

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SERIES No. 108

# REPORT OF THE FORTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

San Jose, Costa Rica

19-20 July 2022



# What is IICA?

More than 80 years ago, a group of visionaries recognized the need to create an agency specializing in agriculture for the American continent, with a purpose that still remains valid today: to promote agricultural development and rural well-being in this region.

As a result, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was born. Throughout this time, the Institute has succeeded in identifying challenges and opportunities and, most importantly, evolving into an international technical cooperation organization that permanently responds to the new demands of the agriculture sector.

Our **mission** is *to encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence.*

Our **vision** is *to be a modern and efficient institution supported by a platform of human resources and processes that are capable of mobilizing the knowledge available in the region and around the world, with the aim of achieving a competitive, inclusive and sustainable agriculture that takes advantage of opportunities to contribute to economic growth and development as well as to foster greater rural well-being and sustainable management of its natural capital.*

We provide cooperation by working closely and continuously with our 34 Member States, addressing their needs in a timely manner. Our most valuable asset is undoubtedly the close relationship we maintain with the beneficiaries of our work.

We have a wealth of experience in areas such as innovation and the bioeconomy; territorial development and family farming; international trade and regional integration; agricultural climate action and sustainability; agricultural health, safety and agrifood quality; digitalization of agrifood systems; and gender equality and youth.

We are also committed to achieving results. Our 2022-2026 Medium-term Plan enables us to develop our technical cooperation model with the aim of consolidating IICA as an organization geared towards accomplishing concrete and visible results through our area of expertise, which is to facilitate positive changes in the agriculture and rural sectors of our Member States.



# **REPORT OF THE FORTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**San Jose, Costa Rica**

**19-20 July 2022**

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), 2023



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# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**



**MINUTES OF THE FORTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR  
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Resolution No. 684 of that governing body of the Institute.

The meeting was held in person and virtually.

The 2022 Executive Committee comprised the following Member States: Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Suriname.

**PREPARATORY SESSION**

0.1 *Opening of the session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 08:36 hours on 19 July 2022. In attendance were the Member States sitting on the 2022 Executive Committee: Canada, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Suriname, which participated in person, and Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador and Grenada, which participated virtually.

0.1.2 Also in attendance at the meeting were other Member States of the Institute that were not a part of the Executive Committee in 2022, namely Argentina, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama,

Paraguay, Peru and the United States of America, which participated virtually, as well as Costa Rica, which participated in person.

0.1.3 Therefore, the representatives of all twelve of the IICA Member States sitting on the 2022 Executive Committee were in attendance, with full voting and speaking rights, while 12 other member countries of the Institute participated as observers.

0.1.4 Presiding over the meeting was Santiago Bertoni Hicar, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay, the country serving as Chair of the Executive Committee.

## 0.2 Agreements

### 0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting

0.2.1.1 The representatives of the Member States of the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mrs. Laura Suazo, Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras, as Chair of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, following a proposal by the Representative of Suriname, which was seconded by Mexico.

0.2.1.2 The delegation of Mexico proposed Mr. Parmanand Sewdien, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Suriname, as Rapporteur, which was unanimously approved.

0.2.1.3 The Officers of the Meeting were elected as follows:

Chair:	Laura Suazo
Rapporteur:	Parmanand Sewdien
<i>Ex officio</i> Secretary:	Manuel Otero

### 0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

0.2.2.1 The Chair submitted for consideration by the representatives the provisional work agenda of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, included in document No. 734 (22), available on the online information system. The provisional work agenda was unanimously approved without changes.

0.2.2.2 The Chair then informed the participants that the working and information documents of the meeting had been made available in electronic format, and in Spanish and English, via the online information system of the Executive Committee.

0.2.3 Working committees

0.2.3.1 It was agreed that no working committees would be established, and that all matters would be dealt with in the plenary sessions. However, the Chair noted that committees could also be set up during the meeting, if the representatives deemed it necessary, as provided for in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee.

0.2.4 Duration of the meeting

0.2.4.1 It was decided that the meeting would conclude on Wednesday, 20 July 2022 at 12:30 hours.

0.2.5 Countries' right to vote

0.2.5.1 The Chair sought the opinion of the Legal Advisor with respect to the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the Executive Committee.

0.2.5.2 The Legal Advisor explained the provisions of Chapter IX of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and of Article 24 of the Convention on IICA, regarding the right to vote. He informed the meeting that a few countries were in arrears with respect to their quota payments and that three countries (Ecuador, El Salvador and Suriname) owed more than three years of quota payments. He mentioned that the right to vote had not been suspended for any Member State, either before or after the COVID-19 pandemic. He added that the Executive Committee served as a forum to provide clarification regarding the status of efforts to bring quota payments up to date.

0.2.5.3 The Chair of the Executive Committee gave the floor to the representatives of the aforementioned three Member States to refer to the issue at hand.

- 0.2.5.4 The Representative of Suriname announced that his country was already taking steps to pay its outstanding quotas to the Institute. The Representative of Ecuador reported that, despite the difficult political and economic situation that his country was facing, it had been making arrangements with the Ministry of Finance to pay its quotas to IICA before the end of the year. The Representative of El Salvador stated that he would inform the corresponding government authorities of the status of his country's quota payments to the Institute.
- 0.2.5.5 Based on the remarks made by the representatives of Suriname, Ecuador and El Salvador, the General Directorate of IICA advised the Executive Committee to grant those countries the right to vote and request that they move forward with their efforts to bring their quota payments up to date. The member countries of the Executive Committee endorsed the recommendation, allowing the countries in arrears to participate with full voting rights in the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 0.2.6 Credentials
- 0.2.6.1 The Technical Secretary reported that all delegations of Member States present that were part of the Executive Committee had been accredited with the corresponding credentials issued by the responsible authorities in each country.
- 0.2.6.2 He also indicated that 12 IICA member countries would participate in the meeting as observers: Argentina, The Bahamas, Bolivia, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and the United States of America would do so virtually, while Costa Rica would do so in person.
- 0.2.6.3 He added that Spain—an associate country of IICA—and three observer countries—Germany, Israel and Türkiye—were also attending the meeting, as were two international partner organizations of the Institute: the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

0.3 *Close of the session*

- 0.3.1 The Preparatory Session of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 09:07 hours on 19 July 2022.





## **FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

### 1.1 *Opening of the session*

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 09:15 hours on 19 July 2022, and was chaired by the Representative of Honduras.

### 1.2 *Remarks by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica*

1.2.1 On behalf of the Government of Costa Rica, the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica greeted the representatives of the delegations of the Member States, observer countries, international organizations, special guests, Institute staff and other participants of the meeting of the Executive Committee.

1.2.2 She highlighted the importance of the meeting to jointly address strategic issues for agriculture in the Americas and for IICA. She mentioned that Costa Rica was honored to be home to the headquarters of the Institute, whose mission is to support agricultural and rural development in the Americas.

1.2.3 She added that IICA had collaborated with Costa Rica to build capacities, share knowledge, develop modern public policies, effectively manage technical cooperation projects and coordinate an agenda aimed at meeting the Sustainable Development Goals and overcoming challenges in making national and regional agrifood systems resilient, sustainable and competitive.

1.2.4 She mentioned that, in the previous two years, the countries had faced considerable economic, health and social challenges, which had been exacerbated by the war between Russia and Ukraine. She noted that the Institute had provided crucial support in guiding the development of agrifood systems and rural well-being.

1.2.5 She pointed out that it was important not to lose sight of the fact that rural areas, where the agriculture sector provided a livelihood for millions of families dedicated to producing food for our countries, were a pillar of food security and sustainable development. In this regard, she noted that, despite the

2019 coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and other crises that had emerged over the previous two years, producers had kept markets supplied, demonstrating the strategic role of rural areas in economic recovery and the improvement of agricultural production chains in the Americas. She considered that IICA promoted an ideal approach to agricultural development, based on intensive knowledge use and science, with a human face and in harmony with the environment.

- 1.2.6 Lastly, she encouraged the Institute to continue paving the way towards strengthening agro-productive activities for the benefit of all peoples in the Americas.

### 1.3 Remarks by the Director General

- 1.3.1 The Director General began his remarks by underscoring the importance of that meeting of the Executive Committee, which marked the return to “a new normal” following two grueling years wrestling with the pandemic. He highlighted the fact that this period had enabled IICA to reinvent itself to provide more timely responses and continue working with the countries to reposition the agriculture sector. He added that, at the last regular meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Member States had expressed broad support for this objective. He also reiterated his gratitude for the vote of confidence he had received to continue to serve as Director General of the Institute in the coming years.
- 1.3.2 He referred to the current situation as uncertain, complex and challenging, explaining that the confluence of multiple health, social and economic factors, aggravated by the war in Eastern Europe, had created a very troublesome scenario for national and regional agrifood systems, due to poverty and food insecurity, among other aspects.
- 1.3.3 He described the Americas as a young, green, rural, biologically rich hemisphere and the world’s largest net food exporter, but, above all, a region characterized by peace.
- 1.3.4 He underscored the fact that the war in Eastern Europe had triggered a drastic increase in food and energy prices, as well as serious issues in the supply of agricultural inputs, particularly in food-importing countries of Central America and the Caribbean. He contrasted the vulnerability of food-importing

countries with the short-term improvements achieved in the surplus countries of the Southern Region of the Americas. However, he indicated that all countries had been affected by the prices of inputs required for production, which had hit small-scale farmers the hardest and accelerated inflationary pressure on consumers.

- 1.3.5 The Director General commented that the overlapping crises had placed food insecurity at the top of the global agenda, while positioning the Americas as the guarantor of the world's food, nutritional and environmental security. He considered that IICA must correctly interpret these scenarios and take effective action, which would require the adoption of measures to facilitate the delivery of technical cooperation of excellence to the countries.
- 1.3.6 He explained that, in light of this context, the Institute's Medium-term Plan (MTP) would be adjusted, with a view to guiding actions over the next four years and meeting the demands and needs of current times. In this regard, he explained that agrifood systems must produce in environments increasingly affected by climate change, that the knowledge frontier was changing in a disruptive manner and that the countries had an unavoidable responsibility to act as a region. Given the foregoing, he explained that IICA's contribution must be precise and effective. To this end, it would need to undertake multiple technical cooperation actions, aimed at providing solutions that facilitate the achievement of an ideal agriculture sector, as well as fostering public policies that empower farmers and promote science-based agriculture as part of the solution.
- 1.3.7 He highlighted the goal of maintaining and consolidating the position of the Americas as the most important region for food production, given the potential and capacity of its rural areas to supply the world with food. He noted that agriculture's time had come and that the opportunity must not go to waste.
- 1.3.8 He underscored his administration's commitment to keeping Member States informed about the execution of the 2022-2023 Program Budget, which had been approved during the 2021 IABA meeting and guided the Institute's efforts to do more with less and in a different way.
- 1.3.9 The Director General mentioned that this meeting would provide a key opportunity to present the progress and actions to be undertaken in preparation for the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), to be held

in November in Egypt. He also referred to the important hemispheric meeting that had been held on May 31, in which the countries of the Americas had analyzed threats to food security and proposed solutions to make agriculture more productive and sustainable. He stressed the importance of joint work between the public and private sectors, civil society and the academic sector to bring agriculture to the forefront of discussions at COP27.

- 1.3.10 He announced that the First Africa-Americas Ministerial Summit on Agrifood Systems would be held in late July 2022, which would mark another milestone on the road to achieving global agrifood stability.
- 1.3.11 He commented on the important work that IICA was undertaking as a bridge between the countries of the Americas. He added that the Institute would soon be working with the World Bank to support countries with emergency policies that could help mitigate the impact of rising food and input prices on production.
- 1.3.12 He reiterated the importance of continuing to engage in dialogue and build consensus to overcome current crises, as well as to continue joining efforts and working to develop science, technology and innovation to successfully transform agrifood systems.
- 1.3.13 The Director General concluded his remarks by noting that the commemoration of the Institute's 80th anniversary a few months later would provide an opportunity to pay tribute to the individuals who had the vision and drive to build IICA, whose mission it was important to preserve.

#### 1.4 *Proposed adjustments to the 2022-2026 Medium-term Plan (MTP)*

- 1.4.1 The Director General mentioned that, via IABA Resolution No. 533, which had been unanimously approved by the Member States, the Institute had been instructed to make the necessary adjustments to the 2018-2022 MTP to guide IICA's strategic actions during the period 2022-2026.
- 1.4.2 He highlighted some of the achievements thus far, including the Institute's consolidation as a knowledge management platform, comprising a team of 547 professionals of excellence with close ties to civil society, as well as to the academic, public and private sectors. Through that platform, IICA had been able to consolidate a portfolio of 850 technical cooperation projects, as well as

provide more than 100,000 individuals with training in a wide range of agricultural topics. He added that one of the Institute's strengths was its power to convene and its ability to generate mechanisms to engage in dialogue with various agricultural and rural stakeholders.

- 1.4.3 He recalled the unprecedented consensus that countries of the Americas had reached with respect to 16 messages that had been presented at the United Nations Food Systems Summit, which was held in New York in 2021.
- 1.4.4 He commented that IICA continued to pursue its mission to achieve greater integration and coordination, both within and outside of the Institute. He reported that significant administrative management processes were underway, which had allowed for allocating more resources to the delivery of technical cooperation services and products. He noted that another achievement had been the strengthening of human talent, based on a permanent interest in bolstering professional skills.
- 1.4.5 He mentioned that the Institute continued to make headway in the implementation of the new business model, as a means of integrating management areas. He added that IICA was undertaking significant efforts to innovate in the field of communication, which had allowed for improving the Institute's media presence and increasing the dissemination of information on technical cooperation activities.
- 1.4.6 He referred to the IICA of Open Doors initiative, which sought to project the Institute as a modern, current and forward-looking organization through a variety of actions, including the following: participation in the Blue Flag Ecological Program, which had recognized the Institute for the sixth consecutive year; the Interpretive Center for Tomorrow's Agriculture (CIMAG); the Typical Rural House; the world's first Fab-Lab specializing in digital technology for agriculture; the Agro-Art virtual museum; the Forest of the Americas; and the Plaza of Agriculture of the Americas.
- 1.4.7 He listed five factors that justified adjustments to the 2018-2022 MTP: (a) the aforementioned tensions that placed the issue of food insecurity at the top of the global agenda; (b) changes in the vision for agriculture and its role in society, in which the bioeconomy would be a key element; (c) the prioritization of climate action as it relates to agrifood system productivity; d) a new knowledge frontier that afforded many opportunities that could only be seized

through institutional restructuring and more and better investments; and d) the need for a new institutional framework, including a new generation of public policies to transform agrifood systems on the hemisphere and around the world. He underscored the fact that the increase in commodity prices and the troublesome restrictions to agrifood trade were triggering changes in the dynamics of food and nutritional security.

- 1.4.8 The Director General stated that, in order to effectively implement the MTP, IICA must be an institution of open doors that serves as a bridge and advocates for collective action by agriculture in the Americas, looking outward from the region to the world and initiating dialogue with other regions.
- 1.4.9 Next, he referred to two technical cooperation integration instruments that would play a key role in the implementation of the MTP: the Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA), which would monitor the public policies implemented by countries to strengthen those systems, and the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA).
- 1.4.10 He noted that the Institute's actions at the national, subregional and hemispheric levels would focus on seven areas: a) climate action and agricultural sustainability, highly relevant topics to be addressed at COP27; b) territorial development and family farming, with a view to empowering farmers, who must be the key focus of policies aimed at transforming agrifood systems; c) gender equality and youth, with the aim of strengthening the role of women and youth in science, technology and innovation; d) the digitalization of agrifood systems, an area in which IICA aspired to be a benchmark institution, as evidenced by the Digital Agriculture Week that had been held in mid-May, during which policy frameworks had been discussed and the Agritech network had been established; e) agricultural health and food safety, with a view to developing policies to control and eradicate pests and diseases, such as African swine fever in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, which would require greater surveillance and prospective intelligence; f) international trade and regional integration, key issues in a new context in which intra-regional trade would need to be improved, considering, for example, that only 14% of the region's trade was carried out within the region, compared to 60% in the European Union; and g) innovation and the bioeconomy, which were priority issues on countries' agendas.

- 1.4.11 He referred to the Living Soils of the Americas Initiative, which had led to the establishment of valuable strategic partnerships with academic centers of excellence, such as The Ohio State University, through renowned scientists, including Professor Rattan Lal, 2019 World Food Prize winner.
- 1.4.12 He mentioned that the Institute's external relations strategy was geared towards the establishment of highly impactful partnerships to enhance IICA's work. He also underscored the importance of South-South cooperation, an area in which the Institute had served as a bridge between countries as well as public, private and civil society stakeholders.
- 1.4.13 He emphasized the importance that should be attached to institutional communication in IICA's technical cooperation agenda, noting that, to this end, the Institute had established the Advisory Committee on Communication for Agriculture and Food Security, comprised of eminent and renowned communicators.
- 1.4.14 With respect to corporate services, he reported that the Institute had made progress in process decentralization, with a focus on driving integration, fostering a process culture and maximizing transparency. These efforts had led to the Institute's recent accreditation by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the accreditation to several administrative pillars by the European Union, including: Pillar 7-Exclusion from access to funding, Pillar 8-Publication of information on recipients, and Pillar 9-Protection of personal data. He explained that, as a result of this accreditation, the European Commission could continue to entrust IICA with budgetary execution tasks under indirect management. He also highlighted the Institute's efforts in relation to its human talent, planning processes, monitoring, evaluation and financial sustainability.
- 1.4.15 The Director General concluded his remarks by reiterating the fact that food, nutritional and environmental security were at the top of the global agenda and that the Americas would play a key role in overcoming challenges in these areas. He added that this would require the establishment of a hemispheric partnership geared towards generating new public policies; achieving greater synergies between the environment and production; strengthening intra-regional trade with clearer and fairer rules; repositioning science, technology and innovation as fundamental issues for transformation; as well as strengthening associative undertakings in rural areas.

### 1.5 Analysis and comments

- 1.5.1 The Representative of Canada complimented the Director General on his presentation of IICA's achievements over the past four years and highlighted the opportunities for cooperation between Canada, IICA and the rest of the countries of the Americas. He remarked that those were times of great changes triggered by the pandemic and the war between Russia and Ukraine, which were affecting food security and agrifood systems in the region and the world. He expressed his appreciation for the Institute's capacity to carry out cooperation actions in the fields of trade and agricultural health and appreciated the fact that innovation and the bioeconomy was one of the MTP's seven programs. He recommended that IICA promote biotechnology as a tool for agriculture in the Americas, and remarked that cooperation was a key tool for food security and agricultural sustainability.
- 1.5.2 The Representative of Chile called attention to the current food crisis and agreed that agriculture's time had come. He considered that the current context provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on and rethink the development model of countries and the hemisphere as a whole. He stated that Chile had developed a successful export model, but that the current situation afforded an opportunity to reflect on and reconsider the model from the perspective of food security and sovereignty. He explained that he was not using the term sovereignty to mean autarky, but rather to refer to a country's social, economic, environmental, health and territorial heritage. Lastly, he requested the Institute's support to rethink and reflect on the development model and share experiences from different countries.
- 1.5.3 The Representative of the United States of America highlighted the achievements of the past four years, such as the 16 messages presented at the United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021; the support provided by IICA to address crises related to diseases such as African swine fever; and the cooperation provided in matters related to climate and agriculture. He urged those in attendance to join forces to advance towards agricultural sustainability based on science. He mentioned other achievements, such as capacity building and the implementation of the business model. Lastly, he indicated his approval of the proposed adjustments to the MTP and stressed the importance of issues such as trade, agricultural health, and technology and innovation.



- 1.5.4 The Representative of Brazil expressed his country's support for the changes proposed in the 2022-2026 MTP. He stated that the Institute's leadership had proven very efficient in responding to crises and the needs of its Member States. He applauded the proposed adjustments, such as the inclusion of new programs and changes to existing ones, such as the bioeconomy program. He also pointed out that it was crucial to continue to support agrifood systems in achieving sustainability and addressing climate change. He urged the Institute to continue bolstering joint actions among countries.
- 1.5.5 The Representative of Mexico remarked that the strategic guidelines of the adjusted MTP were consistent with IICA's mandates and that the region's priority issues were being adequately addressed. She added that the new MTP gave continuity to the previous one (2018-2022), by preserving its five hemispheric programs and adjusting the names and approaches of the cross-cutting issues. She also indicated that the new MTP kept the focus on the technical quality of the Institute's cooperation, prioritizing knowledge management, capacity building and the acceleration of technological innovation processes, which would have a positive impact on the agricultural and rural sector. She noted that the MTP took into account the various emerging scenarios and commitments adopted in various international forums, such as the United Nations Food Systems Summit. She considered it pertinent to have included the cross-cutting issue of gender equality and rural youth, given the challenges faced by these groups and the well-known issue of migration. She indicated that she looked forward to receiving further details on all the programs of the updated MTP.
- 1.5.6 The Representative of Colombia congratulated the Director General on taking into account key variables such as climate change, competitiveness, knowledge management and the economic and social development of rural areas. He added that the strategies proposed in the MTP in the fields of science, technology and innovation, and rural extension were similar to those applied in Colombia, which were also geared towards bridging gaps in the agriculture sector. He noted that his country hoped to become actively involved with IICA on these issues and to learn from the good practices implemented by other countries, which could be made available to all stakeholders involved in agrifood systems.
- 1.5.7 The Representative of Guatemala referred to the challenges that the world had faced in the previous two years, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the

container crisis and the war in Ukraine, among others. He pointed out that, in this new global scenario, addressing the region's food and nutritional security was of strategic importance to provide farmers with solutions. He highlighted other aspects of benefit to the agriculture sector that the Director General had mentioned, such as the generation of new technologies and the strengthening of South-South cooperation and intra-regional trade. He indicated that agriculture must have a strong voice at the global level and not only at the 27th United Nations Climate Change Conference, given the need for agriculture to supply the population with food.

- 1.5.8 In her capacity as Representative of Honduras, the Chair commented that the seven programs included in the MTP were adequate within the current context; however, she believed that countries could better capitalize on them if the issue of poverty were also considered, with a view to addressing food insecurity. She added that, because many producers practiced agriculture in a situation of poverty, they were unable to acquire basic inputs as part of a production model that was highly dependent on external inputs. Furthermore, she noted that the issue of rural and urban poverty, which existed well before the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, must not be ignored. She urged all sector stakeholders to reflect on what they were doing wrong, in order to implement changes that could yield results in the short term. As an example, she cited agricultural conditions in her country, which were regressing rather than improving. She also mentioned the issue of internal and external migration, noting that poverty led people to move elsewhere in search of employment that could improve their quality of life. For this reason, she recommended that an observatory, committee or analysis group be set up to comprehensively address the aforementioned issues. She underscored the importance of achieving a more agroecological and organic agricultural model that was less dependent on industrialized chemical inputs. She also suggested that the Institute collaborate in solving other challenging issues for the agriculture sector, such as the profit margin of producers involved in agribusiness and the high cost of merchandise logistics and product transportation, among other issues.
- 1.5.9 Following their remarks, the Director General thanked the delegates for their comments and feedback to improve the proposed 2022-2026 MTP. He agreed that the challenge lied in working together and targeting efforts to achieve the greatest impact. He agreed with the Representative of Chile on the importance of rethinking the region's development model and repositioning agriculture as a strategic asset for development, based on the good practices of developed

countries such as the United States and Canada, as well as the European Union. He considered it important to fully capitalize on science and innovation to transform agrifood systems into a key strategic instrument for national and regional economies. He added that this would allow for breaking vicious circles such as those mentioned by the Representative of Honduras, which trigger a grave social and economic situation.

- 1.5.10 He mentioned that, from a conceptual standpoint, the proposal to establish a hemispheric partnership to help address food insecurity, which had been presented at the Summit of the Americas, sought to foster operational management with a positive impact on the countryside. To this end, it would make efficient use of the public policy observatory (OPSAA) to capitalize on national, subregional and regional experiences. He echoed the comments made by the Representative of Guatemala about regional issues and recalled that IICA served as the Secretariat of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), provided technical and administrative support to the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), served as the Executive Secretariat of the Andean Agricultural Forum together with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and provided the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with technical advisory services, engaging in continuous dialogue in all cases.
- 1.5.11 In closing, he highlighted the point made by the Representative of Guatemala regarding the need to let the voice of agriculture be heard and to bolster its leadership well beyond COP27, so that it could position itself as an agent for the strategic development of countries and the region in general.

1.6 *Special Session I: Summit of the Americas and Food Security*

- 1.6.1 The Deputy Director General of the Institute introduced Mr. Neil Herrington, Vice President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and president of the U.S.-Cuba, U.S.-Colombia and U.S.-Argentina Business Councils. He highlighted Mr. Herrington's extensive experience in foreign trade matters in both the public and private sectors in the United States and in relation to the Americas, Asia and Africa.
- 1.6.2 Mr. Herrington thanked IICA for its invitation. He pointed out that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce was the largest in the world and that it was comprised

of multiple trade associations at the global level, with Latin America and the Caribbean representing 80% of investments. He also indicated that the Chamber had business councils with Argentina, Brazil, Cuba and Mexico.

- 1.6.3 He explained that the Chamber had organized the IV CEO Summit of the Americas to foster dialogue among business leaders from various sectors and government officials on inclusive and sustainable development in the post-pandemic period. He underscored the importance of promoting public-private dialogue on joint solutions to challenges and the importance of ensuring that the priorities of the private sector were consistent with those of the public sector.
- 1.6.4 He reported that the business summit had provided an opportunity to address priority issues, such as the rule of law and transparency, the green energy transition, resilience to climate change, regional health infrastructure and digital transformation. He clarified the fact that the end goal had been to encourage efforts to bridge connectivity gaps in the region and to empower small and medium-sized businesses to foster the inclusion of all types of leaders and, in turn, advance towards a promising trade agenda for the hemisphere in terms of strengthening value chains in the region. He also highlighted the role of the Institute's Director General and Deputy Director General in the side discussions on cybersecurity, digital transformation and food security that had also taken place.
- 1.6.5 He added that more than 1,200 people had attended the Summit of the Americas in person, including 14 heads of state from the region, government and private sector officials, and a large number of virtual participants. He indicated that the summit had allowed for promoting the interests of many agrifood system stakeholders, such as small and medium-sized enterprises that had been left vulnerable by multiple crises, which was crucial to drive the sector's growth.
- 1.6.6 He also considered it necessary to empower enterprises, which generated the greatest amount of jobs, due to their dynamic role in agrifood system value chains. In this regard, he announced that the Chamber of Commerce was organizing an academy for business leaders, which would have more than 3,000 participants and would address topics such as creativity, advertising, online presence, marketing and business strategy. He suggested that IICA

implement a similar initiative geared towards small-scale producers and producer organizations.

- 1.6.7 He noted that one of the main agreements reached at the summit had been to make strides in the field of health and health infrastructure, through public-private dialogue aimed at fostering private sector investment. In this regard, he added that the Chamber had committed to initiating a consultation process with regional business leaders and managers on this topic and others, such as the regional supply chain.
- 1.6.8 Lastly, he reported that another commitment undertaken at the summit had been to move forward with the creation of a regional resilience center to address crises in the business sector, based on the emergency management model of the United States of America. He concluded his remarks by stating that the priority of the Chamber and the regional business community was to ensure that the Summit of the Americas was not only an event, but a platform that facilitated agreements, projects and dialogues. He stated that his country would serve as Chair of the Summit over the following two years and that it would present a timetable to advance the fulfillment of commitments undertaken during the meetings held within the framework of the Summit of the Americas.
- 1.6.9 The Deputy Director General thanked Mr. Herrington for his presentation and expressed his willingness to continue working together to move forward with actions to improve living conditions in the Americas.
- 1.6.10 The Director General thanked Mr. Herrington for his presentation and his analysis of the Summit's achievements resulting from the dialogue between the public and private sectors. He mentioned that the Institute's active participation in the Ninth Summit of the Americas had yielded three important achievements. First, in the political realm, the heads of state had signed a commitment entitled "Our Sustainable Green Future", which reaffirms the importance of agriculture, as expressed in one of the operative paragraphs of the declaration, which states: "Strengthen the role of all stakeholders in the agricultural sector in international and national climate efforts, and invite them to present their recommendations at a meeting of ministers of agriculture of the Americas before the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27), to be organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture". He commented that IICA was honored to have been tasked with repositioning

agriculture as an agent of development within the context of climate efforts, and informed the delegates that the meeting had been scheduled for September 23 at IICA Headquarters.

- 1.6.11 He noted that on 13 June 2022, agricultural producers from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the United States had signed another declaration to reaffirm the hemisphere's position with respect to the global food insecurity situation being faced.
- 1.6.12 The Director General then referred to the second result of the Institute's participation in the Summit: the announcement by Mrs. Samantha Power, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), of USD 331 million in humanitarian assistance to address food insecurity and improve the quality of life of the population, particularly small-scale producers in Honduras, Haiti, Guatemala, Colombia and Peru, among other countries. He also commented on the announcement made by Amazonia Connect, which had pledged to provide USD 12.3 million to countries such as Brazil, Colombia and Peru to improve connectivity in the agriculture sector and foster deforestation-free planting systems and climate-smart agriculture.
- 1.6.13 He indicated that the third achievement was related to the progress achieved at the Ninth Summit of the Americas with respect to the establishment of a partnership between the United States of America and the Caribbean to overcome climate change, as well as a fourth program to address gender violence and improve women's participation in Central America.
- 1.6.14 With a view to tackling the issue of food insecurity, IICA had proposed joining efforts to advance towards a hemispheric partnership. He underscored the five areas set out in its presentation, namely:
  - 1) The need for a new public policy framework that empowers our farmers, especially family farmers. He highlighted the comments made by the Representative of Honduras and Chair of the Executive Committee, who had pointed out that farmers did not receive the fair prices that their businesses required in order to have a vision for the future.

- 2) The importance of strengthening associative and cooperative undertakings, good practices and extension services, by capitalizing on the possibilities afforded by mobile phones.
  - 3) The role of science, technology and innovation.
  - 4) The role of intra-regional and international trade, which the Representative of Guatemala had highlighted. He noted that, although intra-regional trade in Central America was greater than in other subregions, there was still room for improvement.
  - 5) Socioeconomic inclusion, to which the Representative of Honduras had also referred. He mentioned that, rather than perpetuating the exclusion that forced farmers to migrate from rural areas, virtuous circles must be generated. To this end, he noted that it would be necessary to reverse policies that had not worked in the past, which would pose a significant challenge.
- 1.6.15 He reiterated the fact that the Institute had highlighted these topics at the Ninth Summit of the Americas, both in meetings with the private sector and in a special session with Mrs. Samantha Power, Administrator of USAID, and Mr. Eduardo Enrique Reina, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Honduras.
- 1.6.16 The Director General referred to Mr. Neil Herrington's willingness to replicate a training academy for small-scale farmers. He noted that the representatives of the countries participating in that meeting of the Executive Committee would be the ones to decide whether to instruct IICA to move forward with the development of a proposal in this regard. He also mentioned the importance of resilience centers in making agriculture more sustainable, competitive and resilient. He commented that the living conditions of farmers in rural areas could be improved by means of a partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.
- 1.6.17 The Deputy Director General of the Institute reported that the Summit had provided an opportunity to meet prominent authorities from the State of California and the agriculture sector, with whom very fruitful meetings had been held to identify potential priority areas for joint work, such as the blue economy. He reported that, during a meeting with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, participants had discussed California's experiences

in water and soil management and agricultural systems in arid areas, as well as challenges faced in combating pests and diseases, such as the Mediterranean fruit fly, the yellow dragon disease of citrus fruits, and pests that attack lettuce and other vegetables.

1.7 *The strategic role of agrifood systems of the Americas at COP27*

- 1.7.1 IICA's Director of Technical Cooperation and the Manager of the Climate Change, Natural Resources and Production Risks Program delivered a presentation on the strategic role of agrifood systems of the Americas ahead of COP27.
- 1.7.2 The Director of Technical Cooperation mentioned that, from 2008 to 2018, weather events had resulted in the loss of USD 29 billion in production assets in the region, where the fragility of the sector, and of the most vulnerable producers in particular, was particularly noteworthy. He pointed out that productive growth must go hand in hand with sustainability; this would require implementing a series of sustainable practices for water and soil management, bioeconomy principles and innovations that could enable the sector to adapt to climate change and mitigate its effects.
- 1.7.3 He commented that the Institute's cooperation in this area must be geared towards fostering collective action by the countries. He emphasized the fact that the President of COP27 had identified agriculture as a priority issue, which afforded the possibility to consolidate agriculture's position on the global climate agenda and its strategic role in addressing food insecurity.
- 1.7.4 He mentioned that, in preparation for COP27, the hemisphere should reach a consensus based on the three principles of the 16 messages that had been agreed upon and presented at the United Nations Food Systems Summit: a) the human component of agriculture must come first and foremost; b) decision making in agriculture must be based on science; and c) agriculture is part of the solution to climate issues. He added that this would be key to achieving productive development alongside sustainability.
- 1.7.5 The Manager of the Climate Change, Natural Resources and Production Risks Program commented on the work that IICA had been carrying out with the countries through national and regional dialogues, as well as workshops, courses and other technical activities with agricultural negotiators, which had



allowed for providing decision-makers with relevant information in order to reach a hemispheric consensus at COP27.

- 1.7.6 She continued her remarks by stating that IICA was working together with the countries to develop joint messages on agriculture in the Americas, to serve as input for the ministerial meeting that would be held on September 23, and would include the participation of strategic partners from the private and academic sectors as well as civil society, among others.
- 1.7.7 The Director of Technical Cooperation referred to the Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas Pavilion that IICA would establish at COP27, and noted that the Institute would participate in more than 50 technical events at the conference. He explained that the Institute would capitalize on its participation in COP27 to improve agriculture's role and institutionalization in national and international climate negotiations; coordinate agricultural and environmental agendas at the internal level in countries; and achieve a greater allocation of financial and technical resources to agricultural action, with a focus on environmental conservation.
- 1.8 *Analysis and comments*
  - 1.8.1 On behalf of his country, the Representative of Chile agreed with all the points raised. He pointed out that the amount of time it took to obtain the results of research carried out far exceeded the amount of time available to governments to make immediate decisions. He commented that, although productivity and sustainability could be perceived as simple issues to address, they require a great deal of effort and investment, and, most importantly, strategic partnerships.
  - 1.8.2 The Representative of Canada stated that the actions carried out by his country to overcome climate change challenges were aligned with the proposals presented by the Directorate of Technical Cooperation. He mentioned that these actions had enabled the agriculture sector to find new ways to adapt to climate change and better mitigate its effects. He commented that Canada's experiences with clean technologies and carbon sequestration, among other topics, could be beneficial to other countries in the Americas.
  - 1.8.3 The Representative of Brazil acknowledged the efforts made by the Institute to present an agreed-upon message on behalf of its member countries at the

United Nations Food Systems Summit in 2021, and also considered that IICA should undertake similar efforts for COP27. He underscored the importance of involving the agriculture sector in addressing the challenges posed by climate change, given its vulnerability, the need to strike an adequate balance between productivity and sustainability, and the sector's historical responsibility to address climate change.

- 1.8.4 The Representative of Argentina highlighted the need to give visibility to actions in the fields of research, innovation and technology that countries had been carrying out to overcome the challenges posed by climate change. He commented that agriculture must be seen as part of the solution, and therefore considered it appropriate for countries to speak with a single voice to promote agricultural sustainability at COP27.
- 1.8.5 In her capacity as the Representative of Honduras, the Chair expressed her support for the work that the Institute had been carrying out to build consensus among countries regarding the message to be presented at COP27. She considered it important to address climate change, risk management and disaster response in the field of education, citing, as an example, the fact that very few agriculture degree programs focused on these topics. She also pointed out that public policies should address the issue of territorial development in production areas, where the damage caused by climate events and the vulnerability of populations were increasing.
- 1.8.6 The Director General of IICA stated that there were opportunities to improve the agrifood systems of the Americas, which should not be considered failed systems. He added that COP27 would provide the Institute's member countries with the opportunity to act as a bloc for the benefit of those systems.
- 1.8.7 He highlighted the remarks made by the Representative of Honduras regarding the importance of addressing climate change and environmental conservation, through education. As an example, he cited the Living Soils of the Americas initiative, which applied the "One Health" approach to protect soils, given that, otherwise, efforts would be diluted and would not yield the desired impact.
- 1.8.8 He reiterated the importance of the communications strategy that IICA was implementing in preparation for COP27, with a view to ensuring that the consensus messages to be presented at that meeting would achieve the desired impact for the benefit of agriculture. He added that the strategy was also geared

towards showcasing relevant experiences in the agriculture sector of countries of the Americas, which would demonstrate that a balance had been achieved between productivity and sustainability.

- 1.8.9 He echoed the comments made by the Representative of Chile regarding the need to strengthen actions in the field of research. He remarked that countries did not invest enough in science, which must be resolved through joint actions and the technical support of the Cooperative Program for the Development of Agrifood and Agroindustrial Technology in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR), the Cooperative Program in Research and Technology for the Northern Region (PROCINORTE), the Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO), the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), among others.
- 1.8.10 The Director of Technical Cooperation followed up on the Director General's remarks, by stressing the importance of South-South cooperation, through instruments such as the Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA) and the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA). He added that agriculture must play a key role in addressing two major challenges: food insecurity and climate change.
- 1.8.11 The Manager of the Climate Change, Natural Resources and Production Risks Program considered that all segments of the agriculture sector must implement approaches aimed at achieving sustainability. She pointed out the need to support the millions of agricultural producers in our countries through rural extension services and research, in order to face the sector's multiple challenges.
- 1.9 Close of the session
- 1.9.1 The First Plenary Session of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 12:36 hours on 19 July 2022.



## SECOND PLENARY SESSION

### 2.1 Opening of the session

2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 14:09 hours on 19 July 2022, and was chaired by the Representative of Honduras.

### 2.2 Special Session 2: The Importance of Science, Technology and Innovation in Agriculture

2.2.1 The Technical Secretary introduced the speaker for the session, Dr. Raquel Chan, who had recently been named IICA Chair in Biotechnology and Sustainable Development. He explained that she was a researcher at the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research and an expert in molecular biology, who worked at the Institute of Agrobiotechnology of Litoral (IAL), in the Argentinian province of Santa Fe. He added that she was a tenured professor at the National University of Litoral and that she held a doctoral degree from the National University of Rosario and a post-doctoral degree from the Institute of Plant Molecular Biology of the Louis Pasteur University in Strasbourg, France.

2.2.2 Dr. Chan began her dissertation entitled “A Scientific Contribution to the Advancement of Agriculture” by explaining that the production of the four most important food crops in the world was on the rise, but at a slower pace than the growth rate of the population, given the scientific advances that had increased life expectancy.

2.2.3 She noted that scientists wished to contribute to ensuring there was more food for everyone, but warned that investment in research and development in Latin American and Caribbean countries was very low: for instance, in Brazil it barely exceeded 1% of the country’s gross domestic product, compared to over 4% in countries like Israel and South Korea. She added that investment in research and development correlated with the standard of living in each country.

- 2.2.4 She explained that, although floods were the most frequent climate disaster in the world, droughts caused the greatest losses to agricultural production. She pointed out that, unlike animals, plants could not adapt by moving; instead, they must evolve, and each one does so differently. Next, she described the plant modification process that man had carried out since the beginning of agriculture, from crossbreeding and empirical selection to obtain desirable traits, to modern genetic engineering, beginning in the 19th century with the laws of inheritance, followed by mutagenesis, gene editing and transgenesis. She stated that science was based on observation, asking good questions, investigating, researching and understanding.
- 2.2.5 Next, she described the process her research group had followed to study sunflower transcription factors and their incorporation into *Arabidopsis thaliana* plants, such as HaHB4, which confers drought and heat tolerance, and HaHB11, which confers tolerance to waterlogging and flooding, in addition to increasing production under regular conditions. Based on this proof of concept in the model plant, she described the long road to obtaining products for the market, by incorporating these genes into food crops. She listed three key factors that had contributed to the success of this process: a) access to a building and greenhouse in close proximity to the experimental field; b) collaboration with ecophysiologicals and professionals from other disciplines; and c) a partnership and ongoing dialogue with Bioceres, a private company.
- 2.2.6 Among the achievements of the transgenesis process, Dr. Chan noted that the expression of HaHB4 factors in wheat, HaHB11 in maize and HaHB11 in family farming crops, such as tomato, chia and quinoa, had resulted in higher yields. She also referred to the controversy and different opinions that existed regarding transgenesis.
- 2.2.7 Lastly, she referred to investment in research and development based on technological maturity and emphasized the lack of mutual understanding between private sector companies and industries and public universities and research institutes. She commented that, in some countries, several public-private institutions played a role in bridging that gap. She concluded her remarks by quoting Bernardo Houssay, Nobel Laureate for Medicine in 1947: “Rich countries are rich because they allocate money to scientific and technological development, and poor countries continue to be poor because they don’t. Science is not expensive; ignorance is expensive”.

### 2.3 Analysis and comments

- 2.3.1 The Representative of Mexico mentioned the importance of science, technology and innovation, given the challenge of increasing production in an adverse climate. She pointed out that improving our understanding of ecosystem designs through research and biotechnology could help make production more efficient, sustainable, profitable and environmentally friendly. Lastly, she commented that technology transfer changed the rules of the game by providing farmers with access to knowledge to improve their efficiency and productivity.
- 2.3.2 The Representative of Argentina highlighted his country's positive experience fostering synergies between the public and private sectors, which had resulted in significant progress with respect to agricultural innovations. He underscored the need to produce more with less, noting that investment in science and technology was extremely important to improve production processes and played a key role in the success and growth of agrifood systems. Lastly, he considered that initiating dialogue on the issues of chemical and organic agriculture was of the utmost importance.
- 2.3.3 The Director General congratulated Dr. Chan on her excellent presentation and expressed interest in learning how she had led her team over the years, as well as the way in which the debate on chemical versus organic agriculture was being handled.
- 2.3.4 Dr. Chan credited her team's success to its great perseverance and the fact that it took one step at a time. She recognized the need to increase academic training and foster a work culture that promotes public-private partnerships and follows models that already exist in different fields of research. She added that the business sector must invest more in research. She indicated that, although the use of chemicals in agriculture was necessary, efforts must be undertaken to reduce their use and negative impacts, as well as make them more environmentally friendly. She mentioned that in some parts of the world, experiences transitioning from chemical to organic production had not been positive or successful, given a failure to understand that agriculture required the coexistence of both types of production. She stated that, in order to identify more environmentally friendly and sustainable solutions, research must be advanced in the medium and long term.

- 2.3.5 The Representative of Chile asked Dr. Chan about intellectual property in plant breeding, as well as the role of the State with respect to public goods and, in turn, in the development of biotechnology.
- 2.3.6 Dr. Chan explained that no factor in the environment could be subject to intellectual property; however, research and development of material could be considered intellectual property. With respect to intellectual property in animal breeding, she stated that it did exist, but to a lesser extent than in plant breeding. She added that the State played a fundamental role in funding and that it must capitalize on the patents and licenses owned by private companies, through royalties for the use of their material. She mentioned that research, development and innovation models must be strengthened.
- 2.3.7 The Deputy Director General inquired about consumer acceptance of food production based on these plant genetic materials.
- 2.3.8 Dr. Chan referred to the experience of Brazil, where consumers had been surveyed on their acceptance of HaHB4 wheat products. She noted that 70% of survey respondents had indicated that they had no issue with the consumption of that product, while 30% had stated that they required more information on the topic. She considered it necessary to raise awareness of biotechnological advances and their benefits and opportunities through information and education.
- 2.3.9 In her capacity as Representative of Honduras, the Chair inquired about the cost of investment in research.
- 2.3.10 Dr. Chan indicated that companies such as Monsanto and Bioceres estimated total investment costs at USD 150 million and USD 20 million, respectively, while government investment represented one seventh of the investment made by private companies.
- 2.3.11 In closing, the Director General and the Chair of the Executive Committee officially conferred the title of IICA Chair in Biotechnology and Sustainable Development on Dr. Chan and thanked her once again for her research efforts, as well as for her presentation to the Executive Committee.



2.4 2021 Financial statements of the Institute and report of the external auditors

2.4.1 The Director of Corporate Services reported that IICA's financial statements had been prepared, audited and approved in strict compliance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (US GAAP). He presented the results of the 2020-2021 external audit, undertaken by the firm Deloitte, which indicated that the auditing evidence was sufficient and appropriate to support its opinion, and concluded that "(...) the financial statements of the Institute present fairly, in all material respects, IICA's financial position as at December 31 of 2020 and 2021". He pointed that for the fourth consecutive year, the financial statements had received a clean audit opinion.

2.4.2 He also remarked that the external auditors had included a special chapter on measures that the Institute had implemented to tackle the adverse effects of the emergency caused by the coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19). He noted that the auditors had highlighted IICA's rapid response to the global pandemic. He also stated that the external auditors had concluded that the work from home and flexi-work modality had been operating successfully in all the Institute's delegations, and that the implementation of a telework policy was offering greater protection for employees, enabling compliance with the measures implemented by the countries and reducing the Institute's carbon footprint. He reported that the external auditors had also noted the strengthening of the policy of strict, rational, austere and transparent use of institutional resources; the channeling of resources towards technical cooperation of excellence in accordance with IICA's value proposition; the prioritization of expenditures with a focus on responding to Member State needs; the budgetary savings achieved and the optimization of resources, which had allowed for safeguarding the Institute's finances.

2.4.3 Lastly, he stated that an external audit firm would need to be appointed for the next biennium. He commented that the Administration had carried out a competitive process for the hiring of a firm and that, upon completing the review process, and based on its analysis, it had recommended that the external audit firm Deloitte carry out the external audit for the 2022-2023 biennium.

2.5 Twenty-eighth report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

2.5.1 In his capacity as a member of the ARC, Mr. Gustavo Pereira da Silva Filho presented the committee's twenty-eighth report. He emphasized the fact that

the work carried out by the external auditors complied with international auditing standards and the Institute's regulations. He reported that, in the opinion of the external auditors, IICA's financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the position of IICA as at 31 December 2020 and 2021, as well as changes in its net assets and cash flow for the years ending on the above dates, in accordance with US GAAP.

2.5.2 Next, he encouraged IICA to follow up on the timely collection of outstanding quota payments. Moreover, in light of events arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, he recommended that IICA continue with initiatives to economize and to safeguard its financial position. Finally, he congratulated the Institute on having received a clean opinion from the external auditors for the fourth consecutive year.

## 2.6 2022-2023 Program Budget

2.6.1 The Director of Corporate Services indicated that the budget approved in 2021 by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) for the 2022-2023 biennium was USD 32,074,100 made up of USD 29,574,100 from quotas and USD 2,500,000 from miscellaneous income. He noted that it was being executed in an efficient manner.

2.6.2 Next, he reported on some of the results of financial-budgetary management, highlighting, among other things: IICA's accreditation by the Green Climate Fund, its accreditation for eight European Union pillars, the receipt of 13% of quotas in arrears, the clean opinion received from external auditors for the fourth consecutive year, the development of a new financial architecture and business model, the establishment of the Single Emergency Fund to support the countries, significant improvements in budgetary management, institutional savings of USD 8 million, the availability of an adequate cash flow, the implementation of the Program to Accelerate the Mobilization and Execution of External Resources, constant institutional monitoring and time optimization, through a process culture and the automation of tasks.

## 2.7 Report on the collection of quotas

2.7.1 The Manager of the Financial Management Division presented the report on the collection of quotas from the Member States, both at the close of 2021 as well as for the current year, updated to 17 July. She referred to Resolution No.

414 of the IABA, “Revised Measures for Collecting Quotas Owed to the Institute”, and Article 23 of the Convention on IICA, which states that the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States.

2.7.2 She indicated that, as at the end of 2021, 17 countries were up to date in their payments, 14 were in regular status (owning payments for less than two years) and 3 were in arrears (owing more than two years of payments). She also reported that by July, 14 countries would be up to date in payments, 15 in regular status and 5 in arrears. Lastly, she reported that, as at 17 July of the current year, USD 13.6 million in quota contributions from the Member States had been received. She underlined that it was crucial for the Institute to receive expected resources, in order to effectively implement its technical cooperation plans.

## 2.8 Analysis and comments

2.8.1 The Representative of Mexico referred to the savings of approximately USD 8 million since the implementation of the program; however, she requested further details regarding the table presented.

2.8.2 The Director of Corporate Services of IICA said that the 2022-2023 Program Budget had been presented and approved at the 2021 IABA. He stressed that the overall savings of almost USD 8 million had been presented and approved at the previous meeting of the Executive Committee. However, he mentioned that a detailed report with a breakdown of the savings had been uploaded to the information system of the Institute’s governing bodies, for the information of the delegations. He stated that more than USD 1.5 million in savings had resulted from the renegotiation of contracts, USD 2 million from the cancellation of travel and different types of events, due to impact of the pandemic, USD 3 million from the change, renovation and reduction of the fleet of vehicles, and the remaining amount from the reduction of personnel.

2.8.3 With respect to the Program Budget, the Representative of the United States of America congratulated IICA on the reduction actions and administrative and budgetary efficiency measures implemented; however, he believed that more time would be needed to analyze the information presented regarding the programs. He also referred to the report on the collection of quotas, which

raised concerns regarding the current collection rate. He therefore urged the Institute and the Member States to take all necessary steps to bring outstanding payments up to date, thereby providing the necessary conditions to support the countries. He announced that the United States had committed to paying the remainder of its quota on the scheduled dates and that, to date, it had paid 50% of the annual quota for 2022. Lastly, he referred to the report of the external auditors and inquired about the legal status of the Agro Ingreso Seguro program, which had yet to be resolved by the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic of Colombia.

- 2.8.4 The Director General of IICA thanked the delegates for their queries regarding the Program Budget, audits and quota collection. He noted that the Institute was on a path towards process modernization and digitalization. He expressed his concern regarding the delays in quota collection, due to the impact of current crises on the Member States, which limited the capacity to provide technical cooperation. He explained that the Institute was undertaking efforts to increase the mobilization of external resources, which, nevertheless, could not replace quotas.
- 2.8.5 With respect to the legal issues in Colombia, he announced that negotiations were well underway and included an agreement to provide IICA with the possibility to execute a technical cooperation program as “payment in kind”. He added that he expected the country would soon begin the process of bringing its quota payments up to date.
- 2.9 *Remarks by the President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)*
- 2.9.1 Dr. Agnes Kalibata, President of AGRA, commented that the Ministers of Agriculture of Africa and the Americas had decided to meet in Costa Rica in July of 2022 to hold the First Agrifood Systems Summit. She explained that the forum was being organized by the Institute, AGRA and the African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa’s Development. She noted that the summit would be geared towards discussing a number of challenges facing both regions, many of which could be swiftly addressed through South-South cooperation, including efficient water use and the reduction of barriers in international food trade. She appreciated the invitation to take part in that initiative for the good and prosperity of all people on the planet.

- 2.9.2 The Director General commented that Dr. Agnes Kalibata had served as the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy to the Food Systems Summit. He added that, since January 2022, IICA and the ministers of agriculture of Africa had been engaging in virtual dialogue that would culminate on July 27, 28 and 29 with a visit to Headquarters by a group of ministers of agriculture from that continent and from the Americas.
- 2.9.3 He explained that the purpose of the meeting would be to build bridges between the two regions, given that they faced many common issues, with respect to biological resources, the development of science and technology systems and global trade. He also announced that in September of that year, a meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of Africa would be held in Rwanda, and that the Institute would be in attendance. In this regard, he reiterated the strategic importance of the Africa-Americas Ministerial Summit on Agrifood Systems.
- 2.10 *Close of the session*
- 2.10.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 16:14 hours on 19 July 2022.



## THIRD PLENARY SESSION

### 3.1 Opening of the session

3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 8:45 hours on 20 July 2022, and was chaired by the Representative of Honduras.

### 3.2 Presentation of the Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA)

3.2.1 The Director of Technical Cooperation at IICA began the presentation of the OPSAA and the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA), by describing them as two major avenues for coordinating the seven technical cooperation programs established in the Medium-term Plan (MTP), as well as the Institute's targeted and interdisciplinary technical cooperation initiatives, such as the Living Soils of the Americas (LiSAM) program to support the design and implementation of public policies.

3.2.2 Subsequently, the International Technical Specialist at the Center of Strategic Analysis for Agriculture (CAESPA) explained that the OPSAA is a digital platform developed by the Institute to serve the countries of the Americas. It operates as a hub that facilitates knowledge exchange and the promotion of a new generation of public policies aimed at transforming the agrifood systems of the hemisphere. He also indicated that OPSAA is seeking to support the development of more innovative technical cooperation that will enable opportunities for cooperation and funding to be identified.

3.2.3 He remarked that OPSAA provides a systemic and integrated perspective on a wide range of issues, such as innovation; international trade and regional integration; sanitary and phytosanitary measures; One Health; agricultural health and food safety services; biodiversity; climate change resilience; soil health; water security; biofuels, biobusiness; non-energy bioproducts; family farming; associative enterprises; land management; gender and youth and digital transformation. He explained that it has four key areas of focus: a) data and information management, b) the establishment of networks among public policy stakeholders and institutions, c) collaborative work

based on public-private partnerships and d) support for countries in public policy management.

3.2.4 He stressed the importance of monitoring the measures implemented by the various countries in response to the crisis and developing an overview of the situation in specific areas, as a means of informing studies and providing tools to facilitate analysis of the food and fertilizer crisis. He also mentioned support that was being given to countries such as Panama, Honduras and Ecuador in designing public policies for agrifood systems.

3.2.5 In summary, he maintained that the OPSAa offers the countries conceptual bases, methodologies and tools to assist in public policy development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The underlying aim is to facilitate agrifood systems transformation, so that this knowledge will allow for better management of public policies in the Americas and more effective and efficient international technical and financial cooperation.

### 3.3 *Presentation of the proposal on the creation of ELTSA*

3.3.1 The Manager of IICA's Innovation and Bioeconomy Program began his presentation by highlighting three critical aspects: a) the consensus among producers, extension officers, other stakeholders and academia in technical discussion forums, with respect to the need to transform agrifood systems; b) the importance of understanding the capacities and functioning of agrifood systems in order to determine the challenges, needs and opportunities to achieve transformation; and c) knowledge of the available tools, instruments, methodologies and technologies to be managed under the ELTSA model.

3.3.2 The ELTSA model is grounded in three principles: a) there is no single formula on what is needed; thus, the model must be tailored according to the realities of the specific agrifood systems at the national and regional levels, depending on the specific chain involved; b) the model must include synergies, partnerships and consortiums in order to tackle the multiple challenges; and c) linkages must be forged between ELTSA and OPSAa, so that the two instruments may be jointly managed.

3.3.3 ELTSA will consist of three modules: a) the characteristics and conditions of regional and global agrifood systems, as well as the institutional structures and mechanisms required to transform them; b) how technologies, policies,



innovations and methodologies can be created to manage the transformation; and c) real-life application of training platforms and strategies, through internships and field visits.

#### 3.4 *Presentation on the strengthening of strategic partnerships*

3.4.1 The Deputy Director General began his presentation by outlining the progress made in forging synergies and partnerships with international organizations; research centers of excellence and universities; industry associations and private sector companies, as well as in updating agreements with national institutions. He pointed out that the current administration had generated 132 technical cooperation agreements to benefit the countries, their production sectors and the rural environment, in general.

3.4.2 He indicated that, in keeping with its strategy of being an organization that listens, proposes and acts, the Institute, in collaboration with the ministries of Agriculture, had strengthened multiple forums and hemispheric, subregional and global discussion mechanisms, thereby building connections between academia, the private sector and centers of excellence in the area of research.

3.4.3 He stressed that, through the above, countless synergies had been established, resulting in initiatives such as Living Soils of the Americas (LiSAM) and the IICA Chair program, among others. The involvement of the private sector had also been sought for technical cooperation initiatives. Private sector actors had been key players in these efforts, which had enhanced the strategy of working in networks to provide technical cooperation of excellence, and in turn to develop the agriculture sector of today and tomorrow.

3.4.4 The Deputy Director General also mentioned the Goodwill Ambassadors program of the Institute, which had enabled the organization to use regional and global experts as a sounding board, in seeking to drive technical action in keeping with the needs of the countries.

3.4.5 He closed his remarks by pointing out the importance of basing the Institute's actions on science, making intensive use of knowledge to transform agrifood systems for the benefit of all.

### 3.5 Analysis and comments

- 3.5.1 The Representative of Chile described the OPSAa as an excellent initiative at a time when these types of tools were helping to bolster the public policy framework. He pointed out that, since the start of the crisis, his Ministry had been spearheading actions to tackle the fertilizer crisis and minimize its impact on the sector, in a bid to: a) address needs in the short term; and b) to ensure that decisions for the short term would continue to be relevant over the medium and long term. He therefore viewed the OPSAa as essential in supporting decision making and suggested that a network of focal points be established to facilitate discussion among countries and other agrifood system stakeholders.
- 3.5.2 The Representative of Honduras made mention of her countries' state policy on agrifood systems and development, under which a policy framework was being developed for the rural environment, with the support of IICA. She considered the impact evaluation structure to be one of the main weaknesses of long-term policies and therefore wondered whether the observatory would include any analysis or evaluation strategy, given that this component would be key to ensuring an adequate response in the short and medium term. She suggested that a mechanism for exchange and communication among ministries be established within the framework of the OPSAa, to enable countries to consult among themselves and with experts at the Institute. The Representative underscored the importance of public-private partnerships and the potential of the academic sector and regional and global centers of excellence for countries and subregions to maximize the benefits gained from actions. She asked what mechanisms would be adopted to engage these academic sectors more closely with concrete actions in the countries, creating linkages among national academic sectors, non-governmental organizations and the private sector in the sphere of agricultural research and extension and transfer systems, with a view to tackling problems in rural territories.
- 3.5.3 The Representative of Canada suggested that countries like his could assist in increasing the visibility of these types of initiatives. They could also help to enable closer engagement among more stakeholders to exchange information and to acquaint them with other mechanisms, such as the Group of Twenty (G20) initiative, known as the Agricultural Market Information System, which is available to all countries. He mentioned efforts by the Canadian Government, which had doubled funding to increase market

transparency regarding fertilizers available to countries. He also congratulated the Director General on his administration's efforts, through the IICA Delegation in Canada, to strengthen strategic alliances with the private sector and universities, expressing the hope that this cooperation would increase in the future.

- 3.5.4 The Representative of Mexico made special mention of the presentation on strengthening strategic partnerships and applauded the Institute for promoting partnerships and associations between the public and private sectors and with academia to benefit farmers, providing support for many projects. She indicated that the type of support should differ, in keeping with the requirements and realities of the countries. She pointed out that there are different types of producers in Mexico; thus, diverse policies and associative efforts are required. She once again congratulated IICA for developing a knowledge management platform, specialized by country, as well as for making this platform a forum for experience sharing on public policies among countries and sectors.
- 3.5.5 The Representative of Colombia remarked that the introduction and implementation of these cooperation instruments for the countries was taking place at the perfect time. In discussing the OPSAa, he mentioned that the region's countries formulate policies with mandates that are often contradictory, thereby limiting the response capacity of the sector. Secondly, he agreed with the analysis of the Representative of Honduras with respect to evaluating the impact of policies, which should be a priority issue for the observatory, as it would make the work of Member States more efficient, in keeping with conditions in their sectors and rural areas. He requested support for the Government of Colombia, in terms of inputs and tools to formulate short- and long-term policies. He also referred to the training school, and the way in which it complemented the activities of the observatory to strengthen agrifood systems.
- 3.5.6 Following up on his presentation, the Deputy Director General pointed out the importance of forging strategic partnerships with universities and other stakeholders. By way of example, he mentioned the possible reduction of methane gas emissions by the region's dairy sector, through the application of simple best practices, which could be replicated in other countries and with other agricultural products. He said that, although each country has its own unique conditions, sharing information on successful public policies is a

useful approach. He suggested that Member States collaborate in forging ties between universities and the private sector and delegations of the Institute, with a view to establishing strategic partnerships to share best practices.

- 3.5.7 The Director General began his analysis, by commenting on the remarks of the countries, mentioning that IICA was focusing on partnerships that could create the most evident impact to benefit the countries, based on a clear and precise roadmap to increase not only the quantity but also the quality of these relationships.
- 3.5.8 He recalled that along with the Institute's Goodwill Ambassadors, the individuals appointed as IICA Chairs share first-hand knowledge, as Dr. Chan had done in her presentation. He underscored the vital importance of the Leaders of Rurality program, which had identified 23 rural leaders, whose experience and efforts had charted a course for the region's producers and other actors to follow to transform agrifood systems and rural areas.
- 3.5.9 In relation to the OPSAa and the ELTSA, he explained that Argentina's National Animal Health Service (SENASA) had asked the Institute for assistance in defining the SENASA of the 21<sup>st</sup> century and he considered the observatory to be a tool to achieve this. SENASA would like its technical staff to be adequately trained to operate effectively amidst changing institutional structures, which is a goal to which the ELTSA could contribute. He indicated that IICA's role is to coordinate its technical cooperation, by integrating multiple disciplines through the seven programs and other mechanisms already presented in the 2022-2026 MTP. The Director General explained that the leadership school was not seeking to compete with other training centers, but to complement and bolster their efforts. He reiterated his commitment to reintroduce, through the observatory, opportunities for dialogue with policy directors in the ministries, as well as with other stakeholders.
- 3.5.10 He referred to the Representative of Canada's observation on G20 mechanisms. He assured him that the Institute was aiming to complement and coordinate efforts, rather than to duplicate them, and that, through the IICA Canada Delegation, it would follow up and act on his proposal. With respect to the leadership school, he mentioned the importance of strengthening ties and partnerships with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and with various universities to

consolidate efforts, given that the Institute by itself would not be able to produce the desired impact required by its Member States.

3.6 *CATIE report for the 2020-2021 biennium*

- 3.6.1 The Director General of the Center greeted the Executive Committee members and the IICA authorities. He began his presentation by highlighting the areas of cooperation between both entities: a) a new financial management model; b) the development of projects and preparation of proposals; c) establishment of a forestry platform for the Americas; d) organization of technical meetings and conferences; and e) management of the resources of the Institute at CATIE (based on a new cooperation agreement signed between both entities that year).
- 3.6.2 He outlined the pillars of the Center, which are aligned to drive the transformation, as well as the green and inclusive development of the member countries, by generating knowledge through research and innovation, capacity training by way of master's and doctorate programs and certification (diplomas, courses and training), and external outreach, through the expansion of projects and joint action with the countries, through alliances with key partners.
- 3.6.3 With respect to the Training and Education Division, he indicated that the Center had a new education model, consisting of the Post-Graduate School (doctorates, masters and diploma programs) and the Training Unit (continuing education, professional skills upgrading and dissemination events). He pointed out that during the pandemic, CATIE continued to graduate students, and had now produced 2,728 graduates in the areas of sustainable agriculture and agroforestry; forests and biodiversity; climate action; environmental economics; sustainable agribusiness; and watershed management and water security, among others.
- 3.6.4 He also explained that the Center continued to strengthen technical capacities in its member countries to create a green and inclusive development agenda, conducting 240 training events with close to 17,000 professionals (38% of them women) in the areas of genetic improvement and coffee and cocoa agroforestry systems; low-carbon livestock systems; climate smart agriculture; water security; agribusiness; the green economy and agricultural

landscape restoration. Finally, he pointed out that the AD Scientific Index 2022 had named CATIE as the second-best university in Costa Rica.

- 3.6.5 In relation to the Research Division for Inclusive Green Development, he mapped out the research projects that had been implemented in the countries, focusing on the Sustainable Development Goals and addressing the issues of sustainable livestock intensification; coffee and cocoa agroforestry; food security; watershed management and water security; agricultural landscape restoration; agribusiness and environmental economics, to name a few.
- 3.6.6 He highlighted CATIE's role in coffee and cocoa genetic improvement, particularly in terms of productivity, quality and climate change resilience. He commented that molecular techniques had been used to fingerprint the DNA of close to 2,000 coffee accessions, and that more than 4,000 seeds, coffee buds and root stocks had been donated to cocoa producers in Costa Rica and Guatemala. He also added that the Korea-Latin America Food & Agriculture Cooperation Initiative had facilitated the improvement of cocoa production, through the use of improved germplasm and climate smart agricultural practices.
- 3.6.7 He underscored the Center's regional program to create a low-carbon and resilient livestock economy, including areas such as forage-based silvopastoral and food systems; water harvesting; the quantification of ecosystem services; the carbon footprint and economic assessment, among others. By way of example, he mentioned its participation in the project on nationally appropriate mitigation measures in Honduras, designed to surmount socioeconomic, technical, financial, institutional and political barriers that were hindering efforts to implement improvements to achieve a low-carbon sector in the country.
- 3.6.8 He also spoke of the regional food security and nutrition program that includes areas of focus such as agrobiodiversity, food security, agroforestry, resilient food systems and family farming planning, among others. For example, he highlighted the Center's involvement in the Water Harvesting project, which had enabled almost 2,500 beneficiary families to achieve at least one more production cycle by practicing supplemental irrigation of their plots.

- 3.6.9 He discussed the impact of the implementation of the Central American Program for Integrated Coffee Rust Management (PROCAGICA), headed by IICA, with funding from the European Union. CATIE had played a strategic role in research and capacity building in the program to strengthen research on the races and monitoring of coffee rust; reproduction of genetic material in the Central American region and on technical and professional training in coffee institutes and producer organizations.
- 3.6.10 He discussed the capacity building and knowledge management initiatives of the Adapted Agroforestry Systems for the Central American Dry Corridor (AGRO-INNOVA) project, implemented by the Institute with funding from the European Union. CATIE had been engaged to assist in implementing the project, to improve the climate resilience and food security of small farmers, through the management of agricultural, forestry and digital innovations.
- 3.6.11 He explained that the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Laboratory for Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean was supporting entrepreneurship and innovation for rural development and the sustainable management of natural resources in the region. He indicated that this initiative was utilizing the latest methodologies to develop innovations that would be accessible to rural dwellers and to facilitate work in networks among relevant players in the rural sector, such as the development bank, international cooperation agencies, stakeholders in the production value chain and investors, among others.
- 3.6.12 On the matter of agribusiness development and private sector partnerships, he highlighted the commercial development of natural fibers on the La Lola farm, where abaca—a fiber used to manufacture high-quality paper—was being produced in partnership with NipponPaper of Japan and jute—used to manufacture pallets for export—was being produced in partnership with Yellow Pallet of the Netherlands.
- 3.6.13 He mentioned joint proposals by both institutions to implement the Biodiversity and Sustainable Agrosilvopastoral Livestock Landscapes project; progress in preparing a concept note on adapted forestry management in Peru; the proposal for a biodiversity management project between Peru and the United Kingdom; and the Forest of the Americas initiative spearheaded by the General Directorate.

- 3.6.14 He stated that the IICA and CATIE general directorates had been in constant communication with local and national authorities, as well as other stakeholders in the region, regarding the climate events affecting communities in the Turrialba canton in recent years, in order to assess the situation and determine assistance options, in keeping with the requests and proposals submitted to both institutions.
- 3.6.15 He commented that the independent auditors had indicated in their report that the financial statements presented fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of CATIE up to 31 December of 2021 and 2020, its financial performance and its cash flow on those dates, in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards. Finally, he spoke about the trends in the Center's finances over the 2016-2024 period. He noted the negative impact that the reduction in the contribution of the Nordic countries had had on the budget, as well as the positive effect of the financing model implemented to date, and which was expected to remain in force until 2024.
- 3.7 *Analysis and comments*
- 3.7.1 The Representative of Canada expressed satisfaction at the results produced by CATIE's restructuring of its financial framework and urged the Director General to continue moving in that direction.
- 3.7.2 The Representative of Mexico acknowledged the contributions that CATIE had made to her country, particularly in the improvement of crops such as cocoa and coffee. She applauded the high level of international recognition of the institution. Finally, she thanked the Center for its cooperation efforts in the livestock industry in Mexico, which began three years ago.
- 3.7.3 The Representative of Honduras also congratulated CATIE for the work it had undertaken. She expressed approval for the project on livestock standards and pledged to lend support through the National Sustainable Livestock Platform, the Livestock Development Chamber, the Honduran Dairy Chamber and other relevant institutions with which the Center worked.
- 3.7.4 The Deputy Director General of IICA emphasized the gains that the Director General of CATIE had made in increasing joint actions and advancing the goals set out by both institutions. He underscored the importance of partnerships, which had enabled the identification of new solutions to



everyday problems, such as the activities of the coffee germplasm bank. Finally, he encouraged the Center to continue working to ensure that the lands of the Center become even more productive.

- 3.7.5 The IICA Director General indicated that the bonds between IICA and CATIE were sufficiently close to ensure that they would be able to maintain a long-lasting relationship and to develop an agenda for the future. He commended the effective functioning of the investment fund for the financial sustainability of CATIE. He also stressed the importance of the progress made in technical cooperation and research to revolutionize tropical agriculture, pointing out the need to establish a network of centers of excellence like CATIE. The Director General referred to the experience and success in cooperation actions such as PROCAGICA and AGRO-INNOVA, which had demonstrated the capacity of both institutions and their Member States to positively influence agrifood systems.
- 3.7.6 He highlighted CATIE's work in job creation and the profitability of its research in the production of coffee, cocoa and livestock, among other areas, which been made available to the production sectors, as well as its successful implementation of strategic national and regional projects.
- 3.7.7 He explained the social problem stemming from urban growth and the increase in climate-related disasters in the environs of the IICA land where CATIE is based. The residents had established a civic committee that was exerting severe pressure with respect to the lands of both institutions. He emphasized that, in view of this, he had been attending meetings with this group. However, the discussions had proven difficult, given the diverse interests involved. He asked that the issue be placed on record, as it would require further discussion in the future by the governing bodies of the Institute, as well as the support of the Member States.
- 3.8 *Relationship between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)*
- 3.8.1 The Executive Director of CARDI extended cordial greetings to all the authorities present and stressed the importance of presenting agricultural research and development initiatives implemented in the Caribbean within the framework of the cooperation agreement between both institutions. He began his presentation by pointing out the significance of national and

regional strategic partnerships and synergies in driving research and development in the region, making it possible to undertake efforts of greater impact now and in the future in agriculture-related issues.

- 3.8.2 He spoke about the history of the relationship between CARDI and the Institute, which dates back to 1989, and of their joint efforts to manage technical and financial resources to promote various agricultural projects focusing on research, validation and technology transfer. He remarked that events between 2019 and 2021 had led to a shift in the direction of cooperation towards mitigating the effects of natural disasters and focusing on development priorities, in keeping with the characteristics of the region and each of the member countries of CARDI.
- 3.8.3 He then referred to the report, summarizing the research and technical cooperation actions undertaken in the countries, in terms of building the capacities of farmers and agricultural extension officers; preparing technical data sheets on crops and technology packages for agricultural production, adapted to the conditions of the region; as well as managing, mobilizing and distributing materials and production inputs for use in various projects and programs.
- 3.8.4 In particular, he emphasized training in disaster management to respond to emergencies caused by natural events and the effects of the COVID-19 disease, with a view to providing a short-term response and strengthening capacities in the food production and trade sector of the region.
- 3.8.5 He mentioned that, under the research, validation and technology transfer model, various countries were promoting small-scale agriculture at the local level, as well as building the capacities of producers to supply national and regional markets, by providing them with technology, best practices and direct technical assistance, as well as technology packages, adapted to their conditions, such as seeds and irrigation systems, among others.
- 3.8.6 He ended his presentation by stressing that the IICA delegations in the Caribbean had facilitated the implementation of various actions to establish ties with partner agencies, primarily in Europe, Asia and the United States, in a bid to advance the various spheres of action of CARDI.

### 3.9 Analysis and comments

3.9.1 The Deputy Director General of the Institute thanked the Executive Director of CARDI for his presentation, emphasizing some of the innovation projects taking place with the support of that institution. He also urged the Member States to support the search to identify technical and financial resources to undertake these types of projects, in order to improve the nutritional quality of foods such as rice, beans, corn, among others, which are key to achieving food security.

### 3.10 Activities of the General Directorate and of the governing bodies

#### 3.10.1 2021 IICA Annual Report

The Technical Secretary informed the Executive Committee that, in accordance with the relevant regulations, the Annual Report had been submitted to the Secretary General of the Organization of American States (OAS) in April and distributed to the countries via the various delegations, the Institute's website and the information system of the Executive Committee.

#### 3.10.2 Report of the 2022 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)

3.10.2.1 The Technical Secretary explained the role of the SACMI and mentioned that the meeting had been held on 17 May 2022. He indicated that the respective report had been reviewed by the participants and uploaded to the information system of the Executive Committee.

#### 3.10.3 Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

3.10.3.1 The Technical Secretary explained that the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was a preparatory event for the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), held in September 2021; and thus some of its resolutions were presented during the IABA meeting, where necessary.

3.10.4 Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)

3.10.4.1 In addition to reminding the participants that the respective report was available in the information system of the Executive Committee meeting, the Technical Secretary referred to three resolutions that had issued directives to the General Directorate. Thus, a report would need to be made on their progress. With respect to the first, namely Resolution 534 on “The Contribution of Rural Women to Agriculture in the Americas”, an overview of IICA’s actions to support and manage the First and Second Forums of Female Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas was given, with a view to institutionalizing this event as a discussion forum for female ministers, deputy ministers and other high-level female authorities in the public sector, as well as rural women representatives. He also stated that the 2022-2026 MTP included proposals to strengthen the strategic vision and bolster technical cooperation actions aimed at reducing gender gaps and inequalities, to ensure the empowerment and equitable inclusion of rural women in the development of the agrifood systems of the Americas.

3.10.4.2 The second resolution mentioned was Resolution 535 – “Ministerial Commitment to Support the Fight against African Swine Fever”. He explained that although it had not been included in the agenda of this meeting, a report had been uploaded to the Executive Committee information system, detailing technical advances made in fulfilling this resolution.

3.10.4.3 Finally, the Technical Secretary referred to Resolution 536 – “Support for the Recovery of the Agriculture and Rural Sector of the Republic of Haiti”—and indicated that this topic had also not been included in the agenda of this meeting, but that a report had been uploaded to the Executive Committee information system, outlining progress made in fulfilling this resolution.

3.10.5 Date and venue of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

3.10.5.1 The Technical Secretary mentioned the regulations of the Executive Committee with respect to defining the date and venue of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, advising the participants that up to that time no Member State had made any offer to host that meeting. Therefore, once again the meeting would take place at Institute Headquarters.

3.11 *Reading and approval of the draft resolutions*

3.11.1 The Chair of the Committee asked the Rapporteur to read out only the operative paragraph of each draft resolution, indicating that for each one the members of the Executive Committee would be asked if they had any objection to the text, and in the event there were proposed modifications, the Technical Secretary would be asked to make the changes. If they were no proposed modifications, the Chair would proceed to submit the draft resolutions for the approval of the heads of Delegation.

3.11.2 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions:

1. “Proposed Adjustments to the 2022-2026 Medium-term Plan (MTP)”. The draft resolution was approved, taking into account the observations of the Representative of Mexico.
2. “Collective Action by the Americas to Tackle Food Insecurity and Foster Environmental Sustainability”. This draft resolution was approved, having adjusted the wording, in accordance with the observations made by the representatives of Canada and Mexico.
3. “The Strategic Role of the Agrifood Systems of the Americas with Respect to Processes under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change”. The draft resolution was approved, having adjusted the wording, in keeping with the observations of the representatives of Canada, Mexico and Brazil.
4. “The Importance of Science, Technology and Innovation in Agriculture”. This draft resolution was approved without modifications.
5. “2021 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Report of the External Auditors and Twenty-Eighth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”. This draft resolution was approved without modifications.
6. “Report on the Collection of Quotas”. This draft resolution was approved without modifications.

7. “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2020-2021”. This draft resolution was approved without modifications.
8. “Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2020-2021 Biennium”. This draft resolution was approved without modifications.
9. “2021 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”. This draft resolution was approved without modifications.
10. “Report of the 2022 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”. This draft resolution was approved without modifications.
11. “Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”. This draft resolution was approved without modifications.
12. “Date and Venue of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”. This draft resolution was approved without modifications.
13. “Designation of the External Auditors of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for the 2022-2023 Biennium”. This draft resolution was approved without modifications.

### 3.12 Close of the Session

The Third Plenary Session of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 12:20 hours on 20 July 2022.

## CLOSING SESSION

### 4.1 Opening of the session

4.1.1 The closing session of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 12:20 hours on 20 July 2022, chaired by the Representative of Honduras.

### 4.2 Remarks by the Director General

4.2.1 The Director General expressed his satisfaction for what had been an intense and productive meeting, which had resulted in significant progress, demonstrating that the Institute was undergoing a continuous process of cohesion and strengthening. He noted that the member countries' support for IICA had not wavered, as it had remained faithful to the mandates of these countries, for and on behalf of which it was promoting agricultural development and rural well-being.

4.2.2 He listed the main achievements of the meeting: a) the support of the Member States for the Proposed Adjustments to the Medium-term Plan (MTP) for the 2022-2026 period, as a roadmap for the upcoming four years; b) the progress made during two special sessions conducted on the first working day; c) the presentation of the administrative and budgetary actions of the Institute; d) support for the proposal that the countries of the Americas present a common position at the 27<sup>th</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27); e) advances and achievements in terms of strategic partnerships; f) support for joint actions with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), as well as other partnerships with centers of excellence and research institutions; and g) support for the two new proposed technical cooperation instruments: the Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA) and the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA).

4.2.3 He specially thanked the Chair of the Executive Committee for competently presiding over the meeting and for her technical remarks, which had enhanced the work dynamic. He thanked all the representatives of the

delegations for their participation, whether in person or virtually, and expressed appreciation to all of IICA's technical and administrative staff who had contributed to the success of the meeting.

4.2.4 The Chair of the Executive Committee expressed her thanks for the support of all the Member States and made special mention of the excellent work of the Rapporteur.

4.3 *Close of the meeting*

4.3.1 The Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 12:30 hours on 20 July 2022.



# **RESOLUTIONS**



## RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/CE/Res. 693 (XLII-O/22)

20 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 693**

**2021 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 741 (22), “2021 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.f of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of IICA is to receive, analyze and approve the annual report on the activities of the General Directorate of the Institute and take appropriate action;

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2021 Annual Report of IICA, which was presented to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in due time and form;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by the Institute in 2021 for the purpose of implementing its cooperation agendas at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, within the framework of its 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP);

That the Representative of IICA in each of its 34 member countries presented to the national authorities the respective report on the cooperation that the Institute provided to the country in 2021; and

That the 2021 Annual Report of IICA is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute's website ([www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int)),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2021 Annual Report of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 685 (XLII-O/22)

19 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 685**

**PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO THE 2022-2026 MEDIUM-TERM PLAN (MTP)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, as its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 736 (22), “Proposed Adjustments to the Medium-term Plan (MTP)”,

CONSIDERING:

That, at its Second Extraordinary Meeting in 1982, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) adopted resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 14 (II-E/82), in which it established the Medium-term Plan (MTP), as a means of complying with the provisions of Article 8, subparagraph (a) of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), namely “to adopt measures related to the policy and action of the Institute”;

That, since then, IICA has had an MTP for each four-year period, which is prepared by the Director General, at the start of each administration, and reviewed and approved by the governing bodies of the Institute;

That, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 533 (XXI-O/21), the Board instructed the Director General to prepare IICA’s MTP for 2022-2026 and authorized the Executive Committee to approve the plan at its Forty-second Regular Meeting, together with adjustments to the Institute’s 2022-2023 Program Budget required for its implementation;

That, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 533 (XXI-O/21), the IABA instructed the Director General to ensure that the 2022-2026 MTP includes a strategic and proactive approach to agrifood system transformation in the Americas that enhances the contribution of the hemisphere’s agriculture sector to global food and nutrition security and recognizes the important role of agricultural producers in this process;

That the Director General carried out an extensive consultation process with Member States to prepare the proposed adjustments to the current MTP for presentation to the Executive Committee, with a view to its review and approval for implementation in 2022-2026, in keeping with the recommendations by the member countries;

That the Director General used the following guidelines as the basis for this proposal: a) the current IABA and Executive Committee resolutions; b) previous MTP's of the Institute; c) the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations 2030 Agenda; and d) a prospective analysis of trends and challenges in global and hemispheric agriculture;

That the adjustments to the MTP seek to strengthen a technical cooperation model based on national, regional and hemispheric cooperation agendas and on hemispheric programs, which will be developed through widespread consultation with key stakeholders and strategic partners, including the public and private sectors, as well as organized civil society;

That the Director General gave a preliminary presentation on the proposed adjustments to the MTP at the 2022 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), on 17 May 2022; and

That the Member States on the Executive Committee and the other member countries that were present at the meeting expressed overall satisfaction with the Director General's proposed adjustments to the MTP and offered constructive suggestions for incorporation into the MTP and for its implementation,

#### RESOLVES:

1. To approve the adjustments to the IICA MTP for implementation during 2022-2026, which will provide a framework to guide the actions of the Institute during that period, and to instruct the Director General to incorporate the suggestions received from the Member States.
2. To express satisfaction for the widespread participation of countries in the process to prepare the 2022-2026 MTP and to urge all IICA Member States to support its implementation at the national, regional and hemispheric levels.



IICA/CE/Res. 687 (XLII-O/22)

19 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 687**

**THE STRATEGIC ROLE OF THE AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS OF THE AMERICAS  
WITH RESPECT TO PROCESSES UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS  
FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation on “The Strategic Role of Agrifood Systems of the Americas at COP27”;

CONSIDERING:

That the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) will take place on 6 to 18 November 2022 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt;

That the ultimate objective of the UNFCCC is to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system” within “a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, **to ensure that food production is not threatened** and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner”;

That, given the extreme vulnerability of production systems, urgent actions are needed to boost their resilience, increase sustainable production and provide other co-benefits, with a view to safeguarding food security within the Americas and across the globe;

That the agrifood systems of the countries of the Americas play an essential role, as a source of food and agricultural products for the world;

That, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 531 (XXI-O/21), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) wholeheartedly endorsed the sixteen general messages on

agriculture in the hemisphere, which were presented at the Food Systems Summit 2021, in particular Message No. 10, which states:

*“Food production systems are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The challenges posed by climate change make it essential to focus efforts on adaptation in order to ensure the resilience of the system and maintain the production necessary for food security. Agricultural production should move in the direction of sustainable systems that provide a balance between carbon emission and carbon capture, while considering positive external factors resulting from ecosystem services, all of which will require systems that quantify and promote their usage. The new technologies contribute to reconciling agricultural production with environmental and ecosystem health, which is an indispensable factor for agriculture’s resilience”;*

That the Virtual Meeting of Ministers on Climate Change and Agriculture, “On the Road to the 2022 Summit of the Americas and Beyond”, held on 31 May 2022, approved a message emphasizing the need to “undertake individual and collective actions to strengthen the role and participation of the agriculture sector in international and national climate processes”; and

That, the region’s Heads of State and Government at the IX Summit of the Americas adopted a commitment to achieve a “Sustainable and Green Future”, including by “strengthen[ing] the role of all stakeholders in the agriculture sector in international and national climate efforts, and invit[ing] them to present their recommendations at a meeting of ministers of agriculture of the Americas before the Conference of the Parties (COP27), to be organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”,

RESOLVES:

1. To express full support for national and multilateral efforts that contribute to raising the profile of the agriculture sector at COP27 and the UNFCCC.
2. To instruct the Director General of the Institute to develop key messages to be presented by the ministers of agriculture of the Americas at

UNFCCC COP27, and to submit them for the consideration of the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change and Agriculture, which will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 23 September 2022, and which will discuss strategies for the public and private sectors to progress jointly towards achieving the required transformation in the agrifood sector in response to climate change.

3. To entrust the Director General with organizing a pavilion at the COP27 to showcase the progress, challenges, priorities and proposals of the agriculture sector in its effort to tackle climate change, as well as the multiple benefits that would be gained from increasing the resilience of the sector in the countries of the Americas, as it relates to food and nutritional security, environmental sustainability, water conservation and management, livelihoods, peace and stability, poverty reduction and reduced land and soil degradation.
4. To instruct IICA to send a letter to the Presidency-elect of UNFCCC COP27, Egypt, to express the support of the ministers of agriculture of the Americas to make agriculture a central theme of COP27, thereby fostering greater climate support, action and ambition.
5. To request that IICA continue to assist its Member States in building capacities to facilitate the increased participation and influence of the agriculture sector in national and international climate processes, in the development and implementation of nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and national adaptation plans (NAPs) in the sector, as well as in mobilizing the financing required to achieve these objectives.
6. To recognize the work undertaken by IICA to support its Member States in their preparations for COP27 and in the ensuing processes.

IICA/CE/Res. 686 (XLII-O/22)

19 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 686****COLLECTIVE ACTION BY THE AMERICAS TO TACKLE FOOD INSECURITY  
AND FOSTER ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Special Session 1, “The Summit of the Americas and Food Security”,

CONSIDERING:

That the world is facing a global crisis that has severely impacted multiple areas, thereby affecting food security and the normal functioning of agrifood systems;

That there has been an overall increase in prices worldwide, including for various agricultural commodities, due to the global fiscal and monetary measures that have been introduced to rehabilitate economies crippled by the COVID-19 pandemic, and due to climate problems in key production regions; and

That the war in Eastern Europe has further exacerbated this complex situation, which has had vast implications and a significant impact on cereal, fertilizer and energy prices,

BEARING IN MIND:

That these problems were addressed from a multilateral perspective at the IX Summit of the Americas, “Building a Sustainable, Resilient and Equitable Future”, held on 6 - 10 June 2022 in Los Angeles, California, United States, in which the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) played an important role;

That, during the “Global Food Crisis and the Americas” forum at the Summit, the Director General of the Institute presented the document entitled “Proposals to

Strengthen Collective Action in the Americas to Tackle Food Insecurity and Ensure Sustainable Development’”; and

That the Government of the United States of America announced at the Summit its intention to provide USD 331 million in financing for humanitarian assistance and long-term development, through its Agency for International Development (USAID), with a view to boosting the food security and the resilience of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC),

RECOGNIZING:

That the ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, with the support of IICA, have deepened regional and hemispheric relations over the last three years, in a bid to develop a joint position to tackle the major challenges of the global agenda, which enabled them to reach a consensus on sixteen messages that were presented at the Food Systems Summit 2021, organized by the United Nations (UN),

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize that coordinated efforts by the countries of the Americas is critical to address a food, nutritional and humanitarian crisis in the region and the world, at a time when the combined effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, adverse climate phenomena and warfare throughout the world are disrupting supply chains and triggering increases in agrifood production costs and food prices.
2. To urge the Member States of the Institute to endorse the “Proposals for Collective Action in the Americas to Tackle Food Insecurity and Ensure Sustainable Development”, which the Director General presented at the IX Summit of the Americas, where he was asked to undertake the necessary actions with the governments to implement these proposals and to inform the governing bodies of the Institute on progress made in this respect.
3. To instruct the Director General to offer IICA's support to the food and humanitarian aid initiative of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) for the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as other initiatives that may arise with the same objective.

IICA/CE/Res. 688 (XLII-O/22)

19 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 688****THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by Dr. Raquel Chan, IICA Chair in Biotechnology and Sustainable Development, on “The Importance of Science, Technology and Innovation in Agriculture”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), as a knowledge management platform that is reinforcing and expanding technical cooperation actions, has established the Network of Goodwill Ambassadors and the IICA Chair initiative, with a view to creating linkages between IICA and its activities and prominent individuals involved in the academic, business and policy spheres of agrifood systems in the Americas;

That developments in biology, information and communication technologies, nanotechnology and engineering have consolidated their role as tools for the agriculture sector of the future; and advances in “new biology”, in particular, have provided more precise and reliable processes for research and development that are applicable in practically all spheres of agrifood activity, thereby facilitating a better understanding of natural resources and ecosystems; and

That modifications to the IICA Medium-term Plan (MTP) for the 2022-2026 period establish the need to position the potential of the bioeconomy in discussions and in the main regional and international technical and policy forums, through the generation and dissemination of information, analyses and evidence,

## RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the distinguished career of Dr. Raquel Chan, IICA Chair in Biotechnology and Sustainable Development, and her contribution to the development of plant biotechnology, as well as to thank her for her presentation to the Executive Committee meeting.
2. To reiterate the importance of innovation, science and technology to increase the productivity, sustainability and inclusiveness of the agrifood systems of the Americas, and to help achieve a new production-productivity-sustainability balance in agriculture, while also creating linkages between these systems and other sectors of the economy, through research and development (R+D).
3. To urge the Institute's member countries to continue building capacities for innovation, science and technology development in the agriculture sector, promoting increased public and private investment in this strategic area.
4. To ask the Director General to redouble IICA's efforts to support the creation of public policies, rules and regulations aimed at fostering and developing innovation, science and technology at the national, regional and hemispheric levels that reflect the unique characteristics and specific needs of the member countries of the Institute.

IICA/CE/Res. 690 (XLII-O/22)

19 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 690****REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

**HAVING SEEN:**

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 738 (22), “Report on the Collection of Quota Contributions”,

**CONSIDERING:**

That, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 414 (XIII-O/05), adopted the document “Revised measures for collecting quotas owed to the Institute”;

That the timely payment of quota contributions and the collection of arrears from previous years facilitate the implementation of the programs and projects included in the cooperation strategies established at the national, regional and hemispheric levels in the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and

That the payment of quotas by the member countries must be accelerated to enable the Institute to continue fulfilling its mission to encourage, promote and support agricultural and rural development in the countries, especially given the issues they are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic,

**RESOLVES:**

1. To thank the ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, as well as other high-level government officials in IICA’s Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.



2. To acknowledge the fact that, amidst the difficult situation that IICA and its member countries are facing as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become even more important to maintain in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to urge the Institute's Member States to make their annual quota payments and pay arrears for previous years in a timely fashion.
3. To instruct the Director General to: a) continue efforts to collect the quotas for 2022 and those owed for previous years; and b) keep IICA's member countries informed of progress in this area.
4. To urge the Member States to remain current with the payment of their quotas to the Institute, and those that are in arrears, to follow through with the plans agreed upon to meet their financial obligations to IICA, which are key actions to enable the Institute to remain a strong institution that effectively carries out its mission to support its Member States.

IICA/CE/Res. 689 (XLII-O/22)

19 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 689****2021 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND TWENTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE/Doc. 739 (22), “2021 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors”, and IICA/CE/Doc. 740 (22), “Twenty-eighth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.d of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that it is the responsibility of this governing body of IICA to “examine the financial status of the Institute, and upon the Board’s request or when a decision by the Board is required under the Convention, to send the corresponding report and recommendations to the Board”;

That, at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by way of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 231 (VII-O/93), created the ARC and approved its Statute;

That, pursuant to Article 3.k of its Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee is responsible for receiving and approving the ARC’s reports and making a determination on their recommendations; and

That, in its Twenty-eighth Report, the ARC states that it examined the report of the external auditors on IICA’s financial statements for the 2021 fiscal year and found the work performed to be satisfactory and in accordance with the rules of the Institute and international auditing standards,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2021 financial statements of the Institute and the report of the external auditors, and to instruct the Director General of IICA to submit them to the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA for its information.
2. To approve the Twenty-eighth Report of the ARC and instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations contained therein.
3. To thank the members of the ARC for the work accomplished.
4. To recognize the efforts made by IICA to maintain financial records with a clean opinion and to urge the Director General to continue his policy of transparency.

IICA/CE/Res. 697 (XLII-O/22)

19 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 697****DESIGNATION OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA) AND THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) FOR THE 2022-2023 BIENNIUM**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

**CONSIDERING:**

That, pursuant to Article 100 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), external auditors shall be designated by the Executive Committee to perform the tasks described in Chapter VII of the aforementioned rules of procedure;

That a special commission, comprised of representatives of the General Directorate, analyzed the proposals submitted by five auditing firms and concluded that the firm Deloitte & Touche S.A. presented the best proposal in terms of quality and price; and

That, based on this analysis, the Director General of the Institute recommends that the Executive Committee designate the firm Deloitte & Touche S.A. as external auditors of IICA and CATIE for the period 2022-2023,

**RESOLVES:**

To designate the firm Deloitte & Touche S.A. as external auditors of IICA and CATIE for the period 2022-2023, an appointment that may be extended by the Director General for an additional two year-period.

IICA/CE/Res. 691 (XLII-O/22)

20 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 691**

**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND  
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) FOR 2020-2021**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The Biennial Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2020-2021 and the Report on Joint Collaboration Activities between IICA and CATIE,

CONSIDERING:

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 441 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing the reports and plans of CATIE and requested that, in future, the Director General of this Center forward directly to the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) the biennial report and plans of CATIE for acceptance by the Executive Committee;

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 507 (XIX-O/17), the IABA requested that the directors general of IICA and CATIE prepare, with support from the Government of Costa Rica, a “strategic proposal” for the future of CATIE;

That, in response to the proposal submitted, the IABA decided, by way of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 519 (XX-O/19), to establish a Special Committee, made up of Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico and the United States, for the purpose of studying, analyzing and making recommendations regarding the future of CATIE and presenting them to the Twentieth Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee; and

That, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 664 (XL-O/20), the Executive Committee resolved to accept the recommendations of the Special Committee and to instruct the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE to make the necessary institutional modifications that would allow for converging the two organizations as requested by the IABA, as well as those that would continuously facilitate and foster their joint, coordinated work without the need to modify the current legal framework,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept CATIE's Biennial Report for 2020-2021.
2. To recognize the collaborative work of the directors general of IICA and CATIE, as well as the progress achieved in the joint Master Plan.
3. To urge IICA and CATIE to continue to strengthen their links and mechanisms for implementing joint activities in support of the efforts of the Member States to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.
4. To urge the Director General of CATIE to make all reports provided to CATIE's Governing Council, including financial reports, also available to the Executive Committee and the IABA.

IICA/CE/Res. 692 (XLII-O/2022)

20 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 692**

**REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) FOR THE 2020-2021 BIENNIUM**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report on the work program of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2020-2021 biennium,

CONSIDERING:

That, under the terms of the agreement currently in force between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CARDI, the latter organization must submit an annual report on its activities; and

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 440 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing CARDI's reports and plans and requested that, in the future, the Executive Director of that Institute forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the biennial report and plans of CARDI for acceptance by the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept and express appreciation to CARDI for the report on the implementation of its work program for the 2020-2021 biennium.
2. To urge IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their technical links and mechanisms for executing joint activities in support of efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being in the Caribbean countries.

IICA/CE/Res. 694 (XLII-O/22)

20 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 694****REPORT OF THE 2022 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY  
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 742 (22), “Report of the 2022 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”,

CONSIDERING:

That the purpose of the SACMI, as a standing commission of the Executive Committee, is to advise the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and to facilitate more regular discussion with the Member States on administrative, financial and strategic issues, in order to enhance the process of reaching consensus in the Executive Committee and in the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 580 (XXXIII-O/13), the Executive Committee established that the meetings of the SACMI should preferably be held online, so that sessions may be held as frequently as necessary, and to generate savings for the Institute;

That, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 660 (XL-O/20), the Executive Committee instructed the SACMI to serve as an extended permanent working group aimed at supporting, analyzing and developing a proposal for the Institute’s comprehensive transformation, and that pursuant to that resolution the SACMI held a regular meeting on 17 May 2022; and



That the above-referenced report of the SACMI contains recommendations for consideration by the Director General and the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the Report of the 2022 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

IICA/CE/Res. 695 (XLII-O/22)

20 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 695****STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE FORTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 743 (22), “Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”, and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 744 (22) “Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”,

CONSIDERING:

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and at the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports: a) “Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee” and b) “Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”.

IICA/CE/Res. 696 (XLII-O/22)

20 July 2022

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 696**

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE FORTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 737 (22), “Date and Venue of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”,

CONSIDERING:

That, pursuant to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is required to hold one regular meeting each year. Therefore, a date and venue for the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2023 must be set;

That, in accordance with Article 25 of said Rules of Procedure, in the event that no Member State of IICA offers to host the regular meeting of the Executive Committee in that country, the meeting will be held at the Institute’s Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica; and

That the Director General of IICA reports that he has received no formal offer from a Member State to host the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To hold the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the second half of 2023.

2. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation, in due course, to the Member States to participate in said meeting, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.

## **SIGNING OF THE REPORT**



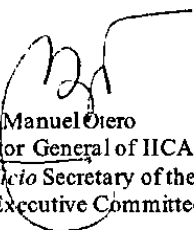
## **SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE FORTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 13:00 hours on the twentieth day of July of the year two thousand and twenty two, in San Jose, Costa Rica.


This report will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes approved during the Closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretariat shall file the original texts in the archives of the Institute, post the electronic files on the Institute's Web page and send the final version of this report to the governments of the Member States, the Associate States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

San Jose, Costa Rica.



**Manuel Otero**  
Director General of IICA  
*Ex officio* Secretary of the  
2022 Executive Committee



**Laura Elena Suarez Torres**  
Secretary of State for Agriculture  
and Livestock of Honduras  
Chair of the 2022 Executive Committee





# **ANNEXES**



## **ANNEX 1: AGENDA OF THE MEETING**

IICA/CE/Doc. 735 (22)

- 1. Provisional schedule** IICA/CE/Doc. 734 (22)
- 2. Message from the Director General of IICA** (no document)
  - 2.1. Proposed adjustments to the Medium-term Plan (MTP) IICA/CE/Doc. 736 (22)
- 3. Technical cooperation of IICA**
  - 3.1. Special session 1: Summit of the Americas and food security (no document)
  - 3.2. Special session 2: The importance of science, technology and innovation in agriculture (no document)
- 4. Financial and programmatic-budgetary Situation**
  - 4.1. 2022-2023 Program Budget (no document)
  - 4.2. Report on the collection of quota contributions IICA/CE/Doc. 738 (22)
  - 4.3. 2021 Financial statements of IICA and report of the external auditor IICA/CE/Doc. 739 (22)
  - 4.4. Twenty-eighth report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) IICA/CE/Doc. 740 (22)
- 5. Strengthening of strategic partnerships**
  - 5.1. Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for the 2020-2021 biennium (unnumbered)

- 5.2. Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CATIE (unnumbered)
- 5.3. Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2020-2021 biennium (unnumbered)
- 5.4. Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CARDI (no document)

## **6. Activities of the General Directorate and the governing bodies**

- 6.1. 2021 IICA Annual Report IICA/CE/Doc. 741 (22)
- 6.2. Report of the 2022 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) IICA/CE/Doc. 742 (22)
- 6.3. Status of the resolutions of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 743 (22)
- 6.4. Status of the resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) IICA/CE/Doc. 744 (22)
- 6.5. Date and venue of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 737 (22)

## **7. Other matters**

**ANNEX 2: SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING**  
IICA/CE/Doc. 734 (22)

**Monday, 18 July**

- Participants arrive and are transported to the hotel IICA personnel
- Registration begins at the hotel

**Tuesday, 19 July**

- 07:15 • Participants are transported to IICA
- 08:00 • Registration continues at the Secretariat of the meeting IICA personnel

***Preparatory session***

- 08:30-09:00 • Preparatory session of the regular representatives of the Member States of the 2022 Executive Committee Chair of the 2021 Executive Committee (Paraguay), Member States and Technical Secretariat

***First plenary session***

- 09:00-09:20 • Message from the Director General Director General of IICA
- 09:20-09:40 • Proposed adjustments to the Medium-term Plan (MTP) (Resolution-DR2) Director General of IICA
- 09:40-10:30 • Analysis and comments Member States

10:30-10:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special session 1: Summit of the Americas and food security</li> </ul>	Neil Herrington, American Chamber of Commerce
10:40-11:00	<i>Refreshments</i>	
11:00-11:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special session 1: (continued) Summit of the Americas and food security (Resolution-DR4)</li> </ul>	Director General of IICA
11:15-11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis and comments</li> </ul>	
11:30-11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The strategic role of agrifood systems of the Americas at COP27 (Resolution-DR3)</li> </ul>	Director of Technical Cooperation
11:50-12:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis and comments</li> </ul>	Member States
12:10-14:00	<i>Lunch</i>	

### ***Second plenary session***

14:00-14:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special session 2: The importance of science, technology and innovation in agriculture (Resolution-DR5)</li> </ul>	Dr. Raquel Chan
14:20-14:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis and comments</li> </ul>	Member States
14:40-15:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 Financial statements of IICA and report of the external auditors (Resolution-DR7)</li> <li>• Twenty-eighth report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) (Resolution-DR7)</li> </ul>	Directorate of Corporate Services  Member of the ARC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2022-2023 Program Budget</li> <li>• Report on the collection of quota contributions (Resolution-DR6)</li> </ul>	Directorate of Corporate Services
15:20-15:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis and comments</li> </ul>	Member States
15:40-16:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and approval of draft resolutions (2, 4, 3, 5, 7 and 6)</li> </ul>	Rapporteur and Executive Committee members
16:20-16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Message from the President of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) (Africa-Americas Ministerial Summit on Agrifood Systems)</li> </ul>	Dr. Agnes Kalibata
16:30-16:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close of the first day of the meeting</li> </ul>	Chair of the Executive Committee and Director General of IICA
16:40-17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IICA of Open Doors Tour</li> </ul>	
17:30	<i>Cocktail reception</i>	

### Wednesday, 20 July

07:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants are transported to IICA</li> </ul>	
08:30-08:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official photograph of the 2022 Executive Committee</li> </ul>	

### *Third plenary session*

09:00-09:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcoming remarks</li> </ul>	Chair of the EC
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09:10-09:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA)</li> </ul>	Director of Technical Cooperation
09:25-09:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of the proposal to create the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems (ELTSA)</li> </ul>	Director of Technical Cooperation
09:40-09:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation on the strengthening of strategic partnerships</li> </ul>	Deputy Director General of IICA
09:55-10:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis and comments</li> </ul>	Member States
10:15-10:35	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationship between IICA and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report of CATIE for the 2020-2021 biennium</li> <li>- Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CATIE (Resolution-DR8)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Director General of CATIE
10:35-10:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis and comments</li> </ul>	Member States
10:50-11:10	<i>Refreshments</i>	
11:10-11:25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relationship between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Report of CARDI for the 2020-2021 biennium</li> <li>- Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CARDI (Resolution-DR9)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Executive Director of CARDI
11:25-11:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis and comments</li> </ul>	Member States



11:40-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reports of the Technical Secretariat           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2021 IICA Annual Report (Resolution-DR1)</li> <li>- Report of the 2022 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) (Resolution-DR10)</li> <li>- Status of the resolutions of the Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (Resolution-DR11)</li> <li>- Status of the resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) (Resolution-DR11)</li> <li>- Date and venue of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (Resolution-DR12)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Technical Secretariat
12:00-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reading and approval of draft resolutions (8, 9, 1, 10, 11 and 12)</li> </ul>	Rapporteur and Executive Committee members

### Closing session

12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close of the meeting</li> </ul>	Chair of the Executive Committee and Director General of IICA
-------	--	---

*Lunch*



## ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

### MEMBER STATES ON THE 2022 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

#### **Barbados**

Indar Weir (*Regular*)  
Minister of Agriculture and Food  
Security  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
Security

Terry Bascombe (*Alternate*)  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
Security

Keeley Holder (*Advisor*)  
Chief Agricultural Officer  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
Security

#### **Brazil**

Jean Marcel Fernandes (*Regular*)  
Secretário de Comércio e Relações  
Internacionais  
Secretaria de Comércio e Relações  
Internacionais  
Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária  
e Abastecimento

Fernando Sardenberg Zelner (*Alternate*)  
Secretário-Adjunto  
Secretaria de Comércio  
e Relações Internacionais  
Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária  
e Abastecimento

Francieli Franciscatto Covatti (*Advisor*)  
Chefe de Gabinete  
Secretaria de Comércio  
e Relações Internacionais  
Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária  
e Abastecimento

Luis Carlos Mavignier de Araujo (*Advisor*)  
Coordenação-Geral de Apoio  
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Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária  
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#### **Chile**

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Encargado de Negocios a. i.  
Embajada de Chile en Costa Rica

Alberto Niño de Zepeda (*Alternate*)  
Asesor del Ministro de  
Agricultura  
Ministerio de Agricultura

Carla Molina Corral (*Advisor*)  
Cónsul  
Embajada de Chile en Costa Rica

**Colombia**

Ángelo Quintero (*Regular*)  
 Director de Innovación,  
 Desarrollo Tecnológico y  
 Protección Sanitaria  
 Ministerio de Agricultura  
 y Desarrollo Rural

Nelson Lozano Castro (*Alternate*)  
 Coordinador de Cambio Climático  
 Ministerio de Agricultura  
 y Desarrollo Rural

Ángela Burbano Paredes (*Alternate*)  
 Jefa  
 Oficina de Asuntos  
 Internacionales  
 Ministerio de Agricultura  
 y Desarrollo Rural

María Cristina Jiménez (*Advisor*)  
 Asesora  
 Oficina de Asuntos Internacionales  
 Ministerio de Agricultura  
 y Desarrollo Rural

Duván Ocampo Pinzón (*Advisor*)  
 Ministro Plenipotenciario  
 Coordinador de Asuntos Económicos  
 Dirección de Asuntos Económicos,  
 Sociales y Ambientales  
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

Alejandro Torres Peña (*Advisor*)  
 Consejero de Relaciones Exteriores  
 Embajada de Colombia en Costa Rica

Sergio Alejandro Peña (*Advisor*)  
 Tercer Secretario de Relaciones  
 Exteriores  
 Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

**Ecuador**

Andrés Pareja (*Regular*)  
 Subsecretario de Redes de  
 Innovación Agropecuaria  
 Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

**El Salvador**

Edward Francisco Ventura (*Regular*)  
 Asesor del Despacho Ministerial  
 Ministerio de Agricultura  
 y Ganadería

**Grenada**

Adrian A. Thomas (*Regular*)  
 Minister of State with responsibility  
 for Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries  
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 Ministry of Agriculture and Lands,  
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Gregory Delsol (*Alternate*)  
 Senior Planning Officer  
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**Guatemala**

César Vinicio Arreaga M. (*Regular*)  
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 Alimentaria y Nutricional

Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería  
y Alimentación

Sandra América Noriega Urizar (*Alternate*)  
Embajadora Extraordinaria y  
Plenipotenciaria  
Embajada de Guatemala en Costa Rica

Luis Ernesto Molina Cardona (*Advisor*)  
Primer Secretario y Cónsul  
Embajada de Guatemala  
en Costa Rica

Ricardo Enríquez Enríquez (*Advisor*)  
Tercer Secretario  
Embajada de Guatemala  
en Costa Rica

### **Honduras**

Laura Elena Suazo Torres (*Regular*)  
Secretaria de Estado en los  
Despachos de Agricultura y  
Ganadería  
Secretaría de Agricultura y  
Ganadería

### **Mexico**

María de Lourdes Cruz Trinidad (*Regular*)  
Coordinadora General de Asuntos  
Internacionales  
Secretaría de Agricultura y  
Desarrollo Rural (SADER)

Andrea Regina Huerta (*Alternate*)  
Encargada de Asuntos Económicos y  
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### **Suriname**

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Animal Husbandry and  
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Director Nacional de Relaciones  
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Virginia Rumbolo (*Advisor*)  
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### **The Bahamas**

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Department of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture, Marine  
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Delreese Moss (*Alternate*)  
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### **Bolivia**

Julio Huaraya Cabrera (*Regular*)  
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Agropecuaria y Seguridad  
Alimentaria  
Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural y  
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### **Costa Rica**

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Ministère de l'Agriculture, des  
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#### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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Juan Carlos Méndez  
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**Caribbean Agricultural Research  
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Raquel Chan  
Cátedra IICA  
Argentina

Neil Herrington  
Senior Vice President  
Americas Program

United States Chamber of Commerce  
United States

Tammy Ames  
Consejero Comercial  
Embajada de Canadá en Costa Rica

Elizabeth Williams  
Embajadora  
Embajada de Canadá en Costa Rica

Ana Victoria Rosero  
Segunda Secretaria  
Embajada del Ecuador en Costa Rica

Ricardo Hernández  
Cónsul General  
Embajada de El Salvador en Costa  
Rica (GRULAC)

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Manuel Otero	Director General
Lloyd Day	Deputy Director General
Miguel Á. Arvelo	IICA Representative in Costa Rica and Chief of Staff
Joaquín Arias	Technical Specialist, Center of Strategic Analysis for Agriculture (CAESPA)
Federico Bert	Digital Agriculture Specialist
Beverly Best	Director of External and Institutional Relations
Hugo Chavarría	Manager of the Bioeconomy and Production Development Program
Randall Cordero	Coordinator of the Institutional Communication Division
Ana Marisa Cordero	Acting Manager of the Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality Program
Braulio Heinze	Director of Corporate Services
Miguel Herrera	Coordinator of the Legal, International Affairs and Protocol Unit
Héctor Iturbe	Technical Secretary of the Governing Bodies
Carlos Jiménez	Manager of the Administrative Services Division
Karen Kleinheinz	Manager of the Financial Management Division
Mario León	Manager of the Territorial Development and Family Farming Program
María Teresa Maldonado	Manager of the Programming and Budgeting Division

Francisco Mello	Coordinator of the Center for Knowledge Management and Horizontal Cooperation Services
Manuel Messina	Technical Advisor to the Directorate of Technical Cooperation
Laura Mora	Manager of Decentralization Division
Alejandra Mozes	Manager of the Human Talent Division
Guido Nejamkis	Advisor to the Director General
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Daniel Rodríguez	Manager of the International Trade and Regional Integration Program
Federico Sancho	Manager of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division
Breno Tiburcio	Deputy Chief of Staff
Federico Villarreal	Director of the Technical Cooperation Division
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Kelly Witkowski	Manager of the Climate Change, Natural Resources and Management of Production Risks Program

## ANNEX 4: MEETING STAFF

### Secretaría de la reunión

*Ex officio* Secretary and Director General  
of IICA

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Technical Secretariat

Héctor Iturbe  
Alina Ortega  
Laura Méndez

Logistics

Katia Núñez

Legal advisor

William Berenson

### Communications

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José García  
Sergio Navarro  
Isaac Zúñiga

### Diplomatic and protocol services

Miguel Herrera

### Services for delegates

Assistance at the airport

Randy Alexander  
Ronald Hidalgo

Assistance at hotel

Sonia González  
Lorena Mata

Conference room

Marlen Montoya  
Adriana Araya  
Lidy Astorga  
Sonia González  
Verónica Herrera  
Eduardo Lovell  
Lorena Mata  
Melania Rodríguez

Registration and secretariat	Viviana Chacón Guisselle Solano
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