

IICA



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IICA NEWS

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NEWS

IDRC PAYS TRIBUTE TO IICA EFFORTS

During a ceremony held on December 29 at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Costa Rica, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) recognized the work being carried out by the Institute to benefit agricultural development and rural well-being in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Dr. Ivan Head, President of IDRC, who was in Costa Rica to deliver the award of excellence, remarked that for many years the (IDRC had) enjoyed fruitful relations with IICA, whose programs and technical personnel always ensure professional excellence.

Upon receiving the award, the Deputy Director General of IICA, Dr. L. Harlan Davis, also underscored the

favorable relations between the two institutions in promoting regional development.

Mr. Head, accompanied by his colleague Dr. Fernando Chaparro, Regional IDRC Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, further elaborated on the work being carried out by IICA, together with the governments and other specialized agencies, in the preparation of a Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation.

Also representing IICA were Dr. Carlos Pomareda and Dr. Rodolfo Quiros, Directors of the Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning and Marketing and Agroindustry programs, respectively.

Speaking on the pressing need for economic recovery in



President of the International Development Research Centre, Dr. Ivan Head, delivering an Award of Excellence for the work carried out by the Institute, to Dr. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

IDRC PAYS TRIBUTE...



Dr. Fernando Chaparro, Regional IDRC Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Latin America and the Caribbean, Dr. Head pointed out that one of the major tasks ahead was to restore confidence in the economic potential of the region, not only among foreign investors, but among the local population as well.

Mr. Head, who is also a member of the High-Level Committee for evaluating the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and sits on the Executive Committee of Inter-American Dialogue, also expressed his concern about the negative flow of financial resources toward the region.

He noted that today's scenario is tragic and that even the regional development banks and the Bretton Woods Institutions (World Bank and International Monetary Fund) have become net receivers of capital.

The Director of IDRC added that the private commercial banks cannot be criticized by saying they ought to change their attitudes toward foreign debt, when the very multilateral institutions created to provide such assistance are now part of the problem.

Dr. Chaparro explained that the Centre focuses its activities in Latin America and the Caribbean on five areas: production systems for small-farm economies, with special emphasis on the Andean Highlands; agroforestry; nutrition; non-commercial fishing and the devel-

opment of coastal communities, and the supply of services to low-income urban groups.

He explained that in the process of implementing its projects the IDRC receives valuable cooperation from IICA, which in many instances provides its own resources in the countries to administer large-scale research and technological development projects.

"In this way, IDRC and IICA maintain close ties based on mutual cooperation which naturally benefits the development of the region," he concluded.

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THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI INTERESTED IN BORDER PROJECTS

The Ministers of Agriculture and External Relations of the Dominican Republic and Haiti expressed their keen interest in formulating and implementing projects to promote their border region, during separate talks held with the Director of External Relations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Jorge Werthein.

"It was extremely gratifying to note the enthusiasm of both governments with respect to joint undertakings to promote integrated development of the border area," stated Dr. Werthein who made an official visit to the Dominican Republic from December 23 to 26 and to Haiti from January 2 to 5.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

During a meeting in Santo Domingo with Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Manuel de Jesús Viñas, the latter spoke highly of the valuable technical cooperation which IICA provides in the agricultural sector of his country.

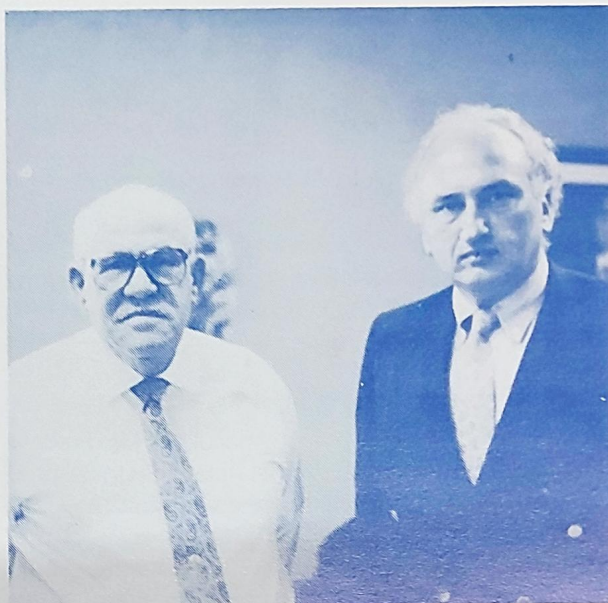
"We recognize that the technical cooperation provided by the Institute is extremely important for us," said the Secretary of Agriculture, who pointed out that one of his key functions is to achieve efficiency and coordination in his country's public agricultural institutions, and to forge links with the private sector.

During the meeting which was also attended by IICA's Representative in the Dominican Republic, Mr. Gilberto Páez, the Secretary of Agriculture also highlighted the importance of IICA's role in the fight against coffee rust and the need to step up efforts in this domain.

He furthermore proved to be extremely interested in the identification and formulation of projects to further develop the border area with Haiti and, accordingly, solicited the support of the Institute to coordinate the pertinent tasks.

Dr. Werthein also met with the Undersecretary of External Relations, Dr. Fabio Herrera, in the Foreign Ministry. Echoing the sentiments of Mr. Viñas, Dr. Herrera sought IICA's support in the identification of future development projects with the Haitian government.

Dr. Werthein, on behalf of the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, invited the Secretary of Agriculture



Secretary of Agriculture, Mr. Manuel de Jesús Viñas (left) expressed his government's satisfaction to Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations of IICA (right), for the technical cooperation provided by the Institute.

to attend the next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) scheduled to take place in Brasilia, Brazil, in October of this year.

Mr. Viñas thanked him for the gracious invitation and acknowledged the importance of the discussion on the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation --which would be analyzed at said meeting-- for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

IRRIGATION PROJECT

In response to the needs expressed by the Government of the Dominican Republic, IICA specialists have concluded formulation of the agricultural development project in three priority irrigated areas, which will be submitted in brief to the country's Secretary of Agriculture.

The objective of the project is to improve the income and living conditions of the farmers living in the environs of the Nisao-Valdesia, Pryn and Ysura irrigation systems, through increased production, productivity and profits of agricultural units.

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI INTERESTED...

The Secretary of Agriculture conveyed to Dr. Werthein his Government's satisfaction with the work carried out by IICA specialists in the formulation of the project which he considered to be extremely important. He also acknowledged, in more general terms, the support given to the Dominican Institute of Hydraulic Resources (IN-DRHI).

The project entails a total surface area under irrigation of 28,411 hectares which will benefit 8,997 producers.

HAITI

In meetings with Minister of Agriculture Mr. Frederic Agenor, and Minister of External Relations Mr. Serge E. Charles, Dr. Jorge Werthein explored potential cooperation efforts which IICA could promote in support of Haitian Government efforts to increase the sorely needed external resources required to overcome the difficult situation of the agricultural sector.

In this connection, there was talk of the forthcoming transfer of a veterinarian from the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to IICA as an Associate Personnel, who will work in the Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory to be inaugurated this year in the vicinity of Port-au-Prince, the country's capital.

The laboratory was built with funds from USDA and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and administered by IICA, for diagnosis of bacterial, viral and parasitic diseases and the performance of clinical analyses.

Discussion also ensued on the support the Institute could provide as part of a joint mission with members of the International Development Fund of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to identify and formulate projects which the government of Haiti could present to said Fund for financing.

Dr. Werthein mentioned the Fund's interest in supporting agricultural reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean and its US\$30,000 contribution to IICA which will help finance the preparation of a Plan of Action with that end in view.

"Both the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of External Relations appeared extremely interested in establishing ties with the OPEC International Development Fund, and undertook to support the steps taken by IICA to procure approval of loans to contribute to the development of the agricultural sector," said Dr. Werthein.

The Director of External Relations of IICA also reported that there was discussion of the possibility of Haiti receiving technical cooperation from several Latin American countries so interested --Brazil and Argentina in particular -- with IICA providing the pertinent coordination.

"The Ministers were particularly keen on this prospect and requested that we speed up talks with the governments of Brazil and Argentina to obtain technical cooperation from such important institutions as the Brazilian Agricultural Research Agency (EMBRAPA) and the Argentinian Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA)," said Dr. Werthein.

Lastly, on behalf of the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro, he issued an invitation to the Minister of Agriculture to attend the next IABA meeting in Brazil next October.



From left to right in the photograph are Dr. Alix Tannis, Assistant to Haiti's Minister of Agriculture; Dr. Jorge Werthein, IICA Director of External Relations; Dr. Frederic Agenor, Minister of Agriculture of Haiti; Dr. Estéban Fernández, IICA specialist in Haiti.

In Latin America: SPAIN PROMOTES FISHERIES

As part of its policy to strengthen ties with Latin America, Spain will be promoting the development of fisheries in the region through implementation of a cooperative program which will provide advisory services in the areas of marketing and the cold storage industry.

As a complementary initiative, Spanish technical personnel are also studying a proposal submitted by the Central American countries in a search for funding for the establishment of a Regional Fishery Training Center.

This statement concerning Spanish cooperation in this domain was issued at the inauguration of the Hispano-American Fisheries Event recently held in San José, under the auspices of Spain's Ministries of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) and of Foreign Affairs, and the Latin American Fisheries Development Organization (OLDEPESCA).

The event was also coordinated by the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) whose secretariat is the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

According to Spain's Secretary of Ocean Fisheries, Pilar García, that country's experience in marketing and cold storage can help Latin America improve the exploitation of its ocean resources.

In this same connection, she added that Spain would be financing a scholarship program to enable technicians from the region to upgrade their knowledge of the subject while Spanish experts visit Latin America to advise government bodies involved in this field.

The strengthening of ties between both regions is taking place at a time in which Spain is seeking the presidency of the European Economic Community (EEC), where it hopes to see greater attention given to Latin America through diverse actions and joint meetings.

STRENGTHENING

Latin American officials who took part in the event maintained that the deliberations provided insight into the Spanish experience and facilitated definition of a program for institutional strengthening to improve the efforts undertaken by the fisheries departments in each country.

According to the Executive Director of OLDEPESCA, Juan José Cárdenas, Latin America should seek international cooperation to promote the development of its



Spanish Ambassador, Dr. Alfonso Ortiz Ramos is seated third from the left. Beside him is Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Mr. José María Figueres.

fisheries "based on the principle of exercising our sovereignty over all maritime resources up to the 200-mile limit."

He added that this principle, already part of the international development process, was not negotiable, "and on this basis we can proceed to seek joint efforts."

He further referred to the funding proposal submitted to the Spanish Government to establish a Regional Fishery Training Center, explaining that such an institute was important as it would strengthen the actions undertaken in 1988 by the organization in its fisheries development project for the Central American isthmus. This venture is also supported by the EEC and the Norwegian Development Agency (NORAD)

As part of its action strategy for the year 2000, OLDEPESCA agreed last November in Mexico to promote "inward" growth and restructure its fisheries in an effort to supply food to the region.

In keeping with this same approach, the Director of the Fisheries Development Project for Central America and Panama, Mr. Mario González Recinos, stated that regional efforts in this domain should take into account the position of non-commercial fishermen, persons engaged in aquaculture and industrialists, in order to guarantee greater success than what has been achieved to date.

6 Central America: GRAIN RESEARCH PROGRAM TO BE CREATED

The European Economic Community (EEC) approved funding for close to US\$12 million to set up a regional program to upgrade grain research in Central America, which will be administered by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The program, which will be launched during the latter half of 1989, responds to the fact that the countries of the isthmus are facing serious difficulties achieving the food security they seek.

In the majority of the cases at hand, yields of basic grains such as corn, beans, sorghum and rice remain relatively low, without the increases required to meet regional human consumption needs.

...The strategy will stress exchange and reciprocal cooperation, to achieve, as an ultimate objective, integration of the national research systems into a regional system...

The initiative will seek to reorient national research systems to focus on agricultural research, regional coordination between research institutions and the link-up of said institutions with transfer systems to speed up the adoption of technological know-how.

The strategy will stress exchange and reciprocal cooperation, to achieve, as an ultimate objective, integration of the national research systems into a regional system complemented by other programs aimed at achieving food security. These may be concerned with agricultural credit, improved seed, agricultural extension, etc.

THE PROGRAM

The Regional Program to upgrade Grain Research in Central America will cost approximately US\$17 million. Counterpart funds of more than US\$5 million will be provided by the countries of the isthmus in the form of professional services of researchers and technicians

and access to the infrastructure available in their national research and technology transfer systems.

The major objective of the program is to improve the efficiency of the institutions responsible for agricultural research and technology transfer. Actions will include field work and the generation of technologies tailored to meet the needs of grain producers in nine geographic areas in the participating countries. Planning will take place on a regional level, to illustrate what can be achieved in a joint effort.

The program, which will run for a four-year period, will be signed shortly with the EEC. The Minister of Agriculture currently presiding over the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation of Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) and the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñero, will participate.

THE PROBLEMS

The analyses conducted by the Food Security Program, with the participation of the Action Committee for Economic and Social Development in Central America (CADESCA) and the EEC, revealed the various causes for shortcomings in grain production in this region.

Analysis of the agricultural research institutes revealed constraints and deficiencies of a financial order and others concerning the relative weakness of agricultural research programs in fields such as plant breeding and plant pathology.

Discrepancies were also detected between the concerns of producers and those of researchers because of the frequent application of a lineal approach to the transfer of technology. This has generally moved from the research stations to the producer, overlooking the prevailing technological conditions of the producer.

The analysis also revealed inadequate channels of communication between research and transfer systems, which hinders the dissemination of technologies and their adoption by producers. At the same time, the exchange of technology among the Central American countries is less than optimum.

IICA AND ANDEAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY SIGN AGREEMENT

A General Agreement was signed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Andean Development Agency (CAF) to improve agriculture, upgrade the provision and quality of food production, and encourage rural and agroindustrial development in the countries of the Andean Group.

The document, which was signed in December by the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñero, and by the Executive President of CAF, Dr. Galo Montaña Pérez, will be in effect for a period of three years.

This General Technical Cooperation Agreement seeks to provide a legal framework for future agreements, specific operating contracts or letters of understanding, based on concerns shared by both institutions.

The Andean Development Agency is the financial institution of the five countries making up the Andean Subregional Group (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela). Its purpose is to provide financial cooperation to the production sectors and to promote socio-economic development and the consolidation of the subregional integration process.

The Agreement states that IICA "has the recognized expertise to carry out studies and identify, prepare and implement agricultural and rural development projects."

It furthermore states that with this joint and complementary CAF-IICA effort "a more efficient contribution can be made to agricultural development and rural well-being in the Andean Area."

Those areas where joint cooperation could take place include: agricultural policy analysis and planning, technology generation and transfer, organization and management for rural development, marketing, and agroindustry, and animal health and plant protection.

Instruments for implementing the agreements include studies and research; direct advisory services, through technical missions or consultancies; technical or financial cooperation for project identification, preparation and implementation; training; technical and scientific brokerage, and administrative services.

The specific operating agreements or contracts which figure within the legal framework of the agreement may be entered into with other multilateral or bilateral technical cooperation or financial assistance organizations or the governments of the countries interested in promoting agricultural and rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

There are also provisions for establishing agreements with private organizations whose objectives are consistent with those of IICA and CAF.



Executive President of CAF, Dr. Galo Montaña, signing the General Technical Cooperation Agreement with IICA. From left to right, José Iturralde Arteaga; Dr. Montaña; IICA Representative in Venezuela Mariano Segura and Raúl Franco.

8 Argentina: PROPOSAL TO CREATE FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE NON-TRADITIONAL EXPORTS

At a seminar held recently in Buenos Aires, experts explored the possibilities of establishing a foundation with private and state participation to promote non-traditional agricultural exports from Argentina.

The proposal was set forth by Oscar Oszlak, consultant for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), following discussion of national experiences in this domain among governmental and private representatives from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Chile and Brazil.

IICA's Representative in Argentina, Mr. Carlos Garramón, said that this mixed organization was legally constituted as a foundation, and that it would be responsible, following pertinent approval, for promoting sales of fruit and vegetables, seafood, lumber, beef, leather and wool.

The seminar on the promotion of non-traditional exports was organized by the Argentinian Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, IICA and the World Bank.

According to Mr. Garramón, the foundation is part of a larger-scale project which IICA is studying together with the Secretariat, and includes "funding from the World Bank, which would be complemented by public and private contributions."

ADVANTAGES

According to Mr. Garramón, the foundation would serve to provide greater access to market information, especially for small- and medium-size producers.

Other foundation activities, said Mr. Garramón, would include "the timely organization of the supply of special products when specific markets are identified," as well as advisory services on matters such as markets and technology.

In this regard, he deemed that the foundation could be responsible for linking up national, regional or international organizations connected with the production and export sectors, such as the cold storage networks or packing systems.

According to the IICA Representative, although "we are entertaining the idea of a foundation, the basic objective is to establish an institution in Argentina to promote non-traditional exports, a sector and activity which is not currently represented by any agency or entity."

Still on the topic of the foundation, Garramón explained that this approach appears to be the most flexible, in that it takes into account both the public and the private sectors, integrating into the process those responsible for production and exports.

During the seminar, the Undersecretary of Agriculture, Mr. Fidel Braceras, stated that the Argentinian Government was supporting a plan to promote non-traditional exports by means of a "package" which includes, inter alia, fiscal incentives, funding and the lifting of almost all export duties.

Mr. Braceras entered into some detail, and explained that the initiative seeks to increase the Argentinian economy's participation in the international market, through the development of dynamic comparative advantages in technological and tax matters which motivate the exporter.

On this same item, he added that the "package" would grant business initiatives "firm and stable incentives" to prepare long-term export projects. These would include tax benefits, export financing and credit for industrial conversion and equipping.

Mr. Mark Wilson of the World Bank's Department of Agricultural Operations highlighted the kinship between the objectives of the seminar and the need in Latin America to promote non-traditional exports as a way to reactivate the economy.

To illustrate the importance of the non-traditional export sector, he explained that in the case of Argentina, said exports accounted for 15 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP) and 60 percent of export earnings. Agroindustry's share in the production of these non-traditional exports accounted for one third of the value of manufactures and absorbed 40 percent of the industrial labor force.

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

TECHNOLOGY AND THE REACTIVATION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Technology should be the main component for agricultural reactivation, although technology alone cannot bring about the changes required for making agriculture the driving force of a new model of development for Latin America and the Caribbean.

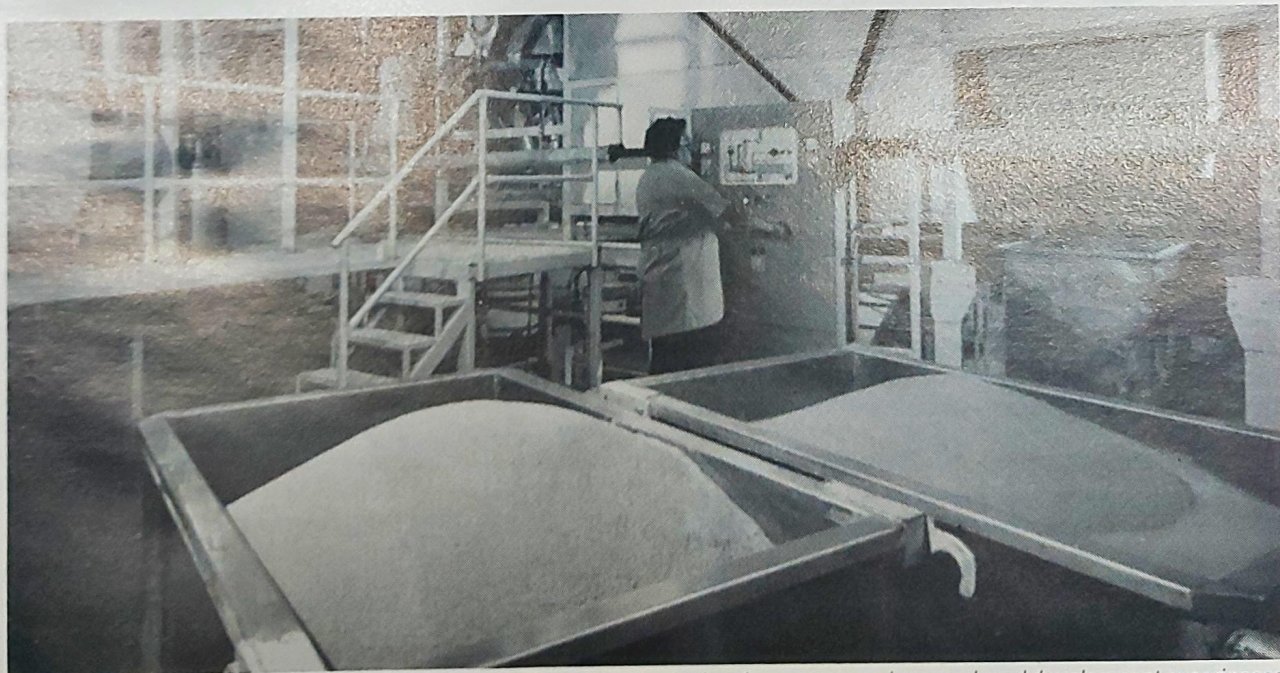
This point of view was expressed in one of the nine topical documents of the "Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean," which will be considered by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) when it meets in Brasilia next October.

The Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which met in Canada in late 1987,

charged the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as a specialized agency of the inter-American system, with the preparation of a strategy that will facilitate agricultural reactivation. The elaboration of the Plan of Joint Action is the Institute's response to the "Mandate of Ottawa."

As a part of this task, experts from IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, under the guidance of its Director, Dr. Eduardo Trigo, drew up a document that proposes a strategic plan in the area of agricultural technology.

As with the other topical documents, the drafting of this one involved a series of consultations with member



Latin America and the Caribbean have a wealth of technical and institutional resources and research and development experiences in the technological field.

countries of the Institute, other agencies, and the International Advisory Committee (IAC), composed of renowned figures from the agricultural sector.

The strategic plan in the area of technology includes the following key points: technological challenges in agricultural reactivation; opportunities and limitations for technological development in the region; and areas of action for promoting technological innovation. Finally, it offers proposals or ideas for joint action projects.

TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION

The renewed technological effort required in Latin America and the Caribbean must take into consideration food security requirements, economic circumstances, the urgent need to modernize the sector, the requirements of small-scale farming and the natural resources situation.

Since the mid-1970s, the region has become a net food importer, not only because of an increase in domestic consumption caused by population growth, but particularly because production performance was much less encouraging in this decade than in the previous one. Very few countries have been able to sustain production growth rates long enough to satisfy demand.

The nature of the technological change must allow for meeting the goals of food security, keeping in mind two kinds of problems. First, production must be extended to marginal lands where productivity is lower due to the lack of appropriate technology for those areas. The second problem is the relative failure to sustain levels of productivity in traditional farmlands due to the lack of research for proper maintenance.

Two factors that determine the nature of the technical change required in the coming decades are the development of international markets for agricultural products and the financial crisis affecting the countries of the region.

It is not very likely, at least not in the next decade, that there will be considerable recovery in international prices, which have shown a sharp drop since 1980. Within this context, technology should foster a considerable increase in productivity in order to ensure future competitiveness for the commercial sectors of regional agriculture.

Meanwhile, and as a consequence of the crisis, almost all of the countries have had to make adjustments to the increase in real exchange rates, which tends to alter the comparative advantages of the the agricultural sector. In order for the farmers to benefit from the opportunities resulting from that process, they should be able to reassign resources to new commercial sectors and have at their disposal appropriate technology for said conditions.

As for research and development, research efforts must focus on crops with dynamic comparative advantages and, accordingly, research institutions must show considerable flexibility in reallocating resources.

Also, stabilization and adjustment policies have produced a sharp reduction in the public budget for the agricultural sector. This is apparent, for example, in the drop in the supply of subsidized loans. This calls for the adoption of new technological possibilities which involve fewer capital expenditures and a greater use of manpower and natural resources.

Technological efforts must reflect not only the aforementioned points, but also primarily the very nature of the economies of the countries in the region and the role of the agricultural sector as a source of economic growth. Changes intrinsic in the modernization of agriculture are also a factor.

It should be noted that agriculture is of the utmost importance in the long-term restructuring and growth of regional economies, not only as a source of foreign exchange, but especially because of the multiplier effects that agricultural modernization can have on the economy in general and because of its effects on final demand.

From that point of view, technological policies for agriculture should also consider the mechanisms that affect the performance of all the elements of the agricultural system (inputs, processing and marketing).

Another aspect that cannot be left out of the analysis is the coexistence of two highly-differentiated production systems in Latin American and Caribbean agriculture. On the one hand is commercial agriculture, which is fully integrated into the market. On the other hand, there is a vast group of small farmers who lack adequate access to resources and services, but which represents the bulk of the rural population and, in most cases, a significant percentage of production.

Both groups perform differently in technological matters, and therefore need different research and development strategies. In order to have a positive impact on small-scale farming, low-cost or zero-cost processes of technology generation and transfer should be implemented to improve production and the cost/benefit ratio.

Agricultural technology development strategies must take into consideration the natural resources situation since, in the long run, it determines production patterns and the possibilities of generating, disseminating and adopting technologies, while also determining the advantages of one region as compared to others.

OPPORTUNITIES AND LIMITATIONS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

Although the region faces great technological challenges and marked needs in this area, it also has a great wealth of technical and institutional resources and research and technological development experiences with which to confront this situation. But, just as new technological developments present a series of new options that can be used beneficially, there is also a series of limitations and restrictions that must be overcome.

The new biotechnology, for example, offers one of the main opportunities for agriculture in the region, since it will strengthen to the maximum the comparative advantages offered by the region's genetic and natural resources, without causing serious environmental impact.

Nevertheless, one of the constraints on biotechnological development is the scarcity of human capital. This problem is compounded by an unequal distribution of human resources in favor of the larger countries of the region. To this is added the low level of funding for research, particularly when compared with the resources allocated to the same by developed countries and private industry.

The situation in Latin America and the Caribbean with respect to biotechnology requires immediate action, both at the national and international levels, aimed at establishing mechanisms for technical cooperation and transfer with which to overcome weaknesses and inequalities.

As for the public research and development infrastructure, it is important to stress the key role played by the public sector in agricultural technology generation and transfer. This has, however, been affected by the economic crisis and by cut-backs in public spending.

Budget cuts combined with the highly irregular flow of funds to the budgets has made it extremely difficult for institutions to function efficiently. To improve this situation, budgets must be protected both from political processes and fluctuations in public revenues.

Meanwhile, an imbalance between objectives and results is evident when an analysis is made of the experiences gained with technology generation and transfer for small producers. Steps must be taken to more closely coordinate research and extension activities.

As for new institutional developments, it is important to note that over the past decades, agricultural modernization has generated important changes which contributed to increasing the private sector's participation in technology generation and transfer activities.

Thus, although there is a wider margin for mobilizing resources and linking the main participants and groups to the decision-making processes, there is also a series of new demands pertaining to guidelines and specific policies to ensure the development of a technology that is equitable and consistent with the priorities of national development.

Nor can we ignore the growing importance of the participation of transnational companies in the production and marketing of inputs. This has a substantial impact on both the type of technologies available and the nature of policies drawn up, given the growing dependence on these entities for providing strategic inputs which contribute to food security.

When referring to the role played by international agricultural research centers, mention should be made of the development over the past 20 years of the international centers belonging to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), and the more recent appearance of international networks and programs for cooperation in which national research organizations participate directly.

In spite of the major role the international centers play, the functional dependence between national and international research organizations has in some cases turned international centers into "interest groups" that

direct national research activities towards areas that are compatible with their own mandates, but which are not necessarily a priority for the countries.

It is difficult to determine exactly how factors such as the growing privatization of biotechnological innovation will affect international centers, but it is evident that if the latter are to continue offering their valuable assistance to national programs, they will have to reexamine some of their basic policies, particularly those referring to the private sector and its participation in basic research activities.

Another type of international activity in the technical field is horizontal cooperation between national and international research institutions, aimed at expanding the sphere of action of each and augmenting their resources through the exchange of information and the coordination and promotion of joint research activities.

There is no doubt that horizontal cooperation has led to great progress, and that much more can still be done, including encouraging the development of agricultural input industries in situations where the size of each specific market would not have permitted it. Nevertheless, in order to succeed, ongoing support must be given.

Finally, the human resources situation, as pertains to technology research and transfer, should be analyzed. Although the "stock" of human capital has increased considerably over the past decades, human resources available in the region are far fewer than those of industrialized countries. Nor can their scientific capability be compared since only a small percentage has received post-graduate training.

AREAS OF ACTION FOR PROMOTING TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

As far as technology is concerned, agricultural reactivation must include a revision of policies and institutional proposals for technology generation that correct or diminish the effect of the above-mentioned limitations, and take full advantage of their impact on agricultural development and economic growth.

The process by which policy decisions are made must be changed so that research priorities and resource allocation is made consistent with sectoral and overall policies, keeping in mind the concerns of the representatives of the agricultural sector. Economic planners, the sectors involved in supplying modern inputs, and

the different groups of research users should all be integrated into the policy-making process.

Likewise, the institutions of the national technology research and transfer systems must be strengthened and modernized. In order to carry out their duties, immediate action must be taken. Levels of investment should be increased, research priorities must be revised and institutional adjustments must be made in order to gain administrative flexibility and improve relations with users.

As for the relations between the public and private sectors, innovations are needed to facilitate direct collaboration between researchers from the public sector and from private businesses interested in technological development projects.

Technology generation and transfer for small producers also requires changes on the institutional and operating levels. Generation and transfer must be considered parts of one and the same process.

Another area of action concerns the consolidation of horizontal cooperation and the international transfer of technology, given its enormous potential and the possibility it offers of achieving economies of scale.

It will also be necessary to establish a new type of relationship between international agricultural research centers and national technology generation and transfer systems. Some systems in Latin America and the Caribbean are approaching full development and are therefore in a position to take on some functions that the international centers presently carry out. They can then be considered "centers of excellence." It will also be necessary to revise technical and financial cooperation strategies in order to minimize possible negative effects on the national systems.

As for the development of biotechnology, the question is not whether Latin American and Caribbean countries should begin to invest and work in biotechnology, but rather how and where to do so.

Areas that should be considered for upgrading regional capabilities in biotechnology are: human and scientific resources; the establishment of priorities; and the need to regulate, monitor, define and protect the products of this new field. Here, patent policies will be important because of the effects of the privatization of new scientific knowledge. Horizontal cooperation, which in this case provides the sole access to the critical body of scientific information, will improve negotiating capacities as they pertain to transnational cooperation.

THE SMALL-FARM ECONOMY IN AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The small-farm economy, which plays an important role as a supplier of food for domestic consumption and exports, can contribute to the reactivation of the Latin American and Caribbean economies if policies are implemented that fill the needs of the groups that make it up: subsistence farmers, small farmers and rural laborers.

This proposal is contained in one of the nine topical documents of the "Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean," which was charged to IICA in 1987 by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada.

The Plan of Joint Action, which will be reviewed next October in Brasilia by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), has been enhanced by contributions from regional organizations and the International Advisory Committee (IAC), composed of renowned representatives from the agricultural sector.

The document on the small-farm economy was drawn up by specialists from IICA's Program III, Organization and Management for Rural Development, which is directed by Fausto Jordan. It presents an overview of the macroeconomic scenario of rural development in the region.

It delves into the impact which the different economic development strategies have had on the sectors that make up the small-farm economy and highlights the contributions which subsistence farmers, small farmers and rural laborers have made to Latin American and Caribbean economies.

In addition, it presents a series of possible projects that can be implemented in the area of rural development, based on the needs of the groups that make up the small-farm economy and on its socioeconomic context, in an effort to ensure short- and medium-term results.



The small-farm economy in Latin America and the Caribbean generates 41% of the production for domestic consumption and 32% of the production for export.

ECONOMIC STRUCTURE GIVES LITTLE IMPORTANCE TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Since 1950, a model for economic development has been in effect based on import substitution. As it was biased against agriculture, the manufacturing industry emerged as the dominant sector, producing mostly durable consumer goods and investment capital.

This model brought about changes in the structure of the region's economically active population (EAP), since it gave relatively less importance to agricultural occupations. While agriculture occupied 54 percent of the labor force in 1950, this percentage dropped to 30 percent in 1980.

Four major processes exemplify the changes in the structure of agricultural employment: the massive

transfer of the labor force away from the agricultural sector; the change in the relative importance of self-employed workers; the replacement of full-time employees with temporary ones; and the increased importance of non-agricultural rural occupations.

Furthermore, the strategy of the economic growth model adopted by the majority of the countries involved the transfer of resources away from the agricultural sector. This led to increased urbanization and the predominance of the urban population, which, since then, has taken power and become the center of the decision-making process.

In spite of the good results seen in the agricultural sector between 1950 and 1980, when the regional domestic product increased two-and-a-half fold, the process it generated can be described as a "concentration-exclusion" dichotomy. This is reflected in the persistently high percentages of the population living below the extreme poverty line.

It is estimated that in 1960 there were approximately 110 million poor people, or 51 percent of the total population of the region. Although this percentage dropped to 35 percent in 1980, in absolute terms, the number of poor people continued to grow until it reached 165 million in 1985.

Projections for the year 2000 indicate that the number of urban poor will increase from 47 million in 1970 to more than 102 million at the beginning of the 21st century. In the case of rural poor, regional studies predict that there will be an increase from 65 to 70 million.

POVERTY

The models of primary agroexports and import-substitution industrialization brought about a concentration of wealth, which caused displacement of small-scale farmers to regions with fragile ecological systems. As a result, by the middle of this decade, eleven million small farms were established on nearly 20 million hectares, supporting approximately 55 million people.

This means that small farms represent 50 percent of existing production units, occupy barely 3 percent of the available farmland and support 42 percent of the

rural population. Moreover, in 27 countries of the region, the number of small farms increased at an annual rate of 2.2 percent between 1950 and 1980, while their average size decreased from 2.4 hectares to 2.1.

These figures indicate a sharp contrast between the agricultural structure and the rest of the economy's inability to absorb the excess rural labor force, while also pointing out that the incidence of rural poverty is on the rise in comparison to the demand for agricultural laborers.

Another factor that determines the degree of rural poverty is the limited participation of the rural population in decision making. This is due to the scarcity or weakness of organizational structures set up for enabling the rural poor to negotiate their interests with governmental institutions or with other social groups.

AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION

Although small-scale farmers, subsistence farmers and rural laborers have to survive in a difficult environment, official studies show that as a whole they generate 41 percent of the production for domestic consumption and 32 percent of production for export.

Small-scale farms are also important employment generators in the countries of the region, in spite of a scarcity of land and the poor quality of soils. In 1980, 70 percent of Brazil's agricultural labor force was concentrated in the small-farm sector; in Mexico, approximately 80 percent; in Ecuador, 72 percent; and in Panama, 60 percent.

The small-farm economy also participates in the capitalization of agriculture. With its family-based labor force and the mobilization of low-cost resources, it was able to produce food, export crops and other agricultural goods at a low cost, and thus stimulate the transfer of resources from the agricultural sector to other sectors of the economy.

Nevertheless, over the last years, the region, burdened by the weight of the foreign debt, has witnessed an increase in the rate of rural poverty, as well as a

decrease in its production capacity and in the use of its potential labor force: this has stimulated higher unemployment and underemployment rates.

Within this context, macroeconomic policies designed to alleviate the crisis (by reducing inflation, liquidating imbalances in the balance of payments, decreasing government participation and regulating markets) have also affected the sector, since these strategies direct the production structure towards the export market.

POSSIBLE ACTIONS

In order to strengthen the contribution of the small-farm economy to the reactivation of the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, the concept of food security should be redefined to combine issues of nutritional problems with the technical and economic aspects of production.

This would make it possible to take advantage of the 41 percent that the sector produces for domestic consumption, and in turn, would increase earnings for farmers, produce major savings of foreign exchange, generate employment opportunities, and reduce dependency on the external sector.

The small-farm economy can play an important role in generating jobs if rural development and macroeconomic policies are designed that diversify agricultural and non-agricultural production activities. Likewise, by encouraging investments in the sector, a greater number of women and young people would be able to join the production process.

The goal would be met with the timely granting of credit under favorable conditions, providing appropriate technology, legalizing land tenure and providing greater access to land.

However, a series of basic conditions is necessary to ensure the participation of the small-farm economy in the reactivation of the sector: a political will to reduce poverty, an overall and sectoral macroeconomic scenario offering differentiated policies--strategies that governments use to extend the benefits and services of the State to the groups making up the small-farm economy.

In the political sphere, any strategy to reduce poverty must take into consideration the different social inter-

ests that come into play. It must also be consistent in order to bring about realistic and efficient action.

Traditionally, plans for agricultural development in the region have been of an overall nature and have not taken into account the differences that exist among the farming sectors, their processes of accumulation and reproduction, linkage to markets and access to services, among other factors.

Therefore, in order to strengthen the participation of the small-farm economy in the reactivation process, certain basic elements must be added to guide both the formulation of policies and the definition of programs and projects for this sub-sector.

It would also be beneficial to promote the participation of small-farmer organizations in the decision-making process, as well as in the planning and carrying out of actions that affect their interests. This might encourage decentralization and deconcentration in public sector action.

Another way to contribute to filling the needs of the sector is to work with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) involved in the small-farm economy.

The small-farm economy can play an important role in generating jobs if rural development and macroeconomic policies are designed that diversify agricultural and non-agricultural production activities

One key issue to be discussed when considering differentiated policies for the small-scale farming sector is the need to strengthen the different institutions by modernizing the system used to render services, as well as by organizing small-scale farmers and upgrading their participation through training.

As a complement to this, socioeconomic policies should target issues as: providing access to land and legalizing land ownership, improving conditions in the rural labor market, diversifying production activities and generating jobs, generating and transferring appropriate technologies, marketing and creating special funds to finance rural development actions.

Dominican Republic: JOURNALISTS FORM ASSOCIATION

Specialized agricultural journalists of the Dominican Republic eagerly accepted an invitation to form a national association and to that end designated a committee to prepare a draft declaration of principles and by-laws.

In a meeting held last December 22 in the Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Santo Domingo, the reporters agreed on the need to organize themselves in order to obtain, among other things, better training in diverse, complex agriculture-related topics.

The committee in charge of setting up a future meeting to found the Association is made up of Evaristo Rubens from the daily newspaper "Hoy;" Antonio Cáceres, from "El Nacional;" María Hernández, from "Raíntel-Channel 7" and José Zayas, from "El Sol."

In addition, the reporters requested that Raúl Pineda, agricultural journalist from the IICA Office in the Dominican Republic, be included on the Committee.

During the meeting with the journalists, the Director of External Relations at IICA, Dr. Jorge Werthein, and the IICA Representative in the Dominican Republic, Dr. Gilberto Páez, together with the participants, studied the papers drawn up in support of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. They also discussed the role of the press in that process.

They recalled that the initiative to set up national associations of agricultural journalists, which would subsequently lead to the establishment of an Inter-American Association, was originally considered at the first international seminar held in Costa Rica in May 1988 to examine the topic of "The Role of the Press in Agricultural Reactivation."

A second international seminar held last October, with journalists from Central America, Mexico, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, also approved the initiative to form an Inter-American Association and urged IICA to provide its support in this effort.



Agricultural journalists from the Dominican Republic and IICA officials met in that country to examine the role of the press in the agricultural reactivation of Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA GIVEN ACCESS TO OAS FOREIGN TRADE INFORMATION SERVICE

In an effort to fill the information gap which exists in Latin America and the Caribbean concerning foreign trade and international markets, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), before the end of the first quarter of this year, will have access to the Foreign Trade Information Service (SICE) of the Organization of American States (OAS).

Created in 1983 by the OAS, SICE manages a data base which compiles the greater part of available trade information on the US market (tariffs, products, prices, etc.) required by importers and exporters from the region.

IICA expert on trade and agroindustry, Dr. Arturo Padilla, stated that SICE will enable the countries of the region to analyze and understand market operations, since it can provide data on a variety of items ranging from product quotations to import regulations.

A VALUABLE TOOL

Dr. Padilla noted that SICE will provide the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean with timely and accurate information "which can help increase the volume of some exports, since a deep understanding of the market affords better sales planning strategies for each country."

A study prepared by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), circulated last December, reported that for the first time in 1988, total exports from Latin America exceeded US\$100 million.

In order to obtain information from SICE, member countries must submit their requests through Institute Offices in the Countries to IICA Headquarters, where a computer will access the system and obtain a printout of the data requested. Subsequently, explained Dr. Padilla, this information will be sent to the inquiring party by telex or facsimile.

Dr. Padilla went on to say that this system will contribute to reaching the objectives of IICA's Marketing and Agroindustry Program, namely, to increase the participation of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in international markets and the strengthen economic integration efforts. He also noted that SICE would enable the countries of the region that export common products to league together to mobilize sales by placing larger quantities on the market under more favorable conditions.



Dr. Arturo Padilla, IICA Specialist in Marketing and Agroindustry.

In addition to SICE, Program IV specialists are currently exploring the prospects of IICA getting access to other trade information systems, such as through the International Trade Center of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

"We are talking about a system whose structure differs somewhat from that of the OAS, in that it covers the European market," said Dr. Padilla. He added that there was keen interest in obtaining information on the Japanese market -- a task in which SICE plans to get involved in the months ahead.

TRAINING

IICA organized a seminar/workshop to provide training to its Computerized Information Service personnel, as well as to personnel from the Costa Rican Chamber of Industry and the Export Promotion Center, on how to use the SICE system.

SICE functionary and expert Silvia Gutiérrez explained that the system differs from others administered by private companies in that it compiles, in a single data base, a wide variety of information at a very affordable price.

She added that interested parties need only pay US\$50.00 to have access to the system, in addition to a refundable deposit of US\$3,000. Service charges consist of an hourly rate of US\$40 and a fee of US\$0.08 per copy.

ERTEC: TOWARDS AN AGROINDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), together with other institutions, is providing training to technical experts and professionals to equip them with an integrated outlook on the problems of the rural sector, so as to facilitate their participation in the formulation of a new agroindustrial development strategy.

Explaining the need and importance of such training, François Boucher, IICA specialist in Rural Agroindustry from France's Technical Cooperation Agency, noted that "it helps them deal with specific problems concerning marketing, post-harvest handling, processing and the search for alternative food sources in their agroindustrial projects".

Since 1987, IICA, the French Technical Cooperation Agency, the Appropriate Food Technology Network for Rural Agroindustrial Development (RETADAR) and the Latin American Center for Technology and Rural Education (CELATER) have been promoting training activities for professionals from the Latin American countries.

The "Rural Sector Workshops for Technical Experts (ERTEC)" employ two different approaches. One uses technical modules which include the basics required to provide a theoretical understanding of the small farmer and the rural development. This approach analyses the small-farm economy and organization, rural development and agroindustrial promotion strategies, and the role of technology in the development process.

The second approach uses modules applied to agroindustrial development. They are used to examine forms of production and product marketing from a business and an administrative point of view, and in the project preparation process. In this last area, participants are guided in the use of parameters for evaluating agroindustrial projects.

François Boucher noted that two such workshops were conducted during the last half of 1988; one in Bolivia from September 19 to 28; another in Peru from November 21 to 26. He also made reference to the Rural Agroindustrial Network (REDAR) recently inaugurated in Chile.

At the request of the participants, Mr. Boucher explained

that the ERTEC held in Peru used a new model to analyze and systematize agroindustrial experiences in the Peruvian rural sector.

The workshop included analysis of six case studies of agroindustrial experiences in the Peruvian highlands. The case studies were conducted by the executing agencies, over a six-week period, for the purpose of submitting the findings to the course-workshop.

Boucher explained that the terms of reference for the presentation of the case studies included five basic points: first, a description and identification of the agroindustrial project, establishing the type of population, urban and rural concentration according to economic activity, principal agricultural products, neighboring cities and major markets.

Second, a project history, specifying types of problems, the problem-solving process, and participation of the community in the design and implementation of the project proposal. In the case of non-governmental organizations, the project history had to include an interpretation of development and the role of agroindustry, and the type of financial and human resources allocated to the project.

Third, a description of the technological features used, the technological flow, the number of technicians involved, labor, energy and basic raw materials; fourth, an economic evaluation of the processing unit, and lastly the socio-economic impact of the project.

According to the specialist, this new method will make future workshops somewhat more concrete "since, in addition to theory, participants will be able to weigh the proposal objectives against the desired results, and determine, in order of importance, the major problems and obstacles faced when trying to achieve these objectives. They will also be able to gauge the possibility of multiplying the effects."

Furthermore, Boucher explained that these experiences have led to the creation of rural agroindustry networks which will enable small farmers and institutions connected with the rural sector to have access to theory, methods, training and practice and to transform agroindustrial activity into a dynamic component of the economic and social dimension of the lives of small farmers.

TECHNICIANS TRAINED TO COMBAT WITCHES' BROOM

Fifty Costa Rican technicians received training in how to deal with a disease of cacao known as "witches' broom" (*Crinipellis perniciosa*), which has already been detected in Panama and which may spread to cacao plantations across Central America.

At the conclusion of a seminar organized by the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO), and coordinated by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), specialists defined a strategy to combat the problem.

During the seminar, which was also sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica (MAG) and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Centre (CATIE), participants concluded that the plan of action ought to include an "aggressive campaign" of an educational and informative nature, aimed at producers.

The initiative was endorsed by international plant pathology experts José Galindo of CATIE, Gustavo Frías of the International Tropical Agriculture Center (CIAT) and Víctor Merchan of the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA), who recommended the use of resistant seed, periodic inspection of plantations, disposal of material from infected crops and effective agricultural management.

The campaign will be administered by the Costa Rican National Cacao Program which operates a Prevention and Control Commission. PROCACAO hopes this effort will serve as a model for the rest of the Central American countries in their prevention strategies.

The network estimates that "witches' broom" represents a serious threat to incipient cacao production in Central America, where a scarce 40,000 hectares are planted and yields are extremely low; only a modest 200 to 350 kilos are harvested per hectare, while conditions should allow for as much as 1,200 kilos.

PROCACAO, which was established in April 1988 with economic support from the Regional Office for Central American Programs of the United States Agencies for International Development (AID-ROCAP) and involves the countries of Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic, is promoting a plan to improve cacao production and increase the incomes of cacao farmers.

A RELENTLESS ILL

"Witches' broom" has been detected in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, on some Caribbean islands,

and most recently, in the area of Playa Chiquita, Colon Province, in Panama.

Crinipellis perniciosa is produced by a fungus which causes production losses of between 30 and 90 percent. The scenario is quite grim because several plant pathology research studies have shown that damage may be total in neglected plantations.

The most characteristic symptom of the disease is the presence of several abnormal lateral branches resulting from the growth of a bud attacked by the fungus. The branches are broom-like in appearance. The parts most affected are those in full growth, such as foliage, flowers, flower clusters and fruit.

According to experts on the subject, the brooms may vary in size from a few centimeters to a meter, which depends on the vigor of the plant or the development stage of the affected part. They also note that the leaves which develop from the brooms are soft in texture, small in size and pale green in color.

Six weeks following its appearance, they added, the broom begins to dry up and turn dark brown. Shortly thereafter, pale pink umbrella-like structures start to develop on this tissue, which constitute maturation of the fungus.

The umbrellas contain a white powder -spores- which are either air- or waterborne, or spread by insects, man or the infected cacao seed.



Witches' broom on a flower cluster.

IICA OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE SKILLS

Twenty-three Office administrators from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) met from January 9 to 13 in San José to exchange experiences and update their knowledge of the new accounting system adopted by IICA last year.

According to Mr. Paul Sisk, Director of Finances at IICA, the activity also served to sound out the participants with regard to improvements which could be introduced to raise the efficiency level of the work conducted in the countries.

For a five-day period the participants refreshed their knowledge in such areas as computer sciences, control systems, human resources and operations, while becoming better acquainted with the Directorate of Programming and Evaluation (DIPROE), which they considered to be of key importance to the performance of their functions.

When assessing the work performed by IICA administrators in 1988, Mr. Sisk acknowledged the great effort that had been made to meet the challenge of expanded operations, as well as to adapt to the new accounting system --which is almost fully computerized and based on a large data bank.

"We have seen that the Offices made a remarkable effort and achieved excellent results. This is extremely gratifying because Headquarters is unable to provide individual support to all of the units," said the Director of Finances, as he reviewed the favorable outcome of the work performed the previous year.

In a cordial ambiance and frank exchange of ideas, some administrators agreed that the problem most frequently encountered was that of coordinating the administration of multinational projects.

According to Sisk, this inconvenience could be readily overcome through the introduction of improvements such as computerizing or automating management information, that is, the financial and administrative information which directly supports activity implementation.

CONCLUSIONS

Sisk appeared confident that the items addressed in the meeting allowed the participants to clear up most of their queries concerning IICA's new accounting system, which includes the use of microcomputers to perform almost all administrative tasks.

On the subject of computers, experts at Headquarters discussed the use and management of microcomputers, as well as the advantages of this equipment for the accounting system.

Regarding control systems, presentations were made on the responsibilities of the administrator; procedures for preparing and sending accounting information from the countries to Headquarters; new guidelines for the accounting of funds; and general procedural policies.

The attention of the administrators focused on other items as well, including IICA Plans of Operations and transfers between budgetary items, and an interesting discussion took place on the subject of administration and the accounting and financial control of external projects.



From left to right, Mr. Paul Sisk, Director of Finances of IICA; Mr. Manuel Lopezlaga, Comptroller; Ms. Roxana Murillo, Systems Analyst, and Mr. Harry Scott, Head of the Analysis Unit.

Editorial Service: BOTANICAL COMPENDIUM OF TROPICAL CROPS

In an effort to contribute to increasing agricultural productivity and diversity in the tropics, the Editorial Service of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) published a second edition of "Fundamentos Botánicos de los Cultivos Tropicales," which expands upon and revises some areas of the previous edition, and includes up-to-date lists of references.

This book is designed to provide agronomy students in Latin America -- particularly from the tropics -- with basic information on the origin, diversity, form and structure of tropical plants, so that they may apply this knowledge to the improvement and management of such plants, both for the purposes of local consumption and for export.

The basic information is presented by family and species, according to the phylogenetic system of J. Hutchinson. The name of the crops are given according to current Spanish usage in Latin America instead of using academic terminology: thus reference is made to "limón" instead of "limonero" or "nuez moscada" instead of "moscadero." The term "cultivo" is employed according to common usage, that is, as a cultivated species equivalent to "crop" in English or "culture" in French. In most cases the name is given in Spanish and Portuguese.

The genus and species of scientific names are given, and more common synonyms are provided in parentheses. The terminology, insofar as possible, adheres to the definitions and spelling employed in "Diccionario de Botánica" by P. Font Quer.

The author, Dr. Jorge León, of Costa Rican nationality, in addition to having a wealth of teaching experience, boasts extensive investigative research on the American tropics. His scientific concerns have taken him to different parts of the world, including tropical Africa and Southeast Asia. He has also published several works on edible plants of the Andean tropics.

Dr. León's professional experience includes employment at IICA, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE). He has also served as a consultant to other international institutions. In Rome, Italy, he organized the FAO genetic resources



project and in Turrialba, Costa Rica, a similar project for CATIE.

He has published numerous scientific articles and several books in his area of specialization. At present he holds a professorship in the School of Biology at the University of Costa Rica.

Dr. León's work is 445 pages long; the pages measure 19.5 X 24 cm. It includes valuable illustrations, as well as alphabetical listings by family, scientific and common names, which are useful tools for anyone studying the

ACTIVITIES

January 30 to February 1 TRAINING SEMINAR-WORKSHOP FOR TECHNICAL EXPERTS ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

For the purpose of analyzing a proposal for a multinational training project to train technical experts in the administration and management of rural development projects and programs, experts on the subject from Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Brazil, the Dominican Republic and Ecuador will gather at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). This event is part of the IICA Program on Organization and Management for Rural Development.

February 13 to 17 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF AIBDA

The Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists will hold its annual meeting at IICA to analyze the progress made in its 1987-1990 Action Program and to present the Technical Reports of the Council of the Permanent Secretariat, the National Representatives and the Committees.

The principal items on the agenda include organization of the ninth Inter-American Meeting of Agricultural Librarians and Documentalists (AIDA) to be held in Cali, Colombia, in May 1990. Likewise, the occasion will serve to hold the regular annual meeting of Costa Rican AIBDA members.

February 16 to 17 SEMINAR ON INTEGRATION FOR AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISTS FROM THE SOUTHERN CONE

In order to promote a greater exchange of information among journalists from the region and strengthen the integration process among the countries, the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with the support of the Brazilian Technical Assistance and Rural Extension Agency (EMBRATER) and the Brazilian Agricultural Research Agency (EMBRAPA), will hold meeting in the city of São Paulo, Brazil.

The seminar will be attended by journalists from Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, and will analyze the progress made in creating a national association of agricultural journalists.

IICA IN THE NEWS

CORREIO BRAZILIENSE

Brasilia, December 2. Under the heading "Iris supports common market for Latins," the press reported on the visit made recently by IICA officials to Brazil's Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Iris Rezende.

During the course of the meeting, the Minister expressed his satisfaction with the work carried out by technical groups from IICA and the ministries in preparing the Plan of Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Iris Rezende expressed his hope that the Plan would contribute to improving socioeconomic relations between the countries of the hemisphere. He furthermore reiterated his support for the next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, to be held in Brasilia in October.



Lima, December 8. The Peruvian daily reported on IICA's support to the laboratory of the University of La Molina in designing programs to help eradicate the fruit fly.

The newspaper interviewed Julio Sequeira Fernández, entomologist and IICA plant protection expert, who explained that with IICA's support the University will be able to produce 100 million sterile flies per week. The Institute will also prepare project proposals for funding and provide technical assistance to eradication efforts.



Paraguay, December 16, (IICA). The Paraguayan daily published a press release sent by IICA's Communications Division, reporting that the Institute was preparing investment projects in Latin America and the Caribbean with a fund of US\$3 million provided by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The paper points out that these agricultural sector investment projects will be implemented at a time when the Latin American and Caribbean countries are facing problems in mobilizing the funds for investments to benefit the development process.

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

IICA



NEWS

IICA AND IDB SEEK CLOSER TIES

Seeking to establish more permanent cooperation, officials of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) held meetings at the Institute's Headquarters at the end of January to discuss the possibility of reaching a medium-term cooperation agreement.

According to representatives of both organizations, the aim of the meetings was to draw up an umbrella agreement, that is, a very general accord which would lay the groundwork for a plan of joint action. The implementation of this plan would involve mutually agreed-upon working programs.

Representing IICA at the talks were Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General; Dr. L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General; Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations; Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Director of Program II; Dr. Carlos Ponfareda, Director of Program I;

Felix Cirio, Advisor to the Director General; David Black, IICA Representative in the United States; and Roberto Casas, Acting Director of the Projects Investment Center (CEPI).

Delegates representing IDB at the meetings were Julio Luna, Head of the Agricultural and Forestry Division; Jose Villegas, IDB representative in Costa Rica, and Andres Solorzano, expert in the field.

According to officials of both IICA and IDB, the talks were extremely productive since the meetings led to the drafting of a preliminary proposal. This document will be submitted within ninety days to officials of both organizations who will formally study it with a view to taking the initial steps forward.

In fact, Julio Luna stated that IDB is very interested in establishing a permanent association with IICA so that



The Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, exchanges views with IDB officials. With him, left to right, are: the acting director of the Investment Projects Center (CEPI), Roberto Casas; the IICA Representative in United States, David Black; IDB specialist Andres Solorzano; the Head of the IDB's Agricultural and Forestry Division, Julio Luna, and the Deputy Director General of IICA, Dr. L. Harlan Davis.

IICA AND IDB SEEK...

both entities can combine forces to contribute to agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Head of IDB's Agricultural and Forestry Development Division compared this goal to the mandate conferred upon IICA at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which took place in Ottawa, Canada, in September 1987. IICA's mandate is to design a "Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean."

The Plan of Joint Action, to be studied by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) next October, contains nine documents on specific topics as well as a program of sub-regional measures which have been improved thanks to the contributions made by member countries and resulting from discussions with multilateral organizations.

Since the Plan of Joint Action has been designed based on the inherent needs of the subregions, it is Luna's view that IICA has taken on this challenge in a very intelligent manner.

He added that "...we must stop thinking in terms of implementing global strategies and policies uniformly across the hemisphere since agriculture is greatly dependent on natural and sociocultural conditions which may vary from region to region."

AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST

On an optimistic note, Luna emphasized IDB's desire to strengthen ties with IICA to enable it to coordinate, organize and supervise visiting groups of technicians contracted to assist countries in the design of investment policies and programs.

To illustrate his point, Luna referred to the agreement signed by both organizations last December, whereby IICA would develop agricultural investment programs for Latin America and the Caribbean, at a cost of US\$3 million supplied by the IDB.

He explained that the IDB "would also like to work with IICA on other projects such as one involving an exchange of information and experiences among the various agricultural research centers of the region." Moreover, IDB is interested in IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, he added.

According to Luna, this would be essential for the IDB to present concrete proposals to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), as well as to international financial circles. In this way, the program could attract funds to be applied to research, generation and transfer of technology in the agricultural sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean.

A third area of interest for the IDB is to assist IICA in improving productivity and efficiency in the region's agricultural sector by making it more competitive on international markets, "in accordance with one of the most important goals of the Plan of Joint Action," he said.

Luna stressed that, once the Plan of Joint Action is drawn up, a financial analysis will be conducted and, based on the requests of interested governments, priorities will be determined.

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DIRECTOR GENERAL MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO GUATEMALA

On February 9th, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), made an official visit to Guatemala, during which he met with Vice-President Roberto Carpio Nicolle; the Minister of Agriculture, Rodolfo Estrada Hurtarte, and Nadine Hogan, Director of the Regional Office for Central American Programs (ROCAP) of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

On February 10 and 11, Dr. Piñeiro also attended a session of the International Committee for the Recovery and Development of Central America, during which its final report was approved.

WITH THE VICE-PRESIDENT

The meeting held between IICA's Director General and Vice-President Roberto Carpio Nicolle of Guatemala was useful in that it served to review the progress of several regional-level projects, particularly in regards to the Trifinio Plan, which involves the integrated development of the common border regions of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

"IICA planted the seed which grew to become the Trifinio Project," said the Vice-President, who added that there are "people of great vision at the Institute."

"I am truly satisfied with the level of contact I have maintained with IICA. The Institute's support for the project, as well as for the concept of Central American integration, fills me with inspiration and gratitude," he said.

WITH THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

During a meeting with the Minister of Agriculture, Rodolfo Estrada Hurtarte, to analyze the progress of the Trifinio Project, both officials also discussed other regional projects, such as the Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (PROMECAFE), as well as a new one involving the generation and transfer of technology applied to the production of basic grains. This project is to be funded by the European Economic Community (EEC).

WITH ROCAP

Dr. Piñeiro and Nadine Hogan, Director of ROCAP, discussed potential areas of cooperation between both



In the photograph, from left to right, are Dr. Roberto Carpio, Vice President of Guatemala; Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; and Mr. Rodolfo Martinez Ferrate, Advisor to the Director General of IICA.

organizations, with special emphasis on joint participation in a project concerning natural resources and environmental protection. Moreover, IICA agreed to present a document detailing the role it could play in the analysis of policies affecting natural resources and the environment.

COMMITTEE MEETING

Dr. Piñeiro took part in a session of the International Committee for the Recovery and Development of Central America, during which its final report was approved. This document will be presented to the five Central American Presidents who will be holding a summit meeting in El Salvador on February 13 and 14.

The Committee, consisting of 47 representatives from the Americas, Western Europe and Japan, has been proposing broad strategies aimed at the recovery of economic growth as well as a more equitable distribution of wealth. Both these goals are considered to be essential to bringing peace and democracy to Central America.

DIRECTOR GENERAL MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT...

In this context, Dr. Piñeiro referred to the potential and necessary role of the agricultural sector in the process of economic recovery of the region.

According to IICA's Director General, Central American agriculture is faced with the challenge of increasing productivity, diversifying exports, and ensuring an adequate supply of basic food to its population.

Since the region relies heavily on revenues generated by a small variety of agricultural exports such as coffee, sugar cane and cotton, Dr. Piñeiro warned that Central America is "very vulnerable to price fluctuations which occur on international markets where, furthermore, these products have limited growth potential."

In fact, according to the Committee's final report, exports of coffee, banana, sugar cane, cotton and beef accounted for 70% of all Central American export revenues in 1980. Furthermore, activity in the region's commercial trade centers suffered its sharpest decrease in forty years due to a dramatic fall in prices for export products.

The report added that worldwide economic growth in the agricultural sector fell to 1.3% between 1979 and 1986, compared to 4% during the 1960 and 1970.

Moreover, prices for the fifteen major Latin American export products fell by 25 to 60% between 1981 and 1986.

The report claimed that: "Central American exports in 1984 generated 30% fewer revenues than five years earlier."

In this context, Dr. Piñeiro stressed the need to increase productivity in all areas related to agriculture "because, if we don't increase productivity, we will no longer be competitive on international markets, even with respect to our traditional exports."

Moreover, he called for more agricultural diversification in such areas as fruit and vegetable production, as well as further development of agroindustries.

"What is required, in fact, is that the agricultural sector initiate the process of re-industrialization of Central

America, through the processing of raw materials, while benefitting from a relative advantage we have in this area," said IICA's Director General. He added that this process of re-industrialization may require that certain urgent measures be taken, such as encouraging and creating new sources of employment, in order to overcome regional conflicts and re-initiate economic recovery in Central America.

According to the Committee's report, there was a 13.5% unemployment rate in 1986, whereas underemployment during the present decade has affected almost 50% of the economically active population in the region.

Regarding basic food supply, the Committee's report recommended that protection be given and that priority be placed on the production of three basic grains: rice, corn and beans. In this way, not only will the basic nutritional needs of the population be met, but much needed foreign currency will be saved, keeping in mind the fact that "some 40% of the region's annual food requirements come from imports."

Furthermore, this measure could protect public health in Central America, which is currently in serious difficulty, as evidenced by the fact that one in every ten children dies before the age of five and that of those who survive, two-thirds suffer some form of malnutrition.

Moreover, the Committee called attention to the fact that women are responsible for the production of up to 40% of all basic foods, but face cultural as well as legal discrimination with respect to the right to own land.

IICA's Director General, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, stressed that in order to face these challenges, appropriate policies have to be designed concerning the adoption, generation and transfer of technology; economic incentives for the agricultural sector; the development of organizations responsible for implementing these measures; and revitalizing the process of regional integration.

IICA, along with the governments of the region, has prepared a report which outlines a strategy designed to produce the agricultural reactivation of Central America. This document will be studied this April by the Central American ministers of agriculture.

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR WILL HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT ON CENTRAL AMERICAN ECONOMIES, declares ECLAC's Executive Secretary

Agriculture is, by far, the most likely sector to wake up the Central American economy, through industrialization of its products, increased exports, and new jobs, declared Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

Moreover, agricultural development "will be the driving force behind the majority of services provided in the region," claimed Rosenthal, who attended a meeting of the International Committee for the Economic Recovery and Development of Central America, held in Guatemala on February 11 and 12.

The Committee, which consists of 47 members from the Americas, Europe and Asia, is preparing a regional development strategy in order to bring material support to the current peace process and to promote and strengthen democracy in the region.

The Executive Secretary of ECLAC explained that: "The Committee has placed considerable emphasis on the idea of increasing productivity in the agricultural sector, because this would be the only way to modernize its production base."

In addition to increasing productivity and diversifying agricultural production, Rosenthal stressed that there must be a willingness on the part of industrialized countries to open their markets to Central American agricultural products.

Rosenthal warned that: "A nation does not automatically compete successfully on international markets merely because it adopts a series of economic policy measures." He added that "there is definitely a wave of protectionism in the industrialized world, especially of a non-tariff type," referring to restrictive measures such as health requirements or the imposition of quotas.

In response to questions about the slow pace of negotiations concerning agricultural trade during the recent GATT Round held in Montreal, Canada, Mr. Rosenthal replied that "in the case of tropical produce, which is of particular interest to Central America, yes, some progress was made."

While admitting that "Central America has little influence in disputes between superpowers," a reference to the trade dispute between the European Economic Community (EEC) and the United States, Rosenthal insisted



Dr. Gert Rosenthal, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

that the region does indeed have a valid case to present.

"Although our total exports amount to approximately US\$4 billion annually, this figure only represents a fraction of world trade. Therefore, even if our exports were to increase dramatically, this would not affect international markets in any significant way," Rosenthal explained.

"It is for this reason," he added, "that we can appeal to our major trading partners to open up their markets. It will not have any major impact on them, but will significantly affect us."

The Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) is just one example of preferential access being given to U.S. markets and to those of the EEC for a region's products, in accordance with the Uruguay round of the GATT.

He appealed to Europe to grant Central America, "by virtue of the economic crisis which prevails in the region," an agreement similar to the one signed with African, Caribbean and Pacific nations (ACP) under the "Lomé Agreement."

The International Committee for the Economic Reactivation and Development of Central America "is also of the opinion that our region must be allowed reasonable access to international markets," concluded Rosenthal, who is a native Guatemalan.

SELA AND IICA SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), signed a cooperation agreement in Caracas, Venezuela. The agreement is aimed at encouraging programs for agricultural and biotechnical development in Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The document was signed by SELA's Permanent Secretary, Carlos Perez del Castillo, and by IICA's Director General, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro who travelled to this South American country to attend the inauguration of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, and to take part in the "Ceremony of Regional Unity," a conference sponsored by the SELA, which encourages integration.

Perez del Castillo stated that the cooperation agreement is part of SELA's new orientation aimed at working more closely with other organizations.

He declared that "the time is right to work together in order to take steps which benefit both our organizations, and especially the countries of the region."

To be more specific, SELA's Permanent Secretary indicated as priority areas of work with IICA: agroindustrialization, multilateral trade agreements and biotechnology. These are "areas in which it will be absolutely essential to apply new technologies in order to modernize agriculture, thereby ensuring the economic development of Latin America."

The Director General of IICA commented that SELA's involvement comes at a critical time for the region because Latin American and Caribbean nations are currently searching for a new model of economic development which will stimulate growth. Meanwhile, integration strategies are being tested so that the region will be ready to face the great challenges awaiting it in the next decade.

He went on to say that agriculture plays a major role in two ways: as part of a new strategy for economic development, and as a central element in the integration process.

In accordance with the mandate of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) held in Ottawa, Canada, in 1987, IICA is designing a Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. The proposal is to be studied by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) at its meeting next October.

According to Dr. Piñeiro, one of the most significant aspects of the agreement is the "rapprochement" to take



The Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro (center) signs the cooperation agreement with the Permanent Secretary of SELA, Carlos Perez del Castillo (right). With them is Dr. Jorge Werthein, IICA Director of External Relations (left).

place between IICA and SELA. This unity will enable both organizations to become forums in which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean can hold discussions and take joint action in order to meet their most pressing needs.

The agreement calls for both organizations to promote studies and research involving the region's agricultural sector, which could involve direct assistance in the form of technical missions and international experts, or through specific measures designed to stimulate growth (i.e., technical and financial cooperation, exchange of technical/scientific information, etc).

During his visit to Venezuela, IICA's Director General met with Dr. Fanny Bello, the newly-appointed Minister of Agriculture, and with Dr. Mariano Segura, IICA Representative in Venezuela, who reported on IICA's activities in the areas of technology transfer, agricultural policymaking and planning, crop protection, animal health and agroindustrial development.

Dr. Piñeiro also participated in the "Ceremony of Regional Unity," an event attended by eighteen heads of government or state from SELA's twenty-six member countries. During the event, Perez del Castillo urged his audience to make a historic commitment which will open the way for "a new understanding and approach with respect to the process of integration, based on the concerted use of our potential and resources, and with a view to furthering agricultural development in the entire region."

MOVE TO IMPROVE TRAINING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

On the basis of a report prepared by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), specialists from Latin America and the Caribbean recommended using the expertise of national educational institutions to provide training for agricultural technicians in the management and implementation of rural development programs and projects.

The aim of this initiative is to fill the void which currently exists in this area. Despite having already completed training in the design of rural development projects and programs, technicians are still lacking experience in the actual implementation, management and execution of these strategies in the field, where different factors come into play and must be considered in order to ensure success.

These factors include: level of expertise of non-governmental organizations (NGOs), priorities of public institutions, expectations of small-farmer organizations, interdisciplinary management by those responsible for organizing and executing the project, the availability of financial resources as well as the ability to implement rural development projects and programs.

IICA's proposal, which was presented to Latin American and Caribbean specialists, was drafted by a group of experts working for its Program on Organization and Management for Rural Development. Under the direction of Fausto Jordan, an economist, the group prepared a document describing a training program for small

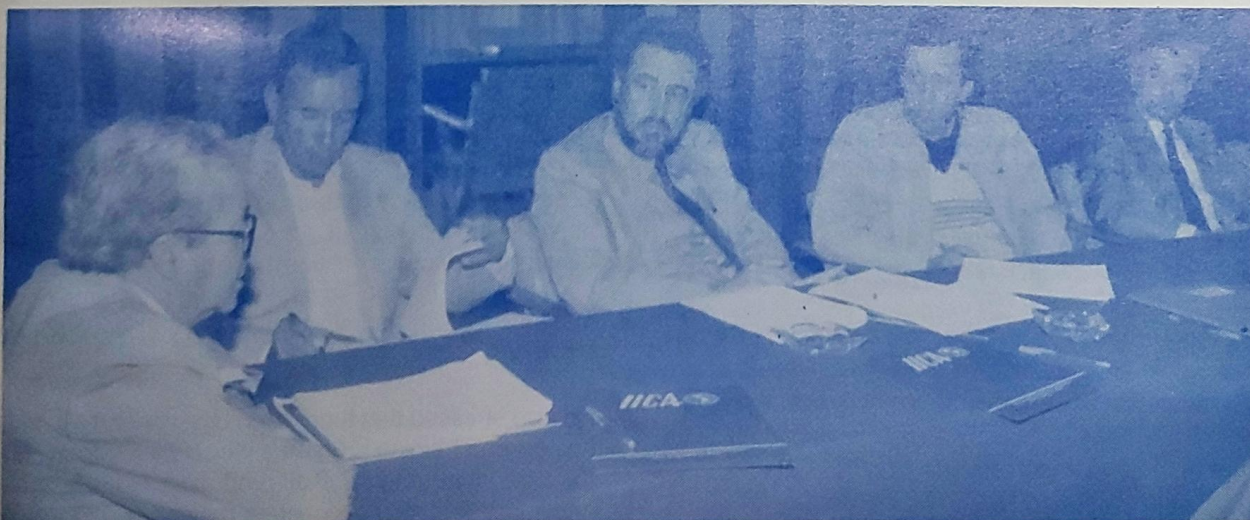
farmers in the management and administration of rural development programs and projects."

According to Jordan, the meeting was a success since there was an open dialogue where views about the project were expressed, followed by a reassessment of the most appropriate objectives, methodology, strategies and plan of action to be adopted in order to launch the project. "The idea was to gain from the knowledge and experience of visiting experts in order to improve the plan.... This is what finally happened," declared Jordan.

The experts suggested making use of national educational institutions for the training requirements so as to provide technical training, with the assistance of IICA, in the management and administration of rural development programs and projects.

In the initial phase of the project, one country each would be chosen from Latin America and from the Caribbean, so that national institutions can begin conducting training programs.

The second step would consist of providing teacher training to those who will ultimately be responsible for training rural technicians in their respective countries or subregions. This training will cover three basic areas: general information about rural economies and their importance within the national economy, management of rural development projects, and finally, the implementation and impact of these projects at the local level.



Participants engaged in a lively discussion of the training project, and reviewed their objectives, methods, strategies and plan of action for getting the project under way.

MOVE TO IMPROVE TRAINING...

According to Jordan, the idea of using national training institutions is a good one, since it will enable these institutions to meet local needs and could offer a viable alternative to help fill an educational need at the subregional level.

After the experts from Latin America and the Caribbean studied the project proposal and offered their suggestions, appropriate amendments and additions were made. Once the document is modified, it will be submitted to various departments within IICA for approval as well as to external sources for possible funding.

NEED FOR CHANGE

IICA's proposal stresses that this type of project should place special emphasis, both in terms of content and methodology, on the active participation of small producers in the planning and implementation phase of activities aimed at raising their standard of living and improving their role in the agricultural reactivation process.

However, the shortage of field technicians trained in the management of rural development projects and programs is an obstacle to the implementation of a proposal. This is evident in the fact that executor units have limited ability to absorb available resources and create new procedures to organize beneficiaries and increase their participation in the decision-making process.

Having conducted an extensive analysis of the Latin American and Caribbean experience regarding past training programs, the report explains that courses and seminars have traditionally taught a series of skills in the areas of planning and administration for agricultural and rural development without emphasizing specific socio-cultural or political factors.

Furthermore, this training has failed to provide the conceptual and methodological tools which would enable the technician to evaluate the project's actual progress and to make the necessary adjustments and modifications in order to ensure its success.

According to the report, training programs have, with few exceptions, regarded the organization and participation

of small farmers from a purely instrumental perspective. In fact, the small farmer is often viewed as a non-essential element in the administration of the project rather than as a way to increase campesino involvement in the decision-making process.

The report also points out the fact that trainees have mostly been directors and administrators at the national level, and have rarely included field technicians or outreach workers from rural development projects.

Furthermore, programs have not been aimed at strengthening or even providing a country with the ability to train its own field technicians. As a result, training efforts have been uneven and lack follow-up and the possibility of replication.

In order to correct these shortcomings, one of the project's goals is to improve and strengthen the ability of national and sub-regional organizations to train their own technicians by providing these organizations with physical and human resources as well as with administrative support.

Moreover, the project suggests that rural development be viewed from a different perspective, one which recognizes the specific and diverse needs of the campesino population, as well as the necessity to strengthen the ability of rural organizations to function independently and to manage their own projects effectively.

IICA's proposal also plans for a series of rural development seminars and courses to be based on the principle of "learning by doing," so that knowledge acquired can be related to practical experience.

According to Alfredo Pais, an expert from Argentina who attended the meeting, IICA's proposal is extremely well thought out since it identifies those problem areas which have typically hampered past training programs on the management and administration of rural development projects.

He also stressed that there is an urgent need for developing rural training programs which take into account the significant role of small producers in the planning and implementation of concrete measures. In this way, there would be a direct benefit to the small farmer as well as to society as a whole.

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

MEETING OF IABA: CULMINATION OF LONG PROCESS OF CONSULTATION AND SEARCH FOR CONSENSUS

The next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in October, during which the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean will be presented for its approval, will be the culmination of an extensive series of consultations, a search for consensus and the achievement of objectives, a process begun at the end of 1987, according to Felix Cirio, General Coordinator of the Plan.

"This is the year for putting the Plan into operation. However, while the IABA meeting is an important event, the process of generating new ideas and proposals for multilateral actions must continue, as must the process of agricultural development."

In September 1987, the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, held in Ottawa, Canada, gave the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) the mandate to draft a proposal which would re-evaluate the role the reactivation and modernization of the agricultural sector can play in the economic future of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Plan of Joint Action represents IICA's formal response to the Mandate of Ottawa.

IICA experts were not the only specialists involved in drafting the Plan. The process consisted of consultations involving IICA's member countries, independent experts, regional and subregional integration forums, other multinational organizations and international financial entities.

"This plan was not drawn up by a group of experts in an office. Rather, it has been a lengthy process involving

meetings with representatives of the countries and other organizations interested in agricultural reactivation," Cirio explained.

ACTIVITIES LEADING UP TO THE IABA MEETING

Before the IABA meeting, several activities for analysis and consultation will have taken place, including at least one meeting in each subregion, an inter-agency meeting, and several technical meetings. By then, the Executive Committee will have met on two separate occasions. The General Coordinator, Felix Cirio,



Felix Cirio, Coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

summarized the most important meetings as follows:

On March 6, 7, and 8, the third consultative meeting will be held in the Southern Zone. It will be at the vice-ministerial level and will also include organizations interested in the Plan of Joint Action. Among these organizations are: the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Participants will discuss plans of action for the area consisting of Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, Argentina and Chile.

On March 16 and 17, 1989, an inter-agency meeting will be held in Costa Rica, with the participation of at least 20 organizations involved in technical and financial cooperation. At this meeting, IICA will present a full report on the Plan of Joint Action, and the suggestions and opinions of the participants will be sought with respect to the proposal and complementary actions these organization may be interested in undertaking.

Among the organizations to attend the conference are the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank (IBRD), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC), the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA).

Another activity is the meeting of CORECA's Executive Committee, on March 30 and 31 in Mexico, to be attended by the Vice-Ministers of the countries listed above. Moreover, the ministers of agriculture of these same countries will attend a meeting in Costa Rica in late April.

The Agricultural Council of the Board of the Cartagena Agreement will meet in early April.

In May, a CARICOM meeting will take place in Dominica to analyze the plan for the agricultural reactivation of the Caribbean region. As in the case of the other subregional meetings, the focus will be on not only

strategic planning, but also on the plans of action involving technical and financial cooperation projects, and the financial and institutional mechanisms needed for their subsequent implementation.

IICA's Executive Committee will meet in mid-June in San Jose and again during the last week of September, in preparation for the scheduled meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

PLAN OF JOINT ACTION GENERATES ENTHUSIASM

With little more than six months to go before the IABA meeting, the General Coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action is satisfied with the response to the Plan received from the member countries, international forums and organizations.

According to Felix Cirio, "I believe there is enthusiasm for the Plan because it provides the opportunity to make the political determination to find solutions to our development problems and to move ahead in the integration process into a reality."

The Plan of Joint Action addresses these two objectives because it proposes concrete actions which contribute to the joint reactivation and development of agriculture.

As a matter of fact, the Plan has been the major topic of discussion at the most recent meetings of subregional forums on agriculture such as JUNAC, CARICOM, CORECA and meetings in the Southern Zone.

"A new dialogue has been launched with respect to agriculture, and a very interesting discussion has arisen on the role that agriculture can play within the context of overall development strategies. This is one aspect of the new leadership role the ministers of agriculture have demonstrated since the Ottawa conference and which the Plan is attempting to put into action."

POLITICAL SUPPORT

The General Coordinator of the Plan added that the key factor in the success of the Plan of Joint Action, or any

strategy aimed at agricultural reactivation and development is a political determination on the part of decision-making bodies not directly involved in the sector, such as foreign ministries and ministries of finance, planning etc.

"It is of no use to have good proposals for the agricultural sector if macroeconomic policies are acting against it."

One criticism of development in our countries during the 1960s and 1970s is that industrial development took place at the expense of agricultural development, as demonstrated by the fact that human and financial resources were continuously drawn away from the agricultural sector to other sectors of the economy, commented the General Coordinator.

"Therefore, the conviction must exist that this can be achieved in sectors other than agriculture. In fact, significant progress has been made, especially in the area of foreign relations, through the integration forums."

Cirio emphasized, furthermore, that the proposal to draft the Plan was not only mandated by the ministers of agriculture, but also was ratified by the Organization of American States in October 1987.

Last year, Dr. Martin E. Piñero, Director General of IICA, gave an in-depth explanation of the Plan of Joint Action to the the Permanent Council of the OAS. Once the proposal is approved by the IABA, the Plan can be returned to the foreign ministries for ratification.

Other important national decision-making bodies, such as ministries of finance and planning have also taken part in many of the local discussions.

"We believe that all the recent discussion on behalf of agriculture and the role it can play in economic development has influenced the thinking of decision-makers in these other sectors. In the months ahead, we will try to provide them with more information and work even closer with them," stated Cirio.

PLAN IS PART OF A MAJOR EFFORT

According to Mr. Cirio, the goal of the Plan of Joint Action for the Reactivation of Agriculture was to initiate

a process of generating new ideas and multilateral proposals which, while not guaranteeing agricultural reactivation itself, can contribute to this process on two different levels.

The first is to influence thinking on how our nations can confront the problems facing us, such as stagnation, the economic crisis, poverty, etc. It should also be understood that the models which led to economic growth in the past and which offer answers that are inconsistent with the current world economic situation and the situation within our countries have run their course and are no longer applicable," said Cirio.

"The Plan of Joint Action contributes to the discussion of the model to be followed and agriculture's contribution to same. This is a current topic of discussion in the different agricultural forums," added Cirio.

...there is enthusiasm for the Plan because it provides the opportunity to make the political determination to find solutions to our development problems and to move ahead in the integration process into a reality...

According to IICA officials, the second major contribution is that the Plan will contain proposals for measures to be taken at the subregional level.

"Obviously," said the General Coordinator, "if we intend to reactivate the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, we must think in terms of a huge volume of investment, which neither IICA nor other organizations alone can determine." In other words, the proposals for action are technical cooperation and multinational investment projects which will contribute to, but not guarantee, the reactivation process and to the strengthening of regional integration efforts.

"We believe that our strength lies in our ideas, since many in the countries and organizations are convinced that it will be necessary to make several major changes in agricultural and general policies and to make investment and funding easier if these ideas are to become a reality. To the extent that the proposals are accepted and the necessary decisions made, the flow of resources and the conditions needed for regional agricultural development will be generated," Cirio stated.

Dominican Republic: ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISTS FORMALLY CONSTITUTED

In February, the Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Santo Domingo was the site for the ceremony to formally constitute the Dominican Association of Agricultural Journalists (ADOCA), whose main objective it will be to work on behalf of agricultural development and to upgrade the cultural and professional level of its members.

The idea to create such a group was one outcome of the participation of several Dominican journalists in the second seminar held jointly in Costa Rica by IICA and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) on the role of the press in agricultural reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

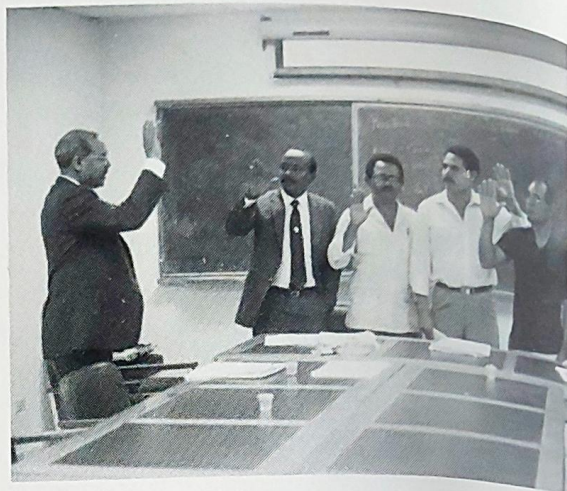
On that occasion, seminar participants voted to support the creation of an Inter-American Association of Agricultural Journalists, which would first require the establishment of national organizations in those countries in which they did not already exist. The participants requested the Institute to support efforts leading to the creation of such an association, which would bring together all those journalists whose job it is to report on the agricultural sector.

Another objective of the Dominican association is to encourage understanding and harmony among its members, while at the same time promote relations with related Dominican and international public and private organizations.

During the meeting, participants approved the by-laws of the new association, which were drawn up by a committee in December, 1988. Dr. Jorge Werthein, IICA's Director of External Relations, attended the meeting during which the by-laws were approved.

On the same occasion, an analysis was made of the work being carried out by the Institute to prepare the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean and of the role the press can play in the development of this important sector of the economy.

The journalists from the Dominican Republic elected



The Dominican Association of Agricultural Journalists (ADOCA) was formally created on February 14.

Jose Zayas, of the newspaper *El Sol*, as President; Evaristo Rubens, of *Hoy*, as Vice-president; Adalberto Grullon, of *Teleantillas*, as Executive Secretary; Antonio Caceres, of *El Nacional*, as Secretary in charge of Organization; Maria Hernandez, from the *Rahintel* television station and *Radio Hin*, as Secretary of Finances; Hipolito Carrasco, from *Noticuario Cristal*, as Secretary of Public Relations; and Julio Lora, from *El Nacional*, as committee member.

The vice-president of the Dominican Association of Journalists, Alejandro Paniagua, swore in the directors of ADOCA in a ceremony attended by Rafael Mendez, General Secretary of the Press Workers' Union.

It was also decided that social communicators with at least two consecutive years of professional practice in the dissemination and promotion of agricultural activities may join as active members.

The journalists accepted the offer made by the IICA Representative in the Dominican Republic, Dr. Gilberto Paez, for ADOCA to establish its headquarters at the IICA Office in Santo Domingo. Also, IICA donated bibliographic material to start up the Association's library.

AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION, MARKET ACCESS AND INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE

The current crisis which prevails in agricultural trade can be remedied only if the Latin American and Caribbean countries act together and face existing obstacles with a positive attitude. According to experts from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in a report entitled "Market Access and Intra-regional Trade".

In one of the nine documents prepared as part of the "Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean," experts focused on the status of international trade in the region and its agricultural products; the agricultural policies of industrialized countries and the effects of these policies on world markets and on developing countries; agricultural trade between zones; and external restrictions, prospects and operational orientations.

During a conference held in Ottawa, Canada in September 1987, the Ministers of Agriculture of the hemisphere asked IICA to design a proposal which would re-evaluate the role agricultural reactivation and modernization can play in the economic future of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Plan of Joint Action, which will be presented to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture at its meeting next October, is IICA's response to this mandate.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are involved in an effort to increase exports, which has been nullified by the fall in international prices. How-



A concerted effort must be made to increase intraregional agricultural trade by reducing or eliminating trade barriers and putting integration agreements into practice.

ever, by increasing exports, the fall in prices has been accelerated, and no significant improvement is in sight.

In contrast to the 1950s and 60s, the present situation is "precarious and unstable", according to a report by the World Bank. The fall of prices and revenues from exports has worsened due to the serious problem of foreign debt, which has compelled these countries to obtain new credit with the intention of achieving growth and repaying the debt.

Between 1981 and 1984, Latin America and the Caribbean lost twenty-five billion dollars in income from exports of non-petroleum products. This figure is equivalent to 20 percent of the additional foreign debt accumulated during that period.

At the same time, the world economy is itself a cause for concern. The economies of the largest developed nations are evolving at a slow pace. The ineffective coordination of the economic policies of these nations causes exchange rates of major currencies to become destabilized, sparks protectionism and provokes frequent trade disputes between nations.

Agricultural trade has been severely disrupted as a result of the policies of industrialized nations and even though the region has increased the volume of exports, they have not been able to increase their foreign exchange earnings.

...The fall of prices and revenues from exports has worsened due to the serious problem of foreign debt, which has compelled these countries to obtain new credit with the intention of achieving growth and repaying the debt..

Latin American and Caribbean agriculture has experienced sustained growth over the last twenty-five years. For the most part, this phenomenon is due to an increased volume of export crops. However, the production of food and subsistence crops increased at a rate which was equal to or less than population growth.

In fact, due to the combined effect of unfavorable international conditions and unsuitable agricultural



Another obstacle to the international trade of agricultural products from Latin America and the Caribbean is the huge surplus of exportable products from developed countries.

policies, exports have had a lower average annual growth rate than imports. Food imports, in particular, have increased.

Over the past decade, the region's agricultural exports increased, at current price levels, at an annual rate of fifteen percent, while imports experienced a twenty percent annual rate of growth.

During the current decade, the growth trend in the agricultural export sector has been halted, and, even though imports have been severely reduced, this is a result of corrective measures and a shortage of foreign exchange.

If erroneous past economic policies discouraging agriculture and giving preferential treatment to urban economies are not modified significantly, agricultural imports will again increase when the economies of the region begin to recover.

THE EFFECTS OF PROTECTIONISM

The last fifteen years have been difficult for Latin American agricultural exporters because there have

been surpluses of agricultural export products in industrialized nations.

Policies which effect international trade of agricultural products are part of a broader context of protectionism on the part of industrialized nations. These protectionist policies are in direct violation of the terms specified in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Thanks to their agricultural policies, industrialized nations have become major exporters, while reducing their role as importers on world markets. In fact, food production in these countries has increased to such a degree that their exports alone represent between seventy and ninety percent of world trade in wheat, secondary cereals, meat and dairy products.

This oversupply of food products has depressed prices on world markets to such an extent that prices were twenty to thirty percent lower at the beginning of this decade than they were twenty years ago.

This phenomenon has had disastrous economic consequences for our region. The income of farmers in industrialized nations did not feel the effect of the fall in world prices. Rather, they received forty percent more for their produce than they would have received on world markets.

Protectionist policies are extremely costly. As a matter of fact, between 1982 and 1985, the government of the United States spent sixty billion dollars on domestic agricultural aid programs. Moreover, the European Economic Community (EEC) spent 59.8 billion dollars during the same period, while Japan spent 51.2 billion on aid between 1980 and 1983.

According to reports from the Economic Commission for Latin America and Caribbean (ECLAC), agricultural aid/subsidy programs accounted for twelve percent of the United States' budget deficit, funded by foreign savings from not only the developed nations, but also from net remittances of capital of debtor third world nations. The ECLAC report concludes that agricultural subsidies account for most of the EEC's budget deficit.

INTRA-REGIONAL TRADE

Agricultural trade within Latin America and the Caribbean is completely unsatisfactory. In fact, purchases

within the various integration segments are lower than for imports from the rest of the world.

Despite the existence of regulations governing integration and agricultural trade which are designed to prevent this type of situation, these measures have either had no effect or been systematically violated.

The situation is particularly serious for member countries of the Cartagena Agreement for whom extra-regional imports have increased at an alarming rate. Agricultural trade between Andean countries increased by only one percent during the first ten years of the agreement (1969-79), and is now suffering from the economic recession which has affected all Latin American and Caribbean nations.



Intraregional trade among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean is less than satisfactory; purchases among the different integration groups fall below imports from the rest of the world.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

The outlook for Latin American agricultural trade depends to a great extent on decisions and actions taken in industrialized nations, including the dismantling of protectionist policies, changes in consumer patterns, the production of substitutes for natural products and the biotechnological revolution.

However, prospects for the production, supply and export of agricultural products also depend to a great extent on the implementation of major changes in sectoral and macroeconomic policies affecting Latin American agriculture. Should these changes not take place, the region will come to depend more and more on extra-regional supply. This would result in increased poverty on the part of small- and medium-scale farmers, poverty which has already reached a critical level.

The current state of the world economy, particularly with respect to agricultural trade policies of industrialized nations, has made it imperative that there be a multilateral analysis of the problems created by such policies.

The "Uruguay Round" of the GATT is the most appropriate forum in which to conduct multilateral trade negotiations, and particularly on agricultural issues. These negotiations would seek to achieve greater "liberalization" of agricultural trade practices while subjecting them to the rules and regulations of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

...The current state of the world economy, particularly with respect to agricultural trade policies of industrialized nations, has made it imperative that there be a multilateral analysis of the problems created by such policies...

However, the significance of the "Uruguay Round" notwithstanding, even if the negotiations are successful, this will not lead to a restructuring of the production and trade of agricultural products. Latin America and the Caribbean must also participate actively and jointly within other international forums, in particular within the International Agreements on Basic Products, which is

part of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

The region must pay particular attention to the "liberalization" of agricultural trade, by ensuring the application of differentiated and most favored status, the dismantling of practices which restrict or distort agriculture, the control of prices through international agreements between producers and consumers, and, in general, any measures which improve the position of Latin American and Caribbean countries with respect to world trade of agricultural products.

A concerted effort must also be made to increase intra-regional trade by reducing or eliminating tariff and other trade barriers, and by implementing integration agreements and trade resolutions.

The recovery and growth of intra-regional agricultural trade cannot take place, however, unless an overall solution is found to the major problems of the integration process, one of which is the strengthening of financing and payment systems to provide the liquidity needed for trade.

COOPERATION AND INTEGRATION

The future of regional cooperation and integration remains uncertain, especially with respect to the agricultural sector, in light of adjustment programs.

The integration process was already experiencing its own "growing pains" before the economic crisis of the 1980s. This crisis only served to reduce or slow down the integration process, thereby intensifying the effects of the crisis itself.

One must also consider the impact of adjustment policies on the development process and on the rate of economic growth. These policies, because of their highly local nature, have strong anti-integrationist bias and, therefore, integration plans have had little success.

It is, therefore, necessary to reorganize cooperation and integration efforts so that they parallel adjustment programs which, in turn, must incorporate regional or subregional criteria for development, criteria which go beyond the bilateral scope.

AGROINDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIRES NEW POLICY MEASURES

In order to stimulate the region's agricultural production and to distribute income more equitably, new policy measures must be found to encourage the development of an agroindustrial model. However, this process requires that we take into account the limitations imposed by the current economic crisis and that an analysis be conducted of the development of the various agroindustries.

This is the conclusion of one of nine specialized documents supporting the "Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean," the preparation of which was entrusted to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada, in September 1987.

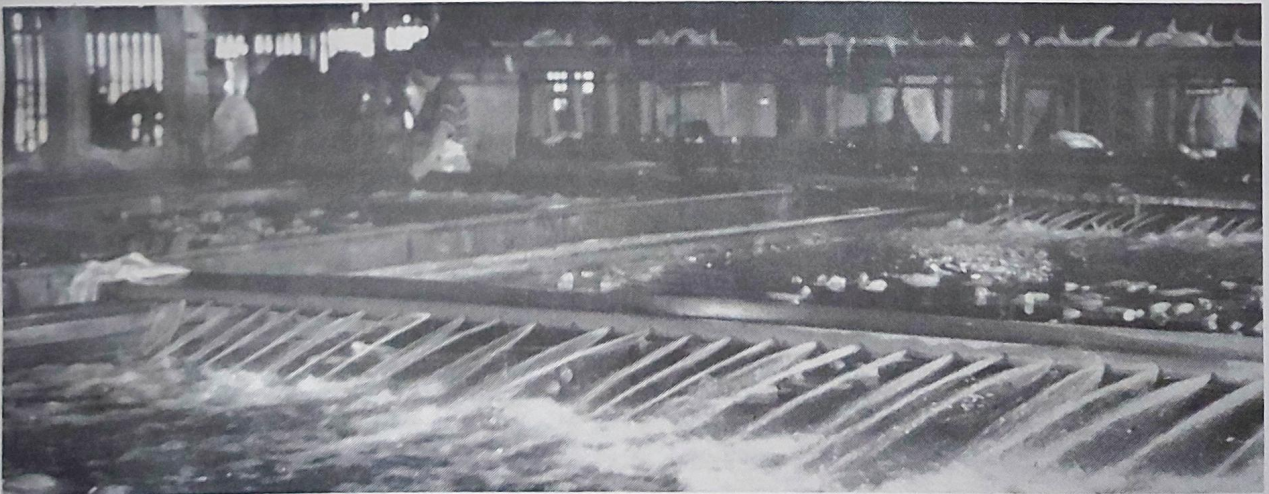
The Plan, to be presented at next October's conference of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), includes contributions from the Institute's member

countries, specialized organizations and from members of the International Advisory Committee (CAI), composed of experts associated with the agricultural sector.

The report on Agricultural Development prepared by specialists from IICA's Marketing and Agroindustry Program, under the coordination of its Director, Dr. Rodolfo Quiros, is concerned with two broad areas: an analysis of agroindustries in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the drafting of guidelines for the design of agroindustrial policies.

AGROINDUSTRIES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The agroindustries of Latin America and the Caribbean are the most significant area of industrial activity within the manufacturing sector. According to figures re-



As a whole, agroindustrial output in Latin America and the Caribbean represents a significant portion of total exports, as compared to other industrial sectors.

leased by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), almost twenty-six percent of this activity takes place in the agroindustrial sector.

However, the values of production have decreased over the past two decades. This decline is a typical phenomenon in economies which begin to diversify their productive base through increased industrialization. Neither these values nor levels of industrialization have ever been homogenous.

For example, the percentage of agroindustrial aggregate value within the total manufacturing aggregate value is 18.3 percent in Brazil, and close to 67.6 percent in the Dominican Republic, while this figure stands at between thirty and forty percent in many other countries in the region.

The anti-cyclical nature of agroindustrial activity enables it to resist the economic crisis because of income elasticity in many of its products and because of its ability to share reduced profit margins with the agricultural sector.

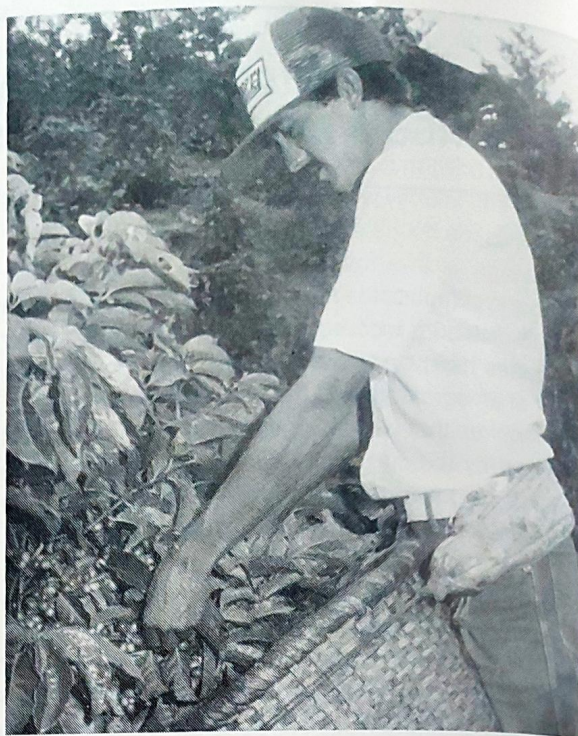
This latter characteristic, when viewed in a medium term context affected by global economic restrictions, is important in that it justifies the central role of agroindustries within a strategy to produce equitable productive growth.

The report, therefore, emphasizes the necessity of taking into consideration the important role that agroindustries can play in terms of opening access to international markets, the process of production conversion and its role in the public sector.

AGROINDUSTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

During early stages of economic development, Latin American agricultural industries played a fundamental role, in that products such as coffee, cocoa, bananas and sugarcane were aimed primarily at international markets.

More recently, when the development model was redi-



In the early stages of economic development, agroindustry in Latin America played a very important role by orienting production to the world market, with products such as coffee, bananas and sugar.

rected toward import substitution, agricultural industries began to meet domestic demand, which grew as internal markets grew.

In terms of exports, levels remained stable in those sectors which had been the first to experience economic development, resulting in "isolation" from the rest of the economy since no incentives were provided nor were other production sectors diversified taking advantage of its experience in exports.

Despite the fact that agricultural industries didn't show significant growth in terms of exports, together, they represent a large percentage of total exports. In most countries, they represent a higher percentage than other industrial sectors.

According to the report, there are several factors which explain this phenomenon: First, the fact that there are a series of agroindustrial export enclaves; second, a natural process in which comparative advantages evolve. This process was imposed on a series of macroeconomic policies which favored production

aimed at the domestic market. And finally, several large national companies have taken advantage of incentives and subsidies granted by governments during the 1970s in order to stimulate industrial exports.

With respect to the agroindustrial sector, experts recommend that imports be limited to machinery, food processing equipment and industrial inputs for agriculture. However, certain countries import unprocessed foods in order to process them locally.

Another important factor to consider is tariff and non-tariff restrictions which are imposed on agroindustrial products imported by the countries. These restrictions increase proportionally with the level of manufacturing, thereby limiting further development of products which are more complex industrially.

AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES AND CONVERSION OF THE PRODUCTION PROCESS

The conversion of the production process which has been on the increase over the past few years due to the crisis in the payment of the foreign debt and to the macroeconomic measures taken by the countries in order to meet their financial commitments, has redefined a series of basic variables affecting the operation of the industrial sector. Of these variables, two are the exchange rate and real wages.

Another important factor in this process is the fiscal crisis which started when traditional subsidies (i.e. through taxes or credit) declined and public sector purchases from domestic industries were restricted.

The economies of the region underwent changes which provoked a major crisis in the industrial sector. This, in turn, led to a positive or "go ahead" (green light) reaction within the affected countries. However, a restructuring of the agroindustrial sector presents a challenge which still has to be met, especially in the case of the sugar industry.

Further complicating matters, the report claims that the restructuring of the agroindustrial sector will require a high volume of financial resources which are not available within the region.

Finally, before any guidelines with respect to agroindustrial policy-making can be proposed, it will be necessary to establish where the agroindustrial sector stands with respect to government priorities.

Latin American and Caribbean governments as well as entities responsible for the design and implementation of economic policies do not consider the agroindustrial sector as a distinct area of economic activity, but rather as a part of the general industrial sector.

For example, the operation of a Peruvian meat processing plant, Aviar, clearly shows that different phases of production are under the jurisdiction of different government departments. Animal breeding is regulated by the Ministry of Agriculture, labor and processing by the Ministry of Industry, and distribution and consumption by the Ministry of Health. This segmented approach to agricultural industries means that rarely, if ever, are work projects conducted jointly by both the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Therefore, there are no policies or instruments on a national level which are specifically designed for agroindustries, whereas, at a regional level, some initiatives, while not yet implemented, have already been planned. This difference can be explained by the "rigidity" of ministerial jurisdiction at the national level, while regional authorities are able to limit to a large extent the impact of jurisdictional disputes.

IICA's response to this problem consists of strengthening the presence/role of the agricultural sector and related entities in discussions related to agroindustrial development, with the intention of making sure that all necessary steps and initiatives are taken to stimulate the agroindustrial sector.

GUIDELINES FOR AGROINDUSTRIAL POLICY-MAKING

In order to design policy instruments which stimulate the development of an agroindustrial model which, while revitalizing regional agricultural production, permit a more equitable distribution of income, it is necessary to consider restrictions imposed by the current economic crisis, by agroindustrial markets and by institutional capacity for developing same.

Over the last few years, Latin American and Caribbean countries have become aware of the fact that the economic crisis they are experiencing is of a structural nature and involves a pattern of development which is questionable even if restrictions imposed by foreign debt are overcome.

In the majority of countries faced with this economic crisis, intervention consists of similar measures which include fiscal adjustment and an external adjustment aimed at solving the fiscal deficit and increasing surpluses of foreign exchange which will allow these countries to pay off their foreign debt or, at least, the interest on the loans.

However, these measures have had particularly devastating effects. Even though debtor nations have more or less made the required adjustments by redirecting a large proportion of their production towards foreign markets, reducing imports and lowering their budget deficits, external commitments have increased rather than diminished, the domestic market has shrunk and the economies have become less stable.

The first instrument for agroindustrial development refers to pockets of agroindustrial revitalization arising from the adjustment process, which has resulted in the emergence of enterprises adapted to current market trends, with state-of-the-art technology, and favorable financial investment programs directed primarily at foreign markets, with only a portion of production aimed at the domestic market.

Experts call these businesses "agroindustrial revitalization nuclei." The first step in establishing new guidelines will be to identify these nuclei.

If there are no obstacles to expanding this agroindustrial core, three basic factors must be considered: the competitiveness of the products to be promoted, the effect on local primary production and the incorporation of new technology into the industrial sector so that technological innovation can be disseminated to the agricultural sector as well.

With respect to foreign companies, which have considerable influence on the region's food-related agroindustries, consideration must be given to the possibility of designing specific policies which include the export of a percentage of their production (products) through

their international network of affiliated companies. Moreover, joint ventures should be undertaken with primary or industrial producers in order to further the expansion of new technologies.

Another point to consider is the creation of new businesses through the systematization of small-scale investment and development projects, and the determination of what qualifications are required of entrepreneurs in order to successfully run such projects. Moreover, these small business will require a "support network" to consist of organizations which will provide new entrepreneurs with the necessary administrative, legal and technological support through all phases of development and consolidation.

According to experts, the second area requiring new policy instruments concerns agroindustrial markets.

In this context, processed products manufactured in Latin American and Caribbean countries have had restricted access to international markets. Therefore, it is necessary to define specific actions in order to establish information systems regarding pricing trends and cycles closely linked to the entrepreneurial sector, since this is the sector to be penetrated.

The public sector will also require this information in order to incorporate new developments occurring on world markets into the sectoral profiles of agroindustries.

Similarly, public sector joint ventures between Latin American and Caribbean countries should be continued, using this type of agreement as the basis for coordinating some of the agroindustrial sector guidelines.

Furthermore, consideration should be given to State-induced demand resulting from plans calling for basic or minimal food supplies. This could result in periodic acquisition of large volumes of food produced by the agroindustrial sector.

The final point to be considered within the framework of guidelines for the preparation of agroindustrial policies is their role in a strategy for revitalizing this sector. The specialists suggest that an institutional reform is not a prerequisite. However, each country must decide which institution(s) can best carry out the needed actions.

IICA AND SIECA SIGN NEW LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

With the signing of a second letter of understanding, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Permanent Secretariat for the General Treaty on Central America Economic Integration (SIECA) have launched a new area of cooperation.

This agreement, which was signed by Dr. Martin E. Pifeiro, IICA's Director General, and by Marco Antonio Villamar Contreras, SIECA's Secretary General, broadens the scope of their general cooperation agreement signed in September 1988.

The new plan of operations is aimed at strengthening SIECA's agricultural activities and drafting proposals for the design of a new integration strategy which calls for greater participation on the part of the agricultural sector. Moreover, the plan will supply administrative assistance to ensure the efficient day-to-day operations of the Inter-institutional Group of the Agricultural Sector (GISA).

In accordance with these objectives, each institution will designate a highly-skilled technician as member of the IICA/SIECA Joint Committee. Both will serve as coordinators of the Committee and as Secretary of the Inter-institutional Group of the Agricultural Sector.

Under the agreement, IICA and SIECA will join forces in order to obtain resources to strengthen, coordinate and offer assistance to Central American organizations with respect to agricultural investment or the analysis of agricultural policies. Among these organizations are: the Inter-institutional Group of the Agricultural Sector (GISA), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE) and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA).

Moreover, the agreement calls for IICA to provide assistance to SIECA in coordinating and developing programs for the design of a new integration strategy.

The IICA/SIECA agreement will also assist SIECA and CORECA to carry out their duties with respect to the United Nations Special Plan for Economic Cooperation for Central America, the Joint Commission of Central America and the European Economic Community (EEC), as well as with respect to other regional programs concerned with agricultural integration and development.

AGRICULTURE AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The IICA/SIECA general cooperation agreement will enable projects to be carried out in a coordinated man-



The Secretary General of SIECA, Marco Antonio Villamar Contreras, signs the second IICA/SIECA letter of understanding. With him are, from left to right, SIECA advisor Alfredo Trinidad and the advisor to the Director General of IICA, Rodolfo Martinez Ferrate.

ner, that is, through regional integration, redistribution of resources and technical as well as financial assistance provided by external organizations and countries.

Moreover, the agreement supports joint efforts aimed at designing a strategy for the reactivation and development of the agricultural sector. This new strategy will enable SIECA to design a new model of regional development and will provide IICA with input for the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, a mandate which was conferred upon it by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere.

According to its Secretary General, SIECA is seeking to design a new model for the economic development of Central America in which agriculture will play a fundamental role. This model seeks to guarantee basic food supply and lead to self-sufficiency in inputs for the processing of natural resources which are of an agricultural nature.

IICA's Director General stressed the need for IICA and SIECA to work together in order to achieve the economic development of the Central American isthmus. Moreover, he emphasized the importance of agriculture as the essential ingredient in this process, a fact "which has often been ignored in past economic integration efforts in Central America or Latin America."

Latin America and the Caribbean: THE ROLE OF WOMEN MUST BE REDEFINED

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) will sign a new cooperation agreement in order to strengthen a plan of action aimed at involving rural women in the process of agricultural reactivation.

According to Dr. Pilar Campaña, consultant for UNIFEM, "this agreement will involve the design of a conceptual, methodological and operating framework geared to ensuring that rural women play an active role in the process of rural development."

With respect to work already completed, Dr. Campaña said that an analysis has already been conducted of each one of IICA's programs, with special attention given to Program I (Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning), Program III (Organization and Management for Rural Development), as well as to the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) project. Based on this analysis, recommendations will be submitted to IICA with respect to future programs and projects aimed at rural women.

"With respect to Program I, it has become apparent that there is a need to study the impact of integrating women into the agricultural workforce. Furthermore, the medium-and long-term implications of this measure on human resources management will also have to be taken into consideration," Dr. Campaña declared.

She explained that more and more women have joined the agricultural workforce, either as salaried workers in the agricultural trade sector or as actual farmers, and this has been intensified by the process of modernization and increased rural poverty.

Dr. Campaña added that: "In this context, it will be necessary to design and implement macrosectoral policies and investment programs, both public and private, in order to strengthen and establish the presence of women in agricultural development and to modernize Latin American and Caribbean agriculture."

Program III seeks to strengthen the ability of governmental and non-governmental institutions to design rural development policies, projects and programs. Since "the feminization" of small farm agriculture and of the workforce are both the product of poverty, Dr. Campaña stressed that the Program should focus its attention on encouraging this integration and the active participation of women in order to benefit them directly.



Dr. Pilar Campaña, UNIFEM consultant.

According to Dr. Campaña, there are specific reasons why women get involved in rural development. Unlike men, women lack the opportunity to participate in the decision-making and organizing processes and usually have had less education than men.

"This implies that whenever a development program or project calls for the active participation of women, specific short and long-term measures must be taken in order to ensure that women benefit from these programs." Dr. Campaña added.

Ecuador, for example, has developed training programs and created special loan programs for women, with the assistance of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). "This is definitely a step forward. However, any macroeconomic program has to be studied by the appropriate ministry so that all women have the opportunity to become involved."

Another equally important measure would be to coordinate the activities of Program I, Program III and the IICA/RNTC project since all three programs share a similar goal, which is to integrate more and more Latin American women into agricultural production.

The IICA/RNTC project, for example, has been offering rural women who work in women-oriented programs, training courses in radio production and the use of the communications media. Furthermore, studies are also being conducted on the impact of messages transmitted by a variety of governmental and non-governmental organizations.

COMMUNICATIONS APPLIED TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT: TRAINING PROGRAM FOR EXTENSION WORKERS

Under the terms of the cooperation agreement signed between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC), twelve extension workers from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Haiti are currently attending a course entitled "Communications Media for Rural Development." The course will run until April 9th.

During the nine-week course, participants will improve their knowledge of the practical use of radio and print media so that, once they have returned to their native countries, they will be able to plan and evaluate communication media aimed at the farming community.

Daniel Prieto of Argentina, Luis Tejada of Venezuela and Amable Rosario of the Dominican Republic are among those experts who will be conducting the five-module course, which will cover such topics as the design of communications projects, small-scale print media, group dynamics, radio format and rural development, and participatory communications techniques.

According to Antonio Cabezas, RNTC specialist and coordinator, students will be trained in the design and production of printed material aimed at rural audiences, as well as in the production of various radio formats including newscasts, editorials, interviews, reports, adaptations, agricultural news reports, social dramas and short radio plays involving two speakers.

"Communications Applied to Education and Rural Development in Latin America, with special emphasis on Central America and the Caribbean" is the IICA/RNTC Project's third international training course for extension workers.

According to Jose Perez, head of the Project, the aim of the course is to teach students how to apply communications to rural development. "The appropriate use of radio is a way to achieve this objective, and it is therefore important to equip students with the necessary working tools ..."

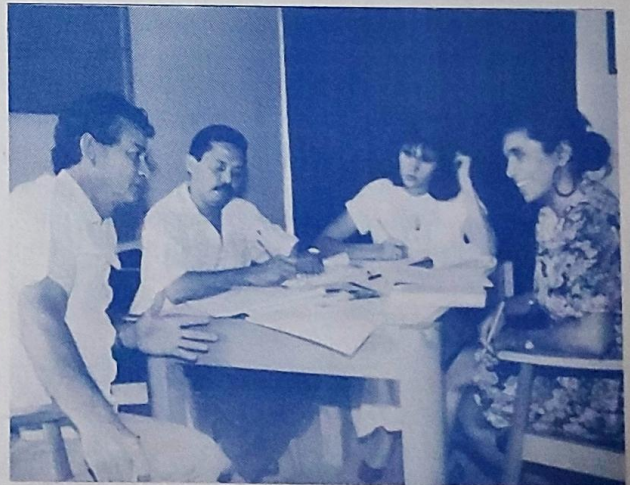
According to Darling Rios Flores, a Nicaraguan student, the course provided her with a broad range of information which will help her in her duties as reporter for the

General Office for Agricultural Technology of Nicaragua's Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform.

She added that the Ministry is developing an agricultural training program for technicians in order to transfer new technology to the agricultural sector. "I feel that my experience here has been very valuable since, not only have we updated our knowledge of communications techniques, but we have also acquired the necessary tools to put this new knowledge into practice."

Reyes Cortorreal, a radio announcer and producer from the Dominican Agrarian Institute, expressed a similar opinion. He stated that: "The course focused a lot on techniques for the diagnosis and analysis of messages. This is very important for my work because I produce a program on agricultural production, and now it's very clear what kind of messages I should aim at my audience."

He added that since his country lacks educational programs aimed at rural populations, such as orientation and assistance programs for agricultural producers, he has taken on the challenging task of spreading the knowledge he has acquired when he returns home.



Participants improved their know-how concerning the practical uses of radio and print communications in support of agricultural development.

PREPARING FOR THE NINTH INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF LIBRARY TECHNICIANS AND DOCUMENTALIST

The Executive Committee of the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Library Technicians and Documentation Workers (AIBDA) held a series of meetings at IICA Headquarters in order to set the agenda and select topics to be presented at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Library Technicians and Documentalists (RIBDA) which will take place in Cali, Colombia, from May 13 to 15, 1990.

During the meetings held between February 14th and 17th, the members of the Executive Committee reviewed the progress of work conducted in each Latin American and Caribbean member nation.

According to AIBDA President Nitzia Barrantes, "AIBDA is an association which is very concerned with its users. In the context of Latin America and the Caribbean we are seeking to set up agricultural information networks which will contribute to the exchange of information with the aim of increasing our people's productivity."

"This is why the Executive Committee has decided that the theme of the Ninth Conference will be information and productivity, and how Latin America faces the world," Nitzia Barrantes stated.

Participants at the Conference will discuss four subtopics which include: agricultural policymaking and the information factor; evaluation of information systems; the social function of information; and finally, technological innovation and new access to Latin American information systems.

AIBDA's Executive Committee selected papers on each sub-topic and designated well-known speakers from Latin America, the Caribbean, the United States and Great Britain to take part in the event.

Among the activities planned by the Executive Committee for the Ninth Conference are the presentation of an agricultural data bank for Latin America as well as an exhibition of murals produced by volunteers.

"All these activities are designed to highlight the progress made in Latin America in the development of

agricultural documentation and information systems, and to emphasize the fact that the system which is currently in place makes our information available to others."

Dr. Harlan L. Davis, IICA's Deputy Director, expressed his satisfaction with AIBDA's work. Speaking at the meeting of the Executive Committee, he described IICA's activities in preparation for next October's meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

At the IABA Conference, IICA will present the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, a mandate which was conferred upon the Institute at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture held in September 1987, in Ottawa, Canada.

Dr. Davis also announced that AIBDA's US\$5,000 operating budget will be approved at the October conference.



At right is Dr. Harlan Davis, during the inauguration of the meeting. Accompanying him are Nitzia Barrantes, President of AIBDA's Executive Committee and Carlos Molestina, Head of the Inter-American Agricultural Documentation and Information Center (CIDIA).

Editorial Service: ACAROLOGY

In the second revised and expanded edition of his book entitled *Acarologia*, Dr. Ernesto Doreste presents an in-depth analysis of the major scientific and economic aspects of this relatively new discipline.

The book successfully manages to fill the gap in the teaching of acarology in such areas as taxonomy, control methods and the impact of acarids on plant protection, especially with respect to crops.

Published by the Editorial Service of the Inter-American Institute on Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), it is meant to provide students and professionals dedicated to the protection of crops in the hemisphere with the necessary tools to do so. The book is also intended for those who wish to pursue additional research into disease transmission and the health problems in man and domestic animals caused by acarids.

Acarologia is the fifteenth volume of the Research and Development Collection. Its 410 pages are carefully organized into thirteen chapters.

Chapter One presents a historical review of the science of acarology; the Greek origins of the term "acarus", a brief overview of the development of this science, from its beginnings in 1750 with Linnaeus, through the first acarologists at the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century, up to the present time. The increase over time in the number of publications on the subject, as well as the changes which evolved in the study of these arthropods and the worldwide coordination of acarological research are also discussed.

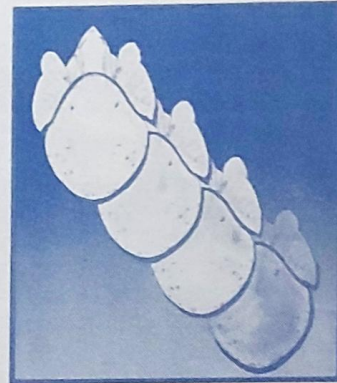
The second chapter contains valuable information concerning methods of collecting, conserving and mounting acarids for the purposes of analysis. The next chapter presents the nomenclature used in the study of the acarid's external anatomy.

Chapter Four, on internal anatomy, offers a simplified anatomical description of the acarid's internal organs and organ systems. Based on this information, the sub-class "Acari" is established as a distinct species within the animal world.

Chapter Six describes the taxonomy of acarids, based on the Acari sub-class. This classification consists of two main orders and seven sub-orders, and presents the major characteristics of each.

ACAROLOGÍA

Ernesto Doreste S.



What follows is an analysis of the Gamasidae, Ixodidae, Actinoidae, Acaridae and Oribatidae sub-orders of acarids, along with their dimensions and principal characteristics.

Chapters 12 and 13 discuss the destructive impact of acarids on crops, the economic consequences, as well as ways to eradicate them. Here, acarids are classified according to family since, in some cases, the same species can damage more than one type of crop.

Dr. Ernesto Doreste, a native of Venezuela, studied agricultural engineering, specializing in entomology. He has conducted extensive agricultural research on the devastating effects of acarids on crops and is the author of many scientific publications.

He is currently working as a professor and head of the Acarology Research Section at the Universidad Central de Venezuela. Recipient of the Henri Pittier Award in 1977 from the Government of Venezuela, he was also awarded IICA's Inter-American Agricultural Medal in 1980.

When discussing the book, the author explained that it contains a review of the main superfamilies, families and genus groupings of acarids. It also includes a list of acarid compounds, and an extensive bibliography can be found at the end of each chapter.

ACTIVITIES

March 2 to 3, 1989

REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA, MEXICO, PANAMA AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (CORECA)

CORECA will hold a meeting at IICA Headquarters to determine the role of its Technical Committee in the drafting of a project proposal under the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Representatives of CORECA's member countries will study proposals for the establishment of a regional information system, a report on the Training and Study Program on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Central America Isthmus and the Dominican Republic, as well as studies on the design of a regional strategy in connection with biotechnology.

March 13 to 17, 1989

COURSE ON THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS FOR SMALL-FARMER ORGANIZATIONS

The Third Training Workshop for Agricultural Technicians will be held at IICA Headquarters, under the terms of a technical cooperation agreement between IICA and the Association of Small Producers. Participants, including Costa Rican officials from the Agricultural Development Institute (IDA), the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and the National Subterranean Water, Irrigation and Drainage Service (SENARA) will meet with small producers to discuss ways to determine, implement, follow-up on and evaluate rural development projects.

March 16 to 17, 1989

PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN — INTERAGENCY ADVISORY MEETING

IICA will host an inter-agency advisory meeting at its Headquarters in order to evaluate the progress of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and to identify potential areas of common interest to the organizations, in connection with project implementation and institutional coordination.

Participants in the meeting will include IICA officials and technical experts, members of the International Advisory Commission (IAC), as well as representatives of international agencies and organizations.

IICA IN THE NEWS

EL UNIVERSAL

Caracas, January 3, 1989: The Venezuelan press reported the signing of a technical cooperation agreement between IICA, represented by Dr. Martin Pifeiro, its Director General, and the Latin American Economic System (SELA), represented by Carlos Perez del Castillo.

This cooperation agreement is designed to promote programs and activities in the areas of agricultural production, trade and biotechnology. It also seeks to open a new dialog among Latin American and Caribbean nations.

EL NACIONAL

Santo Domingo, February 4, 1989: Under the headline "New Association of Agricultural Communicators," the Dominican daily announced the creation of the Dominican Association of Agricultural Communicators (ADOCA).

The new association, to be housed at the IICA Office in that country, will have all the legal means at its disposal to encourage agricultural development in the Dominican Republic and will plan activities and training courses aimed at raising the educational and professional levels of its members.

TRINIDAD GUARDIAN

Trinidad and Tobago: The local Trinidad and Tobago newspaper announced that a US\$119,000 fund had been approved by IICA to combat African locust infestation in the Caribbean.

The fund, which was created in response to a petition put forward by Trinidad and Tobago's Minister of Food Production, Lincoln Myers, who is also President of the Standing Committee of agricultural ministers from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), will be used to monitor and attempt to eradicate this pest from the region.

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency
 for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and
 support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12
 observer countries.

IICA



March 1989. Year VI, No. 26.

NEWS

IICA AND FAO COORDINATE ACTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) offered to support the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in the current preparation phase of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was entrusted to IICA by the ministers of agriculture and will be considered by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) at its upcoming meeting in October.

A high-level delegation from FAO, made up of the Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dr. Rafael Moreno, and Dr. H.W. Hjort, Director of the Economic Policies Division, visited IICA Headquarters from March 15 to 17.

Since October 1987, IICA has been making intense efforts to generate a consensus on a strategy to revitalize agriculture as the key factor in development plans. In that effort, the Institute has been in constant consultations with member countries and with international and regional organizations.

The FAO representatives met with IICA's Director General, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro; Deputy Director General, Dr. Harlan Davis; Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Dr. Cassio Luiselli; Director of External Relations, Dr. Jorge Werthein; General Coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action, Mr. Felix Cirio, and various Program directors. The FAO representative in Costa



A FAO delegation visited IICA. From left to right and representing IICA, the General Coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action, Mr. Felix Cirio; Director of Program III, Dr. Fausto Jordan; Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Dr. Cassio Luiselli. Following is FAO Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Dr. Rafael Moreno; the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro; the FAO Representative in Costa Rica, Dr. Osvaldo Babini; and the Director of External Relations of IICA, Dr. Jorge Werthein.

IICA AND FAO COORDINATE ACTIONS...

Rica, Dr. Osvaldo Babini, also participated in the activities.

Dr. Piñeiro thanked FAO for its offer to collaborate in this final stage of preparation of the document that will be submitted to the IABA, and stated that this document will be very useful to the Institute in carrying out its work in benefit of the rural and agricultural sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Director General of the Institute stated that one of the major demands of the governments is that international cooperation organizations coordinate their activities so as not to duplicate efforts and to use the available resources as efficiently as possible.

In a conference held in Recife, Brazil in late 1988, the countries approved a proposal for action prepared by FAO. Dr. Moreno explained that currently, and at the request of the governments, FAO is providing the countries with support in defining domestic policies for the agricultural, livestock, forestry and fisheries sectors.

The Deputy Director of FAO emphasized the fact that IICA has made "some very interesting studies" in preparing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation.

He also praised the Institute's efforts to come up with cooperation and integration mechanisms to deal with complex topics such as the scarcity of funding resources, problems in international trade, or access to more modern technological elements, including biotechnology or phylogenetic resources.

Dr. Moreno added that IICA's diagnosis of the problems in Latin America and the Caribbean and its way of dealing with them "is essentially the same as FAO's. Basically, IICA and FAO have the same view of the history of the region, its current problems and how they should be solved."

Nevertheless, the FAO Representative pointed out that there are some slight differences between the proposals presented by the two institutions. He said, in reference to an inter-agency meeting convened by IICA March 16 and 17 and in which Dr. Moreno and Dr. Hjort actively

participated, "but these differences were the subject of in-depth and enlightening discussions during the meeting."

...The Director General of the Institute stated that one of the major demands of the governments is that international cooperation organizations coordinate their activities so as not to duplicate efforts and to use the available resources as efficiently as possible...

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DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA PAYS OFFICIAL VISITS TO ECUADOR AND CHILE

The Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, made official visits to Ecuador and Chile in February and March, respectively.

Piñeiro arrived in Quito on February 12 to preside over a four-day meeting of IICA Representatives from the Andean Area (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela) where they analyzed the twelve technical assistance programs being developed by the Institute, as well as the calendar of activities for 1991.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Piñeiro spoke with authorities from the Ecuadoran agricultural sector in regard to the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the preparation of which was entrusted to IICA in 1987 by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), and which will be analyzed by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in October of this year.

The Director General stated that, at present, some important prospects for work are opening up in Ecuador. Since 1988, the Institute has worked in Ecuador on rural development projects, small-farmer training, training for the execution of agricultural projects, agricultural credit, insurance and assistance to national organizations such as the Agricultural Research Institute and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Piñeiro stated that "the agricultural sector is the new hub of economic growth of Ecuador, based on export diversification, protection of traditional products, and using technological resources for modernizing agriculture."

Shortly afterwards, the Director General met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Diego Cordovez, and the Minister of Social Welfare, Raul Baca Carbo, to inform them of IICA's work in the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation.

On March 6, Piñeiro acted as an observer at the opening of the Third Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Amazon Pact, held in Quito. The meeting concluded two days later with the approval of a document in which Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela called for an end to foreign intervention in the Amazon region.

In Chile, on March 7, the Director General of IICA met



The Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro (left), discusses the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, Diego Cordovez.

with the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Jaime De la Sotta Benavente, and went over the activities being carried out by the Institute in that country.

The Chilean official expressed his satisfaction with IICA's work and showed interest in strengthening agricultural health actions, an area which is essential for expanding and upgrading export activity in Chile.

On March 9, Piñeiro spoke at the opening of the First National Agricultural Journalists Day and called upon the journalists to help obtain the consensus needed to give agriculture the place it deserves in development strategies.

Further on in his speech, the Director General presented IICA's views on the agricultural sector, the central ideas of the Plan of Joint Action and the important role he feels the press can play in agricultural reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean,

At the conclusion of the First National Agricultural Journalists Day, the participants agreed to create a National Association of Agricultural Journalists in Chile.

CREATION OF ANDEAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND URGED

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with the support of the Government of Ecuador, is promoting the creation of an Andean Rural Development Fund (FADR). The initiative has stirred interest in the countries of the region because of the possible benefits for the different groups that make up the small-farm economy. The initiative is also supported by the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC) and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF).

The formal proposal to establish the FADR was made by the President of Ecuador, Rodrigo Borja, during the seventh session of the Andean Parliament, recently held in Quito. Borja justified the proposal by saying, "our governments have not been able to provide adequate response to the needs of small farmers in the Andean Area, and help them to improve their conditions, close the gap that exists with regard to food security and strengthen their contribution in securing foreign exchange."

ON THE AGENDA

In response to the request made by Ecuador, the Parliament recommended that the creation of FADR be included on the working agenda of the next meeting of presidents of the Andean countries, to be held in Cartagena in May.

The Parliament also recommended that central banks or similar entities from the member countries participate directly in the Fund, and that IICA serve as coordinator.

FADR's main objective is to secure national or international public and private resources to fund rural development programs, projects or activities that benefit organized small farmers or rural communities.

Fund resources could finance the construction of small, community-oriented investment works in production infrastructure, marketing and agroindustry; agricultural and non-agricultural production activities; and technical assistance services in the community.

FADR is envisaged as a flexible mechanism which will draw on the existing institutional structure in order to provide efficient service to the small-farmer.

Official studies show that there are approximately 40 million small farmers in the Andean countries --Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela--, some of whom live in conditions of extreme or absolute poverty. In spite of this, they make an important contribution to the national economy.

In fact, these groups, which are highly heterogeneous and include small farmers, subsistence farmers and rural laborers, generate a high percentage of the food produced for domestic consumption, which saves foreign exchange, while also contributing to export production.

Nevertheless, official rural development policies have not taken into consideration the differences and characteristics of these groups and have left them out of the decision-making process.

Fausto Jordan, Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, pointed out that the stability of these groups is threatened basically because of their limited ability to generate savings, which keeps them from making even minimum investments and improvements.

According to Jordan, it is within this context that steps are being taken to create FADR, which could provide support to Andean rural development projects that involve the reactivation of the small-farm economy, taking into consideration the importance of technology, training, credit, marketing and agroindustry.

According to Jordan, IICA's work in developing FADR is based on the systematization of national experiences undertaken in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico and Venezuela with special rural development funds. The experience gained will make it possible to prepare a proposal which reflects the specifics of the small-farm economy and its role in reactivating agriculture in the area covered by the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC).

IICA/IDB: RESOURCES TO DESIGN AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS SERVE AS SEED CAPITAL

According to Nelson Espinoza, a specialist from the Investment Projects Center (CEPI), resources from technical cooperation programs between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), to prepare agricultural projects have actually served as seed capital, since they have led to the design of leading initiatives in the field in various countries of the region.

Over the eight years of joint work by the Bank and the Institute, IICA has prepared 14 projects in ten countries, for an overall investment of US\$400 million. Espinoza, who acts as the coordinator of the Project Preparation Unit (PPU), explained that this amount includes IDB and national counterpart contributions.

Some of the more important agricultural initiatives currently being implemented in Latin America were designed by IICA with IDB funds, explained Espinoza. Examples of this are the agricultural research and technology project of Ecuador (PROTECA), with an investment of US\$61.5 million, and the agricultural technology development project of Venezuela (PRODETEC), with a total investment of US\$75 million.

To date, IICA and IDB have signed three technical cooperation agreements for preparing agricultural projects. The first was implemented between 1981 and 1984. The second lasted from 1985 to early 1989. The third agreement was signed in early 1989, will last three years, and calls for twice the amount of resources as the second. In this last case, IDB contributed US\$3 million, IICA US\$300,000 and the beneficiary countries US\$200,000, for a total of US\$3.5 million.

During the last week of February, representatives from both institutions met at IICA Headquarters to set the third technical cooperation agreement in motion and to tentatively program activities for the first year. Both institutions reviewed the technical, operational, management and accounting procedures of the agreement.

IICA also suggested to IDB that both parties analyze the technical components of studies to be prepared with agreement funds, to make sure that proposed projects are within the technical capabilities of the Institute.

Discussion centered on some of the projects that could be prepared in 1989. These, according to the agreement, would have to be officially requested by the countries and considered by IICA. These tentative



To date, IICA and IDB have signed three technical cooperation agreements for preparing agricultural projects.

projects include one for credit for the fishing industry in Argentina; a forestry development project in Mexico; and a project to cover the third stage of development of the swine industry in Bolivia.

THE AGREEMENT

The IICA/IDB technical cooperation agreement includes feasibility studies for complete projects in the agricultural sector and activities to support or complement the preparation of such projects.

The purpose of the agreement is to provide beneficiary countries with a technical cooperation mechanism at the regional level, and, at the same time, to strengthen those national organizations responsible for preparing agricultural projects, through in-service training of local technical personnel.

In selecting the projects, preference will be given to those geared toward increasing production capacity, creating jobs or increasing the participation of the rural population in agricultural development. Likewise, preference will be given to projects in less developed countries or countries with flawed markets caused by inadequate infrastructure and a shortage of properly trained technicians.

Investment Projects Center: WORKING TO STRENGTHEN AND REORGANIZE CEPI

The Investment Projects Center (CEPI) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is in the process of being strengthened and restructured. According to the Director of the Center, Dr. Fernando Dall'Acqua, this stage will conclude at the end of this year and will include new courses of action, the establishment of decentralized units, and the input of international experts who will join the Center in the near future.

The 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan, approved by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in 1986, specifies that this technical support unit should upgrade technical capabilities and provide collaboration in its area of competence, for the execution of IICA activities. Therefore, through its work, CEPI furthers the work carried out by the Programs, the Directorate of Programming and Evaluation and the countries themselves.

Since its inception in 1982, CEPI has given priority to formulating projects, and to training. Nevertheless, the increasing demand for its services from IICA member countries has led the Center to seek mechanisms and strategies that strengthen it and thus increase its service capacity.

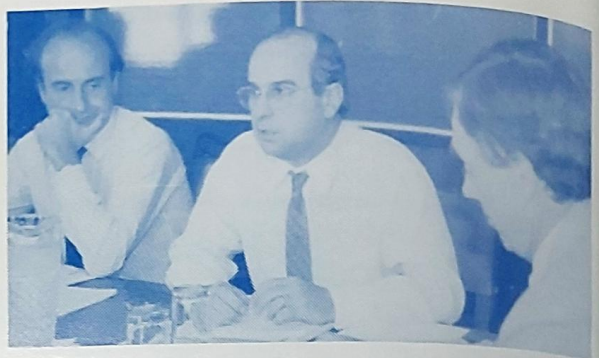
Dall'Acqua explained that, in this regard, the Center is broadening its scope of action in relation to topics that, up to now, have not received sufficient attention, such as ecology, irrigation and the impact of investment projects on the distribution of income.

Another important step in this new stage will be the establishment of investment project formulation units in different areas of the hemisphere. The first one is already in operation and covers actions in the Caribbean. It is located in Barbados. The other units will cover the Andean, Southern and Central Areas. The Director of CEPI feels that this decentralization is necessary and urgent and that it will enable IICA to attend to the demands for services in a timely and appropriate manner.

This year, several international project preparation experts will join the Center to bolster its service capabilities. Also, two new specialists will be directly hired by CEPI.

Through an agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany, two associate experts will join CEPI at mid-year: one will work on agricultural development policy and project analysis, and the other on the design and analysis of environmental policies, strategies and projects for agricultural development.

Two specialists in technical cooperation projects and in preparing investment projects for the agricultural sector



Dr. Fernando Dall'Acqua, Director of the Investment Projects Center (CEPI).

will soon arrive from Japan. Negotiations were also held with the government of Korea to bring a highly qualified agricultural economist into CEPI.

"CEPI," stated the Director, "will undoubtedly be enriched by the presence of Latin American, European and Asian staff members; the climate needed for the exchange of experiences will be created and CEPI will be more prepared to respond to the challenges of agricultural reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean."

CEPI has broad experience in training and in the design of methods, an important component of strengthening the Center. This experience will enable CEPI to fulfill its function as a technical support unit for the identification, formulation and evaluation of projects.

For example, in 1988, the Center provided training seminars and courses to more than 100 specialists in agricultural development projects. Several such activities, at the national and international levels, were carried out in Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Mexico.

Two annual courses on project design and evaluation were offered through joint initiatives with the Ibero-American Cooperation Institute (ICI) of the Spanish government: one at the farm level, and the other for agricultural planners. Twenty-five professionals from South America participated in each of these courses. These activities are offered through the ICI International Development Center, located in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia. The possibility of designing and providing training in agricultural project management has been discussed, and reflects current demand in the countries and expected future demand.

IICA SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) signed a cooperation agreement which, in addition to providing budgetary support to CARDI, aims to strengthen agricultural research and development.

The document was signed at IICA Headquarters on February 20 by Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, and Mr. Derrick Dyer, Executive Director of CARDI. The agreement will go into effect upon ratification by the governing bodies of both institutions.

The agreement establishes a legal framework and basis for future contracts and operating agreements between IICA and CARDI, organizations that have various member states in common.

The agreement also seeks to promote cooperation and linkages between CARDI and other institutions in the hemisphere, in order to facilitate technology transfer in agriculture and related fields.

Both Piñeiro and Dyer stated that the objectives of their respective institutions on behalf of agricultural and rural development, can be achieved more effectively through joint endeavors. They also pointed out the role the agreement plays in strengthening relations between Latin America and the Caribbean. Likewise, they expressed their hope that this agreement would mark the beginning of an increasingly fruitful relationship.

THE AGREEMENT

Through this agreement, IICA may provide CARDI annually with up to ten percent of the real contributions made by the member countries of the Caribbean organization, not to exceed US\$300,000 a year. This contribution is based on the understanding that CARDI will make every effort to use this money to upgrade agricultural research and technology transfer. Likewise, the Caribbean institution promises to provide IICA with periodic reports on the financial situation of the operations carried out under the agreement.

Areas of cooperation will include securing financial and technical resources for effective cooperation in activities of mutual interest; identifying and preparing joint projects; collaborating in executing technical cooperation projects and activities funded by third parties; as well as facilitating reciprocal technology transfer between

CARDI and other agencies in the hemisphere and the participation of experts from both institutions in training, research and development activities.

The institutions are empowered to select the most appropriate instruments for action, through operating agreements and contracts, and that can include studies or research on agricultural development consistent with IICA's five Programs, as established in the Medium Term Plan approved in 1986, and with CARDI's Strategic Plan, implemented in June of 1988.

Other mechanisms can include technical missions or experts; the joint preparation and implementation of projects; courses and other training activities; and administrative support.

According to the agreement, the Director General of IICA will be represented on the Board of Directors of CARDI. Top officials from both organizations will maintain ongoing official contact, and will jointly analyze matters of mutual interest.

Contracts arising from this five-year agreement, will be open to other bilateral or multilateral organizations, as well as governments interested in strengthening agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean. If necessary, private institutions with similar objectives may also participate.



The Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro (center) and the Executive Director of CARDI, Mr. Derrick Dyer (right), signing the cooperation agreement. With them, from left to right, are Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Program II Director; IICA Deputy Director General, Dr. Harlan Davis; and Dr. Reginald Pierre, IICA Director of Caribbean Area Operations.

SWEDEN APPROVES FUNDING FOR IICA PROJECTS

The Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) approved US\$544,170 in funds to develop two projects proposed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Funding will go to a project to standardize agricultural policy in the countries of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation for Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), which was presented by IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program, and for a project to provide training in mass and group communication techniques for government and private organizations working on behalf of women in Central America, prepared by the IICA-Radio Nederland Training Center (RNTC) Project.

The main purpose of the first project is to collaborate directly with CORECA countries in policy design and the proper application of financial resources, to jointly bring about the modernization of agriculture to the benefit of small farmers. This will be done within a framework of increasing interdependence between the countries, in connection with commodity markets, financial resources, and technological know-how.

...The Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA) approved US\$544,170 in funds to develop two projects proposed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)...

The major objective of this project will be to strengthen national institutions and intraregional mechanisms through the design and implementation of public policies and investments that improve conditions for small farmers and rural laborers, without losing sight of the fact that these policies must be consistent with the macroeconomic goals of and adjustments needed by the countries.

The project will operate with a US\$166,670 fund and will develop activities to identify problems common to CORECA countries; train personnel from national institutions through regional events dealing with specific instrumental policies; encourage the exchange of information on agricultural policies among the countries and governmental-level discussions, to establish effective dialogue among the countries.

The IICA/RNTC project to provide training in mass and group communication techniques for government and private organizations working on behalf of women in Central America will focus on achieving more efficient use of mass media and group communications, and of the different communication techniques used in this type of institution.

The project will also seek to help improve conditions for involving women in different socioeconomic fora of Central America.

Over the next 30 months, and with US\$387,500 from SIDA, the IICA/RNTC project will develop a program of activities that includes, among others, studies to be carried out in each country to identify the main associations that work with women and to gather printed, radio and video materials produced by those associations.

Once this process is completed, a final report will be drawn up, including practical recommendations and coordinating mechanisms such as a data bank, a calendar for the courses in San Jose and follow-up activities, a sample of printed and audiovisual materials, and other recommendations for training courses offered by the IICA/RNTC project.

...Over the next 30 months, and with US\$387,500 from SIDA, the IICA/RNTC project will develop a program of activities that includes, among others, studies to be carried out in each country to identify the main associations that work with women and to gather printed, radio and video materials produced by those associations...

In regard to the international courses, four activities are planned over the next 22 months. They will cover planning and teaching methods, participatory techniques for radio production, a workshop on the preparation of printed material and one on audiovisual materials. The experiences gained from these activities will then be used in similar national courses.

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

AGENCIES DISCUSS PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION

During a two day meeting, representatives from 28 cooperation and integration agencies and organizations analyzed the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was drawn up by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in response to a mandate from the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere.

At the meeting, held in Costa Rica from March 16 to 17, participants identified and reached a consensus on some possible areas of common action in the strategy which seeks to bring agriculture back into the fore of development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Some of the topics discussed were: macroeconomic

policies and investment; market access, intraregional trade and integration; technological development; and small-farm economy and rural development. Participants also analyzed action strategies and proposals for different subregions of IICA activity: the Central, Caribbean, Andean and Southern areas.

Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, thanked the representatives of the organizations for their participation in the inter-agency meeting, calling attention to their "active participation in the discussions" and the "constructive exchange of views" on the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation.

He also pointed out that the recommendations and opinions expressed by the delegates would be incorpo-



Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA (center) opening the meeting. With him (from left to right) are Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Cassio Luiselli; Deputy Director General, Harlan Davis; and Felix Cirio, Coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation.

rated into the document to be presented to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) this October.

The IABA, made up of representatives from IICA's 31 Member States, will meet in October of this year to review the Plan prepared by IICA in consultation with the governments, funding and integration organizations and with the collaboration of an international advisory committee, made up of outstanding personalities from the agricultural sector.

During the inter-agency meeting, the Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Dr. Rafael Moreno, offered his organization's collaboration in this final stage of the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action.

Dr. Piñero thanked FAO for its offer saying, "I am confident that renewed talks with FAO will be of great usefulness."

The FAO delegate noted how the Plan of Action that his organization is about to implement, after being approved last October, complements the Plan currently being designed by IICA. According to Dr. Moreno, while the FAO Plan will concentrate its actions at the national level, the thrust of IICA's actions will be through multinational activities.

The Advisor to the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Jesus Gonzalez Regidor, joined other representatives in recommending that more emphasis be given to the areas of ecology and conservation of natural resources. Dr. L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of IICA, explained that, in fact, these are extremely important topics and that they would be taken into consideration when preparing the final version of the proposal.

The delegations attending the meeting thanked IICA for its initiative in holding this meeting. The representative from the International Tropical Agriculture Center, Filemon Torres, stated that the meeting allowed them to "appreciate how different organizations can complement each other's efforts in the agricultural reactivation strategy and identify areas of possible joint action.

The delegate from the World Food Council praised "the

spirit of coordination inspired by IICA," and stressed the role that the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation can play in the struggle against hunger, stating that "the Council supports and will continue to support the international community in this initiative."

In the meeting, a consensus was reached on the need to prepare an inventory of programs and projects carried out in Latin America and the Caribbean by different cooperation, integration and funding organizations, in order to improve interaction and coordination. It was felt that this inventory should be complemented first by consultation meetings at the subregional level. Subsequent meetings should be held to discuss subject areas and finally, general meetings should be held to provide a more comprehensive picture of the situation.

The Director General of IICA pointed out the benefits of formalizing this initiative, stating that, "It is a task we can certainly undertake." He also indicated that the inter-agency meeting convened by the Institute could serve as a springboard for other organizations of the hemisphere to exchange views on agriculture and initiatives and projects where they can work together to the greater benefit of the countries of the region.

The Director General stated that, "Agencies often participate in meetings where the countries discuss matters among themselves, and their role is therefore that of an observer, and necessarily secondary. There is usually no formal mechanism for the exchange of ideas, such as we have been able to do here."

In addition to the aforementioned agencies, other participants in this two-day meeting included representatives from the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Latin American Economic System (SELA), the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC), the Caribbean Economic Community (CARICOM), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Institute for Latin American Integration (INTAL) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

CARDI: IDENTIFYING COMMON AREAS A PRIORITY

The Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), together with representatives from 28 organizations, participated in a consultation meeting held at IICA Headquarters, March 16 and 17 in order to establish and identify common areas of action with other institutions within the framework of a cooperation agreement recently signed with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Calixte George, Deputy Director of CARDI, stated that during the meeting the participants got a better understanding of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean prepared by IICA, and identified possible areas of cooperation with that initiative.

Mr. George explained that the strategy for the Caribbean region comes under the Regional Agricultural Development Programme prepared by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and to which CARDI will provide technical assistance.

"The Plan IICA presented last September in Guyana was endorsed by the Caribbean ministers, who felt that it contained specific topics that should be taken into account to complement CARICOM's program and allow it to generate maximum benefits for the countries of the region." He also stated that CARDI could collaborate with all the general policies of the Plan of Joint Action.

George added that, "There is much to be done in the area of agricultural policies, as, for example, in the case of trade barriers, export tax rates, the use of substitutes in production and the evaluation of the impact of macroeconomic policies on the sector."

He noted that CARDI could collaborate in research and development of non-traditional products for European and North American markets, a priority area within CARICOM's Agricultural Development Program.

George was of the opinion that through this type of inter-agency meeting and with the support of IICA,



Calixte George, Deputy Director of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

CARDI will be able to establish stronger links with other institutions such as the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), the Latin American Economic System (SELA), and the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC).

CARDI intends to identify areas of agricultural research and development that are common to other institutions and thus exchange information and increase the possibility of establishing joint projects.

According to George, "In the area of research, we will certainly make use of some information that is already available. An example of this would be the exchange of germplasm, since some countries in the Eastern Caribbean are interested in obtaining better crop varieties, such as for coffee."

He also stated that one of the institutions CARDI could develop closer links with through IICA is the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE). The Deputy Director of CARDI explained that "CATIE, like CARDI, focuses on research." We will establish a group of five specialists who will exchange ideas on possible areas of joint action."

CIAT: DYNAMIC INTERINSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION A MUST

The Deputy Director General of the International Tropical Agriculture Center (CIAT), Dr. Filemon Torres, is a staunch supporter of inter-institutional coordination as a means to meet the goals of agricultural reactivation in Latin America. In this connection, he recommended that dynamic mechanisms, free of red tape, be designed.

According to Dr. Torres, the Plan of Joint Action, prepared by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), identifies multinational actions in which national and international organizations participate in order to reactivate the sector. "We believe," he added, "that institutional integration is necessary to obtain this objective."

Torres commented that agriculture plays a "very unique" role in Latin America in comparison to the role it plays in other developing regions.

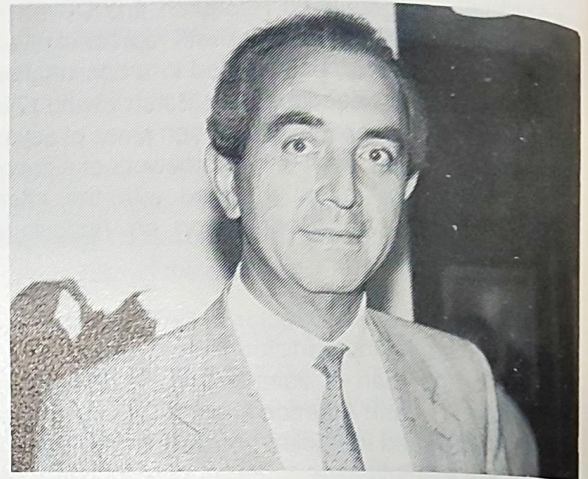
According to the CIAT Representative, the concentration of poverty in urban areas should be taken into consideration when designing agricultural policies. These policies should serve not only the rural sector, but also the urban sector which includes approximately 70 percent of the population.

He stated that agriculture is the driving force of development. "This is IICA's thesis and we are in complete agreement," he added.

Dr. Torres commented that although inter-agency meetings, like the one recently held to analyze the Plan of Joint Action, are not often held, they are very useful.

"If we want to get to start implementing concrete agreements among different organizations working in the region, there must be a type of inventory as to what each one is doing, where it is being done and why," he added in reference to a topic that came up quite often during the consultation meeting.

Torres stated that such an inventory, together with



Dr. Filemón Torres, Deputy Director General of the International Tropical Agricultural Center (CIAT).

more frequent coordination meetings, would "enable us to more easily identify instruments or areas of integration that are already in effect."

Torres indicated that there are some areas in which the Institute he co-directs can cooperate in the effort to reactivate agriculture.

"We have not only identified these areas," he pointed out, "but we are already at work in them, especially in the Central and Andean Zones, through cooperative programs for agricultural research which are joint ventures in the countries coordinated by IICA."

The activities of these cooperative research program must be consolidated, he added, before increasing the range of tasks, particularly in the area of technology generation and transfer.

The Deputy Director General of CIAT reminded the participants that his organization's ties with IICA "date back quite a bit."

ECLAC: AGRICULTURE CAN SERVE AS A CATALYST FOR DEVELOPMENT

In a recent inter-agency meeting convened by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the representative from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) stated that agriculture can serve as a catalyst for development in Latin America and the Caribbean, provided that differentiated policies are designed and applied to encourage and support small farmers, and that these policies take into consideration the specific nature of these groups.

Margarita Flores is a member of the agricultural section of ECLAC, with headquarters in Mexico, which is supported by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and charged with designing policies to stimulate the agricultural sectors in Central America, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico.

Flores pointed out that an effort to promote agricultural development in the region must be based on a political effort that will aim to "eliminate general economic policy biases" against agriculture.

She recommended that production and productivity be improved as part of that initiative, adding that this will help increase the income of small farmers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The ECLAC official emphasized the importance of diversifying the production of rural family units in the region. According to official studies, they occupy only three percent of the land dedicated to agriculture, but generate 40 percent of the food consumed domestically and 25 percent of the foodstuffs exported.

She explained that, "Diversification in production will ensure better incomes for small farmers. Domestic markets must be strengthened to allow small farmers to place their products under more favorable conditions, and allow them to further develop their activities."

According to Flores, a concrete way to improve production is to make the maximum use of irrigation systems, the potential of which has not been sufficiently ex-

ploited in Latin America and the Caribbean. "This is an expressed need of the region and we are going to work on it."

The expert participated, together with 28 integration agencies and organizations, in a meeting held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on March 16 and 17, to analyze the possibilities for joint actions in regard to the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA is developing the strategy, a task which was entrusted to it by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), through consultations with regional integration organizations, funding agencies and its member countries.

Flores defined the Plan of Joint Action, which will be analyzed in October of this year by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), as a "praiseworthy and valuable effort" being conducted at a time when the region is seeking new ways to face the challenges of an overwhelming foreign debt.



Margarita Flores, representative from the Agricultural Section of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

FAO: OTTAWA MANDATE USEFUL AND OPPORTUNE

The Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Dr. Rafael Moreno, stated that the Ottawa Mandate, which charged the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) with preparing a Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, was opportune and that it complemented the mandate given to his institution by the governments to study the potentials of the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors of the region.

Dr. Moreno, together with Dr. H. W. Hjort, participated in an inter-agency meeting held at IICA Headquarters on March 16 and 17, to discuss the Plan of Joint Action which is to be presented to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in October of this year.

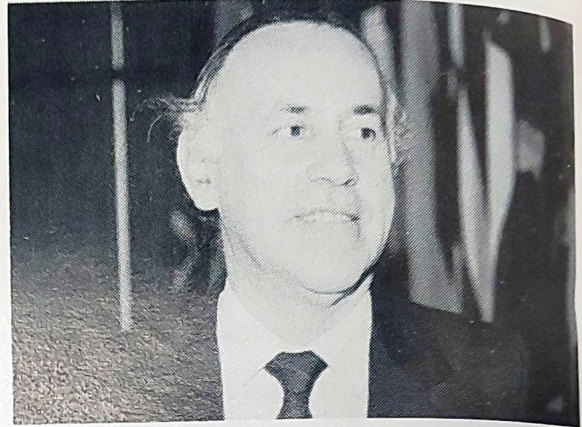
The Deputy Director of FAO commented that his organization has carefully followed the work undertaken by IICA following the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, which met in Ottawa, Canada in September 1987.

The official recognized the Institute's work in identifying joint mechanisms to deal with the problems affecting the agricultural sector.

"We find," he said, "that FAO's diagnosis, which was approved at the Recife Conference late last year, is quite consistent with the one being prepared by IICA." When analyzing the difficulties faced by agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the shades of difference between the FAO and IICA proposals, Dr. Moreno explained that his organization feels it is necessary to tilt the balance in favor of the rural sector.

He recalled that "historically, there has been a tendency in the development models of our region to favor the industrial sector, or the secondary and tertiary sectors, while the rural sector was weakened in essential areas."

As a result, he added, there was a massive migration from the countryside to the cities, creating huge urban



Dr. Rafael Moreno, Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

areas that cannot meet the demands and pressures of the population in regard to services, investments, etc. "At the same time, we must recognize the existence of a large group of small farmers who require special treatment since they are the poorest sector, but not to the detriment of commercial agriculture."

The Deputy Director of FAO also indicated that livestock problems require intensive treatment, adding that fishing and aquaculture resources must be taken into consideration when designing an overall policy for the rural sector. In addition, he stated that special attention must be given to problems affecting forests and other natural resources.

Dr. Moreno emphasized the fact that, "in spite of the slight differences that exist between IICA and FAO's approach, our organizations have established similar priorities and areas of action."

He explained that while FAO puts greater emphasis on actions at the national level, IICA's proposed Plan emphasizes multilateral action. "Herein lies an area of complementary institutional action which FAO wholeheartedly accepts."

IDB: PLAN OF JOINT ACTION WILL CONTRIBUTE TO REVITALIZING INTEGRATION PROCESS

The Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation will revitalize the integration process of the region, said Jose Villegas, representative from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), at a consultation meeting held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

For two days, representatives from 28 integration agencies and organizations met to analyze possible areas of complementary action in the Plan of Joint Action, prepared by IICA in response to a mandate received from the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) held in Ottawa, Canada, in 1987.

Villegas stated that the IDB has signed three cooperation projects with IICA for a total of US\$5.5 million, in addition to what was approved at the Ottawa meeting. He added that "the goal of these projects is to design agricultural programs that give the Bank an overall sectoral view of the supply and demand in the hemisphere and thus enable the Bank to channel its resources to priority areas."

He added that the IDB is interested in carrying out activities with IICA where the Institute will coordinate, organize and supervise technical missions hired to help the countries design investment policies and programs in these priority areas.

The Bank intends to increase its share of loans to these areas for the next four-year period, from US\$12 billion to US\$22.5 billion.

The IDB representative added that "the Bank is convinced that more money must be put into the hands of the countries, so that they can have national savings which, when invested, will be used as local counterpart funds."

In this regard, he noted that when the agreements are signed, the Bank intends to disburse 30% of the total amount of the loan immediately, and, once the projects are formalized, the Bank will turn over the rest.



Jose Villegas, Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Costa Rica.

Likewise, the IDB will establish a new "loan matrix" that will benefit the countries with respect to local counterpart. Under this policy, the local counterpart is reduced from 35% to 30% and, in some cases where resources are intended for low-income beneficiaries, the counterpart would be reduced to 25%.

According to Villegas, "This is why the IDB talks about productive projects where each dollar invested will have a greater return in terms of quantity and quality. The IDB will give priority to areas such as urban and rural development, energy and transportation, science and technology, and education."

In Villegas's opinion, the areas identified as priority have a direct impact on productivity and efficiency, and improvements in these areas will help make regional agriculture more competitive in international markets. This is one of the main objectives of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation.

"In regard to energy, for example, we are investing in the construction of hydroelectric plants that generate electricity in remote zones settled by small-scale farmers. These plants will also make it possible to build and make better use of irrigation canals in agricultural zones," he added.

INTAL: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN WILL BE SEEN AS A MORE HOMOGENEOUS REGION

Dr. Carlos Basco, representative from the Latin American Integration Institute (INTAL), recently participated in an inter-agency meeting held in Costa Rica, under the auspices of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). During this meeting, he stated that the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean will do much to project the region as a more homogeneous area.

According to the economist, "the Plan of Joint Action will provide a general framework for the countries of the region, particularly in regard to defining their macro-economic policies and their approach to agricultural development."

Dr. Basco stated that "it could be the launching pad for negotiations undertaken by the region in international forums or with respect to third countries." He added that it will strengthen the foundations for other types of joint action between countries, such as on the use of regional ports, a matter which currently presents serious difficulties.

The economist feels that although Latin America and the Caribbean are exporters of agricultural products, their participation in the world market is very limited. Therefore, those exports must be increased, based on their comparative advantages. "This can be done only within a framework of agreement and integration," added Dr. Basco.

Considering that world demand for basic products is expected to slow down over the next years, Basco commented that the Plan of Joint Action must help identify basic products which have good potential on international markets.

Dr. Basco indicated that, "a great number of our countries still produce only four or five products. This makes them extremely vulnerable to decreases in prices or to harvest problems. The Plan of Joint Action can play a fundamental role in diversifying that supply for the export market. "The Representative from INTAL, which is an agency of the Inter-American Development

Bank (IDB), mentioned possible areas in which his institution could cooperate in executing the Plan of Action.

He cited interest in joint projects on technology, standardization of health standards and labeling; studies on agricultural trade opportunities within the existing plans for integration, with a view to increasing intraregional trade; and studies on the effects of adjustment policies on the agricultural sector.

He reminded participants that his institution, as a result of the external funding crisis of the 1980's, initiated a series of studies to revitalize agriculture and the production of basic commodities. He explained that, "the drop in intraregional trade during the crisis showed us that there is much less integration in agriculture than there should be."

Basco sustained that at this time of crisis, agriculture can play a fundamental role in strengthening economic, social and technical links in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Dr. Carlos Basco, Representative of the Latin American Integration Institute (INTAL).

ISNAR: JOINT ACTION WILL FACILITATE TECHNOLOGY GENERATION AND TRANSFER

Huntington Hobbs, Chief Research Official of the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) of the Netherlands, stated at a consultation meeting held at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on March 16 and 17, that "joint action that promotes incentive policies for agriculture will facilitate technology generation and transfer."

The specialist was referring both to the new role of agriculture as the hub of a new development model and to the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is being prepared by IICA in consultation with other organizations and its member countries.

According to Hobbs, "IICA's proposal is essential, considering that agriculture is the basis of nutrition for all human beings. Agriculture is also important as it continues to be the main activity for most Latin Americans and Caribbeans."

The topical document on technology and agricultural reactivation is one of eight documents making up the Plan of Joint Action. It establishes that technology must be the main component of any strategy to strengthen the agricultural sector.

"The renewed technological effort required by Latin America and the Caribbean must reflect food security needs, economic circumstances, the urgency to modernize the sector, the needs of the small farmer, and the natural resources situation."

The ISNAR specialist indicated that his institution's main interest in the Plan of Joint Action is technology generation and transfer, while he recognized that this encompasses areas such as the design of agrarian policies, marketing and agroindustry, rural development, and animal health and plant protection.

He added that "other areas must be kept in mind when designing the Plan. For example in the case of technology generation and transfer, technology itself is not the limiting factor, but rather the context within which it is developed."



Huntington Hobbs, Chief Research Official of the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) of the Netherlands.

Therefore, in the opinion of the ISNAR expert, any process that involves macroeconomic policies will benefit both the generation and transfer of technology and other areas contemplated within the Plan of Joint Action.

Within this context, ISNAR is developing extensive work with IICA including seminars to upgrade national research leaders' capabilities, know-how and organizational and managerial skills, as well as to improve the management of resources.

It is also hoped that these activities will bring about an exchange of information on the role of agricultural investment, its impact on the economy, and the identification of possible strategies for technology generation and transfer.

According to Hobbs, "we will continue to provide support to countries who request support in upgrading their national research systems. Nevertheless, should these countries seek support to evaluate and strengthen the agricultural milieu, we would consider deepening ties with other institutions for the purposes of carrying out joint actions."

JUNAC: AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION WILL DEPEND ON MACROECONOMIC DECISIONS

"The task of reactivating agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean is feasible, but difficult." This was the opinion expressed by Luis Paz, head of the Department of Agriculture of the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC), who represented that agency at a meeting convened by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and in which representatives from 28 other integration agencies and organizations also participated.

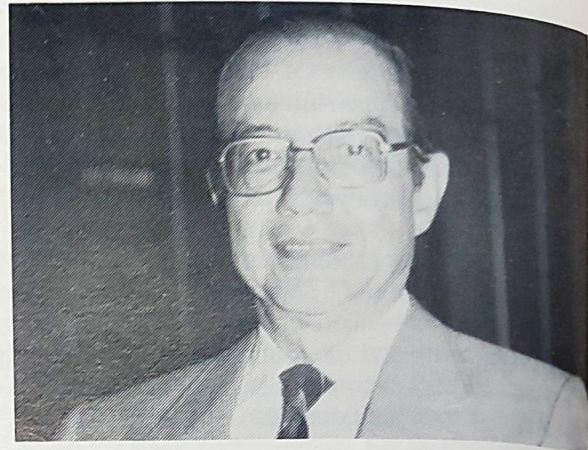
According to Paz, "the agricultural sector can become the driving force of a new development strategy due to the enormous potential and comparative advantages that exist in this region. However, it is a difficult challenge because, in addition to agricultural authorities, we must involve economic authorities in the administration and decision-making process."

In order to confront this situation, Paz recommended that the different decision makers that set national economic policies work together. "I am referring to ministries of economy, industry and trade. Often, they make decisions without consulting agricultural authorities and which in the end have a negative impact on the agricultural sector and on the social groups involved in this activity."

The head of JUNAC's Agriculture Department added that the inter-agency meeting to analyze the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean served as the framework to promote a healthy exchange of ideas "on the importance of harmonizing agriculture development in respect to the design, preparation and administration of macroeconomic policies."

IICA was charged by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada in 1987, with preparing a Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. It will be examined by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) this year.

Paz stated that cooperation and integration will contribute to making agricultural reactivation in the region



Luis Paz, head of the Department of Agriculture of the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC).

more feasible. "These processes have certainly been strengthened by the frequent consultations involved in the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for the Andean Area."

The official pointed out that JUNAC and IICA are already working on some activities, "because working with the Institute is the best way to expand our capacity. We are very hopeful that these efforts will bear fruit in areas such as the international trade of agricultural products, the exportation of non-traditional products, and the control and eradication of the fruit fly."

The JUNAC Representative praised the complementary activities being developed in the region by IICA and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). "This gives us the opportunity to bring about institutional strengthening to improve the analysis, design and execution of macroeconomic policies through advisory support and training."

According to Paz, Latin America and the Caribbean "are at an important juncture, since a development strategy based on agriculture is being promoted which contemplates integration as one of its essential elements. Past strategies, as in the case of the one for the Andean countries, did not bear the expected fruits."

SELA: PLAN OF JOINT ACTION INVOLVES INTEGRATION

According to the Director for Regional Cooperation of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), Nicolas Monge, the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, currently being prepared by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) following a mandate from the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), will strengthen the regional integration process.

Monge stated that "preparation of the Plan has undoubtedly stimulated much thought at the different subregional levels, making it possible to identify problems, draft solutions and, as a consequence, bring about a rapprochement among countries which, in the final analysis, are facing difficulties that can only be overcome through joint efforts. That is why the Plan of Joint Action involves integration."

Monge, and other representatives from cooperation and integration agencies and organizations, analyzed the Plan of Joint Action at IICA Headquarters on March 16 and 17 during a meeting that enabled them to identify possibilities and reach a consensus on joint actions for the strategy which will be analyzed by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) next October.

The SELA official stated that other areas which the Plan of Joint Action must "include are investment and credit, adding that agricultural sector authorities at the national level, development banks directors, central bank authorities and Ministries of the Treasury must work together to reach agreement." For Monge, this "four-way agreement" represents the foundation for macroeconomic policy.

SELA's Director for Regional Cooperation described the inter-agency meeting convened by IICA as a valuable opportunity for identifying and defining areas of cooperation under the Plan of Joint Action.

He stated that "we see IICA as a specialized agricultural organization, while we are an organization involved in overall cooperation. An important affinity



Nicolas Monge Lopez, Director for Regional Cooperation of the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

exists between both entities and allows us to seek very concrete programs of action."

As an example of cooperation that can take place between organizations carrying out complementary work in the region, Monge cited the agreement signed in Caracas, in February, between the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and IICA, aimed at boosting agricultural development and biotechnology programs in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Monge pointed out that "IICA-SELA ties have been strengthened over the past two years and, without a doubt, as a result of the document signed in Venezuela, the relationship is now even more solid." The organizations work closely together in regard to marketing, where SELA offers advisory services to the countries participating in the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT); agroindustry and technology generation and transfer.

Monge expressed his satisfaction with the concrete work already under way in connection with germplasm and plant genetic materials by IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program and SELA's Center for Cooperation and Coordination of Phylogenetic Resources (CARFIT), headquartered in Mexico.

SIECA: PLAN OF JOINT ACTION REQUIRES INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION

Robert Mathew, from the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), stated that "the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, currently being prepared by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), requires inter-institutional coordination among the ministries of agriculture and economy at the national level in connection with the definition of macro-economic and economic policies."

Mathew, who participated in an inter-agency meeting held at IICA Headquarters March 16 and 17 to analyze the possibilities of complementary actions under the Plan of Joint Action, added that "integration is a must if the countries' possibilities and their potential in agriculture are to be developed."

During the meeting, IICA officials pointed out the most important features to be included in any agricultural reactivation strategy. These include macroeconomic policies and investments, market access, technological development, small-farm economy and rural development, and intraregional trade. They also explained the strategies and proposals for subregional action in the Central, Andean, Southern and Caribbean Areas.

The SIECA representative discussed the position of his institution as concerns the possibilities for development in the region, saying that they are necessarily linked to the modernization of agriculture. Therefore, this should be the crux of Central American development and integration.

Mathew noted that agriculture is a cornerstone of industrial development, since greater indexes of productivity will generate surpluses that can be used in industrialization.

"At this level, inter-institutional complementarity must exist between the ministries of the economy and of agriculture. We have already seen what happens to projects that do not have the support of other government authorities such as finances or the central bank. Their decisions affect the development of the agricultural sector," added Mathew.

Therefore, he feels that it is important to strengthen coordination mechanisms at the subregional level, through organizations such as SIECA and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and Panama (CORECA), so that the initiatives established through the Plan of Action are examined by all the bodies committed to implementing a new development model.

He stated that integration efforts as they now stand at the subregional level must be strengthened, since "if we have already identified a Plan of Action that gives us short-, medium- and long-term strategies, we now need effective integration to obtain the planned results."

As for the areas to be emphasized in the Plan of Joint Action, Mathew explained that as far as an SIECA's institutional and ideological position is concerned, technology, training, the development of human resources and upgrading intraregional trade are important.

"In this regard," he concluded, "earlier proposals are summarized in the Limón Protocol, but we feel greater efforts must be made. The time is right, since the Central American governments have decided to support actions to boost intraregional trade."



Robert Mathew, Representative of the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA).

SPAIN SUPPORTS PREPARATION OF PLAN OF JOINT ACTION

As of next July 6, a Spanish representative will participate in meetings of the International Advisory Commission (IAC), made up of well-known figures in agriculture who guide the work of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in preparing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jesus Gonzalez Regidor, advisor to the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA), will participate in the upcoming IAC meeting, to be held July 6 and 7 at IICA Headquarters.

In this way, Gonzalez Regidor joins the existing group made up of Ralph Campbell, from Canada; David Ibarra, from Mexico; Fernando Homem de Melo, from Brazil; Miguel Urrutia and Roberto Junguito, from Colombia; Edward Schuh, from the United States; Lucio Reca, from Argentina; Alister McIntyre, from Grenada; and Michel Petit, from France.

The participation of Gonzalez in the IAC occurs at a time when Spain chairs the Council of Europe. The term will conclude in June. During this period, Spain has worked to strengthen its ties with Latin America and the Caribbean.

Gonzalez, an expert in agricultural economics, participated in the March 16-17 meeting at IICA Headquarters together with officials from 28 integration agencies and organizations who studied the possibilities of conducting complementary actions under the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The specialist shared the opinion that agriculture must be given a key role in regional development. He stated that all strategies designed should "clarify ideas and define priorities."

In general terms, he stated that this question involves deciding which sectors should benefit from the initia-

tive. In his opinion, "small farmers should benefit, but not to the detriment of other important sectors such as the agroexporting subsector. Worse yet, it should not create frictions and conflicts among the different production sectors."

Gonzalez stated that agriculture can become the driving force for development in Latin America or anywhere else in the world, "as long as it generates capital, attracts investments, diversifies resources, and stimulates and promotes the well-being of the primary sectors of production."

The expert said that Spain is willing to cooperate in various areas of the Plan of Joint Action, "once priorities and concrete projects have been established. I think that the time is right for international funding agencies to make a strong injection of resources into the region, particularly for concrete projects."



Jesus Gonzalez Regidor, advisor to the Spanish Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA)

SOUTHERN AREA: CONSENSUS ON PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION

By the end of a meeting held in Santiago, Chile, March 7 and 8, vice ministers of agriculture from the Southern Cone had reached a consensus on a series of actions proposed for contributing to the agricultural reactivation process in the subregion.

The meeting, convened as a part of the ongoing consultation process of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in the Southern Area, was attended by Dr. Eduardo Manciana, Undersecretary of Agrarian Economy from Argentina; Dr. Benedito Rosa do Espirito Santo, Deputy Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture from Brazil; Dr. Arturo Venegas, Undersecretary of Agriculture from Chile; Dr. Virgilio Rolon, Director of Marketing and Agricultural Economy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock from Paraguay; and Dr. Alberto Brause Berreta, Undersecretary of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries from Uruguay.

Participants from IICA included Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General; Mr. Felix Cirio, Coordinator of the Plan; Dr. Carlos Rucks, Director of Operations for the Southern Area; and other officials.

Proposed actions include a package of projects, as well as the institutional and financial mechanisms needed to implement them, that will be jointly promoted by the five countries of the Southern Cone (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay).

Some of the more important projects involve: the institutionalization of the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR); the upgrading of emergency animal health services and international agricultural quarantine; the setting up of a southern network of veterinary diagnosis laboratories; the establishment of an integrated fruit fly management system; and the creation of a graduate training system in the agrarian sciences.

The vice ministers approved the proposal to establish a financing mechanism for the projects, through the establishment of a program to promote investments.

Cirio explained that "this mechanism will make it easier



The vice ministers of agriculture from the Southern Cone highlighted the importance of the consultative forum developed for the subregion as a result of the Plan of Joint Action.

to identify bi- or multinational investment projects, which will enhance integration among national private sectors. In regard to operational aspects, the proposal provides for an executive unit under the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which will have an advisory board composed of delegates from each of the five countries of the subregion."

"We will work to identify investment projects, assess needs in the private sector, and secure funds with which to carry out feasibility studies," explained Cirio, who added that the funds needed to initiate this work are currently being negotiated with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The vice ministers of agriculture expressed to the Director General of IICA how important the consultative forum developed as a result of the Plan of Joint Action was for the subregion. They agreed that it was necessary to continue this endeavor and to consolidate a permanent mechanism for discussion and coordination of all matters related to agricultural reactivation. It was decided that IICA could provide the Secretariat with this type of mechanism, which would streamline and simplify the work to be carried out.

AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISTS FROM THE SOUTHERN CONE STRENGTHEN TIES

The First Integration Seminar for Agricultural Journalists from the Southern Cone, attended by professionals from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, culminated with a decision to constitute a committee to promote and encourage the exchange of information and generate a more thorough understanding of the agricultural situation.

The seminar, which was held in Sao Paulo on February 16 and 17, also gave rise to a committee to establish a Brazilian Association of Agricultural Journalists.

The Seminar was organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR) and held under the auspices of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Agency (EMBRAPA), the magazine "Globo Rural" and the

agricultural supplement of the daily newspaper "O Estado de Sao Paulo."

During two days of intense work, the following topics, among others, were discussed: agriculture in a new strategy for development; Latin American agricultural journalism; regional integration mechanisms; the international dimension of agricultural journalism; and relations between sources of information and the press.

The representatives from each of the six countries talked about the situation of agricultural journalists in their respective countries, which produced an enlightening and fruitful exchange of ideas. They all agreed on the importance of enhancing the flow of information among themselves and of contributing to joint actions that promote agricultural development in the subregion.



During the meeting, the journalists decided to create a committee to promote and encourage the exchange of information and generate a more thorough understanding of the agricultural situation.

Association Founded: FIRST NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL JOURNALISM MEETING HELD

The First National Agricultural Journalist Meeting, held in Santiago, Chile on March 9 and attended by agricultural journalists and communicators from various regions of Chile, ended with the decision to establish a national association.

A committee, coordinated by journalist Enrique Inostroza, Director of the Revista del Agro, which publishes the daily "La Tercera," will draft the group's articles of association, which will subsequently be submitted to the future members of the National Association of Agricultural Journalists of Chile, for consideration.

During a work-filled day, approximately 40 agricultural communicators discussed three main topics: the role of journalism in agricultural reactivation, training of agricultural journalists, and the constitution of a na-

tional association.

During the inauguration of the meeting, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), referred to the work being done by IICA in preparing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. He urged the journalists to contribute to "generating the necessary consensus to give agriculture the place it deserves in the development strategies of our countries."

The journalists, in turn, stressed the significant impact of agriculture on the economy of Chile and agreed on the need to promote joint actions among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to overcome the present economic crisis.



Chilean agricultural journalists and communicators stressed the significant impact of agriculture on the economy of Chile and agreed on the need to promote joint actions among the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

PROCISUR MOVES TOWARDS INSTITUTIONALIZATION

During the tenth meeting of the Steering Committee of the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Southern Area (PROCISUR), held March 9 and 10 in Montevideo, Uruguay, progress was made in the discussion and analysis of the draft agreement on the institutionalization of that Program, and which is expected to be approved within the next few months.

The directors of research centers in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay participated in the meeting, presided over by the Executive President of the National Agricultural Research Institute of Chile (INIA), Mr. Emilio Madrid. The Director of the Technology Generation and Transfer Program of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Eduardo Trigo; the IICA Representative in Uruguay, Arnaldo Veras; and the Director of PROCISUR, Edmundo Gastal, also attended, as did representatives of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), international coordinators from PROCISUR, and support and technical specialists involved in preparing projects for the new stage of the Program.

PROCISUR is a research and information system dealing with crops, training, and the exchange of personnel. The mechanism focuses on five basic commodities: wheat, corn, sorghum, soybeans and cattle. Budgetary support is provided by the six member countries, IDB and IICA, which also administers the Program.

The Steering Committee's discussion of the agreement for the new stage centered on matters such as country contributions, costs, use of resources, effective dates and duration.

Since members of the Steering Committee, the Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program and the Director of PROCISUR will be attending a meeting of the International Federation of Development Research Institutions to be held in Argentina next June, it was agreed that a special meeting of the Committee will be held in Buenos Aires on the 20th of that month. It is hoped that the final draft of the agreement will be approved at that time and that the necessary signatures will be obtained immediately.

During the Montevideo meeting, the international coordinators reported on projects prepared in conjunction with national coordinators on summer grains, wheat, oilseeds and beef cattle. They also outlined guidelines for the production systems project, for which they recommended that the systems approach used in other proj-



The President of Uruguay, Dr. Julio Maria Sanguinetti (fourth from the left in the first row), together with other authorities and the PROCISUR Steering Committee, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Estanzuela Experimental Station.

ects be incorporated, such as the technology transfer project for small farmers.

The Director of the Program, Dr. Edmundo Gastal, described the status of various projects to be implemented in the next stage that are being prepared by consultants and technicians from research centers of the participating countries.

Dr. Eduardo Trigo reported on the progress of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, preparation of which was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) held in Ottawa, Canada in 1987. That strategy, which seeks to make agriculture the key factor in regional development, will be considered by the ministers of agriculture next October.

ANNIVERSARY OF ESTANZUELA

On March 9 the PROCISUR Steering Committee participated in celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Estanzuela Experimental Station, an institution dedicated to agricultural research. This station is part of the "Alberto Boerger" Agricultural Research Center of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP).

The activity, which was held at the Experimental Station, located in Colonia, 170 kilometers from Montevideo, was attended by the President of the Republic, Dr. Julio Maria Sanguinetti, who unveiled a plaque declaring the house of Dr. Alberto Boerger a national historic monument.

NEW ADVANCES ON PRODUCTION OF IICA/RNTC RADIO SERIES

Three radio productions, "Eulalio Campos: vivencias y sugerencias de un técnico agropecuario," (Eulalio Campos: The experiences and suggestions of an agricultural technician); "Del derecho y el revés," (Law inside and out); and "Dáale tu mano" (Lend a hand), which have been prepared through a joint project between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC), will soon be aired in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the Eulalio series, the protagonist Eulalio, known as "Lalo", narrates the trials and tribulations of a young agricultural technician in a rural community, who tries to teach farmers and residents of the area how to use pesticides properly. The other two series deal with the topic of children's rights.

"Del derecho y el revés" and "Dáale tu mano" were prepared as part of an agreement among IICA-RNTC, the Voice of Germany and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). The scripts were prepared by teachers and specialists with vast experience in working with children. Leonardo Martínez and Felix Clercx were the coordinators.

Martínez, a member of the co-production department of the Voice of Germany, stated that both programs are aimed at "making children aware of their rights" and "strengthening the role that parents play in this task." The programs will be transmitted over approximately 250 radio stations throughout the region.

THE ADVENTURES OF LALO

Amable Rosario, an RNTC technician, indicated that the "Eulalio Campos" series consists of 24 eight-and-one-half minute episodes and is similar to a dramatized series. The plot revolves around the main character, who converses with a second character, in a relatively un-complicated situation.

The objectives of the series are to inform the listeners on the use and management of pesticides, as well as to warn them of the effects of using these products irrationally.

"The language of the series is simple and colloquial, to be easily understood by a rural audience consisting mainly of small farmers who frequently work with these types of substances."



Students receive training in the production of specialized educational series, using dramatized series and radio-reporting formats.

Rosario stated that the series would be heard on rural and urban stations, although "we are, of course, interested in providing greater coverage in the rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, where extension personnel will be able to use the series as support material for their group work with small farmers."

The scripts were prepared by agronomists who participated in one of the courses on the mass media applied to agricultural development, offered as part of the IICA-RNTC project entitled "Communications Applied to Education and Rural Development in Latin America, with emphasis on Central America and the Caribbean."

Specialists from RNTC provided technical assistance, while the content matter was selected by the General Directorate of Plant Protection of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, the National Association of Producers and Suppliers of Agricultural Inputs and the Animal Health and Plant Protection Program of IICA.

The series "Eulalio Campos: vivencias y sugerencias de un técnico agropecuario," copies of which are currently being made in the Netherlands for distribution later to stations in the region, is packaged in a plastic case, with cards that explain the objective of each episode, its content and offers a series of questions and suggestions for the announcer to use with the audience, or the agricultural extension worker with the small farmers. For

NEW ADVANCES ON PRODUCTION...

example, Rosario explained that in one of the episodes, "Pesticides and your health," Lalo's explanation to some farmers ranges from how to use these substances correctly to the legislation that regulates the production and use of these products.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

The objective of the two series prepared in conjunction with the Voice of Germany and UNICEF is to train producers-directors who work in the countries where IICA-RNTC carries out its activities.

For five intense weeks, participants worked to prepare scripts related to the topic of children's rights in the context of the social environment, and to exchange and broaden their experiences in the specific field of dramatized educational productions.

They faced the challenge of dealing with two radio formats in depth --radio theater and radio reporting-- in a short period of time, and combining, at one and the same time, training and the preparation of a high quality finished product.

According to the experts, the experience is a successful example of inter-agency collaboration since it brought together technicians from RNTC, the Voice of Germany, and the ministries of international cooperation from both countries, with the support of UNICEF, an organization with which IICA has various agreements in areas related to women, children and rural development.

Del Derecho y el Revés is a radio drama with easily recognizable characters which takes place in an unspecified country, although the listener could place it somewhere in Central America given the nature of the topic. The characters are a grandfather who returns home after several trips, his daughter and a granddaughter. According to Leonardo Martinez, "We used the grandfather-granddaughter relationship to develop the topics.

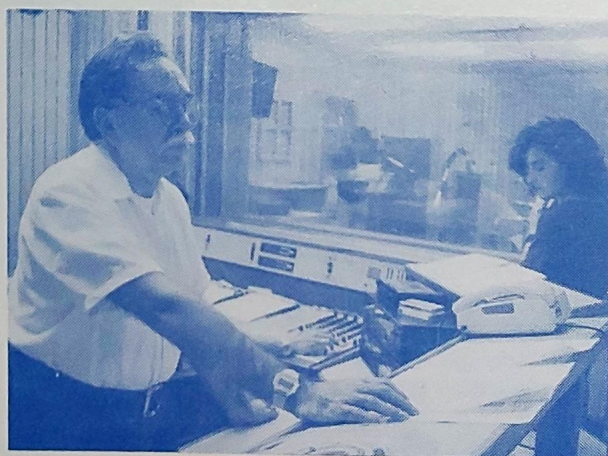
"In order to reach an audience as difficult as children, we worked a long time to find the right formula that would allow the children to identify with the problem. We used language that is accessible to and easily understood by children, a lot of fantasy, imagination and sound effects."

The second series, *Dále tu mano*, follows the format of radio reporting, and is aimed at an adult audience. This series required "a lot of hard work to achieve the right language." Martinez indicated that it includes interviews with people on the street conducted by the script writers, in an attempt "to allow the listener to identify with the person being interviewed and with the problems discussed."

The specialist from the Voice of Germany added that a date has not yet been set for airing the programs. "We are more concerned with producing a good product, than in being able to air the programs immediately. Hence, I put a lot of emphasis on technical quality in order to get the most out of the valuable documentation gathered by the script writers."

When looking back over the work done, Martinez said that he felt they had successfully integrated "very different styles of radio program production, since the work involved people from Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Nicaragua."

In his opinion, this first IICA-RNTC, Voice of Germany and UNICEF endeavor should serve as a model for other similar endeavors, since it paves the way for training people who work in radio, and thus will fill a void that exists in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Leonardo Martinez, member of the Co-production Department of the Voice of Germany.

PROMECAFE TRAINS FIELD AGENTS IN COMMUNICATIONS TECHNIQUES

A seminar-workshop was held from March 6 to 10 at the Institute of Radio Education (ICER), in San Jose, Costa Rica to strengthen the Coffee Technology Generation, Adaptation and Transfer Program carried out by the Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation (PROMECAFE) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The activity, which was organized by the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre, was attended by 12 field agents from national coffee institutes of Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic which promote coffee technology generation, adaptation and transfer for small- and medium-scale farmers.

Within this project, PROMECAFE seeks to solve problems that limit productivity of this important crop, in an area where more than 800 million pounds of "other mild coffees" are produced, and which represents 51.4% of the total value of agricultural exports in Central America.

Through this operating agreement, and together with the cooperation of the countries in the region, PROMECAFE will support and promote research, genetic improvement, technification of coffee cultivation and the development of methods for coffee technology generation, adaptation and transfer for small- and medium-scale farmers.

"In the latter case, methods are being tailored to the profile and conditions of small- and medium-scale farmers in PROMECAFE member countries," according to Roberto Lazo, a technician from the department of economy of the Salvadoran Coffee Research Institute who participated in the seminar-workshop.

He also noted that, as part of this process, "field agents" from the national coffee institutes are preparing a study of the countries's coffee zones in order to evaluate research problems; results will be compared with existing research. In this way, they will be able to launch a technology generation, adaptation and transfer project.

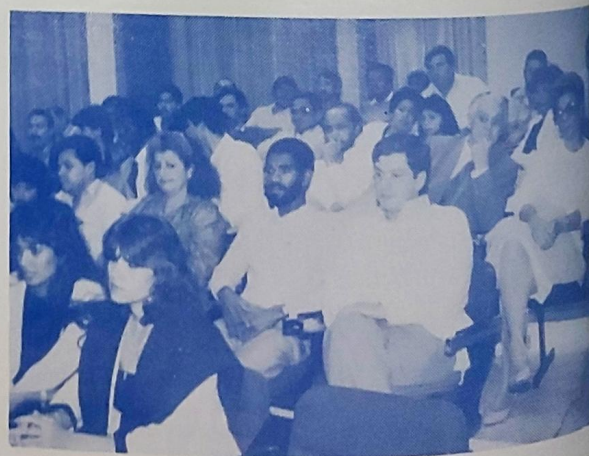
"Before working with PROMECAFE, we were not able to offer broad coverage since we provided individual assistance to coffee growers." Lazo indicated that "with the training we have received, we will be able to increase that coverage to include research plot programs, technology validation and training of work teams to carry out the technology transfer."

Sammy de la Torre, an instructor in the seminar-workshop, stated that the main objective of the workshops is to provide training in communications techniques that transfer technology to the farmers, "while keeping something very basic in mind: the students are field agents and, therefore, can talk to the small farmer, find out what the real situation is and transmit that experience over the radio."

According to de la Torre, the instructors, using a "theoretical-practical" system, determine the sectors in which the participants work, find out what their exact function is and what their possibilities are for working with radio.

Training includes various modules that cover sound, spoken and illustrated presentations, field interviews, two-character series and radio-magazines. The experts explained that the format of the two-character series makes it possible to broaden the contents, while, at the same time, presenting a slice of daily life. On the other hand, the radio-magazine, which includes all the techniques, gives the participants guidance as to the type of program that is useful for small farmers.

According to the la Torre, those who have received training will have more work to do once they return to their countries because a follow-up stage is planned to make sure that the participants become true catalysts in organizing small farmers and coffee growers. They will also strive to keep a radio program on the air that encourages the development, know-how and education of small farmers.



Participants receive training in communications techniques, which will allow them to develop technology generation, adaptation and transfer processes aimed at small farmers.

MACROECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT AND THE LATIN AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

"Ajuste Macroeconómico y el Sector Agropecuario en América Latina" (Macroeconomic Adjustment and the Latin American Agricultural Sector), a book published by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Kellogg International Fellowship Program in Food Systems (KIFP/FS), offers the reader an overall view of the problems that gave rise to adjustment in Latin America. It also describes the basic characteristics of the programs adopted by these countries during the present decade.

The book, published by the IICA Office in Argentina, analyzes the specific case of eight countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru), and draws conclusions on the effect of adjustment on the performance of the agricultural sector. Also discussed are some lessons learned from and reflections on past experiences, and considerations on the design of future macroeconomic and sectoral policies.

The authors propose that the conclusions reached should be taken as observations on certain trends and that they should be evaluated at a later date.

When making comparisons among the eight countries, the researchers observed that the different programs and policies characterizing the adjustment process in Latin America since 1982 have affected agriculture in a complex and contradictory manner.

They note that initially there was a favorable response to this process from the agricultural sector, whose increased exports gave rise to a large amount of the foreign exchange needed to back transfers required to service the debt, in the absence of new financing.

The authors state that this response would have been even greater if it had not been for adverse external circumstances, characterized by the drop in international prices for basic commodities, specifically food.

"This response," they explain, "was the result of an exchange rate policy that sharply increased the real effective exchange rate, thus interrupting the long-standing anti-agrarian bias of macroeconomic policy in Latin America. This was expressed basically in the overvaluation of the exchange rate in support of the needs of the import-substitution model."

Nevertheless, "On the other side of the monetary and

Ajuste Macroeconómico y Sector Agropecuario en América Latina



C. Garramon / L. Reca
F. Dall'Acqua / M. Cox / A. Silva
G. Scobie / C. Luiselli
J. Paz - Caferata
N. Quezada / G. Nores

KIFP/FS Kellogg International Fellowship Program in Food Systems
IICA Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación en la Agricultura

fiscal coin, adjustments carried out without structural reforms, and which were increasingly necessary due to the growing foreign debt, brought the sector under the blanket of recession that covered the entire economy."

Within this context, the authors conclude that there is a lesson to be learned which concerns the magnitude of the possible response from the agricultural sector, when heavy restrictions imposed by discriminatory policies are lifted, and expressed basically through exchange rate policies and through subsidies for consumer goods and food imports."

The book, presented by IICA, is the result of a workshop held in Buenos Aires in August 1988 by 12 Kellogg Fellows to analyze the effect of macroeconomic adjustment policies on the agricultural sectors of their respective countries. Dr. Maximiliano Cox, Kellogg Fellow from Chile and Dr. Gustavo Nores, Director of KIFP/FS Programs actively participated in the organization and coordination of the presentation of papers by country and the corresponding distribution of these papers prior to the workshop.

Fernando Dall'Acqua wrote the paper from Brazil, Maximiliano Cox for Chile, Alvaro Silva for Colombia, Cassio Luiselli for Mexico, Julio Paz Caferata for Peru, Norberto Quezada for the Dominican Republic, Lucio Reca for Argentina and Grant Scobie for Ecuador.

The introductory chapter was written by Carlos Garramón, IICA Representative in Argentina, and the final chapter, which summarizes the papers presented, was prepared by Gustavo Nores.

ACTIVITIES

April 5 to 7.
SEMINAR ON THE PARTICIPATION OF RURAL WOMEN IN THE AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION PROCESS

In a seminar held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), 16 specialists will analyze a project aimed at strengthening the participation of rural women in the agricultural reactivation process in the Central American isthmus. The activity, sponsored by IICA and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), aims to improve the conditions of rural women in the region.

April 17.
INFORMATIONAL SEMINAR ON THE PLAN OF JOINT ACTION FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

This activity will take place in New York, and will be attended by officials from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and representatives from foundations and universities in the United States involved in the development field in Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants will examine the central ideas and achievements made in preparing the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation as well as possibilities for cooperation. Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, the Director General of IICA, will talk on agriculture and economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Mr. Felix Cirio, General Coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action, will analyze the proposals and opportunities for external cooperation.

April 21.
SEMINAR ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MODERNIZATION IN LATIN AMERICA

This in-house seminar will take place in Washington, with the participation of high-level representatives from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Bank (IBRD). IICA will be represented by the Director General, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, and by IICA specialists on the topics to be discussed. This activity will provide the exchange of information and the discussion of agricultural development issues, as well as the need for greater cash flow and possible new funding mechanisms.

IICA IN THE NEWS



Asuncion, February 2. This Paraguayan newspaper published a communiqué from the Communications Division of IICA, highlighting the study on technology and agricultural reactivation made by the Technology Generation and Transfer Program, under the direction of its Director, Dr. Eduardo Trigo.

This study is one of nine topical documents that make up the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose preparation was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) in Ottawa, Canada, in September, 1987.

LA REPUBLICA

Bogotá, February 21. In an article entitled "IICA Calls for new Agricultural Development Policies," the Colombian newspaper highlighted a document on the role of agroindustry in Latin America and the Caribbean, prepared by IICA's Marketing and Agroindustry Program.

Among other things, the article calls attention to the need to know more about the limitations imposed by the economic crisis, and the development of agroindustry, in order to redefine their role in agriculture as the key factor of a new development model.

EL DIARIO DE HOY

El Salvador. The Salvadoran newspaper praised the efforts being made by the Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation (PROMECAFE) to overcome the many problems that affect coffee production in the countries of the region.

The newspaper reported on the major activities carried out by the project in controlling coffee rust, the biology of coffee berry borer and the development and reproduction of coffee strains resistant to, among other diseases, coffee rust.

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

IICA



April 1989, Year VI, No. 27.

NEWS

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA VISITS BRAZIL

The Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, visited Brazil from April 2 to 5 to meet with Brazilian government officials and inaugurate a high-level seminar on agroindustrial development policies.

Dr. Piñeiro and top-level officials of the ministry of agriculture studied the status of projects on which IICA offers technical assistance, and also explored new areas for cooperation. A key topic of conversation was the progress that has been made in the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, a task entrusted to IICA by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere. The Plan will be presented to the ministers at the meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) next October.

The Director General met with the Minister of Agriculture, Iris Rezende Machado, and with the Secretary General of that Ministry, Lazaro Ferreira Barboza. Both reaffirmed Brazil's wholehearted support for the guidelines of the Plan of Joint Action.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Piñeiro spoke with the Secretary General of the Foreign Office, Mr. Pablo Tarso Flecha de Lima and the head of the Department of International Organizations, Mr. Luiz Augusto Araujo Castro. They discussed the conservation of natural resources, and Piñeiro explained the work of the Institute in reformulating the IICA/TROPICOS project. Fernando Homem de Melo, Brazil's representative to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and a member of IICA's International Advisory Commission, participates in that project.



The Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro (right), met with the Minister of Agriculture of Brazil, Iris Rezende, who reaffirmed Brazil's support for the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA...

Piñeiro also visited the Brazilian Agricultural Research Agency (EMBRAPA), a leading organization in its field which received active support from IICA when it was founded and which has continued to work in close coordination with the Institute. There he discussed IICA-supported projects with the president of EMBRAPA, Ormuz Freitas Rivaldo. A three-year cassava program in progress in the northeastern state of Ceara and administered by IICA was discussed in detail. This program is funded by the Kellogg Foundation and receives support from other organizations as well.

The Director General also visited the San Francisco Valley Development Agency, where he spoke with its president, Eliseo Alves.

Many of IICA actions are carried out in northeastern Brazil, one of the country's most economically depressed regions. The Institute also provides assistance through agreements in support of programs for small-scale farmers, and it staunchly backs government programs for irrigation, biotechnology and bioenergy, and animal health and plant protection.

Dr. Piñeiro stated that IICA and other sponsoring organizations chose Brazil to host the seminar on agroindustrial policies because of important progress made by the country in that area, particularly with soybeans and citrus fruits.

The Director General commented that "Brazil, an enormous country with a wealth of ecological variety and natural resources, is very competitive in international markets with traditional commodities such as coffee and bananas. In addition, it is the major exporter of soybeans."

"Nevertheless," he added, "it can also compete with practically all subtropical commodities, such as fruits and vegetables, and through agroindustrialization, with so-called fast foods."

At a press conference held in Brasilia, the Director General referred to the protectionist policies of the developed countries and stated that "in the next few years, we will see a progressive decrease in subsidies, especially in regard to exports, although this does not apply to subsidies on domestic consumer goods."

Dr. Piñeiro was of the opinion that, in the medium term, Europe, the United States and Japan will have to find a solution to agricultural protectionism. It is hurting the European Community financially; it is not politically popular in the United States, and Japan must also adjust its own economy.

Piñeiro stated that he trusted that the European Economic Community and the United States would soon "sit down to negotiate a way to decrease subsidies, through a medium-term process."

The Director General commented that, when analyzing the difficulties of introducing Latin American and Caribbean agroindustrial commodities into international markets, the natural comparative advantages of the region encourage an optimistic approach, which does not "focus on the difficulties, but rather on organizing ourselves to solve them."

As an example, he cited the success of Brazil "which has increased its soybean oil exports exponentially." He also mentioned the case of Chile's fruit exports, and the need to take advantage of intraregional trade opportunities, as Brazil and Argentina have done with agricultural commodities.

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IICA DIRECTOR GENERAL VISITS OFFICIALS OF THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION

During his annual visit to the United States, which took place from April 17 to 21, the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, met with the United States Secretary of Agriculture, Clayton Yeutter. This was the Director General's first visit to the United States since President George Bush took office last January.

The main objective of the visit was to meet with top-level government officials from regional and financial organizations to analyze the work of the Institute, and to continue to identify new possibilities and mechanisms for support and cooperation.

The Director General explained the key points of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean to Secretary Yeutter, and provided him with information on other projects and initiatives undertaken by the Institute.

Yeutter showed his interest in and support for the Plan of Joint Action and the presentation of same to IICA's member countries during the October meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

In October of 1987, the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere entrusted IICA, together with its member countries and other organizations, with preparing this proposal, the object of which is to vitalize the role of agriculture, as a means for contributing to the economic and social development of the region.

During his visit to the United States, Piñeiro, accompanied by the Deputy Director General of the Institute, Harlan Davis, and other IICA officials, met with the Assistant Secretary of State for Organization Affairs, John Bolton, with whom they discussed the Institute's efforts. They also met with the alternate Representative of the United States to the Organization of American States (OAS), William Price, who is part of the United States Permanent Mission to the OAS. While in Washington, the Director General also met with the Secretary General of the OAS, Joao Clemente Baena Soares.

Piñeiro met with members of the United States Congress, who showed considerable interest in IICA's work in preparing a strategy to vitalize and modernize agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, meets with Clayton Yeutter, the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

The President and Executive Vice President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Enrique Iglesias and James Conrow, respectively, each met with the Manager of the Department of Plans and Programas, Ciro De Falco. On April 21, Piñeiro and other IICA officials held an internal seminar with the Bank's Board of Directors, where they studied important aspects of regional agricultural development and the need for greater flows of capital and new funding mechanisms.

The Director General's schedule also included a meeting with Michel Petit, an agricultural economist and researcher, who, together with other world-renowned figures, is a member of IICA's International Advisory Commission on the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. Petit is currently Head of the Department of Agriculture of the World Bank.

The Director General was pleased with the positive attitude of United States authorities toward the Institute, and particularly with the interest and support generated by the Plan of Joint Action, whose goals and objectives for economic and social development "are understood and shared." He added that his trip is part of IICA's efforts to generate a consensus on this regional strategy, which focuses on integration and cooperation.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA PRAISES MEXICO'S POTENTIAL FOR FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY

According to Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Mexico has the potential to achieve self-sufficiency in food production. In order to do so, it should use its ecological conditions to its advantage and increase intraregional trade, as its Latin American neighbors have done.

During his stay in Mexico, Piñeiro met with the Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources, Jorge de la Vega Dominguez, with whom he studied the section of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean which refers to Mexico. The Secretary of Agriculture expressed his interest in the Plan, since "it is a cooperation mechanism for use by the countries."

De la Vega and Piñeiro took advantage of the opportunity to evaluate the activities and projects the Institute is developing in Mexico. They also studied Mexico's participation in the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA).

The Director General extended an official invitation to the Secretary of Agriculture to attend the meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of CORECA, to be held in San Jose from April 26 to 28, at which time the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation of the subregion will be discussed.

Dr. Piñeiro also met with the Vice Minister of the Republic, Mr. Sergio Gonzalez Galvez, with whom he discussed the role of agriculture in the present foreign debt crisis and economic recovery in Latin America and the Caribbean.

During his visit, the Director General, accompanied by Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General, participated in a working lunch with Guillermo Funes, Director of International Affairs of the Office of the Undersecretary for Agreements, with whom he studied recent changes made within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Piñeiro noted that these changes "mark a break with the past and send a clear message to the more developed

countries, which have realized that from now on, trade conditions can only improve."

The Director General's schedule included the inauguration of IICA's new offices in Mexico. The ceremony was attended by top-level officials of the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture, the Rural Bank, CONASUPO, the Agrarian Reform Institute and other institutions linked to the agricultural sector.

At a press conference held in Mexico City, Piñeiro commented on topics such as macroeconomic and sectoral policies, biotechnology, rural development, marketing and agroindustry, animal health and plant protection and environmental protection.

Piñeiro stressed the fact that Latin American and Caribbean governments should not ignore these matters, since the possibility of overcoming the current grave economic crisis depends on active involvement in all of them.

Piñeiro stated that, "We cannot ignore the fact that the problems of urban poverty are, in a large measure, a consequence of anti-agrarian policies."



From left to right, Jorge de la Vega Dominguez, Secretary of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico; Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA; and Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations of IICA.

IICA AND UNICEF UNITED ON BEHALF OF RURAL CENTRAL AMERICAN WOMEN

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) will join together to promote the participation of women in rural development activities through a project to foster the integrated development of rural women in Central America.

At the end of a seminar held at IICA Headquarters, representatives from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama approved an amended version of a proposal made by IICA, and expressed their satisfaction with the decision of both organizations "to unite on behalf of rural women in the isthmus."

A committee made up of officials from both organizations will meet May 24, and spend two weeks adjusting the project, based on the comments made by the participants in the seminar-workshop on the participation of women in rural development in Central America.

Basically, the recommendations refer to the duration of the project which, according to the participants of the seminar, should be five years, and not three years as originally suggested; the nature of the governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that can participate in the execution of the joint IICA-UNICEF project; and a profile of the groups of women who will benefit from the project.

In general terms, IICA's proposal, presented through its Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, includes training and organization of rural women, the creation of special funding mechanisms to provide them with access to production resources, and training for technical personnel from government organizations and NGOs which work with rural women.

Through the IICA-Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) project, the Institute has broadened its scope of work with women. One of the areas of action, called "Women, Communications and Development," offers training courses to representatives from government and non-governmental institutions whose work centers on rural women.

The IICA-RNTC project and the Organization and Management for Rural Development Program have already identified areas of priority action for work with rural women.



Representatives from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama study a proposal presented by IICA and UNICEF for the integrated development of rural women in the region.

Dr. Elina Sana, of UNICEF, described the seminar as a valuable opportunity to reflect on the status of rural women in Central America and added that the joint project will offer rural women "greater possibilities of action: a key element in their achieving integrated development."

The Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, Fausto Jordan, praised the importance the Institute and UNICEF have given to working with rural women, and to reversing the process which puts women at a disadvantage and undermines their valuable contribution to the economy."

The discussions held during the meeting provided a broad picture of the conditions faced by rural women in the isthmus. According to a study presented at the seminar, approximately 3.6 million women live in the rural areas of Central America under extremely difficult conditions. Seventy-six percent are members of landless families or families whose plots measure less than four hectares.

For rural women, the economic and political crisis of the region has meant an increase in their responsibilities in designing family survival strategies. As a result, women now play a leading role in agricultural production, but this fact is not taken into consideration when information is gathered for preparing official statistics.

During a visit to several European countries, the Director of External Relations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Jorge Werthein, participated in the annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). During this meeting, held in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, the seventh general increase in that institute's resources was approved.

The Governors of the IDB approved a capital replenishment of US\$2.6 billion for the next four-year period. This will increase the credit capacity of this international agency to US\$22.5 billion.

In The Hague, Dr. Werthein met with representatives of the ministries of agriculture and of cooperation for development to discuss matters of interest for technical and financial cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In a meeting with the Deputy Director General of Cooperation for Development, Joe van Gennip, and the Director of Cooperation for Latin America and the Caribbean, Johan Wolfs, Werthein made a detailed presentation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was drawn up by IICA in response to a mandate from the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, and which will be considered at the next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, in October. Werthein also discussed the status and prospects of the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) project, signed in early 1987.

OTHER MEETINGS

In Oslo, Norway, the Director of External Relations met with officials of the Ministry of Cooperation which, as of last March, became the Norwegian International Development Authority, NORAD.

Werthein met with the Head of the Natural Resources Division, Gustav S. Klem, and other officials of the division, to discuss possible areas in which the government of Norway can collaborate with IICA. The Norwegian officials indicated their interest in the Plan of Joint Action since it establishes the possibility of developing regional projects in Central America related to women and natural resources.

In Paris, Werthein met with officials from the Ministry of External Relations and discussed possible cooperation initiatives for the Caribbean, particularly as concerns

technology transfer, technical support for the development of marketing and agroindustry, and animal health and plant protection projects.

He also met with the Director General of the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) of France, with whom he studied the possibilities of setting up a technical cooperation agreement between the two institutions.

In Madrid, IICA's Director of External Relations spoke with officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, the International Cooperation Agency, the National Commission to Celebrate the Five Hundredth Anniversary of the Discovery of America, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Expo 92 Sevilla.

The discussion with the Technical Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Gabino Escudero Zamora, focused on the results of the inter-agency meeting held at IICA Headquarters last March. Also present at the meeting was the Advisor to the Minister of Agriculture, Jesus Gonzalez Regidor, who is a special member of the International Advisory Commission (IAC) for the Plan of Joint Action. Escudero Zamora indicated that Spain's participation in the preparation of this strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean will provide it with a better picture of the problems that exist in the agricultural sector of that region, and enable it to participate actively in the implementation of the Plan.

At the International Cooperation Agency, Dr. Werthein met with the Director General of the Institute for Ibero-American Cooperation (ICI) and the Vice President of the Agency, Carmelo Angulo. They discussed the new direction being given to Spanish cooperation, through this new agency. Werthein indicated that the Agency plans to give increasing importance to regional projects, establishing specific cooperation agreements with institutions such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and IICA.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Werthein met with Miguel Albiñana Serain, Advisor to the Secretary of State for International Cooperation and for Ibero-American Affairs, to discuss possibilities for cooperation through Spanish non-governmental organizations.

Upon his return, the Director of External Relations expressed his pleasure with the positive attitude toward and interest in IICA's projects, programs and activities shown by the various European officials.

IICA PARTICIPATES IN THE FAO MISSION TO MEXICO

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) participated in a mission of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), in support of the government of Mexico's efforts to prepare a six-year agricultural modernization program.

FAO invited Fausto Jordan, Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, to participate in discussions on the content of the technical cooperation project.

The mission included FAO's Deputy Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, Rafael Moreno and the FAO-Rome delegate, Sergio Serani.

FAO's proposal, in response to an official request for assistance, comes at a time when the government of Mexico is preparing a national development plan, which will be completed in September of this year. One of the major areas of action deals with rural development and is known as the six-year agricultural modernization program.

The government, faced with insufficient public resources to substantially increase investments in the agricultural sector, and in order to take care of its most pressing needs, has suggested combining all available resources to put the sector back on its feet.

In general terms, the strategy aims to solve five key problems in the agricultural sector: food shortages and growing food imports; decapitalization of the sector; the steady deterioration of support prices; the existence of underused or abandoned public works and the growing number of unemployed.

According to preliminary estimates, this modernization program will allow the government to define strategies and policies needed in each part of the sector, and implement actions designed to increase employment.

The program will consolidate agrarian reform actions that will promote full participation of small-farmers in national development, through the efficient use of land, the adoption of technology and the standardization of land use and settlement systems.

The FAO proposal includes a wide range of components. IICA will provide support to the Mexican authorities in the areas of marketing and technology generation and transfer.

In regard to the latter, studies must be carried out to determine the nature of the technical problems which limit the use of irrigated areas and the humid tropics. An analysis of production sectors must be made, emphasizing the productivity of land and labor, as well as the types of technological innovation that will serve modernization policies.

...In general terms, the strategy aims to solve five key problems in the agricultural sector: food shortages and growing food imports; decapitalization of the sector; the steady deterioration of support prices; the existence of underused or abandoned public works and the growing number of unemployed...

Also to be studied are the direction and strategy of research programs and resources assigned to these activities, the present state of technology transfer in the country, procedures used to establish action priorities and the potential and possibilities for biotechnological development in Mexico.



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

FAO AND IICA-RNTC SIGN LETTER OF UNDERSTANDING

The advisor of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in Nicaragua, Nelson Gonzalez, and the Director of External Relations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Jorge Werthein, signed a letter of understanding which will lead to joint IICA-RNTC and FAO activities for communications training.

FAO is currently implementing a technology generation and transfer project in Nicaragua, known as FAO-NIC/85/028, with the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Agrarian Reform (MIDINRA) which seeks to transfer know-how and technology to small-scale farmers.

IICA and the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) are involved in a joint project for communications applied to education and rural development in Latin America, with special emphasis on Central America and the Caribbean, and aimed at training different types of professionals working in rural development.

Gonzalez stated that one of the basic tenets of the FAO project is that "communications for development is a discipline that contributes theoretical and methodological elements to the development of systems, techniques and instruments that enable information and know-how to flow among the different social sectors participating in rural development."

Within this context, the letter of understanding aims to coordinate efforts between the two projects in order to make optimal use of the available resources, and bring about an on-going exchange of experiences.

The IICA-RNTC project will include three training activities in Nicaragua: planning communications and message analysis, design and preparation of printed materials, and radio productions.

The FAO NIC/85/028 project will provide follow-up in Nicaragua on agricultural development activities carried out by graduates of IICA-RNTC training courses.

Another goal of the project is to design and implement a follow-up and evaluation system to aid in the preparation of periodic reports on the work of the trainees.

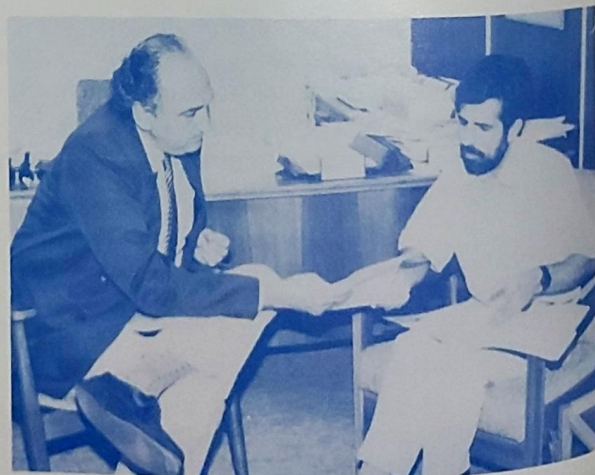
Gonzalez was very optimistic about this new example of cooperation between IICA and FAO and noted that the Institute had supported the FAO-NIC/85/028 project in the past through the IICA-RNTC project, which trained officials from MIDINRA in the use of the media for agricultural development.

He stated that, "There is no doubt that through the joint and complementary efforts of both projects will make it easier to contribute more effectively to agricultural and rural development in Nicaragua, something which is quite difficult to do with isolated or independent actions."

Similarly, Werthein also stated that "the possibilities for joint activities are virtually limitless and, in the case of Nicaragua, we will join efforts with FAO in order to contribute to the well-being of small-scale farmers."

IICA's Director of External Relations commented that the signing of the letter of understanding is another example of the relationship which has always existed between IICA and FAO, and of their common interest to join forces and coordinate actions for the good of all the countries in the region.

"We will continue to work together," he concluded.



The Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein, and the Advisor for FAO in Nicaragua, Nelson Gonzalez, sign a letter of understanding.

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

IICA AND THE IDB ANALYZE NEW AREAS FOR COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PLAN OF JOINT ACTION

On April 21, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) held an internal seminar in Washington in which the Board of Executive Directors of the Bank and officials of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) analyzed new forms and areas of cooperation, within the framework of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The meeting was held to discuss important aspects of the region's agricultural sector and the necessity for greater flows of capital, and possible new financial mechanisms.

The successful meeting laid the groundwork for more in-depth discussions aimed at reaching a general agreement covering the Institute's relations with this funding agency.

The seminar's program started with a presentation by the IDB's President, Enrique V. Iglesias. IICA's Director General, Dr. Martin E. Piñero, spoke about the new role for the agricultural sector within strategies for economic development. The Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program, Dr. Carlos Pomareda, made a presentation on investments in modernization and development of the regional agricultural sector: mechanisms and priority areas.

Odin Knudsen, the World Bank's chief agricultural economist for Latin America, analyzed the theoretical bases and experiences of the World Bank in adjustment loans for the agricultural sector of Latin America. Percy Bono, Deputy Director of the Investment Center of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Rome, made a presentation on the identification and preparation of investment projects in the



The Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Piñero (center), speaks on the new role of the agricultural sector in strategies for the economic development of Latin America and the Caribbean. Dr. Piñero is accompanied by the IDB President, Enrique Iglesias (right) and the manager of the IDB's Project Analysis Department, Jorge Ferraris.

agricultural sector: FAO's regional and overall experience.

AGRICULTURE - A CENTRAL ISSUE

The IDB's president, Enrique V. Iglesias, stated during the seminar that "the subject of agriculture has always been of importance to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean."

However, he recognized that "in spite of the priority placed on agricultural policies in our countries, the fact remains that Latin America has not yet taken full advantage of its agricultural sector; a sector which is of vital importance in the reactivation of our economies."

Iglesias analyzed the impact of the agricultural policies of the developed countries, which have allowed them to cease being importers and become exporters of products such as grains and dairy products. "We are faced with the problem of a marked agricultural expansion in the industrialized nations, based in large part on subsidies," he said.

He added that in today's agricultural sector there are new elements "which we must include in our analysis." Among these, he mentioned the necessity to increase production, in light of growing demand; the technological process and biotechnology; and the environment and the conservation of renewable natural resources.

He also emphasized the need of analyzing the human and social dimension; the necessity of increasing exports; as well as the importance of closely following what happens within the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and the activities of the Cairns Group.

Iglesias added that, "Within this context, we are concerned by the fact that our farmers are not competing against more efficient farmers in other countries, but rather against the more powerful treasuries of those countries."

The President of the Bank maintained that "working more closely with cooperation organizations, over the long term, is of priority at the IDB."

THE ROLE OF AGRICULTURE IN REACTIVATION

In analyzing the current economic crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean and the implications of same for the future development of the region, IICA's Director General emphasized the fact that the negative factors affects more than the economy; it also affects the population's general welfare and, consequently, the strengthening of the democratization process.

He indicated that, faced with these economic problems, which are attributable to both internal and external conditions, "agriculture can take on an important role." He explained that in many of the countries in the region, a large percentage of resources are still being allocated to the agricultural sector, which maintains natural comparative advantages in the production of a good number of commodities. Pífeiro told top IDB officials that, "This, added to the fact that there is still considerable room for the substitution of agricultural imports, makes agriculture the focal point of an investment program for economic reactivation and growth."

Pífeiro added that the new role given to agriculture in the development of the region, and the necessity of promoting new activities which will lead to diversification of production and new markets, the modernization of small-farm production, the development of the agro-industrial sector, and the upgrading of food security "is receiving renewed attention, this being a particularly important and optimistic note within the current context of the crisis."

"It is within this context that the work of technical and financial cooperation agencies takes on particular importance, and that inter-institutional cooperation can be an efficient vehicle for collaborating with countries and promoting activities directed at their economic development," added Pífeiro.

The Director General made a thorough analysis of the effects of the overall economic situation on production and, in particular, the negative effects of adjustment and stabilization programs being implemented in many countries of the region. Among such effects, he emphasized recession and deteriorating social conditions, which contrast with growing social demands for improved welfare that have been strengthened by the democratization process. As a result, many countries are searching for new proposals for economic policies. He went on to emphasize the need to strengthen the new actors in the reactivation process "which at the same time implies a strengthening of society."

Speaking of the contribution of agriculture to economic reactivation, he mentioned that in the majority of the Latin American and Caribbean countries, it is this sector which has best survived the crisis of the 1980s. This superior "resistance to crisis" is demonstrated by two aspects: "on the one hand, and contrary to what took place in previous decades, the agricultural gross domestic product grew during this decade at rates higher than those of the economy as a whole, and on the other hand, in the majority of the countries, the agroindustrial sector has had better growth rates than the rest of the industrial sector."

In making a long-term analysis, the Director General assured that there was a clear possibility of making the

revitalization of agriculture into a hub of accumulation. To do so, the outdated concept of "agriculture as a primary sector" must be abandoned, and that of "an integrated and mechanized agroindustrial complex" be adopted. He added that "using agriculture/agroindustry as the basis of economic growth has the added advantage of promoting the development of industries capable of competing on the international level, and thus, contributing to the growth of exportable manufactured goods, in a manner consistent with the requirements of a more open economy."

The Director General was emphatic in calling attention to the need to incorporate the small-farm economy into the process of modernization and economic development. In presenting his arguments, he emphasized those of an ethical and social nature. He maintained that "the problems of poverty have worsened, particularly since the crisis of the 1980s; problems of violence and armed conflicts have proliferated, many of which are strongly rooted in rural areas. The increase in drug trafficking has also negatively affected many rural areas, bringing to light the urgent need for the adoption of strategies which will make it possible to develop an equitable modernization process."

An important part of his presentation to the IDB dealt with the need for long-term, sustainable agricultural development, and the urgency of linking the subject of the conservation of natural resources with production strategies. He said that the problem of conserving natural resources cannot be addressed efficiently "without addressing the problem of rural poverty."

Piñero informed the Bank's representatives as to the work currently being carried out by IICA, upon mandate from the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere: the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean. He commented that "the IDB has been offering assistance in this initiative and we hope that this will increase in the future." This funding agency, in addition to sitting on the International Advisory Commission, and having provided technical support in consultative and working meetings, has agreed to two short-term technical cooperation consultancies for the development of activities related to the Plan of Joint Action, and to other contributions, particularly in Central America, through subregional mechanisms.

The Director General of IICA highlighted the role of the international financing agencies, especially international development banks, in the reactivation of the economies, in general, and of the agricultural sector, in



From left to right, Odin Knudsen, Chief Agricultural Economist for Latin America, World Bank; Jorge Ferraris, Manager, Project Analysis Department, IDB; Dr. Martín E. Piñero, Director General, IICA; Enrique Iglesias, President, IDB; Julio Luna, Head, Division of Agricultural and Forestry Development, IDB; Miguel Urrutia, Manager, Department of Social and Economic Development, IDB; and R. Gusten, Head, Pre-Investment Center, FAO.

particular. He maintained that external aid will continue to be the main component of new investments until the overall situation improves, which will allow for a greater level of domestic savings and incentives for local investment.

He also called on the Bank to make an analysis of the types of loans it has made to date, as well as those made by its national counterparts, "so as to find new alternatives which will make the Bank's contribution more effective and closer to the needs of an adjustment with growth."

Piñero added that "the formidable difficulties facing our countries require, more than ever, a higher degree of interaction between international technical and financial cooperation agencies. It is imperative that we take advantage of installed capacities; avoid duplication of efforts; support one another in areas where we are most qualified to do so; and coordinate the improved use of technical and financial resources."

He commented that another clear indication of the need to promote joint efforts between organizations is the growing evidence that, in order for investment to be successful, it has to occur simultaneously with the application of the corresponding economic policy and the strengthening of pertinent institutions.

TOWARD NEW WAYS OF FINANCING AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In a study undertaken by the Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and presented to the IDB, it was proposed that the goal of allocating financial resources for use in the agricultural sector of Latin America and the Caribbean should gradually shift from adjustment to growth.

"As indicated in a document on mechanisms used by multilateral banks for the mobilization of resources for agricultural and agroindustrial investment in Latin American and the Caribbean, this initiative represents a change from the trend of the 1980s, when the focus was on adjusting to external problems."

According to this document, the strategy should include two essential components. On the one hand, there must be a considerable increase in the volume of resources transferred to the region, and, on the other, increased efficiency of investment can be put off no longer.

The study adds that "the specific objective of the new forms of financing is to promote private sector investment and increase the efficiency of public and private investment, through political changes and institutional reforms."

The study maintains that banks should not consider loans as a means of imposing conditions. Rather, they should be seen as the necessary support International Financing Organizations (IFO) give to investment programs and structural reforms that the countries themselves have decided to promote.

Thus, it is suggested that the success of such programs will depend, to a great extent, on the "quality" of the technical and political contribution of the countries, as well as on the human and financial resources the specialized financing and technical agencies make available to implement this "dialogue" between countries and IFOs.

The document also identifies priority areas for the financing of agriculture and specifically recommends

the channeling of resources towards industrial development; regional integration; education, training and the development of human resources; technology generation and transfer; institutional modernization; social development and the reduction of poverty.

Concerning the role to be played by technical institutions in financing agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, it is suggested that coordination between these agencies and IFOs be promoted so that together they can collaborate with the countries in preparing and implementing programs.

It is suggested that "complementing and supporting the work of the countries can take place at different levels, such as has been the case in the past with the training of personnel through courses, seminars and other activities."

As a complement to these new forms of financing, the Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program proposed the formation of an IICA/IDB technical unit to provide support to countries in preparing agricultural sector programs.

In the document, prepared by IICA specialists, the proposal was justified on the grounds that the capacity to formulate agricultural investment programs does not exist in many countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In general terms, the study proposes abandoning loan programs which only finance political reforms, and adopting the concept of agricultural sector programs (ASPs) comprised of the following elements: a) investments to be made in roads, rural electrification, storage, port facilities, settlements, among others; b) the strengthening of institutions with key roles in technological innovation, development of human resources, the improvement of banking services for farmers, etc.; and c) the need for a reorientation of certain policies.

Once the concept of ASPs has been adopted, the IFOs should create financing possibilities for each one of the components.

Latin America and the Caribbean: STRENGTHENING OF THE AGROINDUSTRIAL COMPLEX RECOMMENDED

Experts from 18 countries met in Brasilia from April 4-7 with the aim of formulating recommendations for concrete action to be taken for Latin American and Caribbean agroindustry. They concluded that agroindustry has an essential role to play in the reactivation of the region's economy, and that it can contribute to improving rural living conditions.

During a high-level seminar on agroindustrial development policies, convened by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), some 60 specialists from Latin America, the United States, Canada and Europe identified problems in and prospects for the agroindustrial sector, within the current international economic context.

The activity was co-sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Bank of Brazil, the National Economic and Social Development Bank, and the Central Bank of Brazil.

According to Rodolfo Quiros, the seminar's coordinator and Director of IICA's Marketing and Agroindustry Program, the participation of government representatives, private entrepreneurs, researchers, scientists

and technical experts, as well as representatives from international organizations and agencies, made the analysis "valuable and fruitful."

The recommendations will assist the Institute in the elaboration of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, entrusted to IICA by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere during their 1987 meeting in Ottawa, Canada. The proposal is to be studied by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in October.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The international economic context, with its important and swift changes; the growing distortions of the agricultural sector as a result of the protectionist policies of industrialized nations; the instability of the market for agricultural products, and fluctuations in exchange rates, were some of the elements taken into account when discussing the environment in which the region's agroindustrial sector should develop.

Dr. Edward Schuh, Director of the Institute for Public Affairs of the University of Minnesota, stated that, in



The results of the Policy Seminar on Agroindustrial Development will assist IICA in the elaboration of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation.

spite of the barriers, the international demand for agroindustrial products will increase. Dr. Schuh, who is also a member of IICA's International Advisory Commission, stated that more needs to be done to liberalize international trade, and recommended an overall viewpoint in the formulation of policies aimed at promoting agroindustry over the long term.

The implementation of decisions made during negotiations at the Uruguay Round of GATT was repeatedly called for by the participants. Likewise, they requested that the negotiations of the Group on Agriculture produce solutions which would lead to a liberalization of agroindustrial trade, while reducing subsidies which distort international competition. Another recommendation was that a study be made of the service sector's role in and contribution to agroindustrial exports, to determine whether or not there is interest in the region in having the Uruguay Round of GATT regulate services.

Also analyzed during the seminar were the impact of macroeconomic and adjustment policies on the agroindustrial sector, and the need to establish sectoral policies which address agroindustry specifically. While it is true that agroindustry has not been adequately promoted in the region, it is also true that it is the most important sector within the manufacturing industry, being responsible for more than a quarter of total production.

Emphasis was given to the need to correct anti-agriculture biases and face regional challenges resulting from the debt crisis and the fact that the import-substitution model has run its course and no longer provides answers to current national and international conditions.

It was stated that agroindustrial production should take into account rapidly changing patterns of demand and consumption. Latin American and Caribbean countries enjoy comparative advantages in their agricultural production, particularly in fresh fruits and vegetables, but the participants were reminded that the consumer in developed countries is very demanding as far as quality and sanitation are concerned, and at the same time, is changing eating habits, especially with regard to the intake of carbohydrates and fats. The challenge is whether or not the region's supply can keep up with the changes and increases in demand, which could be even greater in the Japanese market.

The experts cited the role to be played by agroindustry as a driving force in rural development, the need to involve small-scale farmers in agroindustry and the potential of agroindustry for generating employment and income, which will reduce migration to the cities. In recognizing the urgent need to alleviate rural poverty, which, according to the participants, affects some 150

million Latin Americans, it was recommended that IICA, together with other agencies, design feasibility projects concerning small agroindustries operating in association with groups of small farmers, as well as with agroindustrial enterprises, for submission to international banks and other agencies for funding.

The role of technology was also studied, and it was recommended that research be closely linked to the concrete needs of the private sector. Although the impact of biotechnology was recognized, for example, in the case of the sugar industry, the experts commented on the importance of not abandoning, but rather modernizing, traditional technologies. The need for multilateral cooperation in the field received special attention. It was pointed out that none of the countries in the region can work alone in the field of technology and biotechnology, the way developed nations can.



Rodolfo Quiros: "The seminar was valuable and fruitful."

Discussions arose on the role of the State and the private sector in agroindustrial development. In spite of differences in approach, the essential role of private initiative was recognized, and governmental responsibility was clearly established, particularly as concerns legislation, in promoting agroindustrial development. State support for the small- and medium-sized entrepreneur in developing managerial capability and knowledge of the market was recognized as essential. With this in mind, the establishment of information networks, formal and informal business training programs, and assistance to farmers' organizations in identifying market niches for agroindustrial products were recommended.

One of the central themes of the seminar was, logically, financing for agroindustry. Information obtained by the Latin American Association of Development Finance Institutions (ALIDE) indicates that only 1.9 percent of

funds distributed by development banks was allocated to agroindustry. Various financing mechanisms were recommended, such as cooperative activities between banks in the same country, or in two or more countries; joint investment funds; credit unions; etc.

The participants concluded that during this high-level seminar, progress had been made in the definition of actions that must be taken for agriculture to become the moving force behind economic development.

IICA's Director General said that "the outdated notion of agriculture versus industry must be replaced with an understanding of the complementarity of combined

growth. The old concept of agriculture as a primary sector must be forgotten and replaced with that of an integrated and mechanized agroindustrial complex."

The Director General admitted that this is no easy task, especially in light of the economic crisis, which demands that maximum use be made of available resources. He argued that "it is necessary to create conditions and to design mechanisms that will make it possible to establish positive links and interaction between public and private sectors, as well as between these sectors and the financing, scientific and technological communities."

MAJOR AGRICULTURAL TOPICS

Six main topics were the subject of analysis and debate. The first on the macroeconomic environment for agroindustrial development in Latin America and the Caribbean, included presentations by Dr. Edward Schuh, Director of the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs of the University of Minnesota, and former Director of Agriculture and Rural Development at the World Bank; Alejandro Schejtman, of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC); and Jorge Torres Zorrilla, specialist from IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program.

Commentators on this topic were Brian Perkins, Coordinator of the IICA/CIDA Project and former Director General of Economic Policy of Canada's Ministry of Agriculture; Nicolas Rieg, of Uruguay's Center for Economic Research; and Hernan Zeballos, head technical specialist for Bolivia in the Andean Rural Technology Program.

On the second topic, concerning access to and penetration of domestic and international markets, presentations were made by Ronald Duncan, head of the International Markets Division of the World Bank; Alejandro Jara, Coordinator for Commercial Affairs of the Latin American Economic System (SELA); Lester Crawford, Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture; and Harold Riley, Director of Fellowships of the Kellogg Foundation and professor of agricultural economics at Michigan State University.

Commentators on this analysis of markets were Carlos Manuel Echevarria, Executive Secretary of the Federation of Central American and Panamanian Private Enterprises (FEDEPRICAP); Norman Tape, Director of the Food Research Centre of Canada's Department of Agriculture; David Hughes, Consultant to the IICA/CIDA Project; and Hugo Torres, the Deputy Representative of IICA in Brazil.

The role of technology and new technologies in agroindustrial development was a topic presented by Laurence Tubiana,

Director of France's International Economic Laboratory in Exchange and Development, of the National Institute on Agricultural Research; Roger Poulter, Director of the Storage Department of Great Britain's Overseas Development Natural Resources Institute; and Walter Jaffe, specialist from IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program. Commentators on this topic were Claudio Barriga, Director of the Department of Agrobusiness of the University of Chile and Director of the Chilean Dehydrators Association; and Gustavo Pinto Cohen, former Minister of Agriculture of Venezuela and advisor to the Polar Foundation:

The fourth topic, on the current state of and prospects for agroindustrial development in Latin America and the Caribbean, included presentations by Eduardo Jacobs of Argentina's Center for Social Research on the State and Public Administration (CISEA); and Carlos Benito, a researcher with the University of California Berkeley's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics. Commentators were Octavio Chirinos, an economist and researcher from Peru, and Ricardo Bressani, Coordinator of Research on Agricultural Sciences of the Institute for Nutrition for Central America and Panama (INCAP).

The topic of financing agroindustrial development was presented by Jaime Espinoza, General Advisor to the Latin American Association of Development Finance Institutions (ALIDE). In this case, the commentator was Jaime Fernandez, Head of the Economic Analysis Section of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The sixth and last topic was the role of the private sector and its organizations in agroindustrial development, presented by Eduardo Fresco, Executive Secretary of the Latin American Association of Food-Related Industries and Associations (ALICA). The commentator was the entrepreneur and investor, Karl Schakel, President of Western Agrimanagement International.

**Claudio Barriga:
STATE AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE MUST
SHARE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Coordination between the State and private enterprise is fundamental in strengthening agroindustry. This is the opinion of Chilean professor and entrepreneur, Claudio Barriga, who added that "in response to well-defined responsibilities" the State must establish the rules of the game through macroeconomic policies, so that entrepreneurs may assume their role "as a major force behind development."

Barriga called attention to role the State should play in negotiations on international trade and in the opening up of new markets, but also emphasized the social responsibility of entrepreneurs and workers, which, in the end, guarantees the quality of the production process.

By its nature, the agroindustrial system produces an important multiplier effect in that it generates new needs for services (transportation, communications, customs, insurance, administration, inspections, inputs, materials, etc.). It creates new sources of employment that, being located in the countryside, curb migration to the cities, which causes social problems and pressure on governments. He stressed that "the social effect is most important."

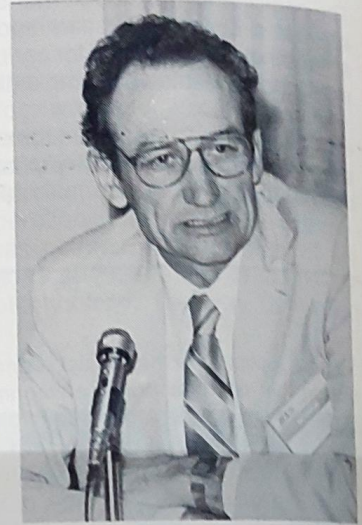
Barriga pointed to the permanent presence on international markets as being of the greatest importance, and he indicated that, if this is to be achieved, coordination between Latin American countries is indispensable. In this way, given the diversity of climates and seasons, when one country stops producing a given commodity, another country meets the market demand. He summarized that "it is a question of undertaking what, in the sporting world, is known as a relay race."

In order to attain this objective, "there must be general agreements between governments and farmers' organizations."



**Ronald Duncan:
MONITORING INTERNATIONAL
MARKETS IS INDISPENSABLE**

Ronald Duncan, head of the World Bank's Basic Commodities Markets Division, in his analysis of the penetration of the United States, European Economic Community and Japanese markets by agricultural commodities from developing countries, stressed the potential of fruits and vegetables.



After a detailed study focusing on the 1980-1985 period, he concluded that industrialized countries registered very different growth rates, increasing the pressure to strengthen protectionism, while Japan began to open up its economy. In these three markets, the apparent consumption of manufactured foods, beverages and tobacco totaled US\$660 billion. The best markets for meat and dairy products are found in the United States and the EEC. However, in Japan, where patterns of consumption are quite different, flour by-products and fish hold greater importance.

In real terms, the largest market, that of the United States, has not grown within this five-year period, the European market only slightly, whereas that of Japan shows a marked growth rate of about four percent annually. In the case of the United States, the sugar market is the one that has shown the greatest decline, followed by that of animal and vegetable oils, feed, fish and meat. Duncan stressed that these declines, except in the case of fish products, are attributable to increased consumer concern for health. He added that "this appears to be more than just coincidence."

On analyzing the rapid growth of the Japanese market, Duncan indicated that it is based on imports of meat, grain, fish, liquor and soft drinks, as well as those of fruits and vegetables. The EEC, in the meantime, has reduced imports of wines, grains and sugar.

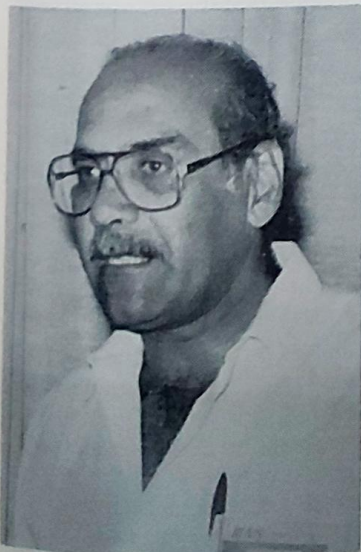
Wenceslao Lopez Paesano:
**AGROINDUSTRY SHOULD PROMOTE
 AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION**

Wenceslao Lopez Paesano, Director General of the Marketing Section of the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry of Venezuela, stated that "agroindustry should cease being a simple receiver of raw materials and begin playing a fundamental role in the development of agriculture, with the aid of modern technology, which increases productivity and upgrades the quality of the finished product."

Venezuela is designing a national agricultural plan and Lopez Paesano is coordinating the marketing and agroindustry components. His efforts focus on organizing a national network of markets and promoting the production of non-traditional commodities. He added that, "My country has been an importer of raw materials for agroindustry, a situation we are trying to overcome through agricultural development."

According to the Venezuelan official, agroindustry should provide financing for research and development and for technical assistance. He commented that "the sustained development of agriculture will be possible to the extent that linkages are created between agriculture and industry."

He reiterated that large segments of the population are consuming more and more processed foods. The processing of these foods can involve anything from simple packaging techniques to complex biochemical processes. It is for this reason that agroindustrial development should be an important part of government action in association with the private sector.



Faced with the disproportionate protectionism of developed countries, Lopez Paesano stressed the need for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to adopt coordinated methods for placing those agricultural commodities in which the region has comparative advantages, on these markets.

Carlos Ossa:
**FARMERS HARMED BY SEPARATION OF
 AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY**



The head of the Colombian Agrarian Reform Institute (INCORA), Carlos Ossa, maintains that "those that suffer the most from the separation of agriculture and industry are the farmers," and he stressed the need to strengthen the mechanisms for association between farmers and industrialists.

Ossa has held the position of Vice Minister of Agriculture, and Advisor on Reconciliation, Normalization and Rehabilitation to President Virgilio Barco, in connection with the peace process. He has also been president of the Farmers' Association of Colombia.

The head of INCORA indicated that one of the greatest difficulties within rural development processes is the marketing of agricultural commodities. He stated that the farmers need all the help they can get in identifying market niches for those commodities in which the region has comparative advantages.

He said that "coordination between small farmers and processors is fundamental in order to improve export possibilities." The Colombian official criticized the lack of real backward-forward linkages in the agroindustrial production chain. He offered the example of the textile industry, which buys and processes fibers, without establishing any links with the producer.

He recommended the strengthening of activities which will enable small farmers to become partners in the processing enterprises located in the areas of production, thus allowing them to participate in all aspects of the agroindustrial process. However, he recognized that the real solution to the obstacles to agroindustry is a reduction of the protectionism of industrialized nations, "the increase in which is commensurate with the degree of processing."

**Brian Perkins:
NEED TO IMPROVE
KNOWLEDGE OF MARKETS**

Brian Perkins, coordinator of the project to strengthen IICA's Programs, a joint effort between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), considers the major obstacle to agroindustrial development to be the lack of adequate knowledge of the requirements and regulations involved in supplying international markets, "a field in which cooperation is indispensable."

Perkins, who was Director General of Economic Policy of Canada's Ministry of Agriculture, commented that "this is a greater obstacle than the protectionism prevailing in industrialized nations."

Perkins explained that within the areas covered by the IICA/CIDA project, one which is of great importance is the study and development of guidelines and models for penetrating the Canadian and U.S. markets with non-traditional agroindustrial commodities. He indicated that this will be done to select pre-investment projects, under the joint-venture system. The results of this joint activity will serve not only to overcome the lack of market knowledge on the part of the Latin American and Caribbean agricultural exporters, "but they can also be used by North American exporters."

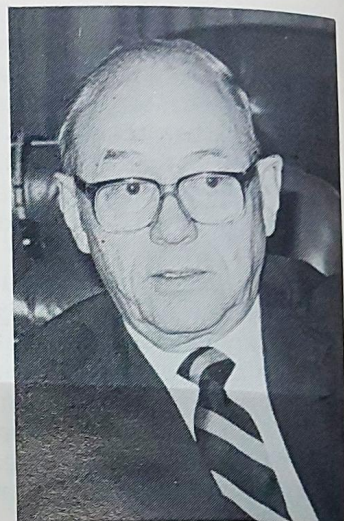
The expert was emphatic in indicating that agroindustrial activities are going to expand much more than those of the primary agricultural sector.

However, he recommends that efforts also be made towards supplying domestic markets. Devaluation, which increases the costs of imports, favors domestic industry, as does the instability of international markets.



**Harold Riley:
PLAN OF JOINT ACTION OFFERS
UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGE**

Harold Riley, a professor of agricultural economics at Michigan State University and Director of Fellowships of the Kellogg Foundation, considers that the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, and its analysis of the overall economic conditions faced by the region, presents an unprecedented challenge for future growth and development.



The expert was impressed by the scope and substantive content of the proposal, and added that it represents a positive step towards the economic recovery of the region, based on an industrialized agricultural sector.

Riley commented that this strategy emphasizes the potential contributions of the modernization of agriculture as a means of achieving economic recovery in the short-term, and establishing goals for equitable growth in the long-term. He explained that the proposed lines of action call for a review and reorientation of macro-economic policies, to ensure a coherent approach to agricultural reactivation. He added that the old contest between agriculture and industry should be abandoned, in favor of strategic actions which recognize the interdependence and relations between these sectors.

In Riley's opinion, this idea goes beyond the simple development of the agricultural sector, to include activities ranging from the manufacture and distribution of inputs, to the transportation of products to the consumers. Another aspect which caught the attention of the economist is the explicit recognition that agricultural modernization, which involves the use of increasingly complex technologies, is part of a long-term industrialization process needed to satisfy the changing demands for products from the primary sector.

Edward Schuh:
**LATIN AMERICA CAN HANDLE THE
 CHALLENGES OF DEVELOPMENT**

Edward Schuh, Director of the Institute of Public Affairs of the University of Minnesota and ex-Director of Agriculture and Rural Development at the World Bank, affirmed that Latin America and the Caribbean are facing challenges under conditions which make the task of promoting agroindustrial development very difficult, but not impossible.

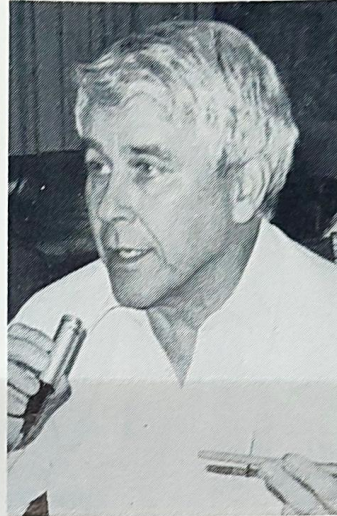
Schuh, who is a member of the International Advisory Commission (IAC), which supports the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in the elaboration of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, added that this Plan represents a positive step toward the economic recovery of the region, based on an industrialized agricultural sector with greater potential. Schuh recommends that, in defining changes in agroindustrial development policy, the structure of the international economy, as well as general trends in the agricultural sector itself, should be taken into account.

These changes, which are not temporary, are produced as a result of technological advances in transportation and communications, and the evolution of the international computer industry. He affirmed that these advances, which have lowered the costs of transportation and communication services, have made the world into one global village. They have also led to important changes in the structure of the international economy, resulting in, for example, national economies being more dependent on international trade.



Another of the recommendations made by the expert is to consider the fact that the successful penetration of export markets could be achieved by first developing an improved capacity to serve domestic markets and their growing demands.

Norman Tape:
**AGRICULTURE: THE HEART
 OF DEVELOPMENT**



When commenting that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is correct in proposing the agricultural sector as the fundamental sector in the strategies for the recovery of economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, Canadian scientist, Norman Tape, stated

that agriculture is at the very heart of development.

In stressing the importance of agroindustry, the Director of Canada's Food Research Centre explained that in his country, for example, one in every four people is directly related to the agricultural sector or the food industry.

Tape, who coordinates Canadian participation in the Codex Alimentarius Commission, in a joint program of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), affirmed that food standards are absolutely necessary and useful for the exporter as well as for the importer. However, few people work in this field and the organizations that do so are practically invisible. This is due to the fact that they create tools rather than products, and that the adoption of international agreements is a very time-consuming process.

As far as the role of research and the researcher in agroindustrial development is concerned, both contribute from planting time up until the time when the products reach the consumer. Research has also made food security and improvements in nutrition possible. He added that the impact of research is often reflected in changes in consumer patterns; for example, when it is demonstrated that less fat and more fiber should be consumed. Nevertheless, he recognized that in most Latin American and Caribbean countries, financial resources are very limited, and therefore he agreed with IICA's proposal to undertake joint activities.

Laurence Tubiana:
**AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION IS THE
 PATH LATIN AMERICA SHOULD FOLLOW**

In the opinion of the French researcher, Laurence Tubiana, IICA's work to develop a Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean is "quite logical in view of the role the sector can play in regional development, a role which had been ignored for some time."



Tubiana, Director of the International Economic Laboratory on Exchange and Development of the National Institute for Agricultural Research of France, recommended that the agricultural sector itself promote research and the incorporation of technological advances into production processes. In this regard, she considered that, given the existence of an inequitable agroindustrial structure in Latin America, the organization of the farmers is imperative.

She added that, "When technological changes are controlled by the farmers themselves, the results are better and greater. However, to achieve this, participation must be more egalitarian and farmers must upgrade their negotiating skills."

She feels that the only way the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean can respond to the protectionism of the industrialized nations is through the implementation of sectoral policies for agroindustry. Tubiana added that the current situation on international markets and the prevailing distortions "will not last forever. In the meantime, the region must build on its comparative advantages and set up structures for production in each country."

In light of the scarcity of resources for research in the region, she highlighted the importance of defining the techniques which should be developed, keeping in mind that "certain techniques are appropriate in certain contexts, but not in others." In this regard, she recognized IICA's work in the identification of joint activities for the generation and transfer of technology.

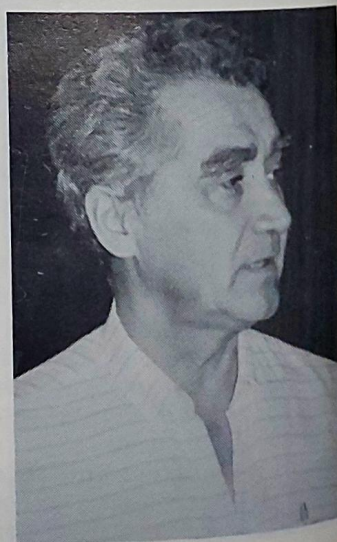
Hernan Zeballos:
**AGROINDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT MUST
 BENEFIT THE SMALL-FARM SECTOR**

Hernan Zeballos, the head technical specialist for Bolivia in the Andean Rural Technology Program, stressed the urgency of developing initiatives which give agroindustry a greater role in the modernization of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will result in improvements in the small-farm economy. In explaining how the agroindustrial process can contribute to the modernization of agriculture, he cited, among other reasons, its impact on the specialization of agriculture, the introduction of processes which prolong the useful life of products, and the creation of new ones, more in line with new tastes and markets.

Zeballos shared the view of IICA on the existence of a two-tiered agricultural structure within the countries. There are farmers who employ modern production technologies and who already have a position in international markets. The other group, of equal importance, consists of small farmers, many of whom have no land or only small plots. They employ traditional production techniques and usually only manage to subsist from their farming activities. He maintained that "in many of our countries, the magnitude of the problems of the small farmers calls for a special, differentiated response which cannot be attained via macro-economic policies."

With the aim of strengthening the small-farm economy, Zeballos recommends the industrialization of products to be used by the farmers. The low level of productivity frequently found among small farmers is based on the lack of modern inputs.

Zeballos went on to say that the success of agroindustrial policies depends on improvements in public administration. "In many of our countries, there is no clear definition as to which agency is responsible for agroindustry."



CANADA STRENGTHENS TIES WITH LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

In commenting on the positive reaction of Canadian officials to the actions undertaken by the Institute, Ernani Fiori, IICA Representative in Canada, stated, "Canada firmly supports the actions taken by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)."

Recently, Richard V. Gorham, Canada's ambassador-at-large for Latin America, and Member of the Permanent Observer Mission to the Organization of American States (OAS), delivered to IICA, through its Representative in Ottawa, the sum of US\$1.45 million, Canada's quota for 1989.

On that occasion, Ambassador Gorham reiterated his government's appreciation for and interest in IICA's actions. He emphasized that Canada's active role in strengthening the Institute is also its way of providing support to the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The IICA Office in Canada is in constant contact with the Department of Agriculture, the Secretariat of State for External Affairs, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), for the discussion of possible actions or projects in the area of management for change, and as concerns institutional and bilateral cooperation. The Office works with Agriculture Canada, the federal ministry responsible for the agricultural sector, in the identification and promotion of activities involving the assignment of personnel to the Institute for short-term consultancies.

Recently, Canada, through CIDA, contributed US\$3.7 million to a project to strengthen IICA's Programs, with a view to supporting the member countries in modernizing and revitalizing the agricultural sector.

The project focuses on a limited number of innovative areas, considered essential in strengthening the Institute's ability to work with the member countries in finding and implementing strategies and policies for agricultural development and economic growth. It is divided into five independent, but closely related sub-projects, each of which responds to the strategic and operational guidelines of the Institute's five Programs.

The subproject on intersectoral relations as the basis for agricultural reactivation and economic growth, under IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Pro-



Canada's ambassador-at-large for Latin America, Richard V. Gorham, delivers Canada's quota for 1989 to Ernani Fiori, IICA Representative in Canada.

gram, contributes to the development of strategies for agricultural modernization.

The major objective of the subproject on access to new developments in biotechnology, under the Technology Generation and Transfer Program, is to support and upgrade the abilities of national technology generation and transfer systems to generate, acquire, use and increase technological advances made in the field of biotechnology.

The third subproject, on differentiated policies and participatory systems for rural development, is under IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program. It supports the policy formulation process and technical-institutional strengthening of public administration systems for rural development.

The fourth subproject, located within the Marketing and Agroindustry Program, focuses its efforts on identifying a group of potential agroindustrial commodities for Canadian and United States markets, which justify the development of joint ventures involving marketing **per se**, and the investment needed for production.

Finally, IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection Program, together with support from CIDA, contributes to a subproject on an animal health and plant protection information system in the Caribbean. It will organize and implement, in the Caribbean, an information and data monitoring system on the prevalence, incidence and distribution of animal and plant diseases and pests, which will allow Caribbean governments to determine priorities for establishing control programs.

Latin America: TRAINING PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL TO DESIGN AND EVALUATE MACROECONOMIC AND SECTORAL POLICIES

At the close of a course on macroeconomic and sectoral policies and agrarian development, organized last March in Chile by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), South American specialists from ministries of agriculture, planning, and finance and from central banks endorsed IICA's initiative to train professional personnel from Latin America and the Caribbean in techniques to design macroeconomic and sectoral policies.

For ten days, twenty-two specialists from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay met at the headquarters of the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC) to study the impact of changes in international conditions, domestic development strategies and macroeconomic and sectoral policies, on the agricultural sector.

The course, sponsored by the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank, was divided into seven basic units. It provided a frame of reference allowing participants to improve their analytical abilities in regard to the major macroeconomic and sectoral policies that affect agrarian development in their countries, said Helio Fallas, a specialist from IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program, and coordinator of the course.

The units covered topics ranging from an analysis of international, regional and national economic prospects, to a revision of the institutional framework concerned with the design, implementation and adjustment of agricultural policies and programs.

The activity included a presentation and discussion of basic macroeconomic concepts and relations, a review of experiences gained in the design of policies for the agrarian sector in the region, and the identification and selection of investment projects and programs.

Dr. Lucio Reca, a member of IICA's International Advisory Committee, participated in the design of the course and in the selection of materials. Among the international experts who participated both in the development of the units and in presenting the topics were Carlos Pomareda, Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program; Andres Bianchi, Assistant Executive Secretary of ECLAC; Enrique Fernandez, an economist with the EDI; Brian Perkins, Canadian coordinator for the IICA-CIDA project of the Ministry of



Specialists from eight South American countries study the main macroeconomic and sectoral policies that affect agricultural development in Latin America.

Agriculture of Canada; and Eugenio Diaz, IICA consultant.

The course also gave the participants the opportunity to present the experiences of their respective countries with macroeconomic and sectoral policies and agrarian development. This contributed greatly to the exchange of experiences on the problems and policies affecting this sector in the eight South American countries.

Participants presented and discussed documents they prepared on their respective countries. Each document included an introduction, listing the objectives and scope of the document and other matters of general interest, followed by a brief description of and statistical documentation on the importance of agriculture for the economy of the country, indicating major structural and short-term problems affecting the agricultural sector. Finally, the development objectives for the sector were identified and described, as well as the key macroeconomic and sectoral policies and investment programs being implemented in order to reach these objectives.

Fallas noted that, "The exchange of experiences and the opportunity to become familiar with other situations was very important for the participants, who realized the need for this type of course at the country level throughout Latin America and the Caribbean." A similar course, with necessary adaptations, is being planned for the countries of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), to be sponsored by ECLAC and EDI/World Bank.

Latin America and the Caribbean: IMPROVEMENTS EXPECTED IN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH

In a recent seminar on agricultural research, Eduardo Lindarte, a specialist in technology generation and transfer from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), stated that the most important contribution a seminar of this nature can make is to increase capabilities and know-how in order to improve agricultural research in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The activity, held at the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) and sponsored by IICA, CATIE and the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, gave specialists the opportunity to develop their skills in the management and administration of agricultural research, and to exchange experiences and know-how.

Lindarte termed the international seminar on agricultural research development and management, which brought together representatives from Bolivia, Central America, Ecuador, Panama, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay, a "valuable forum, rich in discussion, which gave the participants a new view of their responsibilities and possibilities in this field."

Management specialists studied topics such as the context of agricultural development in the region; the problems of organization; planning and programming; project management: preparation and administration; technology generation and transfer; research management and scientific-technical cooperation.

Lindarte commented that, "We expect a multiplier effect as the results of the seminar are disseminated, commented on and shared with larger groups in the countries."

He added that IICA, through its Technology Generation and Transfer Program, is developing a number of training activities in this area as part of one of its multinational projects. The project includes courses on general management and the organization of specialized seminars at the regional and subregional levels.

Lindarte also indicated that various entities such as ISNAR and CATIE have joined IICA in its efforts to promote activities that have a significant impact on agricultural research in the region.

In this regard, a regional course-workshop on research management and technology generation and transfer

was held in Santiago, Chile from April 17 to 21, sponsored by IICA, ISNAR, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the National Agricultural Research Institute of Chile (INIA) and the National Agricultural Technology Institute of Argentina (INTA).

Lindarte indicated that agricultural research in Latin America and the Caribbean began to take on importance during the 1950s and today involves approximately 15,000 researchers.

Nevertheless, he added, problems have arisen due to the fact that growth has been rapid and research has spread to numerous areas. This has been further complicated by limited resources, caused by the serious regional economic crisis.

Lindarte explained that "in addition to these problems, the management of agricultural research has never been very professional or systematic. It is simply developed by researchers who hold managerial positions."

He concluded that it is important to carry out activities to strengthen and develop the skills of those who are responsible for the management of agricultural research.



IICA, ISNAR and CATIE sponsor a seminar on the development and management of agricultural research.

EXPERIMENTS CONDUCTED WITH HYBRIDS TO IMPROVE CACAO PRODUCTION

As part of its work to find high-yield, disease resistant varieties, the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO) is developing an experimental program for cacao hybrids at the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE) using material from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

According to Jose Galindo, a specialist from CATIE, after hundreds of attempts at crossbreeding, 34 hybrids, using an initial lot of 450 clones, were obtained. Field tests made in the Costa Rican Atlantic zone showed that the new hybrids produce a far greater yield and are more resistant to black pod (*Phytophthora sp.*) and "mal de machete" (*Ceratocystis sp.*) than the local variety known as "matina."

While the "matina" variety generally provides an annual yield of between 300 and 400 kilos of dry cacao per hectare, the hybrids obtained from the research produced an average of approximately 800 and 1,000 kilos per hectare.

As part of the cacao research and improvement activities carried out by PROCACAO in Central America and the Dominican Republic this experiment, conducted simultaneously in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, is designed to determine whether the promising hybrids can adapt to different climatological and topographical conditions, for subsequent transfer to all the member countries of the network.

PROCACAO, coordinated by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), was established in April 1988, with economic support from the regional office of the United States Agency for International Development (AID-ROCAP) and involves the countries of the Central American isthmus and the Dominican Republic.

Galindo expressed his satisfaction with the progress made in the research, and stated that "more clones and hybrids will definitely be tested, since it is our aim to provide small-farmers with the material they need to farm under more favorable conditions."

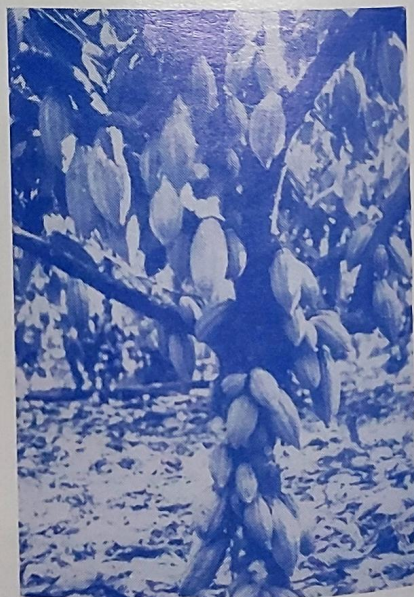
In regard to the material used during the experimental

stage, the researcher explained that clones are identical trees produced from a single bud and subsequently grafted, a process known as "cloning." Hybrids result from the crossbreeding of different clones.

Within the PROCACAO research program, work is also being done to identify materials resistant to moniliasis (*Monilia rozeri*). Field tests will indicate whether these varieties also provide a higher yield per hectare.

The expert indicated that "another of our areas of action is in establishing demonstration plots showing proper management for disease control, since we have noted that many small farmers have problems which limit their production to barely 80 kilos of dry cacao per hectare."

According to Galindo, a simple management plan could raise production to between 800 and 1,000 kilos per hectare, if three basic recommendations are followed: periodic removal of diseased fruits, composting of same, pruning to eliminate shade and thus reduce humidity.



Annual Report: IN 1988, BROAD GUIDELINES ESTABLISHED FOR THE PLAN OF JOINT ACTION

13

During 1988, broad guidelines for the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean were prepared and, as indicated in IICA's 1988 Annual Report, they have become a new institutional mandate that will strengthen and possibly modify some aspects of the 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan.

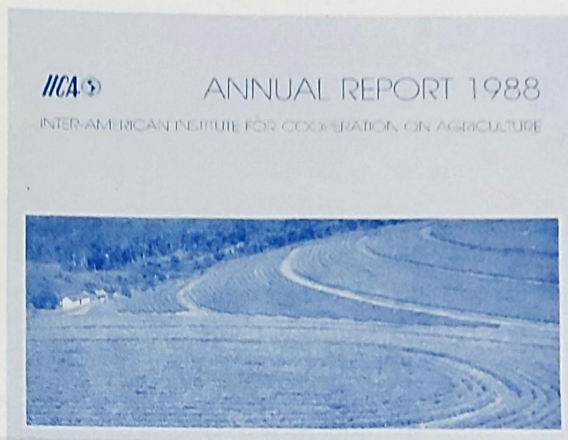
The Report, which was distributed this month, provides information on the institutional mandate, organizational structure, human and financial resources, and performance of the Institute as a technical cooperation agency. It also provides an overall view of the Institute and explains IICA's mandate, its responsibilities and the general difficulties it faces.

The Report is divided into five chapters and describes the technical cooperation actions executed by IICA in the member countries, the activities carried out during the year by its five Program Directorates, and the Institute's relations with technical cooperation and funding organizations. It also reports on the various tasks, contacts and agreements made in preparing for the Plan of Joint Action. In addition, the Annual Report describes the Institute's structure and management, the activities of the Executive Committee and the results of the application of its evaluation system.

The Report explains how the Plan of Joint Action was prepared in close collaboration with IICA's member countries and with regional and subregional cooperation organizations, through which they confirmed the countries' political commitment to joint actions in a number of areas dealing with agriculture.

An independent organizational structure was established for drawing up the Plan, comprised of a Technical Group, an Institutional Steering Committee, an International Advisory Commission and a mechanism for consultation responsible for preparing the proposals and coordinating all activities inherent to the preparation of the Plan.

At the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, to be held in October, 1989, the ministers of agriculture and other representatives from IICA of agriculture and other representatives from IICA Member States will have the opportunity to endorse the ideas developed during the elaboration of the Plan of Reactivation.



These ideas refer to the role of IICA's member countries in renewing economic growth; how the countries can modernize their production mechanisms to make sure that they are not left out of the technological revolution of the twenty-first century, and the status of the integration process in Latin America and the Caribbean.

IICA's 1988 Annual Report highlights certain points that arose during the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action, for example, concerning the need to include a natural resources component in IICA's Programs, and the Institute's use of multinational projects as a priority instrument of action.

In regard to conservation, although the Medium Term Plan does not mention this topic, the deterioration of natural resources is becoming a concrete problem that directly affects agricultural production in the countries. In view of this, IICA must take action by incorporating this issue into its five substantive Programs.

The use of multinational projects as a priority instrument of action is based on the mandate IICA received in Ottawa, in September 1987, and on the international nature of the Institute itself and the challenges it faces.

One of the most formidable challenges for IICA will be to "select multinational projects linked to technical cooperation actions at the national level, that are relevant and have an impact because they solve concrete problems in the countries."

ACTIVITIES

June 12 to 16 NINTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee, one of IICA's governing bodies, will meet at Institute Headquarters to study, among other topics, the report of the final contents of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the 1988 Annual Report, the status of the resolutions of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, and the Director General's report on IICA's Programs.

The meeting will be attended by representatives from the member countries sitting on the Executive Committee: Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America.

May 29 to June 30 COURSE ON DRAMATIZED RADIO PRODUCTIONS

This course will take place at the facilities of the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre, as part of the 1989 program of activities to develop radio programs for rural women. The main objective is to share theoretical and practical experiences in the production of dramatized radio programs, by planning and preparing series in various formats.

The course will be attended by 12 professionals from Central America who work in public, private, educational, cultural or outreach institutions, producing radio programs for mass or group use.

June 26 to July 16 COURSE ON THE PRODUCTION OF PRINTED MEDIA

This activity will be held in Honduras and aims to strengthen the technology generation and transfer program for coffee, carried out by IICA's Regional Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation (PROMECAFE).

The course, organized by the IICA/RNTC project, will be attended by 12 extension agents from national coffee institutes in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic, who will work to promote the generation, adaptation and transfer of coffee technology among small- and medium-scale farmers.

IICA IN THE NEWS

CORREIO BRAZILIENSE

April 4, Brasilia. Under the title of "Seminar in the Capital to Discuss Agroindustry," the Brazilian press reported on the high-level seminar on agroindustrial development policies, held in Brasilia by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with the support of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Bank of Brazil, the National Bank for Economic and Social Development (BNDES) and the Central Bank of Brazil.

The main objectives of this seminar were to study the opportunities and challenges involved in developing an efficient and competitive agroindustry system, to provide guidelines and recommendations for international cooperation, with a view to strengthening agroindustry's contribution in Latin America and the Caribbean to the agricultural reactivation process.

The Jamaica Record

March 14, Jamaica. A report was published on the presentation made by Dr. David Ibarra, member of the International Advisory Commission of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), during a meeting held in Mexico to study progress made on the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In his presentation, the Mexican expert stressed the need for Latin American and Caribbean countries to reorganize the agricultural sector through political actions that support and motivate growth in that sector.

EL DIARIO

March 7, La Paz. The Bolivian press reported on the US\$15,000 fund allocated to Bolivia by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for training, diagnosis and the preparation of technical bulletins, under the program for the control and eradication of the fruit fly.

The National Director of Plant Protection in Bolivia, Jose Lopez, stated that this donation would be used during the next four months, mainly to organize training courses for fruit growers in the valleys of La Paz and the Tarija central valley.

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

IICA



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NEWS

IICA/RNTC PROJECT HOLDS FIRST INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON THE USE OF VIDEOS

The IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) held a course-workshop on the use of video in productions for women from April 24 to May 19. The event, attended by twelve students from Central America, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Mexico, was considered a valuable "pilot experience."

In their countries, the participants work with rural women in fields such as education, health, agronomy or project management.

This course is the first in a series of IICA/RNTC activities on the use of videos, and is aimed at people working in governmental or non-governmental institutions who use, or will use, this useful and modern means of communication in the near future to support their rural development initiatives.

Specialists from the project explained that an evaluation process is under way to determine the most appropriate methods for, as well as the content of, subsequent courses. They pointed out the differences between teaching how to use videos and how to use radio. In video, students must learn how to use not only visual images, but also how to use cameras, editing machines, lighting, sound tracks, etc. On the other hand, it is not necessary to learn how to use the same type of equipment for radio, since this is a specific technical field.

The IICA/RNTC project was able to broaden its activities to include videos through the cooperation of the Worldview International Foundation (WIF), a non-governmental agency from Norway which financed the purchase of modern equipment and the hiring of video technicians.



Women who work in rural development projects for women participate in the first international course on videos, offered by the IICA/RNTC project.

IICA/RNTC PROJECT HOLDS...

THE COURSE

For one month, a total of 160 hours of work, experts in the field helped the participants study the first module, which dealt with the status of women in Central America in relation to work, health, education, politics, violence and communication. During the next three weeks, the students learned how to use videos: television language, television as a support for training, ethical use of the medium, and the different types of videos, according to structure and treatment (informative, educational, documentary).

After learning how to use cameras, the principles of lighting, composition, audio, editing and audio-visual aids such as character generators, the students concentrated on producing two video tapes, each approximately 12 minutes long. One focused on the situation of rural women, while the other analyzed the women's relationship with the working world. These two videos allowed the participants to apply what they had learned, both technically and conceptually, in regard to the situation of women in the region today.

Julio Alberto Arango, from Colombia, was in charge of the technical aspects of the course. He pointed out that all professionals, regardless of their field of work, should be familiar with this important medium. He stated that just as one learns how to use a typewriter or, more recently, a computer, professionals should "learn how to read and take notes in audio-visual terms, which is an extremely useful support mechanism."

In reference to this experience, Arango added, "We taught the participants to respect video language and to understand that they can use it, since we gave them the guidelines on how to do so."

Arango felt that three weeks was not long enough for the course. The participants shared his opinion and recommended that more time be allowed for studying the situation of women in the region, and how to work with videos.

Beatriz Cavazos Siller, a participant from Mexico, indicated that videos have a great potential for use in work related to women. If women are involved in producing a film, they will "identify strongly with it." She added, "although the initial investment in equipment can be high, it pays off rapidly." Cavazos is the director of the

association "Popular Action for Social Integration," which works with poor women.

Ana Maria Urbaz, who represented Haiti and works with rural women in the region that borders with the Dominican Republic, stated, "training for women is not only important, but necessary." She indicated that the know-how acquired will allow her to improve her work with groups of poor women.

Xinia Bustamante, a Costa Rican journalist from the National Learning Institute (INA), felt that they were able to plan and use the limited time they had, and to combine both theoretical and practical aspects. Nevertheless, she felt that some very important technical aspects were not covered and recommended that a more advanced course be offered to the same group.

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UNIFEM APPROVES FUNDING FOR IICA ACTIVITIES RELATED TO RURAL WOMEN

The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) will provide US\$100,000 to finance various activities proposed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in connection with strategies and actions related to women in the rural sector.

In thanking UNIFEM for this funding, the Director of External Relations of IICA, Dr. Jorge Werthein, stated that the Institute is determined to make every effort to study the problems of rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean, and that this study will enable IICA to efficiently channel its efforts in this field.

Pilar Campaña, a specialist from UNIFEM who recently completed a consultancy with IICA, said that, of the institutions in the region, IICA has the greatest potential for promoting and implementing a program which will lead to the full participation of women in the agricultural development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

She recommended that the Medium Term Plan, which will govern IICA actions through 1991, should address more thoroughly the role women play, or should play, in the current scenario, which is one of crisis and adaptation to adjustment policies in Latin America.

To achieve this objective, and with the funds from UNIFEM, an expert will be hired to advise the Institute on establishing a conceptual framework to be used as the basis for the activities related to incorporating women into the processes of agricultural reactivation and rural development.

These activities will be carried out under IICA's Program III (Organization and Management for Rural Development), headed by Fausto Jordan, and will be coordinated with the Institute's other Programs and the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre Project (IICA/RNTC). One component of this project is entitled: Women, Communications and Development, which involves training women in the use of techniques that lead to more effective and efficient communication.

The UNIFEM funds will be used to finance a seminar on the subject of rural women. The main objective of the

seminar will be to consolidate the theoretical frame of reference which will guide the research, planning and communications activities of IICA, with a view to providing greater support to the governmental and non-governmental agencies working with rural women in the region.

The conceptual framework could deal with topics related to rural women and participation, reproductive and productive work, communications, and the institutions that work with and for them. During the seminar, several specialists will present papers on these topics, which will be expanded upon by the participants from UNIFEM, IICA and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). The final document will be prepared on the basis of the presentations and subsequent discussion.

The UNIFEM funds will also be used to fund research into how rural women in Costa Rica perceive and use educational radio.

Radio programs aimed at women, which give no true consideration to the real situation of women, reinforce stereotypes and perpetuate their position of subordination. According to the proposal approved by UNIFEM, programs which more accurately reflect the realities faced by women can be produced when more is known about the lives they lead.

Since the seventies, more and more attention has been paid to radio programs directed at women. In spite of this, however, not enough is known about whom they are intended to reach, what people do with them, or what, if any, has been their effect in raising the awareness of the people or modifying their behavior.

This research will make it possible to analyze and evaluate how rural women perceive and use radio programs designed to educate them and make them aware of problems. A set of recommendations as to the format and content of educational radio programs for rural women will also be drawn up. Another of the objectives is related to the production of radio series intended to educate rural women and make them aware of problems.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA VISITS SURINAME, GUYANA AND JAMAICA

From May 1 to 10, the Deputy Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. L. Harlan Davis, and the Director of Operations for the Caribbean Area, Reginald Pierre, made an official visit to Suriname, Guyana and Jamaica, where they met with government authorities and officials in charge of the agricultural sector.

The Deputy Director General took advantage of the trip to talk with Representatives of the Institute in these countries, who informed him of the status of various technical cooperation projects being carried out by IICA.

In Suriname, Davis had a very productive meeting with the Minister of Foreign Relations, E.J. Sedoc; the Minister of Agriculture, S. Redjosef; and a group of senior officials from that ministry, headed by the Vice Minister, J.W. Esajas. Davis was accompanied during these visits by the IICA Representative, Mario Franza and the planning specialist, Irwin Telfer.

In Guyana, the Deputy Director General and the Representative in Guyana, George Buckmire, met with the Minister of Foreign Relations, Rashleigh Jackson; the Minister of Agriculture, Patrick McKenzie, and members of the diplomatic corps.

In Jamaica, Davis spoke with the Governor General, Florizel Glasspole; the Minister of Agriculture, Horace Clarke; officials from various governmental agencies linked to the agricultural sector, and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Lucille Mace. The IICA Representative in Jamaica, Jan Hurwitch MacDonald also participated in the meeting.

Government and agricultural authorities in the three nations showed great interest in the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which IICA is preparing in response to the mandate of the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which was held in Ottawa, Canada, in September, 1987.

This Plan is a re-assessment of the role that the modernization of agriculture can play in the economic future of the region, and will be studied by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) next October. It includes

specific strategies for the different subregions, programs and joint action projects, and financial and institutional mechanisms at both the hemispheric and subregional levels for implementing the Plan.

Davis also informed the authorities on the upcoming meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, which will be held in Costa Rica from June 12 to 16, and the meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), which will be held in October. He stressed the importance the Institute gives to technical cooperation projects being carried out in the Caribbean.

As an example, Davis pointed out IICA's collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture in Jamaica in promoting a technical assistance program for small businesses involved in rural development. This year IICA has concentrated its efforts on supporting recently established small businesses.

IICA also provides advisory services on technology generation and transfer for small farmers to the Research and Development Division of the Ministry. This is an area of great interest for the Jamaican authorities since they feel that it can enhance the role small farmers play in economic reactivation.



L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of IICA.

DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS VISITS CANADA

The Director of External Relations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Jorge Werthein, visited Canada from May 7 to 11, at which time he met with senior officials to analyze the progress of cooperation initiatives between Canada and the Institute, and to study new types of support that can contribute to agricultural reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Werthein, and the IICA Representative in Canada, Ernani Fiori, met with the Assistant Delegate for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Ministry of External Affairs, Louise Frechette, who reiterated Canada's support for and recognition of IICA activities. They also discussed matters related to the upcoming meetings of the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), to be held in June and October, respectively.

Frechette expressed Canada's interest in continuing to carry out joint activities with IICA in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, seeking new areas of cooperation which could become a part of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

...Frechette expressed Canada's interest in continuing to carry out joint activities with IICA in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, seeking new areas of cooperation...

This proposal, to be submitted to the IABA in October, was prepared by IICA, in consultation with its member countries and other regional and international organizations, in response to the mandate of the representatives of the 32 countries which participated in the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), which was held in Ottawa, Canada, in September, 1987. The Plan of Joint Action reassesses the role that the reactivation and modernization of the agricultural sector can play in the future of Latin America and the Caribbean,

During his visit, the Director of External Relations also

met with the Vice President of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), John Robinson, who indicated his organization's interest in supporting the implementation of the Plan of Joint Action. Both officials studied the progress of the Institute's project with CIDA, the object of which is to upgrade the actions of IICA's five Programs.

The IICA/CIDA project, with an operating fund of US\$3.7 million, focuses on a limited number of innovative areas, which are influential in upgrading IICA's ability to work with its member countries in identifying and implementing strategies and policies that contribute to agricultural development and economic growth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Werthein also met with Alan Gratias, Director of the International Programs Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, who expressed Canada's interest in strengthening its relations with IICA, to the benefit of its member countries.

Given Canada's interest in strengthening its ties with the region, Werthein and Gratias studied new possibilities for cooperation. Gratias took advantage of the occasion to confirm Canada's participation as an observer in the upcoming meeting of IICA's Executive Meeting, to be held in San Jose from June 12 to 16. The Director of the Division of Multilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry of Agriculture of Canada, Warren Major, will represent Canada at that meeting, at which time a report on the final content of the Plan of Joint Action will be discussed.

During his visit, Werthein also met with Canada's ambassador-at-large for Latin America and the Caribbean and ambassador of the permanent observer mission to the Organization of American States (OAS), Richard Gorham; the head of the Women in Development Program of the International Development Research Center (IDRC), Eva Rathgeber; and, the Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources of CIDA, Gaston Grainer.

Werthein also met with officials from CIDA who are in charge of relations and work with non-governmental organizations. They expressed their interest in establishing links between Canadian NGOs and IICA.

6 Dominican Republic: EFFORTS MADE TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION THROUGH TECHNOLOGY GENERATION AND TRANSFER

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was recently invited to attend a seminar, organized by Agricultural Consensus, a private association, in Santo Domingo. At this time, specialists recommended that clear and decided support be given to technology generation and transfer, as an option for improving agricultural production.

According to the participants, this could complement the work being developed in the region by the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and autonomous research centers in Colombia and Argentina.

The Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Dr. Eduardo Trigo, and the Secretary of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, Manuel De Jesus Viñas, participated in a panel for the activity, entitled "Technology in the year 2000", sponsored by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation.

Other participants were the Secretary of Agricultural Consensus, Frank Rodríguez, a former member of CIAT and the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR) of the Netherlands, Luis Crouch; and the former Secretary of Agriculture and current member of the Dominican Monetary Board, Domingo Marte.

The seminar was geared to officials from State organizations, institutions and enterprises from the private sector, development banks, rural leaders, journalists, representatives from international financing and cooperation organizations, and university professors, who, in general, commented on the "high level of the discussions and the fruitful exchange of experiences on the matter."

When analyzing the situation of technology generation and transfer in the Dominican Republic, Viñas indicated that authorities from the agricultural sector are currently undertaking programs to upgrade agricultural research and extension services, in an effort to expeditiously transmit new cultivation techniques to small- and medium-scale farmers.

Viñas later stated that he regretted the fact that, in the past, Dominican research centers had focused on scientific works "isolated from production problems that have limited the rural class." He advocated a change in attitude and stated that work should now center on

establishing a more direct relationship between technology transfer and its impact on the production process.

In his presentation of technological innovations and agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean: challenges and opportunities, Trigo outlined the state of technology in the region. He addressed the causes of the technological crisis, and referred to the expectations created by biotechnology. He made some recommendations that could contribute to improving actions in institutional matters.

Crouch presented a paper on sustainable agricultural development: Dominican dilemma, in which he recommended the development of a "scientific-technological" community capable of managing problems on know-how, maturity and vision as a formula for "identifying solutions to the problems that arise when man seeks to successfully manage agricultural and natural resources."

The last paper was presented by Marte. After an in-depth discussion of technology generation and transfer: challenges and limitations, he suggested that the Dominican Republic should encourage the necessary cooperation among public and private institutions so that the planning of technological development might be based on agricultural development strategies and programs.

In concrete terms, he suggested the creation of a "dual planning" system. The Agricultural Policies Commission (CAPA) would represent the public sector, and the Committee of the Agricultural Development Fund would represent the private sector.



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

Paraguay: IICA ADVISES NEW GOVERNMENT ON FORMULATING AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

According to the Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Cassio Luiselli, who participated in the inauguration ceremonies of President Andres Rodriguez on May 15, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) will provide advisory services and technical support to the new government of Paraguay in formulating agricultural and rural development strategies.

In a "very interesting meeting" held in Asuncion with the Minister of the Treasury, Enzo Debernardi; the Minister of Agriculture, Hernando Bertoni, and the recently appointed Director of the Rural Welfare Institute, Esteban Medina, the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Enrique Iglesias, and Luiselli, on behalf of IICA, agreed to set up an advisory committee to study agricultural development strategies, in light of the new political circumstances in the country.

The committee will be made up of representatives from the IDB and IICA, which will provide the essential technical support. The Assistant Deputy Director General stressed the fact that the basic premises for carrying out the work are totally consistent with the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Plan, the main objective of which is to reassess the role of the agricultural sector in the economic and social development of the region, was prepared by IICA, in consultation with its member countries and other international organizations, in response to the mandate of the Minister of Agriculture from the hemisphere, who met in Canada in 1987. The proposal will be submitted to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in October.

The President of the IDB indicated that he had discussed with Paraguayan government officials the possibility of the Bank's providing strong support for programs in the rural sector. Iglesias stated that it was important to give agriculture top priority, and added that the Government of President Rodriguez shared this opinion.

THE INAUGURATION

President Rodriguez took office during a solemn session of Congress attended by the Presidents of Brazil, Jose Sarney; Argentina, Raul Alfonsin; and Uruguay, Julio Maria Sanguinetti. Six ministers of external relations



The Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, Cassio Luiselli, representing the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, at the inauguration ceremonies, which "are of historical importance, not only for Paraguay, but for all of the American hemisphere."

from Latin America were also present. The president of the United States was represented by his daughter, Dorothy Bush Leblond. The president of the IDB and the Deputy Director General for Operations of IICA represented the two international organizations present at the inauguration.

The sixty-five-year-old President, who won the general elections on May 1st with 74% of the votes, described himself in his speech as "a servant of the people, the republic and democracy."

The new Minister of Agriculture and Livestock announced the government's policy guidelines for the sector and indicated that "the rural sector will receive substantial support, particularly for agriculture. The Rural Welfare Institute (IBR) will also be strengthened." He indicated that emphasis will be on research, extension services and education.

In one of his first statements to the press, the Director of the IBR promised "to initiate a stage to accelerate the transformation of the structure of land tenure and use, provided that the necessary human and financial resources are available.

Chile: SUCCESSFUL PERFORMANCE BY IICA OFFICE

A recent article published by IICA Office in Chile on technical cooperation in Chile indicated that, in 1988, the Chilean Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under Alfredo Alonso, developed nine technical cooperation projects in the areas of planning, technology generation and transfer, rural development, agricultural marketing, and animal health and plant protection. The article also indicated the Office's participation in four training courses and one technical meeting.

The list of projects includes technical cooperation to upgrade agrarian planning by the ministry of agriculture; technical cooperation to strengthen the main national technology generation and transfer agencies; training of staff in irrigation and drainage projects for small farmers; and technical cooperation to upgrade plant protection programs.

Other projects are technical cooperation with the Agricultural Development Institute of Chile to upgrade programs for small-scale and subsistence farmers, and technical cooperation to enhance efforts to improve domestic marketing and increase non-traditional exports.

Also on the list were projects on technical cooperation to strengthen livestock protection programs in Chile, with

special emphasis on classical swine fever, brucellosis, tuberculosis and bovine leucosis; and support to the agricultural and livestock service in preparing a preinvestment study to upgrade its surveillance and health diagnosis programs.

The final technical cooperation project is related to collaboration and support for the schools of veterinary sciences of the Universities of Chile, Asuncion, and Southern Chile in preparing a preinvestment study on the implementation of the national animal health research program.

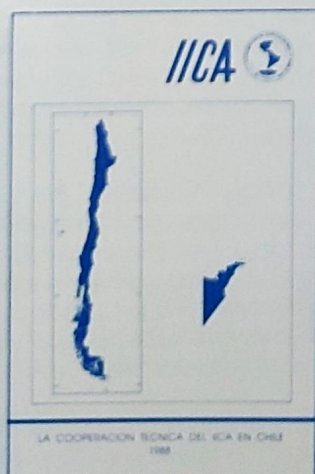
In regard to activities organized with the participation of the Office, mention should be made of a course on project management and supervision, in collaboration with the Agricultural Planning Office (ODEPA); a technical meeting on soil sealing in permanent crops, also in conjunction with ODEPA; and a course on concepts and methodology in agricultural extension services.

A course was offered on formulating irrigation and drainage projects for small farmers, with support from the Agricultural Development Institute (INDAP), as was another course on the formulation, analysis and evaluation of predial projects.

During the first quarter of 1988, the IICA Office carried out many activities in connection with the meeting of undersecretaries of agriculture from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, which was held from March 7 to 8, and during which they studied the progress made in the preparation of the plan of joint action for agricultural reactivation in the Southern Cone.

On March 9, the First National Agricultural Journalists Day was held. A few days before, IICA held its 1990-1991 Programming Meeting, with the participation of representatives from the General Directorate and the Southern Cone.

IICA initiated its technical cooperation activities in Chile in 1952, with the implementation of the project on technical teaching to improve agriculture and rural life. The first activity consisted of an international course on the study, conservation and management of soils, which was held in Santiago in October of that year.



Honduras: MINISTER CALLS FOR CHANGES IN AGRICULTURAL POLICIES

9

Recently, during the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the Central American Cooperative Program for Food and Animal Crop Improvement (PCCMCA), the Minister of Natural Resources, Rodrigo Castillo Aguilar, called for urgent and substantial changes in agricultural policies in order to improve production and productivity in this sector, which is of utmost importance for the Honduran economy.

The official added that priorities for this year include substantial internal changes. Emphasis is being given to technology and incentives in an effort to create a greater impact and thus modernize agriculture and make it the hub of national economic reactivation.

During the activity, held in San Pedro Sula, the Representative of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in Honduras, Juan Antonio Aguirre, presented a study on the level of technology and exchange rates and their effect on nominal and effective protection: implications for the design of research policies on staple grains in Honduras, particularly corn.

Aguirre participated in a panel discussion on price policies and comparative advantages in the regional production of staple grains, which was held during the PCCMCA meeting. The IICA Representative from Guatemala, Armando Reyes, a Honduran national, also presented a study on social and economic development strategies for the agricultural sector and the role of technological change.

The Minister of Natural Resources voiced his concern about the fact that the modernization of agriculture for Honduras is being constrained by the performance of the markets for agricultural raw materials and commodities.

Castillo predicted an uncertain future for development efforts being made in Latin America and the Caribbean unless the developed nations make important changes in their agricultural policies, which are a deciding factor in the critical situation which has prevailed in international markets for several years, as a result of protectionist policies.

According to Castillo, "Developed countries must understand that only by helping to create the proper environment for agricultural-rural development in our nations will it be possible to create the necessary conditions to realistically face the problems of the foreign debt, and



The Honduran Minister of Natural Resources, Rodrigo Castillo (second from the right), presides over the opening session of the Thirty-fifth Annual Meeting of the PCCMCA. Among those with him is the IICA Representative, Juan Antonio Aguirre (left).

improve the well-being of great numbers of our populations. These are essential elements in maintaining social peace."

Castillo indicated his firm belief that integration is the key in the struggle to modernize agriculture, liberalize the international trade of agricultural commodities and develop effective price policies to encourage agricultural production. He insisted on the importance of joining efforts to find satisfactory solutions to the overwhelming problems affecting agriculture in Central America and the Caribbean.

Castillo pointed out the paradoxical nature of the isthmus; in spite of the fact that it offers an enormous potential for satisfying the basic needs of the population, in general terms, there is no food security, economic development has been unfavorable, unemployment has increased and armed conflicts persist.

The IICA Representative in Honduras presented an evaluation of the levels of nominal and effective protection in the production of staple grains. The evaluation constitutes the first step in establishing Honduras's position on international markets, should intra-regional trade of this commodity eventually open up.

Latin America and the Caribbean: PROBLEMS LINKED TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT ANALYZED

Specialists from 11 countries participated in a seminar organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CARE International. They studied the problems linked to rural development in Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the strategies and policies that are available to face the crisis affecting the agricultural sector. Special emphasis was given to small-scale farmers.

Representatives from Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and Peru participated in the seminar-workshop on rural development and technology generation and transfer for small farmers: agricultural practices and agro-forestry systems. The activity was held at the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE).

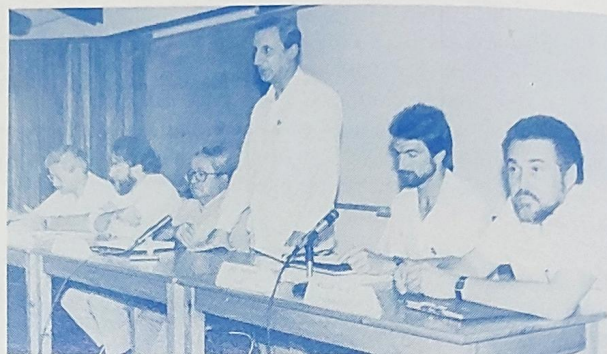
Experts from the Organization and Management for Rural Development Program of IICA indicated that problems related to agricultural industrialization and marketing and technology generation and transfer for small farmers were also analyzed and discussed as part of the participatory training activity.

Participants studied rural development program and project management, and identified approaches and methods which are appropriate for solving the problems that affect the different groups that make up the rural economy --small landholders, subsistence farmers, rural wage earners, beneficiaries of agrarian reform.

The seminar was part of an operating agreement signed January 30, 1989 by the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Pineiro, and the Regional Technical Advisor for CARE International, Gary Burniske, both of whom pointed out the similarity between the Institute's objectives in Latin America and the Caribbean and CARE's goals for the agricultural sector and natural resources.

Once the agreement was signed, IICA began to organize the activity, through its Organization and Management for Rural Development Program. One of the specific objectives of this Program is to train technical personnel to develop skills related to operating and financial management, institutional coordination, training, and follow-up and evaluation of rural development programs and projects.

According to the organizers, the seminar has trained technical personnel from 11 Latin American and Carib-



The coordinator of the CATIE training program, Virgilio Cozzi (standing), speaks to participants in the seminar. With him, from left to right, are Helio Fallas, Sergio Sepulveda and Fausto Jordan, of IICA; Gary Burniske, from CARE International; and William Reuben, IICA consultant.

bean countries to apply and transfer conceptual know-how and methodology on rural development, such as the role of the small-farm economy in the economic reactivation process and the principles of CARE, to improve the standard of living of small farmers.

The participants now have the necessary approaches, methods and differentiated and participatory techniques to market and industrialize agricultural commodities and to transfer technology, particularly in the integrated management of pests, agroforestry, conservation of soils and truck gardens, all of which will be extremely useful for their future activities.

The participants praised the participatory methodology used in the seminar. It allowed them to use, systematize and mobilize the accumulated experiences and know-how of the technical personnel from CARE International and IICA.

Contributing to the success of the seminar were the talks given by the specialists who backed up their presentations with helpful didactic and audiovisual methods; the presentation and analysis of experiences, and the field trip which provided on-site information as to projects underway in Costa Rica. According to the specialists, "This methodology is innovative and is the most appropriate way for transferring know-how and experiences."

INTRODUCTION TO PLANT PATHOLOGY

The book "Introducción a la Fitopatología" (Introduction to Plant Pathology) is aimed to serve as a guide for agronomy students in the tropical countries of the Americas. It also responds to requests from phytopathologists from the area, who have repeatedly pointed out the need for text books that include examples from tropical agriculture.

The book, in its fifth printing, was published by the Editorial Service of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and is part of the collection of didactic books and materials published by the Institute. It has been updated to include the latest information of interest to those who use the book.

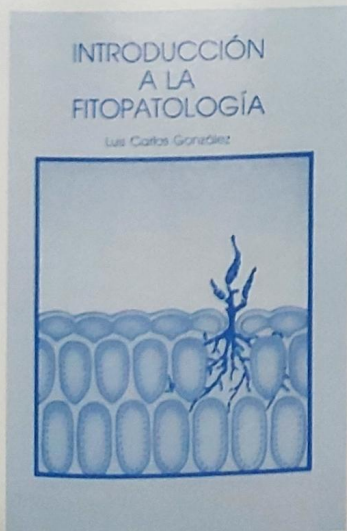
Its thirteen chapters discuss pathogenes in general, fungi, bacteria, viruses, microplasm, and rickettsias. It also includes diagnoses of diseases, how to fight them and the use of fungicides. The book is written in a clear, didactic, practical style.

The 148 page book deals with the basic aspects of each topic and encourages students to read additional material in reference books. At the end of each chapter there is a list of bibliographies that primarily includes works of a general nature.

For the basic information, the author, Luis Carlos Gonzalez, took didactic material prepared by phytopathologists with vast teaching experience, such as Fernando Galli, Dr. John C. Walker, Dr. George L. Agrios

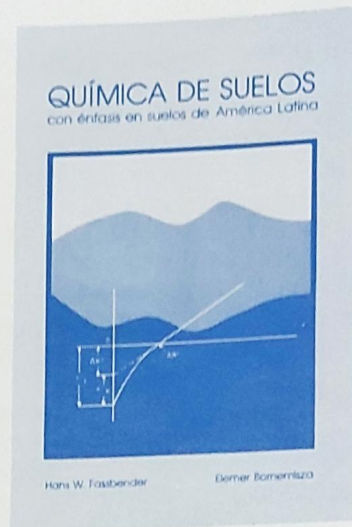
and Dr. Clare Kenaga. Gonzalez, who is from Costa Rica, is a graduate of the Pan American School of Agriculture, Honduras.

At present, he is a researcher and university professor, and a member of the University Board of the University of Costa Rica.



SOIL CHEMISTRY, FOCUSING ON LATIN AMERICA

Rapid developments made in soil chemistry in Latin American and the world in general, led to the complete revision and updating of "Química de suelos con énfasis en América Latina" (Soil Chemistry, focusing on Latin America), published in 1975 by the Editorial Service of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).



The general thrust of the text remains unchanged, making it useful for students in their last years of undergraduate work in agronomy, or those who are beginning graduate studies in this field and in related areas.

It also serves as a reference book for those interested in or working with soil problems in tropical areas of Latin America since the data, examples and references on soil are the product of an exhaustive revision of the available literature in this speciality.

This second revised and enlarged edition covers the most recent information in forest soils. The information is reinforced by an abundant number of graphs, as well as numerous applications of and additions to the data contained in the original version.

The authors, Hans W. Fassbender, from Germany, and Elemer Bornemisza, from Costa Rica, included a new chapter on saline and sodic soils, given the growing importance of these areas, which are becoming the focus of increased attention.

The new edition also gives greater emphasis to chemical aspects of the ecological cycle of the elements, in both agricultural and forest systems, taking advantage of recent research. The book also covers environmental pollution, a problem attracting more and more attention, particularly in urban regions with growing populations.

ACTIVITIES

June 12 to 16 NINTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee, one of the governing bodies of IICA, will meet at IICA Headquarters to study, among others, the report on the final contents of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, the 1988 Annual Report, the resolutions of the Eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, and the Report of the Director General on IICA Programs.

The meeting will be attended by the representatives from the member countries of the Committee which include Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States.

July 20 to 21 FOURTH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY COMMISSION (IAC)

The IAC will meet for the fourth time at IICA Headquarters to review and evaluate the final proposals of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, before it is presented to the Inter-American Board of Ministers of Agriculture (IABA), this October.

The members of this Commission are Ralph Campbell, Canada; David Ibarra, Mexico; Fernando Homem de Melo, Brazil; Miguel Urrutia and Roberto Junguito, Colombia; Eduard Schuh, the United States; Lucio Reza, Argentina; Alister MacIntyre, Grenada; and Michel Petit, France. Jesus Gonzalez Regidor, Advisor from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA) will be a special guest.

IICA IN THE NEWS

The Jamaica Record

Kingston, May 6. The Jamaican press headlined the visit of the Deputy Director General of IICA, L. Harlan Davis, who, during his trip in the Caribbean, also visited Suriname and Guyana.

According to the report, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture places special emphasis on regional and subregional integration processes. IICA's commitment to integration is evident in its cooperation programs with CARICOM in animal health, plant protection and the development of markets for agricultural commodities. In Jamaica, the Institute provides technical cooperation to the Ministry of Agriculture and other national agencies working with agriculture and rural development.

EL NACIONAL

Caracas, April 27. Under the title "Vice Ministers Evaluate Strategy for Agricultural Reactivation," the Venezuelan press covered the twelfth meeting of the Agriculture Committee of the Board of the Cartagena Agreement which was held in Caracas. The vice ministers met to study the strategy of joint action for agricultural reactivation in the Andean subregion, which is being prepared by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The ministers took advantage of the meeting to vote on proposals prepared by the Board on topics such as the foot and mouth disease control and eradication program, the information and decision-making system (SITOD), the Andean network of veterinary diagnostic laboratories, and the fruit fly control and eradication program.



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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

IICA



NEWS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF IICA HOLDS NINTH REGULAR MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), one of the governing bodies of the Institute, held its Ninth Regular Meeting from June 12 to 15. On this occasion, the Committee was made up of Representatives from Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America.

During the meeting, which brought together 70 representatives from IICA's Member States and Permanent Observer Countries, and from regional, subregional and international agencies and organizations, the final contents of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) were approved, and Costa Rica was chosen as the site of the upcoming Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

The major item on the agenda of the October meeting will be the analysis of the Plan of Joint Action, a strategy for re-evaluating the role of agriculture in the economic and social development of the region.

The Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in September 1987 in Ottawa, Canada, entrusted IICA, in consultation with its Member States and other international organizations, with the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action. The Plan includes hemispheric strategies, strategies for each subregion, programs and projects for joint action, and financial and institutional mechanisms.

During the meeting, presided over by the Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Jose Maria Figueres, the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, submitted the 1988 Annual Report, which summarizes the work



The Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Jose Maria Figueres (center) presides over the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee. From left to right are L. Harlan Davis and Martin E. Piñeiro, Deputy Director General and Director General of IICA respectively; Andre Ouellette, Director of DICAL and Mary Quinlan, Rapporteur.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE...



The representative from Venezuela, Alex Mijares, turns the presidency of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee over to the Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, José María Figueres. Looking on is the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martín E. Piñeiro.

carried out during the year. He referred specifically to: adjustments to the changes recommended in the Medium Term Plan, strengthening of IICA's five Programs, actions carried out in each country, inter-institutional relations and the securing of external resources.

AN HISTORIC MOMENT

Piñeiro stated that the meeting was particularly significant because the items on the agenda were extremely important to the operations of the Institute, but, above all, because of the current situation in the countries and the changing nature of the international economy.

With regard to budgetary matters, the Committee approved the Proposed 1990 -1991 Program Budget and a 3% increase in member country quotas.

Piñeiro commented that, "In these times of economic hardship in most of the countries, the fact that the countries supported an increase in their quotas indicates

the importance they place on agriculture, and their support of the Institute itself."

The Committee recommended that the IABA approve the Annual Report and congratulated the IICA staff on a job well done and the high caliber of the document.

The Director General was then congratulated by the Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, Mr. Mario Jalil, and Avram E. Guroff, of the United States Department of Agriculture and the Mexican delegate, Roberto Cabral, of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Mr. Alphonsus Antoine, of Grenada, spoke highly of the role IICA plays in the Caribbean. His sentiments were echoed by Mr. Ernest Benjamin, the Representative of

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE...

Antigua and Barbuda, who highlighted the cooperation IICA provides, such as in combatting the African locust.

STRONGER RELATIONS

The Director of External Relations, Dr. Jorge Werthein, pointed out that the Institute has strengthened its relations with other international institutions and had been successful in securing even more external resources. He said that in 1988 and the first quarter of 1989, actions were taken that have made it possible to plan and carry out activities to benefit the 31 IICA member countries.

He went on to say that US\$40.1 million in external resources was programmed and under negotiation for 1990. IICA receives funds from the quotas of its Member States, and contributions from donor countries, various international organizations and cooperation agencies.

In one of the more important agreements reached during the meeting, the Executive Committee recommended that the IABA ratify the cooperative agreement signed by IICA with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), for the purpose of promoting agricultural research and development in the Caribbean.

As per the terms of said agreement, which Representatives from the Caribbean described as a milestone in the relations between Latin America and the Caribbean, IICA will contribute up to US\$300,000 annually to CARDI.

The Executive Committee also agreed to accept the generous offer made by the Government of Spain to host the Tenth ICMA, to be held concurrently with the IABA meeting in Madrid in 1991.

The Director General added that to hold the Tenth ICMA in Spain would be an excellent opportunity for the Insti-

tute to follow up on the new initiatives being taken as a result of the Plan of Joint Action.

NEW CHALLENGES

In closing the meeting, Dr. Piñeiro stated that IICA had been given two new challenges: the approval of the contents of the PLANLAC and the holding of the ICMA meeting in Spain. They would enable IICA to continue its work on behalf of agricultural development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Director General praised the atmosphere of frankness and cordiality which had prevailed in the meeting, and focused on the fact that this was an historic moment for the region, one in which Latin America is determined to strengthen its ties and collaboration with the Caribbean.

His statements were complemented by those of Alphonse Antoine, who, on behalf of the Caribbean delegates, said that he was grateful for the actions taken to open the way for what he felt would soon become a thorough process of integration between Latin America and the Caribbean.

For his part, the Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica focused on the technical cooperation provided by IICA in the region, and called for the establishment of mechanisms which would make it possible to turn the decisions made during the meeting into concrete actions which will benefit the rural population and small-scale farmers.

Figueres stated, "We must work very hard to see that the joint efforts we are making to reactivate agriculture benefit those who, often under adverse conditions, work the land day in and day out throughout Latin America and the Caribbean."

Also, Avram E. Guroff, the representative of the United States, commented that IICA activities aimed at modernizing agriculture are held in high esteem in his country.

Barbados: IICA CONTRIBUTES TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND REACTIVATION

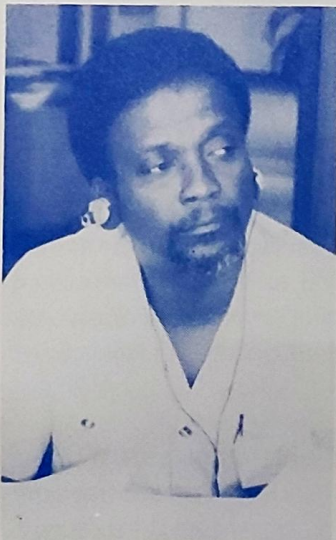
The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries of Barbados, Ruall C. Harris, stated that the support provided by IICA in the Caribbean is essential to agricultural development and reactivation.

Harris, while attending the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, expressed his satisfaction with the major contribution the Institute makes to agricultural reactivation projects, especially those dedicated to grain production for local consumption and for export.

He added that what is needed in the Caribbean are projects which help in the development of agriculture, especially projects to transfer livestock-related technology, and programs promoting the participation of young people in agriculture.

The Delegate from Barbados also said that, as far as the Caribbean countries were concerned, the Plan of Joint Action (PLANLAC) could not have come a long at a better time and that, in the case of his country specifically, the agricultural sector had recently come under close scrutiny, and public opinion demanded changes in the sector. The Plan was the right idea at the right time.

...The Plan was the right idea at the right time...



He felt that the reactivation of agriculture was an urgent concern, inasmuch as it is the sector on which so many depend for their livelihood. He was emphatic in saying that the LAC countries must produce their own food if the need for foreign aid and assistance, which only adds to the debt problems, was ever going to be reduced.

Canada: IICA HAS KEY ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



According to Warren J. Major, Head of the Multilateral Affairs Division of the Ministry of Agriculture of Canada, if agriculture is to be the cornerstone of economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean, channels must exist for those interested to get involved in the process, and there is no better vehicle for this than IICA.

He added that the economies of the region have no alternative but to develop agriculture as efficiently as possible. For this reason, many of the foreign policies of Canada were geared toward promoting modernization in this field, in which IICA has a dominant role.

Major, who represented his country at the Ninth Regular Meeting of IICA, which is a high-level forum for the discussion of agricultural policies, made it possible for the countries to define their areas of concentration in accordance with the needs of the different regions.

IICA promotes open discussion of issues related to agriculture, while at the same time encouraging the definition of activities to be carried out in each region.

He remarked that the Plan of Joint Action (PLANLAC) is a serious effort at reaching a consensus among the member countries as to agricultural policies. Some policies are more effective for some countries than for others, and each country must decide which to adopt.

PLANLAC will be successful to the extent that the countries are motivated to carry out the agreements reached.

Major is hopeful that the PLANLAC will generate ideas and the consensus needed to make it a reality, so that agriculture can truly play a decisive role in regional development.

Ecuador: IICA COMPLEMENTS NATIONAL REACTIVATION EFFORTS

According to the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador, Mario Jalil, who participated in the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Institute's contribution to his country complements national efforts to reactivate the agricultural sector.

Jalil added that among the priorities of social-democrat President Rodrigo Borja for the agricultural sector are the normalization of food production, the strengthening of traditional and non-traditional exports and increasing the productivity of small farms.

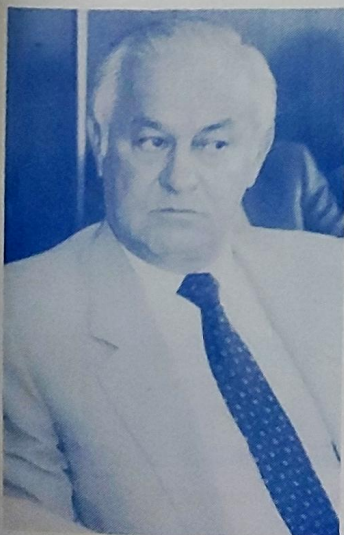
The Minister pointed out similarities between the most important guidelines of Ecuador's current agricultural policy and the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation (PLANLAC), the preparation of which was entrusted to IICA by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere in 1987.

The PLANLAC, which will be submitted to the consideration of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in Costa Rica in October, includes specific strategies for the different subregions, programs and projects for joint action and financial and institutional mechanisms at both the hemispheric and subregional levels.

When evaluating the work carried out by the IICA Office in his country, Jalil pointed out that Ecuador has maintained an ongoing dialogue with IICA in an effort to coordinate actions that help achieve the objectives outlined in the official strategies for the sector. He stated that they were currently exploring areas of work in which IICA

could make concrete, dynamic contributions in the coming months.

In concrete terms, he identified technology generation and transfer and support for activities being developed by the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIAP) as "the two areas in which the Institute can play an important role, just as it did in the past in regard to integrated rural development."



United States: IICA CONTRIBUTES TO INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION

5



Owen Lee, Permanent Alternate Representative of the United States to the Organization of American States (OAS), and member of the U.S. delegation to the Ninth Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, praised and expressed satisfaction with the progress made in agriculture in the region and the efforts made to achieve joint development of the countries of

LAC which are furthest behind the times in regard to agriculture.

Lee explained that because the United States was not a beneficiary of IICA's activities, but rather a collaborator on its projects, it was interested in having the Institute explain why the different programs should be supported and what the justification is for their implementation. He added that the problems must be understood so that collaboration can be provided on actions aimed at improving conditions in the rural sector, and that IICA is crucial to this process.

He also stated that he found the PLANLAC, which was drawn up in consultation with the countries and with other organizations, to be a satisfactory proposal.

He added that it contained elements of great interest to the U.S. delegation: the multinational approach, the possibility of joint actions and improved cooperation among the IICA member countries, and the upgrading of the presentation of plans and projects, with a view to securing external financing.

He also remarked it was impractical to think that the Plan can solve the current crisis in many of the countries of LAC. However, if agricultural production, food distribution and external financial resources could be organized, the sector could make a significant production to the reactivation of the economies of the region.

In 1991:

SPAIN OFFERS MADRID AS SITE OF INTER-AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE

Spain offered to be the site of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), to take place in 1991. The ICMA, which is the most important forum in the hemisphere for the discussion of agricultural issues, will be held concurrently with the meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the highest governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The IICA Executive Committee, during its Ninth Regular Meeting, held from June 12-15 in Costa Rica, welcomed the offer made by the Government of Spain. The offer was announced by Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, and Jose Vidal Alvarez, Agricultural Attaché of the Spanish Embassy in Costa Rica, who participated as an observer in the meeting.

The Director General commented that the offer of the Spanish Government was very valuable to both the Institute itself and to the follow-up on new initiatives being taken in connection with the Plan of Joint Action. By holding the ICMA in Spain, the Institute and its member countries would be able to further efforts already made at strengthening ties with Spain and the countries of the European Economic Community (EEC).

The member countries sitting on the Executive Committee, in recommending that an ICMA be held, emphasized that it was extremely important for the ministers of agriculture to meet on a regular basis to study common problems and set overall strategies for the agricultural sector.

The delegates from Mexico, Roberto Cabral, of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources; Paraguay, Aristides Raidan, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; Venezuela, Alex Mijares, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock; Canada, Warren Major, of the Ministry of Agriculture; Argentina, Eduardo Manciana, of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the United States, Avram E. Guroff, of the Department of Agriculture, expressed their appreciation of the offer made by the Spanish Government.

The Representative of Mexico commented that his delegation was very pleased with the offer; the Delegate from Paraguay added that it was significant that a country from outside the region had offered to host the meeting; and the U.S. Representative remarked that the meeting was important and that the site and proposed date were acceptable to his delegation.

The Executive Committee's recommendation must be ratified by the Fifth Regular Meeting of the IABA, which will be held in October in Costa Rica.

The Agricultural Attaché of the Spanish Embassy stated that, for agricultural authorities in his country, cooperation with Latin America was a foreign relations priority. In reviewing activities carried out in Latin America by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA), he pointed out that Spain's Agricultural Office had opened in Costa Rica in 1973, for the purpose of strengthening ties with IICA, in light of the Institute's prestige throughout the entire region.

In recent years, MAPA has spent a significant portion of its resources on basic and specialized training of technical personnel from Latin America, in areas such as irrigation, conservation, forest fire prevention, food-related strategies and planning, and seed technology.

Spain has supported and participated in the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action. For example, MAPA is currently involved in preparing, within the framework of PLANLAC, a study on the demand for and marketing of agricultural products in Europe, which will be submitted to the IABA in October.

The Committee recommended that the IABA authorize the Director General to request that the General Assembly of the OAS convene the ICMA to be held in Spain.



Jose Vidal Alvarez, Agricultural Attaché of the Spanish Embassy in Costa Rica.

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF IICA APPROVES CONTENTS OF PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL REACTIVATION

The representatives of the twelve IICA member countries currently sitting on the Executive Committee approved the report on the final contents of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, a proposal for modernizing and revitalizing agriculture in the region.

The document, approved during the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, which was held in San Jose from June 12-15, summarizes the actions taken by IICA during the preparation of the Plan, and synthesizes the contents of the proposal, which will be submitted to the consideration of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), to be held in Costa Rica in October.

On this occasion, the twelve members of the Executive Committee were: Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, Paraguay, the United States,

and Trinidad and Tobago. Also present were delegates from other member and permanent observer countries of IICA, and of international organizations and agencies.

THE MANDATE OF OTTAWA

The preparation of the Plan was entrusted to IICA, in consultation with its member countries and other international organizations, during the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in September 1987 in Ottawa, Canada. During that meeting, it was felt that what was needed was a proposal for turning the political consensus on the need for revitalizing agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) into concrete actions.

The Executive Committee, at its preceding meeting in August 1988, had approved the guidelines for the preparation of the Plan, and emphasized the impor-



Members of the Ninth Regular Executive Committee of IICA approve the final contents of the Plan of Joint Action that will be submitted to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in Costa Rica in October for its approval.



Observers from several nations and international organizations attend the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA.

tance of involving a thorough process of consultation.

To this end, IICA has consulted with many different bodies, such as the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty for Central American Integration (SIECA), the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the vice ministers of agriculture of the Southern Area. Likewise, the preparation of the Plan has been supported by the efforts of an International Advisory Commission, made up of renowned experts from several countries.

In addressing the Executive Committee, the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Pifeiro, spoke of the breadth and depth of the technical and political process involved in reaching consensus. He explained that the substantive elements of the Plan had already been discussed, analyzed and approved at the subregional level, but that it was the Committee's responsibility to decide on how it would be presented to the IABA, what actions the IABA should take, and how the Plan was to be disseminated, carried out and financed.

He also emphasized the importance of establishing joint actions which would contribute to furthering agri-

cultural development in LAC, while at the same time revitalizing integration efforts.

THE REPORT

In his address, the General Coordinator of the Plan, Felix Cirio, pointed out that the Plan, rather than being a study, was aimed primarily at identifying and formulating concrete recommendations and proposals for action which would enable agriculture to assume a new role in agricultural development strategies. The goal of the Plan, he added, was not to address every problem in agriculture today, but rather to focus on problems which are common to all or most of the countries, and which could be solved through joint action.

He made it very clear that this Plan did not come from IICA, but rather from the countries themselves, even though IICA would be responsible for the implementation of some of the projects.

Cirio explained that central elements of agricultural development common to the entire region were taken into account in defining hemispheric proposals. These central elements were then synthesized into proposals for joint action.

He reminded those present that the foreign debt was not the only cause of the current crisis in LAC. It was also the result of an economic development model which had run its course, and was no longer useful. The foreign debt only accelerated and worsened the effects of the problem. Therefore, to achieve economic growth and development, it would be necessary to bring about reforms in the production sectors. In relative terms, agriculture had survived the crisis better than other sectors and because of the nature of the sector, it adapts better to the overall crisis in the economy. Thus, it was possible to propose a new role for agriculture in economic development strategies.

He referred to the following common strategic guidelines, among others: modernization of production and institutions; equity in development, so as to ensure growth in all social and production strata; and flexibility and sustainability, in order to adapt to changing conditions. The following have been identified as important topics: overcoming external constraints; adequate incentive policies; foreign trade and integration; modernization of the public and private agricultural sectors; and institutional, technological, agroindustrial and rural development in general.

With regard to the subregional strategies, Cirio added that they had been drawn up with the countries' participation in different integration and political forums, which were specially suited to generating joint actions.

He explained that the Plan in the Andean subregion visualizes programs on institutional strengthening through agricultural policy, cooperation on research and technology transfer, diversification of fruit and vegetable exports, and pest and disease control. The areas of joint action had been the subject of consultations with JUNTA, the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and, above all, the ministers of agriculture.

The JUNTA representative, Luis Paz, explained that in a recent meeting, the Presidents of the Andean countries had ordered their ministers of agriculture to put the strategies and proposals of the Plan into action.

According to Cirio, in the Caribbean subregion, the Plan complements the CARICOM agricultural sector program. The document summarizes the guidelines approved by the ministers and includes a portfolio of projects which strengthens cooperative ties between Latin America and the Caribbean in trade, investment, and generation and transfer of agricultural technology.

The plan for the central area (Central America, Panama, and the Dominican Republic) was approved by the ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, during their last meeting, held in Costa Rica in April. The portfolio for this subregion contains 47 projects divided among 13 priority areas.

The case of Mexico was handled separately, and in consultations with government officials priority areas were identified. One of these priorities is Mexico's participation in the cooperative agricultural research programs of the Andean and Southern Areas. Another is inter-regional trade with Central America and the Caribbean, for which there are existing, but underused, financial mechanisms already in place. Trade with the southern part of the hemisphere will also be promoted, and, at present, efforts are being made to see how this can be done.

The strategy for the Southern Cone initially includes seven priority areas for joint action, aimed primarily at boosting exports in the subregion, which already account for 65 percent of all exports from LAC. Cirio

mentioned, as one of the projects already identified or under negotiation, a regional graduate studies network and reciprocal assistance in the battle against forest fires.

THE DELEGATES

The representative of Mexico, Roberto Cabral, called the Plan "a timely, necessary and urgent initiative." He added that the Plan recognized the direct relationship between macroeconomic policies and agricultural development, saying that the Plan deserved to be supported and carried out, precisely because it had grown out of the countries' own needs.

In the judgement of the representative of Honduras, Roberto Villeda, the most important immediate action is to establish mechanisms for follow up and promotion, so as to guarantee funding for the actions proposed.

For his part, Servando Cordoba stated that the government of Colombia supported the Plan, and lauded the work carried out so far by the Institute, especially in the Andean Area. He added that his government felt it would be wise to move as quickly as possible to formulate specific proposals for strengthening and reactivating agriculture in the countries of the Andean Group.



The Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, Mario Jalil, presides over several sessions of IICA's Executive Committee. On his left, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro.

The Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, Mario Jalil, in thanking the Director General of IICA and the advisory group that had worked on the proposal, commented that the Plan was a response to the concerns of the countries in the region and, furthermore, had been drawn up in close collaboration with other international organizations, such as FAO. He felt that this ensured a high degree of complementarity in efforts to be made in the future.

The representative of Grenada, Alphonsus Antoine, remarked that the Plan reflected the different situations existing in the countries and regions. He added that the methods used for consultation and cooperation with other agencies had already gained support for the initiative.

The U.S. delegate, Avram E. Giroff, raised questions concerning the human and technical resources that would be needed for implementing joint actions, as well as about IICA's role in the implementation of projects. The representative of El Salvador, Jaime M. Salazar, stated that the priorities contained in the Plan matched those established by the newly-elected government of his country, and that the Plan would benefit El Salvador and its agricultural sector.

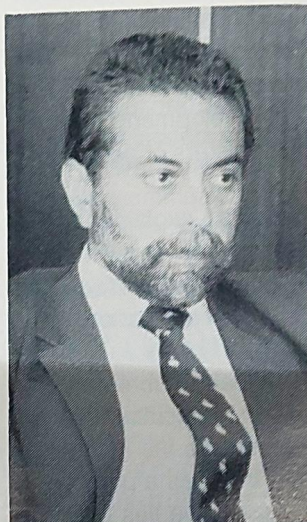
Ruall C. Harris, delegate from Barbados, agreed that the Plan's diagnosis of agriculture was similar to the one made in his country, where public opinion demanded the reactivation of agriculture. He pointed out that both the government and subregional institutions were willing to work with IICA in identifying and securing external resources to fund the projects.

Other delegations also participated in the discussion and provided what Pifeiro called very useful comments. "They are especially useful in that they offer guidelines as to how to continue with and complete this task before the IABA meeting in October."

The Executive Committee, in approving the final contents of the Plan, expressed its satisfaction with the work carried out by the Institute in drafting the Plan in collaboration with member countries and other technical and financial cooperation organizations.

The Committee also expressed its satisfaction with the series of consultations carried out so far, and reiterated the need to continue these consultations at the subregional and national levels, as part of the work to be done prior to the October IABA meeting.

Argentina: PLAN OF JOINT ACTION WILL SERVE TO JOIN EFFORTS FOR OVERCOMING PROBLEMS



The representative of Argentina, Eduardo Manciana, stated that the Plan of Joint Action will serve as a vehicle for joining efforts to overcome problems affecting different groups of countries.

He added that "the problems affecting the region can only be solved jointly. It would not make sense, for example, for each country of the Southern Cone to try to

find a solution on its own to the problem of placing agricultural exports on foreign markets. This had been taken into account in the preparation of the Plan, and that is why Argentina wholeheartedly supports it."

Manciana remarked that preparation of the Plan had brought about an unprecedented process of integration between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. He said that, "for the first time, we took a good look at ourselves and decided to move forward together."

...preparation of the Plan had brought about an unprecedented process of integration between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean...

In the opinion of Manciana, the idea of promoting economic reactivation by modernizing the agricultural sector is a valid one because Latin America has many comparative advantages in this area, which have been wasted. He concluded by saying, "If we raise production efficiency through the Plan, the proposal will have had a great impact."

Colombia:
**AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION
 REQUIRES IDENTIFICATION
 OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS**

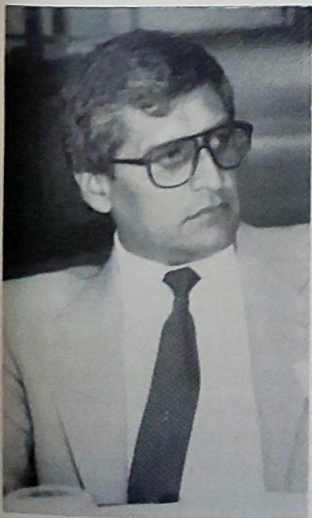
Servando Cordoba Gomez, head of the Institutional and Financial Coordination Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture of Colombia, stated that the agricultural modernization being promoted by the ministry requires the identification of priority areas which can be strengthened and provides leadership for agricultural development.

In Cordoba's opinion, the Plan of Joint Action and his own country's agricultural development efforts match in areas such as institutional strengthening, promotion of the small-farm economy, and rural development.

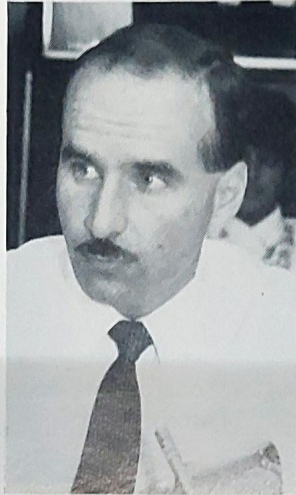
The IICA Office in Colombia is about to celebrate its 25th anniversary. During that period, IICA has contributed on a large scale to agricultural and livestock research. Currently, and with a view to modernizing the sector, the Institute is carrying out projects to strengthen small-farm enterprises linked to the Integrated Rural Development Program (DRI). IICA is also involved in strengthening operational aspects of governmental entities, including the Ministry of Agriculture.

The challenge, he said, lied in identifying the human, physical and financial resources needed to implement the Plan.

During the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, Colombia proposed that IICA take all necessary steps to involve international funding and technical cooperation organizations in the implementation of these actions. Cordoba felt that if this objective were achieved, the Plan would be successful and could aid in solving the current crisis in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Costa Rica:
**A NEW OPPORTUNITY TO WORK ON
 BEHALF OF SMALL-SCALE FARMERS**



Concerned about the well-being of the rural population in Latin America and the Caribbean, Jose Maria Figueres, Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, stated that the Plan of Joint Action opened up possibilities for working on behalf of those who, in spite of highly unfavorable working conditions, make a significant contribution to the economy.

Figueres, Chairman of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, declared that the proposal to reactivate the economies of the region raised the challenge "of translating into concrete actions the efforts we have been making to modernize the agricultural sector and benefit the small farmer."

The Costa Rican minister considered that the Plan had great potential because it had been prepared in consultation with the countries and subregional organizations. Therefore, the problems were well known and the solutions for solving them had already been identified.

Figueres insisted that any strategy aimed at modernizing agriculture should be based on improving the productivity of the small farm. In that way, small-scale farmers would be able to contribute not only to the economy, but also to their own progress.

According to studies made by IICA, the small-farm economy contributes up to 41 percent of production for domestic consumption, and 32 percent of production for exports.

El Salvador:
**PLAN OF JOINT ACTION IDENTIFIES
 PRIORITY AREAS FOR WORK**

According to Jaime Mauricio Salazar, Vice Minister of Agriculture of El Salvador, the Plan of Joint Action being developed by IICA identifies the areas in which El Salvador must work to ensure sustained economic development.

He added that "the Plan completely reflects the programs of the new government in El Salvador, because we know that the future of the country lies essentially in agriculture."

He went on to say that El Salvador would boost, as a key element in its new policies, traditional export crops, especially coffee, the production of which had fallen by 50 percent since 1978.

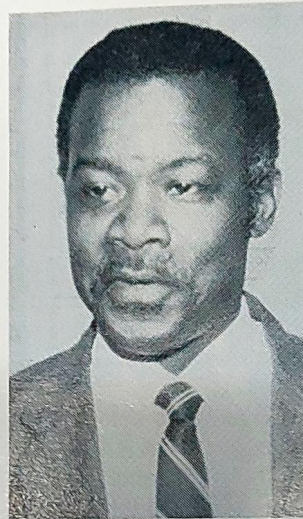
Another point on which his government's programs and the Plan coincide is with regard to staple grains, which, he feels, will provide the people of El Salvador with food security. "The most important thing to do is to encourage the production of corn and beans, so we can again benefit from the self-sufficiency we once enjoyed."

In recognizing the need for increased production, Salazar stated that his country was planning to grant titles to all the lands covered by the agrarian reform of 1980.



"Some 80,000 hectares were affected by the reform, but their production potential has not been used. Therefore, to promote production, the lands should be given to small-scale farmers, and support mechanisms should be established. This point coincides essentially with the Plan."

Grenada:
**"AGRICULTURE IS THE FOUNDATION
 OF OUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT"**



Alphonsus Antoine, Agricultural Planning Advisor of the Ministry of Agriculture of Grenada, stated that agriculture was the foundation of industrial development and economic growth in that Caribbean nation.

The policies being carried out by Grenada recognize that unless agriculture develops and grows, the country will continue to be underdeveloped," he said at the Ninth Regular Meeting of

the Executive Committee of IICA.

He added that the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, drawn up by IICA, in conjunction with subregional and international cooperation organizations, highlighted the problems of the region and offered programs and projects for addressing these problems.

The most important characteristic of the Plan," said Antoine, "is that it does not treat the Caribbean as if no progress has been made in the agricultural sector. Rather, it takes what we have developed and what is being carried out, and builds on them."

In Antoine's opinion, the Plan of Joint Action is a challenge which, in one way or another, can help overcome the current crisis in LAC. He remarked that if 75 percent of the projects and programs proposed were implemented, agriculture could be what was called a structure for change in the economic development of the region. He concluded by saying that the success of the Plan would depend on how it was administered and funded, and that, even though financial resources would be needed to mobilize them, the human resources required for developing the projects and programs already existed in the Caribbean.

Mexico:
**ECONOMIC RECOVERY WILL
 REQUIRE NEW CONCEPT
 OF AGRICULTURE**

The Director of External Funding of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources of Mexico, Roberto Cabral, stated that the recovery and redirecting of the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean required not only that capital flight from the region be stopped, but also that agriculture be reactivated as part of a new social development model.

He pointed out that the proposals contained in the Plan of Joint Action closely parallel the policy-setting process of the Mexican government, which includes a six-year agricultural and forestry development program, the basis of which is the modernization and transformation of the relations between the State and the rural population.

He added that a medium-term objective was an opening up of the agricultural sector, especially as concerns a new role for farmers' organizations in all activities related to progress in agriculture and rural life.

In Cabral's opinion, economic recovery in Latin America requires that capital flight from the area be stopped, and especially that the agricultural and forestry sectors be given greater importance in development plans, in order to increase food security, raise the standard of living and strengthen sectoral integration of the economies.



He went on to say that, in Mexico, IICA's proposal "coincides with our efforts to boost agriculture and forestry. Furthermore, in the National Development Plan, agriculture and the rural sector had been given the highest priority because of their importance to social policy and to the objectives of recovery and growth with domestic stability.

Paraguay:
**PLAN OF JOINT ACTION WILL ENABLE
 LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN
 TO SPEAK AS ONE**



Aristedes Raidan, Director of the Agricultural Census and Statistics of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay, stated that one of the major advantages of the Plan of Joint Action was that it would enable the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to speak as one in international forums, and thus achieve more favorable conditions for the sale of their commodities. He added that it would definitely

contribute to reactivating the economies of the region.

Raidan, who represented his country at the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, commented that the key proposal of the Plan -to modernize the agricultural sector as a means to reactivating the economies of LAC- "is valid, in light of current circumstances in the region. Other development models have run their course, and the Plan proposes a change of direction in the initiatives aimed at improving the well-being of our people."

He added that the government of Paraguay was currently preparing an Economic and Social Development Plan for the 1990-1991 biennium. Among its most important proposals is the modernization of agriculture as the pivotal point of national economic reactivation.

Raidan explained that because of the basic agreement between the Plan of Action and the Paraguayan development strategy for the next two years, it would be easier to follow up on the actions designed to open the way for economic growth and social well-being in Paraguay. Preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean was entrusted to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA). It will be submitted to the consideration of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture next October.

Dominican Republic:
**PLAN OF JOINT ACTION IS A PRAISE
 WORTHY AND NECESSARY
 ENDEAVOR**



The Undersecretary of Planning of the Secretariat of State for Agriculture of the Dominican Republic, Agapito Perez Luna, called the Plan of Joint Action a praise-worthy and necessary endeavor which would contribute to reactivating agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Perez Luna, while attending the Ninth Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, recommended that the Plan to reactivate the economies by modernizing agriculture should contain a timetable and a mechanisms for operation.

He added that, "Given the areas of interest defined in the strategy, the programs identified and the projects announced, we should begin establishing specific actions to be taken by area, program, project and region so that the Plan can move beyond existing only on paper and become functional."

Perez Luna highlighted the need for the agricultural sector to "become the driving force behind the economy," as called for in the Plan, because this same idea is central to the proposals put forth by all the countries of LAC for promoting development.

He remarked that, in the Dominican Republic, efforts were aimed at looking at agriculture in a new light, by redefining the policies of the State, and including timely and valuable contributions of the private sector.

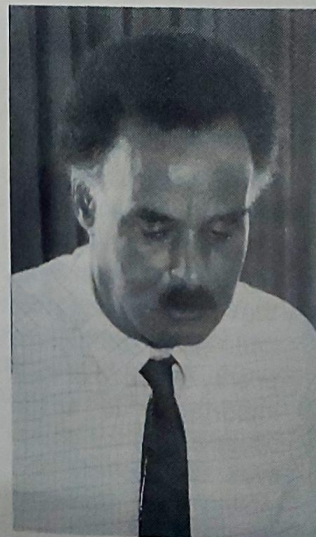
Trinidad and Tobago:
**PLAN OF JOINT ACTION
 TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC
 DIVERSIFICATION PROCESS**

Ronald Barrow, Acting Technical Director of the Ministry of Food Production and Marine Exploitation of Trinidad and Tobago, stated that the Plan of Joint Action would strengthen the process of economic diversification being carried out by the government of that nation.

He remarked that the Plan would make it possible for his country to establish new export lines, which would reduce dependence on oil, and ensure the expansion of the domestic market.

The government, with support from IICA, is providing assistance in establishing standards to ensure high quality, and thus competitiveness, of the fruits and vegetables which arrive at the metropolitan market.

In connection with the diagnosis of plant and animal pests and diseases, IICA established a monitoring system for the entire Caribbean in Trinidad and Tobago, which will collect information necessary for control and eradication activities. This system will make it possible to carry out research on the fruit fly, which is the main obstacle to developing other product lines for export and domestic consumption.



Barrow emphasized the importance of continuing this type of technical assistance because the most important factors in the process of agricultural diversification being developed by the government of Trinidad and Tobago are the training of local personnel and the establishment of systems to evaluate programs arising from the Plan of Joint Action and CARICOM's Agricultural Development Programme.

TWELVE COUNTRIES ENDORSE AGREEMENT BETWEEN IICA AND CARDI

The twelve members sitting on IICA's Executive Committee recommended that an agreement with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) be ratified, for the purpose of promoting agricultural research and development in the region.

The Committee recommended that the IABA authorize the ratification of the agreement signed by the Director General of IICA and CARDI, in which IICA will contribute up to US\$300,000 annually to assist CARDI in achieving its objectives.

This agreement lays the groundwork for future contracts or operating agreements between IICA and CARDI, organizations which have some member countries in common. The agreement also seeks to promote cooperation and linkages between CARDI and other institutions, with a view to facilitating technology transfer in agriculture and related fields.

The Director General of CARDI, Derrick Dyer, expressed his pleasure with the relationship which exists between IICA and his organization, especially in reference to IICA's understanding of the importance of CARDI in the region, and to the interest they share in aiding agricultural development.

He added that the consolidation of relations between IICA and CARDI, as a result of this agreement, comes at a time when Latin American countries are focusing their attention on relations with the Caribbean in an effort to make the region more integrated and homogeneous.

For the Director General of IICA, relations with CARDI are a clear indication of the willingness and desire of IICA's member countries to collaborate, especially in creating closer ties between the member countries of CARICOM and those of IICA.

On behalf of the Caribbean delegates, Alphonsus Antoine, the representative of Grenada, expressed appreciation for the support the non-Caribbean nations had given to the initiative, and stated that it had marked the beginning of a process bringing Latin America and the Carib-



Derrick Dyer, Director General of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

bean closer together. He added that the hope was that the ties would deepen and grow.

The Director General of CARDI recognized the importance of IICA's financial contribution. To make maximum use of same, it will be necessary to establish operating mechanisms and set an agenda of activities. To this end, several meetings have been held with IICA staff stationed in the Caribbean. This relationship has led to increased understanding and closer ties between the two organizations, and will make it possible to use resources more efficiently.

Dyer added that the link between his organization and the PLANLAC lies in the similarity of goals and strategies for the Caribbean. He feels, however, that the implementation of the PLANLAC, which is just under way, is the most difficult stage because all the sectors involved in agriculture will have to join efforts.

IICA STRENGTHENS RELATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

According to Dr. Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations of IICA, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture has strengthened its relations with other international organizations and increased its activities for securing external resources.

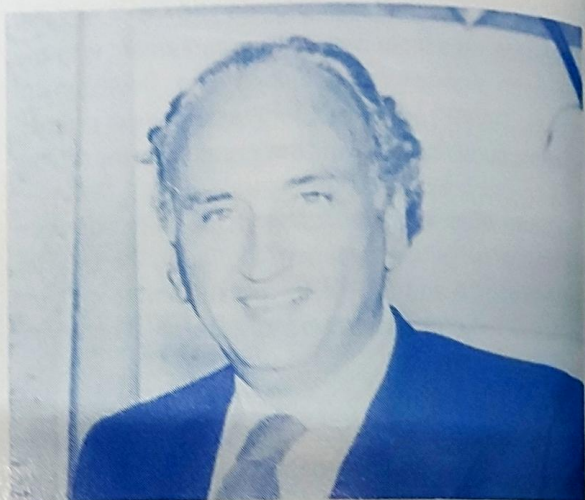
When presenting his report to the Ninth Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee, which met in Costa Rica from June 12 to 15, Werthein added that, during 1988 and the first quarter of 1989, actions were carried out to program and develop activities in benefit of IICA's 31 member countries.

He indicated that an example of this was the Development Plan in the Border Zone of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras which was formulated by IICA and the Organization of American States (OAS) in compliance with the cooperation agreement signed between the two organizations. This Plan, known as TRIFINIO, includes the implementation of 28 trinational rural development projects for a total cost of US\$458 million. Dr. Martin E. Pifeiro, Director General of IICA, turned the projects over to the vice presidents of the three participating countries last year.

The members of the Executive Committee, comprised of 12 representatives from IICA's Member States (this year: Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States) expressed their satisfaction with the report on strengthening relations with regional and subregional organizations.

Werthein pointed out that the Institute had also increased its sphere of action over the past two years in the development of joint actions with several organizations of the United Nations system. These actions involve the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The Director of External Relations highlighted the work being done in cooperation with governments and institutions from donor countries, particularly with Spain, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Japan, the Republic of Korea, France, Norway, Sweden and the European Economic Community (EEC). He also stated that new and important steps had



Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations of IICA

been taken during the first quarter of this year that would enable the Institute to coordinate and complement actions with international organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

In another part of his report, Werthein indicated that during the first three years of the 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan, the instrument that serves as a guide for IICA activities, external resources made available to IICA amounted to US\$20.2 million in 1987, and US\$31.7 million as of May, 1989, an increase of US\$11.5 million.

IICA is financed by quotas from its Member States, contributions from donor countries, and from international organizations and cooperation agencies. The Director of External Relations added that for 1990, a total of US\$40.1 million in external resources is programmed or under negotiation. Werthein attributed the increase in external resources in part to the positive impact IICA proposals have made on donor countries, cooperation agencies and the member countries themselves; and to the redefinition of cooperation policies.

Several delegates from the Caribbean, among them Alphonsus Antoine, from Grenada; Ernest Benjamin, from Antigua and Barbuda; and Ronald Barrow, from Trinidad and Tobago, recommended that actions should be designed that would enable the Institute to secure more resources for the Caribbean. The proposal was well received and the representatives from the Caribbean countries pledged their collaboration in designing and preparing the strategy. They also pledged all of their support in negotiating with the donor countries.

INTERNATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST ON RURAL WOMEN

Rural women, in any of their daily activities, are the topic of a photography contest that will be open through August 21 to amateur and professional photographers residing in any of the 31 member countries of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The contest is a joint effort of IICA, a specialized agricultural organization of the inter-American System, and the Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC), an educational institute, specializing in communications. The RNTC comes under Radio Nederland, the international broadcasting system of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

When announcing the opening of this hemisphere-wide contest, Dr. Jorge Werthein, the Director of External Relations of IICA, explained that the purpose of the contest is to "make society aware of the role played by an important sector of the rural population: its women."

He added that "It also aims to illustrate the work and conditions of rural women, seen through culture, the economy, education and the family."

Werthein pointed out the growing emphasis of the Institute and its member countries are placing on joint actions with rural women, an effort for which specific support has been obtained, for example, from Canada, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Government of Sweden.

Moreover, the IICA/RNTC project includes a component entitled Women, Communications and Development, which provides training in the use of communications techniques to personnel from governmental and non-governmental institutions working with rural women in development projects.

The photography contest on rural women covers both black and white and color photographs.

Three prizes will be awarded in each of the categories. First prize will be US\$1,000, second prize will be US\$750, and third prize will be US\$500.



All winners will also be awarded a Certificate of Honor. The awards will be presented in San Jose, Costa Rica on the occasion of the meeting of the Fifth Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), one of the most important agricultural forums in the sector, and a governing body of IICA. The meeting will be held from October 8 to 13, 1989.

The winner of each category will be invited to receive his or her award personally in San Jose.

Photographs must be delivered to the IICA Offices in the countries, no later than August 21, 1989.

IICA and RNTC will appoint an international panel of judges, made up of professional photographers, who will be especially invited for the event.

The size of photographs can vary from a minimum of 8 inches to a maximum of 14 inches on any given side. They should be unframed. Slides and retouched photographs will not be accepted.

Contestants can enter up to three photographs in each category.

IICA WILL DISPLAY WORKS OF WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Museum of Costa Rican Art initiated a cooperation and exchange agreement with the exhibition of 72 works by the Costa Rican artist, Francisco Amighetti.

The agreement seeks to contribute to the development and exchange of experiences, advisory services and cooperation mechanisms in the area of publications, and the Institute will host art exhibitions at its headquarters.

Another objective of the agreement recently signed by the director of the Museum, Virginia Vargas and Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, is to make the most of IICA's facilities and the constant flow of local and foreign visitors.

The opening of the exposition of cromoxylographs was attended by the artist himself and approximately 60 representatives of IICA member and observer countries. The exhibition will be open for three months.

The opening ceremony took place during the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, one of its governing bodies. Representatives from 12 of IICA's 31 member countries sit on the Committee. Delegates from other nations and international agencies and organizations also attended the meeting.

In a simple ceremony, the Director General of IICA introduced Amighetti as an "outstanding Costa Rican artist and, without a doubt, a shining star of the Americas."

Piñeiro explained that the collection is very representative and has been shown in many countries of the world, "and it is therefore a great honor for us to present it here at IICA."

Amighetti indicated that "the engravings might just appear to be painted paper, but behind each painting there is a tremendous amount of work and personal experience."

He added that the works exhibited cover a 22-year period "during which I worked in engravings in color." The artist said that being able to present his work to agricultural specialists from many countries of the hemisphere contributed to understanding and friendship among the peoples of the hemisphere.

According to Ileana Alvarado, a researcher from the Museum of Costa Rican Art, "Francisco Amighetti is 'a true artist,' a poet with a chisel and brush. He has been able to breathe life into the unique images of his land; he is both an observer and a protagonist. There are many reasons to say that this artist's work transcends Costa Rican peculiarities to become universal, just as man and his daily work is universal."

Amighetti's works are displayed in the New York Museum of Modern Art, the Argentine Museum of Graphic Arts, the Puerto Rican Museum of Graphic Arts, UNESCO in Paris, and the Museums of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Osaka, Japan.



The artist Francisco Amighetti expresses his appreciation for IICA. Accompanying Amighetti is the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro.

ACTIVITIES

July 3 to 22 WORKSHOP ON SENIOR MANAGEMENT FOR PROJECT ADMINISTRATORS

The purpose of this activity, held at the facilities of the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Center (RNTC) Project, is to train project managers and administrators in carrying out their duties, through the analysis and evaluation of senior management techniques.

The workshop will receive support from the European Directors' Training Center, and specialists from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), who, for three weeks, will train twelve administrators from Central America in the diagnosis, preparation and evaluation of systems.

July 27-28 WORKSHOP ON SANITARY LEGISLATION AND INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL TRADE

Phyto-sanitary specialists will meet at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to discuss mechanisms to standardize health and sanitary regulations for international agricultural trade in the American hemisphere.

The workshop will be attended by representatives from the European Economic Community (EEC), Codex Alimentarius, the International Office of Epizootics (IOE), the International Convention on Plant Health, the International Regional Agricultural Health Organization (OISRA), the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA), the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Officials from the Japanese and Korean embassies will also attend.

IICA IN THE NEWS

ULTIMA HORA

May 29, La Paz. The Bolivian newspaper *Ultima Hora* printed an article entitled "IICA Proposes Plan to Strengthen the Andean Agricultural Sector" covering the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). The Plan is being prepared by the Institute in response to a mandate from the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere.

The strategy for the Andean Area includes, among other joint initiatives, a program to improve production and ensure greater access to international markets for agricultural and agroindustrial commodities. It also includes a project to strengthen the small-farm economy, enhancing its production capacity in order to reactivate this sector, which covers many social strata in the rural area.



June 13, San Jose. This Costa Rican newspaper reported on the inauguration of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, which was held at IICA Headquarters from June 12 to 16.

During the meeting, members of the Committee representing Argentina, Barbados, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Mexico, Paraguay, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States, studied the proposals of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, prior to submitting the Plan to the consideration of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in October.

IICA NEWS

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

IICA



July 1989, Year VI, No. 30.

NEWS

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN CLOSER TO CONSOLIDATING ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES

The countries of Latin America and the Caribbean took a positive step toward consolidating their animal health services when, at the conclusion of three separate meetings, the delegates from 31 countries recommended improving the administrative and managerial training received by the professionals in charge of programs and projects, offered their support for strategies undertaken in this field by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and proposed involving farmers in the decision-making process.

This was one outcome of a Seminar-Workshop on Administration and Economics in Animal Health, the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Animal Health (COINSA III) and the Ninth Conference of the International Office of Epizootics (IOE) for the

Americas, three important meetings held concurrently in Buenos Aires, Argentina from June 26-30.

Participants in the meetings included the directors of the animal health programs of IICA's 31 member countries, representatives of the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank (EDI), the National Animal Health Service (SENASA) of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina (SAGyPA), the Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA).

Also in attendance were representatives from the World Veterinary Association, the Pan American Association of Veterinary Sciences (PANVET), the Inter-American Confederation of Livestock Ranchers and Farmers



The inauguration of COINSA III brought together many agricultural specialists. In the front row, from left to right, are: Harry Mussman, Director of IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection Program; Eduardo Manciana, outgoing Assistant Secretary of Agricultural Economics of SAG y P; Louis Blajan, Director of IOE; the current Secretary of Agriculture of Argentina, Felipe Solá, and his predecessor, Ernesto Figueras; Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro; the outgoing Assistant Secretary of Livestock of Argentina, Daniel Iglesias; Director of Seminars of EDI/World Bank, Jacques Crosnier; and the IICA Representative in Argentina, Carlos Garramón.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN...

(CIAGA), observers from Belize, Israel, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

The Assistant Director of IICA's Animal Health Program, Hector Campos, called the meetings "of the highest level and very fruitful" because not only were regional animal health needs determined and continuity given to the strategies, but also because the recommendations of the experts to incorporate the topics of economics, administration and project management into the programs "opens up new possibilities for Latin America and the Caribbean."

URGENT NEED FOR TRAINING

During meetings held from June 26-28 at the Seminar-Workshop on Administration and Economics in Animal Health, sponsored by the EDI, IICA, SENASA/SAGyPA and IOE, the directors of animal health programs in IICA's 31 Member States discussed and analyzed the organizational and administrative structures needed for them to more effectively carry out their duties.

The agenda included presentations by EDI specialists on biotechnology, foreign trade, the role of the private sector in animal health, and program and project management, among others. In a presentation by John Glenn, a consultant to the World Bank, it was shown that the countries in the region have serious difficulties in designing and implementing programs due to a lack of knowledge concerning managerial standards.

According to Glenn, "This is why in many countries in Latin America and the Caribbean programs are not followed up on, the farmer is not involved in decision making and important initial efforts die out, efforts aimed at improving production and productivity in a sector which can play a decisive role in their economies."

To correct this situation, the participants recommended improving the training received by the professionals working in animal health, especially that dealing with administration and project management, thus ensuring the optimal use of available human, material and financial resources, as well as the continuity of programs and projects under way.

To this end, they requested that IICA and the World Bank work together to diagnose the situation in each country

in order to identify countries with similar characteristics and establish the emphasis and focus of the training.

HEMISPHERE-WIDE NETWORK

Animal health directors of IICA's 31 Member States, representatives of observer countries and delegates from international, regional and subregional institutions attended the IICA-sponsored Third Meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Animal Health (COINSA III), held from June 28-30. With a view to defining future actions, the current state of animal health and progress being made by the programs were discussed and analyzed during the meeting.

At the inauguration, the Director General of IICA, Martin

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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN...

E. Piñeiro, declared that IICA has always maintained close ties with COINSA and has supported the agreements and recommendations it has issued because "they serve as an important guide for the technical cooperation actions of the agencies and institutions working in the region." He added that the subject of animal health is included in the strategies of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which IICA is preparing in response to a mandate from the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), and which will be submitted to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in Costa Rica in October.

COINSA III gave its support to the establishment of a hemispheric network aimed at strengthening animal health services in Latin America and the Caribbean, which is being promoted by IICA with support from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Since 1987, IICA has been working on the design of national units to provide information on and monitor diseases. These units, in addition to being the links in the network, will make periodic evaluations to determine the economic losses caused by such diseases and to improve sectoral strategies. As part of this initiative, the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network (CARAPHIN) and its Latin American counterpart, the Latin American Animal and Plant Health Monitoring and Information Network (RIMSAL), are in the process of being consolidated.

Barry Stenshorn, the head of CARAPHIN, which includes Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, reported that a region-wide computerized system will be installed soon to coordinate the activities of the countries involved in the project. "This is a fundamental step in our task to implement the reporting system needed to provide further knowledge to the national institutions and to move forward in the fields of epidemiological control and disease monitoring," he explained.

For his part, James Moulthrop, head of RIMSAL, reported that the network is involved in identifying the areas in which it will soon begin operations, once the national monitoring units complete the process of gathering and disseminating information on agricultural health. He stated, "the work must be done meticulously



Animal health directors from IICA's 31 Member States participated in the meeting.

and with great care, but it will produce valuable results."

Parallel to CARAPHIN and RIMSAL, IICA has carried out other multinational activities since 1987. Among these is the project to strengthen animal health laboratory services and epidemiological surveillance in the Andean, Central and Southern Areas. One outcome of this project was the creation of the Inter-American Network of Animal Health Laboratories (RILSA), a mechanism designed to promote technological exchange and strengthen its role in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In an evaluation of RILSA laboratories, Raymond Dugas, the animal health specialist for the Southern Area, stated that factors such as isolation from agencies in other countries, lack of coordination among agencies in the same country, and limited access to international assistance all contribute to weakening the structures of these services. He added, "We have begun to strengthen the operating and functional capabilities of the laboratories to correct the situation."

During COINSA III, the delegates praised the work of IICA and the regional and subregional institutions, approved the reports presented and urged all involved to keep up the good work. Among others, the reports on the following topics were presented: compliance with the goals of the animal health plan for the Americas by the year 2000, the hemispheric system for surveillance of swine pests, the Inter-American Compendium of Registered Veterinary Products, and the exchange of information on sanitary legislation to facilitate international trade of animals and animal products.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA ATTENDS MEETING OF THE U.N. SPECIAL PLAN FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

The Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Martin E. Piñeiro, participated in the first meeting between the governments of Central America and their European counterparts and cooperating institutions, held from July 4-6 in Geneva, Switzerland as part of the activities related to the United Nations Special Plan for Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC).

In attendance were representatives from the European Economic Community (EEC), Scandinavia, the United States, Japan, some Arab countries, and western European countries.

The Vice President of Costa Rica, Jorge Manuel Dengo, presided over the event, and its opening session was chaired by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Javier Perez de Cuellar. The Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Coordinator of the Special Plan, Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, as well as other top-level officials from inter-American institutions and agencies, participated in an analysis of the prospects for international cooperation in Central America.

During their presentations, the representatives from donor countries such as Sweden and the Kingdom of the Netherlands acknowledged the work being carried out by IICA in Central America, and explained that they are currently involved with IICA in cooperation projects in areas such as training in communications, women and development and harmonization of agricultural policies.

For his part, the Secretary of State for International and Ibero-American Cooperation, Luis Yañez, stated that his government sees the PEC as "an excellent means for channeling cooperation efforts to Central America because it clearly defines areas for priority action, and is set up as an adaptable overall framework for channeling of efforts in a coordinated and coherent fashion."

He pointed out that social development is one of the priority areas of Spanish cooperation in Central America. "Spain," he said, "will not go back on its commitment to improve housing, community development and support to the small farmer."

The Director General of IICA spoke of the role of agricul-

tural modernization in the process to reactivate the economies of the Central American isthmus, and of the valuable contribution PEC will make to this process. Piñeiro said, "The goal of this meeting is to elicit and coordinate a significant contribution by the international community to the efforts being made by the Central American countries to break the vicious cycle of economic crisis, poverty, political instability and social frustration which has beset the region in recent years."

At the meeting, the delegates from the countries of Central America presented projects under the PEC, designed in 1983 as support for the Esquipulas II Regional Peace Plan. The aim of this plan is peace through dialogue, domestic democratization and non-interference by foreign forces.

Piñeiro described the PEC as "the guiding framework" for securing international resources in support of Central America, and said that it had come about along with other Esquipulas II initiatives which advocated regional integration as a means of achieving equitable economic and social development.

IICA's Director General added that international efforts aimed at promoting development in the region coincide with a proposal currently being put forth by the Institute to modernize the agricultural sector as a means of reactivating the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean. In response to a mandate from the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), IICA is preparing a Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be submitted to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in Costa Rica this October. The proposal includes specific strategies for the different subregions, programs and projects of joint action, and both hemispheric and subregional financial and institutional mechanisms.

During the meeting, the representative of Guatemala, on behalf of the countries of the Central American isthmus, addressed the subject of agriculture and introduced a portfolio of sixteen projects requiring funding and which are part of the Plan of Joint Action in Support of Agricultural Reactivation and Development in the Countries of the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic, one of the specific strategies referred to earlier.

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF IICA ...



The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, explains the importance of agricultural modernization in the process of reactivating the economies of the Isthmus.

The proposal prepared in conjunction with the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA) and other regional cooperation and integration agencies, was approved by the ministers and secretaries of agriculture of these countries in April.

The portfolio of projects, which corresponds to the agricultural component of the PEC, includes, among others, a regional program for production of edible vegetable fats and oils, the program of integrated rural development projects, the strengthening of rural settlements in the Central American isthmus (PRACA) and the program on non-traditional permanent crops.

Piñero expressed optimism that the PEC will become "the axis of international support, integration and regional development, a key element if there is to be a real, permanent and lasting peace in the Isthmus."

In the closing session, William Draper, Administrative Coordinator of UNDP, commented that the meeting had provided the forum for coordinating the needs of the governments of Central America with the interests of the donors. He referred specifically to the experience gained by the governments and regional agencies in setting priorities in areas such as the agricultural sector.

IICA AND INSTRAW STUDY ALTERNATE FORMS OF COOPERATION

The Director of the U.N. International Institute on Training and Research for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), Dunja Pastizzi, visited IICA recently to discuss possibilities for joint cooperation in connection with rural women.

Pastizzi explained that INSTRAW, an autonomous agency of the United Nations system and headquartered in the Dominican Republic, has been working since 1982 "to involve women in the processes of development at all levels: national, international, macroeconomic and microeconomic." She added that this required a completely innovative approach because to involve women in the processes of development means producing changes and designing methods which focus on the human being. Pastizzi expressed optimism concerning the joint cooperation efforts the two organizations could undertake, for example, in the design of integrated rural development policies, "which should involve the participation of rural women." She commented that women should be provided with basic infrastructure, such as a electricity and water, training, credit and, especially, access to land ownership.

INSTRAW's director went on to say that those responsible for the formulation of rural development policies "must come up with creative approaches because this region is going through one of the worst economic crises over." One of the areas in which INSTRAW has been especially active is in the gathering of statistics on the current status of women in areas such as work and health. It has also worked to promote the use of methodologies in gathering national statistics which accurately reflect the "invisible" work women perform as part of the informal and domestic economies.



Dunja Pastizzi, Director of INSTRAW.

IICA TO GIVE GREATER IMPORTANCE TO THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT IN ITS PROGRAMS

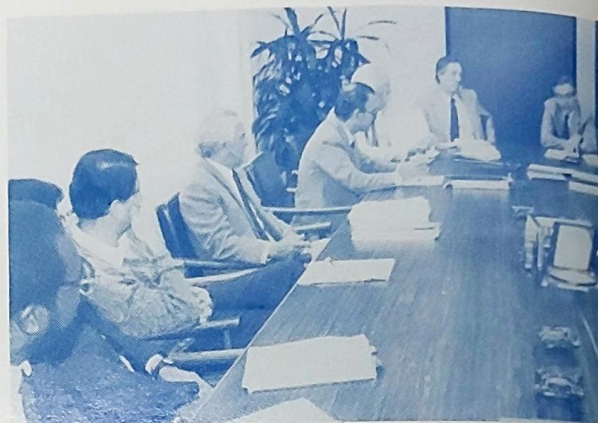
Two of the medium-term goals of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) are to contribute to raising the awareness of its Member States concerning the importance of sustained agricultural development, and to give greater importance in its five Programs to this concept. These goals are the outcome of consultations with researchers and scholars in the field.

Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, stated that the aim is to come up with a conceptual and operational framework to be incorporated into IICA's five Programs and their respective projects in the countries. He added that even though the subject of sustained development is, to a certain extent, already a part of the actions of the Institute, "it should be emphasized and become an essential part of our actions."

Recently, a seminar was held at IICA Headquarters, and among those participating was E.T. York, who has carried out important conceptual studies in this field. York is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), which is made up of 14 international research centers. Also participating was Jack Vaughn, advisor to the Agency for International Development (AID), former ambassador of the United States to several Latin American countries, an expert on natural resources and, especially, on mechanisms for channeling foreign debt funds to investments with a high social return. Other special guests were Joshua Dickinson, Deputy Director of Tropical Research and Development Inc. and Jose Flores, representing CATIE.

In summing up the seminar, the Deputy Director of IICA, L. Harlan Davis, said that there was agreement on the need to incorporate the concept of sustained development into the Medium Term Plan, the instrument which will govern IICA's activities until 1991; to prepare a document stating the Institute's position on the matter; and to set up an inter-American group for the discussion and exchange of information and experiences. He said that the implications and challenges of allocating more resources for the future should be discussed thoroughly.

During the event, in which IICA's Program Directors and Directors of Areas Operations participated, Piñeiro explained that the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CATIE), an associated institution, conducts research in this field and has a natural resources program. He added that it could serve as a point of reference and direct link for collaboration.



During the seminar, international experts and IICA officials discuss the sustained development of agriculture.

York explained that the topic of sustained agricultural development is becoming more and more important in light of the careless exploitation of natural resources, which could lead to their destruction in the near future. He added that the fact that IICA is giving serious consideration to the subject reflects the interest of the countries of the Americas in making rational use of these resources. He mentioned that current levels of agricultural production cannot continue to grow without endangering the environment, adding that he was impressed by the programs being developed by IICA and the attention being given to the debate over sustainability.

For his part, Vaughn added that the governments, through their macroeconomic policies, should promote this process, rewarding those sectors that further the rational use of resources. He also pointed out the advantages of converting Latin American debt into investment funds promoting the sustained development of the region.

Dickinson is of the opinion that the sustained development of agriculture could be an essential element in satisfying the demand for food if other variables such as population growth can be stabilized. "Sustainability," he added, "is a multidisciplinary concept which includes biophysics, the social sciences and economics. The basic idea is to maintain and eventually increase production without affecting natural resources."



Participants in a seminar on strengthening and consolidating small-farmer settlements in the Central American isthmus meet with the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro.

An operating agreement was signed recently to strengthen and ensure the continuity of the Training and Study Program on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic (PRACA).

The agreement was signed by representatives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), PRACA and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA).

The main objective of PRACA is to support and bring together, within a framework of regional cooperation, the agrarian reform and rural development institutions in its member countries in an effort to consolidate and strengthen their actions.

During the signing ceremony, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, pointed up the importance of this agreement within the framework of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which IICA is preparing in collaboration with its member countries and regional and international agencies. The contents of the Plan were already ap-

proved by the Executive Committee of IICA and will be submitted to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in October.

He added, "Within the framework of the Plan of Joint Action, and once PRACA has been strengthened and renovated, we will be able to secure financial resources to aid in developing the proposed programs and projects for Central America."

IICA, through its Organization and Management for Rural Development Program (Program III), took advantage of the situation to discuss with PRACA officials the profile of a project to strengthen and consolidate rural settlements in the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic.

Fausto Jordán, Director of Program III, explained that this project seeks to strengthen rural settlements with a view to raising the level of employment, production, productivity, income and organization and participation of their inhabitants.

Also included are the strengthening or establishment of operating credit for farmers in the settlements and the implementation of the multinational subcomponents of training, evaluation, systematization and exchange of experiences.

The goal of the project is to benefit some 67,200 rural families, or 14% of the families that have benefitted from agrarian reform in the region.

It also calls for the creation of 11,400 jobs and will give direct support to production on 183,000 hectares.

The Executive Director of the National Agrarian Institute of Honduras, Raúl Flores Gómez, stated that this project and the operating agreement will make agrarian reform more practical, as in the past it involved little more than giving away land, without any thought to strategies for making the land productive.

Flores added that IICA's role in the development process is essential because it has a clear view of the situation in the Americas, and because it is IICA that, year in and year out, has been making the analyses needed to formulate the policies reflected in this project.

8 Latin America and the Caribbean: AGRICULTURAL MODERNIZATION FEASIBLE DESPITE ECONOMIC CRISIS AND INSTABILITY

Specialists participating in a seminar-workshop co-sponsored by IICA and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) on the process of modernizing agriculture agreed that modernization is possible even in times of economic crisis and instability.

The event, entitled "Processes for Modernizing Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean," was held in Costa Rica from July 4-6 and was organized by IICA's Program I (Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning). In attendance were experts from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, who discussed the determining factors in the process.

Carlos Pomareda, Director of Program I, stated that the modernization of agriculture requires, in addition to sustained increases in the productivity, production and incomes of the sectors involved in agriculture and agro-industry, an ability to compete in an atmosphere of risk and economic instability. "This implies developing an array of skills essential to the process," he said.

The cases of eight subsectors that showed sustained growth associated with a process of agricultural modernization were studied: fruitgrowing in Chile, dairy production in Costa Rica, poultry in Peru, vegetable and fruit production in Mexico, grains in Argentina, soybeans in Brazil, flowers in Colombia and shrimp in Ecuador. The following were identified as determining factors: economic incentive policies, the structure of domestic and foreign markets, technology, trade union organization and entrepreneurial management.

The research in the Latin American countries was conducted within the framework of a cooperation project signed between IICA and CIDA, in which the Canadian agency provides support to IICA's five Programs. CIDA contributes to Program I by providing funding for a project on agricultural modernization strategies in the region. Its four components are: case studies, exchange of experiences, training for public and private sector officials, and technical assistance to the countries in the design of policies which facilitate modernization in specific sectors of agriculture.

Based on these eight studies, the participants concluded that there is a clear relationship among the factors which determine the process of agricultural modernization. They explained that this is why it has become as important to achieve high levels of competitiveness on world markets by exploiting climate-related comparative ad-

vantages as it has to develop an efficient technological process or implement economic incentive policies in a timely fashion.

Pomareda explained that it was also clearly demonstrated that while foreign markets are an attractive alternative for ensuring the agricultural modernization process, domestic markets are also a good option even in times of crisis, as demonstrated by the success of the dairy subsectors in Costa Rica and the poultry subsector in Peru, both of which prospered despite instability.

Brian Perkins, coordinator of the IICA/CIDA project, described the seminar as "a very informative and stimulating gathering which provided the means for learning more about how the determining factors of the agricultural modernization process interact and affect the rest of the economy."

Jorge Torres Zorrilla, coordinator of the event, highlighted "the innovative nature of the seminar-workshop, which, for the first time, brought together specialists from eight countries to compare an equal number of agricultural modernization experiences."

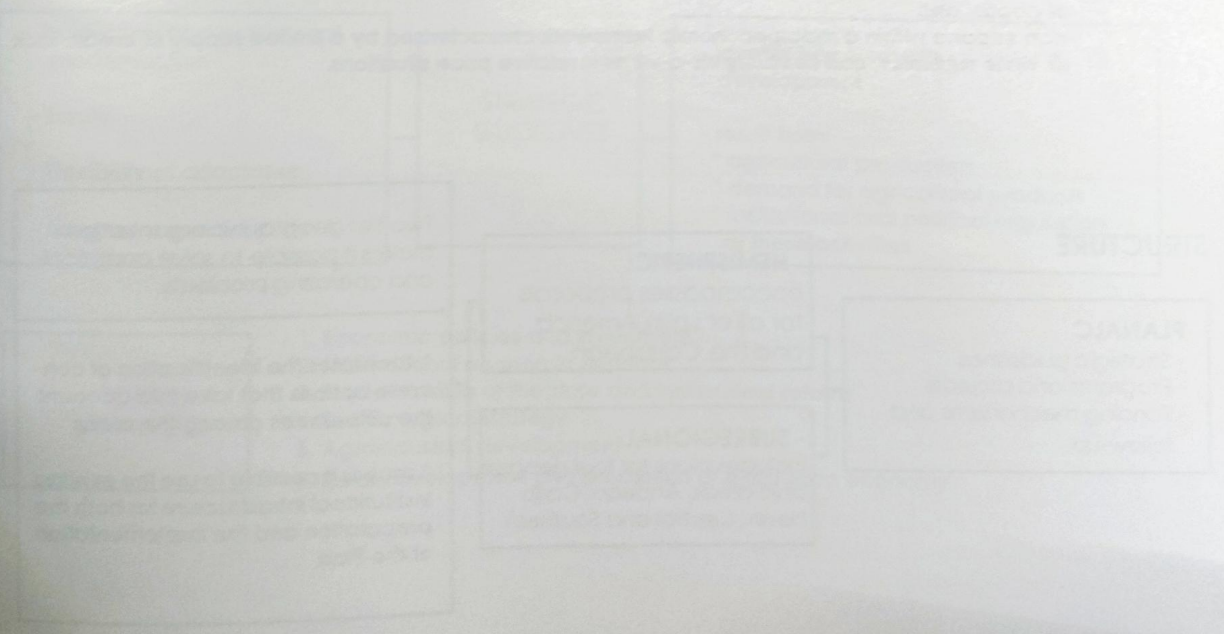
In the second stage of the project, an analysis will be made of the direct impact of the modernization process, as well as its multiplier effects on the rest of the economy.



From left to right are: Carlos Pomareda, Director of Program I; L. Harlan Davis, Deputy Director General of IICA; Brian Perkins, Coordinator of the IICA/CIDA Project; and Rafael Rios, of Ecuador.

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

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



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

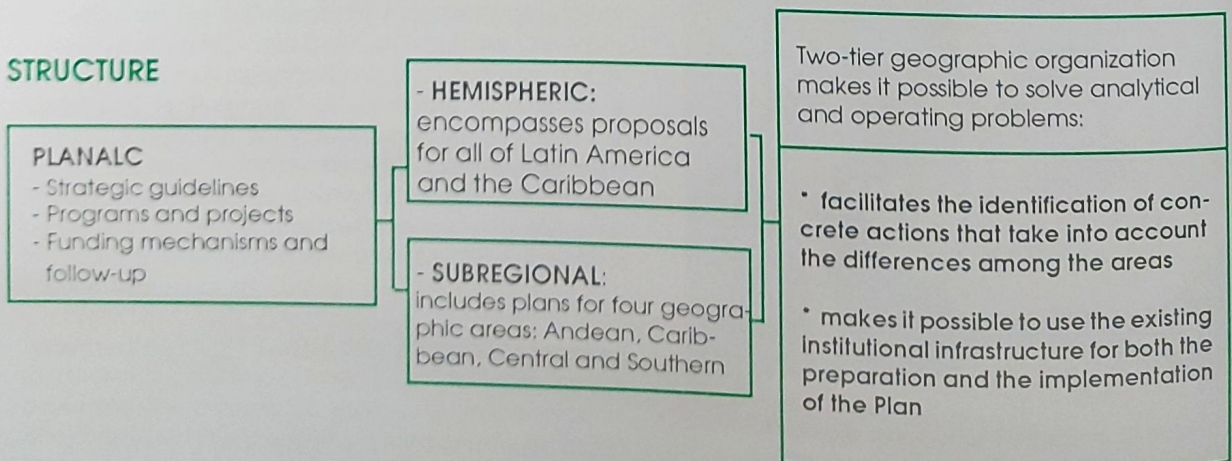
The Plan of Joint Action is a proposal designed to put into action the political consensus that has been reached on the essential role to be played by the modernization of agriculture in reactivating the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean. The initiative gained importance at a time when the development models adopted in the region began to show signs that they had run their course and were no longer efficient; the severity of the crisis called for a restructuring of economic reactivation strategies.

The Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) met in Ottawa, Canada, in 1987, and charged the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in collaboration with its member countries and other international organizations, with the preparation of this Plan. During the Seventeenth General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), the request for the preparation of the proposal was endorsed by Latin American and Caribbean foreign ministers.

The belief that agricultural modernization can serve as a new formula for economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean is based on the fact that the region has numerous comparative advantages, and on the sector's potential strengths vis-a-vis the process of adjustment that became necessary in the 1980s. In view of the economic recession and instability experienced in the majority of countries of the region, agriculture is one of the few production activities that can respond to new global challenges. Agricultural activity:

- can be competitive at the international level and constitute a source of net foreign exchange savings for the economy because it produces exports or substitutes imports,
- requires relatively low levels of external inputs and investments,
- involves a high degree of local know-how and skills in production,
- uses technologies that help create jobs,
- brings about multiplier effects in other production activities,
- has a cost structure capable of resisting inflationary pressures and contributes to the domestic supply of goods, and
- can expand within a macroeconomic framework characterized by a limited supply of credit, lack of state subsidies, and flexibility vis-a-vis new relative price situations.

STRUCTURE



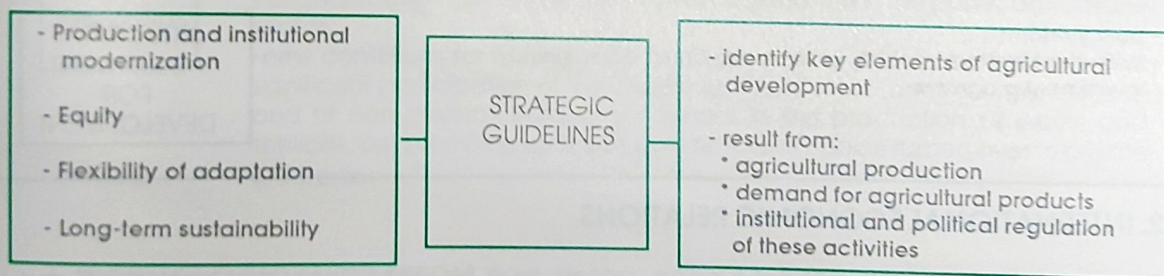
CHARACTERISTICS

- * **It is a Plan of Action and not a study:** The analysis is based on previous studies and is aimed at identifying and formulating specific recommendations and, especially, proposals for action (programs, projects, others).
- * **There is no quantification of goals** or other approaches normally followed in a planning exercise, as this would not be realistic for such a case.
- * **The purpose is not to produce a document,** but rather to give rise to a participatory process that generates ideas and action proposals that make it possible for agriculture to play a new role in economic development strategies. The Plan will be reviewed periodically.
- * **This is a Plan of Joint Action.** It is not intended to cover all relevant issues, but rather concentrates on aspects which are common to the countries and which can be addressed through joint action.
- * **The Plan is designed to be incorporated into the overall strategy for economic integration.** It will also serve as an instrument for reaching agreement on joint actions at the regional and subregional levels and contribute to the search for international resources for regional projects.

HEMISPHERIC

Key Elements of the Reactivation Strategy

The crisis and the adjustment process have shown that a well-defined development policy is needed in order to get back on the track of economic and social development. First and foremost, a strategic framework must be established that identifies appropriate policies and measures needed for strengthening the agricultural sector's contribution to economic and social development, based on the real conditions of the crisis and the position Latin America and the Caribbean hold in the international economy.



TOPICS ANALYZED

1. Economic policies and investment
2. International economic relations
3. Modernization of the state and institutional reform
4. Technological strategy
5. Agroindustrial development
6. Rural development and promotion of small-farm economy

1. ECONOMIC POLICIES AND INVESTMENT

In order to reduce the dependence of sectoral policies on macroeconomic policy, agriculture must be given a more active role in government decision making (in central banks, economic cabinets, planning offices, among others). Institutional technical capabilities must also be strengthened. Assigning a new role to agriculture in the reactivation strategy requires that internal changes be made that take into consideration the following:

- adjustments must be made in domestic policies to ensure that available resources are used more productively and to contribute to achieving a satisfactory growth rate
- harmonization of short- and long-term objectives is not easily achieved and requires considerable skill and economic know-how
- price policies are a macroeconomic policy having a major influence on agriculture

INCENTIVES:
GREATER
SECTORAL
PARTICIPATION

Investment offers considerable potential, based on:

- the quantity and quality of natural resources in the region
- sectoral linkages, with the corresponding multiplier effects
- a relatively low level of investment required per production unit
- agriculture's greater capacity to absorb labor than the industrial sector, which is an important consideration, given the level of unemployment and underemployment in rural areas
- lower coefficient of imported inputs per production unit compared to other production sectors

INVESTMENT

In regard to structural adjustment policies and programs, changes should be made in the methods used by international banks in providing loans. Satisfactory lines of credit are needed to provide resources for the three key components of sectoral development programs which promote real adjustment with growth:

- policy reform
- institutional reform
- investment programs

STRUCTURAL
ADJUSTMENT
FOR
DEVELOPMENT

2. INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS

Together with improved external funding, access must be gained to world agricultural and agroindustrial markets, and vigorous efforts must be made to integrate the region into the world economy. This will involve:

- efficient incorporation of agriculture into integration agreements
- ongoing search for market opportunities for agricultural and agroindustrial products that respond to changing demand in the world
- the possibilities of joint agroindustrial investments and expansion of intraregional trade in food commodities
- gradual liberalization of agricultural trade, a principle already accepted in the Tokyo Round and the Uruguay Round of negotiations on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

POSSIBILITIES
AND NEEDS

- strict compliance with the Declaration of Ministers at the Uruguay Round of GATT, which calls for a commitment to maintain and then dismantle measures that constrain or distort trade
- elimination of subsidies for agricultural export commodities, a matter which should be receive top priority
- price support through international agreements between producers and consumers within the framework of the Integrated Program for Basic Commodities

GUIDELINES
FOR
JOINT
ACTION

3. MODERNIZATION OF THE STATE AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Agricultural reactivation will place new demands on policy design and implementation mechanisms, and greater effectiveness will be required of state regulatory actions, intervention and production. Government mechanisms must be effective, respond to social demands, and propose creative solutions for dealing with opportunities and overcoming current constraints.

- The constraints of the general economic framework allow for little flexibility in defining priorities and designing specific policies.
- Concentration on managing a limited number of variables puts off dealing with structural issues and developing a long-term view of the economy.
- Aspects should be excluded that affect the implementation and quality of services rendered, due to the urgent need to reduce overall expenses.

OVERCOMING
CURRENT
PROBLEMS

Within this scenario, the crisis has generated new opportunities for modernization that make it possible, for the first time in years, to generate a consensus and obtain support for initiating broad-based institutional reform. These factors include:

FACTORS
OF
CONSENSUS

- an encouraging social climate.** Due to an evident deterioration in the quality of state services, social forces are clearly interested in bringing about change.
- growing social interest in agriculture.** The growing interaction and interdependence of agriculture with other sectors is giving rise to consensus among various social groups on the need to support change in the public agricultural sector.
- new conditions for turning state functions over to private enterprises.** The significant participation of the private sector, of small farmers' organizations, and of non-governmental organizations in the production of inputs and services, are promising signs that state functions can be turned over to private enterprises.

4. TECHNOLOGICAL STRATEGY

Actions to be taken in this field must take into account the technological implications of the current and future situation of agriculture and reflect scientific, institutional and socioeconomic developments affecting technology generation and transfer. Horizontal cooperation and international technology transfer should be encouraged, existing deficiencies in national systems should be overcome and better use made of available resources. Existing research network programs must be promoted. A consistent policy and vigorous efforts related to genetic resources must be developed, as support for programs to diversify export products. In addition, the following must be kept in mind when implementing adjustments in the public institutional system:

- levels of investment in research and the transfer of technology.** The region is underinvesting in these activities and they must be given greater priority in government budgets. The contribution of international development banks must be emphasized.
- research priorities.** Given budgetary constraints, it is absolutely necessary to reassess priorities and the allocation of resources in order to streamline efforts.
- relations between the public and private sectors.** In most of the countries, public and private research entities are lack a tradition of interaction.

5. AGROINDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Agroindustry offers one of the best opportunities for creating jobs in rural areas, improving the value of primary agricultural production, and providing solutions to rural poverty. Agroindustrial development must be seen as a specific strategy which can work under the constraints imposed by the crisis, to establish more efficient ways to use the comparative advantages of agriculture in the region for creating comparative advantages in the industrial sector. To this end, issues such as the following should be kept in mind:

-**international trade.** Agricultural growth has been slowed down by the impact of tariff and non-tariff barriers established by industrialized countries. Joint efforts should be made to improve negotiating positions with third parties.

-**institutional coordination.** Agroindustry does not come under any single public institutional system, and is subject to policies and controls issued by a wide variety of organizations. A system to coordinate the actions of the various institutions is essential.

-**entrepreneurs and policies.** Sectoral policies must be linked to core groups of entrepreneurs. This requires identifying areas which can spur agroindustrial development, designing policies to improve the competitiveness of the products to be promoted, identifying the effects on local primary production, and incorporating technology into the industrial sector, as a means of disseminating technical progress in the agricultural sector.

6. RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The goals of economic development in agriculture do not necessarily coincide with those of rural development, which involve improving the living conditions and income for the majority of rural inhabitants. The small-farm economy, made up of very different social segments, requires differentiated policies in order to meet its needs and increase its contribution to the national economy by:

- contributing to food security
- creating jobs
- securing and saving foreign exchange
- increasing intersectoral links

MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS

Macroeconomic and sectoral policies must be designed and implemented that take into consideration the characteristics of the different groups and which encourage the participation of small farmers' organizations in the decision-making process.

HEMISPHERIC JOINT ACTION PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Guidelines for action can be gleaned from the aforementioned topics, some of which are of a national scope and therefore do not fit into the context of PLANLAC. Other actions, however, can give rise to joint actions among the countries, and are aimed at overcoming identified problems.

The term "hemispheric," as used here, in contrast to the term "subregional," refers to proposals that involve all or a significant number of countries from different subregions. Some proposals, by their very nature, cover the entire hemisphere, although most of their activities may be regional in scope.

A. Proposed IICA/IDB technical unit to support countries in the preparation of agricultural sector programs

- Objective: Technical and financial cooperation for the design and implementation of loan programs

B. Program on institutional strengthening and the development of human resources

- Objective: Training and studies to facilitate institutional modernization

C. Program of institutional strengthening for improving international trade negotiations and promoting exports

- Objective: Joint action among countries and institutions to strengthen negotiating positions vis-a-vis the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations and meet the challenges of new markets

D. Hemisphere-wide program for the promotion of reciprocal cooperation and modernization of institutions through technology

- Objective: Consolidation of cooperative programs and the coordination of demands on the international community

E. Program of joint action for the development and utilization of agrobiotechnology

- Objective: Studies, forums and horizontal cooperation for research and development of a legal framework

F. Program for the gathering, conservation and utilization of genetic resources

- Objective: Information, policies and horizontal cooperation to maintain and utilize regional genetic stocks

G. Program of joint action for financing technological innovation in agriculture

- Objective: Promoting funding mechanisms for technological development

H. Multinational project on institutional policies and systems for rural development

- Objective: Training, studies and horizontal cooperation to improve rural development actions

I. Program on modernization of plant protection and animal health measures to increase productivity and facilitate agricultural trade

- Objective: Joint action to reduce health barriers

J. Program for rural agroindustrial development

- Objective: Institutional network to provide support to the countries in promoting rural agroindustries

THE SPECIFIC NATURE OF THE SUBREGIONS

In preparing strategies for the Plan of Joint Action, maximum use was made of the options offered by integration processes and subregional political fora. These processes and fora reflect specific geopolitical situations and illustrate a willingness to act jointly in a wide variety of fields, above and beyond mere technical cooperation. In this regard, they offer an opportunity for undertaking commitments in agriculture which directly reflect circumstances, objectives and agreements in the broader context of economic and social progress. Likewise, subregional guidelines for agricultural development reflect the heterogeneous nature of the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This approach recognizes that differences exist among the countries even at the subregional level. At the same time, options for cooperation are not limited to the subregions and, therefore, call for the identification of agreements among the subregions.

The Plan of Joint Action includes strategic guidelines for agriculture and commitments for action in four geographic areas:

- Central Area:** Countries of the Central American isthmus, Mexico and the Dominican Republic

Priority areas for joint action: Food security; small-farm promotion and rural development; promotion and development of agroindustry; development and diversification of exports; natural resources, ecology and environment; development of fisheries and aquaculture, among others.
- Caribbean Area:** Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

Priority areas for joint action: Analysis, planning and administration of macroeconomic policies; support for the development of tropical fruit crops; institutional support for the establishment and operation of a Caribbean cooperative agricultural research network; support for the development of food and vegetable crops; support for the development of the livestock subsector, among others.
- Andean Area:** Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela

Priority areas for joint action; institutional strengthening of agricultural policy; generation and transfer of agricultural technology; agroindustrial development in the rural areas; natural resources and the environment; agricultural trade; plant protection and animal health; promotion of small-scale farming and rural development; direct food assistance.
- Southern Area:** Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay

Priority areas for joint action: Cooperative agricultural research program; strengthening of emergency and international quarantine services in animal health and plant protection; evaluation of animal pests and diseases; potential and limitations for agricultural development; strengthening of ministries of agriculture in trade and integration activities; support for the establishment of integrated fruit fly management.

LIST OF INITIAL PROJECTS FOR JOINT ACTION

Caribbean Area

- Support the Design of Development Strategies
- Facilitate Latin American and Caribbean Linkages and Transfer of Technology for Agricultural Development
- Policy Analysis, Planning and Management in Support of Agricultural Development
- Support for Development of a Communications System for Agricultural Development
- Survey and Monitoring of Animal and Plant Diseases and Pests to Increase Production Efficiency
- Strengthen Farmers' Organizations to Improve Agricultural Production and Marketing
- Develop the Institutional Framework for the Production and Marketing of High-Quality Planting Material
- Support the Development of Tropical Fruit Crops
- Institutional Support for the Establishment and Operation of a Caribbean Cooperative Agricultural Research Network
- Support the Development of Food and Vegetable Crops
- Support the Development of the Livestock Subsector
- Strengthen National Animal and Plant Quarantine Capabilities
- Promote the Involvement of Youth in the Agricultural and Rural Development Process

Central Area

Portfolio of GISA projects

- Food Security Program for the Central American Isthmus - Stage II
- Agricultural Credit Restructuring Program - PRECA
- Regional Program for Production of Edible Vegetable Fats and Oils
- Regional Program of Integrated Rural Development Projects - DRI
- Strengthening Rural Settlements Through the Creation of Rural Development Funds and Through Training,

- Evaluation and Systematization of Experiences in the Central American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic - PRACA
- Regional Border Development Program
- Technical Assistance Project for Agricultural Development - RUTA II
- Central American Program for Sugar Industry Conversion
- Central American Agribusiness Program - Phase III
- Agroindustrial Development Program
- Central American Program for the Production of Cellulose and Kenaff Fiber
- Central American Program on Permanent Non-traditional Crops
- Central American Program on Citrus Production
- Central American Program to Boost the Export of Non-traditional Crops
- Program to Diversify Non-traditional Exports in the Countries of Central America
- Strengthening Public Institutions and Supporting NGOs in the Development, Use and Conservation of Natural Resources
- Regional Watershed Management Project - Phase II
- Support to the Development of Watersheds in Border Areas
- Management of the Fraternidad Biosphere Reserve of the Montecristo Massif - TRIFINIO
- Agriculture for the Semi-arid Zone of the TRIFINIO Region
- Regional Agrometeorology Project - Phase II
- Central American Program on Fresh and Salt-water Aquaculture
- Project for Fisheries Development in Central America and Panama
- Development of Tuna Fishing
- Harmonization of Agricultural Policy in CORECA Countries
- Central American Program on Irrigation, Drainage and

- Soil Conservation
- Inter-regional Transportation and Marketing Project
- Agriculture Input and Commodity Exchange
- Regional Program on Improved Seeds, with Emphasis on Basic Foods and Promising Crops
- Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic - PROCICENTRAL
- Study of the Inheritance Mechanism of Some Production-related Characteristics in Hybrids of Cacao
- Agroecological Inventory of Central America
- Use of Tissue Cultures to Achieve Somaclonal Variation in Tropical Oilseed Crops, as a Means of Increasing Resistance to Heat and Drought
- Nutrients Dynamics in Agroforestry Systems
- Reciprocal Technical Cooperation Program - COTER II
- Biotechnological Development Policies and Actions for Central America
- Technology Generation and Transfer for Small Farmers of Staple Grains in Central America
- Prevention, Control and/or Eradication of Fruit Flies in Central America and Panama
- Agricultural Health Information and Data Monitoring Network in the Central Area
- Regional Project on the Control and/or Eradication of Swine Fever in EL Salvador, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua
- Strengthening Agricultural Emergency and Quarantine Systems in the Central Area
- Control and Eradication of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly
- Development of a Bovine Feed Strategy for Meat and Milk Production Using a Forestry-Grazing Approach for the Humid-Dry Tropics of Central America
- Conservation and Use of Genetic Resources
- Use of Tree and Bush Foliage in Goat Production Systems in Central America
- Modernization of Animal Husbandry in Central America

Other IICA projects

- Non-reimbursable Technical Cooperation for

- CORECA's Reciprocal Technical Cooperation Program (COTER) of Costa Rica
- Regional Program on the Strengthening of Agricultural Research on Staple Grains in Central America

Andean Area

- Regional Project for Agricultural Policies in the Andean Area
- Strengthening of Institutional Capability for International Negotiations
- Cooperative Program for Research and the Transfer of Agricultural Technology
- Support to the Organization and Management of Technology Generation and Transfer
- Rural Agroindustrial Project
- Andean Program on the Prevention, Control and Eradication of Fruit Flies
- Strengthening Agricultural Emergency and Quarantine Systems in the Countries of the Andean Area
- Assessment of Losses Caused by Animal Pests and Diseases in the Countries of the Andean Area
- Promoting the Creation of Special Funds to Finance Community Agricultural and Non-agricultural Production Activities, in the Context of Rural Development Projects

Southern Area

- Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Countries of the Southern Area - PROCISUR
- Strengthening of International Agricultural Emergency and Quarantine Systems in the Southern Area Countries
- Evaluation of Animal Diseases and Pests
- Economic Research on the Potential and Limitations of Joint Agricultural Development in the Southern Area
- Program on the Strengthening of Ministries of Agriculture in Activities Pertaining to Foreign Trade and Integration
- Support for the Establishment of an Integrated Fruit Fly Management System in the Southern Area
- Regional Network of Post- Graduate Programs in Agronomical Sciences
- Reciprocal Assistance for the Fight Against Forest Fires
- Agricultural Policies for the Southern Area

GUIDELINES FOR EXECUTION

The Plan will be executed through its hemispheric and subregional components. The institutional and financial mechanisms proposed for implementing PLANLAC are designed to cover the implementation, adjustment and feedback process of the Plan. It will be the countries themselves that carry out this task, and they will be the true executors, receiving support from technical and financial agencies.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION AND FOLLOW-UP

The bodies that will execute the Plan are the highest forums of the agricultural sector: the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Executive Committee of IICA.

These bodies will evaluate the progress made in executing the various components of PLANLAC, propose such changes as they deem necessary, and contribute to achieving consensus and support for this initiative.

At the subregional level, the institutional mechanisms responsible for follow up on PLANLAC include political fora (CORECA, SCMA of CARICOM, the Agricultural Council of the Andean Pact, CONASUR) and a technical secretariat or inter-institutional group.

Each program will have a secretariat at the hemispheric level, which will be in charge of follow-up, and which will coordinate the implementation of activities.

FUNDING AND DISSEMINATION

The subject of funding should be viewed from two perspectives: funding needed for reactivating and developing agriculture as a whole, and resources needed for implementing the Plan's specific projects and activities.

The first point depends on the macroeconomic decisions of the countries and the availability of external resources.

With regard to the second point, negotiations are under way to fund the initial projects of PLANLAC; these negotiations should be carried out through specific institutional mechanisms.

THE ROLE OF EXTERNAL COOPERATION

The main contribution of PLANLAC is to offer a portfolio of joint ventures already agreed upon by the countries, in addition to technical and political mechanisms that will continue to generate joint proposals.

Another important issue is inter-institutional coordination in order to avoid duplication of efforts in a situation of limited resources. The inter-agency advisory meeting held during the preparation of PLANLAC constitutes an interesting precedent for inter-institutional coordination at the overall level. Maximum advantage should be taken of this medium in the future.

THE ROLE OF IICA

The IABA will be the highest-level body providing follow-up and evaluation of PLANLAC activities, and, as such, it will determine the amount of resources IICA can earmark for PLANLAC activities.

With regard to technical tasks, IICA will serve as the secretariat of the political fora; participate in subregional institutional mechanisms and in the implementation of projects which fall under the direct responsibility of the Institute; prepare proposed budgetary allocations; and modify its planning and programming instruments so that it can process Plan proposals.

PROCESS OF CONSULTATIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANLAC

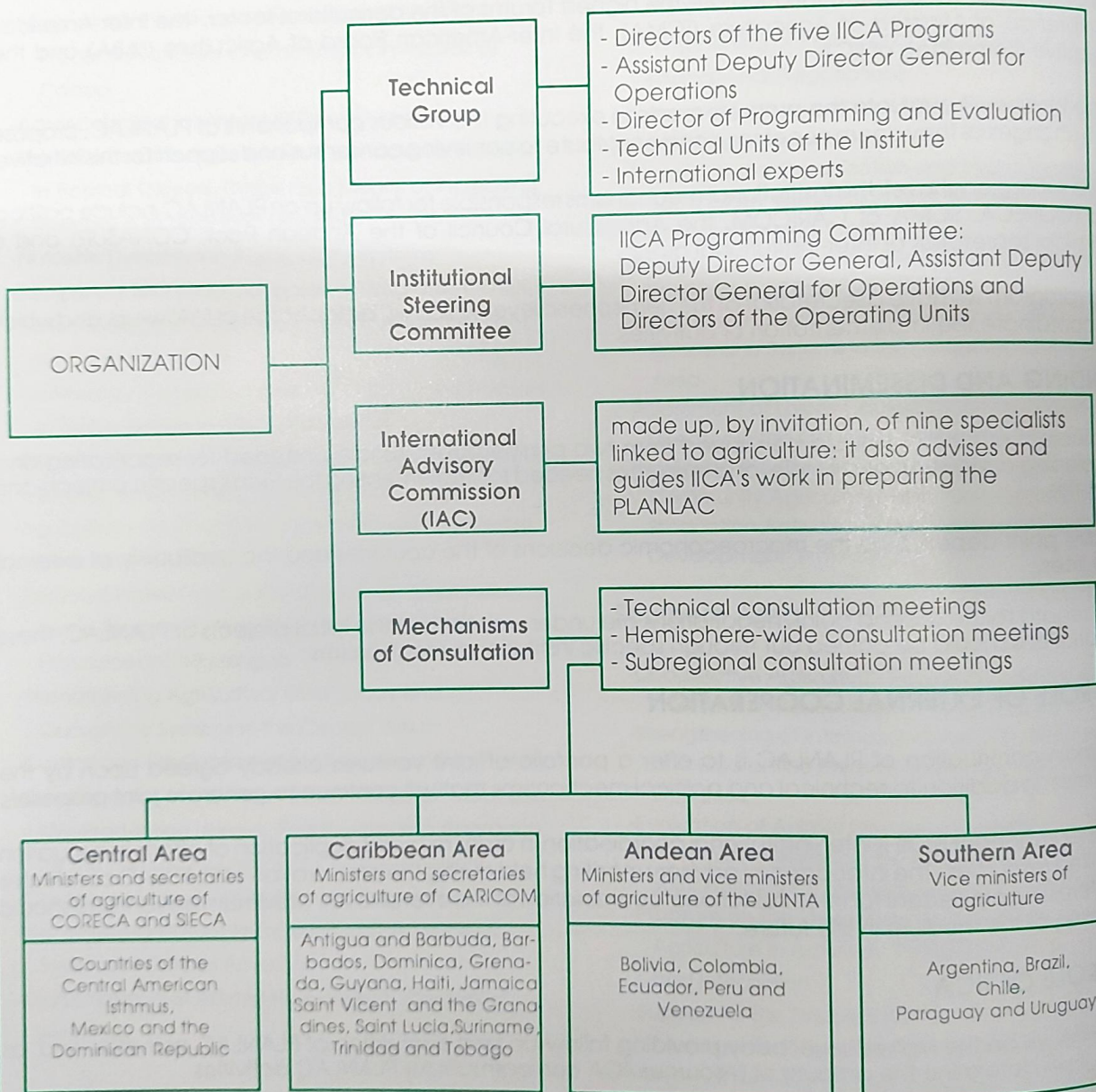
PREPARATION OF THE PLAN OF JOINT ACTION



ONGOING CONSULTATION PROCESS



- member countries of the Institute
- organizations of the inter-American system
- regional organizations
- subregional organizations and cooperation agencies



INTER-INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATOR TAKES OVER POST IN IICA OFFICE IN U.S.

On July 1, Julio Luna took over the post of Inter-institutional Coordinator of the Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture in the United States of America. The post was left vacant with the death of Dr. Pedro N. Acha in August of last year.

Luna, the former chief of the Agriculture and Forestry Development Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), will be in charge of coordinating Institute activities with the various international agencies headquartered in Washington, especially those linked to development funding agencies such as IDB and the World Bank.

Luna explained that IDB and the World Bank have increased their co-financing of activities aimed at the agricultural sector and rural development; thus the need for IICA, as an agency of the Inter-American System specialized in agriculture, to work closely with these banks to the benefit of its 31 Member States.

He added that IICA and IDB are currently negotiating an umbrella agreement, which is a very broad cooperation agreement that lays the foundation for a system of joint action. The first draft of the agreement, containing the technical opinions of both institutions, has already been drawn up.

He remarked, "One innovation in this agreement is the incorporation of an ongoing system of action that would be operated through three-year plans. It is important to remember that IDB's actions, particularly with its technical cooperation agencies, are subject to time limits, because it is very difficult to foresee over long periods of time the tasks to be carried out and the cooperation that will be required."

Luna visited IICA Headquarters from July 10-14, where he met with the Directors of IICA's five Programs to discuss the activities to be included in the first three-year plan, which will be in effect from 1990 to 1992.

Luna described the PLANLAC, entrusted to IICA by the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), as "the model from which many specific actions will arise, including policy changes, institutional modernization, and investment programs."

In his opinion, the countries are going to need considerable technical support from IICA if these actions are to be implemented relatively soon. Likewise, he added, funding agencies, specifically IDB, will need assistance from IICA because the funding requests submitted by the countries must be properly prepared if they are to be processed quickly.

FIRST VISIT



The newly-appointed representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) in Costa Rica, Carlos Gonzalez Naranjo (in white), visited the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on July 13. He is accompanied, from left to right, by Nelson Tineo, Head of IICA's International Cooperation Division; Julio Luna, IICA Inter-institutional Coordinator in Washington; Deputy Director General, L. Harlan Davis; Director General, Martin E. Pifheiro; and Andrés Marchant, Assistant Representative of IDB.

10 PROCIANDINO: AFTER TWO YEARS OF WORK, PROCIANDINO CLOSER TO CONSOLIDATION

After two years of joint efforts to upgrade the capacity and quality of agricultural research in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, through their national research institutions, the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Andean Subregion (PROCIANDINO) is making progress toward the second stage of its consolidation.

Created in March 1986, this program became the framework for a non-reimbursable technological agreement between the countries of the Andean region, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

PROCIANDINO, with headquarters in Quito, Ecuador, began operations in April 1987 as a multinational project under IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program.

PROCIANDINO was divided into four sub-programs, focusing on pulses, corn, potatoes, and edible oilseeds, which are considered to be most economically important and essential for the agricultural development of the participating countries.

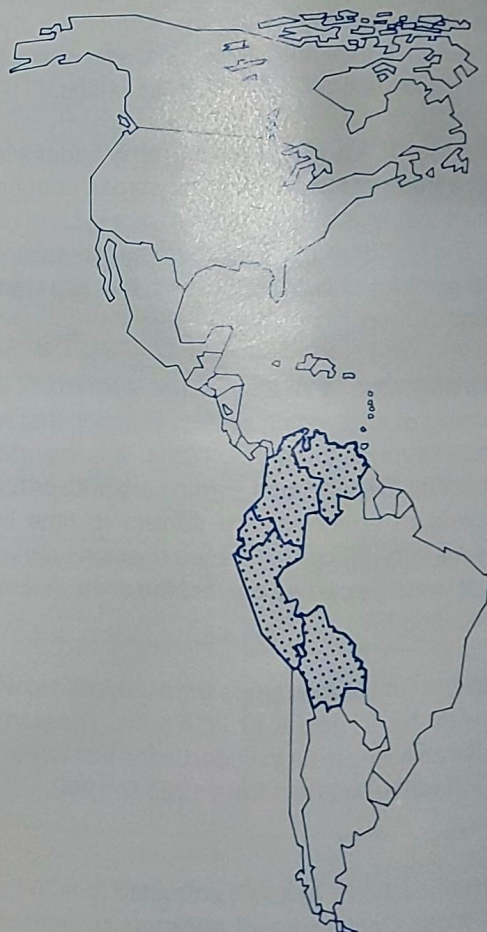
...PROCIANDINO, with headquarters in Quito, Ecuador, began operations in April 1987 as a multinational project under IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program...

In the judgement of specialists, the productivity of pulses (kidney beans, broadbeans, garden peas, and lentils) can be increased in four or five years if, parallel with research, activities related to seed multiplication, the exchange of germplasm and the transfer of existing technology are stepped up.

In the case of corn, the program's diagnosis of corn production and corn-related research revealed that this is the most important cereal in each of the countries of the subregion, with almost two million hectares under cultivation. Research is directed toward genetic improvement, new varieties and more productive and

adaptable hybrids which can contribute to satisfying increased demand in the subregion.

Potatoes, a priority product in the Andean region, is in second place in terms of total area under cultivation in Peru and Bolivia, but involves only 8% of the land in Colombia and Ecuador. Professionals are trained in producing, processing and preserving the product, and production systems in which this crop is a basic component are promoted.



PROCIANDINO: AFTER TWO YEARS OF WORK...

Activities related to pulses, corn and potatoes are carried out in close collaboration with the International Tropical Agricultural Center (CIAT), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and the International Potato Center (CIP), respectively.

The edible oilseed program includes soybean, sunflower, African palm, sesame and peanut, crops which do not satisfy domestic demand in the five Andean countries.

In this stage of consolidation, PROCIANDINO plans to step up research in this sub-program, including the selection and mechanization of new sesame cultivars; the production, handling and processing of African palm; the selection of soybean cultivars adapted to tropical and sub-tropical regions; and the development of disease-resistant peanut germplasm.

All these sub-programs share two essential components involving communications and the transfer of technology. In this context, PROCIANDINO is identifying the subregional technological inventory of the crops dealt with in the program, which will contribute to consolidating cooperation activities among the countries. It is also preparing a directory of the human resources available in the Andean Subregion, which currently have some 400 researchers and extension agents.

With regard to communications, there are three types of activities: the establishment and maintenance of data bases, provision of services and gathering and dissemination of information through the print media.

For PROCIANDINO these two years have shown significant output. Two hundred thirty-two events took place, which represents 75.3% of the 308 planned for reciprocal technical cooperation, consultancies on specific problems, training and the strengthening of national programs.

During this second stage of consolidation, PROCIANDINO will upgrade research, by means of a participatory approach, and the horizontal transfer of technology, by means of germplasm exchanges, training and document exchanges.

To this end, the program has been organized as follows:



a nucleus (Board of Directors) having maximum authority, and an executive secretariat. It also approved the creation of a unit to provide support in the administration and planning of research, and a technology and communications sub-program to reinforce the existing component.

... During this second stage of consolidation, PROCIANDINO will upgrade research, by means of a participatory approach, and the horizontal transfer of technology, by means of germplasm exchanges, training and document exchanges...

Emphasis was given to the consolidation of the four sub-programs and the establishment of others in the areas of soil management and conservation, livestock (including pasture management and dual-purpose cattle), livestock of the Andean highlands and Andean crops and rice, with special attention to rainfed areas.

JAPANESE TECHNICAL COOPERATION WITH IICA UNDER WAY

The Japanese government, through the Institute for Global Cooperation of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA), has undertaken technical cooperation activities with the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) with the services of two experts who will work, at least initially, for two years in IICA's Investment Projects Center (CEPI).

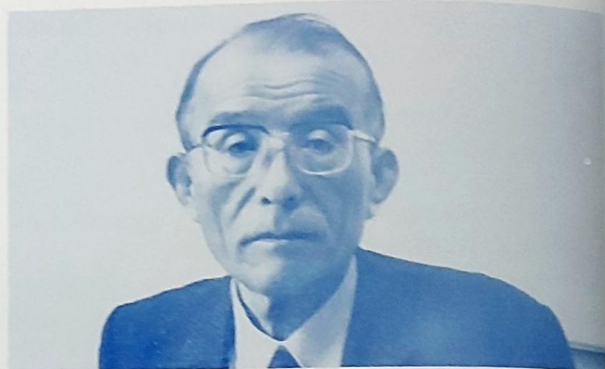
The Director of External Relations of IICA, Jorge Werthein, explained that in July 1988, following a trip by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, to Japan, Ambassador Sakamoto, Director General for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, was asked to assign two experts to IICA to aid in the identification and formulation of projects to be presented for consideration by the government of their country.

Japan designated Hiroshi Kidono, who holds a Ph.D. in agricultural ecology, as advisor on planning technical cooperation projects, and Kurashiro Izumi, who is an expert in preparing investment projects for the agricultural sector.

Hiroshi Kidono has been working at IICA since January. He has served as a permanent advisor to JICA, participated in technology generation and transfer and rural development technical missions in Latin America and Asia, and was the member of the "Development and Environmental Assistance" study committee responsible for defining agricultural development and its impact on the environment. JICA is the Japanese cooperation agency set up to provide technical support to Third World



Hiroshi Kidono, at IICA since January.



Kurashiro Izumi, Japanese consultant.

countries through the provision of experts, donation of equipment, preparation of development studies and other mechanisms, including non-reimbursable technical cooperation and the training of technical personnel in Japan.

Kurashiro Izumi began working at IICA in June. He worked previously as an economic advisor on several projects in Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Bangladesh, and taught agricultural economics in Japan. Izumi will be responsible for coordinating and drawing up investment projects in CEPI to be submitted to his government.

Concerning his work with IICA, Izumi is enthusiastic, especially because of the projects being developed to revitalize and modernize the agricultural sectors in the region. "I feel happy," he said, "because I can work as one more member of IICA's personnel, although I must study a lot and learn all I can about agriculture in this part of the world."

The Director of CEPI, Fernando Dall'Acqua, explained that these consultancies will contribute to the exchange of information between the two institutions in the identification of joint projects for the agricultural sectors of Latin America and the Caribbean, and will strengthen the activities of CEPI during its current stage of reorganization and development.

CEPI, as a technical support unit of IICA, collaborates with the member countries and the operating units of the Institute in the identification, formulation and evaluation of investment projects. It also provides training in the preparation of agricultural development projects and the design of methodologies.

During a recent visit to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, the Financial General Director of Radio Nederland, Kees Vergheud, announced his institution's willingness to expand the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre agreement (IICA/RNTC).

Vergheud, accompanied by RNTC Director Jaap Swartt, was in Costa Rica in July and met with Institute officials to discuss the progress of the project during its first two years of operation, and future activities.

In 1987, IICA and RNTC began working together on a communications project for rural development, which seeks to train communications agents in the different techniques of group and mass communication. The first stage of this agreement will be in effect until March of 1990, and negotiations are currently under way to extend the agreement.

Vergheud commented, "The last time I was here was two years ago when the project was just beginning, and now that I'm back I can see what has been accomplished. It is impressive to see the radio studio that has been built, the classrooms, the offices and its place in IICA."

He added that his organization is most pleased with the contents of the project and the objectives it pursues. "I have heard and seen the results and have spoken to many people involved in the project. I think it is coming along very well."

Vergheud made reference to the goals shared by IICA and Radio Nederland, especially its Training Centre, in terms of rural development. "Both organizations have similar objectives and the future looks bright, so we expect the project to be extended with continued support from IICA."

The Director praised the work done in the region by IICA, as an agency of the inter-American system specializing in agriculture and rural development, adding that IICA was an important organization in the region. He went on to say that in most of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the rural population played an essential role, and "the contribution of communications, especially radio, can have a significant impact on development."

Under the project, eight radio series have been pro-



Kees Vergheud, Financial Director of Radio Nederland, discusses the progress of the IICA/RNTC Rural Communications Project.

duced, including 150 episodes totaling 1,327 minutes airtime. Among these series is "Cristina," co-produced by IICA/UNICEF/RNTC and dealing with health in rural areas. Another is the 24-episode series "Eulalio Campos" on the use and handling of pesticides. A documented report "El Agua y la Vida" deals with natural resource conservation and environmental pollution.

There are plans to record eight more series, involving 172 episodes and 798 minutes radio time. The scripts for these series will come from the courses taught by the project. They will focus on women and rural development, soil conservation, the rural family, and women, work and education, in addition to others related to agriculture and livestock.

Vergheud noted that the IICA/RNTC project brought to light the regional need for training in communications, as evidenced by the huge demand for its services.

He concluded by saying, "the requests and consultations are so numerous that we cannot tend to all of them. We must do something about this situation, and I feel an extension of the agreement has become necessary."

14 Editorial Service: BOOK AVAILABLE ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Under the title *Research Management for Development*, the Editorial Service of IICA recently published a book for people who manage agricultural research projects.

The work provides a frank and clear presentation on all aspects of such endeavors in the Third World, and is intended to serve as a guide for persons involved in developing agricultural initiatives.

The book was written by John L. Nickel, who has dedicated 38 years of his life to the betterment of agriculture around the world and is currently the Director General of the International Tropical Agriculture Center (CIAT) in Cali, Colombia. His previous experience includes posts in project management in the International Rice Research Institute of the Philippines, and in the International Tropical Agriculture Institute of Nigeria.

The book is designed to assist novice administrators in their new responsibilities, while at the same time it is useful to the experienced administrator because there is so little literature available on the subject and because of the numerous examples it provides.

The book is divided into two parts. The first section deals with the establishment and maintenance of a value system, planning of human resource needs, motivation for excellence, and the promotion of attitudes that lead to personnel effectiveness.

The first part of *Research Management for Development* contains specific chapters dealing with management at the national, institutional, individual and multidisciplinary levels, as well as with the differences between projects and programs and participatory management. There are also chapters on the handling of funds and the problems arising from a lack of sufficient budgetary resources or the use of combined capital from the State and international cooperation agencies. All chapters contain concrete and practical examples for each situation.

In the second part, the author offers strategies for sustained agricultural development, while at the same time discussing socioeconomic and ecological conditions, and the importance of biotechnology to the successful management of this type of project.



The book, consisting of 129 pages, is part of IICA's Educational Texts and Materials Collection. It concludes with an explanation by the author of how to come up with a working strategy even in the face of scarce resources, including a commentary on the importance of conducting on-site research.

In the preface, Amir Muhammed, President of the Pakistan Agricultural Research Council and Secretary of the Agricultural Research Division of the Pakistani government states that he immediately recognized the value of this book, which comes along at a very good time, adding that it is perceptive and clear and is intended to explain complex situations faced by research project managers, who often lack experience in this field. He also praises the pleasant style in which the book is written.

John L. Nickel's work is backed up by his experience in seven different countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, where he has spent 23 years managing agricultural research projects. The book summarizes the successes and experiences of the author over the years in such a way that new managers may draw on them when faced with similar situations. The goal is to give new managers the confidence needed to develop their own working philosophy and to succeed.

THE SMALL-FARM ECONOMY: CRISIS, REACTIVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The book *La Economía Campesina: Crisis, Reactivación y Desarrollo*, recently published by the Editorial Service of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), is a compilation of working documents used in a seminar on the role of the small-farm economy in the strategy of agricultural reactivation and development, held at IICA Headquarters in September 1988.

The book includes three documents aimed at raising social awareness and expanding thinking on this topic. One concerns the balance and prospects of rural development policies in Latin America and the Caribbean; another, the impact of the crisis on the small-farm economy, and the third, the strategy for increasing the role of the small-farm economy in development.

The work was compiled by Fausto Jordán, Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program. This Program has been responsible for developing, as part of the search for alternatives for overcoming the crisis, the aspects related to poverty, rural development, and differentiated policies and strategies for the small-farm economy.

This comes within the guidelines used for the elaboration of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was entrusted to IICA at the Ninth Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, held in Ottawa, Canada in September 1987.

This is Volume 19 of the Research and Development Collection, and its 292 pages consider the role of rural development policies. It also addresses the recurring problem of rural poverty, but no longer from the point of view of the "administration of rural poverty." Rather, the focus is on developing differentiated policies that will contribute to eliminating the causes and consequences of poverty.

Often mentioned in diagnoses is the fact that services do not reach the farmers of the small-farm economy. However, proposed solutions have proven to be inconsistent and unsystematic and are not yet included in the macroeconomic and sectoral policies proposed in the national development plans.

The book compiles contributions from Alain de Janvry, Robin Marsh, David Runsten, Elisabeth Sadoulet, Carol Zabin, Fausto Jordán, Carlos de Miranda, William Reuben, Sergio Sepúlveda, and the Esquel Group. In the book, the causes and consequences of poverty are considered as being vitally important in the formulation of macroeconomic and sectoral policies, and overcoming the problem is directly linked to the social, economic and political strengthening of the societies of Latin America and the Caribbean which must occur by including all social strata in the development process.

The goal of the book is to help expand knowledge on the role of the small-farm economy in reactivation, and to propose rural development policy strategies which take into account the unique characteristics of this important social group and facilitate their incorporation into and contribution to the development process in Latin America and the Caribbean.

LA ECONOMIA CAMPESINA: CRISIS, REACTIVACION Y DESARROLLO

FAUSTO JORDAN, COORDINADOR



August 7 to October 14
**FIFTH INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON THE MEDIA
 APPLIED TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Agricultural extension agents from governmental and non-governmental institutions will be the beneficiaries of a ten-week course to be offered at IICA Headquarters. The goal of the course is to upgrade knowledge related to and the practical uses of radio and printed media in agricultural development, to be conducted by the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre Project (IICA/RNTC). This intensive workshop will be attended by 12 participants from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, who will be able to return to their countries and share their experience with many other people in the same field. In the course, emphasis will be given to participatory communications, as the most effective means of working with the farmers involved in development programs.

September 11 and 12
**FOURTH MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL
 ADVISORY COMMISSION (IAC)**

At the upcoming meeting of the International Advisory Commission (IAC), made up of distinguished international figures in the field of agriculture, the only item on the agenda will be a thorough discussion of and recommendations on the general summary of the contents of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). This is one of the last activities scheduled by IICA to put the finishing touches on the Plan of Joint Action, which will be presented to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in Costa Rica in October. The members of the IAC are Ralph Campbell, of Canada; David Ibarra, of Mexico; Fernando Homem de Melo, of Brazil; Miguel Urrutia and Roberto Junguito, of Colombia; Edward Schuh, of the United States; Lucio Reca, of Argentina; Alistair MacIntyre, of Grenada; and Michel Petit, of France. Also participating will be Jesús González Regidor, Attaché of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain.

La Mañana

Uruguay, July 7. Under the headline "Food-Related Planning," the morning newspaper La Mañana published a report from IICA Headquarters concerning a course on food planning and strategy scheduled to take place in Spain from September 15 to November 16. The report states that the participants in the course will be university professors and top-level specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, IICA and other Spanish private sector agencies. The event is aimed at professionals from Latin America who teach or do research, who work in public or private administration and who are responsible for overall planning in the food sector.

The objectives of the event are: "To take into account the evolution of the role of agriculture in the economic system which increases the importance of agroindustry, and which implies a gradual shift from traditional policies on agricultural supply to policies on agricultural demand."

LA NACION

Buenos Aires, June 26. This Argentine daily reported on three important agricultural meetings being held in the capital: a seminar on administration and economics in animal health, the Third Meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Animal Health and the Ninth Conference of the International Office of Epizootics (IOE) for the Americas, which involved international experts from 50 countries, representatives of Argentine agencies, provinces and colleges, as well as from the private production sector. The article points out that the meetings were organized by IICA, the National Animal Health Service of Argentina, the Economic Development Institute of the World Bank and the International Office of Epizootics.



NEWS

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

IICA



NEWS

August - September 1989, Year VI, No. 31-32



The Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the highest governing body of IICA, will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica from this October 9 to 12.


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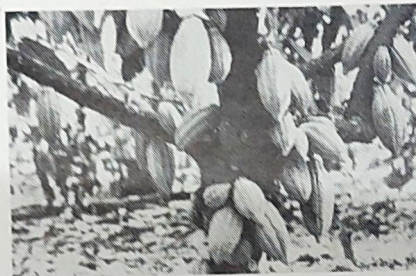
- **Winners of IICA/RNTC Photography Contest Announced**
- **Harmonized Plant Protection Legislation Sought**
- **Director General Visits Canada and the Caribbean**
- **Increased Cacao Production Foreseen**

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ECOLOGÍA basada en zonas de vida

Leslie R. Holdridge



Life Zone Ecology

Upcoming Activities

Two important seminars on agricultural policy and financing will take place in Antigua, Guatemala and at IICA Headquarters, in San Jose

IICA in the News

The press in the hemisphere highlighted the IICA Director General's trip to the Caribbean, and the photography contest sponsored by the IICA/RNTC project.

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IICA Director General affirms: Plan of Joint Action Will Enhance New Role of Agricultural Sector

At this juncture in time, when the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean are faced with economic crisis and reorganization, the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) represents an opportunity for strengthening and enhancing a new role for the agricultural sector in the region, stated the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr. Martin E. Piñero.

Piñero added that under the present circumstances, new proposals for economic reactivation assign an important role to the agricultural sector, which offers comparative advantages on the international market and with respect to domestic competitors on the local market.

The Director General of IICA made these comments on the Plan of Joint Action, which will be examined by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), during its Fifth Regular Meeting to be held in Costa Rica from October 9-12.

The IABA is the highest-ranking agricultural forum of the hemisphere, and is made up of the ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, of the 31 Member States of IICA.

Preparation of PLANLAC, in consultation with the member countries of IICA and other international agencies, was entrusted to the Institute during the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada in September 1987.

The Plan includes strategies for the hemisphere as a whole, and specific strategies for the different subregions, aimed at modernizing the agricultural sector and contributing to reactivating



Martin E. Piñero

the economies of the region. The Plan also includes programs and projects for joint action, as well as financial and institutional mechanisms needed for carrying out the Plan.

The Director General indicated that efforts to restructure the economies, as well as the possibility of reactivating agricultural production in the Latin American and Caribbean countries, were framed by very special circumstances of the world economic scene.

More specifically, he made reference to the development of new economic markets, the gradual economic liberalization of the European socialist countries, the strengthening of Japan as an economic power, and the emergence of the conservation of natural resources as a critically important subject in international relations.

Piñero affirmed that the Latin American and the Caribbean countries will participate in the very heart of the international discussions relating to

the conservation of natural resources, as a significant portion of these are located in the American hemisphere, including approximately 30% of the fresh water resources and a high percent of tropical and subtropical forests.

"This situation will affect relations between our region and the developed countries, and it will obviously have an impact on the type of agriculture we develop and the type the industrialized nations develop," he said.

Piñero illustrated his comment with the following example: an agricultural policy involving substantial subsidies for production, such as the one in Europe, goes hand in hand with an intensive use of agrochemicals, which are a source of environmental pollution.

For this reason, added the Director General of IICA, environmental concerns will also affect the agricultural policy of the European Common Market. The conservation of natural resources and sustained development are subjects currently being analyzed by IICA, which aims to incorporate these concepts into the technical cooperation it provides in the hemisphere.

In connection with the PLANLAC, Piñero stated that preparation of the Plan was a very important process for IICA, as it strengthened Institute ties with member countries and regional organizations working in the agricultural sector, such as the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA), the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

He concluded by saying that IICA will propose that the IABA and its Executive Committee be responsible for giving follow up to the PLANLAC at the hemispheric level, while the subregional organizations take charge of this task at the subregional level.

Key Topics on the IABA Agenda

The agenda of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) contains several major items. In addition to examining the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), the agenda also contains the approval of the 1990-1991 Program Budget, and the election of the Director General.

Under the new IICA Convention, which took effect on December 8, 1980, the IABA began to work, and has since become the most important agricultural forum in the Americas. During its first meeting, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1981, the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Executive Committee and the General Directorate were approved.

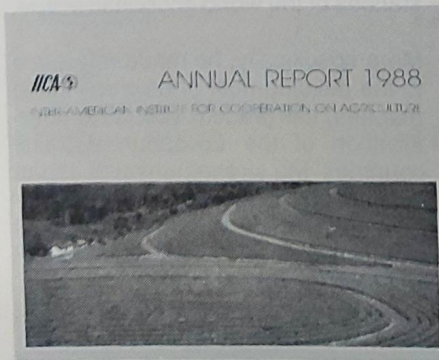
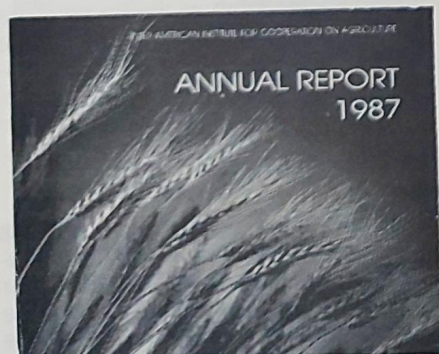
The Second Regular Meeting, during which these Rules of Procedure were amended, was held in Kingston, Jamaica in 1983. Two years later, Montevideo, Uruguay was the site of the Third Regular Meeting.

The Board held its first Special Meeting in Mexico City in 1986, to study and approve the 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan (MTP). The MTP is a normative document which sets priorities for the Institute, focusing IICA actions on the reactivation of agriculture as the key element in economic growth.

During this special meeting, the IABA agreed to meet the following year in Ottawa, Canada, and recommended that the Organization of American States (OAS) convene a concurrent meeting of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

The Ninth Meeting of the ICMA charged IICA, in collaboration with its member countries and other international agencies, with preparing a proposal that reassesses the role agricultural reactivation and modernization can play in the economic future of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America



The IABA will study the 1987 and 1988 Annual Reports.

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

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

and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) is the Institute's response to this mandate and will be the most important item on the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the IABA, to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica from October 9 to 12.

As part of the preliminary work to draw up the PLANLAC, numerous political and technical consultations were made. In addition to meetings of IICA's bodies and others held with subregional bodies such as the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA) and the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation (CORECA), an International Advisory Commission (IAC) of renowned agricultural specialists was set up, and many other activities carried out.

The belief that agricultural modernization can be the key to development in the region is based on the fact that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean enjoy a great number of comparative advantages, and on the potential of the sector to respond to the forced adjustment process imposed in the early 1980s.

The PLANLAC includes strategies for the hemisphere as a whole, others which are more specific and target each subregion, as well as different programs and projects of joint action, and the financial and institutional mechanisms needed to implement them. The highest-level agricultural sector fora will be responsible for overall execution.

TWO DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

The financing of this Plan should be looked at from two different perspectives: funding for agricultural reactivation and development as a whole; and the funding needed to implement the specific project activities called for in the Plan.

The former will depend largely on the macroeconomic policies of the countries and the availability of external resources. With regard to the latter, negotiations are already in progress on an initial portfolio of projects.

One of the activities scheduled for the IABA meeting is a round table entitled "Financing Agricultural Reactivation," which will involve the participation of representatives from international funding organizations and cooperation agencies.

ON THE AGENDA

Also within the framework of this meeting, the IABA will study and approve the 1990-1991 Program Budget. This budget aims to increase IICA's ability to assist its member countries in reinitiating the processes of economic growth, agricultural reactivation, modernization of production, export diversification, and regional integration.

Another priority item on the agenda is the election of the Director General, who is elected for a four-year term by



The preparation of documents to be studied by the ministers was one of the important tasks carried out prior to the IABA meeting.

majority vote of the Member States of IICA. Currently, the position of Director General is held by Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro.

ANNUAL REPORTS

Among other items, the agenda also includes the presentation of the 1987 and 1988 IICA Annual Reports; the report of the external auditors on

IICA's financial statements; IICA participation in the funding of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI); a proposal to update the Medium Term Plan; the inter-American awards in the rural sector; nominations for granting the title of personnel emeritus; a proposal to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Institute; and the announcement of the site and date of the next IABA meeting.

The IABA in brief

The Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the highest governing body of IICA, will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica from October 9 to 12.

The Board, made up of the ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, of the thirty-one Member States of the Institute, holds a regular meeting every two years, and special meetings whenever warranted.

The approval of the Institute's policy guidelines and its biennial program budget are among the Board's most important duties.

It also serves as a forum for discussions concerning the betterment of agriculture and rural life.

The Board is empowered to request the Organization of American States (OAS) to convene meetings of specialized conferences, in order to address special technical issues and certain aspects of the technical cooperation included in IICA's plans.

The Fifth Regular Meeting of the IABA will bring together more than 150 people, including ministers, ambassadors, government officials and representatives of observer countries, financial organizations and cooperation agencies.

Director General's Visit to Canada Strengthens Ties

In July, Martin E. Piñero, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, visited Canada where he met with high-ranking officials of the Ministries of External Relations and Agriculture, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC). As a result of these meetings, joint actions between the Government of Canada and IICA have taken on more importance.

The Director General met with Murray Cardiff, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture of Canada, who indicated that he would head the official delegation of his country to the meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), which will take place in Costa Rica from October 9 to 12.

Piñero spoke with Murray about the contents of the Plan of Joint Action for

Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which will be discussed by the ministers of agriculture from IICA's 31 member countries during the meeting.

The Director General, accompanied by Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations and Ernani Fiori, IICA Representative in Canada, noted Canada's interest in the regional initiatives implemented with Canada's support.

Authorities from the ministries were very helpful in defining areas and programs of the Plan of Joint Action through which Canada can strengthen its relations with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, through regional projects.

Piñero also met with Louise Ferchette, Assistant Delegate from the Secretary of State for External Affairs

for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Richard Gorham, Canada's Permanent Observer to the Organization of American States (OAS). Both Ferchette and Gorham reiterated their willingness to continue working with the countries of Latin America

and the Caribbean in order to strengthen agricultural reactivation.

Piñero discussed common areas of interest with John Robinson, Vice President for the Americas of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

New proposals in the fields of biotechnology and natural resources were discussed with James Mullin, Vice President of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and with the Director of the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division, Jeffrey Hawlin.

Export Economy Moves

IICA Director General Martin E. Piñero, told a meeting of the American Association of Agricultural Economists (AAAE), in Baton Rouge, United States that changing economic strategies has created great interest in developing a more competitive agro-industrial export sector in Latin America.

The shift away from export substitution and protected, subsidized industrialization, toward competitive export economies, has led to the recognition of the importance of investment and the role of the private sector, and is rapidly changing the role of the state, especially with regard to service delivery, said Piñero.

With Latin American exports falling, the revitalization of the agroindustrial sector requires new market opportunities and changes in the protectionist policies of the industrial nations, he said.

For Piñero, positive trends of the last few years, such as agreements reach-



Murray Cardiff, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture of Canada (right), who will head his country's delegation to the upcoming meeting of the IABA, talking with Dr. Martin E. Piñero, Director General of IICA.

Headquarters

Director General Analyzes New Initiatives in the Caribbean

Martin E. Piñeiro, Director General of IICA, recently made an official visit to four Caribbean nations. The main purpose of his visit, which took place from August 10 to 19, was to study new areas of technical cooperation that can contribute to the modernization of the agricultural sector in the Caribbean.

The Director General was accompanied by Reginald Pierre, Director of IICA's Caribbean Area Operations. Piñeiro met with the ministers of agriculture of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname.

Piñeiro's visit to Guayana and Suri-

name coincided with the arrival of a technical cooperation and support mission, headed by Cassio Luiselli, Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations, which explored new areas of cooperation with the governments and discussed the progress being made by the IICA Offices.

Also discussed were IICA's relations with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), in light of an agreement signed in February, through which IICA will provide budgetary support to strengthen CARDI's activities.

Piñeiro also discussed several aspects of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which will be the main topic of discussion at the upcoming meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

The Plan of Joint Action includes multilateral programs and projects to be implemented at both the hemispheric and subregional levels. Piñeiro discussed the strategy for the Caribbean with officials from CARICOM, the Caribbean's integration agency which is primarily responsible for designing the strategy.

In Saint Vincent, where the trip began, the Director General and the Minister of Agriculture, James Mitchell, signed a basic agreement to establish the legal framework which will govern IICA's actions in that country, which recently became a member country of the Institute.

Piñeiro studied projects under way in Trinidad and Tobago with the recently appointed Minister of Agriculture, Brinsley Samaroo.

During his stay in Guyana, the Director

General indicated his optimism in relation to the potential of that country's agricultural sector, which could become an important food exporter for the region. In conversations with the Minister of Agriculture, Patrick McKenzie, both the Director General and the head of the technical mission, Cassio Luiselli, backed the initiatives aimed at increasing technical assistance for projects to develop the dairy and fruit crops sectors.

According to Cassio Luiselli, since Suriname and Guayana are ecologically similar, IICA should combine its efforts, and set the bases for improved coordination between the Representatives of the two nations.

The animal health programs are very important for both countries. For example, the IICA Office received an urgent request from the Government of Guyana regarding the control of bovine tuberculosis. Also solicited was help in developing the dairy industry to reduce and eventually eliminate milk imports.

In Suriname, the Director General and the technical mission gave full support to cooperation initiatives presented by Saimin Redjosentono, Minister of Agriculture. These initiatives concern the control of coconut pests, the generation and transfer of technology, animal health and agricultural investment. They also took advantage of the visit to formally introduce Percy Aitken, who recently took office as the IICA Representative in Suriname.

The technical mission also included Chelston Brathwaite, Deputy Director for Caribbean Area Operations; Hector Campos, Acting Director of the Animal Health Program; Fernando del Risco, Head of the Programming Division; and Guillermo Villanueva, Coordinator of the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO).

More Competitive

ed within the framework of the General Agreement on Trade and Tarrif (GATT); growing demand in socialist countries; difficulties in the European Economic Community of maintaining current levels of agricultural subsidies; and new needs of the Japanese market, all give reason for optimism.

With respect to capital flow and investment, the Director General stressed that the region cannot sustain economically itself as a net capital exporter, but rather requires levels of investment compatible with its economic growth. In this regard, he called new foreign debt proposals, "absolutely necessary."

Despite the dark shadow cast by the debt crisis, Piñeiro was optimistic about the future of trade relations between Latin America and developed countries. In the next decade, he said, the region could become both a more important trade partner and an expanded international market for the more developed nations.

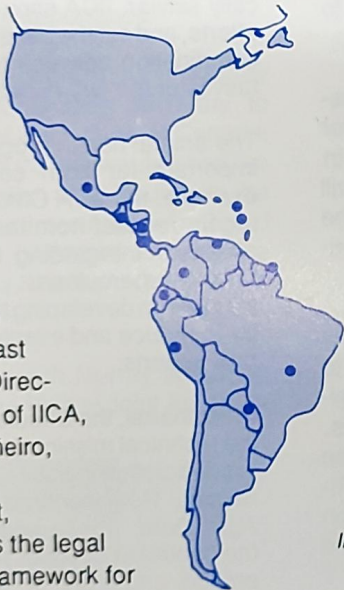
IICA y CIRAD Sign Technical Cooperation Accord

The Inter-American Institute of Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and France's Center for International Agronomic Research for Development Research (CIRAD) signed a technical cooperation agreement that will lead to French cooperation in the whole spectrum of activities and programs carried in the Institute's member countries.

ning of agricultural policy, generation and transfer of technology, organization and management for rural development, marketing and agroindustry, and plant and animal health.

The agreement also provides for research on cooperation issues and the advising services of technical missions and individual experts.

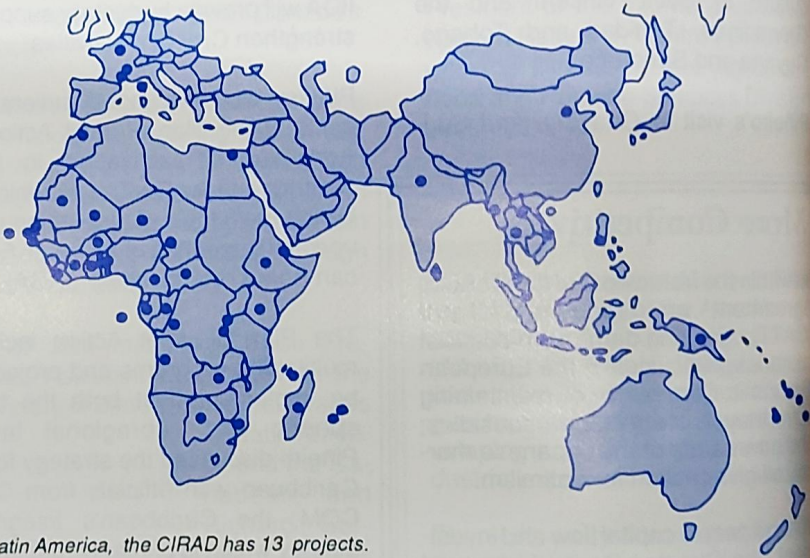
The French official decried the accomplishments of his organization: "CIRAD is the most important organization in Europe in the field of agricultural research and employs 2,000 people, of whom more than 1,000 are scientists involved in research programs in 55 countries."



The agreement was formalized in Costa Rica last July by the Directors General of IICA, Martín E. Piñero, and CIRAD, Hervé Bichat, and provides the legal basis and framework for future agreements on specific programs and letters of agreements between both institutions.

Bichat said that the agreement means stronger relations between the two institutions which previously had formal ties only through the Regional Cooperative Program for the Modernization and Protection of Coffee (PROMECAFE).

The accord covers analysis and plan-



In Latin America, the CIRAD has 13 projects.

Also, technical and financial cooperation will be used to identify, elaborate and execute projects related to the above-mentioned areas.

Training through courses and seminars, study visits, scholarships as well as information exchange through books, magazines and other media are also covered by the accord.

In Latin America, the CIRAD has 13 projects, of which four are in Central America, two in the Caribbean and seven in South America.

These programs are overseen by eight different departments covering lumber and forests, cattle and veterinary medicine, medicinal plants, rubber, coffee and cocoa, cotton, fruit and citrus and oil-producing plants.

Course Held on Radio Production for Women

Improving radio programming directed at rural women in Central America was the main goal of the Second International Workshop on Radio Production for Women, held at the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre in Costa Rica between July 10 and August 11.

During the five-week course, twelve people, either involved directly in women's radio or working in such related areas as education, health, agronomy and project administration, complemented 200 hours of basic training with the production of various programs to be aired in their countries.

The workshop was part of the IICA/RNTC Project on Women, Communi-

cations and Development, which teaches better communications techniques to government and non-government officials who work with rural women through development projects.

The students began by analyzing women's issues, especially in Central America, in the context of such areas as labor, health, education, politics, violence and communication. Then Argentine radio programming expert Daniel Prieto instructed them on the analysis and production of radio messages.

For four weeks RNTC technician Amable Rosario taught radio formats for programs directed at rural women,

ranging from simple monologues to more complex formats such as radio-drama and the radio-magazine.

Rosario was pleased with the students' progress. "The participants agreed that it is important not only to expose the disadvantageous position of women, but, that it is also vital to use radio space to make more profound proposals," he said.

To this end, the students agreed to send material over the next two months to be edited into two radio series and then aired on the radio stations with which they are affiliated. The series will focus on the testimony of women, both in formats studied during the workshop and also through the dramatization of songs to be produced by the IICA/RNTC project.

Nicaraguan student Maria Teresa Crespín said the course was a very valuable experience not only for the opportunity it offered for exchange of ideas with colleagues from around the Isthmus, but also for the potential it created for improving women's radio spots in general. "Some of the formats with which we worked for the four weeks can be used in a practical way to develop woman's issues more intensely," she said.

David Dominguez, a Guatemalan, said that one of the most significant contributions of the workshop was that it "gives us very useful tools with which to reach women, something that is very complex and requires a deep sense of responsibility".



Patricia Leon, from Panama, receives a certificate for her participation in the women's issues radio course from the IICA/RNTC project's Daniel Prieto. Also pictured is Patricia Leon.

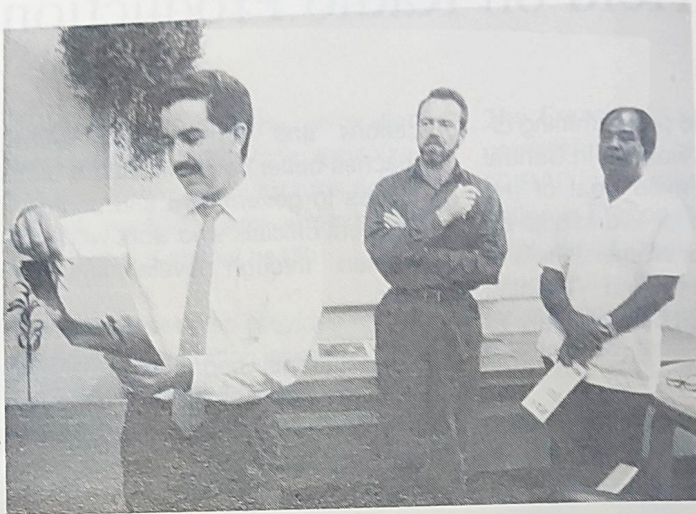
Winners of Photography Contest on Rural Women Announced

First prize in the International Photography Contest on Rural Women, sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and the Radio Nederland Training Centre (IICA/RNTC), was won by photographers from Trinidad and Tobago and Brazil, in the categories of color and black and white, respectively.

In the category of color photography, first prize was awarded to Noel Norton, of Trinidad and Tobago. His entry, depicting the preparation of Christmas supper, was entitled "Boiling the Christmas Ham." Second place went to Julio Castagnello Viero, of Uruguay. His photograph, entitled "Retrato Rural" (Rural Portrait), shows an elderly campesino woman at the window of her simple rural dwelling. "Madre e hija en su labor" (Mother and daughter at work), a photo reflecting the expressions of two women at work in the field, earned third prize for Mario Arturo Rojas Porras, of Costa Rica.

First prize in the black and white category was won by Julie Anne Coimbra, of Brazil, for her entry entitled "A camino de casa" (on the way home) showing a rural family returning home after a long, productive day. Second place was awarded to Cheryl St. George, of the United States, for "Obrera con hijo" (Laborer with her son), and third place went to Anamaria Ospina Bozzin, of Colombia, for "Nelly: niña cocinera" (Nelly; child cook). Both photographs depict scenes from the daily lives of rural women.

The purpose of the contest, created by IICA and RNTC, the latter being the Netherlands' international radio training center, is to promote interest in the role of an important sector of the rural population: the small-scale farmers.



Carlos Manuel Uribe, of Costa Rica, Sergio Trujillo Jaramillo, of Colombia, and Irving Rauceo, of Trinidad and Tobago, selected the winning photographs.

As part of its training activities in communications, the IICA/RNTC Project offers several courses for training facilitators from governmental and non-governmental institutions who work in development projects for rural women.

HONORABLE MENTION

The judges awarded three honorable mentions in the color category to: Guillermo Daniel Caruso Sosa from Uruguay; Armando Rojas Argüello, from Costa Rica and Lucinda Simas Magalhaes, from Brazil. In the black and white category, honorable mentions were awarded to Gabriela Cordova Cayo, from Peru; Ana Beatriz Villalobos Rojas, from Costa Rica; Thomas Müller, from Peru and Maria Claudia Ranzani Herrman, from Brazil.

Four hundred and seventy-four photographs were submitted from 20 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (244 in black and white, and 230 in color). According to Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations of IICA, the large number of entries shows the great interest generated by this event, which reflects the Institute's concern for the problems faced by rural women in the region.

The panel of judges for this event consisted of Sergio Trujillo Jaramillo, a Colombian architect; Irving Rauceo, a photographer from Trinidad; and Costa Rican photographer Carlos Manuel Uribe. In addition to selecting the winning entries, they chose a sample of the best photographs, which will be exhibited in Costa Rica and other countries of the hemisphere.

AWARDS

The winners of the first prizes will receive US\$1,000.00 each; second prize winners will be awarded US\$750.00 each, and third prize winners will receive US\$500.00 each. In addition, IICA will invite the winners to receive their awards during the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), to be held in San Jose, October 9 to 12, 1989.

The IABA is the highest governing body of IICA and, during its next meeting, it will study and approve the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, a strategy that seeks to reactivate agriculture and make it the foundation for a new regional development model.

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

THE MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES MUST BE GROWTH ORIENTED

The mobilization of financial resources towards the agricultural sector of Latin America and the Caribbean must be done by gradually shifting the focus from adjustment to growth, according to an analysis by experts from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), on international banking mechanisms and proposals for investment.

This initiative -assert the specialists- represents a change from what occurred during the decade of the 1980s, when the emphasis was placed on adjusting to external problems.

This analysis is one of nine subject papers prepared in support of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was entrusted to IICA, in consultation with its member countries and other international organiza-

tions, at the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in Ottawa, Canada, in September 1987.

The proposal, which will be submitted in October to the consideration of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in Costa Rica, includes specific strategies for the different sub-regions, joint action programs and projects, and financial and institutional mechanisms at both the hemispheric and the sub-regional levels.

The study was prepared by Carlos Pomareda, Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program; Felix Cirio, coordinator of the Plan of Joint Action; and the specialists Roberto Vazquez and Richard Webb.

The document, which is divided into four chapters, includes a description of the context in which agricul-



Financing priority in Latin America and the Caribbean must be oriented toward the modernization of the agricultural sector.



Between 1960 and 1980, the financing of agriculture in the region was done mainly through investment projects.

ture has developed in the region during the decade of the 1980s; an analysis of currently prevailing international financial mechanisms; a discussion on national mechanisms and the role of agricultural credit institutions; and, lastly, a proposal for the mobilization of financial resources.

TWO ESSENTIAL COMPONENTS

According to the analysis, the new strategy for the mobilization of resources toward the sector must include two essential components. On the one hand, it is necessary to increase significantly the volume of resources that may be transferred to the region; on the other, it is of the utmost urgency to improve the efficiency of the investment.

The paper indicates, precisely, that "the specific objective of the new financing modalities is to encourage private sector investment, and to increase the efficiency of public and private investment, through policy changes and institutional reform."

In this context, it goes on to maintain that loans must not be construed as a conditioning instrument of the banks, but rather as the required support which inter-

national financial organizations (IFOs) provide to an investment and structural reform program that the countries themselves decide to promote.

Specifically, it explains that the success of the programs will largely depend upon the "quality" of the countries' technical and political contribution, as well as on the human and financial resources, and expertise, that the specialized financial and technical organizations make available to such "dialogue" among the countries and the IFOs.

The experts maintain that long-term agricultural structural adjustment programs, characterized by continuity and flexibility, should be designed through joint efforts between the banks and the governments; and they add, "It is necessary to include loans, as specific instruments of a program which provides for the implementation of operations which further the reform process."

As part of a set of recommendations on how economic policy must be structured in order to encourage investment in the agricultural sector, the document describes the need to establish a process to stabilize the prices of goods and services, by means of a macroeconomic policy that is free from any anti-agricultural bias. In this context - it affirms - it would be necessary to adopt adequate policies on the rate of exchange, tariffs, taxation, the price of products and inputs, credit, and insurance.

On the subject of the mobilization of internal financial resources, the specialists concede that this is one of the greatest challenges the Latin American and Caribbean countries face, given their external debt and financing problems; hence the need to regard the generation of internal savings for productive investments as a basic aspect of a strategy for the reactivation of the national economies.

In their judgment, policies oriented in such direction should be adopted to provide for the following: real and attractive interest rates for savers; a tax structure that fosters the reinvestment of benefits; promotion of efficiency in the operation of financial markets and institutions; expansion of the capital market; and organization of production through agricultural producer organizations.

Other items to be taken into account for the mobilization of resources toward investment would be the rescheduling of the external debt into production projects in the agricultural and related sectors, and the

revision and creation of joint investment mechanisms for investors from different countries.

This is why, in their assessment, another central issue of any investment and agricultural modernization policy is the role of state investments in the rural sector. In this context, the experts insist on the importance of defining and applying criteria through which priority will be given to public agricultural investment, and whose aims will include, among others, the following:

- *encouraging private investment,
- *promoting a multiplier effect in economic activity,
- *seeking the development of both human resources and managerial capabilities in agricultural activities,
- *modernizing the services provided by the public sector,
- *reducing regional disparity concerning basic services for the population.

PRIORITY AREAS

The document proceeds to identify priority areas for the financing of agriculture. Specifically, it recommends the channeling of resources toward agroindustrial development, regional integration, education, the training of human resources, technology generation and transfer, the modernization of the public agricultural sector, social development, and the reduction of poverty.

With respect to the role that technical organizations can play in the financing of Latin American and Caribbean agriculture, it suggests coordination among such organizations and the IFOs, in order to join efforts and collaborate with the countries, both in the preparation and the implementation of the programs. "Complementing and supporting the countries may take place at different levels, such as occurred in the past with the training of personnel through courses, seminars, and other activities," the study points out.

The experts also analyzed the impact of mechanisms for investment in Latin American and Caribbean agriculture and agroindustry.

Between 1960 and 1980 the financing of agriculture in

the region was done mainly through investment projects, that focused their interest on actions aimed at the promotion of production, and the formation of complementary physical capital.

From the decade of the 1970s on, however, this modality underwent some changes, since a gradual transfer was made toward the so-called integrated rural development projects, whose emphasis was on the social infrastructure, particularly the improvement of the quality of life among the low-income rural population.

In this context, the countries of the region initiated a process of adjustment in their economies, which, in general terms, is defined as the adaptation of consumer patterns, the reallocation of resources, and changes in the accumulation of factors necessary to recover sustained development in the face of adverse external conditions.

UNEVEN RESULTS

Results obtained from the integrated rural develop-



The agricultural sector has paid a high price for adjusting its policies without receiving the resources that would have made their structural change easier.

ment projects, for which the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), and the World Bank (IBRD) granted loans, were uneven because of both institutional limitations and the nature of the countries' own managerial capabilities, says the report.

Both organizations admitted that, in the absence of an adequate general and sectoral policy framework, it becomes very difficult to develop successful projects. Therefore, "increasing the efficiency in the use of resources through appropriate policies is as important as the channeling of resources toward the sector."

These considerations led to a new financing modality, which includes policy conditioning as a central issue. Thus emerge, as of 1980, the policy conditioning loans (PCLs), which are defined as the granting of resources without a specific project, to assist the political and institutional reform programs required to modify the structure of the economy, and maintain its growth rate. The strategy's leading proponent is the IBRD, which started Structural Adjustment Loan (SAL) operations in 1980.

In spite of the fact that only a few years have passed and it is too soon to evaluate the PCLs, an analysis thereof has led to the following conclusions:

*The transfer of resources should be promoted in order to solve current account imbalances.

*The encouraged reforms have had a limited scope, since it is not possible to attain growth without investment.

*The agricultural sector has paid a high price for the adjustment of its policies, without having received the resources that would have made structural change easier.

*It would be preferable for the reform programs to be drawn up by the governments themselves, rather than be imposed by the financial organizations.

According to the specialists, this experience shows a definite correlation between the complexity of the terms and non-compliance with same. "The programs must carefully prioritize the changes to be implemented, and involve only a few clear terms, whose compliance may be easily evaluated," they recommend.

POLICIES AND THEIR SCOPE

Later in the document, they point out possible conflicts, contradictions, or incompatibilities among policies, especially with respect to those of a macroeconomic nature agreed upon with international financial organizations. As an example, they cited the effect of devaluation, which is positive for the exporting sector, but may cause a considerable increase in the public expenditures of a country in debt.

Then they add that the reduction of public deficits frequently undermines the agricultural sector's overall investment level in priority areas for long-term growth such as education and research. "Cooperation among the technical organizations, the banks, and other international financial entities, 'they expressed' must be consistent with policy recommendations."

In another section of the document, it is pointed out that the PCL mechanism has served to encourage dialogue between the banks and the governments concerning the need for change. In order to strengthen such dialogue, and contribute to the success of the programs, they recommend that the terms be determined on the basis of an in-depth analysis of real conditions that the government and banks involved must deal with.

Another observation made by the experts is that, although all reform programs imply an overall improvement of the country's economy, it is frequently found that some groups or sectors are harmed during the process of adjustment. The identification of such groups, whether they are temporarily or permanently affected, as well as the extent of the damage caused to them, "must be an inseparable element of the loan arrangements."

On the basis of such analysis - contend the specialists - the loan preparation and supervision procedures must be substantially improved in the future. Each loan is a link in a process that should become a permanent mechanism for dialogue between the financing agency and the country, so as to harmonize the availability of financing, the adjustment of policies, and institutional reform, through an overall program whose objective is the growth of the economy.

IICA NEWS

Dear Reader: Beginning with this issue, IICA News will make a series of changes in its format and content. In order to complement this effort to improve the quality of the bulletin, we would like you to fill out this questionnaire and return it to the indicated address. We realize that this will take up some of your valuable time, but we also believe that you will understand the importance of receiving your feedback. Thank you.

A. PERSONAL DATA

1. Place of employment _____ Position _____

2. For how long have you received IICA News: _____ Country: _____

B. COMMENTS ON THE PUBLICATION

(Space for tabulation)

1. The change is positive or negative with respect to previous issues?

2. What is your general opinion of IICA News?
 Excellent Good Fair Poor

3. How do you rate the present format?
 Excellent Good Fair Poor

4. How do you rate the contents?
 Interesting Useful Too Short Varied
 Not very interesting Not very useful Too Long Not very varied

5. Did you notice the inclusion of permanent sections?
 Yes No

6. Which section interests you the most?
 Focus Programs on the March
 Action in the Countries Publications
 Upcoming Activities IICA in the News
 Headquarters

7. Would you add any new sections?
 Yes No What? _____

8. Would you eliminate any of the existing sections?
 Yes No What? _____

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THE SUCCESS OF THE NEW STRATEGY DEPENDS UPON THE MODERNIZATION OF THE STATE

Because of broad participation on the part of the State, the success of the new strategy depends not only upon the contents of the policies adopted, but also upon the coherence of the decisions adopted, and the effectiveness of State actions. This assertion is made in one of the subject papers prepared in support of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The study on modernization of the State for the reactivation and development of agriculture, is one of the nine subject papers prepared for the discussion of the Plan of Joint Action, which is the central item on the agenda of the forthcoming meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

The IABA, comprised of the Ministers of Agriculture of the 31 IICA member countries, and delegates from other international cooperation organizations, will meet in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 9-12.

The purpose of the study is to present the rationale, the overall framework, and the basic contents of possible actions aimed at transforming the public sector into an effective agent for the reactivation and development of agriculture.

THE STATE: AN INSTRUMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

The first part of the paper deals with why it is necessary to revise State intervention. It also describes structures and operational modalities for transforming it into an effective instrument of the development strategy.

In this section, the authors point out the fact that the agricultural sector can play a highly significant role in

overcoming the crisis. To this end, overall development strategies adopted must be redefined, and the anti-agricultural bias that predominated in macroeconomic policy reversed.

The new strategy must take into account an international setting which limits the autonomy of the governments for decision making, and which is further characterized by the internationalization of the economies, the revision of old comparative advantages, the impact of new technologies, and an increasing mobility of resources.

Under such circumstances, the modernization of agriculture is one specific aspect of the overall effort being made to increase the efficiency of the economy and consolidate national development, in an increasingly competitive world subject to strong protectionist pressure.



In order for the State to play the role of activator of agriculture, it is necessary to determine the orientation of the changes which are required to overcome current deficiencies.

After describing the structural characteristics of the type of agriculture that developed over the past two decades in the region, emphasis is placed on the need to modernize the State.

The document maintains that the new conditions warrant the existence of a different, more flexible State; a decentralized and innovative State that will be receptive to the input of the social components, and contribute to the development of the creativity of the society.

For this purpose, it is necessary to take into account the restrictions imposed upon the public sector, such as strong def financing due to the debt service, the rigidity of public expenditures, the exhaustion of the taxation capacity, the erosion of fiscal resources on account of inflation, and the deterioration of technical and executive capacity because of the loss of human resources.

Several related subjects, which characterize the debate on the role of the State are analyzed as well, to wit: the governability of the society, the legitimacy of state intervention, the effectiveness of state action, and the innovative capacity of the State.

THE ROLE OF THE STATE

In the chapter that follows, the authors analyzed the role of the State with respect to agriculture, on the basis of background, current situation, challenges, and opportunities.

They stressed that, with the purpose of determining the orientation of the changes that are required in order for the State to become an activator of agriculture, it necessary to understand adequately the origins and nature of the current deficiencies.

The role of the State was approached at two levels: one which refers to the intention and contents of its policies, and another which deals with the effective impact of the implementation of such policies. The analysis made at the first level indicated a progressive growth of the role of the State in agricultural development, as a regulator, direct executor, promoter, and financial agent.



According to the specialists, the modernization of agriculture is part of the overall effort to increase the efficiency of the economy.

In pointing out the questioning of state intervention in several activities, it is mentioned that the financial crisis warrants a more careful reorientation of public expenditures and investments. Furthermore, stabilization and adjustment policies impose requirements aimed at the reduction of both the fiscal deficit and the volume of public expenditures.

From another position, state intervention is not contested, but rather is regarded essential and legitimate to orient structural change, and to respond to social demands being stimulated by democratization processes.

With respect to the impact of state action, the document stresses that the modernization of the State is both a political and a technical matter.

Further on, the authors discuss the characteristics of public institutional mechanisms related to the implementation of agricultural policies: sectoralization and isolation, fragmentation because of an excess of institutional differentiation, concentration of the decision-making capacity, the varied nature of the agencies, and the scarcity of means for reaching agreement. These limiting factors must be counteracted by providing open possibilities and opportunities to change the structure of the State, given the seriousness of the crisis.

In terms of opportunities, the authors refer to a receptive setting and the appropriate social atmosphere; an increasing social interest in agriculture, new conditions to return state functions to the civilian society, and the structural adjustment programs.

They also mention other aspects, such as the experience of the financial and technical cooperation organizations, understanding of the importance of the institutional realm, and resources available in the region.

THE FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

In the following section, the study outlines the ideal framework for adequate state modernization and institutional development, with the purpose of introducing a strategy that can increase the possibilities of reorienting agricultural reactivation, and establish an innovative capacity in accordance with the requirements of the new international situation.

The actions necessary for accomplishing the proposed objectives must involve a wide range of instruments. The use of national resources, external financing, and international cooperation must thus be harmonized, and joint action encouraged among the countries, in order to overcome problems common to all.

The means and processes necessary for coordinating the actions must, therefore, be a matter of shared concern on the part of the countries of the region. Among them, it would be appropriate to mention the following: the redefinition of the role of the State, the improvement of public sector capabilities for policy formulation, and the creation of new interactive mechanisms among the macroeconomic, intersectoral, and sectoral levels.

Within such a framework, which is proposed for improving the State's policy design capabilities, the document analyzes the new role of planning.

Planning can, in fact, become the means for forecasting and preparing strategies, improving the decision-making processes, reaching agreement, and creating

a social consensus.

Another important aspect of the matter is that the new style for the formulation of plans and policies requires more complex institutional mechanisms.

The characteristics of such mechanisms must be flexibility, openness, and long-term orientation according to a strategic vision. Their role would be to generate answers to problems, identify trends, anticipate opportunities, and make it easy to meditate in the future.

This section of the study ends with the analysis of the new linkages with the private sector, decentralization, and processes to improve state operations.

THE INSTRUMENTS

In order to attain modernization objectives, several instruments for action are proposed, for instance, the creation of a better analytical capacity and technical assistance.



In order to evaluate the institutional situation, the analytical capacity of the universities and research centers must be taken advantage of.

The analytical capacity does not refer solely to state organizations, but to disseminating this capacity, in such a way that universities and research centers have the resources to evaluate institutional problems, generate political demand to overcome them, and contribute to their solution.

In like manner, financial and technical cooperation organizations must build their own capabilities in this area, on the basis of both accrued experience in investment projects and attempts to transfer technical capabilities. The authors warn that these have been unsuccessful for lack of regard to the institutional reality.

The exchange of experiences, training, and the undertaking of studies are some of the mechanisms proposed to improve analytical capacity.

With respect to the first example, it is very useful to contrast institutional models for implementing development strategies. This could lead to the type of learning that would feed the decision-making processes and the evaluation of policy impact.

For its part, training is a basic instrument used to adjust the performance of the State to the new circumstances. It must focus on the managerial aspect, in order for public servants to be able to assume the role of mediators, social liaison exponents, and innovators.

Thirdly, the undertaking of research and studies on the role of the State and the institutional mechanisms for policy formulation and implementation is a need that has to be satisfied in different ways. These studies should not be made by public sector analysts alone; national and regional resources should be taken advantage of for this purpose, as well.

THE ROLE OF IICA

The last section of the document analyzes the realm of international cooperation, and its role in the task of modernizing the State and fostering institutional development, with emphasis on IICA's possible strategic role.



In the regional domain, IICA can play a strategic role by incorporating institutional development into technical cooperation actions.

Institutional analysis and redesign should be done in the case of all projects aimed at transferring technical capacity in the spheres of action of the public institutions.

The countries of the region can carry out activities to transfer and share experiences, comparing the strategies employed for modernizing the State.

Thus, the document signals the need for a regional plan of action on this subject, based upon available technical resources.

This plan should aim at solving current problems, and ensure the future availability of technical capabilities, to facilitate the ongoing improvement of public agencies involved in the development of agriculture.

IICA can, in this regional plan, play a strategic role by systematically incorporating institutional development into technical cooperation actions; facilitating institutional analysis in the design of investment and sectoral adjustment projects; and implementing actions oriented toward the institutional development of the public agricultural sector.

Other ways in which IICA can collaborate are: encouraging the exchange of experiences, staff training, and developing the region's scientific and professional resources.

Director of UNIFEM Stresses Collaboration with IICA

During a visit to IICA Headquarters on September 7, Sharon Capeling-Alakija, director of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), stated that by working with an institution such as IICA, UNIFEM programs can reach a greater number of women in countries throughout Latin American and the Caribbean.

Capeling met with Martin E. Piñero, Director General of the Institute, with whom she studied the progress of a coordination project between both organizations, which seeks to provide support to government and private organizations that work with rural women.

Fausto Jordan, Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, as well as IICA/RNTC, will participate in executing this agreement.

Under the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre (RNTC) agreement, one of the projects to be carried out is a study on the perception and use of educational radio messages by rural women in Costa Rica.



Sharon
Capeling-
Alakija

Another activity will be a seminar on the role of women in agriculture, which aims to set up a theoretical frame of reference on the situation of rural women in Latin America, for establishing the direction of IICA's research, planning, training and communications programs.

In this way, IICA will be better prepared to provide support to private and state organizations that work with rural women in the region. IICA is the executor agency for both projects.

Specialist Studies the Incorporation of Small-Scale Farmers Into the Development Process

During a recent visit to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Marie-France Labrecque, a well-known researcher and full professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Laval, Canada, stated that if production projects in which rural women participate are to succeed, they must take women's daily work and role in reproduction into consideration.

The meetings of the expert with staff members from IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program and from the IICA/RNTC project took place as part of a serious institutional effort to define a conceptual framework and methodology to guide its work with rural women in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Labrecque criticized points on some projects that, while trying to incorpo-

IICA and IFAD Strengthen Cooperation Agreement

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), joined by a mutual interest to work for the benefit of the most disadvantaged groups of the rural population, will work together to implement a cooperation agreement signed by these two organizations.

For this purpose, Raquel Peña, IFAD Project Officer for Central America and the Caribbean, visited IICA Headquarters. She stated that this inter-institutional agreement is a "valuable tool" that can help generate programs and projects to lift the most disadvantaged sector of the rural population out of its extreme poverty.

She also stated that, among the different activities promoted by IFAD in Central America, IICA will evaluate a production project aimed at small-scale farmers, together with technical experts from the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE).

In this regard, Ms. Peña feels that IICA can play a very important role as a cooperating institute, and can help IFAD in preparing and analyzing projects carried out in Central America.

rate women into the development process, have kept the division of family labor intact, thus adding to the daily workload of women.

According to the anthropologist, "The people who design development projects must ask themselves what it is that women really want. When we give the answers, we only make them more vulnerable. By listening, entering into dialogues, we realize that we are starting at almost point zero."

IICA Participates in Meeting of Canadian Veterinarians

Harry Mussman, Director of Program V, the Animal Health and Plant Protection Program of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) addressed some 400 Canadian veterinarians on their potential role in hemisphere-wide animal health services, during a seminar organized by the Canadian Association of Veterinarians held in Ottawa, Canada, July 10 - 12.

One of the agricultural health and epidemiological initiatives described by Mussman is the Inter-American Network of Animal Health Laboratories (RILSA), established by the Institute to promote the exchange of technology and enhance its impact in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In attendance, along with veterinarians from both private practice and Canadian government and private institutions, were representatives from the U.S. Animal Health Association (USAHA), as well as Mexican and European veterinarians.

"The meeting's main purpose was to analyze the future of Canadian veterinary medicine with the approach of the 21st century, new areas of action, and above all, its eventual incorporation into hemisphere-wide animal health services through specific projects administered or financed by international cooperation organizations and agencies," said Mussman.

In this regard, he added, the veterinarians were very interested to learn about the veterinary programs that IICA coordinates in cooperation with

Harry Mussman directed the IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection Program over the last three years.



the Canadian International Development Agency and the U.S. Department of Agriculture; programs such as the RILSA information network and the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Program (CARAPHIN).

"This kind of initiative is very important for them because it means valuable experience for Canadians which can broaden their professional experience," he said "In light of the fact that improvements in the field of animal health require a lot of work in many areas, they are now studying the possibility of becoming more involved in the region through CIDA."

Mussman said that as a first step, a group of specialists from the Association will suggest to CIDA the possibility of increasing both the number of cooperative animal health projects and the amount of resources allocated to the field, and later try to involve Canadian

veterinarians more directly in animal health problems of the hemisphere.

"A broader relationship between Canadian veterinarians and Latin American and Caribbean animal health services could bring great benefits to the region," said Mussman, of the Association's initiative. He added that a formal proposal from the Association to the CIDA will be forwarded within a few months.

Mussman's attendance at the seminar was his last formal duty as Director of Program V. He left his post of three years in September to work with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"A very competent, high-level professional team remains in place in Program V, which will carry on all the plant protection and animal health activities required to complement the effort to reactivate the Latin American and Caribbean economies," he said.

Harmonized Plant Health Legislation Sought for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) held a meeting/workshop for plant health experts in San Jose, Costa Rica to discuss problems involved in harmonizing plant health legislation throughout the hemisphere.

The event's organizers, IICA's Animal Health and Plant Protection Program Directorate, in cooperation with the Institute's Marketing and Agroindustry Program, also sought approval for a plan to develop a harmonized regional system of plant and animal health regulation for Latin America and the Caribbean to be known, by the acronym SARLAC.

Participants included representatives of the European Economic Community (EEC), the Regional International Organization of Agricultural Health (OIRSA), the International Office of Epizootics (IOE), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC/FAO), the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), Codex Alimentarius (FAO/WHO), the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNTA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and officials of the embassies of Japan and Korea.

All these organizations agreed that IICA's presence in 31 countries of the Americas makes it the ideal institution to carry forward this kind of project, which will be based on norms estab-

lished by IOE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius, and coordinated with groups and agencies active in the region such as OIRSA, JUNTA, CARICOM, ALADI, SELA and FAO.

In the process of preparing the SARLAC, its authors are keeping in mind the historical significance and pos-

recommended choosing one country from each of the Central, Andean and Southern areas for pilot studies. Existing norms and procedures under IOE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius will be used as points of departure for the pilot programs.

One important consideration in structuring the system will be to guarantee

The implementation of SARLAC will facilitate compliance with all international requirements for the exportation of agricultural and animal products.



sible impact of the recent GATT Round, as well as experience with past pilot plant and animal health programs. Such cases as foot and mouth disease and the fruit fly will be analyzed to demonstrate benefits of harmonizing health legislation and to serve as a model for initiating a broader process.

To rectify potential problems in the proposed system before implementing it region-wide, the workshop rec-

the continuity of existing technical plant and animal health programs designed by these various organizations to establish smoother agricultural trade in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Participants in the meeting recommended that, once prepared, the project should be submitted for outside funding, as there is a good possibility that new financing will be provided, given the importance of the proposal.

Cacao Production Rise Forseen

Growing productivity built on genetically superior plants and improved plantation management will enable Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic to compete with major world cacao producers in the near future, according to Guillermo Villanueva, coordinator of the Regional Network for Cacao Technology Generation and Transfer (PROCACAO).

The network's research and experimentation will help cocoa farmers increase yields from an average per hectare rate of 250 to 300 kilos to between 1,200 and 1,300 per hectare, said Villanueva, something that will permit the region to compete with such producers as Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia, all of which enjoy the benefits of advanced technology.

PROCACAO, coordinated by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation

on Agriculture (IICA), was established in September of 1987 with economic assistance from the United States Agency for International Developments (AID), the Regional Office for Central America on Programs (RO-CAP) and with the cooperation of the governments of the Isthmus and the Dominican Republic.

DEFICIENT YIELD

Genetically inferior plants, along with faulty plantation management, was blamed for the abysmal yields. This is being rectified through research aimed at developing strains that are both high-yield and highly disease resistant. The research is being carried out through a hybrid experimentation program at the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center

(CATIE) in the Costa Rican town of Turrialba and by the Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation (FHIA) located in La Lima, Honduras.

"The use of improved genetic material and good plantation management methods are indispensable for increasing yields and reducing the cost of production," emphasized Villanueva. "It will permit us to compete with the large world producers."

COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGES

Villanueva added that both Central America and the Dominican Republic also enjoy comparative advantages over their Southern Pacific competitors, such as with the aroma and flavor of their cacao. In this regard, he added, it would be wise to plan to improve quality control through adequate post-harvest practices.

The International Cacao Forum held in Costa Rica in 1987 recommended research be initiated on new technologies to improve the traditional post-harvest process that includes fermenting, drying and storing the fruit.

With this in mind, PROCACAO and CATIE organized a seminar on the subject in July, which yielded the first steps toward even further improving the quality of cocoa produced in the region.



In July PROCACAO and CATIE organized a seminar on post-harvest technology that brought together specialists from Central America, the Caribbean and United States.



The Cacao found in the region has better aroma and flavor than that found in Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia.

that fermentation of cacao is necessary to produce the flavors of chocolate. "Unfermented cacao consists only of cocoa butter and color, and for this reason, chocolate producers cannot manufacture good chocolate. Consequently, they pay lower prices for it," he declared.

INTENSE ACTIVITY

As part of this intense training process, a seminar on cacao germplasm management for research and field technicians will be held at CATIE on October 19 and 20.

The event, co-sponsored by IICA, will bring together representatives from Guatemala, Belize, Honduras, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Brazil and the Dominican Republic and will aim to improve their knowledge of and access to information available in the region on harvest, research, conservation and utilization of cacao genetic material.

AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD

An IICA workshop/meeting on September 18 and 19 called "PROCACAO Technology Transfer" analyzed quality control strategies and reviewed a report on the inventory of cacao technology in network countries.

The meeting was very interesting and valuable in that it permitted us to examine each country's resources, which will be a great help to us when it comes to organizing work plans," commented James Corven, PROCACAO Institutional development specialist. In his judgement, PROCACAO has facilitated the integration and the sharing of experiences among the member countries through ongoing consultation to improve cacao cultivation.

Corven stated that post-harvest management, fermentation and drying affect the quality of cacao. "Post-harvest

technology for cacao is not complicated, but, as a result of inadequate technology transfer and the lack of incentives, farmers don't ferment the beans," he explained.

Going into greater detail, he added



Drying is necessary to ensure good final quality of cacao.

Regional Agricultural Research Strengthened

In an effort to strengthen ties among agricultural researchers and improve exchange mechanisms the channels in order to make full use of existing resources, regional agricultural experts met for the International Seminar on the Challenges of Agricultural Research in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Cordoba, Argentina, from August 29 to September 1.

The meeting was co-sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the International Federation of Agricultural Research Institutions for Development (IFARD-LAC) and Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA).

Special guests came from such Latin American research centers as the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), FAO, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR), and the University of the West Indies.

Also participating were presidents and general directors of national agricultural research institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The participants looked at research organization and funding models, experiences in and prospects for horizontal cooperation and the implications of the new biotechnology for countries of the region.

The great technological challenges of

the 1990s: the role of national programs in relation to international research centers and ways of communicating priorities; on-farm research systems; and the challenges of and prospects for sustainable production, were all subjects of interest at the seminar.

This meeting marked the continuation of a regional dialogue begun in Mexico in 1984 and in Colombia in 1986 on the problems of national research

programs. The idea is to look for new financing as well as to suggest strategies for including the private sector and making use of the technology generated by research institutes.

To this end, such issues as biotechnology, permanent access to this technological frontier, sustainable agricultural development and the way of maintaining technological productivity without affecting the environment, all received attention.

En Colombia:

Prospects and Impact of Biotechnology Evaluated

At a meeting held in Paipa, Colombia last August, progress in agrobiotechnology, and its political and strategic implications for Latin America and the Caribbean were discussed.

The meeting was sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and coordinated by Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

The goal of the seminar was to develop a project to support national and regional efforts to define, formulate and implement

policies, strategies and programs aimed at creating and strengthening capabilities for generating and transferring technology.

One of the topics of discussion was the value of horizontal cooperation as a means of overcoming the serious weaknesses and the lack of resources that exist in the region.

It was felt that, in order to increase this cooperation, a study should be made on biotechnology, and its place among the medium- and long-term possibilities and strategies for the economic development of the region, particularly in the field of agriculture and agroindustry.



The importance of agrobiotechnology and horizontal cooperation were discussed at the meeting.

SEMINARIO PROSPECTIVAS E IMPACTOS GENERALES DE LAS AGROBIOTECNOLOGIAS EN AMERICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE: IMPLICACIONES POLITICAS Y STRATEGICAS PARA COLOMBIA AGOSTO 14-17/1989

Action in the Countries

Procisur: A New Stage in Agricultural Research Projects

More progress was made in institutionalizing the Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Southern Cone (PROCISUR), which is sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), during the eleventh meeting of the steering committee of this South American regional organization.

The event took place at the IICA Office in Uruguay in August, and brought together the directors of research centers from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, as well as representatives from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Latin American Association for Integration (ALADI).

IICA was represented by Dr. Eduardo Trigo, Director of the Technology Generation and Transfer Program, economist Arnaldo Veras, IICA representative in Uruguay, and Dr.

exchange of information related to agricultural research, through joint cooperation actions.

The main topic of the meeting was the implementation of the agreement for a new stage of PROCISUR. The agreement was signed by Argentina, Bolivia and Chile. During the meeting, Brazil joined the agreement, while representatives from Uruguay and Paraguay indicated that their countries will also sign the agreement once final details have been settled.

According to the stipulations of the agreement, it will go into effect as soon as IICA signs it, although activities will not begin until 1990.

It was agreed that proposals would be drawn up to include new activities to strengthen PROCISUR actions in wheat, rice, soybeans and other oilseed crops.



Alberto André, Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, opened the Eleventh Meeting of the PROCISUR Steering Committee.

Edmundo Gastal, Director of PROCISUR, who was in charge of the secretariat for the meeting.

The main objective of PROCISUR is to institutionalize a permanent system of cooperation and reciprocal support in the participating countries, and the

To this end, the members of the Steering Committee endorsed the idea to draft proposals to put the Southern Cone Forages Network (REFCONOSUR) into operation, and to draw up projects concerning information and documentation, dairy farming and communications.

Peru: Agrarian Journalists Create Association

In order to create awareness of agriculture's crucial role in Peru's development, a group of journalists of that country met in IICA's Office in Peru on July 14 to form the National Association of Peruvian Agricultural Journalists (APERAP).

Peruvian Agriculture Minister Juan Coronado Balmaceda, leaders of journalists' associations and representatives of international agrarian cooperation organizations were on hand to inaugurate the Association, which, with IICA sponsorship, proposes to impress upon government officials and other national leaders, the need to promote a new agriculture-centered development model.

APERAP believes that basing development on agriculture is the only way to overcome the setbacks suffered in Peru's rural sector and the food dependence into which Peru, like most countries of the region, has fallen. The group's emergence accompanies the formation of similar organizations in Argentina, Chile, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay.

The APERAP Executive Council is headed by Reynaldo Trinidad, director of the magazine *Agronoticias*. "No other profession but journalism can provide this kind of social service; to raise awareness and transform the distorted values of our society; to teach the entire country how and why it must return its eyes to the agrarian world," he said.

One of the first tasks of the Association is to promote national forum on the national agrarian plan next January. The country's political parties will participate in the forum.

Action in the Countries

Spain:

Impact of Non-Traditional Products Studied

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain (MAPA) carried out a market study for IICA in three European countries in order to identify marketing channels and consumer preferences for certain non-traditional export commodities from Latin America and the Caribbean.

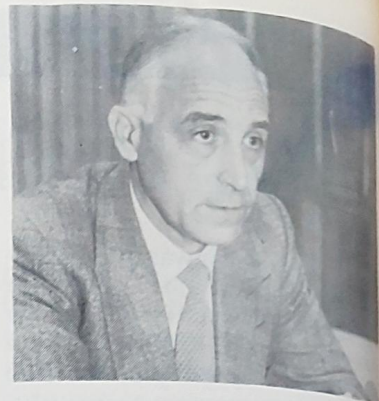
Through MAPA, Spain has maintained close ties with the Institute and has given its support to the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in the region. The Plan will be studied by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) at its meeting in October.

The research is the result of an agreement between the two institutions, and was carried out by the specialist Jose Luis Benedicto. In addition to Spain, the study also covered the Federal Republic of Germany and the United

Kingdom, which over the past years have shown a marked preference for concentrates of certain tropical fruits, and dried fruits to accompany drinks.

According to Benedicto, "MAPA responded to the request of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture because it felt that it was evident that the two institutes felt that both Latin America and the Caribbean should diversify their exports in the coming years with certain value-added products that could be processed."

The products included in the study were macadamia nuts and cashew seeds, as well as dried fruits, concentrates of tropical fruits such as pineapple, mango, guava, papaya. The latter, according to the researcher from MAPA, could have a medium-term impact on the juice industry of the European market.



The study showed that, in spite of the fact that the consumption of tropical pulps in Europe tends to remain unchanged, pineapples show possibilities in Spain, which consumes 27 percent of the total annual production sent to the European market. The same is not true for mangos, guava and papaya. These products do not seem to interest Spanish importers and industrialists for the moment.

Benedicto stated that, "The consumption of the concentrates included in the study remains stable in the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany, although there could be an increase in demand in the medium term."

Costa Rica:

Agricultural Technicians Conclude Training in Communications

Twenty staff members from Costa Rica's Ministry of Agriculture and



The students received training in directing and producing agricultural programs.

Livestock (MAG) and from the Agricultural Development Institute (IDA) concluded a seminar on the modular approach to multimedia efforts and rural development, held at the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and sponsored by the IICA/RNTC project.

The modular approach provided specialized production techniques for designing participatory radio programs, producing teaching materials printed in different formats and preparing

audiovisual aids, as related to agriculture.

The training period, which began in May, 1988 and concluded last September, for a total of 550 hours, covered nine modules.

The participants, who work as extension agents and agricultural technicians, can now provide support for communications projects, or work with their offices to disseminate and share the experience they gained from the training.

They will also establish contact with the local media, with a view to producing educational programs and materials and disseminating them from their respective institutions.

Book on Forest Soils and Ecosystems

A new analysis and classification of ecosystems

The book *Suelos y ecosistemas forestales* (Forest Soils and Ecosystems), published by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), summarizes and analyzes forest soils and ecosystems, with emphasis on Latin America.

The first part discusses soils as a component of the environment and the relationships that exist between soil, climate and vegetation in this setting.

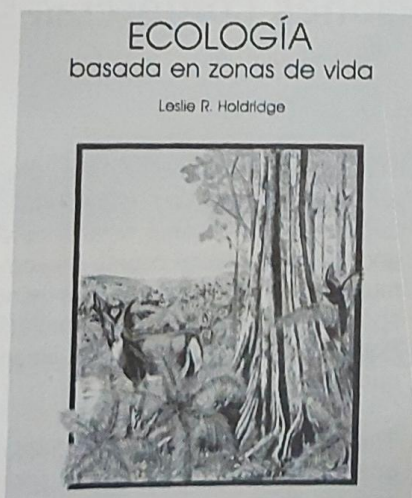
In the second chapter, the author, Gonzalo de las Salas, studies the forest ecosystem from both static and dynamic points of view, highlighting the organic material of the soil and the cycle of the chemical elements. He concludes with a description of the main forest ecosystems of Latin America, such as the Central Amazon region of Brazil, the Amazon ecosystem of Venezuela, the Colombian Amazon region, the Carare-Opón humid tropical forest of Colombia, Campo Cerrado of Brazil, the eastern plains of Colombia, the central jungle of Peru, and mountain and savannah ecosystems.

The third chapter discusses soil as a component of the production system; low technology agriculture, both migratory and hillside; and soil under pasture and agrosilvopasture production. De las Salas also describes the use of soil in forestry production and in watershed management. The last chapter discusses land use and decision making.

The author is a renowned graduate from the District University of Bogota with a degree in forestry engineering.



From 1979 to 1981, he taught graduate courses at the Tropical Agriculture Research and Training Center (CA-TIE), in Turrialba, Costa Rica, on soils, with particular emphasis on the ecological bases for land use. From 1976 to 1979, he was the head of research for the National Forestry Research Corporation (CONIF), headquartered in Bogota, Colombia.



De las Salas currently serves as an advisor and researcher for matters dealing with renewable natural resources. He is also a member of the Colombian Ecological Society, the Colombian Soil Sciences Society, the International Society of Tropical Foresters, and the British Ecological Society.

Life Zone Ecology

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) recently published *Ecología basada en zonas de vida*, which is a translation of L. R. Holdridge's book "Life Zone Ecology," first published in English in 1964. The book presents an objective system for classifying the land ecosystems of the world into units called "life zones."

In the introduction, the author defines specific life zones, where four major factors (climate, temperature, precipitation and humidity) receive equal weight.

In the second chapter, he presents two more detailed subclassifications which include plant and animal associations with different soils in each life zone, or classifications that reflect minor climatic differences. He also considers how to evaluate an area at any given time, whether this be a certain stage of vegetational succession or a specific agricultural modification by man.

The author is a founding member of the Tropical Science Center in San Jose, Costa Rica, where, together with other scientists, he perfected the mapping system of various countries. Mr. Holdridge has also written several articles in specialized journals and books. One of his most well-known works deals with the trees of Costa Rica.

Upcoming Activities

Seminar on Macroeconomic and Sectoral Policies and Agricultural Development.
October 23 to November 3.

A seminar on macroeconomic and sectoral policies and agricultural development will be held in Antigua, Guatemala for high-level technical personnel who prepare agricultural policies.

The activity is being organized by IICA, through its Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program, together with other organizations such as IDB, SIECA, ECLAC and CIDA. Participants will come from Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama.

Inter-American Meeting on Agricultural Financing.
November 6 to 10.

The Seventh Inter-American Meeting

on Agricultural Financing will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, headed by Carlos Pomareda, Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program.

Meeting on Policies and Decentralization for Rural Development.
November 22 to 24.

The Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, Fausto Jordan, has organized a meeting on policies and decentralization for rural development, which will be held on November 22.

Regional Project for the Southern Area.
November 6 to 10.

Three events will be held concurrently in Santiago, Chile during November. The first is a round table on regional problems of pesticide residues in agri-

cultural export products, during which time the harmonization of standards for these products in the Southern Area will be studied. Proposals from the agrochemical industry on regulations established by developed countries will also be discussed.

A meeting of the regional technical committee of the Southern Area will also be held, at which time plant protection directors will study forestry phytosanitary problems and FAO's phytosanitary activities.

The third event is a meeting of the Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Area (COSAVE). During the meeting, plans of operation and budgets will be discussed and approved, as will cooperation agreements between IICA and FAO.

IICA in the News

Concurso de fotos sobre mujer rural | Estados Unidos-Latinoamérica | **La Mañana** | **El Peruano** | **Problema de relaciones comerciales** | **La mujer rural en A. L.**

Buscan armonizar legislación fitosanitaria

Financiamiento en el IICA para el programa de la mujer rural

During the month of August, the regional press highlighted the trip made by the Director General of IICA, Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, to the Caribbean and Canada. It made particular note of the Director General's positive outlook on the possible improvement in the sub-continent's trade relations with the United States.

The Latin American press also covered the seminar on Plant Health Legislation, which was held in July, and the international course on communications for rural development, sponsored by the IICA/RNTC project. Both activities were held at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica.

The press also featured information on the program for rural women, sponsored by IICA, in coordination with the

United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). It highlighted the capability of the Institute to draw up and promote a program to involve women effectively in agricultural development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Also, a photography contest on rural women was sponsored by the IICA/RNTC project. Information on the contest was widely disseminated by the media, which published full details on the objectives and entry requirements.

IICA



NEWS

October 1989, Year VI, No. 33



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- Ministers Approve Plan for Agricultural Reactivation
- Martín E. Piñero Re-elected Director General by Acclamation
- Spain to be Site of Next ICMA-IABA Meeting
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duced if the source is credited.



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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

IABA Regular Meeting Held

The Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), a hemispheric forum for the agricultural sector, and the highest governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), held its Fifth Regular Meeting at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, between October 9-12.

Composed of the ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, of the Institute's 31 Member States, the IABA approved and ordered set into motion a Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

The execution of the PLANLAC represents a valuable opportunity to make the 1990s an era of growth and development, said IICA Director General Martín E. Piñero. He asked the Member States to make an effort to provide ongoing support to the Plan so that the consensus arrived at by the ministers is translated into concrete actions that contribute to development.

Piñero, an agricultural economist, was unanimously re-elected to a second four-year term by the IABA. He thanked Spain for its offer to host the

next IABA meeting as well as the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) in 1991, noting that the invitation reaffirms that nation's interest in working more closely with and contributing to the development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Director General also expressed pleasure with the approval of the 1990-1991 Program Budget, and praised the willingness of the Member States to increase their contributions to the Institute by 3%. "In these times of economic and financial hardship faced by the majority of our countries, this decision reflects the importance you attribute to agriculture and to supporting IICA," he said.

Throughout the course of the meeting, the ministers exchanged views on current topics of vital interest to the hemisphere, among them the possible creation at IICA of an international training and conference center, and the need to promote projects to replace the cultivation of coca and other psychotropic plants with alternative activities that ensure sustained income for small producers.

The President of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Laureate, Oscar Arias Sánchez proposed the idea of establishing a training and conference center during the IABA inaugu-

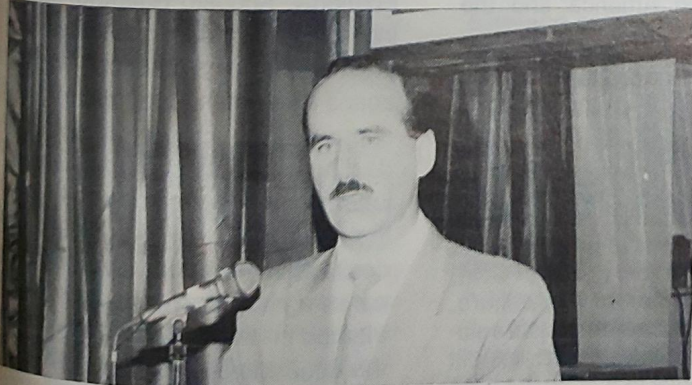
ral session, which was attended by over 300 dignitaries including ambassadors, ministers, representatives of Institute Observer Countries, financial institutions, cooperation agencies and government officials. According to Arias, the center would be a place where, "concrete ideas and projects leading to agricultural development based on peace, progress and social justice can flourish."

On the substitution of coca and other psychotropic plants, the ministers recommended incorporating projects to promote alternative crops into the Plan of Joint Action. They included in the meeting's final declaration a resolution calling on consumer countries to contribute to financing the new activities and to opening their markets to the alternative products.

The Board also approved an agreement signed by IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), through which the Institute will contribute up to US\$300,000 a year to this organization for the promotion and development of agricultural research in Caribbean countries.

Also, the IABA awarded prizes to the winners of the International Photography Contest on Rural Women, sponsored by IICA and the Radio Netherlands Training Centre (RNTC). It also selected the winners of the Inter-American Awards granted to agricultural professionals of the region who have distinguished themselves with outstanding work.

The Chairman of the Fifth IABA and Costa Rican Minister of Agriculture, José María Figueres, on summing up the meeting, said that the great challenge of the coming years will be to convert peasants into farmers, that is, by training them to make maximum use of their resources to ensure increased productivity.



Costa Rican Minister of Agriculture José María Figueres presided over the Fifth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

Ministers Approve Plan for Agricultural Reactivation

The Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), approved by the ministers of agriculture of IICA's 31 Member States, or their representatives, at the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), aims to modernize the agricultural sector and thus contribute to the reactivation of the economies of the region.

The Board, the highest governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), agreed on the immediate execution of the proposal, which was prepared by IICA in consultation with its Member States and other international organizations at the request of the Ninth

low-up on the PLANLAC at the hemispheric level would be the responsibility of the ICMA, the sector's most important forum in the hemisphere, the IABA itself, and IICA's Executive Committee. Meanwhile, at the subregional level, responsibility will fall on subregional organizations.

With regard to financing, the Board called on IICA's Observer Countries and other international organizations to contribute to the Institute in order to facilitate the execution of the Plan, and at the same time requested both IICA's Director General and the Chairman of the IABA to seek voluntary external contributions.

In a round table on "Financing Agricultural Reactivation," in which the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) participated, senior officials of the



The ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, agreed that PLANLAC will facilitate work to be carried out on behalf of small-scale farmers.

Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA), held in September 1987 in Ottawa, Canada.

The Board's confidence in agricultural modernization as a formula for economic development in Latin America and the Caribbean rests on the region's comparative advantages and the sector's potential to enhance the adjustment process begun at the start of the 1980s.

The Plan of Joint Action was designed to operate at two levels: hemispheric, encompassing proposals for all of Latin America and the Caribbean; and subregional, divided into four geographic areas (Central, Caribbean, Andean and Southern). The IABA approved a resolution stating that fol-

IDB and the World Bank announced that both institutions would together allot US\$10 billion over the next five years for agricultural development projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, voiced their support for the Plan of Joint Action, making suggestions that in their judgement could improve it, and expressed their desire that the proposal be translated into concrete actions to help the most needy rural sectors. Felipe Solá, Argentine Secretary of Agriculture, said that PLANLAC represents a valuable alternative that could benefit those social groups that, as in the case of his country, were marginalized by recent social and economic development processes.

Murray Cardiff, Parliamentary Secretary of the Canadian Ministry of Agriculture, said that the success of the PLANLAC would depend in good measure on the determination of the governments in assuming responsibility for the projects. Setting aside financial and technical resources for the projects would signal this determination and, in turn, attract the participation of donor countries, he said.

Jorge de la Vega Domínguez, Mexican Secretary of Agriculture, stressed the Plan's importance in strengthening the efforts of farmers to make their work profitable and attractive. Vega also expressed optimism that execution of the plan will encourage regional integration.

Harry Mussman, chief of the delegation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, said that the process of agricultural reactivation should be paralleled with improvements in education in peasant sectors. "In this way, small farmers will be in a position to make the best use of the means of production," he said. Costa Rican Minister of Agriculture and IABA Chairman, José María Figueres, said that some programs and projects for the Central Area are already very advanced.

Peruvian Vice Minister of Agrarian Economy, Augusto Guerrero, speaking for the Andean countries, expressed the commitment of the Cartagena Agreement Commission when it approved the chapter of the Plan dealing with that subregion. The Caribbean countries, for their part, hailed the PLANLAC and expressed the desire that resources obtained to finance agricultural reactivation be distributed in such a way that ensures the equitable development of the entire subregion. This view was represented by Trinidad and Tobago Minister Brinsley Samaroo.

Martin E. Piñeiro Re-elected Director General by Acclamation

Martin E. Piñeiro was unanimously re-elected Director General of the Inter-American Institute of Cooperation on Agriculture during the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) which took place in Costa Rica, October 9 - 12.

Expressing gratitude for the confidence placed in him, Piñeiro committed himself to continue working for a flexible, efficient and, above all, useful institution. He also asked for renewed support so that the Institute can continue growing and understanding the needs of the nations of the hemisphere.

Piñeiro presented a report to the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, on the general state of the institution, its principle achievements and future challenges. The IABA is the Institute's highest governing body.

He said that, after a first stage of institutional reorganization and redefinition of objectives in the 1987-1991 Medium Term Plan, the Institute focused attention on the problems of agriculture. This gave rise to the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was approved by the Fifth IABA.

He said the consensus existing among the countries on the need to modernize production and give a new role to agriculture were important elements in the process of preparing the Plan of Joint Action, a task given to IICA by the Ninth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, in Ottawa in 1987.

As one of the achievements of the last



Martin E. Piñeiro

four years, Piñeiro made note of the new working relations with international funding institutions, which now involve incorporating technical cooperation components into the loans to IICA Member States.

The strengthening of subregional joint projects dealing with technological innovation and the horizontal transfer of technology also advanced significantly, he said. Other innovative projects emphasized by the Director General were those related to biotechnology, rural development, the participation of women in development, the joint solution of phytosanitary problems and communications training for development.

In relation to fund raising, Piñeiro said that, as of September 1989, the total amount of external resources secured by the Institute was US\$26 million.

On reviewing the challenges facing the Institute over the next four years, he said, "The execution of the PLANLAC, following the guidelines that come out of this meeting, represents an important commitment for IICA."

IICA Considering Possibility of Establishing International Training Center

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is giving special attention to Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sánchez' suggestion to establish an international training and conference center "where concrete ideas and projects leading to agricultural development based on peace, progress and social justice can flourish."

The Costa Rican President made the proposal to the hemisphere's ministers of agriculture (or their representatives) at the inaugural session of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), IICA's highest governing body, that met in San Jose between October 9 and 12.

President Arias, awarded the Nobel Prize for his efforts to bring peace to Central America, voiced confidence that IICA "will continue to play a major role, not only as an inter-American forum for the generation and discussion of ideas, but also as a vehicle for communication and cooperation among the member countries."

Martin E. Piñeiro, IICA Director General, said that initial contact has been made with Costa Rican Minister of Agriculture and IABA Chairman José María Figueres, to discuss with President Arias ways in which this Central American country can provide support to this project, and also to solicit support from countries such as the United States and Canada as well as other donors.

Piñeiro called the project "an enormous institutional challenge that we are ready to face." In his judgment, it would be timely to create a center with such a purpose in Costa Rica, since Central America is making important progress in the search for solutions to regional conflicts, with the goal of regaining the path of development. This has attracted special support from industrialized countries and donor organizations.

Spain to be Site of Next ICMA-IABA Meeting

The next gathering of ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere will be held in Madrid in 1991 by invitation of the Spanish Government. The offer was accepted "with great satisfaction" by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), IICA's highest governing body, during its meeting in Costa Rica, October 9 -12.

The IABA, made up of the ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, from IICA's 31 Member States, agreed to hold the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) concurrently with the Sixth Regular Meeting of the IABA, in Spain.

The gathering will take place four years after the last time the ICMA and the IABA meeting were held concurrently in Ottawa Canada in 1987.

IICA Director General Martín E. Pifeiro said that the meetings will provide the opportunity to evaluate the progress of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), approved by the Fifth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

The Inter-American Board of Agriculture authorized IICA's Director General to request the Twentieth General Assembly of the Organization of American States to convene the conference.

INVITATION FROM SPAIN

Spanish Ambassador to Costa Rica Alfonso Ortiz, upon making his



Alfonso Ortiz said the meeting in Spain presents an excellent opportunity for Latin America and the Caribbean to observe 'first hand' the Europe of 1992

country's offer to host the meeting, stressed the desire of his government to strengthen ties with this hemisphere and recognized the role that agriculture plays in its economies.

Ambassador Ortiz explained that his country has maintained an agricultural office in Costa Rica since 1973, in order to maintain relations with IICA and provide support to bilateral projects with Costa Rica.

Contacts between IICA and Spain have increased over time. An example is the various courses on agricultural development offered in Bolivia, where the Spanish government maintains a training center in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, said the diplomat.

"A few weeks ago Spanish experts reported on the results of a study on

the demand and marketing channels for important Latin American agricultural products on the European market, which is an example of joint work and the interest that we share in the development of the sector," he added.

...Ambassador Ortiz explained that his country has maintained an agricultural office in Costa Rica since 1973, in order to maintain relations with IICA...

The Ambassador said that holding these meetings in Spain will present an opportunity for Latin Americans and Caribbeans to analyze and observe the European market, which is scheduled to become unified in 1992, and its effect on trade.

Communiqué of San Isidro de Coronado

1. We, the ministers of agriculture, gathered together for the Fifth Regular Meeting of the IABA, wish to express our satisfaction with the spirit of harmony and cooperation that prevailed during this meeting and which enabled us to concur as to the objectives and instruments that must be established to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being.

2. Within this spirit of cordiality and collaboration, and on the basis of the Declaration of Ottawa, we reaffirm our conviction that the reactivation of the agricultural sector in the region is a prerequisite for attaining levels of economic and social development that will benefit not only the rural population, but also the population as a whole, thereby strengthening peace and democracy in the hemisphere.

3. We have made appropriate modernization of agriculture the basis of our reactivation strategy. Therefore, it will be necessary to implement structural changes that will enable the sector to develop its full production potential, with equity and a just distribution of its benefits.

4. We acknowledge that there must be a favorable international framework for this revitalization of rural activities to succeed. For this reason, we must continue our efforts to solve two major problems affecting growth and development in our countries: foreign debt and international trade barriers.

5. We recognize that proposals for returning our countries to the path of agricultural development should take into account the deep-seated changes that are taking place in the world economic structure, where the current technological revolution is affecting production processes, and altering the bases of our comparative advantages, as well as trade and financial flows.

6. We reiterate our conviction that international cooperation, joint action and regional integration will strengthen national efforts and cause them to have a multiplier effect, and accept that in coming years development will be conditioned by transfers of appropriate technology to the agricultural sector, by introducing efficient marketing systems, by the size of economic blocs and by our negotiating strength as a region.

7. We support a relationship between macro-economic and sectoral policies that will have a

real, positive impact on agricultural development, bearing in mind the contribution that such development can make to overall development.

8. We stress that appropriate modernization of the State and the development of its institutions will require that there be greater efficiency in the actions it takes in regulating and encouraging production, while respecting the rules of the marketplace and the efforts and areas of competence of our rural producers, and without neglecting State actions designed to benefit small-scale producers.

9. We underscore that technological advances in the agricultural sector, including rural education, are a fundamental pillar of the reactivation process, in that they make use of available resources and ensure that they are effectively transferred to production processes. Emphasis should be placed on food security, the needs of small-scale producers, the conservation of natural resources and the environment, and the use of our genetic heritage.

10. We recognize that a regional reactivation initiative, as well as initiatives taken internally by individual countries, are aimed fundamentally at rural producers, who are the principal agents and the mainstay of agricultural modernization. Our efforts will be directed at supporting the different types of producers so as to maximize the potential of each, while respecting their autonomy and management capacity.

11. In order to carry out these proposals, we have approved and decided to implement a Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), which is a strategic and operational mechanism designed to contribute to the reactivation of agriculture in our countries through joint hemispheric and subregional activities.

12. At the hemispheric level, we have agreed that priority joint actions concern incentive and investment policies, international economic relations, the modernization of the agricultural public sector, technology, agroindustry and rural development. These are the most important issues in agricultural reactivation and, consequently, the ones that require adjustments both at the hemispheric and national levels.

13. Aware that the Andean, Caribbean, Central and Southern Areas of our region share prob-

lems not found elsewhere, we have placed special attention on preparing subregional proposals leading to specific actions to address the needs of similar interests having similar resources at their disposal, and dealt with in specific political fora. From this standpoint, the PLANLAC will enable us to contribute jointly to solving specific problems, and also to consolidating the subregional integration processes under way.

14. Both hemispheric and subregional projects and programs for joint action, as well as possible mechanisms for financing and implementing them, have been identified. Our countries will be responsible for managing these financial and institutional mechanisms, and will oversee the process of implementing, adjusting and providing feedback on the PLANLAC. The authorities for evaluation and follow-up will be the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Executive Committee of IICA and we, the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere, commit ourselves to carrying out this task.

15. We call attention to the grave societal damages caused by the increased production of illicit crops and to the necessity of hemisphere-wide collaboration in the efforts to eradicate psychotropic crops such as coca, and to identify viable alternatives to their production, including nonpsychotropic substitutes for them in the context of the implementation of PLANLAC actions.

16. In order to consolidate the efforts we have made in the preparation of the PLANLAC, and now that we have approved it, we again wish to enlist the support of the international technical and financial cooperation agencies, which should play a key role in implementing and funding the projects called for in the PLANLAC and in designing new proposals that will be needed as the process continues. The effort we have made to reach agreement and consensus, which has been institutionalized in numerous mechanisms provided for in the Plan, represents a contribution to the inter-American community, and will facilitate and improve the channeling of more external cooperation to joint initiatives aimed at strengthening the processes of regional and subregional integration.

17. We invite the developed nations and international cooperation agencies to participate actively in meetings of donors, in order to facilitate the coordination of actions and to provide the greatest possible support for the initiatives proposed in the PLANLAC.

Agreement Signed with Florida International University

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Central American Journalism Program of Florida International University signed an agreement aimed at contributing to the development of Central American countries by organizing and executing joint projects in the field of journalism and communication.

The agreement includes research and analysis of the impact of the communications media in rural areas, and training of journalists to cover topics of general interest, with emphasis on the agricultural sector. For 1990, the three-year agreement has organized three training sessions on radio journalism.

The agreement was signed last October 4 at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica by Jorge Werthein, IICA Director of External Relations and Gerardo



Jorge Werthein, IICA Director of External Relations, and Gerardo Bolaños, Deputy Director of the Central American Journalism Program of Florida International University sign a communications training agreement.

Bolaños, Deputy Director of the Central American Journalism Program.

Bolaños said that IICA's collaboration is of great use to his organization because of the Institute's vast experience in alternative communications training.

"We have great respect for IICA because it runs training projects in non-traditional communications and we want to take advantage of this to satisfy the great needs that exist in Latin America in this field," said Bolaños.

Media Professionals Trained in Agrarian Development

On October 13, the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre completed its Fourth International Course on the Media Applied to Agricultural Development, a course intended to qualitatively improve radio and written materials directed at assisting rural development in participating countries.

The ten-week course, which began in

August, consisted of 400 hours of theoretical and practical work stressing participatory communication. Participants, from Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic, learned how to produce their own radio programs and written materials designed to reach farmers.

The course's content included planning for programs on development

projects, applied radio production and article writing. By course's end, the participants were equipped to design and organize a work plan to be used by small media serving agricultural outreach programs.

The course was designed not only to impart skills to workers involved in agricultural development and rural outreach, but also to enable the workers to pass on those skills to others in their respective countries.

Training in radio and printed media production seeks to develop participatory communication.

Ministers of Agriculture will Analyze Special UN Plan for Isthmus

Central American ministers of agriculture met in Costa Rica to agree on mechanisms to invigorate the sector's negotiations within the Special Plan for Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC), created by the United Nations as a means for channeling international aid to the region.

The Fifth Special Meeting of the Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (CORECA), was held concurrently with the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), held October 9-12 at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

CORECA Secretary of Coordination Reynaldo Perez said that follow-up on participation in the PEC was entrusted to the vice ministers of agriculture, with a view to facilitating decision-making at the forthcoming joint meeting with vice ministers responsible for the PEC in each country.

The PEC, which arose parallel to initiatives connected with the Esquipulas II regional peace process, will last three years, with an estimated budget of \$4.7 billion.

Last year, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided US\$20 million for a feasibility study of five investment areas: common market, agriculture, food, infrastructure and energy.

GISA is part of the inter-institutional mechanism in Central America responsible for the execution of both the Plan of Joint Action in Support of Agricultural Reactivation and Development in the Countries of the Central



IICA Director General Martin E. Piñeiro; José María Figueres, Costa Rican Minister of Agriculture and Reynaldo Pérez, CORECA Coordinator General presided over the meeting.

The agricultural sector, one of the best organized, has prepared 12 project profiles that are already under consideration by governments and donor agencies.

GISA STRATEGY

The Inter-Institutional Group for the Agricultural Sector (GISA) agreed at its Ninth Regular Meeting, recently held at IICA Headquarters, to include in its program 17 new agricultural research and development projects.

American Isthmus and the Dominican Republic, and the United Nations Special Plan for Economic Cooperation for Central America (PEC).

At the meeting, GISA established the priority of the 17 proposals. With regard to financing, GISA formed a task force coordinated by CORECA that will draft technical documents to be discussed at a PEC-sponsored meeting scheduled for the second quarter of 1990 with governments and agricultural sector institutions.

Policies Involving Rural Women Needed, says Expert

Because rural women do not benefit from agricultural policies and training strategies, methods to include women in agricultural projects must be developed, said Diana Medrano, Coordinator of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture's Development Program for Rural Women.

According to Medrano, though women participate in a fundamental way in basic food production in Latin America and the Caribbean, they do so largely without the benefit of credit, social assistance, or property rights.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, some 65 to 75 million rural residents live in poverty. Of those, half are women. That is to say, there are some 35 million rural peasant women who live in absolute poverty.

Considering this and the fact that a substantial part of the farming family's income comes from economic activities engaged in by women, institutions like IICA and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) must develop a methodological framework that includes rural women as an important part of each one of IICA's programs, she said.

Medrano's work will take place in two stages. The first involves developing strategies for including women in IICA programs. The second is more operational in nature, involving putting the strategies into practice.

"In this strategy, a kind of multi-program is undertaken in the five IICA areas of concentration: agricultural policies, generation and transfer of technology, rural development, marketing and agroindustry, and animal health and plant protection," said Medrano.

"The work with IICA, in addition to establishing general policy lines, will create a space for the discussion and coordination of orientations within a framework for working with rural women. The Institute already operates other projects involving women, such as training in the use of communications media at the IICA/Radio Nederland Training Centre," she said.



Diana Medrano, Coordinator of IICA's Development Program for Rural Women.

According to Medrano, her work comes under IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program, although all IICA Programs and projects will be involved.

PROCISUR Begins Second Stage

The second stage of the Cooperative Program for Agricultural Research in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR) began with an international seminar on agricultural research and extension in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Ascochinga, Argentina.

Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Martín E. Piñeiro, signed a new cooperation agreement with the PROCISUR member states that will bring the program's annual budget to nearly US\$ 1 million, provided by the

six member countries, IICA and donor institutions.

The new agreement ensures the continuity of the Inter-American Development Bank-financed regional agricultural technological development efforts begun in 1980 by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

PROCISUR's overall objective is to establish in member countries an ongoing system of coordination and support for reciprocal actions and information exchange on agricultural research through joint ventures.

Ambitious Rural Agroindustrial Program Promoted

An ambitious program to encourage and organize a form of community-based rural agroindustrial development in Latin America and the Caribbean will be initiated at the end of the year by international cooperation agencies, regional and subregional organizations and national institutions.

The Rural Agroindustrial Development Program (PRODAR) was conceived to take advantage of these institutions' work and experience through a cooperative strategy that, in the short term, will contribute to improving the effectiveness of policies and programs in the sector.

During a recent meeting at the International Tropical Agricultural Center (CIAT), in Cali, Colombia, representatives of 28 organizations, among them the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), expressed their desire to support and participate in the development program. Representing IICA at the meeting were Director of the Marketing and Agroindustry Program Rodolfo Quiros, Jorge Torres and rural agroindustry specialist for the French Agency for Technical Cooperation Francois Boucher.

PRODAR also received support from the hemisphere's ministers of agriculture, or their representatives, who met between October 9 -12 in the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), which

approved the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

PRODAR is one of the hemispheric programs included under PLANLAC, which was elaborated by IICA in collaboration with its Member States and other international organizations to



PRODAR will promote the creation of new rural agroindustries.

contribute to the reactivation of the economies of the region through agricultural modernization.

PRODAR WORK SESSION

In the so-called "PRODAR Work Session" the participants created a Coordinating Committee made up of representatives of IICA, the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Latin American Rural Technology and Education Center (CELATER), which will be charged with providing continuity to the process to consolidate the program.

Also, to define and support the tasks of this group, a provisional Steering Committee was created, composed of

members of sponsoring institutions and representatives of national entities that participated in the work sessions on the subject of Rural Spheres of Action for Technologists (ERTEC), a training event held in Cali prior to the PRODAR meeting.

According to the proposal approved in Colombia, IICA will become the headquarters of the program and will be charged, among other things, with serving as a liaison among participants, and coordinating the tasks to be completed by both the coordinating committee and the provisional steering committee.

The idea of establishing PRODAR was first suggested at a workshop on rural agroindustry held in 1988, in response to such problems affecting

Latin American farmers as country-city migration, post-harvest losses, difficulty in adding value to production, obstacles to markets and lack of job opportunities.

Efforts to set up the program come at a time when the Latin American small-farmer population, composed of some 65 million people, produces 40 percent of the agricultural goods consumed domestically, and 32 percent of agricultural exports (principally coffee, cocoa and cotton).

PRODAR's other activities included a plenary assembly to evaluate progress and define future strategies, as well as to plan for the "Food for Peace" seminar on food science and technology, to be held in Costa Rica in April of 1990.

IICA Hard at Work in Peru

The Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Peru has been hard at work in the last several weeks, organizing or co-sponsoring different agricultural sector activities, including training courses for veterinarians and agrarian engineers, as well as providing support to the ministry of agriculture.

At the request of the minister of agriculture and health, IICA and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), in coordination with the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, financed the visit to Peru of Julio Gubel, a Brazilian specialist in the production of foot-and-mouth disease vaccine, in an attempt to curtail depletion of the vaccine and provide support to disease control and prevention programs.

During the course of one year, Gubel and Peruvian specialists produced 150,000 doses of petroleum based vaccine and 100,000 units using saponine hydroxide. The quality of the vaccine is being tested in the Input Production Laboratory, and in a Bra-

zilian laboratory. The research demonstrated that Peru has the infrastructure to produce 300,000 doses of the foot-and-mouth vaccine per month.

In another activity related to cattle, veterinarians working in the northern city of Piura updated their knowledge of the pathological anatomy of principal cattle diseases during a course-workshop co-sponsored by the IICA Office and called "Laboratory Support for Animal Health Programs."

TARGETED DISEASES

The Office also co-sponsored a similar program in Taropoto, in San Martín Department, for 16 veterinarians and zootechnicians working in the 13th Departmental Agrarian Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. According to health authorities, this zone is a target of diseases like foot-and-mouth disease, hog cholera, bovine rabies, equine encefalitis, bovine brucellosis and tuberculosis.

Also, IICA Representative Israel Tineo participated in the Fourth National Congress of Agricultural Engineers, in which he spoke on "Agriculture and the Reactivation of Development in Latin America." Also attending the event were zo-



The experimental stations can be managed as businesses.

otechnicians, forestry engineers, representatives of the food industry and economists, who analyzed agricultural problems and drew up a proposal on food security.

A seminar-workshop on "Planning and Management for Developing Southern Experimental Stations" was another activity sponsored by IICA, with the collaboration of the National Agricultural and Agroindustrial Research Institute (INIAA). The meeting, held in the department of Arequipa, brought together 50 professionals including INIAA directors, the ministers of agriculture and of the Presidency, representatives of the Peruvian Agrarian Bank and the National University of San Agustín, as well as specialists from 11 experimental stations.

Through lectures on organization, planning and management, the participants learned how to make use of more business-like methods for INIAA experimental stations. The purpose of this recently-adopted strategy is to improve the stations' capacity to provide services and generate their own resources.



Peru has the infrastructure to produce 300,000 doses of foot-and-mouth vaccine a month.

Action in the Countries

Director of External Relations:

Cooperation Efforts Must be Strengthened

To achieve reactivation of the agricultural sector in Latin America and the Caribbean, joint cooperation efforts with technical and financial assistance organizations must be strengthened, said Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations for the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), during a meeting with cooperation and financial agencies at IICA's Office in Brazil.

Werthein described the joint cooperation projects that the Institute carries out with such organizations as the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), among others, which all agree on the value of joint action.

Werthein described IICA's work to the representatives of these agencies,

emphasizing the importance of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

Also, Manuel Otero, IICA Representative in Brazil, noted the need to establish joint action between organizations with a view to helping the Plan of Action achieve the hoped-for success, both in Brazil and in the rest of the hemisphere.

In this regard, the Institute's officials took advantage of the occasion to describe IICA's activities in Brazil, including rural development projects in northeastern Brazil and irrigation projects undertaken with the support



The Director of External Relations, Jorge Werthein, met with the Secretary General of The Ministry of Agriculture, Haley Margon Vaz.

of the ministry of agriculture.

An analysis of animal and plant sanitary activities emphasized efforts to strengthen animal health laboratory networks in IICA Member States aimed at preventing and eradicating pests and diseases. Also, an analysis was presented of Institute action in new projects to develop tropical areas, seeking sustainable use of natural resources to preserve the environment and existing ecosystems.

IICA Participates in Northwestern Regional Work Session

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) participated in a "North western Regional Work Session" to assist small farmers in that part of Argentina which washed in the city of Rioja on October 19 and 20.

The purpose of the work session was to examine and design specific policies for a program designed to lend support to small producers in that part of the country. The program includes 23 local projects in the northwestern

provinces of La Rioja, Jujuy, Salta, Tucumán, Santiago del Estero and Cartamarca.

The projects give priority to promoting small farmers' associations at the local and municipal levels through self-help organization.

The inauguration of the work session was attended by Argentine Secretary of Agriculture Felipe Solá; Carlos Pérez, Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock for the Province of La Rioja; Gustavo Tesoriero, head of Rural

Development for the Secretariat of Agriculture; and Mercedes Basco, Coordinator for IICA's rural development program in Argentina.

More than 60 percent of the farmers in the northwestern region of the country live in conditions of extreme poverty, characterized by unstable land tenure systems, chronic shortages of capital and a lack of support services.

The country's Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, top provincial agricultural affairs officials and farmers' organizations are jointly in charge of coordinating the program, along with other international non-governmental institutions.

Action in the Countries

Guatemala Seeks to Benefit Indigent Population

The Communication for Life project in Guatemala seeks to contribute to the improvement of health, working conditions, the environment and democratic coexistence among people through improved communications.

The project, developed by the IICA/Raido Nederland Training Centre, in association with experts from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), was recently presented to Guatemalan Vice President Roberto Carpio Nicolle by IICA Deputy Director General, Harlan Davis. The project hopes to benefit people of both sexes who receive, use or produce media messages in their homes or workplaces in periferal-urban and rural

gram is put forward," said Davis during the presentation ceremony.

The proposal seeks to promote the material improvement of communities, and thereby positively change such basic areas of social life as work and production, health and environment, while promoting democratic coexistence. It will coordinate actions with governmental and non-governmental organizations to produce written and audiovisual communications materials, the objectives, contents and presentation of which respond to the real needs of the most needy sectors of the population.

The project will focus on developing ways to receive, utilize and produce messages at the local level, so as to encourage community action to solve



Harlan Davis, IICA Deputy Director General, presents the Communication for Life project to Roberto Carpio Nicolle, Vice President of Guatemala. Also present were Armando Reyes Pacheco, IICA Representative in Guatemala, and Minister and Vice Minister of Agriculture Carlos León Prera and Mario Gaitán.

areas throughout the country.

"This project is a good example of what institutional effort can produce and of the collaboration that different cooperation agencies are ready to engage in when the appropriate pro-

blems and improve the quality of life. This would be accomplished by providing training in communications education to personnel responsible for the elaboration, dissemination, reception and utilization of messages at the local, regional and national levels.

New IICA Offices in Bolivia



The Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Bolivia recently inaugurated its new headquarters in the FONCOMIN building in La Paz, with the goal of expanding and improving services in that country.

Inauguration of the new Office was attended by local dignitaries including Mario Bertero, Bolivian Minister of Campesino and Agricultural Affairs; Cassio Luiselli, IICA Assistant Deputy Director General for Operations; and Humberto Nigro Borbon, Costa Rican Ambassador in La Paz, who appear in the photograph above.

IICA has completed 13 years of work in the South American nation, during which it carried out various agricultural plans in different regions. Currently, the projects concentrate mostly on potato production in Potosí; livestock development in Beni, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and Tarija, and agricultural work in Chucquisaca.

Book on Policies for Agroindustrial Development

IICA



A book published in Spanish on policies for agroindustrial development presents a numbers of papers on

agroindustrial development in Latin America and the Caribbean that served as the basis for the deliberations of the High-Level Policy Seminar on Agroindustrial Development, held in Brasilia, Brazil, April 4-7, 1989. The event was organized by IICA and co-sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Bank of Brazil, the National Bank for Economic and Social Development and the Central Bank of Brazil.

Both the seminar and the book revolve around six central themes. The first discusses the macroeconomic context for agroindustrial development in Latin American and Caribbean countries and is comprised of papers by Edward Schuh, Carlos Pomareda, Jorge Torres Zorrilla and Alexander Schejtmán.

Under the second topic, dealing with access to penetration of domestic and international markets by agroindustrial products, the works of Ronald Duncan, Alejandro Jara, Lester Crawford and Harold Riley are presented. The third subject, on the role of technology and new technologies in agroindustrial development, contains papers by Guy Poulter et. al., and Walter Jaffé.

The fourth topic concerns the current state of and prospects for agroindustrial development, and includes papers by Eduardo Jacobs and Carlos Benito. Finally, the fifth and sixth themes on the financing of agroindustrial development and the role of the

private sector and its organizations, were written by Jaime Espinosa and Eduardo Fresco, respectively.

The book also contains a report by the seminar's rapporteur, Cassio Luiselli, on the principal ideas and themes discussed, accompanied by conclusions and recommendations most relevant to the event.

Training and Participation for Small-Scale Farmers: Method, Tools and Means

CARACTERIZACIÓN Y HISTORIA DEL CAMPESINATO



A book on this subject has been published in Spanish. It is a collection of papers that responds to the need to provide

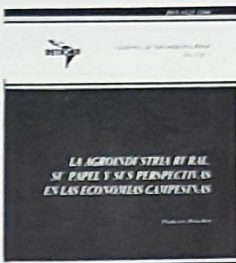
training in the rural sectors in order to lay the foundations for intergated development in the region.

The book, compiled by Fausto Jordán, Director of IICA's Organization and Management for Rural Development Program provides conceptual reinforcement to the principle that the training process must begin with the trainers. It does not deal with vague goals. On the contrary, the task is completed by finding a happy balance between the ideal trainer, rural organization and production growth.

The work scheme proposed in the book encourages participation and dialogue, underlining the role the rural population plays throughout the process. In this way the book is not limited to the theoretical, but serves as a point of departure for concrete subjects that are included in different chapters: training for small farmers; scenarios for participatory training;

representations and structuring concepts; contributions to method; communications, media and culture; and literacy and rural development.

Notes on Rural Agroindustry



Celater IICA

Cuaderno de Agroindustria Rural is the result of a new trend in development in Latin America and the

Caribbean to contribute to solving problems such as how to feed the urban populations, raise nutrition levels, and prevent new ecological disasters.

Rural agroindustry appears as a key factor in the solution of such problems, as new tools are proposed for small farmers, aimed at providing them with more benefits for their work and also developing their capacity to offer new products that contribute to solving food-related problems.

The essays put forth a conceptual framework to spark debate on what is to be understood by "rural development," and on the the prospects of its contributing to the small-farm economy. The publication also includes a study on the production of *achiote* in Costa Rica, rural cheese production and a project to support small-scale fishing in Ecuador.

The first four "notebooks" were published with the support of the Latin American Rural Technology and Education Center (CELATER), the Appropriate Food Technology Network for Rural Agroindustrial Development (RETADAR) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

IICA in the News

Reunión de la Junta Interamericana de Agricultura

Las cartas de la integración están echadas en Costa Rica

Por Jorge A. Elías

(Especial enviado de LA NACIÓN)

SAN JOSÉ, Costa Rica. "El sistema agrícola costarricense y sus sectores productivos están pasando por un momento crítico de su actividad agrícola", ha sido una de las afirmaciones más importantes hechas durante el primer día de la reunión de la Junta Interamericana de Agricultura, que se celebró en el Hotel Gran Hotel de San José, el día 13 de octubre.

Tras un momento de bienvenida, el primer día de la reunión se dedicó a la presentación de la agenda de la Junta Interamericana de Agricultura para el período 1989-1991.

El secretario de la Junta Interamericana de Agricultura, el Sr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez, dijo que la reunión de la Junta Interamericana de Agricultura es una oportunidad para que los países de la región se reúnan y discutan los temas de interés común.

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Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC). The information highlighted IICA's efforts to promote the



Martin Piñero del IICA, en un momento de la reunión de la Junta Interamericana de Agricultura, en San José, Costa Rica, el día 13 de octubre.

Reeligen a Piñero en el IICA

Martin E. Piñero ha sido reeligido por el Consejo de Administración del Instituto Interamericano de Cooperación para la Agricultura (IICA) durante la reunión de la Junta Interamericana de Agricultura (JIA) en San José, Costa Rica, el día 13 de octubre.

Piñero fue reeligido por una mayoría de votos de los miembros del Consejo de Administración del IICA.

Modernization of the agricultural sector in the region.

The re-election of Dr. Martín E. Piñero for a new term as IICA Director General was published by the afternoon newspaper La Prensa, of San José, Costa Rica, in its October 11 edition. The article described Piñero's achievements and the challenges of the next four years.

Trini wins IICA prize

SAN JOSÉ, Costa Rica. Trini won the IICA prize for her color photograph of rural women in the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation with Agriculture and the Inter-American Training Centre, IICA announced on Wednesday.

In the color category, the winner was Noel Norton from Trinidad, with his photo titled "Boiling the Christmas Ham" which depicts a family preparing Christmas dinner.

Second prize went to Julio Castellano from Uruguay with "Rural Petrol" which shows an old campesino woman looking out the window of her humble home, and third prize went to Mario Arturo Rojas Torres from Costa Rica for "Mother and Daughter at work" - a photo that reflects the experience of two women at their field.

In the black and white category, Julie Anne Gordon from Brazil won first prize with her photo "In the way home" which shows a family returning home.

Second place went to Cheryl St. George, from the US, for the photo titled "Lovers with her child" and third prize went to Anamaria Ortega Borán, from Colombia with "Hotly" Child cook. Both photos depict scenes from the daily lives of rural women.

The purpose of the contest, created by IICA and RNTC, is to make society aware of the role played by an important sector of the rural population. Its women. It also aimed to illustrate the work and conditions of rural women, seen through their participation in the economy, education and the family.

The winners of the first prizes will receive \$1,000 each, second prize winners will receive \$750 each, and third prize winners will receive \$500 each.

The Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), at IICA Headquarters, was the subject of major coverage in numerous Latin American communications media, among them the La Nación of Buenos Aires, El Día de Mexico and El Universo of Ecuador, all of which published articles on various facets of the event.

The agreement reached by the IABA to hold the next meetings of ministers of agriculture of the American hemisphere in Spain in 1991 was widely disseminated by the international

Reactivación agropecuaria abre posibilidad de desarrollo

El sector agropecuario de la América Latina y el Caribe, que ha estado sufriendo un proceso de reactivación, abre posibilidades de desarrollo, según se afirmó en un artículo publicado en la edición del día 13 de octubre de la revista "El Mundo" de la Organización Interamericana de Agricultura y Fomento (OIAF).

El artículo, titulado "Reactivación agropecuaria abre posibilidad de desarrollo", fue escrito por el Sr. Juan Carlos Rodríguez, secretario de la OIAF.

El Sr. Rodríguez dijo que la reactivación agropecuaria es un proceso que ha estado sufriendo un proceso de reactivación, que ha estado sufriendo un proceso de reactivación, que ha estado sufriendo un proceso de reactivación.

press agency France Presse.

The daily La Prensa, of Honduras, in its October 12 edition, stressed the approval of the Plan of Joint Action for

Upcoming Activities

Meeting of the Regional Technical Committee of Plant Protection Directors for the Central Area to be held November 13-17, 1989

This meeting will be held in Mexico City to examine the problems of regional plant protection activities and to define future programs, activities, strategies to best confront the diverse problems that affect agricultural production and marketing in the Central Area countries.

The progress of regional efforts in the framework of PLANLAC, and agricultural development in the Central Area, will be discussed, particularly in regard to institutional strengthening, information systems and IICA's regional plan of action for the Central Area in 1990.

Meeting of the Regional Technical Committee of Plant Protection Directors for the Andean Area to be held December 11 - 14, 1989.

Quito, Ecuador will be the site of this meeting that aims to improve the integration of organizations that carry out plant protection activities in the Andean Area, and to define the means of coordination.

The directors of plant protection from the Andean Area and representatives of the FAO, IDB, IICA, IOE and the Board of the Cartagena Agreement, will participate.

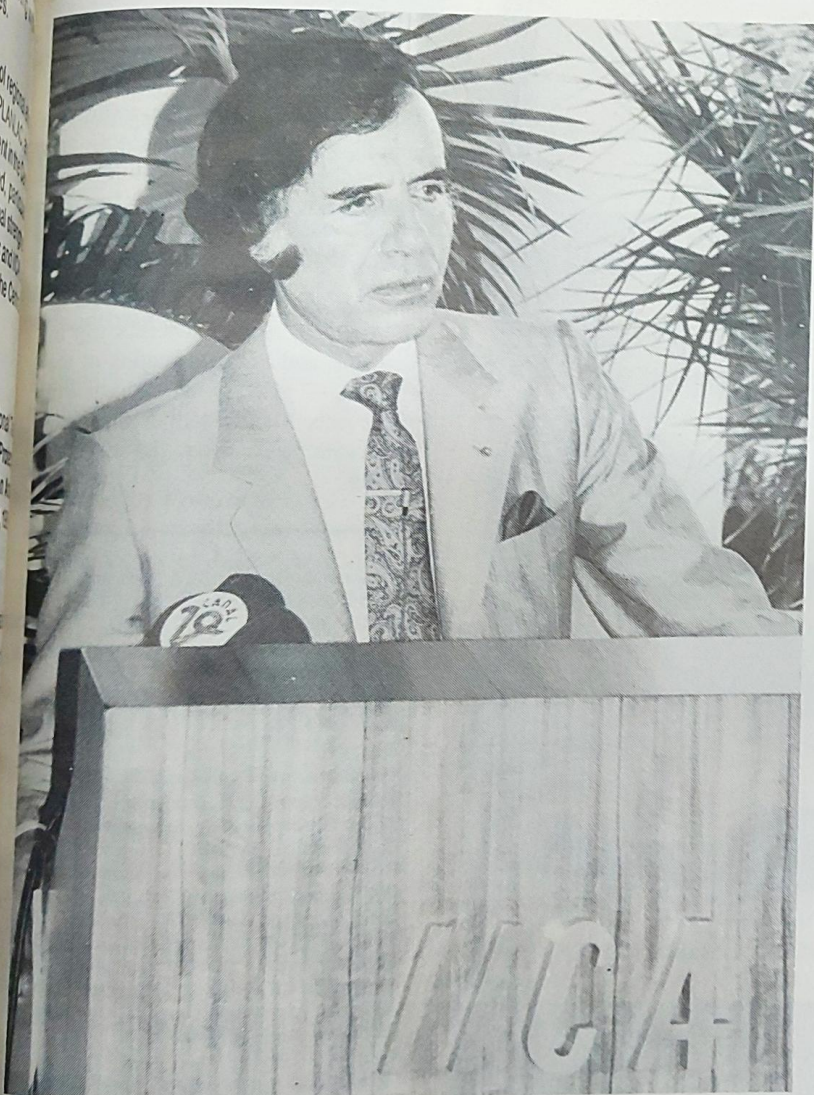
The meeting will study the progress of regional efforts in the framework of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

IICA



NEWS

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During a visit to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the President of the Republic of Argentina, Carlos Saul Menem, called for the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean through the development of the agricultural sector.

"Today, regional and subregional integration, which have long been a topic on the Latin American agenda, are more necessary than ever," stated Menem, who referred to IICA as the House of Agriculture of the Americas.

Accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Domingo Cavallo, governors Bordón and Saadi and other senior officials of his government, Menem pledged his country's active support in participating in initiatives to promote joint actions for cooperation.

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- Redefinition of role of national development banks recommended

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The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, IICA, is headquartered in San Jose, Costa Rica. It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. It was founded by the governments of the hemisphere in 1942 to encourage, promote and support the efforts made by its Member States for agricultural development and rural well-being. It has 31 member countries and 12 observer countries.

President Menem calls for increased regional integration

During a visit to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the President of Argentina, Carlos Saul Menem, spoke in favor of strengthening the integration process in Latin America and the Caribbean, through the development of the agricultural sector.

Accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Domingo Cavallo, governors Bordón and Saadí and other senior officials of the Argentine government, Menem promised his country's support "in actively participating in all joint actions our countries take which are aimed at cooperation for agricultural development."

President Menem was one of the 16 heads of state of the Americas who participated in the October 27-28 hemispheric summit meeting convened by President Oscar Arias, to commemorate Costa Rica's one hundred years of democracy, and to discuss six topics: democracy, development, disarmament, debt, drugs and deforestation.

IICA officials offered a reception for Menem, which was attended by such special guests as the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS), João Clemente Baena Soares; the President of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Enrique Iglesias; the administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Augusto Ramirez Ocampo; and the President of the National Agricultural Technology Institute of Argentina (INTA), Félix Cirio.

CENTRAL ELEMENTS

In a speech delivered to Costa Rican journalists and foreign correspon-



President Menem: "We firmly believe in the role of agriculture."

dents at IICA Headquarters, which the Argentine President referred to as the House of Agriculture of the Americas, he stated that agriculture and integration are the two basic pillars of the development strategy currently being executed in Argentina.

The president added that this proposal comes at a very appropriate time, since it runs parallel to the current trend in Latin America and the Caribbean, in which agriculture is beginning to receive more attention and the

countries have committed themselves to carrying out joint actions to reactivate the agricultural sector.

Menem congratulated Dr. Martin E. Piñeiro, who, last October 9, was unanimously re-elected Director General of IICA for a new four-year period by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). Menem added that, "The trust placed in Dr. Piñeiro by the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean represents a commitment for him and for my government."

During its Fifth Regular Meeting, held in October, the IABA approved the implementation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), prepared by IICA in collaboration with its member countries and international organizations. At the meeting, Argentina was represented by the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Felipe Solá, who informed President Menem of the approval of the strategy, the aim of which is to modernize the agricultural sector in order to help reactivate the economies of the region, and to obtain equitable and sustainable development.

A KEY ROLE

Upon reaffirming Argentina's support for the PLANLAC, Menem stated that "we firmly believe in the role of agriculture, not only because of its key role in exports, but also because it promotes

many agroindustries and services that are extremely important to overall economic activity."

Menem added that the mainstays of his government's "Production Revolution" are the energy and agricultural sectors, and that this revolution is implemented through policy decisions designed to overcome a difficult situation brought about primarily by external limitations and erroneous development policies of the past.

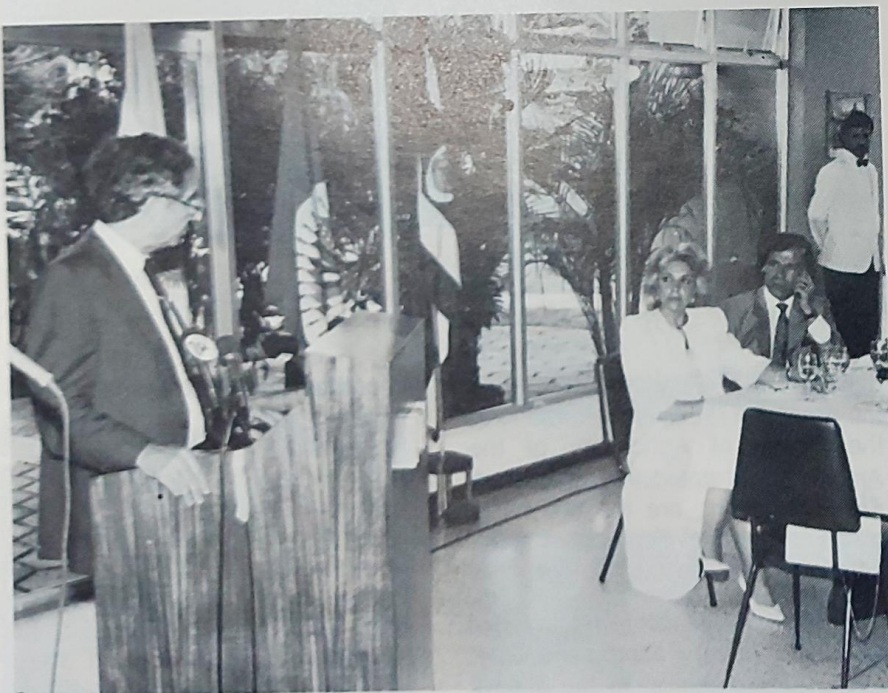
The Argentine president contrasted this internal effort to promote agricultural development with the current situation in the international market, where protectionist barriers have not been lifted and the possibilities of accessing new markets is limited.

In view of this situation, he praised regional efforts for greater integration and applauded the fact that, over the past few years, the agricultural sector

has chosen the path of joint action in trade negotiations. Menem stressed that, "Today, regional and subregional integration, which have long been a topic on the Latin American agenda, are essential."

REVITALIZATION

The Director General of IICA agreed with the President of Argentina that under the present circumstances of economic crisis and instability, agriculture is called upon to play an important role in economic development strategies and in the regional integration process. According to Piñeiro, "In order to modernize the agricultural sector, to enable agriculture to fulfill its role, the traditional subordination of agriculture to the interests of urban areas must be overcome."



The Director General of IICA stated that in order for agriculture to fulfill an important role, its subordination to the interests of urban centers must be overcome.

"Today, regional and subregional integration, which have long been a topic on the Latin American agenda, are essential." (Menem)

He further added that regional integration is a prerequisite for agricultural development. He defined this process as "a banner, an idea that has been present for a long time, but that only now has taken on particular importance."

The Director General of IICA indicated his pleasure with the fact that during the preparation of the PLANLAC, which took approximately one and a half years, the Institute had strengthened its ties with all the regional and subregional organizations linked to the agricultural sector.



IICA hosts summit meeting of Central American Presidents

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) hosted the historic summit meeting of Central American presidents from December 10 to 12, during which a new accord (known as the Declaration of San Isidro de Coronado) was signed for peace in the isthmus.

The meeting brought together Presidents Vinicio Cerezo of Guatemala, Alfredo Cristiani of El Salvador, Jose Azcona of Honduras, Daniel Ortega of Nicaragua and the President of the host country, Oscar Arias of Costa Rica.

During the inaugural ceremony, held in the main vestibule of the Institute, the Director General of IICA, Martin E.

Piñeiro, indicated that "it was a great honor to have been chosen to host the meeting here, in the House of Agriculture of the Americas."

Piñeiro expressed hope that the presidents might find "the way to move forward toward a true and lasting peace; a peace that will enable the international support available to the region to bear fruit. Using these initiatives as a basis for action, we can all work for the reconstruction and development of Central America."

THE AGREEMENTS

Three different documents came out of the summit meeting: the

Declaration of San Isidro de Coronado, the Declaration of Coffee Producing Countries of Central America and the Central American Agreement for Environmental Protection.

Political proposals are included in the Declaration of San Isidro de Coronado and constitute a response to the "historic challenge of shaping a destiny of peace for Central America..." The presidents vehemently condemned armed actions and acts of terrorism carried out by irregular forces in the region and reiterated their firm conviction that the people must understand that force and terror must be rejected as a means of achieving political goals and objectives.

They requested the Secretary General of the United Nations to establish the links necessary to more directly involve the governments with interests in the region in the peace effort, within the framework of the Esquipulas II Accords and the subsequent declarations.

Likewise, the presidents requested that the mandate of the United Nations Military Observer Group (UNMOG) be expanded to include the verification of any processes that might be agreed upon in the region, to cease hostilities and to demobilize irregular forces.

In the Declaration of Coffee Producing Countries of Central America, the presidents expressed their willingness to expedite negotiations to formulate a new international coffee agreement that would eliminate the problems experienced in the operation of the 1983 Agreement.

They supported the search for ways to regulate the supply of Central American coffee during the 1990s. They also appealed to the international economic community regarding the effect of coffee bean prices on the economies of the subregion, "urging them to make special financial resources available to these countries in order to achieve immediately the aforementioned objective."

According to the document, the coffee-producing countries of Central America will meet on December 19, in Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, to present the system that will regulate their supply for the coming year.

Meanwhile, in the Central American Agreement for Environmental Protection, the presidents established a regional cooperation system for the "optimum use of the natural resources of the area, pollution control, and the

re-establishment of the ecological balance to guarantee a better quality of life for the people of the Central American isthmus."

The presidents agreed it is necessary to promote respect for the environment, within the framework of sustainable development, in order to ensure a better quality of life for their peoples and thus avoid the detrimental effects that previous models have had on the natural resources of the region.

The Agreement contemplates the creation of a Central American Commission for the Environment and Development, made up of representatives appointed by the governments of each country.

This body would formulate strategies to promote sustainable environmental development, and prepare a plan of action to implement these strategies.

Headquarters

Caribbean Basin:

Harlan Davis analyzes agricultural diversification

The Deputy Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Harlan Davis, discussed the importance of agricultural diversification and modernization to increase exports, with a group of specialists and policymakers during a meeting of the Caribbean/Central American Action Group, held in Miami, Florida from November 27 to December 1, 1989.

On a panel together with U.S. Congressmen Walter Fanteroy and Clyde Holloway, and other experts, Davis stressed the comparative advantages of the Caribbean Basin in regard to agroindustrial production. He also referred to IICA's role as the specialized agency in agriculture, and the recently approved Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC).

During his trip to the United States, the Deputy Director General also participated in other activities. In Washington, he attended an executive meeting organized by the Department of Agriculture, during which planning policies, and projects and programs for the agricultural sector were discussed. Davis also participated as an observer in the annual meeting of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), where, with officials of the Inter-American Development Bank, he evaluated new possibilities for funding agricultural projects.

He also attended the annual meeting of U. S. agricultural colleges, where he spoke on the work carried out by the Institute, and promoted possibilities for cooperation with these institutions of higher education.



Dr. L. Harlan Davis

His trip also took him to Trinidad and Tobago where he attended the annual meeting of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). Davis announced that, within the framework of the current agreement, the Director of IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program, Eduardo Trigo, will represent IICA in its dealings with CARDI.

Piñeiro presents Plan of Joint Action to the OAS

The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, presented the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) to the Nineteenth General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), and proposed that the OAS and IICA jointly convene the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

The Assembly endorsed Piñeiro's report and expressed its satisfaction with the work carried out by IICA, while, at the same time, it agreed to support the Institute in its search for resources that will expedite the implementation of the PLANLAC.

Piñeiro indicated that the PLANLAC, a proposal designed to strengthen the agricultural sector as a strategy to reactivate the economies of the region and bring about equitable and sustainable development, represents IICA's compliance with the mandate it received from the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere during the Ninth ICMA, held in Ottawa, Canada, in 1987.

The Assembly, which Piñeiro attended together with Jorge Werthein, Director of External Relations of IICA, met in Washington from November 13 to 18 and was attended by 32 foreign ministers from the member countries of this high-level inter-American organization.

In requesting the support of the General Secretariat of the OAS for the implementation of the PLANLAC, approved during the Fifth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Director General indicated that this Plan has provided a mechanism for dialogue and political agreement that will make it possible for the member countries to develop joint actions.

MAJOR CONTRIBUTION

Piñeiro told the foreign ministers that, in the new macroeconomic context, characterized by an increase in real exchange rates and a gradual elimination of distortions, the agricultural and agroindustrial sector is in a position to make a major contribution to the economic development of most of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Assembly approved his request for the OAS and IICA to jointly convene the Tenth ICMA, to be held concurrently with the Sixth IABA in Madrid, Spain in 1991, by invitation of the Spanish government. The Director General stressed the importance of both meetings, and explained that they will provide a very valuable insti-

tutional mechanism for follow-up of the PLANLAC and the definition of new initiatives in agricultural development.

The Director General of IICA underscored the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean must take advantage of the possibilities for cooperation with industrialized countries, mainly the United States and Canada, in order to coordinate the removal of external obstacles to funding and trade that make it difficult for agriculture to assume a new role in development.

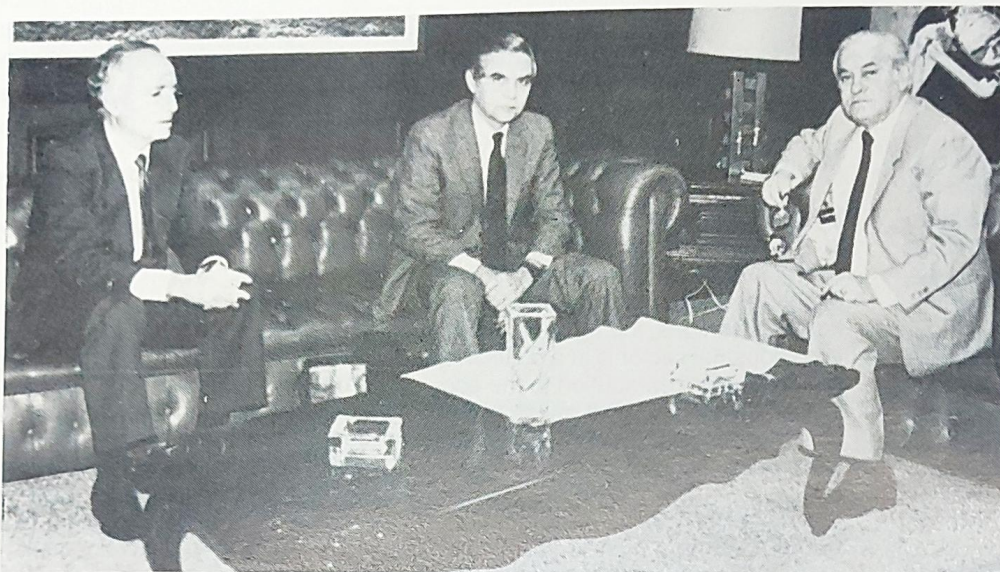
According to Piñeiro, "In this regard, the contribution of the PLANLAC is to offer a portfolio of joint projects that have already been approved by the countries, and a series of technical and financial mechanisms that will make it possible to continue to generate proposals already agreed upon to be presented for external cooperation."

After his participation in the OAS Assembly, the Director General of IICA met with officials from the U.S. government and the Department of Agriculture, with whom he discussed several options for establishing new types of cooperation related to the PLANLAC. He also met with the vice president of the World Bank, Shahid Husain, the president of the Inter-American Development Bank, Enrique Iglesias, and other top officials. Piñeiro then traveled to Michigan where he visited the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, at the invitation of officials from that entity.



During his stay in Washington, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, together with the Secretary General of the OAS, João Clemente Baena Soares, participated in the inauguration of the exhibit of the IICA/RNTC photography contest on rural women. The exhibit will also be presented in other IICA member countries.

Headquarters



The Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, and the Minister of Agriculture of Ecuador, Mario Jalil (on the right), note that the PLANLAC and the agricultural policy of that Andean country have much in common. With them is Mario Blasco, IICA Representative in Ecuador.

Piñeiro analyzes IICA efforts in Ecuador with government officials

During a two-day visit to Ecuador, the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Martin E. Piñeiro, discussed with top government and agricultural officials the work IICA is currently carrying out, and plans to carry out in the future, in this Andean nation.

On November 27 and 28, Piñeiro met with President Rodrigo Borja, the Ministers of Foreign Relations, Agriculture and Social Welfare, and the Secretary General of the National Development Counsel (CONADE).

The Director General informed President Borja of the programs and projects called for in the strategy for the Andean subregion, under the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC), prepared by IICA in collaboration with its member countries and several international organizations, in an effort to revitalize the sector and contribute to reactivating the economies of the region and achieving equitable and sustainable

development. To this end, the PLANLAC has singled out certain priority areas for joint action in topics such as institutional strengthening for agricultural and agroindustrial policies, generation and transfer of agricultural technology, agroindustrial development, conservation of the environment and natural resources, animal and plant health, rural development and direct food assistance.

President Borja informed IICA's Director General that the establishment of the Andean Rural Development Fund is expected to be approved during the next meeting of the leaders of the Andean countries, to be held from December 16 to 18 in the Galapagos Islands.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Promoted by IICA, and with the backing of the government of Ecuador and financial support from the Andean Development Corporation (CAF), the objective of the Fund is to promote agricultural development in a

subregion where small farmers generate almost sixty per cent of the production and supply of food.

In his discussions with Diego Cordovez, Ecuadoran Minister of Foreign Relations, Piñeiro focused on the outlook for agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean in light of important changes taking place internationally, such as the opening up of the new European market in 1992, the process of political reform in eastern Europe and the consolidation of Japan as an economic power, among others.

In another meeting, with the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock Mario Jalil, the Director General underscored the similarities between the PLANLAC and policies in Ecuador for the reactivation of the agricultural sector. Piñeiro commented that Ecuador had already begun this process and reiterated IICA's interest in developing new cooperation activities in the areas of technology generation and transfer and agricultural policy analysis and planning.

Europe offers support for agricultural reactivation

The Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) has attracted the interest of several European nations which have offered their initial support for the implementation of this proposal, prepared by IICA in collaboration with its member countries and other international organizations in an effort to make agriculture the hub of economic and social development in the region.

During a trip that lasted from November 17 to 29, the Director of External Relations of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Jorge Werthein, travelled to Italy, Denmark, the Netherlands and Spain, where he met with government authorities and officials from cooperation agencies to discuss European support for the plans and projects included under the PLANLAC.

Several European nations showed particular interest in supporting IICA's efforts in preparing and training the human resources who will make agricultural reactivation possible. They were also interested in working with the Institute in the areas of sustained development and the conservation of natural resources, and in the joint execution of some of the projects covered by the Plan of Joint Action.

IN SPAIN

Werthein met with senior officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI).

In a meeting with the Technical Secretary General of MAPA, Gabino Escudero, and on behalf of the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, Werthein thanked the government of Spain for its generous offer to host the next meeting of the ministers of agriculture of the Americas, to be held in Madrid in 1991. At that time, the meeting of the Tenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA) will be held concurrently with the Sixth Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the highest governing body of IICA.

The IICA official and the representative of MAPA also studied ways to increase Spain's participation in the implementation of the PLANLAC, which was approved by the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere in Costa Rica last October.

Werthein found Gabino Escudero and the MAPA to be extremely willing to support the training of human resources in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Spanish minister offered to sponsor courses and regional training activities (in IICA's Central, Andean, Southern and Caribbean areas) on different topics, to be agreed upon with IICA.

In talks with Carmelo Angulo, of the Spanish Cooperation Agency, agreement was reached on a letter of understanding to regulate and coordinate all the activities between the Agency and IICA. The letter will be signed in the near future and will contain biannual working plans jointly agreed upon. IICA's Director of External Relations explained that, "Already designated

as priority activities are the analysis and selection of projects for Central America, which are incorporated in the PEC." The PEC is the United Nations Special Economic Cooperation Plan for Central America, designed to complement the peace process in the isthmus.

High-level seminars, planned for the 1990-1991 period within the context of the activities of the PLANLAC are some of the activities contemplated in the letter of understanding. It also includes seminars and workshops in Spain for officials of member countries, as well as visits to the region by Spanish experts. The Spanish agency will also provide support for the ICMA and IABA Meetings which will be held in Madrid.



Dr. Jorge Werthein

TALKS IN ITALY

In Rome, meetings with officials from the ministry of foreign affairs and the General Directorate of Cooperation for Development, as well as with Manfredo Incisa de Camerata to launch IICA/Italy cooperation, were said to be "very positive."

Italy indicated interest in having bilateral agreements it holds with Latin America, in the area of agriculture, included in the Plan of Joint Action, and set the date for another meeting with IICA officials for February.

Opportunities were explored on how to take advantage of Italy's broad experience in agricultural systems, particularly in technology and technical assistance. The Director of External Relations, together with Eduardo Trigo, Director of IICA's Program on Technology Generation and Transfer, participated in the biennial conference of the United Nations

Italy indicated interest in having bilateral agreements it holds with Latin America, in the area of agriculture, included in the Plan of Joint Action.

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Werthein also met with the vice president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), Ronald Brown, and other senior officials of that organization to discuss the current agreement between IFAD and IICA, and new areas of cooperation which have gradually been included. The IICA official also met with Giancarlo Binazzi, Director of CORI, Centro Studi Agricoli Borgo

a Mozzano, in Luca. At this time, it was agreed to sign an agreement between the two institutions in order to promote the training of technical personnel from Latin America and the Caribbean, through high-level courses and seminars offered by CORI.

STRONG TIES WITH THE NETHERLANDS

In The Hague, Werthein met with senior officials from the ministry of foreign affairs and its directorate of cooperation for development to discuss a three-year extension, as of 1990, of the rural communications project carried out by IICA with the Radio Nederland Training Centre.

Also studied were ways in which The Netherlands could take a part in the implementation of the PLANLAC. Talks with authorities from The Netherlands will resume in Costa Rica in the near future. While in The Hague, Werthein also met with the vice chancellor of the Institute for Social Studies (ISS), H. Van Roosmales, and professors linked to topics dealing with Latin America and the Caribbean.

Progress was made in designing an agreement that would include joint high-level seminars with representatives from European countries to analyze aspects linked to the implementation of the Plan of Joint Action. The seminars would include courses in the Netherlands for technical personnel of the member countries, and the support of professors from the ISS in some countries of the region, while on sabbatical leave.

INTERESTS IN DENMARK

During his first official visit to Denmark, Werthein described IICA activities to



The agricultural reactivation of Latin America and the Caribbean are a topic of interest in Europe.

the authorities and agencies of that country, emphasizing the PLANLAC and the mandate which the Institute had received to seek external resources for implementation of the Plan. The officials showed interest in supporting regional projects, and felt that the identification of priority actions for Central America within the Plan of Action would permit them to channel their cooperation for the isthmus more efficiently.

During a trip which will take place within the next two months, Anders Serup Rasmussen, Deputy Director of the Division of the Department of International Cooperation for Development of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, will continue to negotiate the support of the Danish government for the reactivation strategy.

Redefinition of role of national development banks recommended

Seventy-eight professionals from seventeen countries attending the Seventh Latin American Meeting on Agricultural Financing recommended that efforts be made to redefine the role of development banks in development strategies for Latin America and the Caribbean, especially those aimed at modernizing the agricultural sector.

In the opinion of these specialists, national development banks have a key role to play in promoting the development of human resources, facilitating technological innovations, recapitalizing agriculture, improving the quality of natural resources, and hastening the process of revamping current property structure and land tenure practices.

The meeting, which was organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the

Latin American Association of Development Finance Institutions (ALIDE), and the Center for Latin American Monetary Studies (CEMLA), was attended by representatives of financial institutions, central banks and public agencies of the agricultural sector.

During the meeting, which focused on investment in agriculture and agroindustry, four main topics were studied: the outlook and need for investment, changes needed in national credit programs, proposals for new mechanisms for action by international development banks, and risks in agriculture and new types of insurance.

THE CHALLENGE

According to the experts, to redefine the role of the banks in development

strategies is a challenge. It will demand that their relations with the other banks in the national financial systems be redirected, and that they adopt a technical-financial style of organization and administration that will make them more effective.

This being the scenario, the participants felt that national development banks should not strive to increase the amount of credit available to agriculture, but rather to provide effective financial intermediation in order to ensure that resources are efficiently channelled to investments in agriculture.

Carlos Pomareda, Director of IICA's Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning Program and one of the coordinators of the meeting, stated that it will be more feasible to achieve these goals within a framework of inter-American cooperation. "Joint action among the countries, ALIDE, IICA, CEMLA and other international organizations shows great potential in this regard," he said.

He added that, by understanding that mechanisms must be established for a closer relationship between international technical cooperation and the mobilization of resources toward agriculture, IICA has undertaken an important task.

During one of the working sessions, the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñeiro, spoke in favor of establishing a dialogue with those in the field of finance "to discuss the needs of the agricultural sector and to identify priority areas for funding, on the basis of understanding and common interest."



Programs on the March

Seminar on macroeconomic policies

A seminar on macroeconomic and sectoral policies and agricultural development was held in Antigua, Guatemala and provided professionals from Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic with the opportunity to improve their analytical capabilities in the design, execution and adjustment of investment policies and programs for agriculture.

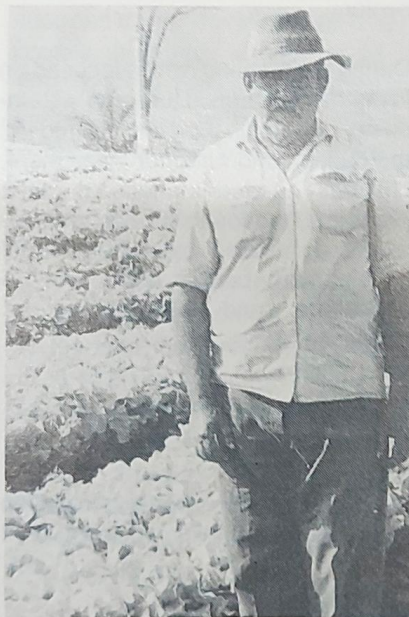
The activity was co-sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Permanent Secretariat of the General Treaty on Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank.

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) also collaborated, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) provided financial support.

Specialists from IICA's Program on Agricultural Policy Analysis and Plan-

ning indicated that improving the analytical capabilities of professionals, particularly in the public agricultural sector, will help improve the economic performance of the countries of Latin America in the coming decade.

To this end, the seminar brought together top-ranking technical experts



The experts analyzed the impact of adjustment policies on the agricultural sector.

from the ministries of agriculture, planning and finance, central banks and semi-autonomous institutions that work in or are related to the sector.

A VERY VALUABLE ACTIVITY

Economist Helio Fallas, an IICA specialist, qualified the seminar as "a very valuable activity," since it presented conceptual aspects on macroeconomic and sectoral policies and their effects on the agricultural sector.

The seminar also provided a forum for the participants to exchange experiences and update their knowledge of the situations in their countries.

The organizers of the seminar indicated that the professionals of the region will also contribute to improving the design of investment programs that respond to the needs of the countries within the present context, as well as evaluate the needs for institutional innovations vis-a-vis national economic, social and environmental objectives.



Joint Effort

The joint activities of IICA and the Central American Journalism Program of Florida International University (FIU) began with a two-week seminar for journalists from the isthmus.

Paul Gallagher, Arthur Heise and Gerardo Bolaños, representing FIU, Jorge Werthein, representing IICA, and Jose Perez Sanchez, head of the IICA/RNTC project, participated in the closing session of the seminar.

IICA participates in course on food-related strategy

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) participated in the Fourth International Course on Food-Related Strategy and Planning, sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPA) of Spain and the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, held from September 15 to November 18 in Madrid.

Anuro Padilla, a specialist with IICA's Marketing and Agroindustry Program, gave talks to the twenty-five technicians and officials from food-related institutions in Latin America participating in the course.

The general objective of the course was to discuss strategies and planning which, in a systematic and comprehensive fashion, address the



Technicians and officials from Latin America participate in the Fourth International Course on Food-Related Strategy and Planning, held in Madrid. Prospects for structural adjustment programs were studied.

process followed from the production to the consumption of food, bearing in mind aspects such as food security and nutrition. The organizers explained that the aim was to contribute to education and training for

development in Latin America.

Padilla spoke on two of the major topics of the seminar: the food industry in Latin America, and food-related trade in the region.

Outlook for structural adjustment programs examined

During a seminar organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD) of France, 15 professionals from Latin American countries met to study the outlook for structural adjustment programs in the countries of the Third World.

Experts from IICA's Program on Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning joined specialists from CIRAD and other French entities, such as the National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA), the Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture (IAM), the French Institute of Scientific Research for Development in Cooperation (ORSTOM) and

the Institute for Research and the Application of Development Methods (IRAM).

Carlos Pomareda, of IICA, stated that during the meeting experiences were studied from Mexico, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Brazil, as well as from Tunisia, Guinea, Egypt, Algeria and Morocco. He added that "Basically, we discussed the desired and necessary focus an adjustment program should have in order to contribute to economic growth and development."

Michael Griffon, of CIRAD, indicated that the participants also studied the role of the State and what is needed at the institutional level to respond to changes required in the production

structure, competitiveness among countries and regional agreements reached during the adjustment process. He went on to say that, "In summary, we were able to identify the requirements for information that countries, international organizations and research centers must share in order to learn about this process and its implications."

The seminar was the first outcome of a cooperation agreement signed last July by the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, and his CIRAD counterpart, Hervé Bichat. The aim of the agreement is to improve agriculture and development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Both organizations drew up a joint agenda which included topics on research, training, exchange of experiences and the dissemination of information.

Argentina: Secretary of Agriculture highlights efficiency of small-scale farmers

During recent regional meetings in the northeastern sector of Argentina, the Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, Felipe Solá, emphasized the efficiency of small-scale farmers and spoke in favor of increasing training activities for this sector.

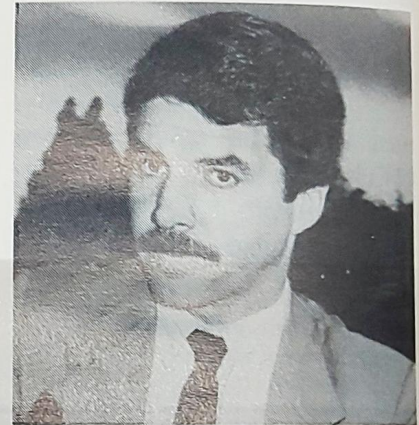
The meetings, the main theme of which was small-scale farmers in the production revolution, were convened by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries and the ministers of agriculture from several provinces of Argentina.

The purpose of the meetings, which were held in La Rioja, was to study and

reach an agreement on basic elements of a policy which would facilitate the participation of small-scale farmers in regional agricultural reactivation.

Secretary Solá recommended that the efficiency of small-scale farmers be measured with parameters other than those applied to producers already in the market who have technological resources and marketing mechanisms available to them. He placed special importance on initiatives geared to strengthening small-scale farmer organizations, and on the need to direct their production toward "products that can be sold" on domestic and foreign markets. He spoke out against paternalism and in favor of incentives that serve as catalysts for

changes aimed at improving living conditions in rural areas. In his speech, the Secretary commended IICA for having promoted the meetings and for its support to initiatives in the agricultural sector and in rural development.



Dr. Felipe Solá

Uruguay: Prospects for agroindustrialization of new commodities analyzed

One of the recommendations issued during a seminar held recently in Montevideo, under the auspices of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), called for the creation of an institutional mechanism that would bring the public and private sectors together in the search for alternatives for the agroindustrialization of non-traditional export commodities.

The seminar-workshop, entitled 'Prospects for the agroindustrial proc-

essing of new non-traditional export commodities from Uruguay," is one of the activities carried out as part of the project "Institutional Support to the Granja Sector," directed by J. Luis Marambino.

AGROINDUSTRIALIZATION

The agroindustrialization of non-traditional export commodities in Uruguay, as one of the conclusions points out, shows signs of growth.

However, because of a limited domestic market, this growth depends on external markets.

It was stated that while these external markets are highly sophisticated and difficult to penetrate, they offer a bright future for those from the granja, especially if specific investment policies are defined and applied.

Recognition was given to the work carried out by the Ministry and IICA in providing valuable and innovative ideas on the marketing of new commodities for which Uruguay has advantages over other countries.

The initiatives undertaken by IICA and the government were defined as a very important first step.

Action in the Countries

IICA office in Brazil supports Suriname in battle to control fruit flies

The Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Brazil provides support for the efforts to control fruit flies in Suriname, in order to keep this pest from spreading to other South American nations.

Under the auspices of IICA's Office in Brazil, the technical expert from the Secretariat of Plant Protection of the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture, Cosam Coutinho de Carvalho, is evaluating the presence of the oriental fruit fly (*dacus dorsalis*) in Suriname. The Brazilian government has provided rural vehicles for this effort. The *dacus* is one of the most harmful insects, in terms of economic damage, in the world. However, this has not been the case in the Americas due

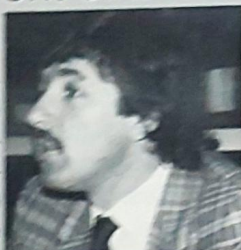
to eradication measures adopted whenever there is an outbreak.

In 1986, fruit flies were detected in Suriname and reported to the International Work Group on the Mediterranean Fruit Fly. At that time, and considering the fact that this is an exotic pest that affects not only Brazil, but all of Latin America, the ministry of agriculture of Brazil began a series of studies that included visits to Suriname by experts. Also, measures were adopted to decrease the risks of entry of the pest into the country.

According to Carvalho, the situation is extremely delicate since the flow of people entering Brazil from Suriname is high, and they usually bring fruit with them to eat.

Felix Cirio, President of INTA

Felix Cirio left the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) to take on the presidency of



the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA), in Argentina.

For almost three years, Cirio served as advisor to the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Pifeiro, and was responsible for coordinating the preparation of the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

He played an essential role in seeking consensus and support for this initiative, which was finally approved in October.

Caribbean:

Training provided in the use of data banks

Through a project signed with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) provides assistance to plant protection services in its member countries from the

Caribbean in the use of data banks on diseases and pests.

This data bank was created by Charles Schotman, an expert from the United Nations Food and Agriculture

Organization (FAO), and will be available to users through the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network (CARAPHIN), headquartered in Trinidad and Tobago.

Recently, CARAPHIN organized a two-week seminar on the campus of the University of the West Indies and offered a demonstration of the service to 36 participants from 13 Caribbean countries. Maps, risk analyses and reference information were of great interest to the technical experts. In the coming months, the plant protection services of 14 countries will receive a preliminary version of the system, which will be used on microcomputers provided by the IICA/CIDA project.

The Minister of Food Production and Marine Exploitation of Trinidad and Tobago, Brinsley Samaroo, called the initiative an excellent example of effective collaboration among international agencies such as IICA, CIDA and FAO.



The High Commissioner of Canada, Rodney Irwin, the representative of FAO, Lance Hayles, and Minister Brinsley Samaroo look on during the demonstration offered by Thersa Barnardo of IICA.

Upcoming Activities

Course on Models for the Formulation and Evaluation of Agricultural Policies. January 8 to 19, 1990.

IICA Headquarters will be the site of this activity, organized by IICA's Program on Agricultural Policy Analysis and Planning and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). Professionals from Headquarters and from the national and multinational projects involved in the Program in the region will participate. The purpose of the course is to strengthen the capabilities of specialists in analyzing and evaluating agricultural policies in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Technical Consultation Meeting on Policies for Rural Development
January 29 to 31, 1990**

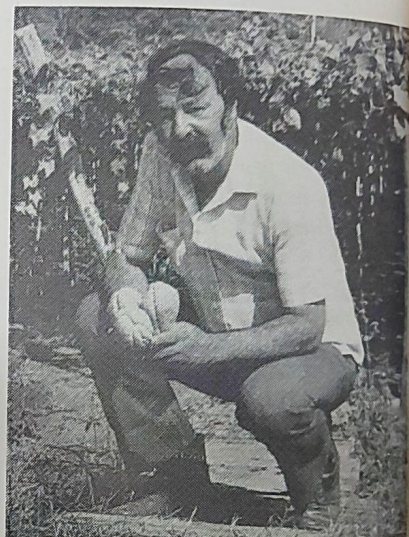
IICA, with support from the Canadian International Development Agency

(CIDA), will hold this meeting to discuss proposals on rural development, such as strategies and differentiated policies to enhance the contribution of small-scale agriculture in the economic and social development of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean; and the basic institutional elements needed to decentralize the processes for planning and executing these policies, with the organized participation of the beneficiaries.

**Spain-IICA Course on Seed Technology
February 5 to 16, 1990**

This course, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, will be offered to 25 participants from Latin America and the Caribbean at the facilities of the National Fund for

Agricultural Research (FONIAPI) in Macay, Venezuela. The course will be offered through the National Institute of Seeds and Nursery Plants and IICA's Technology Generation and Transfer Program. This activity is aimed at training technical personnel in the field of seed technology.



IICA in the News

LA NACION
ips **AFP**

International news agencies and Argentine journalists highlighted a call for agricultural reactivation and Latin American integration made by the President of Argentina, Carlos Saúl Menem, during his visit to the headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The news agencies France Presse (AFP) and Inter Press Service (IPS), in dispatches sent from San Jose, told the world about the plea

made by the South American president to promote the development of agriculture to "reactivate our economies." **Clarín** and **La Nación**, newspapers from Buenos Aires, stressed the important comments made by Menem during his speech at IICA, particularly those that referred to his governments's policies aimed at making agriculture a key factor in the economy.

hoy

Other events that figured in the regional press were the speech of the Director General of IICA, Martin E. Piñero, given at the Nineteenth General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), and his visit to Ecuador. The Brazilian newspaper, **Correio Braziliense**, stated that in presenting the Plan of Joint Action for Agricultural Reactivation in Latin America and the Caribbean (PLANLAC) to the ministers of the hemisphere, Piñero requested political and financial support for this proposal.

In addition, the daily Ecuadorian newspaper **Hoy** highlighted the meeting of the Director General with the Minister of Agriculture, Mario Jalil.

