

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SERIES No. 110

REPORT OF THE FORTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

San Jose, Costa Rica

19-20 July 2023



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.



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



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

The Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions set out in Chapter III of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and in Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 696 (XLII-O/22) of that governing body of the Institute.

The meeting was held in person and virtually.

The 2023 Executive Committee comprised the following Member States: Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 09:00 hours on 19 July 2023. Participating in person and virtually were the Member States sitting on the Committee. Presiding over the meeting was Mrs. Laura Suazo, Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras, the country serving as Chair of the Executive Committee.

0.1.2 The 2023 Executive Committee comprised the following Member States: Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela, with full voting and speaking rights. In attendance were the representatives of eleven Member States sitting on the 2023 Executive Committee, nine of which participated in person and two of which did so virtually.

0.1.3 In keeping with Article 9 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the following Member States also participated in person, with the right to speak but not to vote: Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia and Saint Kitts and Nevis. Participating virtually, with the right to speak but not to vote, were the following Member States: Argentina, Bolivia, Haiti, Jamaica and the United States of America.

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 Mr. Indar Weir, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Barbados, as Chair of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, following a proposal by the Representative of Trinidad and Tobago, which was seconded by the Representative of Grenada.

0.2.1.2 Next, the Chair of the Executive Committee proceeded with the election of the Rapporteur of the Executive Committee. The representatives of the Member States of the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. Enrique Regalado Gamonal, Deputy Minister for Policies and Agricultural Development Oversight of Peru, as Rapporteur of the meeting, following a proposal by the Representative of Mexico.

0.2.1.3 The Officers of the Meeting were elected as follows:

Chair: Indar Weir

Rapporteur: Enrique Regalado

Ex officio secretary: Manuel Otero

0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

0.2.2.1 The Chair submitted for consideration by the representatives of the delegations the provisional work agenda of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, included in document No. 747 (23), available on the online information system. The provisional work agenda was unanimously approved with the amendment requested by the *ex officio* Secretary of the Executive Committee to remove the agenda item “Status of the Regulation on the Incorporation of Countries that are not Permanent Observers of the Organization of American States (OAS) as IICA Permanent

Observers”, given the fact that there had been no new requests from countries interested in becoming observers of the Institute.

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, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of that governing body, committees could also be set up during the meeting, if the representatives of the delegations sitting on the Executive Committee deemed it necessary. He added that any committees established would need to meet as provided for in the rules.

0.2.4 Duration of the meeting

0.2.4.1 It was decided that the meeting would conclude on Thursday, 20 July 2023 at 15:00 hours.

0.2.5 Countries’ right to vote

0.2.5.1 The Chair sought the opinion of the Legal Advisor of the governing bodies of the Institute with respect to the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the Executive Committee, in keeping with the Rules of Procedure of that governing body and all other provisions regarding its application.

0.2.5.2 The Legal Advisor explained the provisions of Chapter IX of the aforementioned rules and of Article 24 of the Convention on IICA, regarding the right to vote. He informed the meeting that Colombia and El Salvador were in arrears with respect to their quota payments. He mentioned that the right to vote had not been suspended for any Member State in previous Executive Committee meetings. He added that, at that time, Colombia and El Salvador were engaged in efforts to bring their quota payments up to date. He concluded his remarks by advising the participants not to suspend the right to vote in either case.

0.2.5.3 The member countries of the Executive Committee endorsed the recommendation, allowing the countries in arrears to participate with full voting rights in the meeting.

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 mentioned that credentials had been received for the delegations from Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as for the countries with the right to speak but not to vote, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and the United States of America, as well as the Kingdom of Spain, which is an Associate Country of the Institute.

0.2.6.3 He announced that Germany, the European Union and Türkiye were also attending the meeting as observers. He indicated that the attendees also included delegates of international partner organizations of the Institute: the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), which were attending in person, and the Caribbean Agricultural and Development Institute (CARDI), the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA) and the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), which were attending virtually.

0.3 Close of the session

0.3.1 The Preparatory Session of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 09:41 hours on 19 July 2023.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 *Opening of the session*

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 09:45 hours on 19 July 2023, and was chaired by the Representative of Barbados. The Chair of the Executive Committee invited the coordinator of the Institute's carbon neutrality efforts to the podium, to report on the status of those actions.

1.2 *IICA's progress in carbon neutrality efforts*

1.2.1 The coordinator of the Institute's carbon neutrality efforts referred to the commitment of IICA's General Directorate to achieving accreditation as a carbon neutral organization. First, she reported that the Ministry of the Environment and Energy (MINAE) of Costa Rica had recognized the Institute as a carbon neutral organization due to its commitment to the global goals of climate action, sustainability and environmental responsibility.

1.2.2 In addition to these efforts, she mentioned the work that IICA had carried out over the previous five years within the framework of the Blue Flag Program of the Government of Costa Rica, which had resulted in greater efficiency in the use of water, electricity and fuel.

1.2.3 She informed the participants that that Executive Committee meeting was the first ever to be designated as a carbon neutral event, based on a review and evaluation process carried out by a MINAE-accredited verification agency. She explained that the process to evaluate carbon neutrality involved verifying emissions associated with the activities carried out before, during and after the meeting.

1.2.4 Next, she listed the actions that the Institute had carried out to reduce and offset its carbon footprint: a) using as little paper as possible to review internal documents; for this reason, a laptop had been placed on each desk in the meeting room; b) utilizing name tags made from recycled paper, which would be collected at the end of the meeting for subsequent recycling; c) reducing emissions associated with the transportation of ministers from the airport to the hotel by 25%, through the use of electric vehicles; d) carpooling among meeting support staff to reduce the carbon footprint; e) implementing work from home for IICA personnel not involved in the meeting, to reduce

emissions; and f) reducing and making more efficient use of water and electricity.

1.2.5 She mentioned that, as part of efforts to make the Institute more sustainable, Headquarters had launched a tree planting project with the goal of planting more than 10,850 trees in the Americas.

1.2.6 She concluded her remarks by highlighting IICA's commitment to fulfilling its responsibility to collaborate in the fight against climate change and contribute to reducing the carbon footprint.

1.3 *Remarks by the Chair-elect of the Executive Committee*

1.3.1 The Chair of the Executive Committee greeted the representatives of the delegations of the Member States, observer countries, international agencies, special guests, Institute staff and other participants of the meeting. He conveyed special greetings to the ministers of the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). He underscored the objective to strengthen the food security and sustainable development agenda at the regional and global levels through technical cooperation institutions such as IICA. Lastly, he thanked the Director General of the Institute for the technical cooperation actions carried out and the leadership he had assumed over the previous five years at the helm of IICA.

1.3.2 He thanked the outgoing Chair of the Executive Committee and highlighted her leadership in guiding that governing body of the Institute from 2022 to 2023. Likewise, he thanked the delegates of the Member States for depositing their trust in the Representative of the delegation of Barbados to lead that meeting of the Executive Committee.

1.3.3 He highlighted the important role of ministers of Agriculture in addressing issues such as the climate crisis, food security and the development of rural and urban areas. Therefore, he considered that these ministers have the responsibility to identify ways to achieve food security and sovereignty. In this regard, he noted that, at the global level, close to 600 million people suffer from hunger, either because they lack access to food, or because they only have access to food with a low nutritional value.

1.3.4 He mentioned that, given the prevailing climatic conditions, special support should be provided to small island and other developing countries, to guarantee access to water and other services for agriculture in rural areas.

- 1.3.5 In closing, he underscored the importance of fostering the provision of technical cooperation between countries, as well as undertaking the necessary efforts to strengthen such actions both nationally and regionally.
- 1.4 *Message from the Director General*
- 1.4.1 The Director General of IICA gave a warm welcome to the representatives of the delegations and all other participants of the Executive Committee meeting, which he reiterated was a carbon neutral event.
- 1.4.2 He thanked Mrs. Laura Suazo, Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras, for her leadership as Chair of the Executive Committee, and mentioned that she was one of four female ministers of Agriculture in the region. Next, he welcomed the new Chair of the Executive Committee, Minister Indar Weir.
- 1.4.3 He announced that Víctor Villalobos, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico, who had served as Director General of the Institute during the period 2010-2018, would be joining the meeting in person that afternoon. He added that Mr. Villalobos had been the first Mexican ever to lead the institution, and that his term in office was worthy of technical, political and academic recognition due to his efforts to modernize agriculture in the Americas under a science-based approach. He also conveyed special greetings to the Director General of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Muhammad Ibrahim, and announced that a special ceremony would be held during the meeting to commemorate 50 years since the center's foundation in 1973. He added that CATIE reaffirmed its strategic importance every day through its leadership in research and teaching for the development of tropical agriculture in the Americas.
- 1.4.4 Next, the Director General referred to the complex, uncertain and challenging international context, which impacted countries in the Americas and would need to be addressed during the meeting.
- 1.4.5 First, he mentioned global events that were affecting agriculture at that time, such as the war in Eastern Europe, which was generating economic, political, geopolitical, environmental and social repercussions worldwide. He noted that, in the Americas, the war was affecting agrifood systems in many ways, due to the fact that Russia and Ukraine were major agricultural producers of wheat and corn in particular, as well as leading exporters of sunflower oil and

key suppliers of fertilizers, with Russia being the world's top supplier of nitrogen, potassium and phosphate.

- 1.4.6 Second, he mentioned that the war had exacerbated conditions in the aftermath of the pandemic caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (COVID-19). As a result, international commodity prices had reached a record high due to the elevated prices for energy, fertilizers and agricultural services.
- 1.4.7 Third, he indicated that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) had been the region most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, with an unfortunate death toll and a severe economic downturn. Fourth, he pointed out that extreme climate events had become more acute, which had generated a climate crisis. He added that the Americas was one of the regions of the world most vulnerable to the effects of this crisis, which would see heat waves, reduced crop yields, forest fires, the loss of coral reefs and rising sea levels becoming even more pronounced.
- 1.4.8 He explained that the juxtaposition of the aforementioned crises placed the role of agriculture in achieving food and nutritional security at the top of the global agenda. He highlighted the strategic importance of the Americas in producing and supplying the world with food.
- 1.4.9 He reaffirmed the importance of IICA's institutional mission within the framework of this new global scenario, which involved three converging duties: a) to be an institution that looks outward to the world from the Americas; b) to fulfill an indelible role as a catalyst for collective action; and c) to be an institution of open doors that listens, reflects and takes action.
- 1.4.10 The Director General referred to the cooperation actions that the Institute was undertaking with other continents, such as Africa and Asia, with which it had established linkages to transform agrifood systems and address the causes of food insecurity, malnutrition and environmental degradation, as well as advance the development of mechanisms based on science, technology and innovation that foster mutual learning and joint action between the two continents. In that regard, he mentioned that IICA had participated in an interregional ministerial roundtable in Hanoi, Vietnam, which had been attended by more than 40 senior agricultural officials of the Americas, Africa and Asia, as well as representatives of international agencies. He reported that the participants had agreed to strengthen South-South cooperation to

transform agrifood systems in a sustainable manner, with special emphasis on digitalization, innovation, sustainable investments and gender policies, which are just a few areas that afford valuable opportunities for mutual collaboration.

- 1.4.11 He described the technical cooperation efforts that IICA had undertaken alongside ministers and strategic partners. First, he mentioned the 16 messages that had been presented at the United Nations Food Systems Summit in September 2021, which summarized the position of the Institute's member countries, particularly with respect to agriculture as a key sector to eradicate poverty, drive rural development and protect the environment.
- 1.4.12 Second, he highlighted the consensus that the ministers of Agriculture of the Americas had reached at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27), held in 2022 in Egypt, regarding the need to overcome the climate crisis and achieve more sustainable agriculture. He added that another point of consensus had been that the investments required to overcome the impact of climate change and transform agriculture could not be assumed by farmers alone, and that it would therefore be crucial for other relevant stakeholders of the global economy to strengthen their commitment to providing international funding.
- 1.4.13 Third, he mentioned that, as part of the IICA of Open Doors initiative, the Institute expected to welcome close to 10,000 visitors that year, to share innovations achieved in the sector and raise awareness of the fact that Agriculture 4.0 will shape the future and allow for capitalizing on scientific and technological advances.
- 1.4.14 As an example, he cited a permanent stand that would be set up at the Interpretive Center for Tomorrow's Agriculture (CIMAG) – which had received support from the private sector and international cooperation agencies – to showcase the potential of satellite-based applications, within the framework of the Adapted Agroforestry Systems for the Central American Dry Corridor (AGRO-INNOVA) project, implemented together with the European Union. He added that the installation of another stand focusing on drones was also underway, together with the company Índigo. He also highlighted progress in the implementation of a program called “*Chicas a volar*”, geared towards bridging the technological and digital gap that affects youth, especially rural women.

- 1.4.15 He recognized the need to reverse soil degradation in the agriculture sector of the Americas. In that regard, he considered it necessary to drive the adoption of good practices, such as direct seeding, agrosilvopastoral systems, pasture improvement and better use of available biomass, which would create greater harmony between agriculture and nature.
- 1.4.16 Next, the Director General paid homage to Alysso Paolinelli, former Minister of Agriculture of Brazil and IICA Goodwill Ambassador, who had recently passed away. He highlighted his leadership in promoting knowledge-intensive agriculture and boosting the productive development of the Brazilian “Cerrado” biome, when no one believed it to be possible. He echoed the words of former minister Roberto Rodrigues, who had described him as “the driving force behind Brazil’s sustainable agricultural development”.
- 1.4.17 He listed the topics to be addressed at the current Executive Committee meeting. First, he reported on the institutional calendar that was currently underway, which included a series of important technical activities related to the topics of biofuels; science, technology and innovation; digital agriculture and the bioeconomy, among others, in preparation for the ministerial conference that would be held in October of that year.
- 1.4.18 Second, he announced that a hemispheric plan on water and agriculture had been launched to address the alarming water deficit facing the Americas, as reflected by severe droughts in the Southern Cone and Central America. He maintained that without water, there can be no agriculture, and without agriculture, there can be no life.
- 1.4.19 Third, he referred to the Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA) and the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA), whose virtual campus had provided training to over 50,000 students over the previous five years.
- 1.4.20 Fourth, he mentioned the importance of the 2023-2024 Program Budget, which had been prepared based on the principles of transparency and austerity set out in the current Business Plan and Medium-term Plan (MTP).
- 1.4.21 Fifth, he highlighted the formalization of long-term and impactful strategic partnerships, not only with public institutions, but also with the private sector, educational centers and civil society organizations in general. One such example was a partnership between governments, the private sector and

the Institute, which had generated a major impact at COP27, held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in late 2022. He announced that joint work with other institutions would continue to be fostered, with a view to achieving an even greater impact at the 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP28), to be attended by the ministers of Agriculture of the Americas.

1.4.22 Lastly, the Director General reaffirmed the commitment he had undertaken since the first day of his Administration in 2018, to take decisive steps towards transforming IICA and continuing to build an Institute that delivers technical cooperation of excellence to address the demands and needs of its member countries.

1.5 *Analysis and comments*

1.5.1 The Chair of the Committee highlighted IICA's work to foster the sustainability and competitiveness of the agriculture sector of the Americas. He reiterated his support for South-South cooperation and science- and technology-based solutions in agriculture. He congratulated the Director General on the initiative between the European Union and the Institute related to the use of satellite information in agriculture. He mentioned that one of the greatest challenges facing the agriculture sector was enlisting the support of international funding agencies to continue promoting initiatives such as those that had been mentioned.

1.5.2 The Representative of Mexico recognized IICA's leadership in strengthening food systems, increasing hemispheric food security and consolidating an Institute of open doors at a time when the world was facing considerable changes and challenges.

1.5.3 She highlighted IICA's leading role in relevant forums, which had strengthened the capacities of member countries with respect to food security and climate change, among other areas. She highlighted the Institute's capacity to implement technical cooperation actions in topics such as the bioeconomy, biosafety, territorial development, family farming, regional integration, agricultural sustainability, agricultural digitalization and youth. She underscored the need for IICA to resume efforts to address a highly relevant topic: water for agriculture.

- 1.5.4 Lastly, she urged the Institute to continue channeling efforts towards achieving more impactful results with respect to science-based agriculture, to solidify its standing as a strategic asset for development and food security.
- 1.5.5 The Representative of Canada applauded IICA's contributions to strengthening food security, driving prosperity in the Americas and tackling the impacts of climate change, through on-site work as well as through strategic actions at the executive and technical levels.
- 1.5.6 She mentioned that Russia's withdrawal from the Black Sea Grain Deal would increase the price volatility of food and supplies for agrifood systems in the Americas and around the world. She emphasized the importance of agriculture being part of the solution to climate change issues. She reported on her country's investments to strengthen agricultural sustainability and inclusion as well as mitigate the sector's environmental impacts.
- 1.5.7 She urged the Institute to continue investing in science and technology to continue improving agricultural productivity and sustainability. Lastly, she reiterated her support and commitment to continue engaging in work with the Cooperative Program in Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region (PROCINORTE), the Living Soils of the Americas initiative, and the other innovative mechanisms that the Director General had mentioned in his presentation.
- 1.5.8 The Representative of Brazil expressed his gratitude for the Director General's words of tribute to former Minister of Agriculture, Alysson Paolinelli, and reported that the year of his passing had coincided with the 50th anniversary of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA).
- 1.5.9 He recognized IICA's importance as a key player in the field of public policy, as well as its solid international standing as an institution that fosters the strengthening of agriculture. He referred to the work that the Institute's office had carried out in his country and recognized the relevance of the technical cooperation that the Institute provides to his country's government, which contributes to driving the transformation of the agriculture sector and providing Brazilian agriculture with greater visibility in international forums.
- 1.5.10 He commented on the efforts that Brazil had undertaken to meet its financial obligations to IICA. Lastly, he underscored the topic of sustainable water resource management, which he considered is key to fostering a resilient,

productive and inclusive agriculture sector that contributes to resolving food insecurity.

- 1.5.11 The Representative of Chile referred to the strategic importance of the region's food security. She commented that important topics had been addressed at multiple multilateral meetings and forums on agrifood systems, such as agricultural sustainability, nutritional security and the need for low-emission food systems, among others. She added that participants at those events had called for fairer, healthier and more inclusive and sustainable systems, under an approach that places special emphasis on protecting our communities and future generations.
- 1.5.12 She highlighted the relevance of the Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture. She indicated that addressing the topic of water and the climate emergency was one of the strategic objectives of the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile, given that water security is key to achieving the sustainable development of agriculture and rural areas. She ended her remarks by mentioning that agrifood systems must capitalize on technical cooperation to become more efficient, inclusive and sustainable.
- 1.5.13 The Representative of Costa Rica considered that, in light of the current scenario, country authorities had a great deal of work ahead of them, and considerable challenges to overcome. To that end, he added, countries and organizations such as the Institute must cooperate to strengthen the region's agriculture sector by implementing innovative practices that foster its responsible and sustainable development. In closing, he expressed his interest in exchanging experiences, knowledge and good practices at the meeting, to continue driving sustainable development in our countries and strengthening the key role of agriculture at the regional and global levels.
- 1.5.14 The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago expressed his gratitude to the Director General and IICA for the efforts undertaken for the benefit of countries of the Americas and the Caribbean in particular. He also expressed his commitment to collaborate, make contributions and fully capitalize on the discussions at that meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 1.5.15 He highlighted the importance of the Institute's focus on youth, especially their reintegration in agriculture and their involvement in science, innovation and technology. He referred to the importance of technical cooperation between countries to develop systems, models and tools that allow for

achieving sustainable agriculture and guaranteeing food security for the population.

- 1.6 *The Road to the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023: Strengthening the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development*
- 1.6.1 The Director of Technical Cooperation at IICA highlighted the Director General's leadership and capacity to coordinate the efforts of the Institute's entire team throughout the Americas to drive progress in establishing the Partnership.
- 1.6.2 He noted that extensive efforts had been undertaken to build consensus, increase participation and capitalize on the capacities of Member States and strategic partners to foster a resilient, sustainable, inclusive and productive agriculture sector.
- 1.6.3 He indicated that the Partnership is based on three key pillars: a) establishing strategic partnerships between the public, private, academic and production sectors as well as civil society to drive collective action through roadmaps and other coordination mechanisms; b) fostering food security, with special emphasis on food availability and nutritional quality; and c) driving sustainable development to tackle the climate crisis, based on the conviction that agriculture is part of the solution.
- 1.6.4 He explained that, based on those three pillars, eight strategic areas had been established: a) science, technology and innovation to foster digital platforms and solutions for agriculture; b) the bioeconomy to promote strategies to decarbonize the economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions; c) productive, economic and social inclusion of family farming, with special emphasis on cooperative undertakings; d) water and agriculture; e) climate action; f) equity and equality; g) One Health; and h) international trade. He noted that coordination of these areas would be achieved through dialogue processes, South-South cooperation and other mechanisms.
- 1.6.5 He cited a few examples of regional and hemispheric events, forums and opportunities for driving synergies that the Institute and its strategic partners had organized to date, such as the Regional Dialogue on Science, Technology and Innovation in Agrifood Systems of Latin America and the Caribbean, Digital Agriculture Week, the First Pan-American Bioinputs Forum and the Pan-American Liquid Biofuels Coalition.

- 1.6.6 He announced the following upcoming events: a) the IV Forum of Female Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials of the Americas; b) the Hemispheric Dialogue on Trade, aimed at strengthening regional trade systems and fostering intraregional trade; c) the Hemispheric Meetings on Family Farming, which would focus on cooperative undertakings; d) dialogues on One Health in the Americas; and e) a dialogue on good practices in public policy management in the Americas.
- 1.6.7 In closing, he pointed out that the purpose of the Partnership was to consolidate the region's efforts to strengthen food security and to develop mechanisms that would allow for overcoming the climate crisis, through science-based agriculture and public policies adapted to the current context.
- 1.7 *Analysis and comments*
- 1.7.1 The Chair of the Committee and Representative of Barbados underscored the importance of collectively building the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development through synergies between countries to address the eight areas presented. In that regard, he emphasized the topics of bioinputs, biofuels and the strengthening of production with a social and environmental approach.
- 1.7.2 He considered that science, technology and innovation would chart the course towards developing digital solutions for food security, improving production and generating key tools to overcome the climate crisis.
- 1.7.3 The Representative of Grenada referred to a meeting that had been held the previous day among CARICOM ministers, who had identified the need to shift people's mindset about communication, a very powerful tool to deliver cooperation. He pointed out the importance of merchandise transportation in international and intraregional trade and its key role in achieving food security in the Caribbean and wider region. Therefore, he urged IICA to support and emphasize this topic to identify solutions and improve food availability.
- 1.7.4 The Representative of Brazil underscored the importance of prioritizing food security, given the repercussions of the current context for countries of the Americas, where hunger and food insecurity had worsened, as the Director General of the Institute had explained in his presentation. He noted that more than 30 million people in Brazil suffer from food insecurity or hunger, which

is why the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) had included the country in its Hunger Map once again.

- 1.7.5 He mentioned that the Government of Brazil had been undertaking efforts to rectify this situation, including: a) establishing and coordinating public policies on social and agricultural issues that foster food security; b) drafting policies aimed at boosting productivity and contributing to climate action; c) prioritizing the fight against hunger and poverty and promoting a food and nutritional security initiative at the Group of Twenty (G20) forum, which would be chaired by Brazil; d) reestablishing the Ministry of Agricultural Development and Family Farming, as well as the Inter-ministerial Chamber, as a mechanism to facilitate consultation processes with civil society, in order to draft public policies to combat hunger.
- 1.7.6 The Chair of the Executive Committee requested the floor to welcome His Excellency Mr. Rafael Hipólito Mejía Domínguez, former minister of Agriculture and Livestock and former President of the Dominican Republic from 2000-2004, to the meeting.
- 1.7.7 The Representative of Honduras described IICA as a key stakeholder in her country and the region as a whole, due to the technical cooperation model it implements, through which it coordinates the resources and capabilities of State institutions, multiple international and local strategic partners, and the Institute itself, to foster agricultural development and rural well-being. She echoed the remarks of her colleagues from Grenada and Brazil regarding the need to align social and agroproductive agendas and policies to generate food security and rural well-being.
- 1.7.8 She considered that the proposal for the Partnership addresses crucial issues for her country, particularly bioinputs and animal nutrition. She added that, in her country, IICA supports projects to complement agricultural production and reduce the dependence on external inputs.
- 1.7.9 She considered it important to revisit the topic of agricultural funding and to strengthen cooperation actions in that area, under a more comprehensive and multidimensional approach that takes into account rural areas rather than focusing solely on production. She went on to list a series of highly relevant issues, such as investment in agricultural logistics, the promotion of innovative water resource management technologies, the promotion of food and seed banks in remote areas and the strengthening of rural extension

services, all of which could make a significant contribution to the fight against food insecurity and poverty.

- 1.7.10 She indicated that it was important to advance in the development and approval of public policies that bolster the agrifood sector's contribution to food security and that increase productivity and resilience to climate change, through agricultural digitalization, greater access to rural credit opportunities and improved marketing, among other actions. Lastly, she considered it necessary to review and engage in dialogue on free trade agreements, in order to strengthen intraregional and regional agrifood systems.
- 1.7.11 The Director General of the Institute described the conceptualization of the Partnership in greater detail. He recalled the origins of IICA, which had been founded in 1942 as an alliance of countries, amid a complex situation with respect to the supply of food and raw materials. He considered this alliance to be more relevant than ever given the current multidimensional crisis. He emphasized the fact that countries cannot face all these challenges individually, given that they are shared by many nations. Therefore, he explained, the main objective of the Partnership would be to foster collective actions aimed at generating political and technical synergies to achieve a joint position through networks, platforms and dialogues that could contribute to strengthening institutional frameworks.
- 1.7.12 He referred to the topic of communication and highlighted the Institute's efforts to strengthen communication strategies, not only to report on crises, but also to share IICA's efforts, progress and good results in the region, for the benefit of the rest of the world.
- 1.7.13 Next, he referred to the concept of agrifood system, which encompasses various phases, from production to consumption, as the Secretary-General of the United Nations had explained at the Summit in September 2021. He recalled that, with the support of the Institute, the countries of the Americas had presented their joint position at the Summit, in the form of 16 messages that had been approved at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture 2021.
- 1.7.14 He agreed with the Representative of Grenada with respect to the importance of transportation and logistics to achieve competitiveness, as well as the limitations of agrifood systems in those areas, which affect food quality and security. He also expressed agreement with the remarks made by the Representative of Brazil regarding the fact that agriculture should not only focus on producing more, but also on generating a higher quality of life for

all rural families. In that regard, he agreed that an intersectoral approach should be adopted to align social and production policies. He thanked the Ministry of Agricultural Development for the technical support it had provided in organizing the Hemispheric Meetings on Family Farming, which had placed special emphasis on and effectively addressed the topic of cooperativism.

- 1.7.15 Lastly, he highlighted the broad and robust technical agenda of the upcoming Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, which would generate an effective impact in the lead-up to COP28. Specifically, it would seek to strengthen the standing of the Americas as a guarantor of food and nutritional security, as well as environmental sustainability.
- 1.7.16 The Technical Secretary of the Executive Committee read out a question from the delegate of Türkiye in its capacity as permanent observer country, regarding the role of small-scale producers in the Partnership.
- 1.7.17 IICA's Director of Technical Cooperation explained that the actions of the Partnership are geared towards all agrifood system stakeholders, especially small-scale producers, through differentiated policies and collective actions aimed at strengthening family farming, with special emphasis on cooperative undertakings. He added that each of the strategic areas of the Partnership includes actions and approaches that facilitate timely responses to issues related to small-scale producers, recognizing the important role they play in rural areas.
- 1.7.18 The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago expressed special interest in the strategic area of the bioeconomy, specifically biofuels and renewable energies, given its alignment with the country's medium-term goals as well as with national commitments to reduce the carbon footprint under the 2030 Agenda. He added that digital agriculture and science, technology and innovation were priority topics for his country's Government and for the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries.
- 1.7.19 He explained that Trinidad and Tobago had created a specific ministry to assist all Government departments in fully digitalizing their actions. He thanked the Institute for the support it had provided to his country during the COVID-19 pandemic by generating an agrifood marketing system at a time when transportation was limited.

- 1.7.20 Lastly, he pointed out the need to address key issues such as a) digital solutions to facilitate farmer registration and the management of relief programs for natural disasters and extreme weather events; b) bioeconomy research; c) research on seed varieties adapted to the Caribbean, such as the actions carried out by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) in relation to sweet potato; and d) research on and management of pests and diseases, such as the giant African snail.
- 1.7.21 The Representative of Canada acknowledged the fact that agriculture was facing many challenges in the Americas and around the world. Therefore, he considered it crucial for countries to come together to identify solutions and opportunities for joint work. He stated that two of the main challenges facing agricultural production were tackling climate change and achieving progress in striking a balance between productivity and sustainability, as the representative of Brazil had pointed out, which would require technical and social innovations. Lastly, he requested confirmation of the dates on which the upcoming meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) would be held.
- 1.7.22 The Technical Secretary of the Executive Committee responded that the next IABA meeting would be held from 4 to 5 October 2023, and that an official notification would be sent out as usual.
- 1.7.23 The Representative of Panama applauded the leadership assumed by the Director General of IICA and his team in carrying out cooperation activities in his country, in Central America and in the hemisphere. He added that the approach proposed in the meeting was the right way to address the challenges facing agriculture in his country and the hemisphere, given that the agriculture sector plays an important strategic role in achieving food security and sustainable development. He went on to point out some of the issues facing rural areas, such as migration, civil insecurity, drug trafficking, lack of employment and poverty.
- 1.7.24 He underscored the importance of joining efforts and sharing knowledge to overcome current challenges, with a view to generating greater solidarity, justice and social inclusion around the world. To that end, he noted, it would be necessary for each stakeholder and sector to assume its responsibility in these efforts.
- 1.7.25 He referred to the efforts undertaken by his country with the support of the Institute and under the leadership of the Director General to address the

impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and to develop a State policy for the agriculture sector up to 2050, which had since been enacted as a Law of the Republic of Panama along with its respective follow-up and monitoring systems. He also expressed his appreciation for IICA's coordination and collaboration actions in support of the high-tech centers for agricultural production in controlled environments known as CIPACs, three of which were in the process of being built in different regions of the country to provide support to small and medium-scale producers.

- 1.7.26 Lastly, he echoed the remarks of the Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras with respect to the need to review and address free trade agreements and their impact on agrifood systems through dialogue and technical cooperation.
- 1.7.27 The Representative of the United States of America mentioned that the IABA meeting was extremely important to his country, as it would further discussions regarding the strategic topics presented at that meeting of the Executive Committee. As an example, he cited the topic of food security, an area in which efforts should be geared towards achieving a resilient food system, through greater innovation and technology use.
- 1.7.28 He announced that, in October of that year, U.S. Government agencies would be jointly hosting several forums on biofuel-based solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and, at the same time, increase value-added in agriculture and reduce fossil fuel use.
- 1.7.29 The Representative of the Dominican Republic expressed agreement with the statements of the Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras and the Minister of Agricultural Development of Panama regarding the need to join efforts, generate opportunities to exchange knowledge and coordinate joint cooperation actions.
- 1.7.30 He pointed out that, within the current context, South-South cooperation actions were becoming increasingly necessary, enabling countries of the Americas to build on each other's strengths in the strategic areas that had been mentioned. As an example, he cited a visit by the Honduran Foundation for Agricultural Research to the Dominican Republic, which had allowed for exchanging experiences and reaching an agreement to provide mutual support to launch a banana variety.

- 1.7.31 With respect to rice production, he reported that the Dominican Republic had transitioned from being a rice importer to a rice exporter. This had been achieved thanks to a production improvement process in the rice chain, which had generated a surplus of 1.5 million quintals for export the previous year, without affecting national consumption. As an additional example, he mentioned cooperation received from Peru and Chile to improve grape production in his country.
- 1.7.32 He concluded his remarks by underscoring the importance of driving progress in the development of bioinputs (biofertilizers and biocontrol agents), as well as in matters related to agricultural insurance and green funding.
- 1.8 *Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA)*
- 1.8.1 The Director of Technical Cooperation of IICA highlighted the three overarching principles of the MTP for the period 2022-2026: a) supporting the strengthening and transformation of agrifood systems, through the Hemispheric Partnership; b) providing tools and inputs that contribute to the development of a new generation of public policies; and c) implementing a technical cooperation model comprised of seven hemispheric action programs that supports collective action between the member countries.
- 1.8.2 Next, a video on OPSAA generated by artificial intelligence was played. It explained that the observatory is a digital platform developed by the Institute to serve as a meeting point where countries of the Americas can exchange knowledge and promote a new generation of public policies that can transform agrifood systems in their nations.
- 1.8.3 The platform provides systematized content that facilitates access to information on investment initiatives, policy frameworks, good practices in public policy management, as well as information resources, events and evidence related to different aspects of agrifood systems.
- 1.8.4 OPSAA's indicators are based on an agrifood atlas, which presents the state of play and trends in agrifood systems of the Americas, as well as on a food vulnerability index that measures countries' level of exposure to food insecurity and their capacity to adapt and respond to crises.
- 1.8.5 The Observatory supports decision-making processes by policymakers, fosters partnerships and contributes to improving the effectiveness and

efficiency of international technical and financial cooperation, as well as regional coordination. It also provides conceptual bases, methodologies and tools to prepare, implement, follow-up on and evaluate public policies.

- 1.8.6 To date, OPSAa has contributed to agricultural policymaking processes in Panama, Honduras, and Ecuador, and has launched a process to assist Jamaica in this area. It also includes chat rooms in which users can engage in dialogue to address short- or long-term issues and provides tools for evidence-based dialogues. It has four active chat rooms on the following topics: the effects of global geopolitical changes, policy alternatives to the fertilizer crisis, public policies to foster the digitalization of agrifood systems, and the promotion and development of bioinputs. There are also additional chat rooms on the following topics: deforestation and its impact on biodiversity in LAC; results of policies for the development of family farming in the Mercosur region; and policies for the dairy sector in Central America.
- 1.8.7 Next, the Public Policy Specialist and Coordinator of OPSAa explained that OPSAa: a) is a platform that facilitates the modernization of agrifood systems to more effectively address issues related to productivity, profitability, inclusion and resilience to climate change; b) facilitates the generation of long-term, visionary, inclusive, participatory and evidence-based policies; c) fosters dialogue within a country and with other countries with a view to exchanging knowledge; d) supports policy preparation, design, monitoring and evaluation; and e) promotes the generation of lessons learned that can be adopted and scaled up to accelerate the transformation of agrifood systems in the region.
- 1.9 *Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA)*
 - 1.9.1 A video generated by artificial intelligence was played to introduce ELTSA, a coalition of institutions that foster capacity building among public and private stakeholders involved in the management of public policies, programs and investment projects.
 - 1.9.2 IICA is fostering the transformation of agrifood systems and is therefore committed to developing a new generation of leaders and enhancing the capacity for innovation of public policymakers and institutional stakeholders. The platform is geared towards youth, students, technical specialists and officials, as well as decision-makers who are responsible for or involved in

public policies or institutional frameworks related to the transformation of the region's agrifood systems.

- 1.9.3 The current platform includes a virtual course entitled “Agrifood Systems: Challenges and Public Policies for their Strengthening and Transformation”, which lays the foundation to understand and generate capacities in this area. It also features a self-paced course divided into three modules: a) Operation of agrifood systems, b) Capacities required to manage challenges and the foundation for transforming agrifood systems of the Americas, and c) Seven pillars for transforming agrifood systems of the Americas. The platform offers a series of complementary courses and other virtual tools to build capacities and leadership, as well as projects and programs implemented with strategic partners, among others.
- 1.9.4 The Leadership School has already delivered in-person and virtual training to 204 youth in Costa Rica and El Salvador on leadership, resilient agriculture, digital agriculture and rural entrepreneurship, with a view to involving rural youth in Agriculture 4.0.
- 1.9.5 The Manager of the Institute's Bioeconomy and Innovation Program underscored three key aspects with respect to ELTSA: a) it addresses the need for a new generation of leaders with a renewed skill set; b) it fosters the development of new capacities for and leadership in the drafting of public policies on agrifood systems; and c) it provides the ministers and IICA's partners with a collaborative platform in which they can discuss the initiatives of public and private institutions, international cooperation agencies and civil society.
- 1.9.6 He concluded his remarks by stating that the purpose of ELTSA is to continue to create training opportunities for all partners in the public and private sectors, capitalizing on the Institute's technical capabilities and with the financial support and cooperation of the European Union and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
- 1.10 *Analysis and comments*
- 1.10.1 The Representative of Honduras thanked IICA for its support in developing a State policy for the agriculture sector in that country, which had played a very important role in accelerating evidence-based processes and analyzing the country's own experiences and those of other countries in the region.

1.10.2 The Representative of Barbados commented that his country was particularly interested in capacity-building processes focusing on digital agriculture, innovation and leadership. He also encouraged the Member States to take advantage of ELTSA.

1.11 *Close of the session*

1.11.1 The First Plenary Session of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 12:30 hours on 19 July 2023.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the session

2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 14:40 hours on 19 July 2023, under the chairmanship of Barbados.

2.2 Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture

2.2.1 Remarks by the Director General

2.2.1.1 The Director General of the Institute welcomed the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico, Dr. Víctor Villalobos, who had served as Director General of IICA from 2010 to 2018. He recalled that, during his term in office, the Institute had held a conference of ministers whose main theme had been “Water, food for the land”, which had set a valuable precedent with respect to emphasizing the importance of water for agriculture.

2.2.1.2 He pointed out that, as had been stated during the first session, it was necessary to promote State policies to follow up on crucial issues such as integrated water resource management in the agriculture sector. He mentioned previous forums for dialogue on this topic, such as the Eighth World Water Forum, held in 2018 in Brasilia, Brazil, as well as multiple dialogues between Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Spain.

2.2.1.3 He continued his presentation by listing major issues that the region had faced, such as a drought in Argentina the previous summer; a shortage of water for human consumption and farming in Uruguay; and a drought in the Central American Dry Corridor that had significantly impacted agricultural production.

2.2.1.4 He underscored the importance of utilizing water more efficiently in food production to increase water security throughout the region. He also referred to the correlation between water management and soil degradation and warned that it was crucial to effectively undertake coordinated actions to safeguard these fundamental assets for agriculture.

- 2.2.1.5 He mentioned that another key issue was funding for water management. In that regard, he noted that, according to some estimates, only 2% of all climate funding is allocated to the agrifood sector, including water for agriculture. Therefore, it would be necessary to strengthen current funding schemes or to identify new ones to support these actions.
- 2.2.1.6 He cited some noteworthy examples, such as Brazil's ABC+ plan for low-carbon agricultural production as well as Argentina's application of direct seeding, no-till farming and permanent soil cover in all agricultural activities in the pampas, under a regenerative agriculture approach. He announced that Secretary Villalobos would be presenting Mexico's progress and experiences in this area. He then asked the Chair to give the floor to the Director of Projects of the Institute to present the initiative.
- 2.2.2 Presentation of the Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture
- 2.2.2.1 IICA's Director of Projects commented on the importance of water and agriculture for the Americas, as well as the impact of climate change on the hemisphere and the water crisis it generates. In that regard, he posed a series of key questions: a) What is the role of agriculture in tackling the water crisis? b) How can we address the water crisis? and c) What public policies can we promote in this regard?
- 2.2.2.2 He indicated that IICA had launched an intensive consultation process with countries and specialists to identify actions that the region could carry out. He explained that one of the objectives would be to consolidate capacities and promote strategic public-private partnerships to improve the integrated management and efficient use of water in agriculture.
- 2.2.2.3 He reported that, between 2010 and 2022, the Institute had provided support to ministries of Agriculture and governing bodies by carrying out more than 70 technical cooperation actions related to water resources. He underscored the need to reprioritize this issue on their agenda, explaining that without water there can be no agriculture, and without agriculture there can be no food security, which is why it is important to preserve water and produce in an efficient manner.
- 2.2.2.4 He referred to the fact that LAC accounts for 13% of global food production and 30% of global food exports. Therefore, he explained, joint hemispheric action to improve the integrated management and efficient use of water in

agriculture is a matter of urgency. He added that IICA was addressing this issue together with the ministries, as it had at the United Nations Food Systems Summit and the 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27).

- 2.2.2.5 In this regard, he noted that efficient water use is key to competitive agriculture and that water is a limited but manageable resource that requires solid governance systems. He added that water management requires not just national but regional efforts, given that this resource knows no borders.
- 2.2.2.6 He warned that the water crisis, faced by practically all countries in the Americas, generates severe droughts, advances desertification and limits the access and availability of water for human consumption, impacting agricultural systems and food security. He considered that the experiences of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and the Central American Dry Corridor demonstrate the need to move forward with this initiative, given the fact that agriculture must not only produce food, but also efficiently store and utilize water through the use of innovative technologies.
- 2.2.2.7 He continued his presentation by listing the four pillars of the initiative: a) production and water storage, to strengthen countries' capacities to design and implement programs and projects that focus on production and water storage in agriculture; b) efficient water use, through climate-smart solutions, good agricultural practices, the digitalization of irrigation systems, and sustainable soil management; c) governance for the design and implementation of public policies; and d) the requisite investments to implement cooperation projects, programs and actions, with a view to improving planning, resource allocation and public-private coordination.
- 2.2.2.8 Lastly, he provided an overview of the next steps of the initiative, including its launch at a multi-country technical event, the organization of a webinar on innovative technologies, the development of a water and agriculture chapter for the Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAa), the preparation of a digital catalogue of innovative transferable technologies, the preparation of a dialogue within the framework of the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28) and the analysis of potential investments for the benefit of the region.

2.2.3 Message from Dr. Víctor Villalobos, Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico

2.2.3.1 The Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico commended the Director General of the Institute for taking up and promoting such an important issue for the region as water for agriculture, given the fact that water is one of the two main assets for agricultural production.

2.2.3.2 He referred to the Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) held in 2013 in Argentina, which had emphasized the importance of adequate water resource management to increase productivity in a sustainable manner. He maintained that there is global awareness of the fact that water is a finite and vulnerable resource, and that those involved in the agrifood sector understand that producing food for a growing population requires a stable and sufficient supply of this resource.

2.2.3.3 He mentioned that, although the Americas has a relative abundance of water resources, there are large areas in which this vital liquid is scarce; for instance, Mexico and the United States share extensive desert areas, as opposed to the southern part of Mexico in which there is abundant rainfall. These differences underscore the need for comprehensive and strategic management to improve agricultural productivity and meet water demands for other purposes.

2.2.3.4 He also highlighted the importance of cooperation between countries facing similar issues, where climate change is generating new threats to agriculture, by altering general patterns during the rainy and dry seasons and modifying the distribution of freshwater. On the one hand, this renders the fight against desertification and drought more difficult and complex, while, on the other hand, it increases the frequency of cyclones and hurricanes, a situation from which Mexico is not exempt. He went on to mention that climate change mitigation and adaptation require adequate public policies that must overcome a twofold difficulty: addressing this issue without disregarding sustainability. The objective, he explained, is to make agriculture viable without drastically reducing the water footprint and without impacting production. He added that this generates higher yields, not only per hectare, but also per liter of water used.

2.2.3.5 With respect to environmental degradation, climate change or, in this case, water, he mentioned that Mexico was in full agreement with IICA's perception of agriculture as part of the solution, not the problem. He noted,

however, that it would be necessary to offer innovative and research-based solutions in that area.

- 2.2.3.6 He explained that climate-smart agriculture involves striking a balance between science-based and nature-based solutions and that the issue of water fits perfectly into this notion. He pointed out that the topic of inclusion is key, as there is evidence that the poorest rural populations are the ones most affected by insufficient water or catastrophic climate events. On the other hand, large-scale agriculture, which had transformed Mexico into a leading agricultural exporter, had not only benefited from large irrigation systems, but also possessed the requisite resources to utilize water more efficiently. Therefore, as is the case for other sectors, the State must foster the inclusion of these populations through differentiated public policies on water.
- 2.2.3.7 He indicated that it was also necessary to establish strategies for the various climatic zones to improve watershed management, formalize a risk management culture and, of course, promote targeted public and private investments.
- 2.2.3.8 He reported that, through the Federal Government, Mexico was driving policies aimed at achieving self-sufficiency with respect to basic foodstuffs such as corn, bean, wheat, rice and milk, not only to strengthen food sovereignty, but also to guarantee the right to food for all people. The country was also aligning its water and environmental policies through its 2020-2024 National Water Program, aimed at capitalizing on the country's natural wealth, managing water in an adequate and informed manner, and preserving natural resources, with special emphasis on marginalized populations.
- 2.2.3.9 He mentioned that the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development was implementing a cloud seeding project in the northwestern and northern regions of the country to refill dams, thereby diminishing the impact of droughts on the various agricultural cycles. To that end, the country was capitalizing on its experience in the development of co-responsible models for managing water for irrigation and rainfall in agriculture, which had enabled the country to maintain food production, even in times of scarcity.
- 2.2.3.10 In that regard, he announced that the country was fostering innovation processes to improve water productivity on farms and that it had implemented a national strategy for agricultural soils, in which water and soil management were inextricably linked. He added that Mexico was fostering the development of water infrastructure, including more than 4,400 dams and

levees with the capacity to store approximately 150 billion cubic meters of water, as well as 631 water treatment plants and more than 2,000 wastewater treatment plants. He noted that the Mexican government considered these investments to be of strategic importance for the development of the national territory.

- 2.2.3.11 He reported that, through South-South and triangular cooperation, the Secretariat of Agriculture would make available to the member countries and the Institute its management models to capitalize on the water resource.
- 2.2.3.12 He pointed out that IICA's technical cooperation in this area would allow for strengthening the ministries of Agriculture through public policies, structures, organization and the knowledge required to improve the well-being of farmers and their families.
- 2.2.3.13 He concluded his remarks by indicating that the most significant challenges facing the Americas were the development of competitive and sustainable agriculture with the capacity to adapt to new climate conditions while increasing production to meet the growing demand for food, as well as improving living conditions for rural dwellers.
- 2.2.4 Presentation by Dr. Rayén Quiroga of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), on the Regional Action Agenda for Water
- 2.2.4.1 Dr. Quiroga greeted the attendees on behalf of Mr. José Manuel Salazar, Executive Director of ECLAC. She referred to the economic, social and environmental difficulties facing LAC in the current context, which the Commission described as a cascading crisis generated not only by the pandemic, but also by the ongoing armed conflict. She explained that both situations had triggered inflation and disrupted supply chains, which had escalated the prices of food and the inputs required to produce food.
- 2.2.4.2 She compared average annual economic growth during the periods 1980-1989 and 2014-2023, which had been 2% and 0.8%, respectively, as a result of fiscal restraint measures that had exacerbated unemployment, poverty and extreme poverty.
- 2.2.4.3 In reference to the Regional Water Dialogues and the Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture, she mentioned that the current context had generated a setback in all countries of the region, which were far from

achieving the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) related to water as well as the SDGs related to food security, poverty and production.

- 2.2.4.4 She noted that ECLAC had identified ten main water-related challenges, two of which had implications for agriculture, namely the gap in the availability of drinking water and sanitation, as well as unequal or limited access to those services. She described water supply systems as deficient, inadequate and insufficient, and noted that various areas face high levels of water stress due to climate conditions, rising conflict related to different water uses and the growing impact of climate change.
- 2.2.4.5 She added that, as the Institute's Director of Projects had pointed out in his presentation, governance is a considerable challenge and perhaps even the most complex issue at hand, and, as such, should be given special attention. In that regard, she mentioned that 161 million people (25% of the population) lack access to drinking water, which is not managed safely in the region. She added that 431 million people lack access to safe sanitation, competing not only for water for agriculture, but for the provision of basic services as well.
- 2.2.4.6 She went on to mention that, in LAC, 60% of water is lost in distribution systems themselves, due to obsolete infrastructure. She added that wastewater treatment in LAC countries is deficient, especially in urban centers, exposing water sources to greater contamination. She listed additional challenges, such as those resulting from extreme events and disasters in the region, as well as the disruption of the natural water cycle due to climate change.
- 2.2.4.7 She stressed the fact that the agriculture sector in LAC accounts for 71% of constructive water use, which is inefficient compared to that of other member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). She noted that water use efficiency in general (by economic sector, rather than in agriculture specifically) was decreasing rather than increasing.
- 2.2.4.8 She indicated that a key aspect worth considering was the fact that, throughout our region, water authorities were not at the ministerial level, and therefore lacked the status of sectoral ministries, which affected national and supranational governance models. Additionally, the large number of stakeholders involved in water management added to its complexity.

- 2.2.4.9 She proposed that the agriculture sector adopt a more sustainable approach to manage its use of water, by implementing new irrigation practices that reduce the volume of water extracted and boost productivity, through greater innovation and efficiency. She also recommended a shift towards climate-adapted crops and the adoption of controls to manage water extraction that would ensure equal access to the resource and satisfy established priorities, starting with the preservation of humans' right to water – a right that is recognized by the United Nations.
- 2.2.4.10 She proceeded to explain the concept of the Regional Water Dialogues, based on the following four pillars that include points of action and policies that are specific to each of them: a) ensuring continued progress in efforts to guarantee the human right to water and sanitation; b) providing equal and affordable access to water and sanitation services, to eradicate all forms of water poverty; c) eliminating negative externalities, such as conflicts arising from competing interests, given the multiple uses of the resource; pollution and overuse of the resource, by promoting a circular economy throughout the entire water value chain; and d) integrating and sustainably managing water to increase resilience to climate change and reduce environmental pollution.
- 2.2.4.11 She explained that the objective of the dialogues was to consolidate the commitments made to accelerate the achievement of SDG 6 and the water transition, by establishing a multi-stakeholder consensus on the regional water agenda among private and public sectors, communities of youth and children, indigenous groups and the institutional sector, in order to mobilize resources and carry out collective actions.
- 2.2.4.12 Finally, with respect to the Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture, she identified four actions that she described as essential: a) promotion of the integrated management of water, soil, forests, energy and their relationship to ecosystems; b) innovation to improve multisectoral coordination mechanisms and participatory processes; c) protection and restoration of ecosystems that are fundamental for the water cycle, starting at the foundation ; and d) strengthening of water and nutritional security, which will positively affect the achievement of other SDGs, and the retention of ancestral food production practices and nature-based solutions.
- 2.2.5 Analysis and comments
- 2.2.5.1 The Chair of the meeting and head of the Barbadian delegation highlighted the following aspects of the presentations, which he considered to be

essential to the implementation of the Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture: a) the use of climate-smart agriculture, employing science-, technology- and innovation-based solutions; b) investment and financing, as he urged his counterparts to undertake joint actions with multilateral organizations; and finally, c) governance models and the generation of public policies on this issue.

- 2.2.5.2 He stressed the importance of two critical factors for agriculture: water security and soil conservation, along with research-based good agricultural practices and the development and promotion of crops that are resistant to drought, pests and diseases. Finally, he underscored the importance of the region speaking with a common voice, to succeed in accessing financing for agriculture, with an emphasis on the integrated management of water resources.
- 2.2.5.3 The Representative of Canada commended the speakers for the invaluable technical information presented. He indicated that his country was also committed to building a more efficient agriculture sector to feed more people, which would require actions within the sector and at the multisectoral level, in order to mitigate the effects of climate change, such as forest fires and droughts, while also ensuring climate adaptation.
- 2.2.5.4 He referred to Dr. Villalobos' remarks about rationalizing the use of water to increase the productivity and resilience of the sector. He advised the meeting that the Government of Canada had established the Canada Water Agency in June to work with local authorities and other stakeholders in the provinces, rural territories and indigenous communities to conserve water. He concluded his remarks by referring to the message conveyed by the Minister of Agriculture of Canada at the Food and Agriculture Organization Conference in Rome on water management, urging farmers and other sector stakeholders to utilize the resource more efficiently.
- 2.2.5.5 The Representative of Brazil spoke about the three pillars of sustainable development, stressing the importance of water management from a social perspective, while integrating economic and environmental considerations. He then thanked IICA for introducing the initiative and remarked that, despite the differences in size and unique realities of each country, the entire region must work together to tackle this issue, to enable countries to share experiences, technologies and knowledge for their adoption and implementation. Finally, he expressed Brazil's willingness to share with the

countries the results of its experiences with water management for food security and agriculture.

- 2.2.5.6 The Representative of El Salvador highlighted the agricultural efforts of his government, aimed at improving all the value chains, through the implementation of crop management technologies, efficient water use, value addition and the improvement of marketing channels and markets.
- 2.2.5.7 He then mentioned ongoing institutional modernization efforts in collaboration with the Institute and the program on nationally appropriate mitigation actions for livestock, as well as actions involving the development and modernization of technologies at the National Agricultural School. Finally, he appealed to the participants to continue to share experiences and undertake collective actions to tackle and reduce the effects of climate change on regional food security.
- 2.2.5.8 The Representative of Grenada emphasized that one of the main problems facing agriculture in the Caribbean and other areas of the region was seasonal farming, which utilizes water in an inefficient way, thus affecting food security. He maintained that resolving this problem would hinge on promoting the application of efficient water management technologies in agriculture, which would require the countries to develop linkages, thus allowing less advanced countries to access these technologies.
- 2.2.5.9 The Representative of the United States of America expressed support for the hemispheric initiative and its aim to strengthen water management capacities, nature-based solutions and good agricultural practices. He stressed the connection between water and deforestation, which directly affects rural areas and overall agricultural activity. He also maintained that reforestation measures and measures to protect water resources and aquifers should be introduced, to enhance resilience to climate change, as well as to build the capacity to create microclimates and provide ecosystem services, among other benefits. In closing, he pointed out the importance of undertaking evidence-based actions and harnessing technology and innovation to improve productivity, safeguard ecosystems and ensure a social and economic impact.
- 2.2.5.10 Responding to the remarks by the countries, the IICA Director General stressed that the initiatives were worthwhile provided that they were integrated into a plan. Thus, in September, the Institute would announce technical cooperation actions to accelerate efforts to implement the Water and Agriculture initiative. He stressed the importance of the support of

multilateral funding agencies and of pursuing actions that stood to make an impact in the short and medium term.

- 2.2.5.11 He mentioned the relationship that the Institute had forged with the Green Climate Fund, to carry out projects of different types and scope, under the leadership of the Member States.

2.3 Financial and administrative matters

2.3.1 2022 Financial statements of IICA and report of the external auditors

- 2.3.1.1 The Director of Corporate Services reported that the 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 2021-2022 external audit, undertaken by the firm Deloitte, which concluded that “the financial statements of the Institute present fairly, in all material respects, IICA’s financial position as at 31 December of 2021 and 2022”. He pointed out that for the fifth consecutive year, the financial statements had received a clean audit opinion.

2.3.2 Twenty-ninth report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

- 2.3.2.1 Mrs. Mitzila Samudio, a member of the ARC, presented the Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee. She confirmed that the work of the external auditors complied with international auditing standards and with IICA’s rules. She also reiterated that, in the opinion of the external auditors, IICA’s financial statement presented fairly, in all material respects, the Institute’s financial position as at 31 December 2021 and 2022, in accordance with US GAAP.

- 2.3.2.2 She highlighted three aspects: a) the outstanding quotas, pointing out that although the ARC was commending the Institute for funds it had already collected, it was recommending that efforts be redoubled to capture the remaining quotas in 2023, given that they provide the basis for technical cooperation; b) follow-up actions on the findings of the audit, confirming that IICA had addressed the recommendations of the external auditors on a timely basis; and c) policies and procedures, indicating that the ARC supported the Institute’s initiative to update its auditing, human talent and financial policies. Finally, she congratulated IICA for having obtained a clean opinion from the external auditors for the fifth consecutive year.

2.3.2.3 By way of a video, the Director of Corporate Services outlined the results achieved in 2022:

- a) The Institute streamlined its integrated planning, enabling it to define its objectives and targets with greater precision. Senior management, program managers and the representatives of the 34 Member States now had access to up-to-date and timely information via more than 60 business intelligence dashboards.
- b) The process culture was strengthened with the creation of 21 networks, in which one-third of IICA's technical and administrative staff are participating.
- c) A 2023-2024 Decentralization Plan was prepared, for the purpose of optimizing the delivery of services in an integrated, efficient, responsible and transparent manner.
- d) There was a comprehensive review of internal rules to ensure that the regulations governing the Institute are modern, solid, simple and flexible, equipping it to address the prevailing challenges.
- e) In its quest for excellence in the delivery of its technical cooperation services, the Institute reactivated its annual evaluation of offices in the Member States, by conducting evaluation exercises and implementing improvement plans in Chile, Jamaica and Peru. Moreover, in an effort to foster continuous improvement, the Institute published the *Experience Capitalization Guide*, which would allow it to identify solutions with great potential to be scaled up, to capitalize on lessons learned and to encourage good institutional practices.
- f) In line with the financial sustainability policy, the resources allocated for traditional operations were optimized, enabling approximately USD 6.5 million of resources to be redirected to provide direct technical cooperation to the countries. This clearly reflects IICA's efforts to "do more with less", while also safeguarding its financial sustainability and the efficiency of its operations.
- g) IICA's accreditation by the European Union for Pillars 7, 8 and 9 demonstrated the high level of compliance of the Institute's administrative processes, while attesting to the transparent and secure management of its finances.
- h) IICA maintained its investment plan and diversified its portfolio to strengthen its financial architecture, thereby increasing its annual returns and contributing to institutional finances, while bringing miscellaneous income to USD 3.5 million.
- i) As part of the organization's human talent development strategy, forty staff members received certification in project negotiation and conflict

resolution. Moreover, in support of financial sustainability efforts, three courses were designed on policy and public investment, project development and business strategy. Finally, given the successful implementation of the work from home modality during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Institute introduced its telework policy.

- j) The Integrated Management System (SIG) represented a step forward for the Institute in the area of automation, by integrating electronic document management, project administration and the module for the procurement of goods and services at Headquarters and in the Brazil, Costa Rica and Mexico offices. The average response time for contract managing and processing continued to be two days and the list of frequent suppliers was reviewed in 2022, to verify due compliance with institutional policies in order to prevent possible prohibited or fraudulent practices.
- k) Under its IICA of Open Doors program, the Institute used its green areas to establish the Forest of the Americas, in partnership with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE). Solar panels were installed to power part of the facility at Headquarters. It also established closer ties with the neighboring communities in the Vásquez de Coronado canton, via the Plaza of Agriculture of the Americas, an area that combines all of the elements of sustainable agriculture in a vast, free-to-access community park. It also expanded the availability and use of the Interpretive Center for Tomorrow's Agriculture (CIMAG), by evaluating, implementing, maintaining and ensuring continuous improvement of its exhibition areas.
- l) IICA was recognized as a carbon neutral organization by the Costa Rican Government's Country Program on Carbon Neutrality, which awarded it for measures taken to reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, it was recognized once again by the Ecological Blue Flag Program of Costa Rica, as an institution that advocates for environmental protection and the well-being of the population.

2.3.3 2024-2025 Draft Program Budget

- 2.3.3.1 The Director of Corporate Services explained the criteria used to prepare the Program Budget for the 2024-2025 biennium, namely that: a) the basis for the Institute's quota scale are the percentages approved by the Organization of American States (OAS); the Program Budget is the instrument that funds the Medium-term Plan (MTP); c) the Program Budget is aligned with the Institute's planning and programming strategy; and d) the sources of financing for the Regular Fund are the quotas of the Member States and miscellaneous income generated.

- 2.3.3.2 He also mentioned that the Program Budget establishes the amount of resources needed to fund activities of the seven hemispheric programs, interdisciplinary initiatives, technical cooperation in the Member States, technical support services and actions, the management units and other institutional commitments. Moreover, he confirmed that it was projected that the Institute would execute externally funded projects amounting to USD 210 million and USD 230 million, in 2024 and 2025, respectively.
- 2.3.3.3 He indicated that the income budget for the 2024-2025 biennium was USD 33,074,100, made up of USD 29,574,100 from Member State quotas and USD 3,500,000 from miscellaneous income. He emphasized that there had been no increase in quota requirements from the previous biennium. However, there had been a USD 1 million increase in miscellaneous income over the previous biennium, given that the income fund had grown, due to improvements in the investment process and certain increases in investment rates.
- 2.3.3.4 He examined the detailed allocation of resources in the Program Budget, by major object of expenditure, noting that there had been a minor 1.75% increase equivalent to USD 407,600 in personnel costs in 2025, in comparison to 2024. This increase, he said, was required to maintain salary levels in line with labor markets in each country and would be covered using savings in operational costs, thereby ensuring that there would be no change in the total budget.
- 2.3.3.5 He reported that the percentages of resources from the Regular Fund allocated to each of the budget chapters were as follows: a) Direct technical cooperation services: 87.6% in 2024 and 87.7% in 2025; b) Management costs: 7.6 for the biennium; c) General costs and provisions: 4.1% in 2024 and 4% in 2025; and d) Renovation of infrastructure and equipment: 0.7% for the biennium.
- 2.3.3.6 Finally, he spoke about the execution of the 2022 Program Budget, indicating that a total of USD 28,593,231 had been executed, distributed as follows: a) Direct Technical Cooperation Services: 82%; b) Management costs: 9%; c) General costs and provisions: 8%; and d) Renovation of infrastructure and equipment: 1%. He stressed the importance of Member States paying their quotas on time to allow IICA to carry out its planned activities and also

explained that in 2022 the Institute failed to receive close to USD 9.5 million in quotas, which represented 32% of the expected quotas.

2.3.4 Report on the collection of quotas

- 2.3.4.1 The Manager of the Financial Management Division reported on the status of quota collections from the Member States of the Institute, both at the close of 2022, as well as for 2023 (up to 14 July). She referred to Article 23 of the Convention on IICA and to Resolution No. 414 of the IABA, “Revised Measures for the Collection of Quotas Owed to the Institute”, which states that Member States shall contribute to the financial support of IICA through annual quotas established by the IABA, in accordance with the OAS system for calculating quotas.
- 2.3.4.2 She explained that, in accordance with these measures, the following definitions had been used: a) Up-to-date: position of a Member State that has paid all its quotas to the Institute’s Regular Fund; b) Regular: status of a member country owing no more than two full years of quotas; c) Special: status of a Member State owing more than two full years of quotas, but that had agreed on a payment plan with the Director General to settle the outstanding amount, with which it was complying in full; and d) In arrears: situation of a Member State owing more than two years of quotas, which had not agreed on a payment plan to settle the amount owing. This category includes countries with a payment plan that they had failed to honor. She indicated that the quota is considered due on the first day of the calendar year and is considered to be in arrears as of the first of July of the calendar year.
- 2.3.4.3 She stated that at the end of 2022, there were 20 countries that were up to date in their payments, 11 in regular status and 3 in arrears. As at 14 July 2023, she reported that 14 countries were up to date, 17 in regular status and 3 in arrears.
- 2.3.4.4 Finally, she indicated that as at 14 July of the current year, USD 20.1 million of quota resources had been received from Member States. She again stressed the importance of IICA receiving the expected resources, in order to effectively execute its technical cooperation plans.

2.3.5 Updating of the regulations

- 2.3.5.1 The Legal Advisor of the Institute explained that at the last Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) in April 2023, it was announced that a study would be undertaken to review regulations of the General Directorate of IICA, with respect to human talent and financial operations, as an integral part of the institutional transformation process spearheaded by the Director General.
- 2.3.5.2 He indicated that the study sought to propose amendments to the existing regulations for the consideration and approval of the Institute's governing bodies, in keeping with advances in technology, to respond more effectively to the needs of IICA and to reflect changes in administrative practices during the last 40 years, in other words since 1983, when the regulations were first adopted.
- 2.3.5.3 He specified that the regulations to be amended were: The Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate (RPGD), the Staff Rules, the Remuneration System and the Financial Rules. He pointed out that the authority to modify the RPGD, which contains general rules on the categories, rights and obligations of Institute staff, and on IICA's financial administration, rests exclusively with the IABA. The Executive Committee has the authority to make and approve modifications to the other rules mentioned, provided that the approval or modification is consistent with the regulations of the IABA, the Executive Committee and the General Directorate.
- 2.3.5.4 Finally, the Legal Advisor asked the members of the Executive Committee to propose a resolution to grant approval for the study on amendments to the IICA regulations spearheaded by the current Administration; and to instruct the Director General, after prior consultation with the SACMI, to present the draft amendments for the consideration of the Executive Committee at its next Regular Meeting. He also requested that the members ask the IABA to endorse the review of the regulations at its next meeting and to authorize the Executive Committee to adopt those amendments falling within its purview at its next Regular Meeting, as well as to adopt and implement the modifications related to the RPGD, subject to the approval of the IABA at its Regular Meeting in 2025.

2.3.6 Analysis and comments

- 2.3.6.1 The Representative of Mexico commended the Administration for its efforts to collect quota payments, manage the finances of the Institute during the COVID-19 pandemic and for its leadership during the ongoing economic, social and geopolitical crises, remarking that despite the difficulties IICA continued to offer effective responses to benefit agriculture and rural development in the region.
- 2.3.6.2 She highlighted the work of the Institute to manage its resources in a rational and frugal manner, while continuing to make an impact and prioritizing technical cooperation. In reference to the Program Budget, she suggested that the Member States be provided with the breakdown of the budget allocated to technical cooperation in the areas outlined in the 2022-2026 MTP, to enable them to assess how IICA had prioritized its cooperation actions.
- 2.3.6.3 With respect to the initiative to update the regulations, she mentioned that the Mexican delegation was willing to offer observations and lend its support, as it had participated in similar processes in other international organizations.
- 2.3.6.4 The Representative of Brazil stressed the importance of providing a breakdown of resources allocated for technical cooperation, in order to determine how it aligned with the MTP. He congratulated the Director General and his team for ensuring the rational and optimal use of resources and providing technical cooperation of excellence, as well as for their efforts to collect the quota payments. He ended by pointing out the importance of conducting an analysis and maintaining standards, by offering competitive salaries to the technical staff of the Institute.
- 2.3.6.5 The Representative of the United States of America, in reference to the Program Budget, applauded IICA's efforts since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic to rationalize the use of resources and to strengthen the delivery of technical cooperation.
- 2.3.6.6 Secondly, he indicated that it was critical that the Institute continue working to collect the quota payments and urged the Member States to settle any outstanding payments, as this would benefit everyone. He indicated that his country had already made the first payment of 25% on its 2023 quota and would make an additional payment of 50% at the end of the summer, and the final 25% during the fall.

- 2.3.6.7 In reference to the financial statements of IICA and the report of the external auditors, he asked that the Executive Committee be updated on the situation in Colombia and the legal position of IICA in that country. He also mentioned that the mandate of the ARC is limited to identifying violations of the RPGD. Nonetheless, his country had an interest in finding out more about any insights the Executive Committee may have in terms of improving the financial management of the organization and its administrative practices, based on the review of documents and discussions.
- 2.3.6.8 Finally, he applauded IICA for its efforts to modernize and update the regulations of the General Directorate and expressed his support for the activities aimed at consolidating the regulatory framework of the Institute in the current context.
- 2.3.6.9 The IICA Director General informed the Executive Committee that along with the Program Budget they would be sent the breakdown of technical cooperation actions, as requested by the Mexican delegation. Likewise, further to the request of the Brazilian delegation, the members of the Executive Committee would be provided with details on the Institute's technical cooperation projects at the earliest possible time.
- 2.3.6.10 In reference to the request of the Representative of the United States, he mentioned that the Institute was maintaining open and transparent dialogue to resolve its legal situation in Colombia. However, the entire process had to be documented and for this it was relying on the services of a legal advisor. He indicated that there was a willingness to begin a new phase of cooperation and that both parties were making the utmost effort to pursue this.
- 2.3.6.11 Finally, on the matter of the updating of regulations, he stated that the Institute required instruments tailored to the realities of the 21st century, which would equip it to tackle current and future scenarios. He also explained that the proposal would be submitted to the Executive Committee for feedback and suggestions.
- 2.3.7 Election of a member of the ARC
- 2.3.7.1 The Technical Secretary explained that the Executive Committee would have to elect a new member of the ARC for 2024-2028. He reported that, in keeping with existing provisions on this issue, the Director General had sent the Member States a formal letter, asking them to nominate candidates, and

having fulfilled the established procedures, there were now two candidates: one nominated by the Government of Canada and the other by the Government of Dominica.

2.3.7.2 The Legal Advisor of the Executive Committee reminded the delegations about the voting procedures explained in the Preparatory Session of the meeting and specified that a candidate would require seven or more votes to be elected.

2.3.7.3 The Chair of the Executive Committee asked the Committee to vote on the candidate proposed by Canada, Mr. Martin Rubenstein, who received three votes. Next, he asked them to cast their votes on the candidate proposed by Dominica, Mr. Shannon Bedminister, who obtained eight votes. The Chair of the Executive Committee announced that Mr. Bedminister was the new member of the ARC for the 2024-2028 period.

2.4 *Close of the session*

2.4.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 18:00 hours on 19 July 2023.

SPECIAL CEREMONY TO RECOGNIZE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)

Message by the Director General of CATIE

The Director General thanked the meeting for the opportunity and honor to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Center at this meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). He stated that the partnerships and collaboration with multiple public and research institutions, international organizations and private sector entities over these fifty years had been instrumental in positioning CATIE as a benchmark organization in tropical agriculture.

He stressed the important role of the Center in training leaders who are change makers in building a more productive, resilient, sustainable agriculture sector, underpinned by science and innovation. Currently, CATIE is addressing regional and global challenges, by offering specialized education, with 50% of its graduates being women from rural areas.

He indicated that the Center had consolidated its efforts in the area of agriculture and the environment, with a broad focus on social issues, food security and health, in order to build new fundamental sustainability paradigms to address global challenges. Today, CATIE's experience provides a platform to accelerate the transformation of the agrifood systems of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), from multiple and transdisciplinary perspectives, tackling many current problems that had been discussed at this Executive Committee meeting, in relation to water, forestry management, inclusive development and climate-smart solutions, to name a few.

He also expressed the Center's interest in continuing to collaborate with IICA, serving as a bridge in the LAC region, to provide innovative solutions through technical cooperation of excellence.

Message from the Director General of the Institute

On behalf of the General Directorate of the Institute, the Director General remarked that it was an honor to take part in this celebration of the history of CATIE, particularly given that he himself was a graduate of the prestigious institution.

He pointed out that the Center was an institution that represents knowledge-, innovation- and technology-intensive agriculture and was a beacon for the future of agriculture in the Americas. He reflected on the intrinsic relationship of collaboration and synergy between IICA and CATIE, which benefits their member countries and the rural areas of the region. Dr. Otero said that this ongoing partnership was one in which the organizations had their sights firmly fixed on the future. CATIE has built a solid foundation, consisting of: a) 3,000 Master's graduates throughout its history, b) a significant number of graduates who are decision-makers in the highest echelons of the agriculture and environmental sectors, c) an extensive track record of training leaders for the transformation of tropical agriculture, d) 20,000 trained and specialized technical officers and producers, e) expertise in the genetics of cocoa and coffee, among other crops, f) creation of a livestock and environmental management program during the nineties, and g) work to spearhead training on watersheds, among other areas.

He ended his remarks by highlighting the relevance of cooperation models to design and implement public policies on tropical agriculture and remarked that these 50 years were merely a preview of the future and an achievement for which Costa Rica and the entire region should be grateful.

Message by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica

The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica remarked that although CATIE had an extensive history, its value resided in the fact that it had its sights fixed on the future – a future in which agriculture would play an essential role. He said it was an honor to celebrate the 50th anniversary of this institution during these extremely challenging times, in which science, technology and innovation are needed to tackle the challenges of climate change and food security, through research, training and cooperation, undertaken with the support of the Institute.

He stated that the Center had kept pace with issues of relevance to the sustainability of agriculture, such as silvopastoral systems, forestry management, agroforestry and watersheds and nature-based solutions, among others. He felt that the Center's success over its 50-year lifetime was based on the fact that it had trained top-flight professionals, who had become agents of change in their professional and research undertakings, at a time in which it had become increasingly difficult to attract funding for research. He closed his remarks by issuing an appeal for entities to continue supporting, strengthening and channeling resources to CATIE, in order to expand its knowledge platform, technologies and training of first-class professionals and to continue benefitting from the capacities it had developed throughout its 50-year existence.

Protocol formalities of the celebration

As part of the celebration, a commemorative plaque was presented to the Center; the CATIE logo was unveiled on the Friends of IICA wall; and a tree was planted in the gardens of the Institute to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Center.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 Opening of the session

The Third Plenary Session of the Forty-third 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 20 July 2023, and was chaired by the Representative of Barbados.

3.2 Signing of a General Agreement between IICA and the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT)

3.2.1 The Director General of IICA celebrated the fact that the Institute and the ICT were signing a general cooperation agreement that underscored the importance of tourism activities in rural areas. He thanked the ICT for the opportunity to establish this type of partnership and welcomed them to the Home of Agriculture of the Americas. He mentioned that the IICA of Open Doors initiative had carried out activities targeting the residents of Vásquez de Coronado, for example the construction of the Plaza of Agriculture of the Americas, which had hosted several cultural activities.

3.2.2 The Minister of Tourism of Costa Rica stressed how important the relationship with the agriculture sector had been for the tourism sector, pointing out that the Institute was promoting climate-smart agriculture and focusing on sustainability. He said that Costa Rican tourism was nature-based.

3.2.3 He indicated that gastronomic tourism, as well as the strengthening of ties between tourism and agriculture were priorities to diversify the country's tourism model, while ensuring sustainability. He said that the promotion of rural tourism, agroecological and agrotourism models were needed to strengthen the comparative advantages of both sectors, through innovation and local and national businesses that would contribute to social, economic and environmental development.

3.2.4 Following the remarks, the General Cooperation Agreement between IICA and Costa Rica's Ministry of Tourism was signed. The ICT logo was then unveiled on the Institute's Friends of IICA wall.

3.3 Remarks by the Chair of the Executive Committee

3.3.1 The Chair extended a welcome to the delegates on this second working day of the Executive Committee. He indicated that countries must take advantage of the tools provided by IICA to improve the conditions of rural communities, stressing that collaboration ensures a promising future. He then read the following words from Nelson Mandela: “It always seems impossible until it’s done” and “Do not judge me by my successes; judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again”.

3.4 Presentation on the strengthening of the strategic partnerships of the Institute

3.4.1 The Director of External and Institutional Relations of IICA outlined the basis for establishing strategic partnerships, namely: national and hemispheric priorities; the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); the Medium-term Plan (MTP) of the Institute; IICA’s Strategic Statement, which speaks to “strengthen[ing] the Institute’s finances by optimizing operations, utilizing institutional resources in a rational manner, increasing the mobilization of external resources, as well as establishing strategic partnerships that complement development projects and investment”; and the Business Model.

3.4.2 She also mentioned four factors that IICA focuses on in establishing partnerships, namely that: they must be inclusive and long term; must have an impact on development; must enable the Institute to expand its knowledge through networks; and must assist in generating resources to invest in agriculture.

3.4.3 She reported that between 2018-2023, partnerships were forged with 487 entities in different areas and listed the main categories that these partners represent: a) 37% in the public sector, b) 26% in the private sector and c) 10% in the academic sector and multilateral organizations. Moreover, she revealed that 668 agreements had been signed with these partners.

3.4.4 She then went on to outline the results obtained during the 2021-2023 period, explaining that 231 partnerships had been formed, 40% of which were with public institutions, 25% with private sector organizations and 8% with multilateral organizations, research entities and academic centers. The Director indicated that 34%, 20% and 17% of these partners were involved

in areas related to IICA's Territorial Development and Family Farming, Agricultural Climate Action and Sustainability, and Agricultural Health, Safety and Agrifood Quality programs, respectively.

- 3.4.5 She then gave examples of successful partnerships, such as those with the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Partnership for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), the Hemispheric Rural Youth Community (CHJR), the Living Soils of the Americas Initiative, Microsoft, the Global Alliance Against Fusarium TR4, BAYER, CropLife, Avance Pasiflora, Bioprotección Global, the Colombian Bioinputs Association (Asobiocol), SAGA Commercial Group S. A., the United States Dairy Export Council, Hidroalto Generación de Energía S. A. and the Costa Rican Coalition of Development Initiatives (CINDE).
- 3.4.6 She pointed out that important partnerships had been strengthened at the regional level with the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI), among others.
- 3.4.7 The Director then advised the meeting that the Institute now had 12 Goodwill Ambassadors (8 men and 4 women) and 7 IICA Chairs (3 men, 3 women and 1 university), and was expecting to increase this number to ensure a geographic and gender balance.
- 3.4.8 She said that the Institute had also developed tools for the promotion of sustainable strategic partnerships, mentioning two such initiatives in recent times: a) a network created for the purpose of ensuring hemispheric coordination in partnership development and management; and b) an interactive dashboard containing information on the Institute's strategic partners, to carry out follow-up activities on partnerships, information analysis and strategic intelligence for decision-making.
- 3.5 *Analysis and comments*

- 3.5.1 The Chair of the Executive Committee agreed that IICA is strengthening South-South cooperation and congratulated the organization for its efforts to acquire tools to manage and follow-up on these partnerships with research centers and private sector entities, creating benefits for the countries.

- 3.5.2 The Representative of Canada stressed the importance of partnerships and the value-added benefit of the platform, namely, to facilitate the sharing of lessons learned and enable valuable interaction with the private and academics sectors. He suggested that the Institute identify and share lessons learned within the framework of these partnerships.
- 3.5.3 The Deputy Director General of IICA indicated that the work of the Institute had been amplified as a result of these associations with various partners, which had yielded monumental and visible results, for example with the establishment of the Interpretive Center for Tomorrow's Agriculture (CIMAG), the Digital Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab), the Plaza of Agriculture of the Americas and the IICA-CATIE Forest of the Americas. He also mentioned initiatives that had resulted from partnerships with the private sector, such as the Global Alliance Against Fusarium TR4. The TR4 fungus has affected many countries and therefore the region would need to disseminate information on the disease and promote discussion, awareness raising and investments in biosafety to protect farmers and their crops.
- 3.5.4 The Representative of Mexico commented that the Institute's work with partnerships assists in establishing linkages and applying mechanisms that will strengthen and increase support to the countries. She expressed satisfaction at the increasing modernization and private sector engagement of the Institute, as well as its efforts to ensure the population's adoption of digital agriculture, through sophisticated technological tools that will arouse young people's interest in agriculture and prevent migration to cities and other countries.
- 3.5.5 The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago maintained that strategic partnerships assist the Institute to make a greater impact through technical cooperation. He indicated that the Ministry of Agriculture of his country had been encouraging the forging of partnerships between the private sector and the State. He emphasized areas of mutual interest, such as the feeding of society, which would be the basis for establishing effective partnerships. Thus, he urged his counterparts to take this approach. He expressed his interest in ensuring the participation of youth and advocated that the Institute continue working in this vein to attract new generations to agriculture.
- 3.5.6 The Technical Secretary of the Executive Committee conveyed a question that had been posed by the representative of Türkiye, an observer country, regarding the main criteria that IICA uses to establish linkages with private

and public stakeholders, with a view to building a sustainable agriculture sector.

- 3.5.7 The Director of External and Institutional Relations mentioned that the main criteria that the Institute applies to establish strategic partnerships include determining if the work to be undertaken is aligned with the actions established in the IICA MTP, ensuring that they fall within the framework of the seven hemispheric programs and that the partners identified add value and complement institutional actions. She stressed that it was not simply a matter of forging a partnership for partnerships' sake, but that this must translate into value added for both parties, ensuring a win-win outcome.
- 3.5.8 The Director General expanded on this, saying that the Institute stressed quality over quantity when pursuing strategic partnerships. He also remarked that each agreement must be followed by a roadmap of well-defined activities and that the Institute works with private sector members that are willing to share public assets to ensure social well-being. He also recognized the importance of greater private sector participation in defining public policies.
- 3.5.9 He pointed out the impact of Agriculture 4.0 on young people, while highlighting IICA's efforts to utilize CIMAG and the FabLab to inspire new generations to participate in agriculture, through the concept of virtualization. He also spoke of the advances of the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems (ELTSA), as a platform designed to develop new agricultural leaders. Finally, he expressed the need to turn the spotlight on the hemisphere's agricultural leaders in various international forums and to demonstrate to the world the capacities available in the region in terms of water and regenerative agriculture, among other areas.
- 3.6 *Relationship between IICA and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)*
- 3.6.1 CATIE Report for the 2020-2021 biennium
- 3.6.1.1 The Director General of CATIE described the Center as a hybrid institution, given that its value proposition is founded on three pillars: research, education and outreach. He explained that CATIE collaborates with other organizations to drive the transformation that will lead to inclusive green development. The Center began to implement its current strategic plan in

2022, focusing on knowledge management, capacity building and the analysis of agrifood systems.

- 3.6.1.2 In relation to the education pillar, he said that CATIE continues to be one of the premier choices to pursue studies in tropical agriculture and to participate in highly specialized events. He stated that the Center had produced 15 graduates in 2022 in the eight Master's programs offered. He also indicated that there were 50 students currently undertaking studies in agroforestry, tropical forests and sustainable agriculture, among other areas, with financial assistance primarily from Canada.
- 3.6.1.3 He emphasized that the Center had modernized its education program, adopting a blended instruction model (virtual/ face-to-face). Virtual and face-to-face professional Masters' programs are being offered, with more female participants and an inclusive focus. He also revealed that the Center had recently signed an agreement with Idaho University, to offer joint graduate and post-graduate programs in the areas of specialization of the Center.
- 3.6.1.4 In terms of specialized training processes, he advised that in 2022, CATIE had trained 13,879 students from 18 countries (5,898 women and 7,981 men), in genetic improvement and sustainable cocoa and coffee agriculture systems; food security and circular, small ruminant systems; low-carbon emission livestock systems, based on silvopastoral systems; sustainable forestry management and mangrove restoration; environmental economics; climate financing; incubators and agribusinesses, with a gender focus; and sustainable water harvesting systems, among other areas. He mentioned that the Center was also participating in North-South cooperation programs, through which it had trained 784 students (480 women and 268 men) from universities in the United States and Canada.
- 3.6.1.5 On the matter of the research pillar, the CATIE Director General explained that the Center has been strengthening this component in four strategic areas: a) agrobiodiversity and food security, b) agroforestry and genetic improvement of coffee and cocoa, c) livestock and environmental management and d) forests and biodiversity in productive landscapes, which promote green development and include the following cross-cutting issues: climate action, environmental economics and agribusiness, watershed and water security, as well as inclusion and gender.

- 3.6.1.6 He indicated that in terms of its strategic projects, the Center had established a programmatic approach in all the member countries. He explained that some actions had been undertaken in non-member countries on issues linked to silvopastoral systems, nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) and agroforestry, in collaboration with national partners, with a view to coordinating and scaling up national and regional efforts. He made special mention of the creation and development of a competitive research fund, aimed at strengthening programmatic actions and leveraging resources.
- 3.6.1.7 He spoke about the impact of various actions and projects of the Center, such as: a) a project on agricultural climate resilience, food insecurity and migration, headed by the United States; the TRANSFORMA-INNOVA project on coffee, meat, milk and banana NAMAs; c) Biodiv2D on biodiversity and the emergence of diseases and sanitary and phytosanitary risk management; and d) AUSCAR, which adopts a One Health approach to reduce risks in the Caribbean.
- 3.6.1.8 He mentioned that CATIE and IICA were developing a project proposal on regenerative agriculture, which applies a One Health approach. He advised that the Center was implementing a project in Nicaragua on water harvesting, storage and use, using low-cost technologies, which would benefit 3,000 rural producers and serve as a pilot project to validate scaling up to the level of the Central American Dry Corridor. He announced the implementation of a new project, entitled, “Scaling Innovation Solutions for Adaptation to Climate Change in the Central American Dry Corridor”, which would offer climate-smart solutions and funding for small farmers.
- 3.6.1.9 He reiterated the importance of CATIE’s coffee and cocoa germplasm banks, and the partnerships established with various global consortia and private sector companies to generate new varieties. Likewise, he reported that the Center had assisted in improving livestock systems through climate mitigation actions (NAMAs), genetic improvement and the introduction of silvopastoral systems to facilitate low-carbon production.
- 3.6.1.10 The CATIE Director General made reference to the Activa-CATIE project that had sought to establish and support 52 innovative business enterprises for rural development in the Central American Northern Triangle, in partnership with the development bank system. The Ecosystem Modeling Laboratory of the Center’s Climate Change Unit had launched a platform to monitor geospatial data and information on blue carbon and drought in the Mesoamerican Region. On the other hand, he informed the participants that,

as an academic center, CATIE had been instrumental in the generation of scientific publications, which were accessible to multiple stakeholders.

- 3.6.1.11 Turning to the matter of investments in the countries, he stated that the Center uses the quotas from member countries and resources from other funding sources, employing a procedure that allows it to measure the impact of its investments in specific areas and spheres of action. He explained that CATIE had continued to accumulate reserves to manage financial risks and build resilience. He closed his remarks by reporting that CATIE had organized international symposiums, specialized forums and the VII Wallace Conference “Transforming Food Systems in LAC”, in partnership with the Institute, addressing the issues of science, technology and innovation.
- 3.6.2 Annual Report on IICA-CATIE collaboration in 2022
 - 3.6.2.1 The CATIE Director General spoke about the new IICA-CATIE general inter-institutional cooperation agreement, aimed at fostering mutual support between both institutions in strategic, administrative, commercial and executive areas.
 - 3.6.2.2 In terms of joint cooperation actions, he indicated that in Mexico, the Center had concluded the BioPaSOS project, which was undertaken in partnership with the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development and had strengthened the capacities of 1,232 livestock farmers in 20 municipalities in Chiapas.
 - 3.6.2.3 The CATIE Director General explained that the European-Union funded AGROINNOVA—Adapted Agroforestry Systems for the Central American Dry Corridor—project, in which the Center was an implementing partner, had generated tangible information and validated innovation in agroforestry systems. By way of example, he mentioned the agrosilvopastoral systems model for goat production and backyard gardens, which had been used as a means of providing capacity building and direct technical assistance to extremely vulnerable small farmers in six Central American countries.
 - 3.6.2.4 He indicated that the development of a feasibility study for the dairy sector and a technical evaluation of coffee and cocoa in Guyana were being undertaken, taking into account the use of agroforestry and silvopastoral systems and the linkages between actions with national institutions to respond to technical cooperation demands. He also indicated that CATIE was

working with the IICA Delegation in El Salvador to conduct a diagnosis of tissue culture laboratories at the Salvadoran Coffee Institute.

3.6.2.5 He also listed other joint cooperation actions on which both organizations had worked or were currently working, such as: a) the Condor Kutuku Corridor Landscape project in the Amazon region of Peru and Ecuador; b) an investment fund for the propagation of hybrids of improved coffee varieties on the Center's commercial farm; c) an energy efficiency investment project, using smart energy; d) production improvement of the meat and dairy herd; e) cooperation in presenting actions on carbon neutrality and livestock in the Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas pavilion at COP27; f) the Youth Ambassadors Program of the Next Gen Ag Impact Network (NGIN), which included the participation of 27 young people; and g) the Forest of the Americas, located at the Institute's Headquarters, which was the subject of a series of books and publications.

3.6.2.6 The Director General of CATIE underscored the development of food banks for vulnerable populations and at-risk communities during the COVID-19 pandemic to bolster the food security of vulnerable populations. Finally, he paid tribute to the IICA Director General, Manuel Otero, by awarding him an honorary doctorate, on behalf of the Center, for his work on and commitment to sustainable agriculture and rural development in the Americas, through the transformation of agrifood systems.

3.6.3 Analysis and comments

3.6.3.1 The Deputy Director General of IICA highlighted CATIE's science-based research to provide viable alternatives that can assist in mitigating the pests and diseases that attack crops. He expressed the view that the Center played a key role in the current agricultural scenario, amidst the crises arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity and the effects of climate change. He also highlighted CATIE's research on cocoa, coffee and forestry. Finally, he thanked the CATIE Director General for the work he was carrying out in collaboration with the Institute.

3.6.3.2 The Representative of Brazil highlighted the joint work of the Center and IICA to promote greater awareness of and to build a consensus on the important role of the Americas in agricultural and livestock production. He spoke about the current sanitary and commercial risks that had resulted from increased outbreaks of avian influenza. He suggested that the vaccination of birds was one measure that could be implemented to control the disease.

Thus, he recommended that a discussion be organized to coordinate policies and actions to control the disease.

- 3.6.3.3 The Representative of Canada commended CATIE for its work in providing training on forestry systems, which he said was an area of tremendous importance for his country, given the impact of fires on forestry areas. He asked the Director General of the Center to explain how the institution organizes and funds its collaboration with other academic centers.
- 3.6.3.4 The CATIE Director General expressed an interest in collaborating with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) to devise joint proposals to tackle the effects of diseases that are emerging as a result of climate change in the region. He explained that CATIE has different mechanisms for engagement with other academic institutions, such as financing funds, accessed through universities in the United States and Canada, as well as direct support agreements for professionals, among others.
- 3.6.3.5 The Director General of the Institute offered the Member States the assistance of the technical team of IICA's Agricultural Health, Safety and Agrifood Quality Program to coordinate any support needed to address the increases in cases of avian influenza.
- 3.6.3.6 The Representative of Mexico joined the other delegations in congratulating the Director General of CATIE, remarking that the report that was presented appeared to reflect the work of 50 years rather than just one. She recognized the efforts of the Center to do more with less and to make a major impact. She highlighted the success of the BioPaSOS project, which had benefited the livestock sector in her country.
- 3.6.3.7 The Representative of Grenada commended the Director General of CATIE for the Center's work to benefit the region. He made special mention of work focusing on carbon neutrality and actions underway on various islands of the Caribbean. He suggested a possible meeting with the Center to discuss how Grenada could be involved in one of CATIE's initiatives to assist rural populations.

3.6.4 Relationship between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

3.6.4.1 The Representative of CARDI pointed out the importance of presenting a report on the research and agricultural development initiatives undertaken in the Caribbean, within the framework of the cooperation agreement between both institutions.

3.6.4.2 He began by explaining the history of the relationship between CARDI and the Institute, which dates back to 1989, and which has focused on promoting joint work to further research and agricultural development in the Caribbean. He said that during the 2021-2022 period both institutions had honored their commitment to improve agricultural production and productivity; tackle the growing incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases; drive resilience and fast track the implementation of the region's "Twenty-Five by 2025" initiative.

3.6.4.3 He indicated that IICA and CARDI had signed a new general technical cooperation agreement that would remain in effect until 2025, focusing on providing agricultural research support, technical consultancy services, innovation and technology transfer. The agreement was expected to address the following areas: livestock, industrialization and crop use, germplasm management, food safety, biotechnology, climate change mitigation and knowledge management. He said that efforts and resources would be devoted to the integration and use of artificial intelligence, blockchain, drone technology, robotics and geographic information systems in Caribbean agriculture. He also indicated that both institutions would carry out joint initiatives to mobilize resources; conduct technical missions and staff exchanges; and to deliver training courses to enhance human capital development in the sector.

3.6.4.4 He then gave an account of joint activities carried out in eight Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago), specifically: a) a crowdfunding campaign in Antigua and Barbuda to bolster food security in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic; b) the "Strengthening Coastal and Marine Climate Resilience through Upland and Coastal Ecosystem Based Adaptation and Community Engagement" project in Antigua and Barbuda; c) a project to resuscitate the papaya industry in Barbados; d) biofortification of beans in Belize; e) the "Brown Gold" project: to support the composting community in Grenada and Saint Lucia; f) an initiative to import nine sweet

potato varieties from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados; g) support for value chain development in Jamaica for three crops: ginger, turmeric and pimento; h) a “Roots, Banana and Plantain Production” training course in Saint Kitts and Nevis; and i) implementation of the Model Farm project in Trinidad and Tobago, to name a few.

3.6.4.5 He revealed that the Institute is an observer member of the CARDI Board of Directors, contributing to the governance of that institution and its development of strategic partnerships, including the following: a) close collaboration of both institutions within the framework of various agreements signed with CARICOM and the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED); b) involvement of both institutions in regional activities, such as Caribbean Week of Agriculture; and c) support provided by CARDI and IICA to the International Trade Center (ITC) and the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), to organize a webinar on the “Promotion of Regional Packaged Natural Coconut Water Standards”.

3.6.4.6 The CARDI representative concluded his presentation by advising the participants that under the new general collaboration agreement between both institutions, CARDI was working with IICA Trinidad and Tobago to develop a project on “Increasing Cassava and Sweet Potato Production and Productivity to Support Agro Processing Industry Development in Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Guyana and Bahamas”.

3.6.5 Analysis and comments

3.6.5.1 The Deputy Director General of IICA thanked the Executive Director of CARDI for this detailed report, remarking that he had recently attended a CARDI meeting in Guyana, where he had noted the interest of the Caribbean region in technology issues and biofortification. He pointed out that actions implemented in these areas generate new opportunities to improve soil quality and to create a new industry to bolster the economy. He then mentioned Dr. Phil Rowe as someone who had devoted a significant part of his life to the genetic improvement of bananas and plantains.

3.6.5.2 The Representative of Trinidad and Tobago pointed out that the common denominator in CARDI’s and CATIE’s success was IICA. He asked if there was a formal cooperation agreement between CARDI and CATIE, and suggested that if that was not the case, the organizations should formalize their relationship, as this would yield benefits for CARICOM.

3.7 *Close of the session*

- 3.7.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 13:04 hours on 19 July 2023.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

4.1 Opening of the session

4.1.1 The Fourth Plenary Session of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 13:05 hours on 20 July 2023, and was chaired by the Representative of Barbados.

4.1.2 Given the limited time remaining, the Chair of the Executive Committee, asked those Member States with full voting and speaking rights, to place their trust in the IICA Director General, in his capacity as *ex officio* Secretary of the Executive Committee, to manage and oversee the completion of various issues on the agenda approved by the meeting, subsequently communicating this to the countries, through the official channels. To this end, the following resolutions were presented:

- 1) Progress in the organization of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas-Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and participation of IICA in COP28 (Dubai, Nov. – Dec.).
- 2) Reports of the Technical Secretariat to the Governing Bodies.
- 3) 2022 Annual Report of IICA.
- 4) Report of the Regular Meeting of the 2023 Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI).
- 5) Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 6) Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).
- 7) Date and venue of the Forty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

4.1.3 The Executive Committee approved the motion and as such the Chair of the Meeting asked the Rapporteur to read out the draft resolutions for the consideration and subsequent approval of the plenary.

4.2 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

4.2.1 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “2022 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”.

- 4.2.2 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.3 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Strengthening of the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development”.
- 4.2.4 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.5 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture”.
- 4.2.6 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.7 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Amendments to the Regulations of the General Directorate of IICA”.
- 4.2.8 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.9 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “2022 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Report of the External Auditors and Twenty-ninth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”.
- 4.2.10 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.11 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “2024-2025 Program Budget”.
- 4.2.12 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.13 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Report on the Collection of Quota Contributions”.
- 4.2.14 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.15 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Recognition of the Contribution Made by Mrs. Mitzila Samudio as a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”.
- 4.2.16 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.

- 4.2.17 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”.
- 4.2.18 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.19 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2021-2022”.
- 4.2.20 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.21 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2021-2022 Biennium”.
- 4.2.22 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.23 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Report of the 2023 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”.
- 4.2.24 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.25 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”.
- 4.2.26 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.27 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Provisional Agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 - Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”.
- 4.2.28 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.

- 4.2.29 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Date and Venue of the Forty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”.
- 4.2.30 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.31 The Rapporteur read out the operative paragraph of draft resolution “Participation of IICA in the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28)”.
- 4.2.32 This draft resolution was approved unanimously and without modifications.
- 4.2.33 The complete text of the resolutions approved by the Executive Committee is included as an annex to this Report.
- 4.3 *Close of the session*
- 4.3.1 The fourth plenary session of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 13:25 hours on 20 July 2023.

CLOSING SESSION

5.1 Opening of the session

- 5.1.1 The Closing Session of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 13:25 hours on 20 July 2023, chaired by the Representative of Barbados.

5.2 Remarks by the Chair of the Executive Committee

- 5.2.1 The Chair of the Executive Committee thanked all the Member States for the support given to him and then ended with a phrase from musician, Bob Marley: “Life is one big road with lots of signs. So, when you riding through the ruts, don’t complicate your mind. Flee from hate, mischief and jealousy. Wake up and live!”.

5.3 Remarks by the Director General of IICA

- 5.3.1 The Director General thanked the Chair for presiding over the meeting. He mentioned that the Southern Region and Spain were celebrating the “Day of Friendship” on that day, and thus he would take the opportunity to make an analogy between the meaning of friendship and the Institute’s relationship with its member countries – a relationship based on respect, solidarity and trust. Moreover, he thanked the representatives for the support that their countries had offered to IICA. He stressed again that agriculture was changing at a dramatic pace and that the Institute would continue to provide innovative tools, always with a human face. He again thanked everyone and urged them to attend the next IABA meeting and to participate in COP28, with a view to continue positioning agriculture in major environmental agreements and discussions.

5.4 Close of the meeting

- 5.4.1 The Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 13:35 hours on 20 July 2023.

RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/CE/Res. 698 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 698

**2022 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 755 (23), “2022 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 2022 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 2022 for the purpose of implementing its cooperation agendas at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, within the framework of its 2022-2026 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 2022; and

That the 2022 Annual Report of IICA is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute’s website (www.iica.int),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2022 Annual Report of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 699 (XLIII-O/23)

19 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 699

**STRENGTHENING OF THE HEMISPHERIC PARTNERSHIP FOR FOOD
SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation on “The Road to the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023: Strengthening the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development”,

CONSIDERING:

That, in recent years, the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have been building a solid consensus on the major challenges on the global agenda, in which agriculture of the Americas plays a strategic role, particularly in guaranteeing global food security and achieving sustainable development;

That the consensus reached allowed the countries of the Americas to present a joint position, from their perspective, at the United Nations Food Systems Summit (New York, 2021), in the form of sixteen messages approved by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) via resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 531 (XXI-O/21);

That, in the same spirit, the message on behalf of the ministers and secretaries of Agriculture and Livestock of the Americas was shared at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) and at the “Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas” pavilion installed by IICA at COP27 (Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, 2022);

That, at the IX Summit of the Americas (Los Angeles, 2022), the Director General of the Institute presented a proposal for collective hemispheric action to combat food insecurity and guarantee sustainable development, which was well received by the Heads of State and Government in attendance at the summit;

That IICA has made available to its Member States the Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA), a platform to systematize information, share experiences and good practices, and foster dialogue, with a view to improving and transforming agrifood systems;

That the General Directorate of the Institute is hosting a series of technical events with the participation of various stakeholders from the public, private, academic and scientific sectors, related to strategic issues such as biofuels, digital agriculture, science, technology, innovation and applied bioeconomy, among others of great importance for tomorrow's agriculture; and

That it is necessary to continue strengthening a hemispheric partnership aimed at consolidating and systematizing the collective efforts of the governments and civil societies of countries of the Americas, for the benefit of food security and sustainable development,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the proposal presented by the General Directorate of IICA on the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development, and recommend that the IABA endorse and take the necessary decisions to consolidate the initiative.
2. To entrust the Director General of the Institute with presenting the initiative at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023, for consideration by IICA Member States.
3. To request that the Director General continue organizing technical events on various topics in support of the initiative, and to report on their results at the next Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas.
4. To urge the governments of IICA Member States to undertake and strengthen actions in the following areas: a) actions and funding to tackle climate change; b) science, technology, innovation and digital agriculture; c) the bioeconomy; d) productive, economic and social inclusion of family farming; e) equity and equality; f) One Health; and g) international trade, among other topics.

IICA/CE/Res. 700 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 700

HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVE ON “WATER AND AGRICULTURE”

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

HAVING SEEN:

Information document No. 01 “Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Americas has a wealth of water resources, whose integrated management plays a key and strategic role in improving agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability and food security;

That climate change alters general patterns in the availability and distribution of fresh water, which renders the fight against desertification and droughts more complex and difficult, directly affecting agricultural and livestock production;

That the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas Argentina 2013, “Water to feed the land”, established the commitment to “develop and consolidate participation by the ministries of Agriculture in defining and implementing national policies for the integrated management of water, with the aim of ensuring access to and supply of water in the quantity and quality necessary for facing the challenges of agriculture and rural development, dealing with diverse geographical conditions, different uses and various users”;

That, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 482 (XVII-O/13), of 26 September 2013, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) requested that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) assist the ministers of Agriculture with the design and adoption of an inter-American agenda on water for agriculture, with integrated water resources management as its central element;

That strengthening participation by the ministries of Agriculture in designing and implementing public policies for the integrated management of water resources is a matter of strategic importance; and

That the Director General of the Institute has proposed an initiative entitled “Water and Agriculture”, whose objective is to strengthen capacities and foster strategic public-private partnerships in IICA member countries, by providing support to ministries of Agriculture and lead agencies, in a bid to improve the integrated management and efficient use of water in agriculture,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the “Water and Agriculture” initiative proposed by the Director General of the Institute, and recommend that the IABA endorse and take the necessary decisions to consolidate the initiative.
2. To recognize the strategic importance of strengthening participation by the ministries of Agriculture in designing and implementing public policies for the integrated management of water resources.
3. To request that the Director General move forward with the implementation of the initiative with IICA member countries, as well as with international agencies, financial organizations and other strategic partners, and to inform the IABA of actions in that regard.
4. To urge the governments of Member States of the Institute to strengthen actions aimed at: a) engaging in coordinated, harmonized work within the framework of existing coordination mechanisms, with a view to mitigating the water crisis; b) increasing water production and storage; c) making efficient use of water resources; d) strengthening governance for water management in agriculture; and e) fostering public-private investment for those purposes.

IICA/CE/Res. 701 (XLIII-O/23)

19 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 701**PARTICIPATION OF IICA IN THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE
UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE
(COP28)**

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

CONSIDERING:

That the interrelated effect of increased food insecurity and the global climate situation poses a severe threat throughout the planet, which must be thoroughly and urgently addressed at the local, national, regional and global levels;

That, in the “Our Sustainable Green Future” declaration of the IX Summit of the Americas (Los Angeles, June 2022), the Heads of State and Government expressed the need to “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”;

That, the Executive Committee, via Resolution No. 687, instructed the IICA Director General to develop key messages to be presented by the ministers of Agriculture of the Americas at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), submitting them for the consideration of the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change and Agriculture, as well as to organize a pavilion at the conference venue to showcase the progress, challenges, priorities and proposals of the agriculture sector in its efforts to tackle climate change;

That, pursuant to that Resolution, the Director General made a presentation at COP27 (Egypt, November 2022), outlining the messages approved by the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change and Agriculture (San Jose, September 2022), and also arranged for the “Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas” pavilion at the conference, with the support of the private sector; and

That, the continued participation of the ministries and secretariats of Agriculture of the Americas in matters related to climate change and sustainable development is imperative, leading up to the 28th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28), to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023,

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the importance of ministries and secretariats of Agriculture and Livestock of the Americas continuing to implement and increase measures to achieve a low-carbon agriculture sector.
2. To highlight the need to support the agriculture sector to guarantee food security and sustainable development, through cooperation, research, funding and cost and risk analyses, among other measures.
3. To instruct IICA and its Member States to continue promoting dialogue on issues related to climate change at the regional and global levels, emphasizing the role of agriculture in fostering sustainable development.
4. To request that the Director General of the Institute prepare and present for the consideration of the next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) a proposal on strengthening the participation of the ministries and secretariats of Agriculture of the Americas, as well as of IICA, at COP28, including by organizing the installation of the “Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas” pavilion.

IICA/CE/Res. 702 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 702

**2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL
AUDITORS AND TWENTY-NINTH REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW
COMMITTEE (ARC)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE/Doc. 749 (23), “2022 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors”, and IICA/CE/Doc. 750 (23), “Twenty-ninth 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-ninth Report, the ARC states that it examined the report of the external auditors on IICA’s financial statements for the 2022 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 2022 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-ninth 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 undertaken by the Institute to maintain financial records with a clean opinion and to urge the Director General to continue implementing his policy of transparency.

IICA/CE/Res. 703 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 703

2024-2025 PROGRAM BUDGET

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 747 (23), “2024-2025 Program Budget”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) establishes:

- i. In Article 8.b, that a function of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is “to approve the biennial Program Budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States”;
- ii. In Article 23, 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”;
- iii. In Article 14.b, that a function of the Executive Committee is “to examine the proposed biennial Program Budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate”;

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2024-2025 Program Budget to the Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), held in April 2023; and

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2024-2025 Program Budget for the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Forty-third Regular Meeting, in

a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect, and incorporating the recommendations made by the SACMI,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the IABA adopt a resolution:

- i. Approving the overall allocation of USD 33,074,100 per year from IICA's Regular Fund for the 2024-2025 biennium, financed with quota contributions from the Member States in the amount of USD 29,574,100 per year, including the quotas allocated and over-quota contributions, according to the amounts indicated in the quota scale attached hereto as Annex A, and with USD 3,500,000 per year in miscellaneous resources, from income that it is estimated will be generated.
- ii. Approving the expenditure budget, in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, headings and strategic priorities specified in Document IICA/CE/Doc. 747 (23), "2024-2025 Program Budget". The summary of allocations by chapter is attached to this resolution as Annex B.
- iii. Authorizing the Director General of the Institute to effect transfers among chapters of the Program Budget, provided that the total amounts do not significantly affect the priorities approved.
- iv. Authorizing the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 fall below the levels estimated for the biennium, and to inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of the situation.
- v. Instructing the Director General to ensure that any additional over-quota contribution received that exceeds the total amount approved for the 2024-2025 biennium is applied to the Regular Fund to finance the 2024-2025 Program Budget.

ANNEX A
Quota Scales of Member States, Over-Quota Contributions,
and Miscellaneous Income - 2024 and 2025 (in USD)

MEMBER STATES	2024				2025			
	IICA				IICA			
	OAS ¹	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS	OAS ¹	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS
Antigua and Barbuda	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Argentina	3.392	997,000	247,000	1,244,000	3.392	997,000	247,000	1,244,000
Bahamas	0.044	12,900	7,000	19,900	0.044	12,900	7,000	19,900
Barbados	0.044	12,900	5,500	18,400	0.044	12,900	5,500	18,400
Belize	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Bolivia	0.107	31,400	600	32,000	0.107	31,400	600	32,000
Brazil	12.519	3,679,300	0	3,679,300	12.519	3,679,300	0	3,679,300
Canada	13.618	4,002,300	0	4,002,300	13.618	4,002,300	0	4,002,300
Chile	2.095	615,700	14,600	630,300	2.095	615,700	14,600	630,300
Colombia	2.199	646,300	0	646,300	2.199	646,300	0	646,300
Costa Rica	0.393	115,500	2,500	118,000	0.393	115,500	2,500	118,000
Dominica	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Dominican Republic	0.411	120,800	3,500	124,300	0.411	120,800	3,500	124,300
Ecuador	0.617	181,300	3,500	184,800	0.617	181,300	3,500	184,800
El Salvador	0.102	30,000	12,500	42,500	0.102	30,000	12,500	42,500
Grenada	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Guatemala	0.262	77,000	13,800	90,800	0.262	77,000	13,800	90,800
Guyana	0.044	12,900	1,700	14,600	0.044	12,900	1,700	14,600
Haiti	0.044	12,900	4,200	17,100	0.044	12,900	4,200	17,100
Honduras	0.044	12,900	3,200	16,100	0.044	12,900	3,200	16,100
Jamaica	0.049	14,400	5,100	19,500	0.049	14,400	5,100	19,500
Mexico	8.577	2,520,800	0	2,520,800	8.577	2,520,800	0	2,520,800
Nicaragua	0.044	12,900	2,800	15,700	0.044	12,900	2,800	15,700
Panama	0.293	86,100	6,000	92,100	0.293	86,100	6,000	92,100
Paraguay	0.134	39,400	8,800	48,200	0.134	39,400	8,800	48,200
Peru	1.544	453,800	9,400	463,200	1.544	453,800	9,400	463,200
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Saint Lucia	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000	0.044	12,900	1,100	14,000
Suriname	0.044	12,900	4,200	17,100	0.044	12,900	4,200	17,100
Trinidad and Tobago	0.173	50,800	15,000	65,800	0.173	50,800	15,000	65,800
United States of America	49.990	14,691,800	0	14,691,800	49.990	14,691,800	0	14,691,800
Uruguay	0.435	127,800	7,900	135,700	0.366	127,800	7,900	135,700
Venezuela	1.788	525,500	0	525,500	2.384	525,500	0	525,500
SUB TOTAL	99.314	29,187,600	386,500	29,574,100	99.841	29,187,600	386,500	29,574,100
Cuba	0.686	201,600	0	201,600	0.548	161,100	0	161,100
TOTAL QUOTAS	100.00	29,389,200	386,500	29,775,700	100.39	29,348,700	386,500	29,735,200
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME²		3,500,000		3,500,000		3,500,000		3,500,000
TOTAL REGULAR FUND³		32,687,600		33,074,100		32,687,600		33,074,100

Note: 1) The Kingdom of Spain contributes an annual quota of USD 60,000 as an Associate Member, pursuant to the agreement adopted in the First Plenary Session of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, held on November 26, 2001, in Bávaro, Dominican Republic.

1/ As per Resolution CP/RES. 1225 (2432/23), adopted by means of AG/RES. 3011 (LIII-O/23) of the Organization of American States General Assembly.

2/ In USD rounded to the nearest hundred.

3/ The total of the Regular Fund does not include Cuba.

ANNEX B**Allocation of the Regular Fund by Chapter - 2024 and 2025 (in USD)**

CHAPTER	2024		2025	
	REGULAR FUND		REGULAR FUND	
	USD	%	USD	%
CHAPTER I: Direct Technical Cooperation Services	28,978,850	87.6%	29,012,702	87.7%
CHAPTER II: Management Costs	2,503,645	7.6%	2,516,968	7.6%
CHAPTER III: General Costs and Provisions	1,365,000	4.1%	1,323,000	4.0%
CHAPTER IV: Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment	226,605	0.7%	221,430	0.7%
TOTAL	33,074,100	100.0%	33,074,100	100.0%

IICA/CE/Res. 704 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 704

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 748 (23), “Status of 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 2022-2026 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,

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 instruct the Director General to: a) continue efforts to collect the quotas for 2023 and those owed for previous years; and b) keep IICA's member countries informed of progress in this area.
3. 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 countries.

IICA/CE/Res. 705 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 705

RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY MRS. MITZILA SAMUDIO AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

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

CONSIDERING:

That the Audit Review Committee (ARC) is an important mechanism of the Executive Committee for providing advice to the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the administrative and financial conduct of the Institute, as well as for assisting the Executive Committee with its review of the accounts of the General Directorate;

That the members of the ARC, appointed by the Member States of IICA, perform an important function; and

That the term of Mrs. Mitzila Samudio of Panama, who has discharged her duties as a member of the ARC with great responsibility, dedication and competence on behalf of the Institute, will end on December 31, 2023,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of Panama for the support provided by Mrs. Samudio, in her capacity as a member of the ARC.
2. To recognize the excellent, dedicated and professional work of Mrs. Samudio and express its deep gratitude to her for her contributions to the ARC and to the administrative and financial management of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 706 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 706**ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 751 (23), “Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That it is a function of the Executive Committee to elect the members of the ARC, pursuant to Article 3.k of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Article III of the Statute of the ARC;

That the ARC Statute stipulates that at least one of the three members of the ARC shall be elected from among the candidates proposed by the Member States that are the six largest contributors to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); another member shall be elected from among the candidates nominated by all the other Member States; and the third shall be elected from among the candidates nominated by all the Member States;

That the term of the member of the ARC elected from among the candidates proposed by all the Member States expires on December 31, 2023;

That pursuant to the provisions of the ARC Statute, the Director General asked the aforementioned Member States to nominate candidates to fill the post occupied by the member of the ARC whose term expires this year; and

That, in response to that request, the governments of Canada and Dominica submitted nominations for the post,

RESOLVES:

To elect Mr. Shannon Bedminister, of Dominica, to occupy the position of the member of the ARC reserved for a candidate proposed by all the IICA Member States, for a six-year term commencing on January 1, 2024, and concluding on December 31, 2029.

IICA/CE/Res. 707 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 707**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) FOR 2021-2022**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The Biennial Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2021-2022 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; and

That this year, CATIE is celebrating 50 years at the service of tropical agriculture in the Americas in general and in its Member States in particular, providing quality education, research and technical cooperation services,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept CATIE's Biennial Report for 2021-2022.
2. 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.

3. 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.
4. To extend special recognition to and congratulate the Director General of CATIE, the Center's personnel and all other individuals who, over the past 50 years, have contributed to consolidating this noble institution at the service of tropical agriculture.

IICA/CE/Res. 708 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 708**REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) FOR THE 2021-2022 BIENNIUM**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The report on the work program of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2021-2022 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 CARDI's report on the implementation of its work program for the 2021-2022 biennium and express appreciation for its presentation.
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. 709 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 709

AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 752 (23) “Report on the Status of Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Director General”,

CONSIDERING:

That, during the last regular meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) in April 2023, it was announced that a study was being launched to review the regulations of the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) governing human talent and financial operations, as an integral part of the institutional transformation process that the Director General has promoted;

That the aim of the study is to propose modifications to the current rules for the consideration and approval of the Institute’s governing bodies, ensuring that they account for technological developments, better address IICA’s needs, and reflect the changes that have taken place in administrative practices since the rules were established in 1983 – some 40 years ago;

That, among the regulations to be reviewed are the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate (RPGD), the Staff Rules, the Remuneration System and the Financial Rules;

That, pursuant to Article 8(i) of the Convention on IICA, only the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) can modify the RPGD, which includes general rules speaking to the categories, rights and obligations of Institute staff, as well as to the financial management of the organization; and

That, pursuant to Article 3(h) of its Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee may approve or modify the other aforementioned regulations “provided that such approval or modification is consistent with the Rules of Procedure of the Board, of the Executive Committee or of the General Directorate and would not require a change in a Program Budget resolution in force”,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the study launched by the current Director General to review the Institute’s regulations.
2. To request that, in consultation with the SACMI, the Director General present the proposed modifications to the regulations for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting.
3. To recommend that, at its next meeting, the IABA:
 - a. Express support for the study launched by the current Director General to review the Institute’s regulations.
 - b. Authorize the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, to:
 - a) adopt the modifications to regulations that are within its competence; and b) adopt and put into effect the necessary modifications to the RPGD, subject to the approval of the IABA at its 2025 Regular Meeting.

IICA/CE/Res. 710 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 710

**REPORT OF THE 2023 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 756 (23), “Report of the 2023 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 26 April 2023; 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 2023 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

IICA/CE/Res. 711 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 711

STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE FORTY-SECOND 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-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE/Doc. 757 (23), “Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”, and IICA/CE/Doc. 758 (23) “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-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and at the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

To accept the following reports: a) “Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-second 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. 712 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 712**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2023 – TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 754 (23), “Draft Provisional Agenda of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 – Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”;

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.p of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) shall analyze the provisional agenda for the meetings of the IABA; and

That the Executive Committee, at its Forty-third Regular Meeting, analyzed the provisional agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 – Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the provisional agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 – Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).
2. To urge the members of the Executive Committee to share with the ministers of Agriculture of their respective countries the importance of their presence at this event.

IICA/CE/Res. 713 (XLIII-O/23)

20 July 2023

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 713

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

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 760 (23), “Date and Venue of the Forty-fourth 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-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2024 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-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the second half of 2024.

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

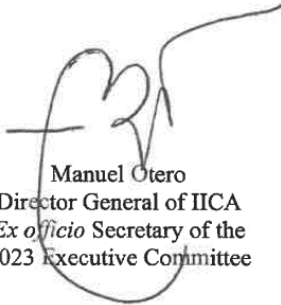
SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE FORTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Forty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 15:00 hours on the twentieth day of July of the year two thousand and twenty-three, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

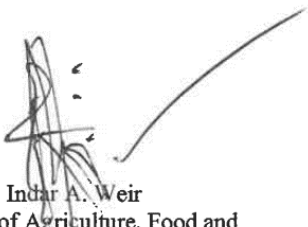
This report will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes approved during the Closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally 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
2023 Executive Committee



Indar A. Weir
Minister of Agriculture, Food and
Nutritional Security of Barbados
Chair of the 2023 Executive Committee

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: AGENDA OF THE MEETING

IICA/CE/Doc. 745 (23)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. Provisional schedule | IICA/CE/Doc. 746 (23) |
| 2. Message from the Director General of IICA | (no document) |
| 3. Technical cooperation of IICA: The path towards the Conference of Ministers 2023: "Strengthening the continental alliance for food security and sustainable development" | (no document) |
| 4. Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture | Informative document n.º 1 |
| 5. Administrative, financial and programmatic-budgetary situation | |
| 5.1. 2024-2025 Program Budget | IICA/CE/Doc. 747 (23) |
| 5.2. Report on the collection of quota contributions | IICA/CE/Doc. 748 (23) |
| 5.3. 2022 Financial statements of IICA and report of the external auditor | IICA/CE/Doc. 749 (23) |
| 5.4. Twenty-ninth report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) | IICA/CE/Doc. 750 (23) |
| 5.5. Election of a CRA member | IICA/CE/Doc. 751 (23) |
| 5.6. Review of institutional regulations | IICA/CE/Doc. 752 (23) |
| 6. Strengthening of strategic partnerships | |
| 6.1. Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for the 2021-2022 biennium | (unnumbered) |
| 6.2. Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CATIE | (unnumbered) |

- 6.3. Recognition of the 50th anniversary of CATIE and projection of the joint work IICA-CATIE (no document)
- 6.4. Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for the 2021-2022 biennium (unnumbered)

7. Activities of the General Directorate and the governing bodies

- 7.1. Progress in the organization of the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA: provisional agenda proposal; and COP28 IICA/CE/Doc. 753 (23)
- 7.2. 2022 IICA Annual Report IICA/CE/Doc. 754 (23)
- 7.3. Report of the 2023 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) IICA/CE/Doc. 755 (23)
- 7.4. Status of the resolutions of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 756 (23)
- 7.5. Status of the resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) IICA/CE/Doc. 757 (23)
- 7.6. Incorporation of countries that are not OAS Permanent Observers as IICA Permanent Observers (modification of Articles 8 and 10 of the IABA Regulations and Articles 3, 12 and 13 of the Regulations of the Executive Committee) IICA/CE/Doc. 758 (23)
- 7.7. Date and venue of the Forty-fourth Ordinary Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 759 (23)

8. Other matters

ANNEX 2: SCHEDULE OF THE MEETING

Tuesday, 18 July

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

Wednesday, 19 July

- 07:45 • Participants are transported to IICA IICA personnel
- 08:30 • Registration continues at the Secretariat of the meeting

Preparatory session

- 09:00-09:30 • Preparatory session of the regular representatives of the Member States of the 2023 Executive Committee Chair of the Executive Committee (Honduras), Representatives of the Member States and Director General of IICA

First plenary session

- 09:30-09:35 • Remarks by the Chair-elect of the 2023 Executive Committee Chair of the Executive Committee
- 09:35-09:55 • Message from the Director General Director General of IICA
- 09:55-10:25 • Analysis and comments Member States
- 10:25-10:50 Refreshments

10:50-11:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Road to the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023: “Status of the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development” 	Directorate of Technical Cooperation
11:20-11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refreshments 	Member States
11:50-12:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA) 	Directorate of Technical Cooperation
12:00-12:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA) 	
12:10-12:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and comments 	Members States
12:30-13:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit to the Plaza of Agriculture of the Americas 	
13:00-14:30	<i>Lunch</i>	

Second plenary session

14:30-15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hemispheric Initiative on “Water and Agriculture” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remarks by the Director General (5 min) - Presentation of the Hemispheric Initiative on “Water and Agriculture” (20 min) - Message from the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development of Mexico, Dr. Víctor Villalobos (20 min) 	Directorate of Projects
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- Presentation by ECLAC on the Regional Action Agenda for Water, Dr. Rayén Quiroga (15 min)
- 15:30-16:00 • Analysis and comments Member States
- 16:00-16:30 *Refreshments*
- 16:30-17:30 • Financial and administrative matters
- 2022 Financial statements of IICA and report of the external auditors Directorate of Corporate Services
 - Twenty-ninth report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) Member of the ARC
 - Video of the Directorate of Corporate Services Directorate of Corporate Services
 - 2024-2025 Program Budget
 - Report on the collection of quotas
- Updating of regulations Legal Advisor of IICA's Governing Bodies
 - Analysis and comments Member States
- 17:30-17:50 • Election of a member of the ARC

17:50-18:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close of the first day of the meeting 	Chair of the Executive Committee and Director General of IICA
18:00-18:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special ceremony to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Message from the Director General of CATIE 	Director General of CATIE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Message from the Director General of IICA 	Director General of IICA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Message from the Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica 	Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica
18:30-18:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica 	
18:40	<i>Cocktail reception</i>	

Thursday, 20 July

07:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants are transported to IICA 	
08:30-09:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official photograph of the 2023 Executive Committee • IICA of Open Doors (CIMAG) 	

Third plenary session

09:30-09:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming remarks 	Chair of the Executive Committee
09:40-10:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Cooperation Agreement between IICA and the Costa Rican Tourism Institute (ICT) 	Directorate of External and Institutional Relations
10:00-10:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on the strengthening of IICA's strategic partnerships • Analysis and comments 	Member States
10:20-10:40	<i>Refreshments</i>	
10:40-11:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship between IICA and the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of CATIE for the 2021-2022 biennium - Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CATIE • Analysis and comments 	Director General of CATIE Deputy Director General of IICA
11:10-11:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationship between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Report of CARDI for the 2021-2022 biennium - Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CARDI 	Executive Director of CARDI Deputy Director General of IICA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis and comments 	Member States
11:30-11:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress in the organization of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and IICA’s participation in COP28 (Dubai, Nov-Dec) 	Technical Secretariat
11:50-12:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of the Technical Secretariat of IICA’s Governing Bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2022 IICA Annual Report - Report of the 2023 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) - Status of the resolutions of the Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee - Status of the resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) - Date and venue of the Forty-fourth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee 	
12:10-14:10	<i>Lunch</i>	

Cuarta sesión plenaria

14:10-14:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and approval of draft resolutions 	Chair and Rapporteur of the Executive Committee
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Sesión de clausura

- | | | |
|-------|--|---|
| 14:50 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close of the meeting | Chair of the
Executive
Committee and
Director
General of IICA |
|-------|--|---|

ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEMBER STATES OF THE 2023 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Barbados

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

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

Belize

Abelardo Mai (*Regular*)
Minister
Ministry of Agriculture,
Food Security and Enterprise

Brazil

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

Canada

Elizabeth Williams (*Regular*)
Ambassador
Embassy of Canada to Costa Rica

Falco Mueller (*Alternate*)
First Secretary
Embassy of Canada to Costa Rica

Alexander León (*Alternate*)
Trade Commissioner
Embassy of Canada to Costa Rica

Tammy Ames (*Alternate*)
Commercial Counsellor
Embassy of Canada to Costa Rica

Daryl Nearing (*Alternate*)
Deputy Director
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Aleksandar Jotanovic (*Alternate*)
Senior Multilateral Affairs Officer
Agriculture and Agri-Food
Canada

Chile

Margarita Portuguez (*Regular*)
Embajadora
Embajada de Chile en Costa Rica

Paula Mendoza (*Alternate*)
Asesora del Ministro
Ministerio de Agricultura

Álvaro Guzmán (*Alternate*)
Primer Secretario
Embajada de Chile en Costa Rica

Carla Molina Corral (*Alternate*)
Tercera Secretaria
Embajada de Chile en Costa Rica

Colombia

Teresa Hernández Vergara (*Regular*)
Funcionaria, Oficina de Asuntos
Internacionales
Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo
Rural

El Salvador

Oscar Enrique Guardado (*Regular*)
Ministro
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

Grenada

Adrian A. Thomas (*Regular*)
Minister of State
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands,
Fisheries & Cooperatives

Peru

Enrique Regalado Gamonal (*Regular*)
Viceministro de Políticas y
Supervisión de Desarrollo Agrario
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agrario
y Riego del Perú

Dominican Republic

Limber Cruz (*Regular*)
Ministro
Ministerio de Agricultura

Rafael Ortiz (*Alternate*)
Viceministro de Asuntos Científicos
y Tecnológicos
Viceministerio de Asuntos Científicos
y Tecnológicos

Hipólito Mejía (*Alternate*)
Ex Presidente de República
Dominicana
Embajador de Buena Voluntad
del IICA

Gaspar Blanco (*Alternate*)
Asesor del ex Presidente de República
Dominicana

Mayerlyn Cordero Díaz (*Alternate*)
Embajadora
Embajada de República Dominicana
en Costa Rica

Trinidad and Tobago

Avinash Singh (*Regular*)
Minister
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and
Fisheries

Anesa Ali-Rodriguez (*Alternate*)
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.
Embassy of the Republic of Trinidad
and Tobago to Costa Rica

**MEMBER STATES NOT SITTING
ON THE 2023 EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE**

Antigua and Barbuda

Everly Greene (*Regular*)
Minister
Ministry of Agriculture

Argentina

Ariel Martínez (*Regular*)
Subsecretario de Coordinación
Política
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
y Pesca

Maximiliano Moreno (*Alternate*)
Director Nacional de Relaciones
Internacionales
Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
y Pesca

Silvina Inés Rivero (*Alternate*)
Dirección de Negociaciones
Multilaterales
Dirección Nacional de Cooperación
y Articulación Internacional
Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería
y Pesca

Bolivia

Oscar Gutiérrez Guerra (*Regular*)
Profesional de Programas y Proyectos
Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo
Rural

Esper Burgos Román (*Alternate*)
Director de Producción Pecuaria,
Acuicultura y Pesca
Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural
y Tierras

Víctor Hugo Castro (*Alternate*)
Director de Producción Agrícola
y Agroforestal a. i.
Ministerio de Desarrollo Rural
y Tierras

Costa Rica

Víctor Julio Carvajal P. (*Regular*)
Ministro
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

Julián Arias V. (*Alternate*)
Viceministro Administrativo
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

United States of America

Joe Hain (*Regular*)
Director
Multilateral Affairs Division
Foreign Agricultural Service
United States Department of
Agriculture

Donald Willar (*Alternate*)
USDA IICA Policy Lead
Multilateral Affairs Division
Foreign Agricultural Service
United States Department of
Agriculture

Julianna Aynes-Neville (*Alternate*)
 U.S. OAS Representative
 U.S. Department of State

Sara Ripley (*Alternate*)
 Finance Analyst
 U.S. Department of State

James Shuster (*Alternate*)
 Program Analyst
 U.S. Department of State

Guatemala

César Vinicio Arreaga M. (*Regular*)
 Viceministro de Seguridad
 Alimentaria y Nutricional
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
 y Alimentación

Cándida Azucena Tacam (*Alternate*)
 Coordinadora de la Unidad de Cambio
 Climático
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
 y Alimentación

Edwin Adonay Cajas (*Alternate*)
 Director de Coordinación Regional
 y Extensión Rural
 Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería
 y Alimentación

Guyana

Zulfikar Mustapha (*Regular*)
 Minister
 Ministry of Agriculture

Richard Blair (*Alternate*)
 Advisor
 CARICOM Agri-Food System
 Ministry of Agriculture

Haiti

Bredy Charlot (*Regular*)
 Ministre
 Ministère de l'Agriculture des
 Ressources Naturelles et du
 Développement Rural

Vilaire M. Guerrier (*Alternate*)
 Directeur du cabinet du Ministre
 Ministère de l'Agriculture des
 Ressources Naturelles et du
 Développement Rural

Nadège Dorival (*Alternate*)
 Directrice Coopération Externe
 Ministère de l'Agriculture des
 Ressources Naturelles et du
 Développement Rural

Eric Junior Vilmont (*Alternate*)
 Membre de Cabinet
 Ministère de l'Agriculture des
 Ressources Naturelles et du
 Développement Rural

Honduras

Laura Elena Suazo (*Regular*)
 Secretaria de Estado de
 Agricultura y Ganadería
 Ministerio de Agricultura
 y Ganadería

Jamaica

Courtney Cole (*Regular*)
 Chief Technical Director
 Special Projects
 Ministry of Industry, Commerce,
 Agriculture and Fisheries

Kevin Condappa (*Alternate*)
 Principal Director (Acting)
 Economic Planning and Policy
 Directorate
 Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries

Mexico

Víctor M. Villalobos (*Regular*)
 Secretario de Agricultura
 y Director General Emérito del IICA
 Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo
 Rural (SADER)

Roselia Margarita Barajas (*Alternate*)
 Embajadora
 Embajada de México en Costa Rica

Alan Reynaldo Fábila (*Alternate*)
 Encargado de Asuntos Económico-
 Comerciales, Promoción
 y Cooperación Internacional
 Embajada de México en Costa Rica

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 Coordinadora General de Asuntos
 Internacionales
 Secretaría de Agricultura
 y Desarrollo Rural (SADER)

Panama

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 Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario

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 Director de Sanidad Vegetal
 Ministerio de Desarrollo
 Agropecuario

Milagros González (*Alternate*)
 Asistente técnica
 Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Samal Mojah Duggins (*Regular*)
 Minister
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and
 Marine Resources, Cooperatives,
 Entrepreneurship and Creative
 Economy

Saint Lucia

Alfred Prospere (*Regular*)
 Minister
 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries,
 Food Security and Rural Development

IICA ASSOCIATE COUNTRY**Spain**

Carmen González Serrano

Subdirectora General de Relaciones
Internacionales y Asuntos
Comunitarios
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca
y Alimentación

Blanca García
Jefe de Área en la Subdirección
General de Relaciones Internacionales
y Asuntos Comunitarios
Ministerio de Agricultura, Pesca
y Alimentación

Patricia Pertejo
Consejera de Agricultura, Pesca
y Alimentación
Embajada de España en Costa Rica

OBSERVER COUNTRIES

Germany

Alexandra Herr
Encargado de Negocios a. i.
Embajada de Alemania en Costa Rica

Türkiye

Derya Sürek
Ingeniera
Ministerio de Agricultura
y Silvicultura

Gökhan Kurtar
Responsable del Grupo
Ministerio de Agricultura
y Silvicultura

Nezaket Cömert
Ingeniera
Ministerio de Agricultura
y Silvicultura

Ahmet Budaklier
Responsable del Grupo
Ministerio de Agricultura
y Silvicultura

Hakan Arslan
Ingeniero
Ministerio de Agricultura
y Silvicultura

Cemre Bahar Özcarli
Responsable del Grupo
Ministerio de Agricultura
y Silvicultura

European Union

Nazareth Porras
Operational Manager
Sustainable Development Cooperation

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Rayén Quiroga
Jefa de la Unidad de Agua y Energía,
División de Recursos Naturales

**Tropical Agricultural Research and
Higher Education Center (CATIE)**

Muhammad Ibrahim
Director General

Carlos Araya
Director de Desarrollo de Negocios,
Movilización de Recursos y Alianzas
Estratégicas

Luis Carlos Montoya
Asesor legal

**Caribbean Agricultural Research
and Development Institute (CARDI)**

Tristan Alvarez
Deputy Programme Manager
Resource Mobilization, Planning,
Monitoring and Evaluation

Ansari Hosein
Executive Director

**Market Information Organization
of the Americas (MIOA)**

Kimberly Mercer
Chairman

**International Regional
Organization for Plant and Animal
Health (OIRSA)**

Raúl Antonio Rodas
Director Ejecutivo

AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mitzila Samudio
Directora Administrativa
y de Finanzas
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario
Panamá

IICA OFFICIALS

Manuel Otero	Director general
Lloyd Day	Deputy Director General
Miguel Á. Arvelo	IICA Representative in Costa Rica and Chief of Staff
Gloria Abraham	Advisor to the Director General
Joaquín Arias	International Technical Specialist at the Center for Strategic Analysis for Agriculture (CAESPA)
Federico Bert	Specialist in Digital Agriculture
Beverly Best	Director of External and Institutional Relations
Hugo Chavarría	Manager of the Bioeconomy and Productive Development Program
Randall Cordero	Coordinator of Institutional Communication
Edgar Cruz	Project Manager/ Project Specialist
Harold Gamboa	Technical Specialist of the Innovation and the Bioeconomy Program
Braulio Heinze	Director of Corporate Services
Miguel Herrera	Coordinator of the Legal and International Affairs Unit and Protocol
Héctor Iturbe	Technical Secretary of Governing Bodies
Carlos Jiménez	Manager of Administrative Services
Karen Kleinheinz	Manager of Financial Management
Mario León	Manager of the Territorial Development and Family Farming Program
María Teresa Maldonado	Manager of Programming and Budget
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Manuel Messina	Technical Advisor to the Directorate of Technical Cooperation

Laura Mora	Manager of Decentralization
Alejandra Mozes	Manager of Human Resources
Guido Nejamkis	Advisor to the Director General
Katia Núñez	Coordinator of Official Events Unit
Emmanuel Picado	Manager of Information Technology, Communication, and Digital Agriculture
Graciela Quesada	Manager of Organizational Design
Pedro Rocha	International Specialist in Biotechnology and Biosafety
Daniel Rodríguez	Manager of the International Trade and Regional Integration Program
Federico Sancho	Manager of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation
Fernando Schwanke	Director of Projects
Breno Tiburcio	Deputy Chief of Staff
Agustín Torroba	Especialista Technical Specialist with expertise in Bioeconomy
José Urdaz	Manager of the Agricultural Health, Safety, and Food Quality Program
Federico Villarreal	Director of Technical Cooperation
Jorge Werthein	Special Advisor to the Director General
Kelly Witkowsky	Manager of the Agricultural Climate Action and Sustainability Program

ANNEX 4: MEETING PERSONNEL

Meeting Secretariat

Ex Officio Secretary and Director General	Manuel Otero
Technical Secretariat	Héctor Iturbe Silvia Gutiérrez Alina Ortega
Logistics Organization	Katia Núñez
Legal Advisory	William Berenson

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Rafael Cartín
Kattia Chacón
María José Chinchilla
José García
Yuryvannia Sancho
Carlos Umaña
Isaac Zúñiga

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Hotel Assistance	Lorena Mata Sonia González
Meeting Room Assistance	Marlen Montoya Randy Alexánder Lidy Astorga Adriana Araya Verónica Herrera Eduardo Lovell Melania Rodríguez

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	Portuguese	Henrique de Lima
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Audio and Digital Recording		David Álvarez Dennis Martínez
IT and Telepresence Services		Emmanuel Picado Adriana Alpizar Grettel Araya Olman Castro Gian Carlo Corrales Gustavo Eduarte José Ricardo Fallas Julio Solís Randall Vargas
Support Services		
	Coordination	Carlos Jiménez José Francisco Brenes
	Cleaning	Marcela Castro Carmen Jiménez
	Assembly and Maintenance	Minor Carvajal Eduardo Castillo Álvaro González
	Procurement	Rebeca Martínez German Arroyo Wilford General
	Health	Annia Madelin Wong Yeimy Rodríguez
	Security	José Gómez

Transportation

Javier Barboza
Wilford General
Dennis Martínez
Carlos Umaña

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