Investment in Agriculture

Visits to Member countries: Director General in the Dominican Republic

7 Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations in Mexico

8 Deputy Director General of IICA Attends CARDI Meeting

8 Agricultural Integration Moves Forward with CONASUR

10 Countries of Central America Outline Priorities for Investments

10 Changes Worldwide Create New Challenges for Technical Cooperation

11 Andean Area: Ministers Call for Prompt Adoption of Common Agricultural Policy

12 **Publications**

19 1990 Annual Report

19 Paper Published on North American Food Processing Technology

19 Book Published on Technical Cooperation in Agricultural Sector Adjustment Loans

20 **IICA in the News**

20 **Upcoming Activities**

12

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13



14

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15

15

15

16

17

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 32 member countries and 13 observer countries.



## President of Guatemala Pledges Support for Integration in Central America

During an official visit to IICA Headquarters in March, the President of Guatemala, Jorge Serrano Elias, pledged his country's support for all initiatives aimed at strengthening the renewed process of integration in Central America.

Speaking to authorities of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, representatives of the diplomatic corps, officials of the government of Costa Rica, delegates from international organizations and journalists, President Serrano advocated a type of technology transfer that will foster development in the region.

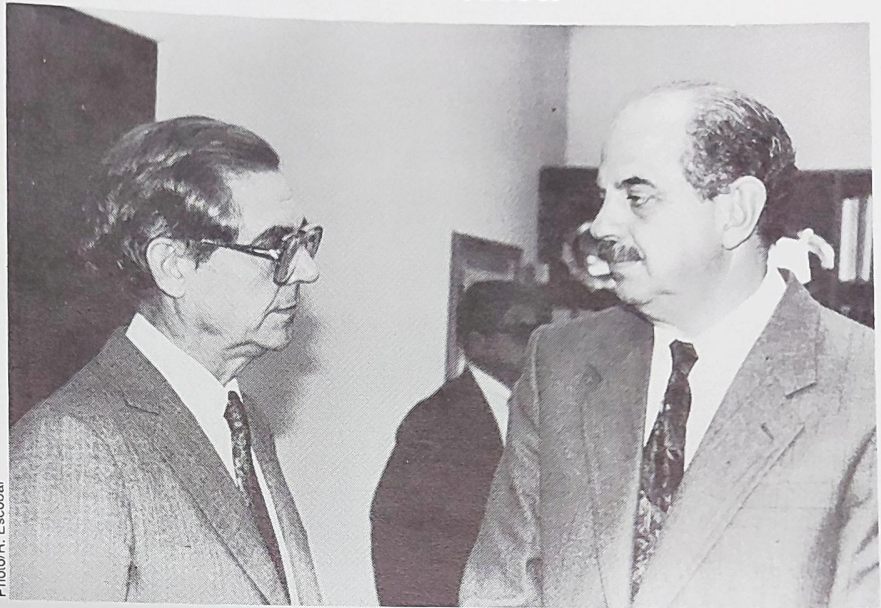
As part of his activities at IICA, Serrano met with the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, who outlined actions undertaken by the Institute to promote agricultural modernization within the framework of renewed efforts toward regional integration.

During the meeting, the President expressed interest in receiving technical assistance from IICA for initiatives to promote agricultural reactivation and rural development in his country.

### VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION

The President of Guatemala praised new integration efforts in Central America, which enjoy the political support of all the countries, and the contribution IICA has made to agriculture within this process.

He pointed out that his country understands that current circum-



Photo/R. Escobar

*In speaking with the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, President Serrano asked that IICA technical cooperation in his country promote agricultural reactivation and rural development.*

stances demand joint efforts, and went on to congratulate IICA for its efforts, pledging his government's support for all initiatives aimed in that direction.

Serrano stated that IICA has developed a great capacity for analyzing problems in the region and coming up with solutions for them. He added that strong organizations such as IICA give Latin America greater autonomy.

In referring to the challenges faced by developing countries, President Serrano advocated "sound" technology transfer to make the region less dependent on the industrialized nations.

He insisted on the importance of changing current models of agricul-

tural extension systems, arguing that the products of scientific research should not stay in the laboratory, and that transfer mechanisms must be improved to ensure that farmers incorporate such products into their daily activities.

During his address, the President questioned the validity of current trends which favor short-term solutions when what is important is to look ahead to the future. In this regard, he referred to the urgent need to work to conserve the environment, which will ensure the sustainability of production and guarantee the well-being of future generations.



## Headquarters

### NEW OBSERVER COUNTRY

As the result of the formal exchange of letters between the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, and the Minister-Counsellor Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., of Rumania in San Jose, Augustin Berindean, Romania became IICA's thirteenth Permanent Observer country on April 23. According to Berindean, this new link between his country and IICA is a true reflection of a broad policy adopted by Romania's new democratic government, which took office following elections on May 20, 1990, to open up the economy and society.



Photo/R. Escobar

### The Environment: Central America in Need of External Technical and Financial Cooperation

**D**uring a visit to IICA Headquarters, a senior official of the Finnish International Development Agency (FINNIDA) stated that Central America needs substantial external technical and financial cooperation in order to be able to carry out effective work to conserve the environment.

Pauli Mustonen, FINNIDA Program Officer for Latin America, met with IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein; the Director of Central Area Operations, Luis Arturo del Valle; the Advisor to the Director General for Special Affairs, Rodolfo Martinez; and Kaarina Valtasaari, an international cooperation specialist working at IICA.

During the meeting, Mustonen exchanged views with IICA officials and expressed great interest in expanding FINNIDA's actions with IICA. He said that his organization was very impressed with the work being carried

out by the Institute and was very interested in working with it because it is in an excellent position to act as counterpart in their efforts to support development in the countries of Latin America.

He added that Central America is one of the areas of the world which requires urgent action to design and implement proposals to promote economic and social development that also promote the conservation of

natural resources and the environment. In this regard, he stated that Finland is very interested in supporting the countries of Central America.

More specifically, he pointed to the progress that has been made to obtain financing for an initiative to conserve the environment in the border area of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras.



Photo/R. Escobar

Pauli Mustonen (far right), FINNIDA Program Officer for Latin America, declared that Finland is very interested in providing support to the countries of Central America.



## CIRAD Opens Regional Office at IICA

The Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) opened its Office for Latin America and the Caribbean at IICA Headquarters, from which it will promote its actions to improve agriculture in the region, according to CIRAD representative, Jean Laboucheix.



Laboucheix, who is also the official delegate of

CIRAD to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, added that the decision to open a permanent office in the region reflects France's growing interest in strengthening its cooperative ties with Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA and CIRAD signed a general cooperation agreement in 1989, the objective of which is to improve agriculture and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Laboucheix stated that "We feel that IICA is a very serious institution which plays a very positive role in Latin America and the Caribbean. In cooperating with the Institute, we will be able to expand our knowledge of agriculture in the region, which will enable us to more clearly define our cooperation actions."

## IICA-UNICEF-ILO: Joint Work

With a view to upgrading the technical cooperation it provides to its member countries, IICA will join forces with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to deal with such topics as rural development, rural women, communications and training. The agreement with the ILO also covers professional training, cooperatives and employment.

This new stage in the relations between the three institutions was discussed in meetings at IICA Headquarters, first with the ILO, and then with UNICEF. Joint efforts are intended to strengthen cooperation and increase the effectiveness of the

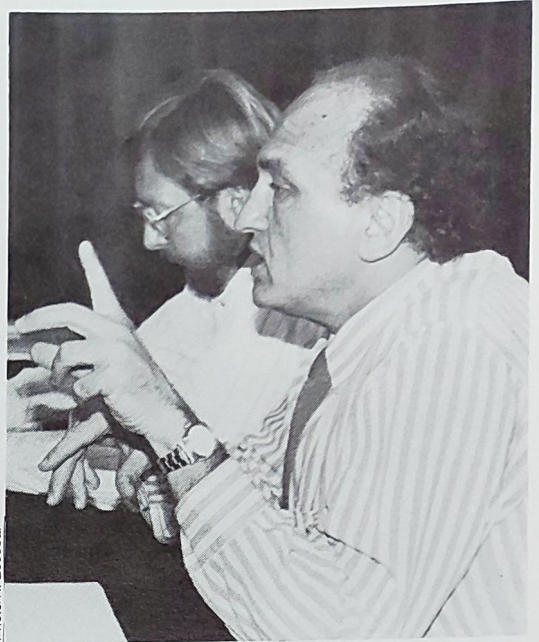
efforts of the three organizations in Central America, and to foster the exchange of experiences in areas of mutual interest.

During these meetings, IICA, ILO and UNICEF reviewed the programs and projects they are currently executing in the Isthmus, and discussed the formulation of concrete initiatives to be submitted jointly to possible donors.

IICA's Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, expressed his satisfaction with this new stage of the Institute's relations

with both organizations, and underscored the current need in Central America for combining the efforts of all agencies working to improve the lives of the inhabitants of the region.

Participating in the discussions were Gerardo Cardenas, ILO Director for Central America and Panama, and ILO specialists in women's issues, rural employment, professional training and audiovisual media, among others.



Per Engebak (rear), representative for Central America, Panama and the Caribbean, headed the UNICEF delegation. With him is Jorge Werthein, IICA's Director of External Relations.



In the case of the ILO, the agreements will cover activities related to professional training, cooperatives and employment.



## IICA and Asian Research Institute Undertake Joint Action



The Director of the Center, Emil Q. Javier, explained that the organization will expand its activities to include Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Directors General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, and of the Asian Vegetable Research and Development Center, Emil Q. Javier, signed a technical cooperation agreement in March to strengthen ties between the Latin American and Caribbean countries and Asia.

The Center, headquartered in Taiwan, is an international research and training institution which works to improve the production and quality of vegetable and legume crops in developing countries.

The agreement states that IICA and the Center can make more effective contributions to the agricultural and rural development of IICA's 32 member countries through joint efforts than they could through isolated and independent action.

According to Dr. Javier, the Center "will be able to extend the scope and results of its technical and scientific activities to Latin America and the Caribbean" as a result of cooperation with IICA, "which is renowned for its experience in agricultural research and development."

## PLANLAC

Trinidad and Tobago:

### Role of the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean to be Studied

The role of the agricultural sector in the economic and social growth of the countries of the Caribbean was the topic of discussion during a seminar held from April 18-19 in Trinidad and Tobago, attended by representatives of governments, the University of the West Indies (UWI), private entities and international agencies.

The goal of the seminar, sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture in collaboration with the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), was to promote the exchange of experiences related to the sector among government officials, representatives from regional and international agencies and the press.

Speakers at the opening session were L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of IICA; Brinsley Samaroo, Minister of Food

Production and Marine Exploitation; and Suruj Rambachan, Minister of Industry, Enterprise and Tourism.

Another purpose of the seminar was to publicize the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which contains a proposal for development in this subregion. The strategy of the PLANLAC for the Caribbean complements CARICOM's Sectoral Plan and its actions include the design of strategies for agricultural policy analysis, planning and management with a view to boosting development of that sector. The Plan also envisages supporting the organization and management of



Photo / M. Loregnard

technology generation and transfer systems in the countries of the Eastern Caribbean, providing follow-up on animal and plant diseases and developing tropical fruit crops.



With support from IICA, communicators from nine countries of Latin America and the Caribbean founded the Inter-

## Inter-American Association of Agricultural Journalists Founded

American Association of Agricultural Journalists (ASIPA), in Chile.

The new inter-American association, which brings together the members of associations of journalists in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay, pledged to support agricultural reactivation in the countries and throughout the region, in light of the sector's economic potential and natural comparative advantages.

The charter of the new association was signed in Viña del Mar, Chile. Also present at the ceremony were the ministers of agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay; representatives of the different production sectors in the countries of that region and

the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Chilean Association of Agrarian Journalists,

the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR) and the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile.

ASIPA will initially be chaired by Chile. It will have four vice chairs, one for each subregion of the continent: at this time, they are held by Argentina, for the Southern Cone; Peru for the Andean countries; Costa Rica, for the Central subregion; and Dominican Republic, for the Caribbean.

During the inauguration, the Minister of Agriculture of Chile, Juan Agustin Figueroa, stated that the press should play two key roles in development: to help dismantle and over-come old-fashioned views of agriculture and to help create conditions that will make this new development possible. He also urged the journalists to give their

full support to the modernization of agriculture.

For his part, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, said that the establishment of ASIPA is of special importance to all specialized journalists, but also to all who are committed to agricultural development. He added that the creation of the group shows that journalists are also participating actively in renewed efforts to promote regional integration. In analyzing world conditions under which agriculture must unfold, he added that to be able to compete successfully on international markets everyone will have to re-evaluate what constitutes the foundation and parameters of this new agriculture, especially journalists specializing in the topic of agriculture.

In offering IICA's support for ASIPA, Piñeiro underscored the responsibility journalists have in "educating the public and convincing them of the importance agriculture plays in our economies and in the new move toward integration." IICA support for ASIPA will come under the framework of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), a development strategy promoted by the Institute.



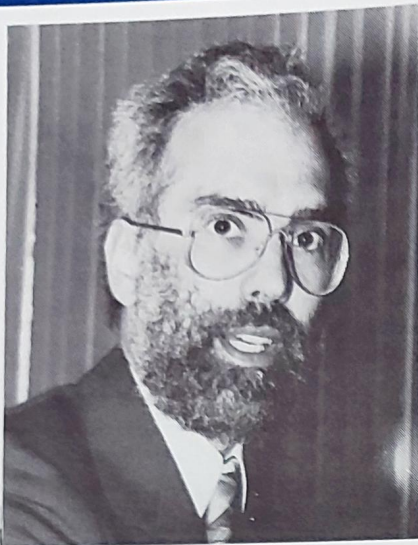
*The inaugural session of the international meeting of agricultural journalists took place at the main campus of the University of Chile. Participating in the event were (from left to right): IICA's Representative in Chile, Alfredo Alonso; the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro; Minister Figueroa and the President of ASIPA, Enrique Inostroza.*

The President of ASIPA and of the Chilean Association of Agricultural Journalists, Enrique Inostroza, recalled that the idea of creating a hemispheric agricultural journalists' association first came up during a 1988 meeting held in Costa Rica, sponsored by IICA. Inostroza urged journalists to keep up with the latest advances, stating that they cannot stand still as agriculture becomes more and more technical. He concluded by saying that agricultural journalists must upgrade their skills continuously, if they are not to limit themselves to merely repeating the news.



# The Issue of Biotechnology at IICA

Walter Jaffe (\*)



Photo/F. Escobar

Three years have gone by since the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) began to work to design policies and strategies on agrobiotechnological development, for the most part within the framework of the IICA/Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) Project. It is pertinent to take time now to evaluate progress made in achieving this objective.

## 1. Needs and opportunities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Three years of work have made it possible to gain a clearer understanding of the current status of biotechnology worldwide and in the region, and to identify prevailing trends and important policy issues arising from these trends. As a result, the key elements of a strategy for the region have been identified for dealing with this new technology.

The problem of biotechnologies is not primarily one of generation or scientific development, as normally viewed in the region. This subject is generally discussed only in scientific circles, where there is a general lack of understanding of its economic importance and of its impact on development. The considerable economic impact biotechnology can have on the region, as well as the opportunities for production it can provide, are generally unknown. The few and limited initiatives to design policies on the use of such technology in production, such as patenting and biosafety regulations, have been the result of external actions and pressure (GATT negotiations,

multinational companies interested in biosafety, etc.). As a matter of fact, research and development activities underway in the region show that no strategic vision guides what is to be done or how to do it. Thus, efforts are very dispersed and inadequate, and most research strategies seem merely to imitate those of the developed countries.

As a result, scant attention is given to the topic by both business and government, and there is a lack of policies to encourage the introduction of new technologies into the production system. Latin America and Caribbean countries carry out only a small fraction of the research and development activities conducted worldwide in this field, yet they have fledgling industries that use this technology.

Policies must be developed in the region to monitor these technologies, regardless of their source, since most will come from abroad, given the weakness of related research and development in the region.

Policies and strategies should focus on businesses or farmers as the key players in the innovation process, and have different orientations. Some should be designed to encourage, coordinate and orient innovative activities of local businesses (national or regional), others should facilitate access to technologies available worldwide, and still others should seek to take full advantage of scientific and technical capabilities of the public sector -universities and research centers-, incorporating them into this process.

The profound changes in the general development strategies applied in the region in recent years provide opportunities for introducing policies of this nature. As the economies open up, pressure will grow to upgrade the competitiveness of production sectors. Many industries will disappear, but others will be able to compete and will need access to technology and technological support.

One important way to ensure such access will be to adopt internationally accepted rules and regulations, which, in the case of the biotechnologies, concern protection of industrial property rights and biosafety regulations.

More specifically is the case of intellectual property rights, especially as pertains the use and ownership of germ plasm. This is of particular importance to the agricultural sector and related industries, and the region should take advantage of this strategic resource. Biotechnology is the only means for doing so in the medium term.

(\*) Specialist on Technology and Generation Transfer



Increased efforts toward economic integration, through free trade, seek the same results as the opening of the economies, but offers special opportunities for joint actions in the region. Success will depend on the harmonization of policies among trade partners to ensure equitable access to factors that will make them competitive, especially technology and technological support.

The public and academic sectors play a key role in developing strategies to incorporate the use of state-of-the-art technology; in all countries, scientific and technological know-how are concentrated in these sectors. This is especially true in the region and, therefore, it is essential to introduce policies and mechanisms that will make it possible to bring such know-how to bear in a strategy of this type. The principal goal is to introduce and strengthen policies and mechanisms to develop ties and establish coordination with the production sectors.

In summary, the most urgent needs are:

Δ To develop in the region a strategic vision of the role of biotechnology in the agricultural sector and related industries

Δ To design and introduce policies to promote technological innovation

Δ To bring into line with international trends, policies which affect access to technology (biosafety, protection of intellectual property rights)

Δ To harmonize policies among countries through economic integration

Δ To promote the introduction of policies and mechanisms for developing closer ties between academic institutions, public sector entities and businesses

Δ To support the establishment of policies for managing and valuating germ plasm

2. The comparative advantages, achievements and potential of IICA.

IICA's work in support of the formulation of policies and strategies has resulted in the Institute's assuming leadership in certain policy areas related to the development of biotechnology. This is particularly true in the case of biosafety. IICA is seen as a leader in this field by the small circle of interested agencies in the region and also by key international organizations and agencies of the developed countries associated with this topic. This is also true, though to a lesser extent, with regard to intellectual property rights as they apply to agriculture. It is hoped that, as a result of activities initiated this year concerning technological management of agrobiotechnological businesses, it will be

possible to establish links with industry and related organizations in the region, and to forge closer ties with national agricultural research institutes and other important research organizations.

IICA has also compiled a considerable data base on biotechnological policies and strategies, and has established a network of professionals connected with biotechnology in the region.

The comparative advantage IICA offers in this case, over other organizations, is its close ties with national agricultural technology generation and transfer systems, either directly or through existing reciprocal cooperation networks, and with the mechanisms used for defining and coordinating agricultural policies at the subregional level. Examples include the support given to Uruguay in formulating a national strategy on agrobiotechnology, and actions undertaken to harmonize policies on seeds and biosafety in the Southern Cone, through CONASUR and PROCISUR.

The degree to which IICA will be able to contribute to defining and introducing strategies and policies on agrobiotechnology will depend on the extent to which it can extend the range of its leadership on this topic. To this end, it will be necessary to develop stronger and broader relations with decision makers in this field, especially in the business sector. The most effective way to do this would be through a mechanism to disseminate information, for which a feasibility study is currently being conducted.

IICA will continue to carry out its general strategy on two levels; one being general and more horizontal in nature, aimed at defining and developing regional and national strategies on the topic. A successful mechanism here has been the "study group," which brings together technical leaders in this field. The second level, which is more vertical in nature, will provide support to subregional and national initiatives by industry, subsector or country. In both cases, efforts will receive the support of the Institute's information and analysis capabilities.





## Programs on the March

**T**he Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA) has shifted its orientation in order to enable it to work more closely on training matters with IICA's Programs, and to upgrade the technical cooperation the Institute offers to its member countries.

According to CIDIA's Director, Jose Nagel, this new focus represents the Center's first effort to deal with the topic of training since it was officially

## CIDIA Changes its Focus

given responsibility for developing such activities. In addition to its usual duties of providing bibliographic information services, editing books, bulletins and documents and providing support in the establishment of highly-specialized data bases for IICA's five Programs, CIDIA has expanded its horizons and

now is also involved in the area of communications.

Among other things, the Center coordinates seminar-workshops on the media with IICA's Programs under the project "Communications Applied to Education and Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean," executed jointly by IICA and the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC).



*PROCIANDINO seeks to strengthen research and technology transfer in the subregion.*

## PROCISUR and PROCIANDINO Hold Joint Meeting

**T**he Boards of Directors of the Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR) and of the Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion (PROCIANDINO) met from April 9 to 12 to discuss topics of mutual interest concerning the generation and transfer of technology throughout South America and to determine areas for cooperation.

During the meeting held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, discussions focused on the establishment of the Coopera-

tive Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), and the actions needed to get it under way. Member countries of PROCISUR are Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, while PROCIANDINO is made up of Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru and Venezuela. Both PROCISUR and PROCIANDINO activities come under the PLANLAC.

The Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Eduardo Trigo, and IICA specialist Enrique Alarcon participated in the

meeting to establish the first areas of cooperation between the programs: information exchange on technology inventories, germ plasm exchange, and communications. In addition, a working paper will be prepared on a strategy and procedures for exchanging professionals.

The Boards of Directors of PROCISUR and PROCIANDINO also discussed possible funding sources and mechanisms. While both currently receive financial support from IICA and contributions from the countries, total income is insufficient to develop the full range of activities needed by the member countries.



## IICA Executive Committee to Review Preparations for Tenth ICMA



*The Ninth ICMA was held in Ottawa, Canada from August 29-September 2, 1987, where the Secretary General of the OAS, João Clemente Baena Soares, spoke to the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere.*

**T**he Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica in late June. During the meeting, the Executive Committee will study a progress report on preparations for the upcoming Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

The Executive Committee, made up on this occasion of representatives of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Uruguay and Venezuela, will meet from June 24-26.

Over the last two years, IICA officials and representatives of the Spanish government have met repeatedly to organize the ICMA and IABA meetings, which will be held in the Congress Hall in Madrid from September 22-27.

In its last meeting, the Executive Committee approved as the theme of the Tenth ICMA "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the New International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century."

As reference material, five issue documents on different aspects of this theme are being drawn up:

- a- Economic and political changes worldwide: their impact on the agroalimentary situation
- b- The role of the agroalimentary sector in the opening of the economy
- c- The development style: economic democracy and growth with equity
- d- Agriculture and the conservation of natural resources
- e- Opportunities and needs for international cooperation

Preparation of the documents has already begun by a group made up of the Program Directors, under the

coordination of the Advisor to the Director General. Coordination was also formalized with the Organization of American States (OAS), and a high-level group of professionals was contacted to work in preparing the documents. In selecting the professionals, efforts were made to ensure adequate geographic representation.

IICA maintains ongoing contact with Spanish authorities. In 1990, the First Hispano-American Meetings were held in Madrid to discuss the theme of agriculture and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean. A second such Hispano-American Meeting was held in Costa Rica in April of this year. (See separate article.)

In order to validate the contents of the documents, high-level seminars were held on each of the topics. Worthy of special mention was the IICA/ECLAC consultative meeting on the implications of the opening of the economies and adjustment programs for the modernization of agriculture (Chile, March 1991).

The IDB also sponsored a seminar on political and economic changes and their effect on agriculture. (See separate article.)

In addition, the topics to be discussed in Spain have been the subject of analysis in different technical and political fora of the different subregions: the Agricultural Council of the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (Andean Area); the Standing Committee of Ministers Responsible for Agriculture (CARICOM of the Caribbean Area); the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR), and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA) in Central America.



As part of the Second Hispano-American Meetings, experts from Latin America and Spain analyzed the topics of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

During the event, sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA) and IICA, and held from April 8-9 at IICA Headquarters, the documents to be presented to the ministers of agriculture at their meeting in Madrid were discussed.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that the next ICMA will represent the culmination of a long process begun in Ottawa, Canada in 1987, when the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere agreed on the need to give a new role to agriculture and to undertake important changes in order to modernize the sector. In Piñeiro's opinion, the upcoming ICMA will reflect changes that have taken place in the international context over the last two years. The ministers will have an opportunity not only to exchange views and agree on joint actions, but also to participate in setting a new international agenda.

In the opinion of Jesús González Regidor, an advisor from MAPA, a purpose of the meeting was to help

## Second Hispano-American Meetings: Topics of Forthcoming Agricultural Summit under Discussion

ensure that the ICMA in Spain make concrete contributions to agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean. The members of the Spanish delegation made a thorough presentation of the agroalimentary situation, which included a review of economic and political changes that have taken place in recent years, as well as the priorities of new agroalimentary policies.

They also stated that the Single European Market should not be seen as an attempt to "keep Europe for the Europeans," but rather as a group of countries open to trade and willing to

reduce protectionist barriers. For their part, IICA officials emphasized that during the 1990s, modernization, equity and sustainability will be the key agricultural issues in the region. Carlos Pomareda, Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program, indicated that coming up with an agricultural development style that will help boost overall economic reactivation, and succeeding in making such development highly participatory and sustainable -without threatening natural resources- is an enormous challenge.



Photo: R. Escobar

*During the meeting, there was consensus that the declaration issued at the Tenth ICMA should lend support to efforts in the region to formulate policies to promote agricultural reactivation, within a framework of equity and environmental conservation.*

## Spain to Serve as Link Between Europe and Latin America

According to Spanish officials participating in the Second Hispano-American Meeting,

the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), to be held this year in Spain, will provide an opportunity for that country to help establish smoother ties between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

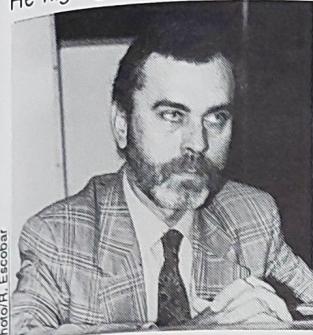
Jesus Miranda and Jesus Gonzalez Regidor, incoming and outgoing advisors, respectively, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain, stated that the

event takes on special meaning in an international context characterized by the formation of economic blocs and renewed efforts at integration. Miranda pointed out that relations between Spain and Latin America are built on solid ground, have been tested over time, and have produced a community of interests and philosophies. In his opinion, the fact that the ICMA will be held in Spain will make it possible to build a bridge between the region and a new Europe.



In referring to this scenario, he cited the fall of the Berlin Wall and the subsequent unification of Germany, the opening up of the countries of eastern Europe and the Single European Market, which will begin in 1993.

He highlighted the fact that, parallel with these developments, the countries in North, Central and South America have relaunched efforts in pursuit of integration and that they are consolidating their position as a bloc.



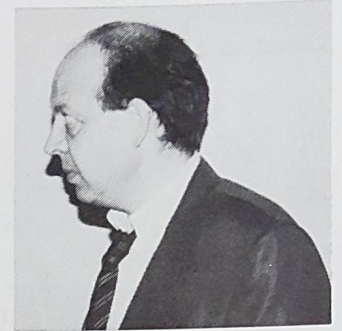
Photo/R. Escobar

Jesús Miranda

For his part, Gonzales Regidor stated that holding the ICMA in

Madrid will be very important because Spain's natural ties are with the American hemisphere and the time is right for linking that region with the European Community.

In this regard, he mentioned that on the occasion of the ICMA a meeting will be held to bring together the ministers of agriculture of the American hemisphere and their European counterparts to exchange ideas and points of view and to reach consensus on important topics of the bilateral agenda that have not been formalized in agreements.



Jesús González

## Challenges for Cooperation in the New International Context

In a meeting at IICA Headquarters on April 15-16, experts from Latin America and IICA analyzed and discussed the challenges of cooperation in the new international context.

Guidelines for a document to be studied at the next Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture in September were produced at the meeting.

For IICA, this workshop on the contributions of technical cooperation was of particular importance because it was the first chance for the Institute to reflect on the types of activities it will conduct after the Conference.

Participants analyzed topics ranging from the origin of technical cooperation -causes, characteristics and the political context which gave rise to it-, to current styles and instruments, to the profile of new actions required to respond to changes worldwide.

In an address on current problems and challenges in international cooperation, Jorge Federico Sabato, a specialist from Argentina, explained that such cooperation dates back some 45 years when the world was recovering from World War II and the predominant concerns were how to feed millions of people and put new technologies to use.

After describing the conditions under which technical cooperation operated, Sabato cited the new emphasis the developed countries give to cooperation currently: conservation of the environment, control of the production of illegal drugs, control of epidemic diseases (AIDS), and immigration from developing countries.

A specialist from Uruguay, Juan Felipe Yriat, spoke on new types of cooperation for agricultural development, in which he pointed out that leadership in technical cooperation will shift to the private sector in this decade.

He mentioned that society in the developed countries fulfills its obligations through non-profit associations (universities, scientific and research institutions and others), which are beginning to develop in Latin America and the Caribbean as a result of efforts to reorganize the State and promote privatization.

He said that everything seems to indicate that these institutions can be used as models in the countries of the region to institutionalize technical cooperation in the private sector. In the case of the agricultural sector, he added, corporations or foundations could be set up to deal with specific issues such as rural development, the environment and training.



## IDB and IICA Sponsor Seminar on Agricultural Development and Trade

*The meeting was the "first step" in securing the institutional cooperation Latin America will need to become fully incorporated into trade at the close of the twentieth century.*

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and IICA sponsored a high-level seminar in Washington on agricultural development and trade, with a view to drawing up "an Agenda for the 1990s." Participating in the seminar were professionals from throughout the hemisphere and representatives of international organizations and agencies.

According to the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, the seminar, held in preparation for the Tenth ICMA, was the "first step" taken to consolidate the institutional cooperation that will be necessary for Latin America and the Caribbean to participate more effectively in trade through the end of the twentieth century.

### KEY TOPICS

Key topics discussed were the outlook for agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean vis a vis the Uruguay Round of GATT, the incorporation of eastern European countries into the world market and economic reform in the region. Also analyzed were the key points of the Initiative for the Americas proposed by the United States: trade, debt and investments and their impact on regional and subregional integration.

Piñero stated that the event had served to "bring us up to date" on

changes in international trade and their potential impact on agriculture and exports in Latin America. For his part, Waldemar Wirsig, IDB deputy manager for environment and production sectors, termed the event "an important analytical effort" that will make it possible to draft policy guidelines for subsequent consideration by the pertinent authorities.

The Director General of IICA explained that the seminar confirmed the thesis that the multilateral negotiations of the GATT will conclude at the end of this year with "moderate agreements" to reduce subsidies for agricultural exports and to improve the access of Latin American and Caribbean countries to protected markets in the north.

In explaining that any agreement to come out of GATT must be complemented by efforts by the countries of eastern Europe and southeast Asia to open their markets as a stimulus to competition, he added that little progress will be made, but that such progress will give a boost to the economies of the region.

In the case of the countries of eastern Europe, the participants agreed that a reorganization of their economies will increase demand for agricultural imports, especially tropical products.

Lastly, discussions on the Initiative of

the Americas termed it an interesting proposal which represents an historic change in U.S. foreign policy and suggests a more equitable relationship between the countries of the hemisphere. According to Piñero, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have an opportunity to move forward under the trade-related aspects of the Initiative, and, to this end, analytical capabilities of regional agencies must be strengthened.





Women representing governments and non-governmental organizations participated in the regional course.

Photo: R. Escobar



## IICA-UNIFEM:

# Specialists Receive Training in Preparing Projects for Women

Under the sponsorship of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and IICA, twenty-six women from Central America, the Dominican Republic and Cuba are receiving training in the preparation and evaluation of projects which involve women directly.

The goal of this training program is to create a group of highly-qualified specialists who can assist governmental and non-governmental institutions in preparing projects for women; in other words, projects that take into consideration the cultural, social and political factors that condition the circumstances in which women live and that affect their role in the development process.

This program, the first of its kind in the region, brings together women working with governments and non-governmental organizations.

Because of the great demand for this type of training from governments and organizations in the region, IICA

and UNIFEM have attached great importance to the activity, and will conduct similar events in the near future in the Andean and Caribbean Areas.

UNIFEM officials for Latin America explained that many development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean are designed with no thought given to the beneficiaries. Thus, they frequently respond only to the needs of the men in the community.

Furthermore, many projects designed specifically to benefit women actually increase their workload beyond the 16 or 18 hours they already spend meeting the needs of their families or working the land.

This regional seminar on the preparation and evaluation of projects for women, sponsored by IICA and UNIFEM, consists of two stages. The first was held from March 11-29 and the second will take place from June 3-14.

## WORK WITH IICA

According to UNIFEM authorities, great priority will be attached to working with rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean in coming years, for which reason its relationship with IICA is very important.

In their judgement, the current situation of women in Latin America and the Caribbean is "truly tragic," inasmuch as they are not targeted in development policies. UNIFEM plans to work with IICA to ensure that women are taken into account in national agricultural policies.

Some of UNIFEM's areas of shared concern with IICA are to transfer technology that will be of benefit to women, as well as training for IICA technical personnel, to ensure that initiatives undertaken in any of the Institute's working areas involve the direct participation of women from all levels of the agricultural sector.



# New Focus Recommended for Cocoa Production

In order to reverse the trend of declining cocoa production in Central America and the Caribbean, where cocoa output has fallen behind that of other crops, it will be necessary to re-orient cocoa research, technology generation and transfer, training, legislation and organization.

This is one of the recommendations formulated by 40 representatives from the Central American isthmus, Canada, the United States and the Caribbean participating in a seminar on cocoa rehabilitation in Central America, held at IICA Headquarters under the auspices of the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO).

The participants -extension agents, researchers, economists and growers- noted that cocoa is no longer an attractive crop because of low prices



on international markets and declining productivity. In an in-depth discussion of the topic, they identified the key problems involved in developing the

crop and offered alternatives for boosting yields to encourage growers. Regarding research, they recommended designing methods for rehabilitating the crop, including cost structures pertinent to the needs of large- and small-scale farmers, depending on the economic and technological resources at their disposal. As for technology generation and transfer, they recommended promoting the participation of the private sector in extension activities and improving the efficiency of such activities by the public agricultural sector. Other recommendations were that extension agents be trained not only in production technology, but also in the best ways to transfer such technology to farmers, and that farmers' associations work with government authorities to design policies that will foster cocoa production and establish closer ties with industry.

The Regional Program for Strengthening Agricultural Research on Basic Grains in Central America and Panama went immediately into operation, following the approval by the vice ministers of agriculture of those countries of the working strategy for the next four years and the plan of action for 1991.

This four-year program seeks to increase production of corn, beans, rice and sorghum, and to improve the socioeconomic situation of small- and medium-scale farmers of the Isthmus. Participating in the meeting at IICA Headquarters to approve the operating strategy and plan were the vice ministers of agriculture of Costa Rica, Jose J. Acuña; of Panama, Pablo Quintero; and of Honduras, Francisco Matamoros; as well as representatives of Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

The basic grains program is the first of

Central American Isthmus:

## Vice Ministers of Agriculture Approve Strategy for Staple Grains Program



*The Head of the Delegation from the European Community Commission for Central America, Ambassador Fernando Cardesa (left), participated in the meeting in representation of the EEC.*

its kind, carried out in the framework of Central American integration by the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA), whose secretariat is the responsibility of IICA. The

strategy will be to promote agricultural research through field work and the development of appropriate technology for solving the problems faced by grain farmers.



Canada will continue its support for efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean to bring about agricultural modernization and put the region on a path of economic growth that promotes equity and conservation of the environment.

This statement was made by Christian Lapointe, regional representative of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), who, along with officials of Agriculture Canada, participated in several working meetings

and management for rural development; development of agroindustrial exports; and animal health and plant protection information systems. Agriculture Canada participates in the IICA-CIDA project as the executing agency.

The CIDA official stated that the two organizations are

## Latin America and the Caribbean: Canada Firm in its Support for Agricultural Modernization

Lapointe expressed satisfaction with the medium-term evaluation of the IICA-CIDA project because it showed that much progress had been made to date. He added that the initiative had been particularly successful on two fronts: it contributed to incorporating topics of vital importance for the agricultural sector into IICA activity,

ings held on the topic of intersectoral relations as the basis for agricultural reactivation in the region.

Lapointe's assessment was shared by Lucie Larose and Catherine Drummond, officials from Agriculture Canada. Drummond commented that the project has operated smoothly because IICA, CIDA and Agriculture Canada all share an interest in promoting agricultural development. The officials also called attention to the fact that 23 Canadian professionals are directly linked with the region through this initiative, which has enabled Canadian institutions to gain a better understanding of the situation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

According to Drummond and Larose, the region will get caught up in the worldwide trend to form economic blocs and to establish free-trade zones. Canada has initiated talks with Mexico and hopes, on the basis of that experience, to establish ties with other subregions such as Central America and the Andean area. They concluded by saying that Canada wants to work more closely with Latin America, evidence of which is the fact that over the past year Canada has gradually increased its technical and financial cooperation within the Organization of American States (OAS), which it joined in January 1990.



Canadian representatives meet with IICA authorities to discuss progress of the IICA/CIDA Project.

with Institute authorities on March 14-15. Ernani Fiori, IICA Representative in Canada, also participated in the meetings, which were coordinated by Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program.

Since 1988, CIDA has supported IICA's five Programs through a project that focuses on: planning and strategic information for agricultural policies; new technological options for agriculture; organization

currently reflecting together to establish a "subject-oriented" type of support for the strategy and program of work to be developed beginning in 1992. He added that the topics of particular interest to Canada are those covered in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), and those chosen for discussion at the upcoming Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

and it strengthened relations between Canada and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In his opinion, the project's principal objective of strengthening certain strategic areas of IICA's work is being achieved. By way of example, he mentioned initiatives to design and implement specific policies related to the development of biotechnologies, proposals for rural development policy options, as well as documents published and meet-



## Action in the Countries

**S**peaking in Canada, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, affirmed that the best way that nation can support development in Latin America and the Caribbean is to invest in agriculture.

During a visit from May 5-10, the Director General participated in a conference organized by the University of Calgary, in the province of Alberta, in which experts from Canada and other countries analyzed new relations and areas of cooperation between this nation and Latin America.

Later, in Ottawa, the Director General met with the Minister of Agriculture, Pierre Blais, to discuss joint Canada/IICA activities aimed at modernizing and promoting agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. In a separate meeting, he met with the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Jean-Pierre Noreau and other ministry officials, including those in charge of developing the agroalimentary sector.

In a meeting with the President of the Canadian International Development



The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro (center), meets in Ottawa with M. Cardiff, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture, and K. Bezanson, President of the International Development Research Centre.

## Director General Calls for Greater Investment in Agriculture

Agency (CIDA), Marcel Massé, and the Vice President of CIDA for Latin America, John Robinson, they studied new ways CIDA could cooperate in the execution of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). They also discussed progress made in the CIDA/IICA Project, which provides support to IICA's five Programs.

The Director General also met with John Mullin, Vice President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). IICA and the IDRC exchange information on a wide range of topics such as agroindustry, biotechnology and sustainable agriculture.

Also in Ottawa, Piñeiro addressed the Latin American Forum, presided over by Minister Blais, on the topic of new opportunities for ties with and ex-

changes between Canada and the region.

### IN CALGARY

In Calgary, Piñeiro stated that Canada can play a major role in helping solve the problems faced by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, through concrete actions and also by promoting the interests of the region in international fora.

Such actions, he continued, should be based on the premise that all successful experiences in development have been built around the sectors and factors of production that have offered the greatest comparative advantages. In calling for greater Canadian investment in agriculture in the region, he explained that natural resources in Latin America and the Caribbean represent a comparative advantage upon which the region must base new development efforts. He went on to say that inasmuch as many of the natural resources of these countries are in the agricultural domain, and because of the notable multiplier effect of investment in agriculture, agriculture should be the primary candidate for investments, as they will generate employment, increase domestic demand and contribute to improving the trade balance. In calling for support for integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, the Director General pointed out that such support is particularly important in connection with intra- and extra-regional trade.



## Visits to Member countries

### Director General in the Dominican Republic

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, made an official visit to the Dominican Republic on March 8-9, 1991. During his visit, he spoke with President Joaquin Balaguer about IICA's work to help modernize the agricultural sector of that country.

Piñeiro also met with the Foreign Minister, Joaquin Ricardo Garcia, and the Secretary of State for Agriculture, Nicolas Concepcion Garcia, to



Director General Piñeiro participates in the ceremony to bestow the "Medalla de Oro a la Mujer del Campo" (Gold Medal for the Rural Woman) on Patria Altigracia Nuñez. The government of the Dominican Republic grants this award annually to the most outstanding woman of the small-farm and laborer sector.

analyze progress made in implementing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural

Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

### Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations in Mexico

Also in March, the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations of IICA, Alfonso Cebberos, met with senior agricultural officials in Mexico in order to introduce to them the new IICA Representative in that country, Juan Jose Salazar.

Cebberos met with the Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources, Carlos Hank Gonzalez, to discuss cooperation between Mexico and Central America in the current context of economic integration, as well as preparations for the upcoming Tenth Inter-American Conference of

Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), to be held in Madrid this September.

While in Mexico, the Assistant Deputy Director General bestowed the Inter-American Agricultural Award on Valeriano Robles Galindo, in recognition of his 28 years of dedicated research and teaching. In his acceptance speech, Galindo Robles, who established the Foundation for Latin American Agricultural Research Associations, urged researchers and educators of Latin America to work toward a rural development based on the individual and the conservation of the environment.

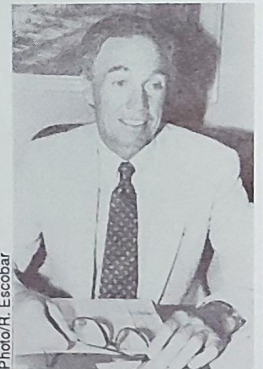


The new IICA Representative in Mexico, Juan Jose Salazar (right), meets with the Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources, Carlos Hank Gonzalez.

### Deputy Director General of IICA Attends CARDI Meeting

In March, the Deputy Director General of IICA, L. Harlan Davis, visited St. Kitts and Nevis for five days to attend a high-level meeting of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), and to meet with political and agricultural officials of that nation.

Davis officially opened the CARDI Planning Conference, which brought together the Council of Directors, the Board and donors of this agency, and delivered an address on the role of agricultural research and technology transfer in the development of agriculture in the Caribbean.



Photo/R. Escobar

L. Harlan Davis

Under the terms of a cooperation agreement, IICA contributes annually US\$300,000 to CARDI to promote agricultural development and research in the Caribbean. In accordance with this agreement, IICA sits on the CARDI Council of Directors.





Minister Alvaro Ramos, of Uruguay; Minister Antonio Cabrera, of Brazil; Minister Juan Figueroa, of Chile; Deputy Secretary Marcelo Regunaga, of Argentina; and Deputy Minister Arsenio Vasconcellos, of Paraguay, expressed satisfaction with the meeting.

## Agricultural Integration Moves Forward with CONASUR

**T**he ministers of agriculture of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay made considerable progress in advancing agricultural integration during a meeting of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR), held from April 4-5 in Viña del Mar, Chile.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, participated in the meeting, which was presided over by the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture of Argentina, Marcelo Regunaga.

Eleven resolutions, most of which call for concrete action related to agricultural integration, modernization and reactivation, were adopted during the meeting, as were two declarations, one by the ministers and the other in conjunction with representatives of farmers's associations of the member countries. When CONASUR meets again in Montevideo in November, several initiatives adopted in Viña del Mar will have already been put into

operation. At that time, IICA, which serves as the Secretariat for Coordination of the Council, will present a progress report on other initiatives entrusted to it.

With a view to giving priority to the harmonization of sectoral policies, the ministers approved a program for IICA cooperation in support of CONASUR activities, which includes the creation of a data base to facilitate the free flow of agricultural information, and which is needed to promote integration among the five countries.

The ministers also signed an agreement creating the Regional Animal Health Committee (CORESA), whose mission will be to coordinate and upgrade regional capabilities to prevent, control and diminish the impact and risk of sanitary problems that affect production and the marketing of agricultural commodities from the region.

It was also agreed to sign a general agreement on quality standards for

animal and plant products, to be drawn up by a classification committee, which will use a common nomenclature and code to harmonize the agricultural health and quarantine regulations of the five countries. In November, this committee will submit a work plan, the goal of which will be to establish the common nomenclature by mid-1993.

The ministers agreed to initiate in each of their countries the legal and administrative procedures required for signing a regional agreement to liberalize and expand the seed trade, and to promote cooperation in this area. To this end, the Secretariat for Coordination will seek technical and financial assistance.

The four signatories to the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) treaty agreed to take the steps required to lift all restrictions on the import and export of livestock products, keeping sanitary and quarantine standards in effect until the common nomenclature is ready.

Other resolutions call for joint research and agricultural extension programs, including integration of physical infrastructure in shared ecosystems. They also requested the Secretariat for Coordination to draw up an agreement for the protection of industrial property rights over cultivars, which will contribute to expediting effective technology transfer.

The delegates to this meeting thanked IICA's Director General for the support the Institute provided in establishing this agricultural sector forum.

In the Declaration of Viña del Mar, the ministers of agriculture called on the industrialized nations to be flexible in negotiations associated with the GATT.



# Countries of Central America Outline Priorities for Investments in Agriculture

During a meeting organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nicaragua on April 11-12, as part of the Special Program of Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC), the countries of the Central American isthmus put forth their priorities for investments in agriculture to cooperating governments and institutions.

In commenting on this First Agricultural Sector Meeting of the Central American Governments with Cooperating Governments and Institutions, the Minister of Agriculture of Nicaragua and chairman of the meeting, Roberto Rondon Sacasa, confirmed that all of the meeting's objectives had been achieved. The major goals of the meeting had been to promote and coordinate efforts to secure financial and technical resources for specific programs and projects to reactivate and develop agriculture in the region.

IICA's delegation was headed by the Director General, Martin E. Piñero. The meeting was also attended by representatives from 16 countries and 21 international agencies.

A portfolio of 51 national projects grouped under eight regional programs was submitted to potential donors. All reflect the priorities established by the governments of the isthmus. In their Joint Declaration of Tegucigalpa, issued in June 1990, the ministers of agriculture established three key components for a reactivation strategy for the region: strengthening of intra-regional agricultural trade and promotion of traditional and nontraditional exports; improving food security; and implementing a new development model which would lessen the impact of free-trade and economic adjust-

ment policies on the most vulnerable rural sectors.

Working together, the UNDP, the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) and IICA drew up the technical documents discussed in Managua. Funding for the complete package totals US\$818.8 million, which includes US\$604.8 in external funding. The eight regional programs are: Agroalimentary Development; Irrigation, Drainage and Land Levelling; Development of Biotechnology; Intra-regional Trade and Exports to Third Countries; Agroindustrial Development; Strengthening Plant and Animal Health Services; Development of Border Areas; and Strengthening and Consolidating Rural Enterprises.

In their presentations, the cooperating governments and institutions recognized the work carried out by the governments of the area in relation to the PEC documents, and offered recommendations and suggestions for incorporation into the final

versions of the projects. They showed special interest in the projects and programs dealing with irrigation and drainage, the strengthening of plant and animal health services, technological development, support for rural women, alleviation of rural poverty and natural resources.

Rondon called attention to the fact that it would be necessary to follow-up on these matters and discuss in greater detail the possibilities of obtaining external funding for the projects. He added that, in order for the work of the meeting to bear fruit, the countries of the isthmus must support follow-up with the cooperating countries and agencies.

According to the UNDP Coordinator for the PEC, Elena Martinez, the meeting signalled the completion of one stage of the execution of PEC, which was agreed upon in Geneva in 1989 during the first meeting of Central American governments with the cooperating community. She also acknowledged the support provided by regional agencies in preparing the documentation, and thanked IICA, "without whose collaboration this meeting would not have been possible."



*The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, meets with the President of Nicaragua, Violeta Barrios de Chamorro.*



## Changes Worldwide Create New Challenges for Technical Cooperation

In a seminar-workshop to analyze IICA support to integration in Central America, Institute authorities and IICA Representatives serving that area agreed that changes around the world create new challenges for international technical cooperation which merit a redefinition of the focus of IICA action.

The dynamics of the situation in the Central Area suggest that the most appropriate technical cooperation for IICA in that area is to contribute to opening up the economies, and to supporting structural adjustment and integration. In addition, efforts should be made to expand the range of participants and to involve private institutions.

They specified that this does not mean that efforts to strengthen ties



Photo R. Escobar

*IICA's Representatives in the Central Area established basic guidelines for their work to promote agricultural integration in the subregion.*

with the ministries of agriculture will be overlooked. They also added that, because technical cooperation now covers more topics within and related to the agricultural sector, IICA Representatives should assume a more active role.

According to IICA's Director of Central Area Operations, Luis Arturo del Valle, this more active participation is needed to fulfill the commitments the Institute has assumed in supporting

regional integration, which, in the case of Central America, is well advanced.

On the basis of the above, the Representatives established basic guidelines for their participation in cooperation actions between Mexico and Central America, in harmonization of policies in the Central American isthmus and in the analysis of reforms in the public agricultural sectors of the countries of the Central Area.

The ministers of agriculture of the Andean Area recommended a series of measures to accelerate implementation of the Common Agricultural Policy for the Andean Area

(PACA), which, by mandate of the Presidents of the Andean countries, should be in operation by December 31, 1995 at the latest.

The first of these measures calls for each ministry of agriculture to involve public and private agencies and international technical cooperation and financial institutions in the work plan to adopt the PACA.

Under this plan, the Board of the Cartagena Agreement will promote

Andean Area:

### Ministers Call for Prompt Adoption of Common Agricultural Policy

the participation of private agencies, such as the Andean Agricultural Confederation (CONAGRO), as well as of international agencies, such as IICA, IDB and FAO, in activities to further agricultural integration.

More specifically, it calls for these entities to provide support to the ministries in setting up and organizing units to coordinate and follow up on the PACA.

The ministers also entrusted the

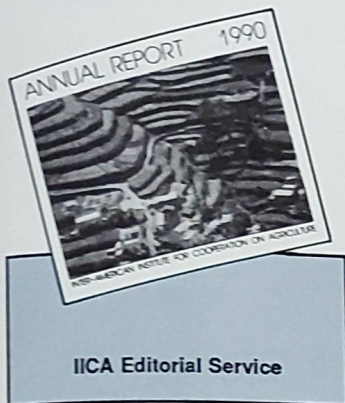
Board with establishing a subregional network to provide information regularly on progress made in developing the Common Agricultural Policy.

These resolutions were adopted by Ministers Maria del Rosario Sintes Ulloa, of Colombia; Alfredo Salto Guale, of Ecuador; Mauro Bertero Diaz, of Bolivia; Enrique Ross Link, of Peru; and Jonathan Coles Ward, of Venezuela, during a meeting held in Cali, Colombia on April 8-9, 1991. IICA was represented at the meeting by its Director of Andean Area Operations, Victor Palma.



# Publications

## 1990 Annual Report



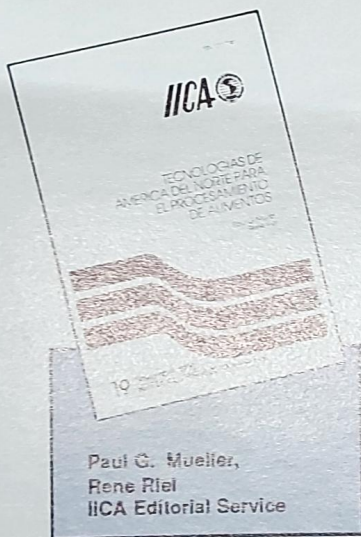
IICA recently published its 1990 Annual Report, a publication which is intended to improve communication with the member countries and encourage reflection on the Institute's mandate, organizational structure, its human and physical resources and its performance as a technical cooperation agency.

In the foreword, the Director General, Martín E. Pizarro, states that after a preliminary evaluation of events in 1990, "we can say that it was a year of intense work, despite budgetary restrictions which limited the Institute's ability to respond to the new demands of the Member States for cooperation in modernizing their agricultural sectors and making them a driving force behind economic reactivation in the region."

Chapter I of the Annual Report describes the progress made in executing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), as concerns the implementation of its strategies for disseminating the advances of the Plan and for securing external resources, as well as accelerating the process of preparing and putting into operation multinational projects.

Chapter II outlines the current activities of IICA's five Programs, especially their actions at the multinational and hemispheric levels. Chapter III briefly analyzes the situation of agriculture in the Member States and describes the projects carried out in each one. Chapter IV discusses IICA's efforts to develop closer ties with other organizations and countries and to secure extra-quota resources. Chapter V details IICA's management structure and provides information on the Institute's human resources and financial standing in 1990.

## Paper Published on North American Food Processing Technology

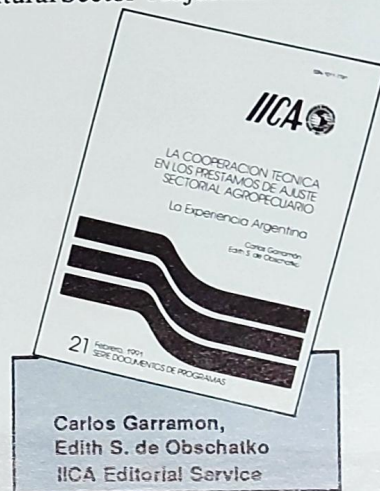


This paper, published in Spanish as "Tecnologías de América del Norte para el Procesamiento de Alimentos," identifies and evaluates 26 new technologies which have been tested commercially in North America, and could be adapted for use in the food industry in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The book is the end product of research carried out by Dr. Paul G.

Miller and Dr. René Riel at the request of IICA, who were asked to identify the characteristics and peculiarities of the North American market which might enable countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to improve and expand their commercial ties with processing, packing and distribution firms in the United States and Canada.

## Technical Cooperation in Agricultural Sector Adjustment Loans



This book, available only in Spanish as "La cooperación técnica en los préstamos de ajuste sectorial agropecuario," examines the role of technical cooperation in the design and execution of an external financing strategy for the agricultural sector, in light of the experience of Argentina.

In the foreword, the Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program, Carlos Pomareda, explains that the successful experience gained by the Institute in Argentina serves as an incentive for strengthening ties between technical cooperation and external funding activities, and, in particular, for promoting joint efforts by IICA, the IDB and the World Bank in dealing with the needs of the countries related to policies, investment programs and institutional reform.





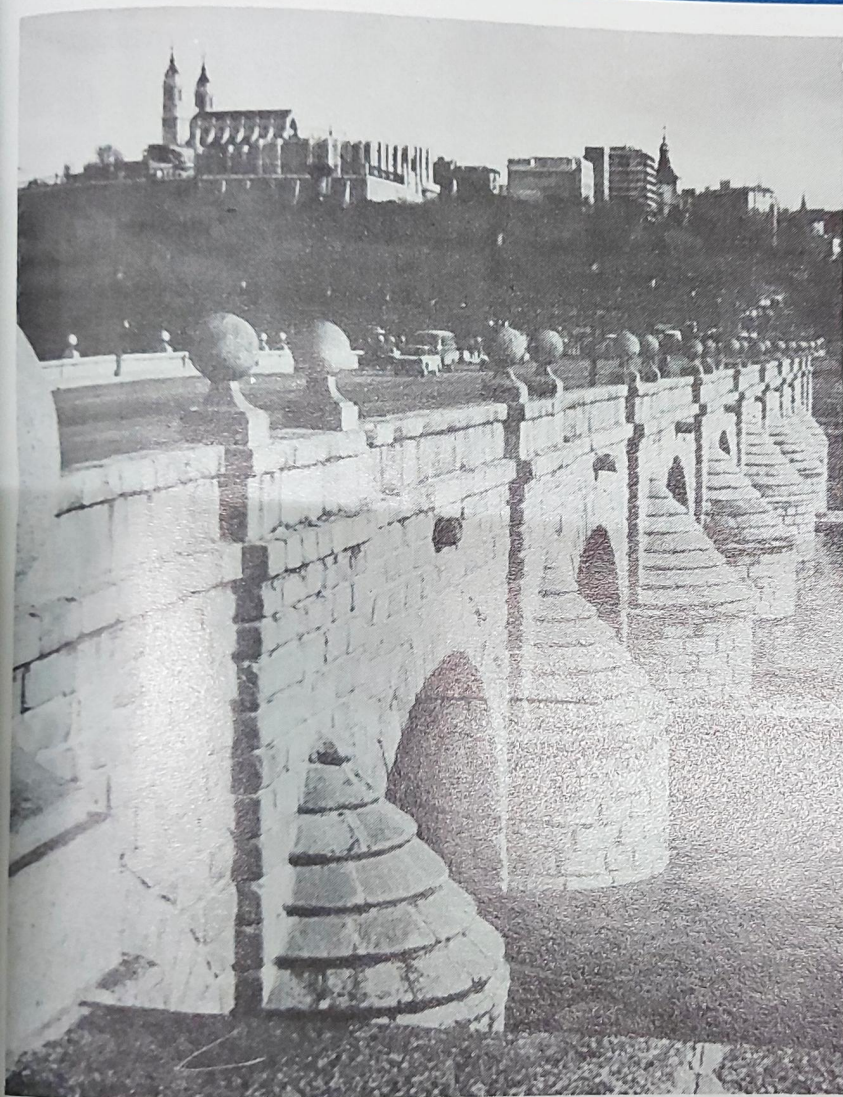


# IICA



# NEWS

July - August - September 1991, Year VIII, No. 45



*As the twentieth century draws to a close, the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), to be held from September 22-27, will provide opportunities for building bridges between today's problems and tomorrow's solutions. (View of the bridge in Segovia, on the outskirts of Madrid).*

- September: the Tenth ICMA
- Romania reiterates interest in strengthening ties with Latin America



# In this Issue

## Focus

- Eleventh Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee 3

## Headquarters

- Romania Reiterates Interest in Strengthening Ties with Latin America 4

- Latin America and the Caribbean: Commitment to Support Economic Progress of Rural Women Reaffirmed 5

- Deputy Director General Represents IICA at OAS General Assembly 6

- IICA Seeks New Types of Cooperation with Italy 6

- IICA to Participate in EXPO'92 in Sevilla 7

- Greater Access to Sources of Agricultural Information 7

- IICA Signs Letter of Understanding with Inter-American Association of Journalist 8

- IICA and ICRISISAT Sign Agreement 8

- Joint Action 8

- Opportunities for Agricultural Trade with Korea to be Identified 9

- Donation to CATIE 9

- Government Officials Request Technical Advice 10

- Women and Health 10

## PLANLAC

- PLANLAC under way 11

## Training

- Training Program Launched 12

- IICA-SIDA Project Engaged in Intense Activity 12

- Technicians Design Manual 12

- Women Complete Course on Project Formulation 13

- Agricultural Extension Model Proposed in Peru 13

## Forum

- Research and Technology Transfer in Caribbean Agricultural Development 14

## Programs in Action

- Program II has New Emphasis 16

- Projects on Trade and Integration to be Promoted 17

## The Countries in Action

- IICA Renews Support to Agricultural Development in Caribbean 18

- PROCITROPICOS Initiates Activities 19

- IICA Increases Aid to Haitian Agriculture 20

- Rural Agroindustrial Network Set Up in Argentina 21

- Representative in Brazil and Colombia Assume Posts 21

- IICA Provides Support to Brazilian Fruit Production Program 22

## Publications

- IICA in the News 24

- Upcoming Activities 24

### TO OUR READERS

This is a special edition of IICA News. It covers three months (July, August and September) and is longer than the regular edition. This enables us to provide more information on the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 32 member countries and 13 observer countries.



## Eleventh Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee



The Minister of Agriculture of Saint Lucia, Ferdinand Henry (Center), presides over the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee. With him (from left to right) are the Deputy Director General, L. Harlan Davis, the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, and the Technical Secretary of the meeting, Andre Ouellette.

**D**uring the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held from June 24-26, delegates discussed a report on preparations for the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), another on the execution of the PLANLAC, and other topics concerning the administrative management of the Institution.

The Committee, made up of representatives from Brazil, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Jamaica, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, St. Lucia, and Uruguay, approved the 1992-1993 Program Budget, which is to be ratified by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) next September.

Other matters taken up included reports on the activities of IICA's Program II, Technology Generation and Transfer, and Program IV, Trade and Agroindustry, IICA's financial state-

ments, the 1990 Annual Report, and the selection of candidates for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.

The meeting, presided over by Ferdinand Henry, the Minister of Agriculture of Saint Lucia, brought together delegates from IICA's observer countries, government officials, representatives from international agencies, cooperation organizations, and a delegation from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA), headed by Julio Blanco, Technical Secretary General of the Ministry.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS SATISFIED WITH PREPARATIONS

The members of the Committee expressed their satisfaction with the preparations being made for the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which will

take place in Spain next September. The topic for the ICMA will be "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century." During a round table discussion, an in-depth analysis was made of the working documents, which will serve as the basis for deliberations by the ministers of agriculture during the summit meeting.

In general terms, the participants expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the proposals, adding that they will be valuable in systematizing ideas to be included in the Declaration of Madrid.

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, explained that the key topic of the last ICMA, held in Ottawa in 1987, was the modernization of agriculture as a new strategy for economic development, a proposal that is still valid in spite of the enormous economic and political changes which have taken place in the region and throughout the world. With regard to the ICMA, which will also be held in Madrid, he indicated that the working documents reinforce the Ottawa proposal and express the new concerns of the agricultural sector: the links between modernization and democracy, the strengthening of agriculture as an expanded and dynamic sector, a concern for environmental protection, and the way in which international cooperation must be coordinated in order to respond to new challenges.

As to the PLANLAC, Manuel Otero, the coordinator of the Plan, presented a detailed report on the implementation of the Plan, dissemination activities, and efforts made to secure resources. (See separate article.)



## Headquarters

On July 12, Ion Iliescu, President of Romania, delivered an address on "The Democratic Process and Agrarian Reform" to an audience at IICA Headquarters, in which he expressed his country's interest in establishing active relations with Latin America. He also expressed his determination to strengthen ties with the Institute so as to benefit from IICA's experience in the field of technical cooperation and agricultural development.

The audience included members of the diplomatic corps, delegates from international agencies and cooperation organizations, government officials of Costa Rica and journalists.

The European leader also referred to his country's determination to establish a civilian government as part of Romania's democratic process, and to the measures taken by his government, especially in the economic field, since he took office last year.

Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, stated that Iliescu's visit confirms Romania's interest in establishing closer relations with Costa Rica and IICA, and reflects "the importance Iliescu's government gives to agriculture." Piñeiro added that it was this concern that led Romania to join the Institute as an observer on April 23 of this year.

### REGULAR CONTACTS

Iliescu referred to the openness being promoted by his government, and stressed that, in terms of foreign policy, special emphasis has been placed on strengthening ties with Latin American countries.

As examples, he mentioned Romania's regular contact with multilateral agencies in the hemisphere, such as the Latin American subgroup of the

## Romania Reiterates Interest in Strengthening Ties with Latin America



Photo/R. Escobar

*President Iliescu and the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, share views on the reforms taking place in Eastern Europe.*

Group of 77, the Organization of American States (OAS), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA), the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), and the Rio Group.

President Iliescu also spoke of IICA's contributions to the region's agricultural development as "experience that would be very important for us, since "... we are in the process of a basic restructuring and reorganization of our economy...."

Romania's presence as a permanent observer of IICA and the OAS, he added, will facilitate contact with specialists and the initiation of cooperation projects that will be beneficial to all. According to Iliescu, the Institute can make valuable contributions in the development of agricultural strategies, which are of great importance to Romania, since there are "certain similarities in the ways problems are ap-

proached and in the concerns shared by specialists from IICA and our country."

He indicated that the essence of the "irreversible change" that has taken place in Romania lies in the commitment of the people to promote a pluralist democratic system, a State of Law, a market economy, and full respect for human rights. "The transition process is extremely complex," acknowledged Iliescu, stressing the fact that there is "no turning back, so we view our newly reborn nation with confidence and hope."

He explained that his government recognizes the importance of agriculture for the economy, and, therefore, has adopted a series of measures to strengthen a free market for their products, to promote private enterprise, distribute land, and provide access to credit.



## Latin America and the Caribbean: Commitment to Support Economic Progress of Rural Women Reaffirmed

**D**uring an international conference on the economic progress of rural women, held at IICA Headquarters and sponsored by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the participants reaffirmed their commitment to support the economic progress of poor rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The crucial need to guarantee social, political and economic equality to the rural population was also supported by the authorities who took part in the conference, which also served as a prologue to the "Women's Summit," which will be held next February in Brussels. The Summit will bring together the spouses of presidents, heads of states and world governments, under the auspices of Queen Fabiola of Belgium.

Idriss Jazairy, the president of IFAD; Martin Piñeiro, the Director General of IICA; and Gloria Bejarano de Calderon, the First Lady of Costa Rica, all participated in the closing ceremony of the seminar, which was carried out with support from IICA, UNIFEM, and the governments of Norway and the Netherlands.

In addition to being a forum for preparing recommendations to enhance the participation of rural women in the production process, under favorable conditions, the meeting gave organizations such as IICA and IFAD - committed to the region's rural development - an opportunity to reaffirm their decision to join forces for the benefit of the rural population.

### SPECIAL ATTENTION

Jazairy indicated that IFAD, a United Nations agency specialized in providing financial aid to underprivileged

farmers, recognizes the need to give women special attention. Their economic progress, according to Jazairy, is essential if they are to attain a more equitable economic and social status. This proposal, he added, will be presented at the Brussels Summit meeting by the women themselves and will have the political backing of the First Ladies.

Gloria Bejarano de Calderon, the First Lady of Costa Rica, stressed the urgent need to guarantee rural women just access to land, credit, and technology, especially in the present situation "when our countries are in the process of making structural adjustments" and the ability to produce quality products is a must in order to compete on international markets.



Photo/R. Escobar

*The President of IFAD, Idriss Jazairy (right) held a press conference, during which he presented a summary of the results of the meeting. With him are the First Lady of Costa Rica, Gloria Bejarano de Calderon, who officially closed the seminar, and the Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein.*

According to Martin E. Piñeiro, the disadvantaged situation of rural women is one of the problems the region seeks to remedy by modernizing agriculture and linking it with agroindustry, and thus achieve equitable and sustainable development.

The Director General of IICA applauded the achievements of the meeting, citing it as an excellent example of how agencies of the United Nations and the Inter-American System can work together.

The participants presented a total of eleven proposals, all aimed at reversing the disadvantaged situation of rural women. They stressed the fact that the role of rural women is twofold: productive and reproductive. The participants stated that "one must not be emphasized at the expense of the other and that their voice and their opinions must be heard and respected."



## Deputy Director General Represents IICA at OAS General Assembly

The Deputy Director General of IICA, L. Harlan Davis, took part in the Twenty-first General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), held from June 3-8 in Santiago, Chile.

Davis presented a report on the Institute's activities in support of agricultural development and rural well-being, as well as technical cooperation actions carried out under the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

In his presentation to the ministers and deputy ministers of the Americas, Davis summarized the principal sections of IICA's Annual Report, approved by the General Assembly, which included sections on the support given the OAS observer missions in Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Haiti.

He also presented a summary of the preparations being made for the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), to be held concurrently in Madrid, Spain from September 22-27.

The delegates from Argentina and Bolivia made special mention of IICA's role in the execution of the PLANLAC, as well as its contribution to the region's agricultural modernization process.

They also highlighted IICA's assistance in securing external resources, carrying out agroindustrial projects, analyzing agricultural policies and providing technical assistance to national development plans.

During the General Assembly of the OAS, measures were proposed to improve environmental conservation and a plan of action was drawn up to promote the economic and trade proposals included in the Initiative for the Americas of United States President George Bush.

## IICA Seeks New Types of Cooperation with Italy

During an official visit to Italy, to establish new cooperation ties with that country, the Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein, met with government officials responsible for cooperation programs, and authorities from international organizations headquartered in Rome, such as FAO and IFAD.

At the Ministry of Foreign Relations, Werthein and Minister Enrico De

Maio, the new Director of Multilateral Cooperation, reviewed the present relationship between the Ministry and IICA, and explored new formulas for joint action.

The Director of External Relations then visited the headquarters of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and represented the Institute at the Ninety-ninth Session of the General Council of FAO.

Subsequently, he met with the President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Idriss Jazairy, who indicated the desire of this specialized agency of the United Nations to strengthen its ties with IICA. Werthein also met with other high-ranking officials of IFAD.



The logo for EXPO '92 SEVILLA features the word "EXPO" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by a stylized globe icon. To the right of the globe is "'92" in a large, bold font, and below it, "SEVILLA" is written in a smaller font within a white rectangular box. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background.

## IICA to Participate in EXPO'92 in Sevilla

Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Seville, together with exhibits from several other countries of the region.

IICA will participate in EXPO'92 in Seville, Spain with a presentation on the challenges facing Latin America and the Caribbean as the region enters a new century. This event will take place from April through October of next year and will focus on the theme of the Fifth Centennial, "Encounter of Two Worlds."

The organizations will address three basic issues: the present situation in and potential of the region; problems that affect development as the region enters a new century; and a general overview, illustrated with examples of how the System works as a whole and through its specialized agencies, in order to help the region meet the challenges of the future.

In Washington, a special committee is coordinating and preparing the details of this regional exhibit, including the date of the "Day of Honor" to be dedicated to the inter-American System. In the next few weeks, inter-institutional agreements will be signed by the organizations of the System, as well as the specific agreement with EXPO' 92.

The presentation is part of a joint effort of the four basic institutions of the Inter-American System: the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Development Bank (IDB), the

The presentation will also include films, slides, photographs, and decorative panels to be housed in a special pavillion of the inter-American exhibit, in the "Plaza de las Americas" in

One-hundred fifty-six representatives from 111 countries, 17 autonomous communities of Spain, 22 international organizations and six companies will participate in EXPO '92.

## Greater Access to Sources of Agricultural Information

During an international seminar, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA) and IICA agreed to join efforts in expanding markets for and increasing the profitability of agricultural information publications printed in Spanish, to benefit the countries of Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP).

MAPA hopes to incorporate into its publications documents related to topics of interest and agricultural policies in Latin America and the Caribbean, in order to strengthen cooperation and reactivate socioeconomic areas in the agro-food sector. At the same time, IICA will strengthen its ties with other organizations.

The meeting, which took place in June, was organized by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Development (CTA) -headquartered in the Netherlands - in coordination with MAPA and IICA. The CTA provides aid to approximately 70 ACP states in matters related to agricultural information sources.

With regard to information networks, Ana Maria Arias, of the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA), indicated that IICA was willing to make existing data banks on cocoa, coffee, and animal production systems available to interested centers; CTA will identify the ACP institu-



To help set up the information networks, IICA will donate its data bases on cocoa and coffee.

tions that have the operating capacity to apply and manage these data bases.



## IICA and ICRISAT Sign Agreement

IICA and the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) have signed an agreement to upgrade agriculture and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The document was signed by the Deputy Director General of IICA, L. Harlan Davis, and by Compton Paul, head of the team from ICRISAT's Latin American Program.

Activities called for in the agreement include, among others, the preparation of studies on institutional and technical aspects of sorghum and millet production; direct consultation through technical missions or individual experts; and training through courses, seminars, in-service training, study trips and scholarships.

ICRISAT, headquartered in India, has conducted successful research on sorghum and is working to further improve this crop and millet in semiarid tropics. ICRISAT also has regional programs in Africa and Latin America.

At present, ICRISAT serves as an associate center for the Regional Program to Strengthen Agricultural Research on Staple Grains in Central America and Panama. The purpose of this Program is to improve the production of corn, beans, rice, and sorghum in the isthmus and, consequently, the socioeconomic conditions of small and medium-scale farmers.

## IICA Signs Letter of Understanding with Inter-American Association of Journalists

IICA and the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Journalists (ASIPA) recently signed a letter of understanding aimed at supporting the reactivation of agriculture both nationally and regionally. The letter also establishes the Institute's support for the Association, which was founded last April in Santiago, Chile.

The document was signed by the Deputy Director General of IICA, L. Harlan Davis and Enrique Inostroza, President of ASIPA and the Chilean Association of Agricultural Journalists. Both officials recognized that this agreement provides an excellent opportunity to work together, as part of renewed efforts toward integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

ASIPA, whose goal is to make journalists a part of achieving modern agriculture, views its relations with IICA as an opportunity to take advantage of the Institute's broad experience in technical cooperation and to benefit from its economic backing and contacts in promoting its objectives related to training.

Davis indicated that inasmuch as agriculture has made important economic, social and political contributions to the region, agricultural information should not be neglected in the mass media. "At a time when free trade is being promoted internationally, agriculture must play a key role in the new proposals for economic development," he added.



Photo R. Escobar

**Joint Action.** In June, IICA and the Institute of Socioeconomic Studies of the Caribbean (IESCARIBE) signed a general cooperation agreement that covers joint research and other activities aimed at providing a thorough understanding of the impact of free trade on the agricultural sector of Central America and the Caribbean. The signing took place at IICA Headquarters, with the participation of Martin E. Piñero, the Director General of IICA, and Juan Manuel Villasuso, President of IESCARIBE.



# Opportunities for Agricultural Trade with Korea to be Identified



Photo/R. Escobar

The Korean specialists Sang Mu-Lee and Young Kun Shim meet with IICA authorities.

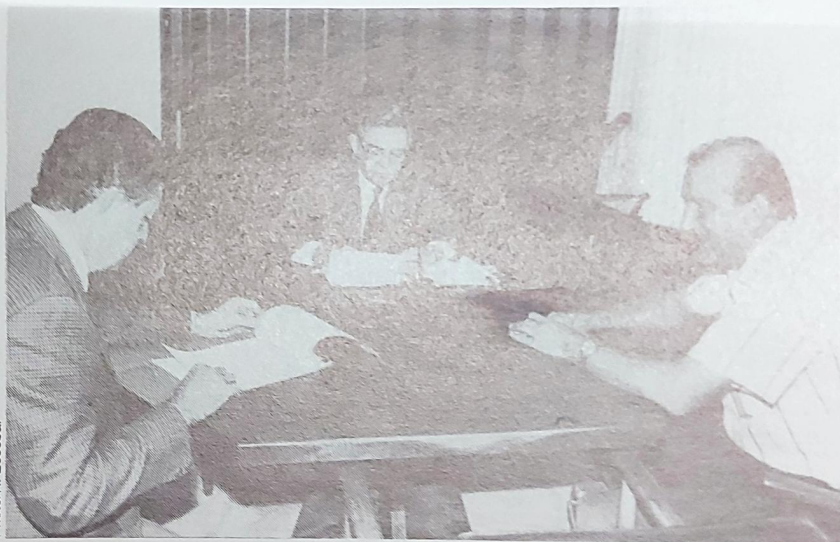
**M**otivated by its interest in increasing the agricultural exports of Latin America and the Caribbean, the Government of the Republic of Korea has sent two specialists to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to study opportunities for trade.

The specialists are Sang Mu-Lee, the Director General of the Agricultural Structural Policy Bureau of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries of Korea, and Young Kun Shim, a professor in the Department of Agricultural Economics of the Seoul National University. While at IICA, they will draw up a cooperation program aimed at identifying opportunities for agricultural trade between Korea and the countries of the region.

The visit of the two specialists - both of whom hold doctor's degrees in agricultural economics and have vast international experience in this field - was arranged by IICA almost a year ago. Korea is one of the thirteen observer countries of the Institute.

Their work will be divided into stages and will focus on four groups of agricultural commodities. These are: grains and oilseeds; nontraditional fruits and vegetables; traditional crops such as coffee, bananas, cotton and meat, and processed products such as fruit pulp, canned goods and chocolate.

Lee explained that the Korean market is growing rapidly, and, along with it, the demand for agricultural commodities. However, because only a limited amount of land is available for the expansion of agriculture there, possibilities are limited to increase food production for a growing population.



Photo/R. Escobar

**Donation to CATIE.** The Regional Office for Central American Programs (ROCAP) of the Agency for International Development (AID) increased its donation by one million three hundred thousand dollars, to fund the regional project for postgraduate education and training of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center (CATIE). The amendment to the agreement is signed by the Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, accompanied by Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Program on Technology Generation and Transfer (left) and Eduardo Hipsley, Assistant to the Liaison Officer of ROCAP.



## Government Officials Request Technical Advice

A mission from Venezuela's Chamber of Deputies requested technical advice from IICA in drafting a bill and an administrative project for the registry of land titles, cadastral surveys, and cartography, in order to organize rural property in Venezuela.

Deputy Walter Marquez, president of the Commission on Agriculture and Agrarian Policy of the Venezuelan Congress, made the request during the mission's visit to IICA headquarters in June.

Other members of the Venezuelan mission included Deputies Alejandro Sanchez and Hector Rodriguez; Alice Moreau Dominguez, National Director of Geography and Cartography; and Nelson Arismendi, the Director of Rural Cadastral Surveys of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock. IICA's Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Alfonso Cebrenos, presided over the meeting, which was also attended by other IICA officials.

During the meeting, Marquez stated that IICA's technical support will serve as a scientific basis for the study on rural property currently being conducted by the Venezuelan Parliament.



Photo/R. Escobar

Deputy Walter Marquez (third from left to right) explained that the goal of the projects is to organize rural property in Venezuela.

### Women and Health

A cycle of conferences on women's health issues was held at IICA Headquarters in June, under the auspices of the Office of the First Lady of Costa Rica, Gloria Bejarano. Sundari Ravindran, (left) a recognized authority in the field, presented a series of talks on the subject. The activity was attended by approximately 100 people, including representatives and leaders of organizations that work with women.





## PLANLAC Under Way

The Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), a broad-based proposal for development approved by the ministers of agriculture of the Americas and coordinated by IICA, has been put into operation, according to a report presented to the Executive Committee by Manuel Otero, the general coordinator of the PLANLAC.

Otero indicated that, twenty months after being approved and implemented, the Plan continues to work toward achieving three objectives: to expedite the execution of projects - with emphasis on strengthening the different national components; to develop activities related to dissemination and the securing of external resources; and to incorporate new ideas and proposals presented by the different subregional sectoral forums.

As a result of efforts to develop projects, coordinated by the Directorate of Programming and Evaluation (DIPROE) of IICA, more than half of the programs and initiatives approved in the original PLANLAC are now under way. By last April, 14 (24%) of the 58 projects included in the portfolio were in the planning stage, feasibility studies were being conducted for 8 (14%) and 36 (62%) were in progress.

### DYNAMIC INITIATIVE

Otero explained that since the PLANLAC is a dynamic initiative which can be adjusted to reflect changes in the international context and needs

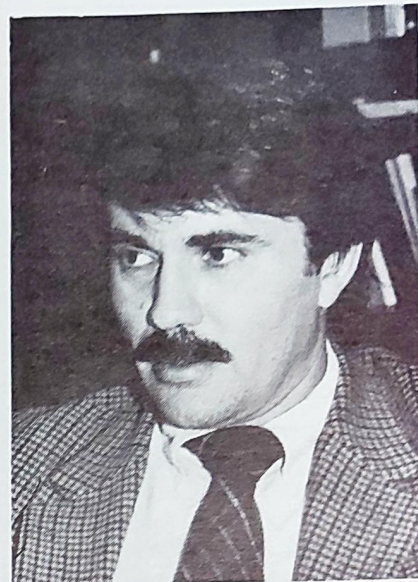
that arise in subregional fora, some of the original projects were reformulated, while others were eliminated. Thus, he added, new priorities have been established by the sectoral fora.

For example, the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) has given preference to projects on policy harmonization, trade, information and agricultural health. The priorities of the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR) include initiatives for intraregional trade, agricultural health, the harmonization of policies, and trade negotiations.

Referring to financing, Otero stated that US\$22.8 million has been obtained to implement the PLANLAC, and that negotiations are currently under way with international cooperation agencies to secure an additional US\$20 million to fund another 10 projects, including several on rural development and the strengthening of small-farmer organizations.

He also mentioned the two donor meetings that had taken place in the Central and Caribbean Areas, where each subregion presented its agricultural investment priorities, and important "avenues for project negotiation" were explored.

With regard to promotion and dissemination, the Coordinator of PLANLAC stated that national seminars were held in Peru, Brazil (two)



Manuel Otero

and Haiti last year, as was a subregional seminar in Trinidad and Tobago. He also highlighted IICA's support in founding the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Journalists (ASIPA) in Chile, last April.

The delegates to the Executive Committee responded favorably to the progress report on the implementation of the Plan. The delegate from Dominica, Eliud Williams, proposed that IICA support CARICOM in contacting nontraditional donors in order to increase the possibilities of agricultural financing.



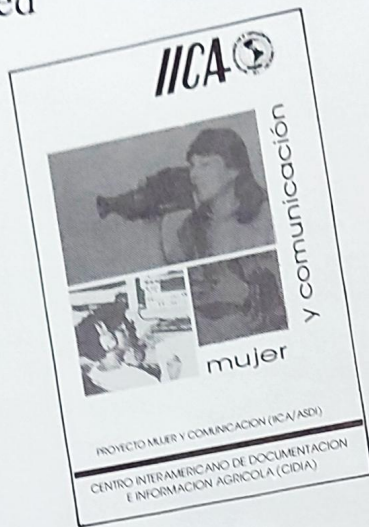
## Training

### IICA-SIDA Project Engaged in Intense Activity

The Women and Communications project, sponsored by IICA and the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) is currently involved in an intensive program which includes the production of two videos, the organization of several national workshops and the publication of an official brochure.

The goal of the project is to provide training in communications techniques and issues related to gender for leaders and members of government and non-government organizations working with women in Central America. The project covers three aspects: video, radio, and printed matter.

Two videos, "Slavery or Freedom" and "Rural Women in Central America," have already been produced. The former, put together from materials prepared by participants in an international course, deals with the obstacles faced by women - a double workday, invisible labor, discrimination. The latter, part of a subregional series on the same issue, presents the case of Costa Rica.



Between July and August, national workshops were held in Guatemala, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. They were divided into units: one was related to the issue of gender and the other, an introduction to communications. At a later date, training will be provided on radio broadcasting techniques and the preparation of printed materials and videos. The project's official brochure, "Women and Communications" has been in circulation since July.

### Training Program Launched

The Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA) launched its staff training program with a course conducted from July 8-19 for office managers and administrative assistants from units and directorates at Headquarters and IICA Offices in the countries.

Professors from the Central American Institute of Business Administration (INCAE) collaborated in the course, lecturing on the principles of administrative management techniques, with emphasis on decision making, time management, and interpersonal relationships.

Representatives from the Directorate of Finances, the office of the Internal Auditor, Human Resources, the Directorate of Programming and Evaluation (DIPROE), and the office of the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations participated in the seminar and provided the participants with the opportunity to update and increase their knowledge on the internal rules and regulations of the Institute.

### Technicians Design Manual

During a ten-week workshop held at IICA Headquarters, technicians from Central America designed a training manual for officials from public and private institutions, on the preparation, administration, and management of investment projects for small rural enterprises.

The course, organized by IICA, the Training and Study Program on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic (PRACA)

and the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC), is one of the activities included in the IICA/RNTC Project for this year.

According to the organizers, the manual will fill a long-felt need, since there are no instruments of this type in the region to support small-farmer organizations in project management and development.

Participants included representatives from agricultural development insti-

tutes or the ministries of agriculture of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

PRACA has been in operation for over a decade, but its convention was renewed in 1989 by rural development and agrarian reform organizations from the isthmus and the Dominican Republic.



## September: The Tenth ICMA



**T**he key topic of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which will meet September 22-27, in Madrid, is "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century."

The central topic of the Conference, which refers to the challenges faced by the agricultural sector of the region in effectively taking its place in a changing world, will be looked at from three angles: "Changes in the International Economy: Implications for Agro-food Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean," "The Agenda for Agriculture in the 1990s: Comprehensive Modernization, Agroindustrialization and Natural Resources," and "International Technical Cooperation at the Close of the Twentieth Century: Proposals and Reflections."

At the invitation of the Spanish government, the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Agricultural Board (IABA), IICA's governing body, and the Tenth ICMA, the highest-level sectoral forum, will meet concurrently and, for the first time, outside the Americas.

The meetings constitute a true agricultural summit meeting and will be inaugurated by King Juan Carlos I. On September 25, the President of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez, will give a special audience to all the ministers of agriculture.

At the initiative of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA), Pedro Solbes, the ministers of agriculture of the Americas, together with their European counterparts and agricultural authorities from the EEC, will also have the opportunity to participate in a round table discussion on agricultural trade and opportunities for international cooperation.

### Documents and Discussions

Discussions during the Conference will be based on a series of working documents, prepared after a long process of consultation with the countries, in specialized fora, high-level meetings and international seminars. Manuel Otero, of IICA, together with other specialists, was in charge of coordinating these activities.

These documents and the key topic are a continuation of the work done at the Ninth ICMA in Ottawa, Canada, in 1987, where an analysis was made of the leading role agriculture should play in social and economic reactivation.

These documents propose an agricultural development model based on three major principles: participatory and comprehensive development, to strengthen democracy in the region; efficiency, which will make it possible to articulate the sector with the global economy; and sustainability, which explicitly brings conservation of natural resources and the environment into agricultural development. Complementing these ideas is the call to make changes in the international and regional technical cooperation system, involving it in providing support for these processes at a time of increased subregional integration.

Document 1, on the International Context, analyzes the evolution of events in recent years, particularly from the standpoint of trade.

Document 2, which refers to the Agricultural Agenda, sets forth the main issues of the nineties and develops the three main components of the proposed model.

Document 3, on International Technical Cooperation, is a commentary on the evolution of the agenda since the end of World War II. It contains specific recommendations to support the integration processes and identifies areas of joint action.

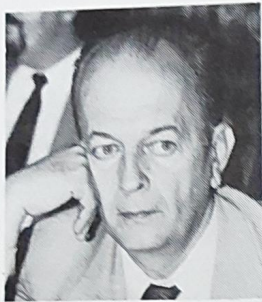
In order to add to the discussions of the Conference, a series of reference documents has also been prepared, including a document on "Changes in Agro-food Policies in the New International Context: A European Perspective," which was prepared by a group of specialists from MAPA.



# Comments by Delegates on Executive Committee

## Brazil: ICMA Will Foster Constructive Dialogue

In addition to being a forum which will provide guidelines for developing the agricultural sector in coming years, the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) will provide an excellent opportunity for constructive dialogue between Europe and Latin America, according to Milciades Sa Freire de Souza, Brazil's delegate to the meeting of IICA's Executive Committee.



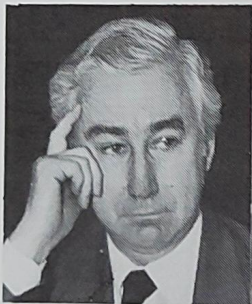
According to Sa Freire, the summit meeting is based on a solid foundation, inasmuch as the topical documents which will be the basis for the deliberations in Madrid, and which were analyzed

by the Committee, include issues such as the international situation, sustainability, the links between modernization and democracy, all of which have a direct bearing on agriculture in the region.

The ICMA, which brings together the ministers of agriculture from the Americas, their European counterparts and officials from the EEC, continued Sa Freire, provides an historic opportunity for Europe and LAC to increase their understanding of issues related to trade and integration.

## Chile: Agricultural Summit Creates Great Expectations

According to Maximiliano Cox, the Chilean delegate to the Executive Committee, the summit meeting of ministers of agriculture, to be held in Madrid, has created great expectations since it will provide an opportunity to talk with European authorities about important issues.



Cox described as the most important aspect of the Tenth ICMA the fact that ministers from the Americas will have the opportunity to meet with their counterparts from the European Economic Community (EEC), since this will enable them to exchange ideas on issues such as protection barriers, which directly affect agricultural trade and, consequently, "the possibilities for development in our countries."

In the opinion of the Chilean official, the agricultural summit is in line with the new international context, characterized by the establishment of economic blocs, the opening of the economies, and the liberalization of trade. He added that, given the impact of these trends on the economies of the region, the Declaration of Madrid should contain clear guidelines in order to capitalize on advantages and minimize drawbacks.

## Spain: Positive Results Expected

Julio Blanco, Technical Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain, stated that the agenda for the Tenth ICMA "is very appropriate" and indicated that it will serve as a source of ideas on the development of a new agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.



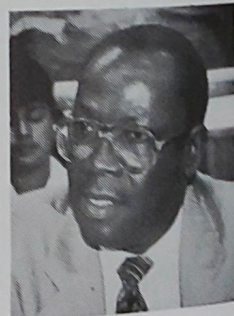
He added that the documents that have been prepared, as well as the various consultative meetings that have taken place, will provide the foundation for fruitful discussions by the ministers.

The presence of King Juan Carlos I during the inaugural session of the meetings, and the audience granted by Felipe Gonzalez, the President of the Government, are evidence of the importance accorded the meetings by Spain.

With regard to the meeting scheduled to take place between the ministers of agriculture from the Americas, their European counterparts and agricultural officials from the European Community, the official from MAPA stated that "Spain is proud to serve as the meeting ground for these two great areas and to provide the setting for the exchange of views on the future of trade and cooperation."

## Saint Lucia Opportunity for Strengthening Ties

Ferdinand Henry, the Minister of Agriculture of Saint Lucia, was hopeful that the Tenth ICMA would result in closer ties between the Caribbean and "our neighbors in Latin America" as well as the European Community.



According to Henry, the Caribbean is confident that the Tenth ICMA will further strengthen its relations with IICA. "We hope that the process that began with the Ottawa meeting and the PLANLAC will continue in this ICMA, and thus improve agriculture in the region and the standard of living of the small farmers."

With regard to the working documents prepared in support of the discussions in Spain, the official praised their quality, and added that they would help in reaching decisions that would foster the agricultural development of the region in this new era.



Latin America and the Caribbean:

## Challenges and Opportunities Ahead for Agricultural Trade and Integration

According to one of the working documents that will serve as the foundation for discussions during the meeting of ministers of agriculture of the Americas, to be held in Madrid in September, the decade of the nineties, marked by important changes on the international scene, presents a host of challenges and opportunities for agricultural trade and integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Although the economies of the region will have to become more competitive and efficient, the new era also opens up a whole realm of possibilities with favorable implications for the economies: the dismantling of systems of subsidies and protection measures which have affected agricultural trade, the possible creation of a hemispheric common market, the revitalization of integration processes, and the development of new technologies that will enhance natural comparative advantages.

These issues are included in "Changes in the International Economy: Implications for Agro-food Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean," one of three working documents prepared after a long process of seeking consensus and consultation in high-level meetings, forums, and seminars, to be submitted to the consideration of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

### MAIN TRENDS

The early 1990s were characterized by the establishment of economic blocs, the end of the cold war, the liberalization of trade, and the globalization of financial and service markets.

Against the backdrop of these events, large centers of economic power began to take shape, around which international trade will revolve: North America, with its area of free trade between the United States, Mexico, and Canada; Europe, with the opening of the Single European Market as of 1993; and the East, led by Japan, and made up of the Asian tigers and the countries of the South Pacific.

With regard to agriculture, worldwide trends in agriculture, and their possible repercussions in the region, can be grouped into three categories: advances in biotechnology, concern for natural resource conservation, and a moderate increase in the demand for tropical products.

Although the enormous potential of biotechnology has been acknowl-



Photo/Oscar Bonilla, Peru

*Competitiveness and efficiency are two challenges that must be met in light of new opportunities in international agricultural trade.*

Latin America and the Caribbean have undergone two important processes: the return of democratic governments to the majority of the countries and the renewed emphasis on integration, motivated by the fact that the international situation demands scales of production and markets that go beyond national borders.

edged, so has its high cost. Therefore, multinational activities and special, innovative arrangements with international enterprises have been proposed. With regard to natural resources, great importance is given to this topic and to the ways in which the region can use its genetic diversity and forests and water resources to attract investments to the area.



Concerning agricultural production, the developed countries will increase moderately their imports of tropical and organic products, opening up important niches in the market for Caribbean Basin countries. Likewise, the formation and strengthening of economic blocs will intensify intraregional trade and reorganize trade relations among groups of nations.

In relation to trade policies, three topics of great importance for Latin America and the Caribbean dominate the international panorama: The Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT),

which stalled in December without reaching agreement on agricultural subsidies; the establishment of the Single European Market and the opening of the countries of Eastern Europe; and the signing of the North American free trade agreement.

The GATT negotiations may produce limited agreements for reducing subsidies on agricultural exports and increasing access to the protected markets of the North. The European Market will bring an end to preferential treatment for certain countries, which will mean that competitiveness will be the sole basis for the entry of commodities

into the market. Meanwhile, the reunification of Germany and the economic opening of the East present certain unknowns, although it seems reasonable to expect an increase in the demand for tropical commodities over the short term.

The outlook for the region has been improved by the signing of the North American trade agreement and the launching of United States President Bush's Initiative for the Americas, designed to create a hemispheric free trade zone.

According to the document "The Agenda for Agriculture in the 1990s: Comprehensive Modernization, Agroindustrialization and Natural Resources," there is general consensus that agriculture should play a more central role and that it should be made comprehensive and sustainable and be expanded.

The crisis currently affecting the economies of the region should be seen as a turning point marking the beginning of the reactivation of the economies, in general, and the agricultural sector, in particular. This process involves adjustments, the liberalization of trade, and integration. Together, these reflect a desire to overcome the crisis and to play a more pragmatic and viable role in the new international context.

#### DEMOCRACY AND MODERNIZATION

In order to capitalize on the potential benefits of integration and increased participation in international markets, it is necessary to undertake a process of modernization based on the sound use of natural and human resources, in a new institutional and political framework.

## Agricultural Agenda for the Nineties



Photo: Thomas Müller, Peru

*Democracy, agroindustrialization and natural resources are three focal points of the agricultural agenda for the nineties in Latin America and the Caribbean.*



The challenge is to combine modernization and democracy in such a way that they support each other. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to design a new model that will promote economic growth and development and consolidate and legitimize democratic systems. At the heart of this model is the idea of democratic and comprehensive modernization, one which provides the beneficiaries of the process with greater opportunities and attempts to break with the existing duality of large- and small-scale agriculture. The modernization process should be negotiated, and such negotiations should address such issues as the role and modernization of the State, the operation of markets, rural development, and policies for compensating the sectors most affected by reorganization.

The modernization of the State should focus on the role it plays in regulating and supporting economic activity. This involves three dimensions: streamlining and developing the management capabilities of the State, privatization, and decentralization. The operation of the market system should also be negotiated by the groups involved, the goal being to improve competitiveness. Among other things, this implies eliminating discriminatory mechanisms which tend to exclude certain ethnic groups or genders from the market. Likewise, it is necessary to ensure equal participation for small-scale farmers in financial and commodity markets; the different types of farmers must be given training to upgrade their entrepreneurial skills.

Rural development may be interpreted to mean the process of changing and modernizing backward rural areas, traditionally occupied by small-scale farmers. In this process, small-scale farmers, the State, and local and regional entrepreneurs, all become the agents of change. From this perspective, sustainable rural development demands that there be true decentralization in the decision-making process

and in the execution of actions at the local level. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to adopt the concept of microregions in the management of the **res publica** in relations between the State and the private sector.

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean must design mechanisms to support the social strata most affected by the transition; in other words, special attention should be paid to the poorest rural sectors. They must be integrated into production and recognized as social groups with the power to negotiate, and a decentralized institutional system must be established.

#### NEW LINKAGE BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND THE WORLD ECONOMY

A review of the last twenty-five years shows that, while the region grew and underwent a process of industrialization, the secondary sector, with some exceptions, was not provided with the means to compete. Thus, as the last decade of the century begins, it is the agricultural/agroindustrial complex that is in the best position to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Therefore, as Latin America enters the twenty-first century, the best alternative is to have leaders capable of designing policies for growth based on a foundation of viable options. Viable options are those technological, production, financial and trade systems that create linkages between sectors, and which, when put into use, improve overall performance. The challenge, then, lies in implementing policies that will facilitate fiscal adjustment and stabilization, as conditions become right for using these options to spur growth. The expanded agricultural sector is a viable option, and, in light of current economic thinking in Latin America, will probably lead the way because it is in a position to promote a competitive/innovative system which has different technical levels and contributes to equity. Nevertheless, it is

unlikely that this will succeed unless the economy as a whole becomes more dynamic.

It is essential to redefine the parameters of the sector, moving toward a broader approach in which agriculture is linked with the food-processing agroindustries and with the processing industries, which produces intermediate goods that will be used as inputs in highly complex industrial processes.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES AND SUSTAINABILITY

Even though, superficially, the situation with regard to natural resources in LAC would appear to be promising, a closer look reveals serious localized problems of erosion, loss of forests, loss of genetic diversity, etc. This situation, which is the result of a lack of coordination between policies and between institutions, is exacerbated by the crisis and the need to meet external commitments. Thus, it is evident that current production patterns can only be maintained at the expense of future generations.

In moving toward styles of development and production strategies that are sustainable over the long term, it will be necessary to change consumption patterns, and even to limit production and productivity now for the sake of the future. This is particularly true in Latin America and the Caribbean. While it is true that one of the factors that distinguishes the region from other parts of the developing world is the wealth and diversity of its natural resources and the undeniable potential of its agricultural sector, the fact that a huge mass of poor small farmers are forced to overexploit their land just to survive is also a painful reality.

The deterioration of natural resources is the result, on the one hand, of the failure of the market to place a value on relatively abundant natural resources, and on the other, of the inability of the public sector to reflect on and plan for



the future, as a result of the current financial crisis.

The problems of sustainable development cannot be understood or solved if their different dimensions are looked at in isolation. The different

components of what we have chosen to call our ecological capital are parts of an interconnected and interdependent whole. Political, economic and environmental considerations are closely interrelated at all levels, in a maze of causes and effects where it is

difficult, if not impossible, to clearly distinguish the scope and limits of each. Multidimensionality and interdependence are the basic concepts to bear in mind in analyzing and finding solutions for these problems.

## Reorientation of International Technical Cooperation Proposed

at the Close of the Twentieth Century: Reflections and Proposals," one of the working documents prepared for the Tenth ICMA.

### FROM POST-WAR TO COLD WAR

The present-day system of international technical and financial cooperation came into being at the conclusion of the Second World War. Today, however, neither the international agenda nor the geopolitical situation are the same.

Economic and political changes resulting from the end of the Cold War have altered the bases on which the traditional model was founded. The appearance of new donor organizations and nations, the crisis of the State and the progressive growth of the private sector, the process of dismantling colonial holdings and the entry of new countries into the sphere of cooperative interrelationships are some of the factors which have radically changed the structure and management of international organizations.

In the meantime, the world has been moving toward the globalization of markets, increased trade and the formation of economic blocs.

The challenge today lies in linking today's problems with tomorrow's solutions. To do this, it will be necessary to establish a common agenda for developed and developing nations, and for donor and beneficiary countries.

International agricultural cooperation organizations will have to reorient their actions, making them more effective, if they are to keep up with the profound changes taking place in the world.

This idea is put forth in "International Technical Cooperation in Agriculture



Photo: Lucia Chiriboga, Ecuador

*International agricultural cooperation must serve as a bridge between today's problems and tomorrow's solutions.*



## ORGANIZATIONS FACE CHALLENGE

In Latin America and the Caribbean, more attention is being paid to the agricultural sector in the search for a new development model. The sector's proven capacity to withstand the crisis, its economic and social importance, and the need for the new model to be based on the exploitation of the region's natural comparative advantages, are the reasons for assigning the sector a new role.

From the regional viewpoint, the topics on the agenda focus on the development of a participatory and comprehensive style of modernization, an agricultural sector linked to the overall economy, and the conservation of natural resources.

From the perspective of the donor countries, the focus of the agenda has shifted to the conservation of the environment, the drug problem, and massive migration -all of which are external manifestations of the crisis affecting the region.

Nonetheless, and notwithstanding the similarities of the issues, it has not been possible to set up a common agenda, which would call for a new definition of development.

With regard to agriculture and food in Latin American and Caribbean, important contributions can be made to redefining development and, subsequently, international cooperation in this area.

There is a growing interest in the conservation of natural resources and sustainable agricultural production; so much so that these issues are increasingly becoming part of the conditions established by international funding agencies for sectoral loans

The procedure is effective, although certain risks are involved in setting fixed time limits for disbursement of funds, inasmuch as the actions to be taken often require different lengths of time to bear fruit.

Another important issue is the expanded view of agriculture, given production and trade linkages in agricultural activities, which go beyond strictly sectoral divisions, and because of the growing interaction between governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

International cooperation agencies have taken this into account, and consequently, have modified some of their programs and projects.

International cooperation has a crucial role to play with regard to training for human resources, which continues to be of utmost importance.

It can, for example, cooperate in creating a network to identify training centers, by specialization, as well as in training promoters and managers of modernization projects.

Renewed efforts to achieve subregional integration require the collaboration of international organizations,

and their active participation in supranational activities. Lastly, these organizations provide fora to exchange views and reach agreement, essential to achieving the type of development sought.

## TOWARDS A COMMON AGENDA

In order to further the contribution of cooperation agencies, the following proposals have been made:

- Development of international mechanisms to fund longer term actions and those which take longer to bear fruit, to meet requirements of sustainable development.
- Changes in the emphasis of technical cooperation moving beyond the mere communication of knowledge, to active participation in development and integration processes.
- Actions that promote dialogue and coordination with the private sectors of the countries.
- Promotion of projects requiring multinational action.
- Expansion of their role as forums for discussion.



## New Priorities Established for Agro-food Policies

**S**upport to family farms, the introduction of adjustments in development policies, diversification in rural areas and the promotion of sustainable agriculture are some of the priorities included in agro-food policies being promoted by the industrialized countries, according to one of the working documents prepared for the Tenth ICMA.

The document, prepared by a group of experts from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA), indicates that, in support of these initiatives, a new concept of food security and quality must also be included, so as to improve upon previous outdated ideas.

The document, "Changes in Agro-food Policies in the New International Context: A European Perspective," discusses in two chapters the current agro-food situation in terms of political and economic changes. It also summarizes and analyzes the content and orientation of new proposals on the subject.

### SUPPORT POLICIES

According to the MAPA experts, stabilization of the rural population necessarily involves promoting initiatives aimed at raising income levels on family farms. The experts emphasize that this will be necessary in order to achieve modern rural development and protect the environment.

They pointed out that existing lines of assistance - such as compensatory indemnity, modernization and upgrading of productive activities, and com-

modity marketing - will be strengthened. Also, they cited the following as priorities: capitalization, technical support and training and education for farmers.

Regarding policies for diversification in rural areas, the document states that priority should be given to developing rural areas in general, rather than just the agricultural sector. Therefore, the economic agents in each zone, as well as private and public or semipublic organizations should participate in this effort.

As to the environmental problem, it is stated in the document that the farmer

assistance to zones not suited for agriculture, and the reduction of agricultural activity through economic diversification programs in those areas where the environment is seriously threatened.

Two topics having a major impact on agro-food policies in Europe are food safety and food quality. It is no longer believed that food security depends on increased use of production factors, the promotion of research, soft credit, the formation of cooperatives and State intervention in markets and production.

The "new philosophy" now being promoted focuses on providing the consumer with guarantees as to ingredients, sanitation, hygiene, and quality. In this context, it becomes important to implement systems protecting the



Photo/R. Escobar

*The MAPA delegation to the Executive Committee, headed by Julio Blanco (right), presented the reference document prepared by Spain for the Tenth ICMA.*

must be acknowledged as the principal agent of change. Therefore, it is necessary to design and implement compensatory measures that will stimulate the use of less intensive production methods and the application of practices less harmful to the environment. The latter include increased

identity and unique qualities of products, as a means of ensuring consumer safety.



**A** regional seminar on the formulation and evaluation of projects that include issues related to gender was recently conducted by IICA and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The seminar provided 28 women from Central America, the Dominican Republic, and Cuba with the opportunity to update their knowledge and upgrade their skills.

In the future, government and non-governmental organizations will benefit from the experience gained by these women in the formulation of projects that address cultural, social and political issues that have a direct impact on the situation of women and

## Women Complete Course on Project Formulation

their participation in the development processes.

Officials from UNIFEM expressed their satisfaction with the results of the seminar, since this is the first time this type of activity has been offered to participants from Latin America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. According to Klaus Bethke, the regional coordinator of UNIFEM, "This

seminar is a pioneer event in this field, since, up to now, courses on project formulation have addressed issues related to women only superficially."

Bethke added that the training course will probably be repeated in the Andean region and in the English-speaking Caribbean, since there is a great demand for this type of course in those regions.

In Bethke's opinion, other important results of the seminar were the "fruitful" exchange of experience among the participants, and the interest shown by some in carrying out similar activities in their countries.

## Agricultural Extension Model Proposed in Peru

**A**n organizational model for agricultural extension programs, which will help improve living standards in rural areas of Peru, was prepared during a seminar held recently in that country and sponsored by IICA.

The project, aimed at laying the groundwork for a national system of agricultural extension services, is designed to coordinate relations between farmer organizations and campesinos, and public and private institutions involved in research, extension services, technical assistance, and promotion. It was recommended that a national fund for integrated rural development be established to operate the project.

The seminar brought together more than 50 specialists in the field - representatives from public organizations, universities, research institutions, farmer organizations, professional associations, private technical assistance agencies, as well as international and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).



Photo/Thomas Muller, Peru

*One of the main goals of the proposed model for agricultural extension services is to improve the standard of living in rural areas of Peru.*



## Research and Technology Transfer in Caribbean Agricultural Development

By L. Harlan Davis (\*)

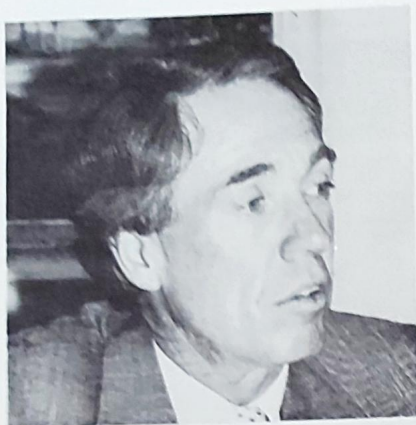


Photo: R. Escobar

**T**he dramatic changes in the international political and economic scenario pose sobering challenges for us. In the face of these developments, we cannot be complacent with traditional thinking, strategies and *modus operandi*. For example, the roles of agricultural research and technology transfer must change if they are to be truly useful and able to deal with new conditions world-wide, and particularly in the Caribbean.

Latin America and the Caribbean still struggle to deal with the crisis of the "lost decade" of the 1980s. The indicators for indebtedness, inflation, unemployment, salaries, investment, and productivity continue to be cause for concern, in some countries more than others. The region's most important sector, agriculture, is suffering from this same economic malaise. Latin America and, to a lesser extent, the Caribbean are "reaping the harvest" of many years of benign neglect of the rural sectors. This is reflected not only in the poor performance of the agricultural sector, but also in the general economic growth of the region.

It is not necessary to go into the history of events; moreover, history is not a prologue. However, we do need to remember that the policies and strategies that have promoted import substitution have been partially financed by agriculture. Then, in an attempt to compensate for this discrimination, governments began to set up certain strategies, many of which were extremely costly and grossly inefficient, and which actually distorted the allocation of resources at the sectoral and farm level.

### A NEW ERA

This approach has not worked. We face the dawn of a new era, brought on by the deep worldwide recession of the late 1960s, and reinforced by the dire circumstances of the

(\*) Deputy Director General of IICA. The present article is an adaptation of a speech made at a CARDI meeting, held recently in St. Kitts and Nevis.

1980s. The region is struggling desperately with new approaches and strategies. At the same time, the world is profoundly changing. The strategies and approaches being designed to deal with this situation fall within the rubric of what the development bankers call the "structural adjustment process," which is also being applied in other regions of the world: trade liberalization policies; more open exchange rate policies; evaluation of differential taxes; massive reduction of parastatal institutions; reduction of other public sector expenditures; privatization of enterprise and business initiatives; and reduction or elimination of policies that regulate prices.

### AGRICULTURE IN THE NEW ERA

Where will this process leave the agricultural sector, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean? Advantages and disadvantages can be seen. Trade liberalization worldwide suggests the expansion of international markets for relatively efficient producers. It suggests the expansion and opening of new markets for new diversified commodities, particularly those tropical commodities that up to now were not exportable because of real or artificial barriers. Tariff and quota reductions and preferential trade agreement reforms suggest profound implications, especially for the Caribbean. To what extent will these measures affect the sugar and banana industry? If so, what will their impact be on land tenure and cropping patterns in this region? Will we see the development of new small- and medium-scale family farms producing crops and enterprises?

If differential tax duties on agricultural exports are reduced and passed on to farmers, profitability to this sector would increase in the same proportion. The same reasoning would apply in the case of reduction or elimination of food price controls, to the extent that they exist in the Caribbean. These benefits could be substantial, not only for individual farmers, but to society as a whole.

On the other hand, the liberalization process would imply considerable costs, especially in the short run. Elimination of quotas and preferential agreements in the developed countries could mean that the Caribbean will not effectively compete in the world sugar and banana markets. This could have serious effects on income, employment, and foreign exchange earnings. The elimination of food price controls - to the extent that they exist - could mean higher food costs to the consumer, severely hurting the poorest groups.

If fragile political and economic systems could accommodate these adjustments, the future would see a more efficient,



stable, and prosperous agricultural sector. Both short-term accommodations and longer term growth and development can be greatly facilitated by key complementary strategies and policies, such as, for example, rededicated efforts in agricultural research and technology transfer. Herein lies the importance of organizations such as the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the challenge it faces in the new era in the Caribbean.

## THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN A NEW ERA

We think of agricultural research and extension in terms of improving the technical efficiency of farm production. In other words, the discovery of new ways of combining resources, improved, more productive seeds, and more responsive fertilizers and chemicals, resulting in lower production costs and higher output per unit of input. Research and technology transfer can have a significantly positive effect on raising farm receipts and creating jobs. Moreover, when increased income is allocated to purchase fertilizers, chemicals or other improvements, other economic sectors also benefit. This modernization process, from below, stimulates overall growth and development.

However, there is another dimension to this process. To the extent that the benefits of increased technical efficiency are passed on, even though partially, in terms of a reduction in the real price of food, society as a whole benefits. Since the masses of the poor spend a relatively large share of their total income on food, this group can improve their economic position from research and extension that focuses on widely consumed commodities.

But the importance of research and technology transfer is not limited to traditional crops and enterprises. The process also has an important role in the discovery or adaptation of new and diversified products in the Caribbean. This dimension is especially critical in light of the new economic developments. There seems to be a consensus that a market-led strategy, coupled with the establishment of locally-based core marketing companies, works best. These companies, which sometimes conduct joint investment ventures with multinational corporations, work with small and medium-scale farmers in crop production and then assume responsibility for processing and marketing.

In summary, based on recent studies, the following are the main recommendations with regard to diversification: small and medium-scale producers for any crop in any specific region must be carefully screened and selected; the core company must have a hands-on commitment and intensively involve its staff in field supervision; vertical integration works best under these conditions and frequently producers themselves constitute new markets for inputs and consumer goods; company relationships with small-scale producers are complex. In addition to technical interaction, social and cultural relationships must frequently be established; and, finally, successful models of this nature are possible only when there is a commitment and encouragement by the host country.

Interestingly, technology development and transfer are given light treatment in some of these sources. It should be obvi-

ous that it is important to have access to basic data on soils, water, plants, fertilization, diseases, and other such factors before plunging in. Too many initiatives have failed for lack of basic technical data. The market-led strategy that is so highly recommended is important, but it must have a technical base. A lot of valuable information has been generated on coffee, bananas, and sugar, but little exists on nontraditional crops. Yet, that new technology is a critical element in diversification and in the promotion of nontraditional exports. Furthermore, technology generation need not be a long, drawn-out bureaucratic process, as it is sometimes characterized. Properly planned and organized, results in terms of cost can be obtained in a relatively short time.

## PRIORITY POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

Renewed agricultural research and extension policies and strategies are only some of the many elements required to re-dimension the agricultural sector of the new era. They are, however, key elements and we must, without further delay, begin to develop new priorities and strategies in order to effectively meet the challenges before us.

Among other things: 1. We need a more careful analytical evaluation of the scope and dimension of the new order and what it means for the Caribbean in particular; 2. We need to assess its impact on agriculture and on agricultural development in the Caribbean. Specifically, we should begin to determine what it means for research and extension, in terms of new strategic plans and operations, more emphasis on diversification and sustainability; 3. We need to re-evaluate the technology/extension links. At this juncture, after the implementation of a wide range of models in Latin America, we are still not sure which is the most appropriate and effective. We need to be bold and look at new models, such as vertically integrated systems involving core marketing companies. Such approaches would allow us to forge new ties with the private sector, and to move more rapidly and effectively into diversified agriculture;

4. Similarly, we need to go back and look at ties with the universities. Much of the up-stream technology will emanate from that source; 5. We also need to strengthen horizontal cooperation, to take advantage of what has already been done in the international centers of the region; 6. We need to get a better hold on the concept of sustainability, which is taking on increasing importance, and generate practical approaches and practical strategies. We must also examine the social and structural aspects of sustainability. Who are the environmental abusers, small, large or plantation farms? Where and how can we get the greatest impact for our scarce resource dollars?

7. More stable funding will be critical as we confront new challenges. We need to make the case more forcefully for agricultural research with decision makers. We need to remind them that research benefits extend beyond the farmer to society as a whole. Everyone consumes food and, therefore, we cannot allow ourselves to be so totally carried away with the new era that we forget about the basic foods.





Photo: Fabrizio León, Mexico

*Sustainable development and the conservation of natural resources will become a permanent part of Program II, headed by Eduardo Trigo.*

### Program II Has New Emphasis

ICA's Program II, Technology Generation and Transfer, will make sustainable development and conservation and management of natural resources a permanent part of its technical cooperation actions with the member countries.

Over the next few months, both topics will be stressed within the framework of national and multinational projects. This shift in approaches, which coincides with economic structural adjustments, the opening of markets and the reactivation of the integration process in the region, is supported by the government of Germany, through the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

The GTZ has stepped up its research on this topic and has drawn up proposals on how it can be incorporated into IICA's five Programs and the PROCITROPICOS project, which includes eight countries of the Amazon Basin in the implementation of tropical agricultural and agroforestry systems.

In explaining adjustments made in the Program to the Executive Committee, Eduardo J. Trigo, the Director of the Program, stated that "a commitment to the rational use of natural resources must be made in order to ensure the continuity of the production process and the well-being of future generations."

He proposed that a working group, similar to the one that exists in the field of biotechnology, be established to help include IICA and the region in international discussions on these issues. As an example, he referred to guidelines currently being prepared that will help to establish intellectual property rights on research and biotechnological development.

Trigo mentioned that approximately 60 technical cooperation activities have been conducted in the past two years, as part of the contribution made by the Technology Generation and Transfer Program.

He also highlighted IICA's efforts to link the Program to other similar agencies in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico.



## Projects on Trade and Integration to be Promoted

In a report presented to IICA's Executive Committee, Rodolfo Quiros, the Director of IICA's Trade and Agroindustry Program, stated that the Program will place greater emphasis on projects related to trade and integration.

Thus, special importance will be given to issues such as multilateral negotiations, trade policies, and the promotion of nontraditional exports.

As a result of this new focus, national projects for 1992-1993 will be geared toward international trade and will include topics such as information, investment opportunities, and basic infrastructure services.

Quiros added that "in light of the constant restructuring of the trade strategies of the countries, changes and modernization are indispensable if the

capacity to enter and compete in the market is to be strengthened."

As a result of the implementation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), the Program also redefined its areas of concentration and incorporated new technical cooperation instruments into specific national, regional and hemispheric projects.

The Program will also carry out projects on trade information, the promotion of agricultural trade, the strengthening of national networks, and support to trade and integration in the Central American isthmus and the Southern and Andean Areas.

Quiros also indicated that methods would be used to prepare participatory sectoral assessments that more ac-

curately identify the problems affecting domestic and foreign trade of agricultural and agroindustrial commodities.

Based on the recommendations made by an evaluation mission, actions will be carried out jointly with IICA's other Programs. For example, Quiros pointed out, in the field of rural agroindustry, Program IV will work in close collaboration with the Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, which will lead to the efficient use of resources and eliminate the duplication of efforts.

As part of adjustments in Program IV, it was suggested that a policy on communications be designed, that the objectives of the technical cooperation projects be reoriented, that professional personnel be trained, and that new possibilities for securing external resources be explored.



*Methods will be designed for preparing participatory sectoral assessments that more accurately identify the problems affecting domestic and foreign trade of agricultural and agroindustrial commodities.*



## The Countries in Action

# IICA Renews Support to Agricultural Development in Caribbean

**D**uring the First International Conference on Financing for Agricultural Development in the Caribbean, recently held in Saint Lucia, IICA announced the execution of four projects at a cost of approximately three million dollars, thus renewing its support to the Caribbean area.

Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, in an address to the meeting of 15 technical assistance organizations and donor agencies, explained that the projects cover the harmonization of agricultural policies, technology, rural development, and agricultural health.

The ministers of agriculture from 13 of the nations in the subregion attended the Conference, which was organized by the secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with the cooperation of the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States, the Caribbean Development Bank, and IICA.

### FOLLOW-UP

In order to expedite the process of securing resources for implementation of the 19 projects submitted to the financing agencies, the participants prepared a follow-up plan. In addition, a technical unit was set up to prepare the final draft of the proposals, with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and IICA.

IICA is one of the principal organizations that provides technical assistance to the Caribbean. The four

projects, to be carried out by the Institute over the next four years, are part of the strategy for this subregion included in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Approved by the ministers of agriculture of the Americas and coordinated by IICA, the PLANLAC is an overall strategy intended to make agriculture modern and dynamic and link it to agroindustry, in support of the region's efforts to achieve equitable and sustainable development.

The Director General of IICA referred to the five pillars which should serve as the foundation for the development of the agricultural sector in the Caribbean: increased production efficiency, investment in human resources, strengthening of intersectoral links,

increased flow of financial resources to the sector, and strengthening and design of public and private institutions.

Piñeiro also referred to the future of technical cooperation in the subregion and stressed the importance of closer ties between Latin America and the Caribbean, especially as regards technology and trade opportunities.

According to Piñeiro, the time has come to capitalize on new opportunities opening up for the agricultural sector as a result of increased regional trade and integration. He also recommended strengthening agricultural organizations and upgrading institutions, so as to develop and produce nontraditional commodities that have good possibilities for placement on the international markets.



*The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro (center), refers to the five pillars which should serve as the foundation for the development of the agricultural sector in the Caribbean.*



At the close of the present edition, the Board of Directors of PROCITROPICOS was preparing to hold its first regular meeting, in Brasilia, Brazil, which would signal the beginning of the activities of this ambitious undertaking, aimed at promoting sustainable agricultural development in the subregions of the humid Amazon tropics.

The Cooperative Program for Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCI-

## PROCITROPICOS Initiates Activities

These three ecosystems have high agricultural potential because of the richness and diversity of their flora, fauna, climate, water, and soils; yet, at present, they are being improperly used.

At this first meeting, the Executive Secretary of the Program will be chosen and the initial work plan will be analyzed and approved. In

Agricultural Research (CGIAR) will also participate in the meeting.

IICA will support the execution of PROCITROPICOS and will facilitate the work of the executive secretariat, which will be headquartered in Brasilia. IICA will also participate in the formulation of subprograms and projects, and in the administration of resources

countries included in the IICA-Tropics Project, implemented in March 1971. It will also receive support from the Amazon Cooperation Treaty, through its secretary pro tempore.

The aim of PROCITROPICOS -which will soon include Guyana- is to generate a strategy for technological development in which the agricultural sector will play a significant role in areas related to food production; the generation of external resources, through imports; the substitution of imports; and the creation of jobs. This development must be based on the rational use of renewable natural resources and the conservation of the environment.

The Program consists of four components: integrated soil management, sustainable production systems, management and conservation of genetic resources, and agricultural and tropical forestry computer science, which will be established through specific national, multinational, or regional programs.



Participating in the signing of the agreement admitting Suriname to PROCITROPICOS are: animal production specialist Hector Mu; the IICA Representative in that country, Percy Aiken; and the Minister of Agriculture of Suriname, Arthur Zalmijn.

TROPICOS), which involves Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, and IICA, proposes the rational use of renewable natural resources as a part of agricultural development in the subregions of the humid tropics, plains or savannahs and Amazon foothills or the edge of jungles.

In addition, financial strategies for the operation of the Program will be studied and mechanisms will be designed for the formulation of subprograms and specific projects.

Representatives from international cooperation organizations and the Consultative Group on International

from the countries and other sources of financing.

PROCITROPICOS was created within the framework of a renewable six-year cooperation agreement, signed by research agencies from the participating countries and IICA. During its initial phase, the Program will concentrate on

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*PROCITROPICOS involves Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname, Venezuela, IICA, and soon, Guyana.*

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# IICA Increases Aid to Haitian Agriculture

IICA has begun to increase and diversify its actions in Haiti, with a view to reactivating the agricultural sector of this Caribbean nation, where 75 percent of the population lives below the poverty level, as established by the World Bank.

At a recent meeting, the Minister of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Rural Development, Francois Severin, other Haitian officials and IICA officials identified the priority problems faced by the agricultural sector.

In this way, the government will be able to promote specific projects among donor agencies and countries that will participate in the upcoming Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

## INVESTMENT PROJECT

According to Alfonso Cebreros, the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations of IICA, the Institute and the Organization of American States (OAS), will draw up an investment project for irrigation infrastructure and agricultural development for Maribaroux, northern Haiti, one of the zones most seriously affected by drought.

This initiative may be turned into a binational border project that includes a region of the Dominican Republic.

Joint or border-area projects are another area of work to be pursued by IICA. In September, the first meeting of a binational committee will meet in

order to select specific initiatives. Over the next two months, IICA will draw up four technical cooperation project profiles on topics identified by



*Approximately 5.5 million Haitians depend on agriculture for a living.*

the Ministry of Agriculture of Haiti as top priorities.

Cebreros reported that during his visit to Haiti he attended an inter-agency meeting with financial and technical cooperation agencies, the aim of which was to coordinate efforts and establish a joint strategy for the Haitian agricultural sector that will expedite the channeling of resources.

In response to a request from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), IICA completed a detailed assessment of the agricultural sector of Haiti. On this basis, IFAD will conduct a project identification mission in September with a view to allocating

financial resources. The Institute's special focus on Haiti is justified by the fact that this Caribbean nation is one of the poorest of the hemisphere. Due to accelerated deforestation, erosion is very severe and today forests occupy only 2 percent of the territory. Moreover, approximately 5.5 million Haitians depend on agriculture, but receive an average US\$100 in income a year.

According to IICA studies, Haiti's malnutrition rate is twice as high as in the three other most affected nations in Central America and the Caribbean. It is estimated that 80 percent of infant mortality cases are due to malnutrition.

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*The Institute's special focus on this Caribbean nation is justified by the fact that it is one of the poorest of the hemisphere. Due to accelerated deforestation, erosion is very severe.*

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## Rural Agroindustrial Network Set Up in Argentina

A group of Argentine institutions recently set up a national network in Buenos Aires to promote the creation, development, and strengthening of rural agroindustry for small farmers.

The Rural Agroindustry Network for Small Farmers (REDAR Argentina) takes its place alongside similar structures that already exist

in Chile, Ecuador, the Dominican Republic, and Colombia, and which are part of the Rural Agroindustrial Development Program (PRODAR).

PRODAR brings together international cooperation agencies, including IICA, and regional, subregional, and national institutions to develop a cooperative strategy to quickly increase

the effectiveness of rural agroindustrial policies and programs.

REDAR Argentina was created with the support of the Agronomy School of the University of Buenos Aires, the Grupo Esquel Argentine; the Undersecretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries; IICA; the INTA Small-Farm Plans and Projects Unit; and other local institutions such as INCUPO, FUNDAPAZ, and INDES.

The objectives of REDAR are, among others: to pro-

mote the exchange of information on rural agroindustry for small farmers, to foster technological exchange, to develop joint projects with other organizations and institutions, to identify strategies and to foster contacts and relations with similar groups at the local and international levels.

## Representatives in Brazil and Colombia Assume Posts

Victor E. Machinea and Edgardo R. Moscardi, both from Argentina, were recently appointed as IICA Representatives in Brazil and Colombia.

Machinea, an agricultural engineer, took over his new post on June 1. He has worked for the Advisory Council for Agricultural Cooperation in the Countries of the Southern Area (CONASUR) and served as coordinator for the nontraditional export project of the Republic of Argentina. He was the agricultural advisor for his country in Italy, where he was also the representative to FAO.

Moscardi took office on July 23, replacing Augusto Donoso. He holds a doctorate in agricultural economy from the University of California at Berkeley in the United States. Moscardi was the former national director of the Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) in Argentina. He has also

worked for the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR).

In Brazil, IICA has worked with the national authorities in developing a strategy for 1992-1993 designed to support efforts to accelerate the modernization of the agricultural sector. IICA is also working with the Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA) to define areas of common interest, especially as regards the decentralization of administrative functions, the preparation of research systems, dissemination of technology, and integration with the private sector.

In 1990, IICA's activities in Colombia focused on rural development projects, the most outstanding being those executed within the framework of the agreement with the Integrated Rural Development Program (DRI). IICA also provided support to the national agricultural training program, and to the ministry of agriculture in defining policies related to trade liber-



Photo Silvia Palacio/Colombia

*IICA technical cooperation in Colombia focuses on rural development programs and support to the national agricultural training program.*

alization, technology transfer, and the institutionalization of agricultural credit.



## IICA Provides Support to Brazilian Fruit Production Program

The IICA Office in Brazil is currently carrying out a technical cooperation project in collaboration with the National Department of Cooperatives (DENACOOOP) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MARA), to develop the Brazilian Fruit Production and Export Program (FRUPEX).

In the framework of this initiative, the Institute recently organized a meeting between technical personnel from the ministry and officials from other organizations involved in the program, to analyze achievements of FRUPEX and to establish lines of action.

The meeting brought together approximately 40 officials, including the Executive Secretary of MARA, Lourenco Jose Vieira da Silva; the

Director General of DENACOOOP, Celso Luis Claro de Oliveira; the Deputy Representative of IICA in Brazil, Hugo Torres.



Speakers at the inaugural session include Celso Luis Claro de Oliveira, Director General of DENACOOOP; Lourenco Jose T. Vieira da Silva, Executive Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform (MARA); and the Deputy Representative of IICA in Brazil, Hugo Torres.

According to Torres, FRUPEX is an alternative for supporting Brazil's efforts to place more products on international markets. To this end, the Program will provide the technical assistance needed to boost exports and modernize trade infrastructures.

## Publications

La Modernización de la Agricultura y su Aporte al Proceso de Integración Interamericana



Martin E. Piñeiro  
IICA Editorial Service

This book describes the outlook for the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean in light of the new economic policy of the

United States, as expressed in the Initiative for the Americas of United States President Bush.

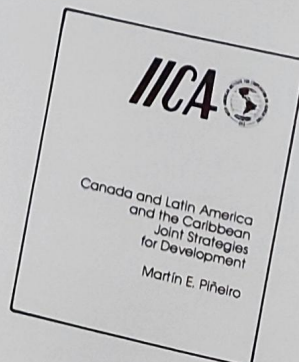
According to the author, Martin E. Piñeiro, the Director General of IICA, the hemispheric proposal recognizes the relationship between trade, foreign debt and investment and, he added, it could, in the medium term, make the economy of the region more dynamic.

He also points out that agricultural trade, referred to in the Initiative as a new phase of agriculture, is an ideal area in which to strengthen North-South ties.

Furthermore, he sees the Initiative as "creating favor-

able prospects for enhancing the modernization of agriculture, which must be based on fully incorporating small farmers into production processes and on conserving natural resources for future generations.

Canadá y los países de América Latina y el Caribe: Estrategias Comunes para el Desarrollo



Martin E. Piñeiro  
IICA Editorial Service

This publication presents the text of a speech delivered by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, at a regional conference held last May at the University of Calgary, Canada.

According to Piñeiro, Canada can support the efforts of Latin America and the Caribbean to solve their economic crises, through direct actions or by playing "an important role in defending the region's interests at the international level."



In Piñeiro's opinion, the strategies adopted should complement each other and take into account the roles of agriculture and agroindustry in terms of modernization, equity, and sustainability.

The Director General proposes possible areas of work, which would include the development of policies to identify and solve the most pressing problems of the region, particularly in the rural communities, such as the environment, debt, poverty, migration, and epidemics.

#### Toward a Strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development



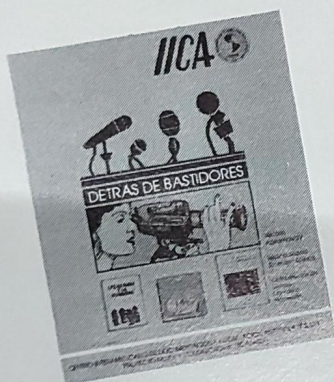
Eduardo J. Trigo  
IICA Editorial Service

The author, Eduardo J. Trigo, Director of IICA's Program on Technology Generation and Transfer, analyzes the challenges faced by the agricultural sector in the nineties, which include the conservation of the environment, the proper

management of natural resources, and the long-term sustainability of production.

The author reviews a series of articles on the subject, which provide the basis "for a discussion of strategies, policies, and actions needed to promote modernization with equity and the conservation of natural resources in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, within a new economic and political context."

#### Detrás de bastidores



Miriam Abramovay  
Ileana María Ramírez Quiros  
CIDIA-IICA/SIDA Project

This study presents an in-depth analysis of problems related to the social, economic, political, and cultural situation of women in Brazil and Costa Rica, and of messages that project a

stereotyped and contradictory image of women.

This book, by Miriam Abramovay and Ileana Ramirez, describes the subordinate situation of women in these countries and provides several examples: the social role of rural women, their work, health, violence, education and the mass media.

The book also stressed the fact that, in spite of efforts to ensure the rights of women in these countries, it has not been possible to achieve the primary objective of creating a full awareness of women's problems, nor is it possible to speak of true social equality yet.

#### Centroamerica en cifras



IICA-FLACSO  
IICA Editorial Service

This is a useful and interesting data bank which includes economic, social, and political indicators of the region, with a view to contributing to studies, analyses, and discussions on development of the Central American isthmus.

The book, a joint publication of the Latin American School of Social Sciences (FLACSO) and IICA, adds to and updates (to 1989) the information included in the first edition (1986), printed under the title "Centroamerica: La Crisis en Cifras (1979-1985)." The publication includes an optional set of diskettes containing the information of both editions.

*The publication includes an optional set of diskettes containing the information of both editions.*

The book presents economic indicators such as the evolution of economic activity, the external sector, domestic prices and monetary and tax policies; social indicators such as income and property, salaries, employment and social structure, health and nutrition, education and living conditions; and political indicators such as elections and access to power, human rights, and militarism and war.

*These publications are available at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, or in the IICA Offices of the member countries.*



## IICA in the News

### Chile, El Salvador, Uruguay



■ "Agricultura Frente al siglo XX" is the title of an article by Martin E. Piñeiro, the Director General of IICA, which has attracted the attention of newspapers in Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Chile, and Uruguay, among others.

In the article, Piñeiro asserts that the region must meet the challenge of developing a "new agriculture" to meet the demands of the domestic market and, at the same time, to provide new products with greater value added, for an increasingly competitive world market.

Piñeiro also recognized that the role of the agricultural sector must be redefined immediately if it is to continue on the path to growth and development. He also stressed the need to overcome certain external obstacles such as those related to agricultural trade and policies that lead to distortions. (*La Republica*, Costa Rica, *La Prensa*, Salvador, *La Epoca*, *El Pais*, *La Nacion*, Argentina).

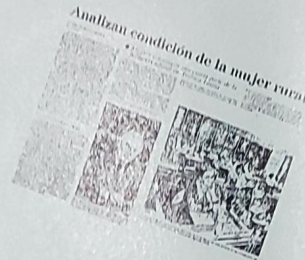


### Argentina

■ The Argentine press (*Clarín*, *La Nacion*, *Ambito Financiero*, *Todo*

*Campo*) highlighted an initiative by Pedro Solbes, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food of Spain (MAPA), to hold a meeting between the ministers of agriculture of the Americas and their European counterparts in Madrid next September.

The Minister presented the proposal to the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, who recently visited Madrid in connection with the preparations for the Tenth ICMA and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)-the Institute's highest governing body.



### Costa Rica

■ The Costa Rican press provided wide coverage of the international conference on the "Economic Progress of Rural Women in Latin America and the Caribbean," held at IICA Headquarters and sponsored by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Representatives from 18 countries of the region were present.

The meeting, in preparation for the "Women's Summit" to be attended by the wives of heads of government and state from around the world and sponsored by Queen Fabiola of Belgium, was covered by the newspapers *La Nacion* and *La Republica* the magazines *Panorama* and *Rumbo* and international press agencies, AFP, IPS, NOTIMEX, ACAN-EFE, Reuters.

## Upcoming Activities

Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) and the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), September 22-27 Congress Hall, Madrid, Spain

"Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century" will be the theme of a meeting of the ministers of agri-

culture of the Americas, convened by IICA and the Organization of American States at the invitation of the Spanish government.

**Regional Central American Workshop and Consultation on Vegetable Research Planning. November 5-8, IICA Headquarters.**

This meeting, organized by the Asian Vegetable Research and Develop-

ment Centre (AVRDC) and IICA, will bring together leading managers, directors, and researchers from Central America, who will assess the region's potential, needs, and opportunities for vegetable production, consumption, and exportation. The participants will also establish common priorities for research and human resource training, and for relations among the countries and institutions of the isthmus.



October - November - December 1991, Year VIII, No. 46

## Meetings in Madrid



X CONFERENCIA INTERAMERICANA DE MINISTROS DE AGRICULTURA  
X INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE  
X CONFERENCE INTERAMERICAINE DES MINISTRES DE L'AGRICULTURE  
X CONFERENCIA INTERAMERICANA DE MINISTROS DA AGRICULTURA  
MADRID 23 - 27 SEPTIEMBRE 1991



- From Ottawa to Madrid
- Declaration of Madrid:  
A New and Comprehensive View of Agriculture
- Round Table on Trade and Cooperation:  
An Unusual Dialogue between the EEC and the Region



## In this issue

### *X ICMA*

- From Ottawa to Madrid 3  
 Declaration of Madrid: A New and Comprehensive View of Agriculture 4  
 Moving from Words to Action 6  
 Unsung Heroes 8  
 Unique Opportunity for Dialogue between the EEC and the region 8  
 Strong Support for PLANLAC 10  
 European Community to Join IICA as Observer 10

### *Headquarters*

- OAS and IICA step up Institutional Coordination 11  
 Inter-Agency Cooperation Promoted 11  
 IICA/IDB Seminar 12  
 France will Strengthen Technical Cooperation 12  
 Honduran and Brazilian Photographers Win International Contest 13

### *Training*

- Communication will Contribute to Natural Resource Conservation 14  
 Technicians Trained in Data Base Management 14

### *Forum*

- Echo for Eco 15

### *Programs on the march*

- Trade Liberalization Provides Challenges and Opportunities 16  
 PROCITROPICOS to be Discussed at Environmental Conference in Brazil 16  
 Advances Made in Technological Integration 17  
 Support for Nontraditional Agricultural Exports 17  
 New Research Agenda to be Defined 18  
 Concerted Action Advocated Against Sanitary Barriers 18  
 Public Sector and NGOs to Work Together on Hillside Farming Issues 19  
 PROCACAO Sets Agenda for 1992 19  
 Pesticide Information Center to Open 19

### *Action in the countries*

- New Efforts to Improve Rural Well-being in the Region 20  
 Agriculture Can Stimulate Economic Growth 20  
 CORECA Agreement Extended Five Years 21  
 IICA Supports Agricultural Modernization in Costa Rica 21  
 Rural Development and Liberalization Analyzed at Workshop 21  
 New IICA Representatives Take Office in Ecuador and Peru 22  
 Integration Fair Organized by Southern Cone 22

- Pioneer Projects of the IDB 22

### *Publications*

El Entorno Internacional: Implicaciones para el Comercio Agroalimentario de America Latina y el Caribe

Encadenamientos de Producción en la Economía Campesina en el Ecuador

Mujer Rural

Desarrollo Tecnológico e Integración

### *IICA in the news*

### *Upcoming activities*

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 32 member countries and 13 observer countries.





Photo/A. Cherep

The President of the Spanish Government, Felipe Gonzalez, granted a special audience to the ministers of agriculture and the heads of delegation of the member countries.

## From Ottawa to Madrid

The profound and rapid changes that occurred both worldwide and in the region in the interval between the last two Inter-American Conferences of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) highlighted the enduring validity and visionary nature of the proposals made in Ottawa in 1987, which were strengthened and expanded upon recently in Madrid.

The Ninth ICMA (Ottawa, September 1987) declared that a more dynamic and modernized agricultural sector should and can make a substantial contribution to overcoming the deep crisis affecting the region. Similarly, the Tenth ICMA (Madrid, September 1991) reaffirmed the importance of striving to make agriculture more modern and competitive in order to place Latin America and the Caribbean on a new path to development, in view of the drastic changes taking place worldwide.

The changing international context and the economic restructuring under way in Latin America point up the need to re-think the role of the sector and to find mechanisms for facilitating its new role. In Madrid, further discussions were held on the nature of modernization and strategic guidelines were set for bringing it about.

This new comprehensive view of agriculture, which was put forth at the Madrid Conference, has three dimensions. The first concerns the need to strengthen intersectoral relations as a means of promoting integrated development and making

agriculture the cornerstone of the development strategy. It casts aside the more limited view which envisages agriculture as merely a primary sector, replacing it with the concept of an agricultural sector closely linked to industry. The second dimension is of a social nature and aims at finding the way to incorporate the most disadvantaged rural sectors into the production process, as a means of consolidating the growth of democracy in the region. The third is a temporal dimension, and aims to conserve natural resources to ensure the well-being of future generations: to farm the land and use natural resources efficiently and carefully without contaminating or destroying them.

The Declaration of Madrid shows clear consensus on this new view. Together with the recommendations of the Conferences and the resolutions approved by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) - IICA's governing body, which met concurrently in Spain - it sets a course of action for the sector during the last decade of the century, which will provide the framework for the Institute's action.

### A VERY DIFFERENT ICMA

The Tenth ICMA, the first ever held outside the Americas, provided an unparalleled opportunity to forge closer relations with Europe, where, as in the Americas, the future of agriculture is a major concern.



Spain fulfilled its role as a bridge between Europe and the Americas. The generous offer of the Spanish government to host the Conference made it possible for the ministers of the Americas to meet and hold frank and open discussions with their European counterparts and other agricultural authorities of the European Community.

The presence at the inaugural ceremony of the King and Queen of Spain, Juan Carlos and Sofia; the special audience granted by the President of the Government of Spain, Felipe Gonzalez, to the ministers of LAC; and the outstanding manner in which Spain's Minister of Agriculture Pedro Solbes conducted the Conference, were all very clear manifestations of the importance Spain places on its relations with the Americas.

The Tenth ICMA surpassed the Ottawa meeting in terms of the number of ministers in attendance. While in Canada 22 of the then 31 Member States nations participating in the meeting were represented by their ministers of agriculture, in Spain, 27 of the 32 ministers of agriculture attended.

The interest of the international community in the theme of the Conference was also apparent as more than 20 agencies sent delegations. Several were headed by their top officials, such the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which was represented by its President, Idries Jazairy

The next regular meeting of the IABA will take place in two years' time in Mexico, when the progress made in complying with the historic agreements of Madrid will be evaluated.

*The Madrid Congress Hall served as the stage for the deliberations on the main theme of the conference "Latin American and Caribbean Agriculture and the International Context of the Nineties: Strategies for the Close of the Century."*

Photo A. Cherep



Declaration of Madrid:

## A New and Comprehensive View of Agriculture

**T**he Declaration of Madrid, which synthesizes the principal agreements reached during the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), sets the course for the agricultural sector in LAC as it prepares to enter the twentieth century.

The Declaration emphasizes the importance of striving to develop an agri-

cultural sector that is modern and equitable and which plays an important role in the overall economy. It also calls attention to the timeliness of the commitments assumed by the member countries four years earlier in the Ottawa meeting, although these have been adapted to the conditions of the new world economic order.

In the Declaration, the countries of the Americas also come out strongly against the agricultural protectionism practiced by the industrialized countries, call for agricultural trade liberalization and emphasize that the success of the Uruguay Round of the GATT is a prerequisite for regional development.

### OPINIONS

The spirit of the text was praised by the Chairman of the Tenth ICMA, Pedro



Solbes, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, who stated that the document is "a magnificent summary of the major problems agriculture faces now and will face in coming years, not only in the Americas, but throughout the rest of the world."

The Minister of Saint Lucia, Ferdinand Henry, Chairman of the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), stated that the Declaration is a forward-looking document which should serve as a compass as the countries prepare to enter the twenty-first century.

IICA's Director General, Martin E. Piñeiro, pointed out that the Declaration, the recommendations and the resolutions approved reflected a new view of agriculture.

All of the ministers agreed that the Declaration presents their greatest concerns and hopes and identifies the priority areas for joint action.

#### THE TEXT

In their deliberations on the role agriculture should play on the threshold of a new century, the ministers identified the following as the most important goals: development and modernization, equity and food availability for the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean, liberalization of agricultural trade and a successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of the GATT, and conservation of natural resources and environmental protection.

The document underscores the importance of the regional and subregional integration processes currently under way, which enjoy solid political support, and adds that the Enterprise Initiative for the Americas proposed by United States President George Bush constitutes an additional stimulus for integration.

It also points out that with regard to economic matters of global importance, such as the Uruguay Round of the GATT, all countries have to cooperate

in order to create a new setting that will bring benefits on a world scale.

In one of the most important paragraphs, the Declaration highlights the strategic role of agriculture in the performance and expansion of the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, through its contributions to expanding foreign trade, reactivating domestic markets and combating rural poverty.

Agriculture, it adds, must undergo a vigorous process of modernization, both in terms of primary production and the processing and marketing of agricultural products. Opportunities on in-

cratic advances made recently in the region.

The environment is another topic that receives special attention in the document, which recognizes that one of the more visible manifestations of the lingering crisis is the countries' growing inability to halt the deterioration of their natural resource base and the environment.

It recommends that a sound and sustainable process of natural resource conservation is required to break the vicious circle which exists between agriculture, poverty and environmental deterioration. It also suggests that the



Photo/A. Cherep

*The Tenth ICMA provided an opportunity for many meetings such as the one between the Director General of IICA and Anne M. Veneman, Under Secretary of Agriculture and head of the United States delegation.*

ternational markets, especially for nontraditional products, can only be seized if the countries are capable of turning their natural advantages into dynamic competitive advantages by adopting new technologies.

Another key objective set forth in the Declaration is rural development and the elimination of poverty, which are necessary prerequisites for harmonious and equitable progress. Backwardness and extreme poverty in the agricultural sector can threaten demo-

knowledge and practices of indigenous peoples of the region should be taken into consideration by contemporary agricultural science.

After declaring that certain areas of the region have extremely fragile ecosystems that affect the entire planet, the ministers pledged to present joint proposals for the consideration of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1992.



Further on, the Declaration states that agricultural cooperation is a challenge that must be shared, and that the Tenth ICMA constitutes an important point of departure for even more productive and permanent discussions, for strengthening the new spirit of collaboration and for defining, in a framework of shared responsibilities, innovative proposals for dealing with the most pressing problems afflicting the countries of the region.

The ministers state that cooperation from the industrialized countries for improving the region's access to technology, training human resources and boosting both financing and investments must take place under specific conditions which will ensure the participation of the countries of LAC in the process to modernize agriculture and liberalize trade.

They also suggest that cooperation must be more flexible so as to be able to include small farmers in modernization. Furthermore, it should be channelled not only through public sector and international technical cooperation and funding agencies, but also through private sector organizations, especially non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and farmers' groups.

As leaders of the sector of the economy most closely involved with the natural resource base, the ministers called on international cooperation agencies to seek and apply solutions to halt environmental deterioration. Three criteria were set forth: linking resource conservation to judicious use of natural resources for economic growth; national sovereignty in the administration of environmental policy; and shared responsibility.

They also recognized the efforts made by Spain in the region, which has substantially increased the amount of the resources it has earmarked for cooperation.

In the judgement of the ministers, the ideas expressed in the Declaration of Madrid constitute the basis for establishing, in the short term, funds and programs to modernize agriculture, promote sustainable development, boost the participation of small farmers, diversify agriculture and replace crops which are a source of illegal substances.

The document concludes by stating that the implementation of the inter-American agenda for cooperation, and a successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of the GATT, will contribute to improving the food supply and the quality of life of the peoples of the region.

IICA, by mandate of its governing body, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), must follow up on the recommendations of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA). In this way, the ministers ordered that their ideas, set forth in recommendations which directly involve IICA, other funding and cooperation agencies and the member countries, be put into action.

Below are some of the more important actions to be carried out:

\* Once the negotiations of the Uruguay Round of the GATT have concluded, IICA should analyze the impact of the agreements on the agricultural sectors of the region, and assess, within that framework, strategies for the coming years.

\* IICA, in close coordination with subregional sectoral fora, should identify new priority areas and proposals for action, based on the criteria of an expanded, comprehensive and sustainable modernization of the agricultural sector.

\* IICA, in cooperation with the countries and other regional agencies, should identify and analyze the specific components and actions for the region, to be included in the com-

## Moving from Words to Action

mon agenda for international cooperation. Multilateral and bilateral technical and financial cooperation organizations should

support the efforts to develop and implement this common agenda.

\* Priority should be given to formulating national training strategies and to supporting the creation of training networks and systems which will upgrade existing capabilities. IICA, the countries and other agencies should give special consideration to development programs designed specifically for indigenous peoples, youth and women.

\* IICA should collaborate with the countries in developing the proposals to be submitted to the upcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1992), facilitating dialogue between them and coordinating the preparation of specific proposals for action, to be submitted to the consideration of the international financial community during the Conference. Initially, such efforts should focus on the development of initiatives for agricultural research and technology transfer aimed at certain important agroecological areas.

\* IICA should continue to provide support to PROCITROPICOS, and in particular, to conclude agree-



ments with financial agencies for implementing its activities and ensuring its continuity.

- IICA, together with the countries and other technical and financial cooperation organizations, should continue in its efforts to modernize national institutions for research and technology transfer, and to consolidate and institutionalize the regional centers, networks and agricultural research and technology transfer programs which carry out activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. Within this context, special attention should be paid to incorporating into the programs under way the subject of natural resource management and sustainable development, as a priority objective for technological development in agriculture.

- Multilateral and technical and financial cooperation agencies should provide support by providing resources for studies to analyze levels of competitiveness and complementarity among the agricultural sectors of the countries.

- International organizations and donor countries should increase their actions to help substitute and produce alternative crops in zones which produce illegal psychotropic substances. IICA should continue its activities in this field by broadening and strengthening cooperative programs on development alternatives.

- IICA should intensify its efforts to promote and increase the participation of farmer organizations, women's groups and NGOs in the process of rural development. It should also convene a meeting to analyze the different ways these groups can become involved in the rural development process.

- Technical cooperation and multilateral funding agencies should support, with resources and technical assistance, the implementation of projects to strengthen trade liberalization and agricultural integration through the harmonization of economic and trade policies, administrative procedures and standards, especially as concerns animal health and plant protection, and the elimination of technical obstacles for trade and other regional integration mechanisms.

- IICA, in collaboration with other organizations and member countries of the inter-American system, should draw up a proposal for establishing programs to modernize both public and private

institutions, with a view to furthering trade liberalization and agricultural integration in the region. IICA should also continue to support the efforts undertaken by the sectoral fora and step up the analysis and drafting of proposals to create opportunities and mitigate the impact of changes which will inevitably take place as a consequence of these processes.

- Technical cooperation organizations in general, including IICA, should consider research and technology transfer programs that are tailored to small farms and that also protect natural resources and the environment. IICA should also strengthen and consolidate subregional cooperative networks among institutions involved in rural development, to identify viable economic alternatives and to facilitate the exchange of experiences between countries.

- As soon as possible, and in consultation with the member countries, IICA should undertake efforts to analyze and formulate proposals on how to take advantage of debt swaps for natural resource conservation for sustainable agricultural development. The results of these efforts will be submitted to the consideration of the countries through the subregional integration fora, with a view to presenting them to the international community at the Rio Conference. All agencies should be asked to provide full support and collaboration in this initiative.



Photo: A. Cherep

Minister Ferdinand Henry, of Saint Lucia (center), and Minister Pedro Solbes, of Spain, presided over the Sixth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), respectively. At left, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, presents them with a memento of their participation.



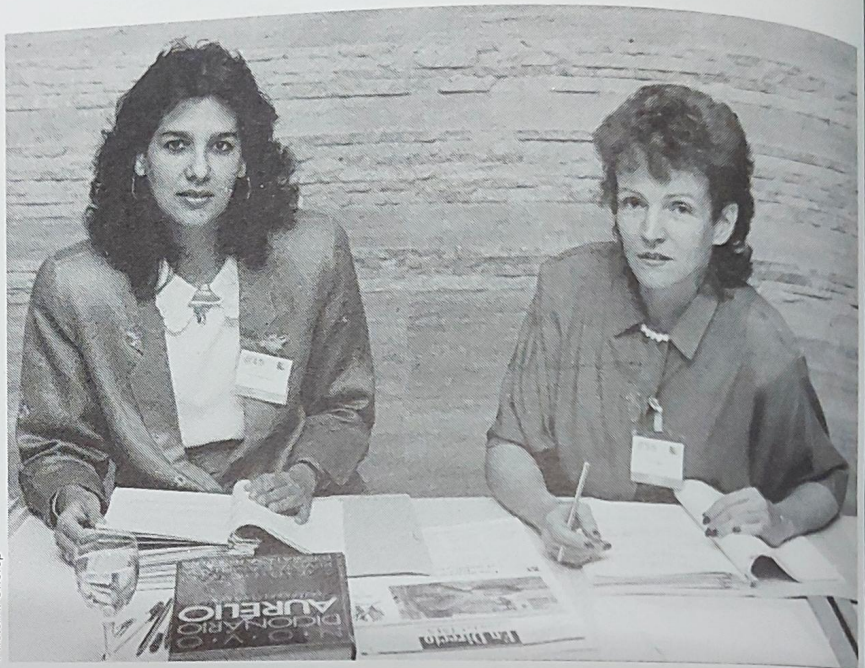
## Unsung Heroes

A virtual army of secretaries, editors, word processors, translators, interpreters, conference room attendants, messengers, etc., etc., worked very hard to ensure the success of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held recently in Madrid.

They were not seen on the television screen or on the pages of the newspapers, but they are the unsung heroes of the Conference. They did not attend the plenary sessions because their work kept them busy 24 hours a day.

Seen in the photograph are Marcia de Sáenz and Eva Schnell, proofreaders on the Portuguese team, who represent all staff from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain; the Spanish conference management firm SIASA, headed by María Ester Nerecán; and IICA's staff, coordinated by André Ouellette.

Photo/A. Cherep



A round table attended by the ministers of agriculture of the Americas and their counterparts from the European Economic Community (EEC), held within the framework of the Tenth ICMA, represented one more, very unique forum for frank and open discussion on two topics of great importance: agricultural trade and cooperation.

Precisely because the round table was a forum for discussion and not for negotiation, Uruguayan minister Alvaro Ramos, the spokesperson of IICA's member countries at the deliberations, called it "quite a change from the frustrating meetings of Brussels."

Together with the ICMA, this round table -held on September 25 in Madrid, at the initiative of Spain's Minister of Agriculture Pedro Solbes- constitutes one more step in the lengthy process of exchanging ideas and conducting negotiations which, it is hoped, will eventually lead to a liberalization of agricul-

## Unique Opportunity for Dialogue between the EEC and the Region

tural trade in Europe. Such liberalization would involve changes in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), to improve access to European markets and to gradually reduce subsidies for exports and production.

In order to facilitate the talks and to ensure expression by participants from each subregion of their particular points of view, the following spokespersons, in addition to Ramos, represented the subregions: Ferdinand Henry (Caribbean), Mario Nufio Gamero (Central America), Mauro Bertero (Andean Countries) and Macelo Regunaga (Southern Cone).

Thus, each subregion had a voice in the discussions on the various topics, and was able to explain the region's

perspective, from its particular vantage point. For example, the Central American countries asked that they be afforded the same treatment as the Andean nations in their fight against illegal crops; the Caribbean countries asked that the preferential access for their traditional crops and the terms of the Lomé Convention be extended beyond 1992, when the single European market will become a reality.

Representing the EEC were Pedro Solbes (Spain), who served as chairman; Piet Bukman (The Netherlands), as spokesperson for Europe; and the Agricultural Commissioner of the Community, Ray McSharry. The ministers of Germany, Ignaz Kiechle; Ireland, Simus Kirk; Italy, Giovanni Gorla; and Portugal, Arlindo Marques Cunha,



also took part. Belgium, Denmark, France, Greece, Luxembourg and the United Kingdom were also represented.

## POSITIONS

At the conclusion of the round table, Minister Solbes commented on the differences between the positions of Europe and the countries of the Americas on the negotiations of the Uruguay Round of the GATT. He summarized this by saying that Latin America and the Caribbean would like to see greater progress, and that while Europe also wants to see a solution, the one that can actually be achieved might not be optimal.

Commenting on cooperation, the Spanish minister stated that the donor countries plan to continue, and even to increase, their contributions to development. He said that at no time was thought given to reducing such assistance in order to strengthen assistance to the eastern European countries, adding that new opportunities are arising for cooperation

and investment in technology transfer.

One point of agreement between the two regions, he said, concerned the need to boost cooperation related to natural resource conservation and the environment. According to Solbes, "both Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe are searching for a model for sustainable development. This offers excellent opportunities for cooperation."

He said that European ministers found the proposals on integration put forth by the countries of the Americas to be "useful and positive" and in line with the new international context.

For his part, Alvaro Ramos, spokesperson for the American hemisphere, commented that both groups of nations recognize the political cost of the reforms under way. The adjustment processes in progress in Latin America and the Caribbean are painful and have a high social cost. He recognized that the same is true for the changes Europe is considering in its Common Agricultural Policy.

He added that differences still exist regarding the Uruguay Round of the GATT and trade liberalization, saying that "We approve of the proposed changes in the CAP, but we want to see a fairer agricultural trade system implemented as soon as possible."

Piet Bukman, minister of The Netherlands and spokesperson for the Community, recognized that the costs of the European agricultural policies are "growing daily." He added that the European ministers are committed to change and that "we must find a solution before years' end."

In recognizing the value of the discussions held in Madrid, Commissioner MacSharry affirmed that "we have all accepted that we should orient ourselves more toward the play of market forces. We must find solutions to our differences through dialogue." He added that while it is not politically feasible for the EC to reduce subsidies by 70 or 90%, a 30% reduction is possible.



Photo A. Cherep

*Euro-American Dialogue: Pedro Solbes, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food of Spain; Piet Bukman, Minister of Agriculture, Nature and Fisheries of the Netherlands; Ray McSharry, Agricultural Commissioner of the EC; Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General IICA; Joao Baena Soares, Secretary General of the OAS; and Alvaro Ramos, Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay and spokesperson for the countries of the Americas.*



The Director General of IICA commented that agricultural protectionism is a difficult and complex political and economic problem for Europe. In his judgement, important progress has been made recently in Europe in rethinking its policies on subsidies. Furthermore, there is now a clearer understanding of the fact that these

## Strong Support for PLANLAC

Two years after it was launched, the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) received solid support from the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

The ministers considered that the PLANLAC, proposed in Ottawa in 1987 and approved in San Jose in 1989, has proven to be a useful instrument for orienting and uniting the countries in their commitment to modernizing agriculture in the region.

They added that in the two years since it began operations, much has been accomplished to disseminate its key

policies are inefficient, very harmful to developing countries, and create difficulties for the European countries themselves.

In concluding, Piñeiro stated that the Madrid Conference and the round table were one more step in the very lengthy process of discussion, negotiation and agreement.

ideas and execute its multinational projects.

In the judgement of the ministers, the Plan has played a particularly important role with the sectoral fora in each subregion (CARICOM, CONASUR, CORECA and JUNTA), where considerable emphasis is being placed on harmonizing policies in order to facilitate integration.

They also recognized that events both worldwide and in the region have made the original PLANLAC proposal even more timely, and have created the need to adjust it to reflect the new context.

The Tenth ICMA called on multilateral funding and technical cooperation agencies to continue to support the PLANLAC, by allocating resources and strengthening inter-institutional coordination.



## European Community to Join IICA as Observer

The European Community's membership in the Institute as an Observer will open the way for greater Community cooperation with the agricultural sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean, announced the Director General of IICA, Martín E. Piñeiro.

The Community expressed interest in joining IICA, within the context of a round table held in Madrid and attended by the ministers of agriculture of Europe and the Americas, and authorities from the EEC.

On behalf of all the member countries of the Institute, Piñeiro thanked the representatives of the Community for their interest, saying that it was proof of the importance Europe places on Latin America and its agricultural sector.

He added, "I am certain that this will lead to broader European cooperation with the Institute, and shows improved communication between the Americas and the European Community."

IICA has 32 Member States and 13 observer countries: Austria, Belgium, Egypt, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Portugal, South Korea, Spain and Romania. The EEC is made up of 12 nations.

*The PLANLAC promotes the development of an agricultural sector that is modern, dynamic, linked to agroindustry and capable of contributing to the countries efforts to achieve equitable and sustainable development.*



# OAS and IICA Step Up Institutional Coordination

**T**he Organization of American States (OAS) and IICA will increase inter-institutional coordination and develop new joint programs for their member countries.

With this in mind, an OAS mission headed by the Deputy Secretary General, Trinidadian Ambassador Christopher Thomas, held working meetings with IICA officials, during which a joint technical assistance agreement between the OAS and IICA, signed in 1974, was updated.

Thomas' visit to IICA was in response to the express interest of the Secretary General of the OAS, Joao Clemente Baena Soares, in identifying areas of action in which the OAS can work more closely with IICA and other specialized agencies of the inter-American system, a mandate passed down by the OAS General Assembly last May.

The General Secretariat is the permanent governing body of the OAS in charge of complying with the agreements of the General Assembly, which



Photo/R. Escobar

*The Assistant Secretary General of the OAS, Christopher Thomas, and his advisor, Michael Alleyne, met on several occasions with IICA authorities.*

decides on the policies and actions to be taken on issues of common interest.

According to the new agreement, closer ties with IICA will take shape through activities described in a document containing 20 specific proposals to systematize support in matters related to drugs, science and technology, rural and regional development,

border area projects and training programs for young people.

In referring to the scope of the agreement, IICA's Deputy Director General, L. Harlan Davis, indicated that closer ties with the OAS will make it possible "to avoid a duplication of activities and thus increase the efficiency of our programs."

## Inter-Agency Cooperation Promoted

The agreement on the management of renewable natural resources for sustainable agricultural development in the American tropics was signed by the Directors General of IICA, Martin Piñeiro; CATIE, Rodrigo Tarté; and CIAT, Gustavo Nores.

This mechanism will contribute to obtaining optimum use of natural re-

sources for agricultural growth and development, without detriment to the natural resource base or the environment.

Collaboration will take the form of exchanges of institutional information on different operations, consultation on institutional plans, and the promotion of joint cooperation projects with other international and national agencies working in the same areas.

**T**he Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) recently signed an agreement creating a liaison committee to promote and coordinate collaboration among research and development agencies that work in the agricultural, forestry and environmental sectors of the Latin American tropics.



## IICA/IDB Seminar

During a seminar organized by IICA and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), journalists from 13 countries of the region analyzed the impact the Enterprise Initiative for the Americas would have on modernization in Latin America and the Caribbean. The journalists, specialists in economic and agricultural issues, studied the key points of the "Bush Plan": the promotion of investments, improved inter-sectoral relations and foreign debt.

Photo/R. Escobar



## France will Strengthen Technical Cooperation



Photo/R. Escobar

*The French Ambassador to Costa Rica, Helene Dubois, underscored the importance of the agreement to increase technical cooperation in the region. With her is Ambassador Pierre Baeyens.*

In an effort to "forge closer ties" with Central America and the Caribbean,

France will upgrade its joint cooperation activities in technical, scientific

and educational matters, in order to help reactivate the agricultural sector.

During a three-day meeting held in October at IICA Headquarters, French officials and cultural attachés for cooperation indicated that French cooperation with IICA for the 1992-94 period, which represents 70 percent of the funds earmarked for the region, will be regional instead of bilateral, and will include a 10 percent increase for this year's budget.

The Regional Counsellor for Cooperation in Central America of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Phillippe Cujo, said that the new financial orientation is geared to meeting the needs created by the new turn taken by the agricultural policies on trade and integration in the region.

Cujo reported that during the meeting it was agreed to boost support for the 16 existing programs dealing with agriculture, rural agroindustry, agroforestry, social science, natural disasters, tourism, energy and telecommunications, among others.



# Honduran and Brazilian Photographers Win International Contest

Photographers from Honduras and Brazil won first prize in the color and black and white categories, respectively, in the international photography contest sponsored by IICA and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), on the theme of "Agriculture and the Environment."

Photographers from the entire American continent were invited to compete.

Hugo Erick Gil, of Honduras, won first prize in the color category with his entry "A Torch Without Glory," which illustrates the misuse of fire in agriculture. The entry "Burning and Production" by the Brazilian Joao Roberto Ripper, which deals with the same topic, won first prize in the black-and-white category.

The official announcement was made by the panel of judges, made up of Luiz Claudio Marigo, of Brazil; Harold Edward Oxley, of Barbados; and Carlos Manuel Uribe, of Costa Rica. In addition to naming the winners, the panel awarded seven honorable mentions and selected a group of photographs for a traveling exhibition. The judges studied a total of 388 photographs.

The second place winners were, in the color category, Antonio Carlos Matos Dos Santos Gauderio, of Brazil, with his entry entitled "Pastures Turned to Sand." In the black-and-white category, Joao Roberto Ripper, from Brazil, also won second prize for his work "Brazil Nut Tree." Elda Harrington, of Argentina, placed third in the color category with her entry "Furrows" while Mario Arturo Rojas Porras, of Costa Rica, won with his photograph "River: Source of Life and Death" in black and white.

The aim of the 1991 IICA/GTZ contest was to create interest and concern in

society for the urgent need to protect natural resources.

In explaining their selection of the first prize winners, the panel felt that both Gil and Ripper had managed to capture eloquently the passage of time, an essential element of photography.

They added that both photographs met all six criteria used to judge the works: relevance to and treatment of the theme, composition, lighting, visual impact, originality and technical quality.

With regard to second place prizes, it was the opinion of the judges that both photographs used highly symbolic means to represent inappropriate agricultural practices: one depicting the overgrazing of grasslands to the

In justifying their selections for third place, the judges stated that in addition to meeting contest requirements, the winning photograph in the color category showed excellent use of lighting, and that the entry in the black-and-white category conveyed a strong environmental message.

The first place winners will be awarded US\$2,000, while US\$1,000 and US\$500 will go to the second and third place winners, respectively. Also, the photographers whose works were included in the traveling exhibition will receive a certificate of participation.

Looking back on the contest, which involved photographers from 20 countries, the judges called it an important initiative using a universal medium such as photography to enhance public awareness of social and environmental problems.

A book containing the best photographs submitted in this contest will be published in the near future, with sup-



Photo/R. Escobar

Harold Oxley, Carlos Manuel Uribe and Luis Carlos Marigo judged a total of 388 photographs. With them is Sabine Müller, of GTZ, and Xinia Lopez, who coordinated the contest.

point of desertification, and the other, deforestation and the deterioration of natural resources.

port from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).





Photo: G. H. Castagnoli, Uruguay

Participants will be able to share their experiences with the rural populations of their countries.

## Communication will Contribute to Natural Resource Conservation

The theme of an international workshop held at IICA Headquarters through November 8 was the use of communications to contribute to natural resource conservation, and the promotion of sustainable development in Central America and Panama.

During the ten-week workshop, ecologists and field personnel from the subregion learned more about the

policies and philosophy of sustainable development, and studied different aspects of communication, including planning, message analysis and education.

Another area of study was printed and audio material production (projects, brochures, posters, radio spots and talks, interviews and radio talk shows), to be used in fostering discussion and

## Technicians Trained in Data Base Management

Caribbean technicians recently upgraded their skills in managing plant protection information at a workshop held in Saint Lucia.

The activity, organized by IICA's Office in that country, is part of a project carried out with the member countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

The working sessions dealt with both the theoretical and practical aspects of data base management, specifically as pertains to plant quarantine and pesticide control.

One of the aims of the workshop was to equip the countries of the subregion (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) to streamline decision making in this field.

educating the public on the topics of sustainable development and natural resource conservation.

The Director of the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA), Jose R. Nagel, stated that the workshop had provided the participants with valuable experience, which, in turn, they could share with their institutions and the rural populations in their countries.

He added that the printed and audio materials produced during the workshop would be distributed in 1992 to public and private institutions in an effort to introduce the public to the topic of ecology.

This was the third course offered in 1991 on multimedia applied to agricultural development as part of a joint project between IICA and the Radio Nederland Training Centre. Over a period of three years, more than 2,000 persons have received training through this project, including extension agents, agronomists, veterinarians, educators, project chiefs and farmers.

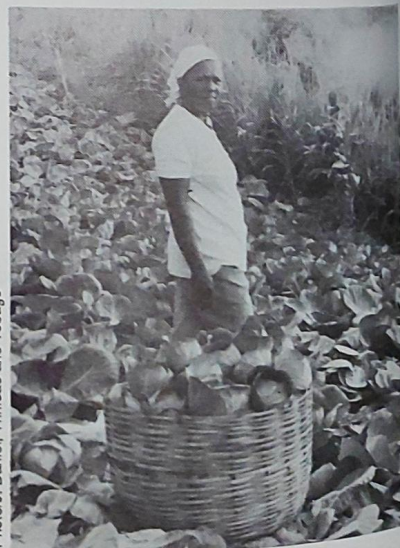


Photo: J. Daniel, Trinidad and Tobago

The goal is to expedite decision making on plant health in the countries of the Caribbean.



## Echo for Eco

By Martin E. Piñero (\*)

In the future, when historians look back and try to retrace the process through which humanity established institutions and policies to deal with environmental problems, 1992 will likely stand out as a very important year. At least this is surely the hope of the organizers of Eco-92 (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development), to be held in Rio de Janeiro in mid-1992.

During this event, governments and their institutions, private sector public service organizations, international agencies and many others will meet to attempt to define an agenda for the future. Also, and perhaps for the first time in a long time, the entrepreneurial sector of the Americas will take part in the deliberations, out of a genuine desire to be participants in history.

An example of this is the recent meeting sponsored by the Business Council for Sustainable Development (BCSD), an organization which recently appeared on the scene, adding to the expectations surrounding Eco-92. During the meeting, leaders of industry, trade, finance and agriculture from Latin America examined the concept of sustainable development from every angle, to determine what role the private sector in Latin America can play.

The concern of entrepreneurs is understandable. Given that current trends in the world today are oriented toward the liberalization of markets and private enterprises, entrepreneurs cannot be indifferent to the responsibility this implies.

As citizens of a world which must be protected from the progressive deterioration of its environment, entrepreneurs face the same obligations as politicians, government officials and other leaders.

Since it is they who initiate economic projects, they are aware that they must find ways to replace investments that plunder

natural resources with others that are in harmony with the need to preserve the Earth for our children and grandchildren.

Sustainable development is defined, correctly, as a style of development which is compatible with ecological

humanism. It is not seen as a dichotomy between economic growth and preservation of the environment, but rather as a synthesis of both concepts. In business terms, to produce without destroying means to live off the interest without using up the capital.

The vitality, imagination and courage of the entrepreneurial sector will be put to the test in finding solutions for problems such as: how to produce goods and services without burning fossil fuels, how to replace products which damage the ozone layer and how to treat toxic materials and wastes in order to avoid the contamination of water sources and the air we breathe.

Nor can entrepreneurs turn their backs on the need for environmental policies designed to avoid the catastrophic overheating of the Earth and the poisoning of its soils. Without their collaboration, such policies may lead nowhere.

During the recent symposium in Rio de Janeiro, entrepreneurs looked at all these issues, and at how the private sector can bring about a change in public opinion throughout the Americas and, particularly, in other entrepreneurs, which is the only way to guarantee that the private sector will be able to fulfill its role in sustainable development.

The participation of entrepreneurs should be promoted and clearly focused. Unless all the protagonists in the process of environmentally-sound development are heard, the representatives of the 160 nations that will participate in Eco-92 may very well write and approve a magnificent declaration that would produce no echo throughout the world.

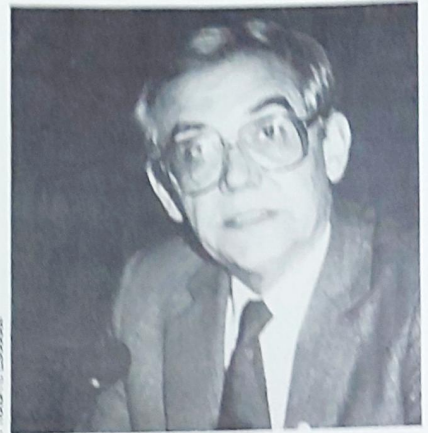


Photo: R. Esquivel

(\*) Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)



## Programs on the March



Photo/R. Escobar

The Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Juan Rafael Lizano, participated in the inaugural ceremony of the workshop and stressed the need to analyze the economic processes taking place in the region.

## Trade Liberalization Provides Challenges and Opportunities

According to participants in a workshop recently held at IICA Headquarters, trade liberalization presents a series of challenges to Central America, adding that the scope of the impact will depend, to a great extent, on the subregion's ability to compete internationally.

The workshop on free trade initiatives and the agro-food sector brought together representatives from the public and private sectors, specialists and

officials from international agencies and institutions. They indicated that achieving competitiveness will require the development of technologies, improved managerial capabilities, and effective farmer organization.

The activity was sponsored by IICA, the Federation of Private Enterprise of Central America and Panama (FEDEPRICAP) and the Institute for Socioeconomic Studies in Central America and the Caribbean (IESCARIBE).

## PROCITROPICOS to be Discussed at Environmental Conference in Brazil

PROCITROPICOS, an initiative which seeks to develop agriculture while making sound use of renewable natural resources in the different subregions of the humid Amazon tropics, is one of the proposals that the Latin American countries will submit to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED).

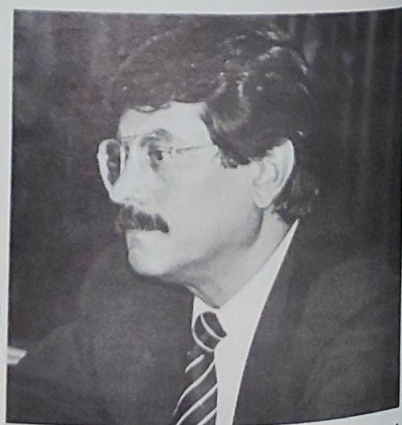
The Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), which recently began operations in Brasilia, Brazil, will present specific projects to this international forum.

This summit meeting, considered one of the biggest of the United Nations, will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from June 1-12, 1992. The goal of the meeting is for heads of government and government leaders from around the world to adopt a program of action entitled "Agenda 21", aimed at halting the destruction of the environment and promoting sustainable development in coming decades.

PROCITROPICOS is one of the farthest reaching programs IICA will carry out in the next few years. It supports the program and collaborates in the operation of its Executive Secretariat, which will be located in

Brasilia. IICA also collaborates in the formulation of subprograms and projects and in the administration of resources forthcoming from the countries and other funding sources.

Recently, Victor Palma, from Peru, was elected Executive Secretary of the program, and the Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research (EMBRAPA) assumed the chairmanship of its Council of Directors.



Photo/R. Escobar

Victor Palma, Executive Secretary of PROCITROPICOS.



## Advances Made in Technological Integration

Senior officials from national agricultural research institutes and programs agreed to adopt a joint stance on priorities and funding for the next decade, thus providing new inputs to technological integration in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

The agreement was reached during a meeting held at IICA Headquarters and organized by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The meeting was co-sponsored by the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the International Potato Center (CIP).

Created in 1971 to deal with the issue of natural resources, the aim of the CGIAR is to contribute, through international agricultural research and consultation with national systems, to generating sustainable increases in



Photo R. Escobar

*Participants proposed that the region become more actively involved in orienting the activities of international agricultural research centers.*

agricultural, forestry and fisheries productivity in developing countries.

The objective of the meeting in Costa Rica was to study a proposed TAC document on research needs in Latin America and the Caribbean, particularly as concerns biotechnology. It will serve as a guide for the CGIAR in allocating resources to the region over the next few years.

Specifically, LAC is interested in further breeding of principal crops, in-

creasing research on basic food products and developing studies on nontraditional crops, in order to increase food supply and exports.

The meeting approved a request made by Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) to establish a coordination and consultation mechanism to enable the region to play a greater role in orienting the work of international agricultural research centers.

## Support for Nontraditional Agricultural Exports

In their efforts to design proposals and strategies for a development model for Central America, the heads of institutions and agencies in the area recommended including the output of small farmers in nontraditional exports from the subregion.

This recommendation arose during an international seminar held recently at IICA Headquarters and organized in conjunction with the Regional Program for Employment in Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC).

The seminar also recommended taking immediate action in the area with regard to pesticide use, following up closely on the nutritional progress of nursing mothers and children un-

der five years of age, developing the capacity for ongoing technological support and improving the output of nontraditional crops which generate jobs.

This issue is of particular importance in Central America: in 1989, it exported US\$325 million in nontraditional commodities, 80 per cent more than in 1980, accounting for 7 per cent of total exports from the region.

Seventy-six per cent of these agricultural exports are from Costa Rica and Guatemala, with the most important being flowers, melon, pineapple, ornamental plants, roots and tubers, sesame seeds, snowpeas, rubber and tobacco.

This sector involves some 35,000 to 45,000 farmers, of which 60 per cent are small-scale vegetable growers in the Guatemala highlands. This means that about 2 per cent of the small farmers in the isthmus produce nontraditional export crops.



## New Research Agenda to be Defined

Specialists from North America, Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America recommended that a new research agenda be designed on animal production systems for the countries of the Third World, which will help meet the new challenges faced by agriculture.

The proposal was presented during an international seminar, held at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and organized by the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada and the Research Network on Animal Production Systems in Latin America (RISPAL), coordinated by IICA.

Over the next few months, through ongoing dialogues with donor agencies, working groups made up of the representatives from participating regional

and international agencies will suggest different activities to follow up on the recommendations made during the seminar.

During the symposium, concerns were voiced about development, such as the sustainability of natural resources, the impact of livestock systems on the environment, the role of women in agricultural production, the generation of employment and income, food se-

curity and the importance of livestock in the economies of underdeveloped countries.

In November, IDRC and RISPAL scientists began to study the reference documents presented in the seminar in order to take technical recommendations into account when producing the final proceedings, to be published in 1992.



Photo/R. Escobar

Eduardo Trigo (third from left to right), of IICA, identified new concerns related to sustainable development. With him are Carlos Sere, of the IDRC; Hector Hugo Li Pun, Director of the IDRC's Animal Production Systems Program, and the Executive Secretary of RISPAL, Manuel Ruiz.

## Concerted Action Advocated Against Sanitary Barriers

Participants in a recent international meeting agreed to join forces in order to reduce the impact of sanitary



Photo/R. Escobar

The Director General of the OIE, Jean Blancou, called on the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to become more actively involved in the organization.

barriers on agricultural trade integration in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the First Technical Meeting of the Committee for the Americas of the International Office of Epizootics (OIE), the participants approved a series of recommendations, including establishment of an information net-

work on animal health and the standardization of animal health certification procedures.

The event, sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and IICA, brought together agricultural health authorities and specialists from throughout the Americas.

Concern was expressed over the presence of diseases and pests which, despite existing bilateral and multilateral agreements among countries, have become obstacles to integration and trade in Latin America.

Establishment of an information system compatible with others already in existence in the region was proposed, at the recommendation of the OIE, as an instrument for dealing with this problem.

In support of this initiative, it was recommended that uniform models be set up that would make it possible to determine accurately when a given country is truly free of diseases and pests, as a means of eliminating obstacles to agricultural trade.



## Public Sector and NGOs to Work Together on Hillside Farming Issues

**R**apid environmental degradation has led to increased cooperation between public and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), which will work together in the coming months to draw up a common agenda for inter-institutional technical cooperation aimed at the conservation of natural resources and the development of sustainable hillside agriculture.

This initiative arose from a seminar-workshop held at IICA Headquarters entitled "Sustainable Hillside Agriculture in Central America: Opportunities for Inter-institutional Collaboration." The event was attended by more than 60 professionals from the isthmus, representing both the public sector and NGOs.

The meeting was organized by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center

(CATIE), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and IICA. It was sponsored by a Swiss cooperation agency for development.

This issue is of utmost importance in Central America because it is characterized by very hilly highland terrain, where soil depth ranges from shallow to medium. The percentage of land classified as such varies from 73% in Costa Rica to 95% in El Salvador. According to data compiled by IICA, the weighted average for the area is 79%.

The recommendation was also made to improve communication and the exchange of information among institutions, and to set up an up-to-date data base on the generation, transfer and adoption of technologies in use in the region for sustainable agriculture, and which take into account socioeconomic and institutional considerations.

## Pesticide Information Center to Open

**A**n inter-American information center, which will offer a data base on regulations and restrictions governing pesticide use, will soon be available to IICA's member countries.

Known as FOODSAFE, this initiative is part of a joint undertaking between the School of Agribusiness and Environmental Resources of Arizona State University and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

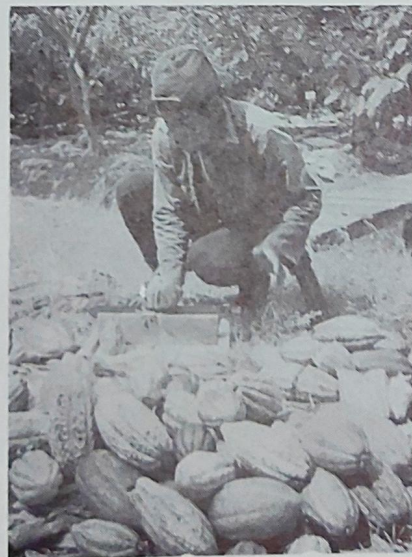
This data base will give Latin American businesses, cooperatives and other agricultural organizations access to reliable and timely information, with a view to helping them increase their food exports to the United States, the European Economic Community and other markets.

The data base will provide information on pesticide use and the level of pesticide residues allowed in export crops, as stipulated in international laws and regulations.

## PROCACAO Sets Agenda for 1992

**A**ccording to Guillermo Villanueva, Coordinator of the Regional Network for Cocoa Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO), this network will continue in 1992 to provide support for national cocoa advisory groups. In each country of Central America, these groups are striving to formalize their activities and become national cocoa commissions.

He added that PROCACAO will continue to collaborate with the Re-



gional Cacao Advisory Committee -a private sector forum- in studying ways the Committee can contribute to improving, in the short term, cocoa-related activities and the situation of growers.

As far as research is concerned, the network will continue to test new genetic materials in the countries of the subregion. Such tests are designed to determine the potential of such materials and their resistance to some of the most important cocoa diseases, such as black pod (*Phytophthora palmivora*) and monilia (*Moniliophthora roeri*).



## Action in the countries

### New Efforts to Improve Rural Well-being in the Region

The work being undertaken by IICA and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela, is a good example of complementarity of efforts among international agencies.

In Caracas, a mission of specialists from both agencies recently prepared a multinational training project on rural development, which will involve Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Panama and countries from the Caribbean.

Under this initiative, IFAD -the United Nations agency which provides funding for poor rural farmers- and IICA will upgrade training activities both in public institutions and in small-farmer and non-governmental organizations.

In addition, IICA's Center for Programs and Investment Projects (CEPPI), with financial support from IFAD, drew up a document to attract investments to Guyana and Ecuador, for alleviating rural poverty in those countries. In Ecuador, the initiative will benefit indigenous and mestizo farmers in the Saraguro and Loja areas.



Photo/E. Quiñana, Ecuador

*IICA and IFAD are working to mitigate rural poverty.*

### Agriculture Can Stimulate Economic Growth

During the Seventeenth Ministerial Council Meeting of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, stated that in most of the countries of the region, the agricultural sector is one of the most competitive and, as such, is a viable means for promoting a new process of economic growth.

The meeting took place in Caracas, where Piñeiro, with leaders from other regional organizations, participated in the sessions of SELA's highest governing body, to discuss foreign debt, integration, cooperation, trade and international relations, among other topics.



*The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, and the Deputy Minister of Foreign Relations of Venezuela, Rosario Orellana, sign a technical cooperation agreement in Caracas, under which the Institute will provide support to that country's strategy for agriculture.*



## Rural Development and Liberalization Analyzed at Workshop

In Santa Fe de Bogota, Colombia, an international seminar on rural development and economic liberalization brought together Latin American experts interested in analyzing how small farmers can be integrated into the new development model currently being promoted in the region.

To this end, participants discussed topics such as: rural development in the context of liberalization, Andean integration and the small farm economy, implications of liberalization for small farmers, and, the rural development policy of Colombia.

Organized by the Integrated Rural Development Fund (DRI) and IICA, the activity fostered an enlightening discussion of the conceptual guidelines that should now orient rural development programs. To be taken into consideration are economic opening, trade liberalization and the ever more vigorous integration process.

Participants stated that under the new circumstances, the small farm economy -consisting of small farmers, landed campesinos, agrarian reform beneficiaries, among others- will have to compete in intense domestic and external markets, and for this reason it will be necessary to revise the concepts, strategies and instruments used in support of their activities.

## CORECA Agreement Extended Five Years

The ministers of agriculture of Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic extended, for five more years, the agreement signed with IICA in 1986 creating the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA).

During the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held recently in Madrid, Spain, an addendum extending the original agreement was signed by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, and the ministers of agriculture of the subregion.

The parties also signed an agreement through which IICA will provide technical support to the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of the Central American Isthmus in strengthening links between the sector and integration fora and mechanisms of the region. This Council was set up to deal

with agricultural matters in Central America. It will have a Secretariat for Coordination, to be headed by the Secretary of CORECA.

The five-year extension of the agreement was signed in response to the need to adjust existing sectoral mechanisms in the isthmus, and so equip them to participate more fully in the process of integration under way in Central America.

CORECA specialists explained that the ministers' decision to extend the agreement reflects the fact that the Council successfully completed an important stage of its work, which has been recognized by the different Central American fora. They also pointed out that this mechanism for consultation and coordination has been institutionalized, which was one of the principal objectives of the original cooperation agreement.

The IICA Office in Costa Rica has carried out numerous activities in recent months to support agricultural modernization in that country. Areas of primary concern include rural development, marketing, research and technology.

Firstly, IICA will collaborate in implementing the new price band system, which is being used to begin liberalization of subregional trade of basic agricultural commodities before December 31 of this year. Under this initiative, protection and stabilization mechanisms will be used to resolve policy and tariff differences in the area.

In late October, the Office supported actions to upgrade the National Agricultural Research and Technology

### IICA Supports Agricultural Modernization in Costa Rica

Transfer Council (CONITTA), under a short-term plan to determine what conditions are needed for this sector to play a greater role in the Costa Rican economy.

According to IICA Office officials in Costa Rica, its technological assistance program aims to contribute to developing an "effective, inexpensive and dynamic" research and transfer system which fosters the reactivation of the agricultural sector, through multinational proposals.

IICA also seeks to identify institutional constraints on agroindustry and will formulate a cooperation project to strengthen the Agroindustrial Development Program, which aims to organize this sector of the economy.



# New IICA Representatives Take Office in Ecuador and Peru

**A**lex Barril, from Chile, and Martin Ramirez, from Venezuela, were recently named IICA Representatives in Ecuador and Peru.

Barril, a veterinarian with a Master's degree in rural sociology, took office on September 7. He previously served, in Chile, as the director of the Agrarian Research Group (GIA), of the Academy for Christian Humanism. Among other positions, he also served as the research coordinator at the Center for Planning and Social Studies (CEPLAES) in Ecuador.

Ramirez took office on September 1, replacing Israel Tineo. He holds a Master's degree in agricultural economics from the University of Missouri and formerly served as Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Peru. He also worked with the Agricultural Credit Fund, the National Agrarian Institute, and the Agricultural and Livestock Bank in that country.

In Ecuador, IICA has continued to provide support to the Ministries of Agriculture and Social Welfare. With regard to the former, the Institute supports the operations of the Agricultural Research and Technology Program (PROTECA). In the case of the latter, it has supported the organization and operations of the National Rural Development Program (PRONADER).



Photo: G. Cordova, Peru

*In Peru, IICA supports government strategies to reactivate the agricultural sector.*

IICA's Office in Peru has stressed policy and strategy design, with a view to helping the government reactivate the agricultural sector. It also collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture's special project on farmers' markets and participated in several technical cooperation activities related to technology generation and transfer and agricultural health.

## Pioneer Projects of the IDB

**T**he book **Seeds of Change**, published recently by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), reviews innovative and pioneering projects implemented by the Bank over the last three decades.

Written by Frank Meissner, it discusses the transfer of skills, knowledge, resources and money, as well as other elements that play an indispensable role in the development of a people or nation. It contains data on research, funding, marketing, environmental protection, irrigation, production and rural poverty.

The author uses narrated stories to reveal means for building on the successes of the past and avoiding

mistakes in the future. They also suggest ways to improve the lives of millions of people in the region and throughout the world.

Since it was founded in 1959, the IDB has been a primary catalyst in mobilizing funds for development in the region, for a total of approximately US\$136 billion.

The book, whose prologue was written by Julio Luna, Coordinator of Inter-institutional Relations of the IICA Office in the United States, also offers testimony to the experience and sensitivity of Meissner, who passed away before finishing it. An agricultural economist, Meissner worked with the IDB from 1969-1988.

## Integration Fair Organized by Southern Cone

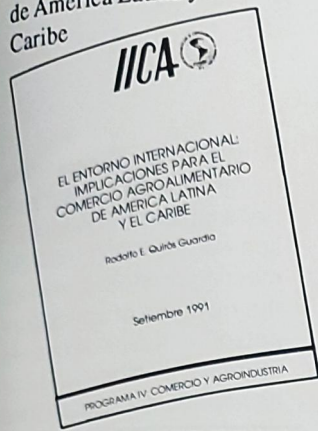
**T**he countries of the Southern Cone recently organized a fair on integration in Brasilia, called **I CONCENTRO**, which was attended by businessmen and representatives of government organizations interested in strengthening political and trade relations.

In line with current trends, characterized by a resurgence of integration processes and trade liberalization, the Fair displayed products from subregional agroindustries and presented several joint projects on research, development and cooperation.



# Publications

**El Entorno Internacional:  
Implicaciones para el  
Comercio Agroalimentario  
de America Latina y el  
Caribe**



**Rodolfo E. Quiros Guardia  
Program IV  
IICA Editorial Service**

This publication, available only in Spanish, discusses the strategic importance of the agro-food trade to Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) in the new and changing international context.

More specifically, it describes the new processes under way to bring about structural adjustment, trade liberalization and regional and subregional integration, as well as the opportunities and challenges for developing a new type of agriculture in the hemisphere.

This publication is part of a series produced by IICA's Trade and Agroindustry Program, which includes others (also in Spanish) on the following topics: Agricultural Trade Policies in Latin America and the Caribbean; Agriculture and Integration in LAC; the New Political Context Worldwide;

**Modernization, Equity and Sustainability, and Impact of Economic Reform in Eastern Europe on Latin American Agriculture.**

**Encadenamientos de producción en la economía campesina en el Ecuador**



**Alain de Janvry and Pablo Glikman  
FIDA/IICA Series  
IICA Editorial Service**

This book is the first in a series of studies produced by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), in collaboration with IICA, in order to define "strategies to mitigate rural poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean."

The research in Ecuador seeks to provide additional criteria for analyzing the processes and factors that contribute to generating rural poverty; increasing the production potential of the rural poor; and ensuring that they derive maximum benefits from all rural develop-

ment projects or programs. Another aim of the study was to increase the limited number of microeconomic and macroeconomic studies on the rural poor.

**Mujer Rural**

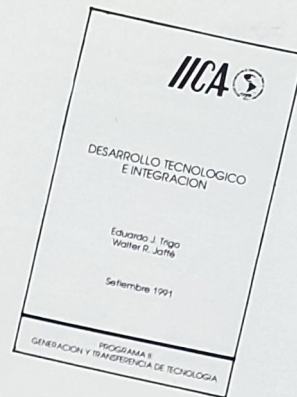


**IICA Editorial Service**

This book describes the contribution of women to rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the conceptual framework which guides IICA's actions in the field.

The book is beautifully illustrated with photographs from the 1989 IICA/RNTC Photography Contest, which was promoted through all of IICA's Offices in the hemisphere and sponsored by the Radio Nederland Training Centre.

**Desarrollo tecnológico e integración**



**Eduardo J. Trigo and  
Walter Jaffe  
IICA Editorial Service**

This work describes and analyzes trends in technological development for agriculture in the Region. It underscores the importance of integrating science and technology in regional strategies to equip the agricultural sector to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

According to the study, biotechnology is the basis of the new technological paradigm in agriculture as it makes it possible to plan and efficiently manipulate basic biological functions, a capability which has innumerable applications in industry, agriculture and the service sector.

*These publications can be acquired at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, or in the Offices in the member countries.*



# IICA in the News

## Spain



■ The Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) attracted the attention of the international press and was given broad coverage in newspapers in the Americas, the Caribbean and Europe.

The Conference, inaugurated by the King and Queen of Spain, was attended by delegations from 32 countries of the region -most of which were headed by their respective minister of agriculture- and representatives of a number of IICA's permanent observer countries. In his opening address, King Juan Carlos underscored

the importance of the Tenth ICMA, "not only because it highlights Spain's role as a bridge between the Americas and Europe, but also because it will provide an unprecedented forum for a meeting between the ministers of both continents." (ABC, Ya, El País, Expansion, El Día, El Comercio, La Gaceta, El Independiente, El Sol and El Mundo, Spain)

## Southern and Andean Areas



■ The Declaration of Madrid, in which the ministers of agriculture of the Americas set a course that will promote greater agricultural development in coming years, was one of the as-

pects of the Tenth ICMA which newspapers from the Southern and Andean areas highlighted.

One of the key issues emphasized in the newspapers was the ministers' call for the dismantling of protectionist policies that distort international agricultural trade and cause severe economic and social damage in the countries of the Americas.

The Declaration also refers to development and modernization, equity and food availability, liberalization of agricultural trade, the outcome of the Uruguay Round of the GATT, natural resource conservation and the environment. (Ambito Financiero, La Nacion, La Prensa and El Cronista Comercial, Argentina; La Mañana, Uruguay; Expreso, Ecuador; El Tiempo, Colombia; Economía Hoy, Venezuela; and several international news agencies: AFP, IPS, NOTIMEX, ACAN-EFE).

## Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean and the Southern Cone

■ Eight newspapers of the hemisphere published special supplements in connection with the ICMA and IABA meetings in Madrid, in which the new role of agriculture and other topics discussed there were covered. These newspapers also published articles by senior officials from international cooperation, funding and integration agencies, and by other authorities from Latin America. (Excelsior, Mexico; El Grafico, Guatemala; Prensa Grafica, El Salvador; Voice and The News, St. Vincent and the Grenadines; El Comercio Ecuador; Presencia, Bolivia; ABC Rural, Paraguay; La Mañana, Uruguay).

## Upcoming activities

**\*Managing the Environment and its Natural Resources in an Interdependent World. January 22-24, 1992. IICA Headquarters**

The objective of this conference is to fill the information gap on legal requirements that have been established to reduce risks to the environment resulting from agricultural activities. Another goal is to lay the groundwork for designing agro-environmental and rural development policies that balance the considerations of international trade,

environmental protection and health in rural communities. The viewpoints of both developed and developing countries will be represented at the conference, which is being organized by IICA, the Autonomous University of Mexico, the University of California at Berkeley, and the National Center for Food and Agricultural Policy/Resources for the Future.

**\*Workshop on Biosafety. February, 17-21, 1992, IICA Headquarters**

This activity will provide an opportunity for study and training on regulations governing the use of recombinant products (modified by genetic engineering), especially as concerns testing in the field of transgenic (genetically altered) crops. Organized by IICA and the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, and sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation, the workshop will provide the participants with an opportunity to broaden their understanding and knowledge of quarantine procedures in effect.



