



# REPORT OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2023 – TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER- AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

San Jose, Costa Rica  
3-5 October 2023



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

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) 2024



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**MINUTES OF THE CONFERENCE OF  
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AMERICAS 2023 – TWENTY-SECOND  
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INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF  
AGRICULTURE (IABA)**



# **OPENING CEREMONY**



**OPENING CEREMONY OF THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF  
AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS 2023: “HEMISPHERIC  
PARTNERSHIP FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT”**

*Start of the ceremony*

The opening ceremony of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 - Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) began at 17:10 hours on 3 October 2023 in the main lobby of the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

Seated at the head table were: Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana; Mr. Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, President of the Republic of Panama; Mr. Víctor Carvajal Porras, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica; Mr. Alejandro Solano, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica; Mr. Paulo Teixeira, Minister of Agricultural Development and Family Farming of Brazil; Mr. Manuel Otero, Director General of the Institute; Mrs. Milagro Martínez, Representative of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Costa Rica; Mr. Terry Branstad, President of the World Food Prize Foundation; Mrs. Maris Llorens, IICA Goodwill Ambassador; and Mr. Alfredo Carrasco, a rural leader from the Republic of Chile.

*Message from the Director General of IICA*

The Director General welcomed the participants to IICA Headquarters, the Home of Sustainable Agriculture in the Americas, which in the coming days would host the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 and the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA.

Otero said that the conference would be attended by delegations from the 34 Member States; from Spain, in its capacity as an associate country; and from 17 observer countries, in addition to various agrifood system stakeholders (agricultural producers and representatives of the private sector, academic institutions and international organizations). He explained that the conference would be dedicated to strengthening a hemispheric partnership for food security and sustainable development, given that these

were two urgent challenges on the global agenda that required collective action from the countries of the hemisphere, their governments, the private sector and civil society.

He thanked the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana for his presence. He commented on the importance of agriculture in Guyana's economy, and above all, its potential contribution to food security in Guyana, the Caribbean region and the rest of the hemisphere. He also thanked the President of the Republic of Panama, who as Minister of Agricultural Development of his country, had championed the law that established the State policy and the integrated agricultural and rural development plan that would drive Panama's agrifood systems in the next decade. He acknowledged both presidents as visionary leaders committed to promoting and developing agriculture in their countries and regional food security.

He then highlighted the presence of Costa Rica's Minister of Agriculture and Livestock and its Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship, expressing his gratitude to the Government of Costa Rica—where the Headquarters of the Institute is located—for its ongoing support.

He stated that the conference would include the participation of renowned specialists in agricultural matters and current IICA Goodwill Ambassadors, Dr. Michael Kremer, 2019 Noble Prize Laureate for Economics, and Dr. Rattan Lal, recipient of the 2020 World Food Prize. He also highlighted the participation of Mrs. Maris Llorens, IICA Goodwill Ambassador, a livestock producer with extensive knowledge of animal welfare and environmental sustainability issues; Mrs. Graciela Fernández Quintas, President of the International Cooperative Alliance for the Americas; and Mrs. Carol Thomas, a former IICA staff member and expert in agrifood health and safety.

He made special mention of the participation of the President of the World Food Prize Foundation, an institution committed to promoting innovation and improving food quality, quantity and availability globally. He said that the Institute considered itself a strategic ally of the Foundation and confirmed its participation in the Borlaug Dialogue, to be held in Iowa, USA, from 23 to 26 October 2023.

He mentioned that IICA also recognized the hard work of all the farmers of the Americas, who are building the future of agriculture today. He said that in that regard he wished to recognize Alfredo Carrasco and all the anonymous heroes and heroines who contribute to the region's well-being with their work.

He acknowledged the ministers, secretaries and senior officials present, especially the Minister of Agricultural Development and Family Farming of Brazil, the current Chair of the IABA.

He stressed the importance of the meeting, which would need to further explore how to transform agriculture to make it sustainable, competitive and inclusive, as this would be essential in enabling the sector to overcome challenges on the global agenda, improve the quality of life of people and build a better future for the region.

*Message from Alfredo Carrasco, Chilean rural leader*

Mr. Carrasco described his beginnings as an agricultural producer at a young age and how he suffered a serious accident in 2017 that changed his life, as his disability motivated him and allowed him to discover the limitations that people in this situation face and the limited opportunities given to them to work in the agriculture sector. He explained that he started to work on an inclusive project, called FarmHability, to promote a sustainable, inclusive agriculture sector that allows people with disabilities to work in the field and produce food. He mentioned the impact of the Institute's recognition of him as a Leader of Rurality, as this had brought him into contact with more people and countries, for which he was very grateful. He expressed his wish to contribute to the creation of a hemispheric program for the labor inclusion of people with disabilities in the agriculture sector.

*Message from the Minister of Agricultural Development and Family Farming of Brazil*

The Minister of Agricultural Development and Family Farming of Brazil outlined the major challenges his country and the region currently faced, such as defending democracy, reducing social inequality and overcoming the climate crisis. He stated that part of the solution to these problems must come from the agriculture and rural sectors, to produce food, protect the environment and boost territorial, national and regional economies.

He stated that one of the main challenges for Brazil was to remove itself from the hunger map again, by supplying healthy foods in large quantities for the neediest people in the country, in harmony with the environment. He emphasized the outstanding work of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, in strengthening the agriculture sector, through three family farming programs: a) the school feeding initiative, b) public procurement for the armed forces and c) the supplying of food to hospitals and public universities. He explained that these programs allowed family farmers to improve their income.

He then commented on other ongoing programs in the agriculture and rural sector in Brazil: d) land tenure for Afro-Brazilians; e) funding for family farming, aimed at food production and the procurement of machinery adapted to this type of agriculture; f) agrarian reform for informal settlements; g) the *Quintais Produtivos* program that

promotes small-scale farming by women; h) a program to encourage young people to remain in rural areas; i) an environmental reforestation program to restore productive forests; j) a photovoltaic solar energy program; and k) a rural irrigation initiative.

He ended his speech by saying that he hoped to learn about other countries' experiences at the meeting of ministers and to discuss good practices to benefit the sector, reduce social inequality and increase skills to tackle extreme climate events. He also encouraged all the countries to assist each other to overcome food insecurity issues.

*Message from the OAS Representative in Costa Rica*

The Representative of the OAS in Costa Rica conveyed greetings from OAS Secretary General, Mr. Luis Almagro, and from Mr. James Lambert, OAS Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs. She began her speech by stating that climate change had a profound impact on the agriculture sector and food security of Latin America and the Caribbean, which affected traditional agricultural practices and reduced their productivity. She said that the crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic had exposed inequalities and aggravated vulnerabilities, demonstrating the urgent need to continue to work towards fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which would require strategic, focalized measures to address systemic and structural deficiencies in the region. She stressed that the slogan for this meeting: "A Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development" could not be more fitting, in view of the forthcoming Summit of the Americas.

She reiterated the importance of strengthening ties between the Summit of the Americas process and ministerial processes, to improve coordination in the implementation of key initiatives for the region, in such areas as employment, energy and science and technology.

In conclusion, she stressed the importance of IICA as a key partner to advance in the commitments adopted at the Ninth Summit of the Americas (Los Angeles, 2022). She highlighted the Institute's contributions to meeting the mandates to achieve a sustainable, green future, agricultural development and rural wellbeing in the Americas. She said that the region was playing a leading role in addressing the climate crisis and food security, and thus she was grateful for the inclusion of hemispheric partnerships among the issues to be discussed during the meeting of ministers.



*Message from Mariam bint Mohammed Almhairi, Minister of the Environment of the United Arab Emirates*

The minister in charge of the Twenty-Eighth Conference of the Parties (COP28) (Dubai, 2023) sent a video message in which she stressed the importance of world food systems, which are at risk due to climate change. She drew attention to the urgent need to advance towards more resilient, sustainable production methods, to produce more but with fewer greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.

She highlighted the importance of the Americas, particularly Latin America, in food production for the world, and its potential to produce more efficiently, resiliently and sustainably. She stressed that in the Caribbean, Central America and various regions of Brazil there were numerous imbalances and conditions of climate vulnerability that affected productive capacity.

She mentioned the main global problems, including the scarcity of water resources, poor soil health, food insecurity and decreasing production, combined with a rising world population. She said that this complex reality faced by the planet revealed the need to transform agrifood systems realistically to comply with the Paris Agreement and asked that this be made a priority issue at COP28, to be held in Dubai. Lastly, she urged the agriculture ministers to sign the declaration that was being drawn up in this regard.

*Message from the President of the World Food Prize Foundation*

Mr. Branstad opened his remarks by speaking about the Foundation's work. He stressed the importance of the agreement between the Foundation and IICA, which would enable the development of strategic partnerships to implement multiple cooperation actions for young people in rural areas and for the integrated management of water resources in agriculture, for the benefit of agrifood systems in the region and the world. He invited all the delegations to participate in the upcoming Borlaug Dialogue (Iowa, 2023), which would focus mainly on water for agriculture, and at which the 2023 World Food Prize would be awarded.

He listed the foundation's achievements and actions, focusing on promoting the adoption of innovation, technology and science among young people, in which approximately 5,000 young people participate every year.

He acknowledged the presence of Dr. Rattan Lal, 2020 World Food Prize Laureate, leading expert in the field of soil health and promoter of the partnership with the Institute. He concluded his speech by expressing his gratitude for the invitation to the conference and for the signing of the agreement between both institutions.

*Message from the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica*

The Deputy Minister began his speech by stressing the importance of the Conference of Ministers and the Regular Meeting of the IABA held at IICA, for the purpose of encouraging, promoting and supporting the efforts of member countries to bring about agricultural development and rural well-being, through international technical cooperation. He said that the conference was a platform for analysis and discussion to drive a hemispheric partnership aimed at building food security and sustainable development, to advance the SDGs.

He mentioned the High-level Week of the United Nations General Assembly, in which issues had been addressed such as the reform of the international finance structure, the building of trust in multilateral platforms and access to better conditions for international cooperation. He underscored the importance of sustainably managing water and land devoted to agricultural activity. He explained that agriculture was considered a vital activity for food security in Costa Rica, driving the development of rural areas in the country and in the Americas, through low-emission practices, modernization and the strengthening of institutions.

He referred to climate change-related problems and the crisis affecting the food distribution chain and recognized the need to adapt agricultural and production practices, using clean technologies, the bioeconomy, the circular economy, family farming and the promotion of Digital Agriculture 4.0

He said that Costa Rica supported collective knowledge building, and consequently recognized the contributions of the study *The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: a Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean*, prepared by the Institute, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He stated that his country also supported the establishment of strategic partnerships with governments, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector, in which multilateralism takes on greater relevance, with an emphasis on technical bilateral, triangular and multi-actor cooperation models that have an impact on national and hemispheric actions.

Lastly, he thanked IICA for bringing the agricultural experience to this forum, which would seek to promote a multi-sector and multidisciplinary approach to agriculture and the rural development of the Americas.

*Presentation of an award to the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana*

The Director General of the Institute presented an award to Mohamed Irfaan Ali, in recognition of his invaluable contribution to food security and to the sustainable development of agriculture in his country, the Caribbean region and the Americas. President Ali then addressed the assembly.

*Message from the President of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana*

Mohamed Irfaan Ali began by thanking the Institute for the recognition, on behalf of the farmers of his country and the Caribbean, while expressing appreciation for his cabinet and the policymakers in the region working to improve and transform agrifood systems.

He mentioned that one goal of his administration was to reduce the country's food import bill by twenty-five percent by 2025, by promoting and strengthening national agricultural activity, through multiple investments in technology, agroindustry and sustainable, resilient production, in order to tackle climate vulnerability.

He thanked IICA for its work in managing knowledge and technologies applicable to the realities of agriculture in Guyana and the Caribbean, to address the main problems of food security and resilience to climate change. He underlined the importance of this conference in formulating the framework and policy matrix for COP28, so that food security would be prioritized in the declaration on sustainable agrifood systems.

He made mention of a joint initiative with the Institute to establish a regional food hub with suitable technology for training and managing the knowledge of farmers, technical experts and researchers. He said that the hub would focus on women and youth who could drive projects and programs for food production, through technology, innovation and a business approach, making these activities more competitive and profitable. Lastly, he called on the assembly to use this international forum to boost the agrifood systems in the region and transform agriculture in the coming years.

*Presentation of a recognition award to the President of the Republic of Panama*

The IICA Director General presented an award to Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, in recognition of his leadership and valuable contribution to food security and sustainable agriculture in his country and in the Americas, through the promotion and enactment of the law to establish a state policy and national agricultural and rural development plan to drive and govern the growth of agrifood systems in Panama in the coming decade. The President then addressed the participants at the ceremony.

*Message from the President of the Republic of Panama*

The President thanked the Director General of the Institute and all those present for the recognition of his efforts in managing and enacting the law establishing the state policy and national agricultural and rural development plan for Panama. He pointed out that the plan was constructed “from the bottom up” and with the participation of the farming sector at its heart.

In particular, he thanked the Director General of IICA and his technical team for their support and advice in formulating this policy, and all the Panamanian farmers for making it a reality and attaining unanimous approval in the Panamanian National Congress. He explained that adopting a multidimensional, intersectoral vision, this law covered the education, health and commercial development of the entire agricultural system in the country.

He also called for a consensus to be reached at this forum and for discussions to be held on regional trade, with an emphasis on products that were vital to family farming. He underscored the importance of addressing the issues of food production, the climate crisis and GHG emissions and stated that Panama was one of the countries that had achieved carbon neutrality.

*Message from the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica*

First, the Minister spoke about the effects of the El Niño-Southern Oscillation phenomenon on food systems in Costa Rica and the region and stressed the need to redouble efforts to mitigate these effects and help farmers in rural territories to adapt to them.

He said he was proud that the Institute, whose headquarters had been located in his country for eight decades, was an organization that, through its support for Member States, successfully harmonizes their different realities into a shared vision, aimed at the development of their agrifood systems.

He said that the region had enormous potential for food production, as well as vast natural and cultural riches in its territories to ensure the population’s well-being and development. He added that guaranteeing the economic, social and environmental sustainability of agrifood systems was one of the main challenges for the region.

Among the problems for rural territories, he listed poverty, the exodus from rural areas to cities and other countries, food insecurity, the weakening of food production and the limited development of agricultural insurance and finance systems. He added that

institutions must make headway in adapting to climate change, mitigating its effects, and driving the automation, robotization and digitalization of agriculture.

He said that in that regard, Costa Rica had taken the first steps in building a sustainable agriculture sector, as the first country in the world to register a nationally appropriate mitigation action (NAMA) for coffee, known as NAMA Coffee. Thanks to these policies, NAMA Livestock and NAMA Sugarcane had been implemented, thus creating a differentiating factor for Costa Rican agricultural trade and markets.

He stressed the importance of strengthening work partnerships across the productive sector, academia and international cooperation organizations, to harness increasingly scarce resources and to augment their impact on rural areas. He also advocated for institutional innovations, mainly in the design and implementation of State policies that promote competitiveness, science and technology, as well as territorial and human development from an agro-environmental approach.

In closing, he said that the conference should prepare for the coming decade by proposing solutions and opportunities for integrated, permanent sustainable growth in the medium and long term, to benefit the countries and the hemisphere.

*Signing of the General Agreement on Technical Cooperation between the World Food Prize Foundation and IICA*

The aim of this instrument is to undertake joint work for the development of programs for sustainable development in agriculture, food and nutrition security and leadership in science and innovation in agriculture. The agreement also promotes the exchange of knowledge between the parties and the establishment of a legal framework for the signing of future specific agreements or memoranda of understanding that satisfy shared interests for collaboration.

The general cooperation agreement was signed by the President of the World Food Prize Foundation and the Director General of the Institute. Dr. Rattan Lal signed as witness of honor.

*Close of the ceremony*

The opening ceremony of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 – Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) concluded at 19:20 hours on 3 October 2023.



**TWENTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF  
AGRICULTURE (IABA)**





## PREPARATORY SESSION

### 0.1 Opening of the session

0.1.1 The preparatory session of the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 08:15 hours on 4 October 2023, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada meeting rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The session was chaired by Mr. Paulo Teixeira, Minister of Agricultural Development and Family Farming of Brazil, with Mr. Manuel Otero, Director General of the Institute, serving as *ex officio* Secretary of the meeting.

0.1.2 The Technical Secretary advised the meeting that, pursuant to Article 45 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, during the preparatory session, only the heads of delegation of the Member States would be granted the right to speak and to vote.

0.1.3 The IICA Director General extended a warm welcome to all the delegations and noted that the meeting was being held in person, now that the global health emergency surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic had passed. He celebrated the fact that most of the designated delegates of the Member States were now able to attend in person, with others participating virtually, pursuant to the mechanisms established in the regulations of the Institute.

0.1.4 He outlined the provisional schedule of the three-day meeting, explaining that Day One would be dedicated to the opening ceremony, which would be attended by the presidents of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana and the Republic of Panama, as well as the delegates of the Member States. The 2023 Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas would take place on the second day, whereas technical and administrative matters of the Institute would be addressed on the third day.

### 0.2 Agreements

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

0.2.1.1 The Chair informed the delegates that, in accordance with the current rules and regulations, the election would be conducted by a simple majority vote. Votes were to be cast by the Regular Representatives of the Member States.

He added that, for that meeting of the IABA, thirty-two Member States had been duly accredited, with full voting powers.

0.2.1.2 The Head of Delegation of Argentina proposed that Mr. Fernando Mattos, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Uruguay, serve as Chair of the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA. The proposal was seconded by the heads of delegation of Chile, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago. The minister was elected Chair by acclamation.

0.2.1.3 The Chair of the IABA noted that, pursuant to Article 33 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, in the event of a temporary absence of the Chair, the alternate representative of the corresponding country, in this case Uruguay, would substitute him.

0.2.1.4 Next, the Chair requested nominations for Rapporteur of the IABA. The Head of Delegation of Belize proposed that Mr. Óscar Guardado, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of El Salvador, be elected as Rapporteur. The proposal was supported by the heads of delegation of Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Paraguay; and thus, the Minister was elected Rapporteur by acclamation.

0.2.1.5 The following persons were elected as officers of the meeting:

Chair:	Fernando Mattos
Rapporteur:	Óscar Guardado
Secretary, <i>ex officio</i> :	Manuel Otero

0.2.1.6 The Head of Delegation of Brazil said he was grateful for the opportunity to serve as Chair of the IABA and for his experience working with the Director General of the Institute to build bridges between the countries of the Americas and other regions. He also commended the Institute for its execution of first-rate technical cooperation actions that had strengthened hemispheric unity during and after the pandemic. He then invited the Head of Delegation of Uruguay to take his place.

0.2.1.7 Minister Mattos thanked the Member States for electing him as Chair of the 2023 IABA meeting. He then commended the IICA Director General for effectively managing the Institute's technical cooperation for agriculture amidst the difficulties that the hemisphere had experienced in recent years

and for his efforts to address the major challenges of agriculture, climate action and food security in the main international forums.

0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

0.2.2.1 Pursuant to Article 25 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Chair asked the representatives of the Member States to review the provisional schedule for the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA, which was unanimously approved, without modifications.

0.2.2.2 The Chair then indicated that the working and information documents and the draft resolutions of the meeting had been made available in electronic format, in Spanish and English, as stipulated in Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA. He also explained the procedures for discussing and approving draft resolutions.

0.2.3 Duration of the meeting

0.2.3.1 The plenary decided that the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA would conclude on Thursday, 5 October 2023 at 16:20 hours (Costa Rica time).

0.2.4 Setting up of committees

0.2.4.1 Pursuant to Article 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Chair asked the heads of delegation whether they considered it necessary to set up committees to examine any of the matters included in the agenda of the meeting.

0.2.4.2 Given that no proposals on the establishment of committees were received, the Chair informed the delegates that these could also be set up during the meeting, if the heads of delegation deemed it necessary.

0.2.5 Deadline for submitting draft resolutions

0.2.5.1 Wednesday, 4 October at 16:00 hours (Costa Rica time) was set as the deadline for submitting draft resolutions.

0.2.6 The right to vote in meetings of the IABA

0.2.6.1 The Chair asked the Legal Advisor to explain the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the IABA.

0.2.6.2 The Legal Advisor made reference to the voting mechanisms stipulated in Article 71 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA. He then indicated that cases of Member States owing more than two annual quotas to IICA would need to be discussed, to determine whether their right to vote should be suspended under Article 24 of the Convention on IICA. He reported that two countries were in arrears and both were in the process of negotiating their payment.

0.2.6.3 He then indicated that one of these countries was facing particular challenges and that the usual approach of the Institute was not to suspend the rights of a member in arrears, if and when the country provided a justification, as specified in the rules and regulations; expressed a willingness to bring payments up to date and received the authorization of the IABA. No objection was raised to the proposal to maintain the voting rights of the countries in arrears.

0.2.6.4 The Chair then thanked the countries for continuing to pay their quotas during these particularly challenging times. He acknowledged that maintaining payments up to date called for significant effort, but that this provided IICA with the resources necessary to perform effectively.

0.2.6.5 The Technical Secretary informed the meeting that delegations from thirty-one Member States of the Institute were present, and were joined by representatives from Spain, as an Associate Member; from two Permanent Observer Countries; and from the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank, the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Fund for Agricultural Development, the Caribbean Community, the Andean Community, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Pan American Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Executive Secretariat of the Central American Agricultural Council, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute and the IICA Audit Review Committee.

0.3 *Close of the session*

- 0.3.1 The preparatory session of the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) ended at 08:59 hours on 4 October 2023.



## **FIRST PLENARY SESSION**

### 1.1 *Opening of the session*

1.1.1 The first plenary session of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas (IABA) 2023 – Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture was called to order at 09:10 hours on 4 October 2023, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada meeting rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The session was chaired by Mr. Fernando Mattos, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Uruguay.

### 1.2 *The Institute as a carbon neutral organization*

1.2.1 The plenary was advised that IICA had been recognized as a carbon neutral organization by the Ministry of the Environment and Energy of Costa Rica. Efforts to achieve this goal had begun five years before, within the framework of the Costa Rican Government’s Blue Flag Ecological Program. The meeting itself had been designated as carbon neutral, having adopted a series of measures, for example, minimizing the use of paper, transporting participants in electric vehicles and promoting telework, among others. It was also mentioned that the Institute was in favor of reversing deforestation and had therefore started a tree-planting project, aiming to plant 10,850 trees in the Americas. All of these actions would equip IICA to contribute to tackling climate change and reducing the Institute’s carbon footprint.

1.2.2 Next on the agenda was a video presentation, which stressed the importance of agriculture in the region, as the guarantor of food, nutritional and environmental security—now and in the future. The video reflected that agriculture today is assuming another essential role in the sustainable development strategies of countries. It has developed a renewed, systemic vision that brings together production, trade and consumption, while promoting the rational and responsible use of renewable resources, the implementation of a circular economy and the adoption of a One Health approach. The message stressed that given agriculture’s close linkages to climate change mitigation and adaptation, it is now part of the solution. For example, it highlighted the region’s capacity to generate surplus food, notwithstanding high levels of poverty and food insecurity. Thus, it stressed the urgency of establishing policies to promote sustainable development, social inclusion and resilience, underpinned by science, technology and innovation – decisive factors in achieving deep and enduring changes. The

video concluded by proposing that it was time for a new and renewed hemispheric partnership on agriculture that would be part of the solution and a sustainable development instrument for peace.

1.3 *Remarks by the Director General of the Institute*

1.3.1 The Director General extended greetings and a warm welcome to all the participants in the conference. He advised them that the meeting would address the issues of trade and integration; science, technology and innovation; digital agriculture; the environment; soils; regenerative agriculture; the cooperative movement; health and safety; financing; family farming and rural development, as well as women, youth and equality.

1.3.2 He pointed out that these issues embody the spirit behind the transformation of agriculture, which when translated into action, would facilitate the development of a strong hemispheric partnership for food security and sustainable development. He maintained that that would be the only way to contribute to reducing poverty and food insecurity and to lay the foundation for an increasingly sustainable and resilient agriculture sector.

1.3.3 He referred to the turbulent international scenario, characterized by geopolitical changes, the reorganization of global value chains, the effects of climate change, the threat that some developed countries would use environmental challenges as a justification for non-tariff barriers, and the fallout from the war in Eastern Europe, all of which were endangering global stability, and the development and well-being of the countries of the Americas.

1.3.4 He then stressed that international trade was key to food security and that food security would be unattainable without agriculture, just as agriculture would be impossible without farmers. He pointed out that the hemisphere was the guarantor of global food and nutrition security, accounting for 31% of global food exports. Notwithstanding, he pointed out that the region was heterogeneous, with one third of the countries being clearly export oriented, whereas the others were experiencing varying levels of food vulnerability. As such, he emphasized the need to enhance intraregional trade, which at that time only accounted for 14% of the region's agrifood trade.

1.3.5 He insisted that the agriculture sector had a responsibility to safeguard the environmental sustainability of the Americas, a region that possesses 16% of the world's arable land, 50% of its biodiversity, 23% of its forests and 30%



of its fresh water supply. He also reflected on the need to create a new narrative that would showcase the efforts of countries to build a more sustainable, productive and inclusive agriculture sector, supported by a powerful and efficient communication strategy.

- 1.3.6 He indicated that although the region was a surplus food producer, at the same time, 32% of its overall population was classified as poor and 13.1% as extremely poor. He suggested that this stemmed from social conflicts, extreme climate events, historic and structural inequalities and an increase in the price of the basic food basket. In his view, those factors demonstrated that issues related to agriculture and rural areas had become a priority on the global agenda and should be considered as strategic and essential in enabling countries to drive the sustainable creation of employment, progress and social peace.
- 1.3.7 The Director General observed that the existing context had spurred the transformation of IICA into a modern, technical cooperation agency. The organization was evolving into a network of networks, fueled by a renewed knowledge management platform that prioritizes collective and multi-actor forums to discuss issues that support environmentally friendly agricultural development and adopt a systemic vision encompassing production through to consumption. He emphasized that the Institute's agenda reflects the major issues and actions embodied in the hemispheric partnership proposal, guided by the premise that the challenges of a fragmented and complex world can only be tackled through collective action.
- 1.3.8 He explained that the proposed partnership was underpinned by four principles: 1) agrifood systems are not failed systems and although they could be further strengthened, their performance in recent decades has demonstrated their resilience and capacity to address the challenges of each era; 2) agriculture, given its importance to national economies and its endogenous capacity to mitigate climate change, must be seen as part of the solution; 3) science and technology are major transformative agents and should provide fundamental input for a new generation of public policies; and 4) farmers are central to the transformation that will take place and are the ones best able to improve sustainable resource management.
- 1.3.9 He also explained that the partnership would require IICA to expand its portfolio of supranational initiatives, by adopting a multi-country approach involving different stakeholders and an inter-disciplinary focus. He

reaffirmed the central role of farmers, not merely as food producers, but also as the stewards of rural areas and guardians of biodiversity.

- 1.3.10 He then reviewed the extent to which the Institute had achieved a series of commitments assumed on his election as Director General in 2017. A renewed concept of agriculture had been created, where it was seen as a regenerative, environmentally responsible sector that industrializes the production of biomass. According to the Director General, rural areas occupy a leading role in this new paradigm, facilitating the generation of new opportunities for the 17 million farmers of the Americas, among them women, youth and vulnerable groups. He also stated that IICA's portfolio of projects directly benefitted more than 7 million farmers.
- 1.3.11 He mentioned that new institutional policies, strategies and frameworks had been introduced to create complementary cooperation schemes that were focused on efficiency, flexibility, collaborative work, network insertion and creation, a process focus and the mobilization of human and institutional resources, in a bid to collectively generate knowledge. He pointed out that the Institute had managed to position agriculture at the forefront of public agendas in the hemisphere and had created a knowledge management platform that feeds into and expands new cooperation actions, while attracting more than 25,000 users each year, including students, producers, technicians and researchers.
- 1.3.12 He indicated that even in the face of various crises, IICA had bolstered its own finances, having accumulated strategic reserves and increased its mobilization of external resources. He said IICA was a less bureaucratic organization that was engaging with private sector and civil society organizations for the development of agriculture. He said the Institute was now lending greater support to its member countries, noting that despite the presence of factors hindering development, IICA was employing differentiated strategies to empower them to seek and find innovative solutions. In particular, he emphasized the work to enhance the organization's image, as well as to widely and systematically communicate its actions and achievements.
- 1.3.13 He highlighted the creation of the Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAa), the Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems (ELTSA) and a hemispheric program to tackle soil degradation. He also mentioned the launch of the Water and Agriculture Initiative and the Institute's efforts to recognize rural leaders of the Americas. He stressed that

IICA was the first international agency headquartered in Costa Rica that had achieved carbon neutrality.

- 1.3.14 He spoke about new linkages forged and bridges built with other continents, such as Africa and Asia, to undertake peer-to-peer cooperation and provide opportunities for reciprocal collaboration. He underscored the Institute's participation in major international forums, for example, the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021, where its objective was to position agriculture as fundamental in eradicating poverty, driving rural development and protecting the environment. He emphasized IICA's role at the Twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties (COP27) (Egypt, 2022), and its installation of the Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas pavilion, a space where all member countries were represented in conveying the message that actions to tackle the climate crisis should safeguard and increase levels of productivity and not exacerbate food insecurity.
- 1.3.15 He assured the meeting that, as a result of the Institute's engagement with the Presidency of the Twenty-eight Conference of the Parties (COP28), the ministers of Agriculture of the Americas would be accorded a prominent role in the deliberations in Dubai. Thus, he urged them all to participate and to insist that agriculture has an essential part to play in climate change mitigation and adaptation. They should send the message that major players in the global economy should redouble financial commitments to reverse climate change damage and to make the investments needed to transform agriculture. Farmers should not be expected to shoulder the burden on their own.
- 1.3.16 He then spoke of IICA's Open Door initiative, which is triggering a culture change that will enable IICA to forge new linkages with society. He anticipated that by the end of 2023, the Plaza of Agriculture of the Americas, the Interpretive Center for Tomorrow's Agriculture, the Digital Fabrication Lab for Agriculture, the Typical Rural House and the Forest of the Americas would have received more than 10,000 visitors.
- 1.3.17 In closing, the Director General noted that IICA had managed to keep pace with the demands and needs of the era, positioning itself as a strategic institution, serving a region that is essential to food security and world peace. He then concurred with the view of agronomist and Nobel Prize winner Norman Borlaug: "We can't build world peace on empty stomachs and human misery."

1.4 *Comments by the delegates of the Member States*

1.4.1 Once the Director General had concluded his presentation, the Chair gave the floor to the delegates. They all congratulated the Director General on his presentation and thanked him for his leadership and excellent management of IICA.

1.4.2 The delegate of Canada considered the Director General's presentation to be extremely relevant, having spoken about current challenges and strategic issues, as well as shared viewpoints that Canada fully supported. He agreed that climate change solutions in agriculture should be grounded in science and technological innovation. He stated that Canada commended the Institute for its work to share evidence and information to increase agricultural productivity, strengthen food security, achieve sustainable food systems, encourage trade and take other steps in the area of cooperation. He also indicated that his country valued IICA's commitment to place farmers at the heart of developing public policies to build agriculture, tackle climate challenges and improve food security in the Americas.

1.4.3 The delegate of Mexico described agriculture as a critical element in efforts to address current challenges and agreed that international trade is key to food security and the social and economic well-being of the region. She stressed the importance of enhancing international cooperation, technology use in agriculture and reciprocal trade within the region, as essential to the transformation of food systems. Thus, she expressed her country's support for the four principles underlying the hemispheric partnership.

1.4.4 The delegate of Brazil thanked IICA for its cooperation, which would prove pivotal in the negotiations at COP28 in the United Arab Emirates. In reference to the Thirtieth Conference of the Parties in 2025, to be held in Brazil, he said that the country considered agriculture's participation in the climate action discussions to be critical, emphasizing that the hemisphere had an even greater responsibility in this respect, as one of the world's major food producers.

1.4.5 He went on to stress that food insecurity in the Americas was an urgent problem that the countries of the region should overcome by cooperating among themselves. Finally, he underscored the need to democratize access to technologies and mentioned the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), as a relevant agency that would be open to engaging and sharing knowledge with the Member States.

- 1.4.6 The delegate of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines commended the Institute for its success in bridging the gap between Latin America and the Caribbean, through its technical cooperation model and strategic partnerships, which had fostered linkages between institutions and the production and private sectors in the areas of climate change, trade and agricultural production, to name a few.
- 1.4.7 The Representative of Panama stressed the extent to which the agriculture sector had suffered the effects of the pandemic, armed conflict and the container, migration and climate crises, among other situations at the global level. He made special mention of the assistance and advice that IICA, the Director General and technical staff had provided in formulating the Panamanian Government's national policy for the agriculture sector. Finally, he reiterated his government's support for the Institute's work.
- 1.4.8 The delegate of the United States of America was of the view that the meeting would assist in the search for innovative methods and policies to address the urgent demands of sustainability, food security and climate change impacts on agriculture. He also stressed that it was essential that fair, open, transparent, productive, sustainable and resilient food systems be developed in the hemisphere, to guarantee access to sufficient, safe, nutritious and affordable food, without disregarding trade. He recalled that the hemisphere had identified three main principles that were central to its contributions to global food and nutrition security: 1) the role of the private sector, 2) the need for science-based solutions and 3) the role of agriculture in adapting to and migrating climate change. He insisted that regional conversations on sustainable development, economic security, environmental commitments and food and agricultural trade must continue. He stressed the need to spearhead actions aimed at sustained regional growth, ensuring that agriculture is recognized as part of the solution and not the problem and that a commitment be made to improve the lives of farmers and rural communities.
- 1.4.9 The delegate of Guatemala reflected on actions the country had taken to address challenges in agriculture. He explained that 35% of the economically active population of his country were women and youth, 50% of them being family farmers. He mentioned that, in order to support family farming, 70% of government purchases under the School Feeding Law, were sourced from that sector, through national programs.

- 1.4.10 He also reported that the country had succeeded in defining and identifying three categories within the family farming sector: subsistence, intermediate and consolidated. This categorization had enabled the government to structure food aid programs for these families, offering them facilities such as agricultural insurance and providing stipends for soil and water conservation. He thanked the Director General for assisting the new authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food.
- 1.4.11 The delegate of Argentina commended the Director General for his vision in addressing the challenges and opportunities of the region. On the other hand, he thanked him for bringing relevant discussions to the table, as this had enabled countries to come together and reduce asymmetries. He underscored the importance of multilateralism and the need to coordinate multinational actions to tackle current challenges in agriculture.
- 1.4.12 The delegate of Guyana thanked IICA for its support to the Caribbean, particularly in recent years, when the region's food security had been threatened by various global crises that had disrupted the food supply chain. He stressed the vulnerability of the Caribbean to the effects of climate change and its impact on the development of food systems. He appealed to the countries to unite efforts to ensure that international trade agreements would become increasingly fair.
- 1.4.13 The delegate of Honduras recognized the Institute's effective technical support for ensuring the transparent administration of funds in her country's agricultural budget. She noted that farmers, particularly subsistence farmers, would remain among the world's poorest, if a major effort was not made to change their situation. She stressed the difficulties farmers face, among them, limited access to technology and inclusive financing, as well as limited technical assistance specifically aimed at farmers and rural youth. The delegate expressed the view that multilateral forums should work to reduce poverty indicators and to build a protected and climate smart agriculture sector.
- 1.4.14 The delegate of Dominica pinpointed climate change, trade imbalances, pests and diseases, and an aging farming population as some of the greatest challenges facing agriculture today. He said he was heartened at the support that the smaller countries had been receiving from the larger countries. He also expressed the wish that all countries would have an equal opportunity to participate in these discussion mechanisms that facilitate the exchange of ideas and the identification of opportunities to drive change in smaller

economies, ensuring that everyone has food, while generating employment and promoting the sharing of innovations.

1.4.15 The delegate of Uruguay reiterated the importance of building a hemispheric partnership for food security and sustainable development in the Americas, with a view to fostering collaboration to solve common problems and generate public goods, while bearing in mind the specific interests and needs of each country.

1.5 *Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development*

1.5.1 A video produced by IICA summarized the overarching principles on which the conference would be based:

- Food security and climate change are the most pressing global challenges today.
- Agrifood systems are capable of feeding a growing world population, despite global crises that have impacted millions of people who lack sufficient food.
- The region must address the impact of climate change, which it is experiencing with greater intensity, with the more frequent occurrence of natural disasters.
- Given the magnitude of climate change, countries must work together to devise solutions to common problems, by combining efforts, complementing capacities and resources, and strengthening the region's standing.
- The Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development must drive collective action by the countries and among various public and private stakeholders in the region to tackle global challenges.
- This partnership is grounded in the consensus achieved by the Member States for the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021, COP27 and the declarations of the 2022 Summit of the Americas. It is underpinned by four principles: 1) agrifood systems are not failed systems but can be strengthened; 2) agriculture is an essential part of the solution to global

challenges; 3) science and technology are tools for transformation in our age; and 4) farmers are central to the changes that will be made to establish this partnership.

1.5.2 Various hemispheric meetings were held in 2023, which were attended by major public and private agrifood system stakeholders in the Americas. The meetings addressed nine key topic areas:

- Consolidation of the bioeconomy as a vision for sustainable development, which led to the establishment of the Latin American Bioeconomy Network;
- Creation of the Pan-American Liquid Biofuels Coalition and a Hemispheric Bioinputs Platform;
- Strengthening of science, technology and innovation to better harness their potential and to respond to new demands;
- Promotion of the digitalization of agrifood systems;
- Fostering of international trade and increased intraregional trade;
- Mobilization of climate action in the agriculture sector and its role in negotiation forums; access to climate financing; and the consolidation of the Living Soils of the Americas and Water and Agriculture initiatives;
- Promotion and implementation of the One Health approach as a strategy to ensure human, animal and ecosystem health;
- Promotion of family farming and inclusive rural development by institutionalizing an exchange mechanism for the design of public policies, investments and funding; and
- Generation of greater opportunities for women and rural youth, as well as the consolidation of the Forum of Female Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials of Agriculture of the Americas.

1.5.3 The areas covered by the partnership are aligned with and complement the Institute's hemispheric action programs, and the latter will implement the



technical component of the partnership. IICA also introduced two cross-cutting support mechanisms: the OPSAa and the ELTSA.

- 1.5.4 The video also explained that to drive the implementation of this partnership, the Institute would create a Hemispheric Fund for Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability in the Americas, to enable smaller countries with less economic clout to participate in collective actions.
- 1.5.5 In short, the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Americas consists of a dynamic and flexible series of collective and concrete actions, with the capacity to anticipate and adapt to changes in the environment, in a bid to accelerate agricultural transformation in the Americas.
- 1.6 *Forum One: "Bridging gaps in innovation, science and technology, with special emphasis on digital agriculture and the bioeconomy"*
- 1.6.1 Address by Dr. Michael Kremer
  - 1.6.1.1 Dr. Kremer, Nobel Prize Laureate for Economics, spoke about his work with the Innovation Commission for Climate Change, Food Security and Agriculture, which was working closely with the Presidency of COP28 to identify and announce priority innovation areas at that event. He also mentioned that the Commission had entered into agreements with different entities, among them a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Agriculture of India and was also working in close cooperation with IICA.
  - 1.6.1.2 He broadly defined the concept of innovation, explaining that the purpose of innovation is to produce more value with fewer resources. Innovations, he said, may be social or technical and can interact to change lives and to tackle challenges. Mr. Kremer pointed out that innovation by itself is not enough, as it requires other processes for implementation. He then explained that the innovations that he was about to present were potentially transformative, given their evident ability to create an impact and their cost effectiveness.
  - 1.6.1.3 As a first example of innovation, he spoke about weather forecasts disseminated by conventional and digital communication channels. He reported that studies around the globe had proven that when farmers base their decisions on this information, it reduces costs for agricultural activities, produces a better return on investment and increases profits.

- 1.6.1.4 His second example referred to conventional text messages, which he noted was an efficient and cost-effective service for information sharing, which could positively impact farmers' decisions regarding production conditions. For instance, advice sent by SMS text messages on conventional mobile phones had prompted a 22% increase in the use of agricultural lime in one study, and Dr. Kremer estimated that the use of smart phones could reduce costs and provide greater access to information, videos, photographs and other material.
- 1.6.1.5 He then turned to social innovation in his third example, specifically risk organization and management by stakeholders, which would be critical in enabling them to implement preventive measures, particularly for climate events. For example, farmers alerted about potential flooding ahead of time, would be able to secure their assets and partially recoup losses, focusing on the efficient use of technological and financial resources.
- 1.6.1.6 He maintained that these three innovations would be extremely useful for organizations such as IICA, which should validate and expand their use to measure their impact.
- 1.6.1.7 He mentioned a fourth innovation, which although still in the testing phase had received promising results: the use of microbial fertilizers to supplement or substitute synthetic fertilizers in places where the latter is unavailable. He pointed out that that innovation, which sought to gradually boost productivity, had also improved soils.
- 1.6.1.8 He gave various examples of individual innovations to promote mitigation, which required significant investment to be developed. He indicated that this limitation was due to the fact that commercial incentives are incompatible with social needs. He stressed that investment funds were needed to support this type of innovation, which include: 1) digital agricultural services; weather forecasting adapted to the needs of farmers; and 3) digital communication with farmers, which is a service that farmers cannot always afford. He proposed two types of financial mechanisms to overcome this obstacle: 1) traditional and 2) social innovation mechanisms.
- 1.6.1.9 He explained that innovation-funding mechanisms could be promoted on the basis of: 1) scientific studies, 2) pilot testing and the creation of control groups and 3) the determination of impact. Finally, he underscored the importance of continuing to foster and consolidate innovation partnerships in the sector.

## 1.6.2 Comments by the delegates of the Member States

- 1.6.2.1 The delegate of Argentina made the following observations focusing on two main points. First of all, he referred to the innovation ecosystem's capacity to guide the development of innovations and to make more effective use of them, in order to expand investment. He mentioned that his country believed that the challenge lies in reducing the gaps within local, national and regional production sectors. Secondly, he referred to three key variables: investment in innovation as a percentage of the gross domestic product (GDP), the regulatory framework and the business climate. He referred to the situation in his country with respect to intellectual property legislation, innovation governance, control and traceability, which is most evident in the biotechnology sector.
- 1.6.2.2 He indicated that the rural and urban areas of Argentina and the wider region faced another innovation challenge in relation to infrastructure. Improving the situation would depend on expanding and developing activities, such as horticulture in urban areas.
- 1.6.2.3 He underscored the importance of expanding and increasing access to AgriTechs, mentioning that the latest advances in this area in Argentina had the potential to create interesting models to promote technological and social innovation, through funding mechanisms to improve the agrifood systems of the region.
- 1.6.2.4 The delegate of Canada insisted that science- and technology-based innovation was the only way that the world would be able to tackle food insecurity, increase productivity, boost income, reduce the agricultural environmental footprint and increase agricultural climate change adaptation, decisively and effectively.
- 1.6.2.5 He mentioned the experience spearheaded by Canada, through its living labs, which promote collaboration among farmers, technical specialists and researchers to jointly define problems and identify barriers. He explained that one of the initiative's main achievements was a 30% reduction in potato production emissions, without reducing output.
- 1.6.2.6 He underscored the work that the Institute had undertaken through the Cooperative Program in Research and Technology for the Northern Region (PROCINORTE)—a network comprising Canada, the United States and Mexico—which had made significant headway throughout the region. For

example, he mentioned work on the use of pesticides and antimicrobial resistance. He stressed investment in innovation and agricultural research that Canada had been conducting for the last decade, amounting to USD 5.5 million per year over the last five years.

1.6.2.7 Finally, he mentioned challenges to be overcome, for example in relation to access to digital technology, precision agriculture and greater capacity development, particularly for youth, women, vulnerable groups and indigenous peoples, to reduce scientific knowledge gaps and increase access to tools.

1.6.2.8 The delegate of Panama urged his colleagues to consider the differences between regions and technological gaps, which had created different levels of agricultural development in the Americas. He pointed out the limitations young people faced in accessing financial resources, developing capacities and managing knowledge, despite having access to technological devices such as smart phones.

1.6.2.9 He underscored the importance of accessing available technology, such as the digital tools employed in the United States to analyze land use or the European Union's Copernicus Program, which utilizes geospatial forecasts to predict ideal harvest dates, among other relevant information. Finally, he suggested that the institutions in the sector should be digitalized in the short term and should engage more closely with leading technology players, to improve farmers' access to and adaptation of these tools.

1.6.3 *Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IICA and the University of Chicago*

1.6.3.1 A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University of Chicago, represented by Dr. Michael Kremer, and the Institute, represented by the Director General. The agreement would later be signed in Chicago by Mrs. Katherine Baicker, Provost of the University.

1.6.3.2 The instrument seeks to promote collaborative research and discovery based on opportunities and challenges identified in the mutually agreed areas of cooperation. Dr. Kremer reflected that the memorandum would deepen and expand the longstanding cooperation between IICA and the University to include collaboration with the Innovation Commission for Climate Change, Food Security and Agriculture. The IICA Director General underscored the importance of work on technological, social and institutional innovation,

targeting the most vulnerable family farmers. He also pointed out the tremendous value of the memorandum within the framework of the hemispheric partnership.

1.7 Forum Two: “Scaling up climate funding: opportunities for agriculture”

1.7.1 Address by Dr. Rattan Lal

1.7.1.1 Dr. Lal, the 2020 World Food Prize Laureate, explained that his presentation would focus on positioning carbon as a new crop, in order to address climate change and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. He indicated that there are between 500 and 600 million small farmers in the world, most of them cultivating less than 2 hectares of land and approximately 70% of whom are women; and they are the ones who bear the brunt of the effects of climate change.

1.7.1.2 He explained that the threshold level of soil organic material should range between 2.5% to 3.5% and that the soil in many parts of the developing world is damaged, due to erosion and poor agricultural practices. He pointed out that any percentage lower than 0.5% would limit productivity, resilience and efficiency. Therefore, he recommended that a carbonization network be created to promote recarbonization, through composting practices, the use of crop residue and biomass, and the reduction of soil loss caused by erosion or decomposition, among other measures.

1.7.1.3 He argued that one of the main problems affecting tropical countries is continuous soil carbon depletion and consequently a continuous decline in productivity. Thus, the proposed initiative was aiming to reverse this trend, in order to achieve a positive carbon budget.

1.7.1.4 Dr. Lal indicated that the IICA-Ohio State University project focused specifically on soil carbon recovery, through the adoption of best practices to restore soil health and improve its capacity to produce goods and services required by humans and nature.

1.7.1.5 He explained that if soil was managed correctly, the technical potential of soil carbon sequestration would be 2.5 gigatons per year, in other words, the equivalent of 25% of fossil fuel emissions, which could be offset by carbon farming. He specified that if one considers the total cumulative potential between 2020 and 2100, it is estimated that 178 gigatons of carbon could be restored to the soil. Dr. Lal indicated that the combined technical carbon

sequestration potential of soils and forests is approximately 330 gigatons, which translates into a 157 parts per million reduction of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

- 1.7.1.6 This, he believed, demonstrated that agriculture is part of the solution to climate change and that soil health should be incorporated into the One Health concept and addressed in the hemispheric partnership.
- 1.7.1.7 In reference to payment for ecosystem services, he outlined the main challenges and benefits of promoting funding and investment mechanisms. First, he stressed the importance of ensuring fair and adequate compensation of farmers for soil use and conservation practices, focusing on conservationist agriculture and adopting a long-term vision to ensure that the system is sustainable and profitable for them.
- 1.7.1.8 He also indicated that one of the challenges in the preparatory discussions for COP28 would be to determine how much to invest in agriculture to ensure that it could offer a solution. He warned that, to be profitable, carbon farming requires: 1) private sector participation, 2) payment for carbon farming, according to practices adopted, 3) the implementation of public policies on soil use and conservation and 4) the establishment of an investment fund, in keeping with market conditions. Finally, he invited the ministers to support and promote a market that pays for ecosystem services and carbon farming.

#### 1.7.2 Comments by the delegates of the Member States

- 1.7.2.1 The delegate of Ecuador maintained that farmers were the most valuable component of agriculture in the Americas and echoed the sentiments of the heads of delegation of Panama and Honduras, in appealing for attention to be paid to small farmers and the climate actions to be implemented. He made special mention of activities such as climate smart livestock production, the implementation of sustainable production models and technologies, the participatory learning methodology, scientific research, agroclimatic risk management and the development of infrastructure for sustainable and diversified agriculture, among others. He urged his fellow delegates to view agriculture not merely as a supplier of the raw materials for food, but also as an activity that creates value addition and protects the environment.
- 1.7.2.2 He emphasized the need to maintain a connection between agriculture, on the one hand, and rural tourism and environmental services, on the other, in order

to diversify the economy and reduce the pressure on ecosystems and biodiversity. Specifically, he referred to Ecuador's Community Centers for Agricultural Production Development, as an integrating mechanism for all rural areas that fosters associative enterprises and value addition, while incorporating clean technologies, capacity development, knowledge management and efficient investment of public resources. The delegate thanked the Institute for its support of the production development centers, which had enabled the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock to create this cultural shift in the country's agriculture sector.

- 1.7.2.3 The delegate of El Salvador was pleased to observe that all the ministers were of one voice in calling for the focus to be placed on the human factor and on ensuring peace and social harmony in the region. He felt that the conference had shown that farmers are the true and genuine architects of sustainable development in the Americas. He also insisted that developing countries should include a comprehensive joint biodiversity and food production strategy in their agendas for presentation at major international forums, in order to create relevant change and prevent other agendas from being imposed on the region.
- 1.7.2.4 He reported that since 2019, the President of El Salvador had repeatedly hammered home one idea – the need to work for and on behalf of people at all levels of society. Consequently, he had established the Territorial Control Plan, which had facilitated the recovery of land captured by gangs – a situation that had affected all production activities in the country. Since that time, the country had been working to achieve inclusive economic development, by providing technical assistance to agricultural communities, and had also prioritized soil restoration and regeneration in agriculture lands.
- 1.7.2.5 He mentioned strategic production centers that had been created to introduce new and improved technologies to community residents. This, he said, would assist in democratizing access to new technologies, ensuring that they would be widely disseminated, rather than remaining in the hands of just a few. He explained that this measure was in line with a new vision of development promoted by the Government, which fostered effective and inclusive community involvement in economic development.
- 1.7.2.6 He also touched on the sectoral programs aimed at vulnerable groups in the agriculture sector, including women and indigenous communities. He said that the programs included integrated family farming assistance programs

that promote not only agricultural production but a new alternative model of production that equips participants to formulate their own business plan.

- 1.7.2.7 He commented that the country had also implemented an integrated community market system, which was encouraging farmers not to concentrate solely on cultivation and harvesting, but to venture into other areas of the production chain, by processing their products. According to him, the system was also beneficial to farmers who once struggled to transport their products, given the poor conditions of the road network, by placing them in direct contact with consumers. He explained that the system facilitated farmers' access to national, regional and international markets.
- 1.7.2.8 Finally, he expressed the need to transform and strengthen institutions in the ministries that are dealing directly with the farming community, as well as to update laws and key institutions. For example, he spoke about the merging of the National Agricultural School and the National Agricultural Technology Center, as well as the creation of the Institute of Agricultural Sciences in the Zapotitán Valley.
- 1.7.2.9 The delegate of Belize suggested that two major lessons could be gleaned from the experiences over the last few years during the pandemic. The first is that even sick people will need food. Secondly, climate change is real, so we must learn to cope with it.
- 1.7.2.10 He reiterated that climate change had many direct effects on the production sector, for example the destruction of soybean crops in his country, due to excessive rainfall, and shrinkage in citrus crops in Brazil, stemming from rising temperatures. The phenomenon was also affecting agriculture indirectly, for example prompting the spread of Black Sigatoga disease in bananas in Belize, due to varying temperatures and humidity. He explained that this disease accelerates the ripening process of the fruit prior to its exportation to Europe, causing importing companies to reject it. He also mentioned the *Megalurothrips usitatus* attack on bean crops in Belize, which had caused hundreds of hectares of crops to be lost. The disease is impossible to control with conventional pesticides.
- 1.7.2.11 In his view, there were appropriate measures to mitigate the many climate effects, such as the identification of resilient crops and investment in drainage. The problem, however, was how to finance them, given the high costs involved. Others required implementation on an annual basis; otherwise, the investment would be lost. He indicated that Belize had tried to



implement some measures, but often lacked the knowledge or sufficient funds to make the extremely costly investment.

- 1.7.2.12 He called attention to situations arising around the world stemming from climate phenomena. For example, he stated that India, which had cornered 40% of the world rice market, announced that it would reduce exports, given the damage to its crop from the El Niño–Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon. Thus, there would be a need to guarantee domestic supplies and curb increasing prices for the product.
- 1.7.2.13 The delegate of Colombia suggested that policies should be formulated to offer an incentive for protecting agricultural soil. This would enable Latin America to resolve problems due to conflicting land uses, ensuring that it is used based on its capacity and the region’s agroecological conditions, while discouraging factors that are placing severe pressures on the resource today, such as urbanization.
- 1.7.2.14 She spoke about the level of soil conservation in land controlled by family farmers, indigenous people and Afrodescendant communities. In her view, those local communities were the ones that had best maintained their soil and their contribution should be recognized.
- 1.7.2.15 The delegate of Brazil cited examples of innovations available to farmers, among them, technologies for improving soil quality and irrigation; bioinputs for use as fertilizers and for pest management; and agroecological technologies employed in food production. However, despite the existence of several technologies, these were not readily available to the poorest farmers, who also had extremely limited access to technical assistance and rural extension programs.
- 1.7.2.16 He also mentioned that countries must work to democratize technologies, by lowering the high costs of patented seeds and bioinputs. He highlighted EMBRAPA’s work in developing technologies, assuring the Member States that Brazil would make these technologies available for their use.
- 1.7.2.17 He expressed concern about the costs that farmers were compelled to pay for seeds and technology that are subject to patent legislation. He emphasized that the major challenge was to free up access to these technologies and make them available to farmers in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). He stressed Brazil’s willingness to fully support this effort and its desire to also learn from successful experiences in other countries.

- 1.7.2.18 The delegate of Honduras commended Dr. Rattan Lal for his presentation and expressed her support for greater use of chemical fertilizer alternatives, such as biofertilizers.
- 1.7.2.19 The delegate of Mexico reported that the Government of his country had implemented the National Soil Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture (ENASAS) the year before, which had emphasized the tremendous value of this agricultural resource, as the greatest asset of farmers. He pointed out that significant progress had been made in developing and applying soil-related public policies and programs, and in training soil conservation specialists. He felt that the strategy had helped to streamline production costs in the short, medium and long term. The delegate also advised the meeting that the Secretariat of Agriculture was working on a proposal for a general soil law, which, along with the National Water Law, would help to guarantee soil sustainability, maintenance and conservation.
- 1.7.2.20 The delegate of Trinidad and Tobago remarked that there was general consensus that countries were finding it difficult to access financing for agriculture. He felt that, to a great extent, many countries could only derive these benefits through their partnership with regional associations to undertake projects on climate smart agriculture and greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, among others.
- 1.7.2.21 He suggested that Caribbean countries required extensive collaboration to focus on improving GHG inventories in the agriculture sector and reducing the sector's vulnerability to climate change, bearing in mind current problems, such as sea level rise, associated with flooding, and the vulnerability of coastal landscapes, as well as variable precipitation, linked to extreme droughts and flooding. He stated that his country had prioritized certain areas, such as improving soil and water quality in agriculture, scaling up production and enhancing agroecological systems.
- 1.7.2.22 The delegate of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines lamented the unequal access of Caribbean farmers to technology expertise, stressing that consideration should be given to the specific social conditions of Caribbean countries. He thanked Brazil and other countries for their willingness to share technological resources and tools that they had developed.
- 1.7.2.23 The delegate of the United States of America argued that investing in climate smart agriculture can yield benefits for biodiversity, improved livelihoods among farmers, greater food security and better soil and water quality. He

spoke about the challenge faced in securing new private and public investment in agriculture and ensuring greater access to existing resources, which calls for greater collaboration and an alignment of goals. He mentioned that his country had spearheaded a GHG emission and carbon sequestration monitoring strategy and launched 140 pilot projects across the United States, benefitting 60,000 farmers in diverse value chains. He pointed out that it was expected that consumer demand for climate goods would encourage this market-driven incentive and continue to foster climate smart production.

- 1.7.2.24 The delegate of Guatemala highlighted the intrinsic interrelationship between biofertilizers and carbon farming. He stressed the need to support the enactment of soil conservation policies and to create systems to compensate farmers for ecosystem services, while facilitating their access to regenerative agriculture technologies.
- 1.7.2.25 The delegate of Costa Rica emphasized the importance of creating platforms to harness the synergies generated in the countries where adaptation and mitigation measures are being applied. He explained that his country had already introduced a law on soil conservation. The agriculture sector was shouldering some of the responsibility for restoring forests, by introducing systems for payment for ecosystem services, agrobiodiversity and agrolandscapes. He added that Costa Rica had taken the first steps in moving towards more sustainable and regenerative models of livestock production and agriculture.
- 1.7.2.26 For example, he mentioned the five nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) that Costa Rica had already developed: livestock, coffee and sugarcane, which were under expansion, and rice and banana, which were currently in the pilot stage, all of which had had a positive impact on the soil. He mentioned that approximately 60% of the country's land was protected by conservation measures and 20% of forests were in the hands of agricultural producers. The delegate pointed out that, despite the efforts of different countries, resources for investment were limited. He agreed that the sale of carbon could represent an important source of income for farmers and finally, he underscored the relevance of structuring funding mechanisms to make them more accessible to producers.
- 1.7.2.27 The delegate of Peru noted the relationship between two key issues in the presentations: innovation and climate change. He highlighted the importance of promoting all aspects of innovation to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, as well as the need to promote soil conservation, at a time

when the ENSO phenomenon is further complicating agricultural activities. He also stressed that small farmers must be buffered against the effects of climate change, through various strategic actions in the areas of preventive climate action, social innovation, technical assistance and joint investments by public institutions and the public and private sectors.

1.7.2.28 To conclude this item on the agenda and in response to the remarks of the Member States, Dr. Rattan Lal insisted that: 1) armed conflicts must be brought to an end, as they lead to extensive destruction of the soils; 2) ecosystem services should be implemented and adapted in the countries; and 3) solutions should be made available to producers at no cost, to facilitate the adoption and expansion of systems for monitoring and payment for ecosystem services.

### 1.7.3 Working luncheon “Trade and integration”

1.7.3.1 Dr. Martín Piñeiro, Director Emeritus of IICA, delivered a presentation on the context surrounding: 1) growing global economic fragmentation; 2) increasing conflicts and competition among various groups of countries in the political and trade spheres; 3) weakening multilateralism, especially in the area of trade; 4) the reconfiguration of value chains according to political rather than economic affinity, based on the concepts of *nearshoring* and *friendshoring*; 5) the growing risk of global economic efficiency; and 6) a reduced capacity and willingness to collaborate at the international level to resolve serious and urgent global problems.

1.7.3.2 He outlined the major global challenges: food security, climate change and the sustainability of the planet; the development and application of science and technology as a key instrument for development; the migration phenomenon, which has a significant rural base; and the One Health Approach, reinforced by the COVID-19 experience.

1.7.3.3 He pinpointed the major regional challenges facing agrifood systems in the Americas: the evolution of funding, agricultural trade, regional integration, increased tariff restrictions on trade and water use.

1.7.3.4 He concluded his remarks by reflecting that: 1) the concept of globalization, as it had existed during the 1980-2009 period, had changed qualitatively; 2) the time had come for LAC and the entire hemisphere to move towards greater integration and collaboration to tackle the aforementioned global challenges; 3) agrifood trade would merit special attention, given its

importance and its current difficulties; and 4) intraregional integration and trade are critical and thus, the partnership spearheaded by the Institute would be an important step in this direction.

- 1.8 *Forum Three: “Including family farming, women and youth in the development of agrifood systems”*
- 1.8.1 Presentation by Mrs. Graciela Fernández Quintas, President of the International Cooperative Alliance for the Americas (ICA -Americas)
- 1.8.1.1 The President of ICA-Americas began her presentation by proposing that cooperatives were also strategic actors in sustainable development. She explained that her organization was founded in 1895 and currently had 315 cooperative organizations under its umbrella, 94 of which were based in 24 countries of the Americas. She mentioned that the alliance indirectly involved more than 3 million cooperatives throughout the world, with a membership of 1.2 billion, who represented 10% of the world’s employed population. She indicated that 33% of these cooperatives were involved in agriculture and the food industry.
- 1.8.1.2 She concurred with the view previously expressed during the conference, that agrifood systems were facing a complex situation, as millions of producers, with limited training, were living in situations of poverty and inequality and subject to oligopolistic transnational systems. She said that this was an era to exchange experiences and establish programs, partnerships and synergies among various stakeholders and areas at different levels. She proposed that governments make greater use of the potential of cooperatives, regardless of the level of development of their countries, by integrating them into national development plans.
- 1.8.1.3 She referred to the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General’s report on cooperatives, published on 17 September 2023, which maintains that these organizations play an important social and production role, but achieve few results, despite their immense potential for transformation. She described the cooperative movement as a silent force, whose efficiency is driven by greater productivity and the redistribution of assets. She explained that this productivity was achieved through democratic participation, in particular during challenging times, such as the pandemic, when savings and reserves became protection measures to maintain levels of employment and mechanisms were created to help members reduce their indebtedness. She indicated that cooperatives were responding to a call to action, to a

commitment to introduce and accelerate innovative initiatives and to make a greater impact.

- 1.8.1.4 In her opinion, an ecosystem should be created to include other actors, driven by a common denominator that seeks to generate, use and retain wealth in rural areas. Mrs. Fernández Quintas explained that agricultural, consumer and financial or professional service cooperatives facilitate the production inclusion of family farming in agrifood systems. She stressed that cooperatives enable the family farming sector to produce high-quality goods under competitive conditions.
- 1.8.1.5 Cooperatives, in her view, enhance the negotiating capacity of family farmers, to sell their products and to purchase inputs and services. They are also capable of managing investments and facilitating funding for their members and the rural population. She stressed that they have an expansive territorial network that affords them greater proximity to family farming production units than the State itself, even while bearing in mind that cooperatives are subject to State control themselves.
- 1.8.1.6 She suggested that cooperativism is a real economy that integrates and produces, providing opportunities that empower rural women and offer young people a platform to grow, thus preventing them from migrating, due to limited job availability. She mentioned two programs in which the cooperative movement was participating: Global Cooperative Entrepreneurs (GCE), which assisted in strengthening three agricultural initiatives, and Win-Win, which in collaboration with UN Women, was empowering women in the cooperative movement.
- 1.8.1.7 She warned that, in view of the aging rural population, generational succession planning must be put in place and young people offered the conditions and opportunities to create companies and businesses. She also expressed the need to design a new generation of public policies, based on productive and economic inclusion, financial independence, new information and communication technologies and fiscal incentives.
- 1.8.1.8 She noted that the UN report had suggested some key recommendations with respect to cooperatives, for example, that they should be considered during the public policy development process, enabling them to take part not only in decision-making, but in influencing policy design to support sustainable and fair agricultural practices in the food supply chain.

## 1.8.2 Comments by the delegates of the Member States

- 1.8.2.1 The delegate of Brazil spoke about policies on women and youth that his country had implemented. He reported that the country had launched a credit project, providing negative and subsidized interest rates for women, recognizing their immense need for economic and political emancipation. In tandem with this, two other women-oriented programs had been introduced - one to provide appropriate production equipment for women and another on rural technical assistance and extension services.
- 1.8.2.2 Furthermore, he explained that Brazil had launched various public procurement programs: one involving its school feeding initiative, another related specifically to procurement from family farmers and another for institutional procurement. He said that the main problem faced by women in rural areas, particularly agricultural areas, was the need for economic and political independence. On this basis, the government determined that there should be an equal number of men and women sitting on the Council for Rural Development and Family Farming.
- 1.8.2.3 He indicated that the country had designed a program providing negative interest loans for youth; another on technical assistance and rural extension; and finally, one addressing generational succession in rural areas. With respect to the latter, he reported that a significant number of resources had been allocated to fund succession efforts in the rural milieu, to encourage young people to remain in these areas, by enabling them to easily purchase a piece of land from a family member or neighbor. The country was also revisiting agricultural education in rural areas, through the national Agricultural Family School. On the other hand, he commented that universities were now providing spaces for youth to pursue technical studies and to be exposed to technology. Moreover, he stated that an effort had been made to extend mobile network coverage to rural areas and to urge cooperative enterprises and agroindustry to help attract young people to the countryside.
- 1.8.2.4 The delegate of Colombia acknowledged the value of the rural and family economy and maintained that organization and associative enterprises should be promoted in these areas. She commented that the production and organization system of Colombia's rural environment generates between 60 to 70% of its food, and yet this was the most vulnerable sector of society, with the fewest services and public goods and the least social, political and economic recognition.

- 1.8.2.5 She said that the current administration was striving to drive production development that would include the rural and family farming economy and to recognize the value of women and youth in the development of the countryside. Through this reform, the government hoped to address three crises affecting Colombia, the region and the world today.
- 1.8.2.6 The first crisis she mentioned was the climate crisis. Indeed, she pointed out that although her country was recognized for its protection of agricultural soils, there was still a need to ensure adequate technology and innovation transfer to those communities working to achieve this. She also indicated that there was inequitable land ownership, more so in the Amazon region.
- 1.8.2.7 According to her, the second crisis was the food crisis. The delegate recognized the need to ensure effective production and proper soil conservation and use. She confirmed that her government had prioritized land-use planning in food production areas to protect them and to safeguard the domestic food supply.
- 1.8.2.8 She revealed that the third crisis facing Colombia was the threat to governance, democracy and peace. The National Agricultural Reform and Rural Development System was being reactivated to undertake a comprehensive redistribution of land, which would then be put into production. The goal, she said, was to provide public goods, services and infrastructure to transform primary production and encourage smallholder farmers to organize themselves, in order to improve their standard of living, in the first place, and secondly to transform Colombia into an agrifood power.
- 1.8.2.9 Finally, she insisted that the region should revisit assertive, effective community rural development policies that recognize the importance of the rural and family economy and place it at the center of the organization of the hemisphere. She said that it would be up to the small farmers, the women who work on the land, and the women who determine policy and transform the world and their organizations, to ensure that the vast rural areas of the Americas prosper and provide trade, climate and social justice for all.
- 1.8.2.10 The delegate of Mexico stressed the need to produce sufficient food to feed a growing population and the importance of the bioeconomy to minimize post-harvest losses. He insisted that the agriculture sector must adopt a more responsible, innovative, careful and science-based approach to water and soil



use. He also said that inclusive public policies should be introduced to benefit vulnerable communities and youth.

- 1.8.2.11 The delegate pointed out that programs to strengthen family farming should be prioritized, to allow it to contribute to the food self-sufficiency of all the countries. He acknowledged that poverty and extreme poverty characterized the family farming sector in Mexico. However, he said it would be possible to expand the use of advanced irrigation technology and to increase technology transfer to small farmers, for example by supplying them with certified, high-quality planting material and by offering them opportunities for mechanization and cooperativism.
- 1.8.2.12 Among the country's national priorities was the need to increase production capacity, particularly in family farming, through the optimal use of inputs. The government was also seeking to promote a shift towards regenerative agriculture, improve the country's phytozoosanitary status and to mitigate post-harvest losses, while ensuring adequate risk management.
- 1.8.2.13 The delegate maintained that the family farming sector could supply a large part of the basic food basket, namely basic grains, cereals, fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs and fish, among other products. He mentioned that the country had instituted programs to purchase directly from family farmers. This had spurred development in rural areas, without undermining commercial agriculture. There were also programs focusing on fertilizers, basic grains and women and youth. An agricultural electricity subsidy for pumping systems had been introduced and the MOSCAMED program to combat the Mediterranean fruit fly was one of a series of interventions for biological pest control.
- 1.8.2.14 Finally, he indicated that the actions of the current Government had reduced the poverty rate by 5.6%, slashing food insecurity from 28% to 23% and thus ensuring equitable and inclusive territorial development and social justice.
- 1.8.2.15 The delegate of Chile reported that agriculture accounted for 2.8% of her country's GDP and provided employment for more than 543,000 people, 230,000 of them being small-scale family farmers, of which 22% were women. She added that the percentage of youth among the rural population had declined in the last twenty years, falling from 12% to 9%, which demonstrated that the sector was aging.

- 1.8.2.16 The delegate also revealed that the national forestry sector had developed in recent years, through the application of a model that sought to capitalize on the country's geographic competitive advantages. She spoke about the exceptional health protocols employed by Chile's agricultural production sector, as well as its high standards of quality and safety. The country had also intensified its strategy regarding the signing of trade agreements. Yet, she acknowledged that while this approach had been successful in accessing various markets, it had been less so in furthering the development of small-scale family farming and ensuring greater inclusion of women and youth.
- 1.8.2.17 She referred to the current administration's commitment to strengthen the food system, guided by the principles of sovereignty. To this end, she said a working group had been formed, comprised of more than 300 representatives from across the system, to define a strategy to bolster food and nutrition security and to safeguard people's right to food then and in the future.
- 1.8.2.18 She indicated that the strategy sought to direct the actions of the State towards strengthening the assets of the country, among them, natural productive resources, biodiversity, commercial agrifood and fishery chains, the human and sociocultural component, healthy diets and health and safety.
- 1.8.2.19 She explained that a program had been introduced to facilitate access to credit for irrigation. On the matter of gender, the country was seeking to boost women's participation in the various territorial representational, planning and management forums. The delegate also highlighted an initiative to offer special courses for women, adapted to their needs and conditions. Strategies to spur the development of capacities and opportunities had been introduced, to encourage young people to maintain a physical and cultural presence in rural areas; and initiatives to enable youth to access production resources and local markets were also being promoted. On the other hand, processes to access financing had been simplified for MSMEs.
- 1.8.2.20 Finally, she expressed her wish to continue collaborating with all the Member States and to exchange knowledge and experiences to build a more inclusive and equitable agrifood sector, and in turn achieve greater food security.
- 1.8.2.21 The delegate of Nicaragua stated that IICA's technical cooperation had been extremely important for his country and that he had found the information and expertise imparted in the conference to be particularly useful. He also underscored the value of the exchange of knowledge and technology in these forums organized by the Institute. He remarked that his country had acquired

capacities, knowledge and technologies in this area and was willing to make these available to other Member States, as had other countries.

- 1.8.2.22 He noted that the challenges of poverty and inequality in the region were significant, especially among Afrodescendant and indigenous communities. He highlighted Nicaragua's efforts and progress in reducing and eradicating these problems, through the National Human Development Plan and the National Production, Consumption and Trade System. He listed specific actions that his country was undertaking to improve conditions in rural areas, with respect to trade, production, technology transfer, investment resources and capacity development, among others.
- 1.8.2.23 The delegate of Guyana described family farming as the backbone of his country's agriculture sector. The empowerment of small farmers had been prioritized through a series of public policies that addressed access to resources, as well as training and market opportunities, with a special emphasis on gender equality and youth involvement. Moreover, production projects had been introduced to engage these groups as agents of change and innovation. He explained that these initiatives sought to facilitate the access of youth and women to adaptive agriculture techniques and reduce their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.
- 1.8.2.24 He advised the meeting that these programs were merely the beginning of even greater achievements. The Caribbean region, through the ministerial taskforce, supported by IICA, had been working to attract young people and women to agriculture. Yet, there was also a need to consider how to secure funding for these initiatives, to ensure greater inclusiveness in the agrifood system of Guyana and the wider Caribbean.
- 1.8.2.25 The delegate of the Dominican Republic referred to the resolution approved by the Ibero-American Heads of State and Government, which agreed on a roadmap to achieve food security in the region, which was adopted by the ministers of Agriculture in March of that year. The meeting also supported the creation and launch of the Carlos Aquino González Center for Applied Knowledge Management and Innovation in Agrifood Systems, spearheaded by the Dominican Republic, with support from the Institute. He urged the Member States to endorse the creation of the center, which could also house the IICA Office in that country.
- 1.8.2.26 With respect to the public policies outlined by the Member States regarding family farming in rural areas, Mrs. Graciela Fernández recommended that:

1) family farming should be supported, by encouraging competitiveness; 2) systems involving public procurement from family farming, such as the one in Brazil, should be promoted; 3) associative systems, for example, cooperatives, should be implemented and institutionalized; 4) gender should be incorporated as a cross-cutting issue; and 5) young people should be viewed as relevant actors at all levels, to facilitate the adoption of technology and the digitalization of agriculture.

1.8.2.27 The Director General of the Institute referred to the request by the delegate of the Dominican Republic, recalling, first of all, that IICA was a network of networks and a vast hemispheric center for knowledge management. Thus, it would welcome the establishment of a knowledge management hub in that country that would disseminate experiences and best practices throughout Central America and the Caribbean. He also agreed that consideration be given to accommodating the IICA Office in the Dominican Republic within the Center, having explored how the resources would be mobilized. He asked the Technical Secretariat to prepare a draft resolution on the matter for consideration of the IABA.

1.9 *Forum Four: "Agricultural health in agrifood systems"*

1.9.1 Presentation by Mrs. Carol Thomas, Agricultural Health and Food Safety Consultant

1.9.1.1 Mrs. Thomas began her presentation by reiterating the vital role of agriculture in food security and ecosystem services in the region and the wider planet. She listed several key indicators, for example the fact that agriculture accounts for between 5% to 18% of GDP in many countries of the region. She indicated that the region was the world's largest net food exporting region – a region that covers more than 2 billion hectares across 34 countries, with a combined population of close to 657 million people. She indicated that this data must be taken into account when speaking about agricultural health, which includes both animal and plant health.

1.9.1.2 Agricultural health also addresses animal and plant diseases, food safety, the environment and the One Health approach. She pointed out that the term agrifood systems covers from pre- and post-harvesting handling and transportation, right up to consumption of the product.

1.9.1.3 She then turned her attention to current agricultural health problems affecting the hemisphere, focusing on four main diseases: 1) African swine fever, 2)

Avian flu, 3) *Fusarium* Tropical Race 4 (TR4) and 4) the New World screwworm. The impact of these diseases has been significant, whether at the economic level, given the high costs of eradication; the social level, due to their effect on the food supply and nutrition; public health and finally trade, as they often result in the loss of export markets.

1.9.1.4 Mrs. Thomas emphasized the need to prioritize the strengthening of policies through a One Health approach; the development of proper prevention and management strategies that require coordination, collaboration and an intersectoral approach, involving all sectors and agencies; the formulation of protocols and regulations to manage the diseases; and the creation of public-private partnerships for this process.

1.9.1.5 Finally, she suggested that the countries explore regional solutions, recognizing the vital importance of collaboration and mutual support at the national, regional and international levels. In conclusion, she quoted World Bank economist Michael Morris who remarked that, “Latin America and the Caribbean is the world’s breadbasket and lungs, but the challenge is to ensure that it continues to play those roles”.

## 1.9.2 Comments by the delegates of the Member States

1.9.2.1 The delegate of the United States of America suggested that the main task facing the world’s farmers was to achieve food security, which would call for strengthened environmental performance, the sustainable intensification of production within a reduced land area and the decreased use of chemical fertilizers and fossil fuels. He stressed the need to increase production efficiency to be able to feed more people by 2050, employing better techniques, embracing new technologies and applying approaches that consider the health of the planet and consumers.

1.9.2.2 He also noted that risk assessment should be evidence-driven, and as such, his country had been working to promote smart agriculture that facilitates the monitoring, measurement, review and verification of results. He also said that the system should push for government investment in research and in creating institutions to protect health and safety. He explained that significant financial resources would be required for research, the development and marketing of new seeds, vaccines and breeds, as well as innovation. Therefore, an efficient way of using them would be to share the results. In that regard, he mentioned that the United States Department of Agriculture

had established a national climate hub to publish recent findings on smart agriculture and climate.

- 1.9.2.3 He pointed out that, due to the heterogeneity of the hemisphere, there were varied approaches to achieve acceptable levels of protection and that his country recognized that there was an ongoing debate on this issue among technical experts discussing mitigation and risk management efforts. He mentioned trade and measures to protect agrifood systems, as key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 1.9.2.4 He thanked IICA for coordinating the participation of the countries of the hemisphere in meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Committee, bilateral meetings and events, such as the current forum, which enabled ideas to be shared and common approaches on the current trade situation to be developed. He expressed his country's eagerness to participate in One Health solutions with the other Member States and to make the investment required to identify and control diseases of concern, working with other countries not only to protect itself, but to promote the well-being of the wider hemisphere.
- 1.9.2.5 The delegate of Paraguay indicated that agricultural production in Paraguay was instrumental in feeding 80 million people in the world – a figure equivalent to 11 times the population of that country. He mentioned that the country was a world leader in agricultural production and in generating and using clean and renewable energy. The economy, he said, was based on primary production, which represented 47% of its GDP and 67% of income earned through its exports, which were mainly soybean, corn, wheat, beef and its byproducts.
- 1.9.2.6 He revealed that Paraguay was promoting the adoption of innovative practices and climate change adaptation and resilience initiatives in agriculture. It was also seeking to generate greater value for producers, with practices such as direct seeding, precision agriculture and irrigation, genetic improvement, crop diversification and soil and water management, among others. In this sense, he endorsed the creation of a hemispheric partnership on agrifood systems, given that no country could singlehandedly address the multiple existing challenges at the international level.
- 1.9.2.7 He agreed on the strategic importance of the concept of partnership, creating networks and platforms to strengthen institutions and providing a harmonized and unified policy outlook for the region. The partnership would also foster dialogue, the shaping of common positions and the development of a shared

perspective on how to consolidate a sustainable production system in the Americas.

- 1.9.2.8 He underscored the importance of strengthening other sectors and institutions associated with the value chain, to combat food insecurity, reduce poverty and dispel the myth that agriculture is the sector most to blame for GHG emissions.
- 1.9.2.9 He ended his remarks by pointing out that the improvement of agrifood systems was one of the major challenges facing the region, and that agricultural health would play a major role in this. He also warned that achieving food security would mean ensuring access to proteins of animal origin, in sufficient quantity and quality, as well as food safety, healthy nutrition and the prevention and control of zoonotic diseases and antimicrobial resistance.
- 1.9.2.10 The delegate of the Dominican Republic began his remarks by thanking the Institute for its support and guidance, through the technical cooperation provided to each country, in particular regarding the emergency response to African swine fever.
- 1.9.2.11 He explained that, after the outbreak of African swine fever in 2021, the Dominican Republic had immediately requested IICA's assistance at its Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee. The committee had then approved a resolution to facilitate dialogue on the presence of the disease in the Americas. The delegate recalled that the dialogue had prompted: (1) the participation of 33 countries of the Americas; (2) the approval of IABA Resolution No. 535, "Ministerial Commitment to Support the Fight Against African Swine Fever"; (3) the identification, formulation and execution of national projects and actions in the Dominican Republic and Haiti; (4) the strengthening of technical capacities in the government veterinary services; (5) the design of risk management and communication actions; (6) the updating and improvement of contingency and health emergency management plans against the disease, to protect production, trade and the food supply; and (7) the creation and strengthening of strategic partnerships, in particular public-private partnerships for the Member States.
- 1.9.2.12 The delegate of Dominica reflected on the discussion surrounding climate change and particularly its effect on countries like those in the Caribbean, which require a more comprehensive approach to address multiple areas in an intersectoral and differentiating manner. He stressed that actions for

youth, rural women and capacity development must take into account the realities of the countries. He also spoke about the need to tackle issues such as agricultural productivity, animal health, plant health and trade. Finally, he strongly recommended that program actions involving human and financial resources should be strengthened, in order to change the approach taken to managing climate change in agriculture and agrifood systems.

- 1.9.2.13 The delegate of Costa Rica underscored the importance of agricultural health to the hemisphere and the need to ensure greater cooperation among the different actors and specialized organizations working on multiple prevention, control, verification and emergency response actions which are costly and undertaken with limited resources.
- 1.9.2.14 The delegate of Honduras issued a warning about the underlying risks that pests and diseases pose to the production sectors. In that context, she mentioned key limitations in her country and region, such as the limited availability of resources and insufficient action, prevention, management and control plans for sanitary emergencies. This had an adverse effect on production, created public health risks, increased food insecurity and endangered the natural environment. She urged the other delegates to build synergies, avoid duplication of efforts and strengthen national and regional agrifood systems.
- 1.9.2.15 The delegate of Paraguay expressed concern regarding avian flu in the region, whose impact was being felt from the Northern Hemisphere to the Southern Cone. He referred to the need to foster coordination among the various health services of the Americas, in order to: 1) share experiences related to the issue of avian flu, 2) undertake joint measures to control the disease, 3) organize a dialogue on the status of trade and animal health, 4) identify human and financial resources, 5) provide training and direct technical assistance and 6) explore potential linkages with the private sector. In that regard, he proposed holding a meeting of representatives of all animal health services during the second half of 2024 to strengthen public-private partnerships to address the disease.
- 1.9.2.16 The delegate of Ecuador expressed support for the proposal by his counterpart from Paraguay. He commented that an avian flu outbreak had been successfully controlled, that continuous monitoring was being carried out and that, up to that date, there had been no new alerts. With respect to plant health, he noted that Ecuador, as the world's primary exporter of



bananas, was on alert following reports made by neighboring countries regarding TR4. Next, he referred to the technical cooperation provided by the Institute, which had facilitated the provision of 1,000 biosafety kits to small-scale producers, the disinfection of 230,000 vehicles and the footwear of 2,000,000 people, the seizure of 3,375 kg of plant material and the organization of 600 training events, for the benefit of 9,300 people, including 67 private sector leaders in the field of biosafety.

- 1.9.2.17 The delegate of Uruguay also backed the proposal by the delegate of Paraguay and acknowledged the importance of animal health. However, he warned that plant health should also be addressed. He expressed great concern about pests and diseases that often have repercussions on the region's production systems, as well as an impact on food security, GHG emissions and trade. He made special mention of the spread of avian flu to marine mammals in the Atlantic, as well as the level of uncertainty caused by the lack of extensive research on the conditions of this coastal outbreak—which had spread across Argentina, Uruguay and, more recently, the state of Rio Grande do Sul in Brazil—and its potential impact on animal and human health.
- 1.9.2.18 In response to the comments by the representatives of the countries, Dr. Thomas considered that the proposal by Paraguay reflected the agreement reached during the forum to disseminate good practices, regulatory methods and frameworks, and to systematize experiences, among other aspects. She emphasized the need to strengthen regulatory frameworks to prepare for, eradicate and prevent diseases. To that end, she recommended applying a One Health approach. Lastly, she highlighted the importance of making decisions based on science and research, particularly in relation to trade, risk management, food security and food safety issues.
- 1.9.2.19 To better support the countries in drafting the resolution, the Technical Secretary requested that a meeting be organized between the delegate of Paraguay and the IICA team of specialists to validate the proposal and prepare the draft resolution. He noted that any delegation could take part in drafting the proposal, for submission to the Secretariat. The Chair approved the suggestion.

1.10 *Presentation of a gift to the Institute on behalf of the Government of Ecuador*

1.10.1 Mr. Bolívar Torres Zevallos, Ambassador of Ecuador in Costa Rica, and Mr. Paúl Núñez Antón, Deputy Minister of Agricultural Productive Development of that country, presented the Director General of IICA with a replica of an Ecuadorian historical relic. The Deputy Minister explained that archeological records of the existence of the cocoa bean date back 5,500 years, and that the relic exemplifies its domestication by pre-Columbian inhabitants of the province of Zamora Chinchipe. He stated that Ecuador was the world's leading producer of fine flavor cocoa and the third largest exporter of that product. He highlighted the Ecuadorian origin of the cocoa plant and its potential as it relates to culture, heritage, tourism, trade, agriculture, industry and border development, among other areas. He commented that Ecuador was seeking to reposition itself, at an international level, as the country of origin of cocoa, as well as protect its heritage and improve the living conditions of people in that province.

1.10.2 He explained that the replica of the vessel, which had been found in the Santa Ana de la Florida archaeological site, consists of a two-handled bottle with an image with a double effigy of a human being emerging from a bivalve of the genus *Spondylus*. He went on to explain the tremendous importance of the relic to Ecuador, given that cocoa starch granules—from 3500 to 3300 years B.C., according to carbon-14 testing— had been found inside the vessel, providing irrefutable evidence of the oldest use and domestication of cocoa known to date.

1.10.3 The Director General accepted the gift with great honor on behalf of the Institute, and thanked Deputy Minister Núñez, Minister Izaguirre and Ambassador Torres Zevallos. He assured them that the relic would be displayed in a special area of the General Directorate's main room, where it would provide all visitors at IICA with a glimpse into the ancestral past of agriculture in the Americas.

1.11 *Special remarks by Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, Director Emeritus of the Institute*

1.11.1 Dr. Brathwaite underscored the importance of the experiences and knowledge shared during the conference and their impact on the technical cooperation that IICA provides to all the countries. Therefore, he called for strengthening the Institute.

- 1.11.2 He referred to the topics discussed during the fourth forum on agricultural health in agrifood systems and the new challenges that climate change would pose in this area. As an example, he cited the impact that extreme temperatures would have on pests and diseases worldwide. He explained that, as a result of climate change, pests that were unable to survive in a given environment could now do so, grow, threaten the food supply and lead to the emergence of new trade barriers. He considered that countries should review their corresponding legislation and procedures to face this scenario or similar situations.
- 1.11.3 He indicated that in Barbados, for example, some plants were growing without flowering or bearing fruit, as a result of rising temperatures, which had reduced yields and production. He explained that crops and animals had had to adapt to these temperatures, which, in turn, had increased production costs and, ultimately, product prices. He warned that this was an extremely complex biological issue that should be fully understood, in order to adopt adequate measures to guarantee food security.
- 1.11.4 He noted that the Americas made a significant contribution to food security; however, some of its countries, such as those in the Caribbean region, were facing food insecurity and were therefore more vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Within this context, he considered it crucial to recognize vulnerabilities and make use of the regional cooperation platform as a means for strengthening initiatives related to innovation, research and technology. He added that food security, prosperity and peace could be achieved by capitalizing on knowledge available in the hemisphere.
- 1.12 *Informational video on COP28*
- 1.12.1 The Director General referred to the Institute's participation in COP28, which would be held that December in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, and where the Institute would install the Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas pavilion. In that regard, he presented a video on agrifood systems, which presented the following ideas:
- Climate change, one of the greatest challenges currently facing agrifood systems, directly affects their operation and threatens global food security. These systems can make a substantial contribution to mitigating the effects of this phenomenon, by reducing emissions and actively sequestering carbon.

- Countries of the Americas play a pivotal role in guaranteeing global food security and solving the issues posed by climate change; however, many of these countries are the most affected by the conditions resulting from this phenomenon. To maximize their contribution and become more resilient, the region's agrifood systems must be taken into account in all global forums and negotiations. In that regard, IICA has made a serious commitment to facilitating this joint action.
- COP28 is a key event for agriculture in the Americas, as it will define aspects that affect the agrifood systems of countries in the region. In keeping with the Institute's mission, in 2022, the member countries held virtual and face-to-face meetings to prepare for and enhance their participation in COP28, as well as build consensus on messages to be presented at the conference.
- As part of its commitment to facilitate climate action by the countries and incorporate the role of agriculture of the Americas as an agenda item in the global negotiations, IICA installed the Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas pavilion at COP27 in Egypt. The pavilion provided a space in which to propose and coordinate actions, as the basis for establishing partnerships for collective action, with the participation of ministers and high-level authorities of countries in the region.
- At the upcoming COP28, IICA will install the Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas pavilion to continue showcasing the key role of the region's agriculture, improving its participation in the negotiations, and mobilizing climate action.
- The Institute is working to ensure that the various public and private agricultural stakeholders of the Americas, especially producers, take advantage of the opportunity to participate in this conference to support the agrifood systems of their countries and the hemisphere.

### 1.13 Close of the session

- 1.13.1 The first plenary session of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 – Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 19:45 hours on 4 October 2023.

**SIDE EVENT: ROUNDTABLE ON FUNDING  
FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT**



## **SIDE EVENT: ROUNDTABLE ON FUNDING FOR FOOD SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

*Remarks by Laura Elena Suazo, Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras*

The Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras, in her capacity as event moderator, stated that agrifood systems in all countries are directly tied to employment, economic growth, exports, health, social inclusion, education, migration and democratic governance. She commented that the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development, as well as the components of the collective actions to be implemented, had been analyzed in depth during the conference. However, she considered that it was also important to examine how all development actions, particularly those in the agrifood sector, were financed and promoted from an economic standpoint.

As a context for the discussion, she mentioned consensus on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for development. She pointed out that agrifood systems had been identified as a priority action area to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and bring about the development of the agriculture sector. She added that financing was a key issue at every global conference and negotiation, given the fact that annual estimated costs for updating the SDGs and mitigating the effects of climate change on the planet exceeded USD 3 trillion and USD 4 trillion, respectively. She remarked that, according to the World Bank, the cost of modernizing and strengthening food systems ranged from USD 300 billion to USD 360 billion, and that according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, these costs were as much as USD 680 billion (USD 425 billion for productive actions and USD 255 billion for social protection networks).

She said that in recent years a variety of initiatives and proposals have been made to mobilize the requisite funds; for example, the Group of Twenty (G20) had prepared a series of documents to increase the loan capacity of bilateral development banks, by optimizing the use of current capital to achieve a greater use, expanding operations to mobilize investments with private capital markets, and where necessary, calling to expand capital in order to achieve an increase of approximately USD 500 billion of financing annually.

However, she pointed out that the discussion was ongoing, especially in relation to how to use special drawing rights issued by the International Monetary Fund more creatively and with a greater multiplying effect, by transferring them from countries that do not need them to the countries that could use them to finance development. She commented that developed countries had promised to reach USD 100 billion in mostly concessional

financing for climate change, but they had not yet achieved this, nor had they successfully defined how the damage and losses caused by climate change would be paid for. She added that the G20 and the UN had also discussed the implementation of initiatives to reduce the pressure from debt in developing countries, in order to expand their fiscal space; however, such implementation was advancing very slowly.

She said that other financing options were provided by national banks, particularly public development banks, and by cooperatives, alternative rural financing systems and input suppliers, among others. She warned, however, that governments of developing countries would also need to find a way to improve the structure and quality of public spending, especially with regards to what was done by the agriculture and energy sectors and social protection networks, and to update the tax structure and tax administration. She explained that it was also important to review aspects to improve the functioning of national banking systems, including the operation of public development banks and capital markets, through the use of thematic subsidies, investment funds and venture capital.

She commented that, according to data by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, during the 2019-2021 period, less than 5 percent of all development financing flows were allocated to agriculture and issues related to Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), while in the 1980s, this exceeded 20 percent. She invited the representatives of multilateral banks to offer their opinions on the main limitations to increasing agricultural financing and producers' main financing needs.

*Remarks by Alicia Montalvo Santamaría, representative of the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF)*

The CAF representative stated that, due to its food production potential, Latin America was considered a solution to food insecurity, a problem it nonetheless endured to a great extent, was worsening due to climate change, and was generating social conflicts, migration and a challenge to democracy. She added that the region had not yet been able to resolve this contradiction, given that they not only needed to ensure a domestic supply, but also to provide the entire population with access to products.

She considered that multilateral institutions had two major challenges to overcome through their financing tools: inequality in the region and environmental sustainability. She said that such inequality was evident in the most vulnerable groups, which were those most affected by all problems. She also referred to the CAF report, *Global Challenges, Regional Solutions*, which stated that the agriculture sector was an important emitter of greenhouse gases and, at the same time, a major victim of the



effects of climate change, which, in turn, led the sector to generate higher emission levels.

She commented that the CAF offered technical assistance tools and credit tools, some of which belonged to a green category that allowed for developing projects related to climate change, biodiversity and agriculture. She added that its two main areas of focus were combating poverty, that is, food insecurity, and fostering sustainable and inclusive growth, which includes agricultural development, when it occurs in conditions of sustainability. She explained that, therefore, the CAF's goal was to ensure access to food through sustainable production.

She also mentioned the importance of mobilizing green funding and the opportunities afforded by climate funds such as the Green Climate Fund, the Global Environment Facility and the Adaptation Fund, which prioritized agricultural matters within the environmental agenda.

*Remarks by Juan Pablo Bonilla, Manager of the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)*

Mr. Bonilla explained that this issue could be approached from two perspectives: the first, regarding what this bank was doing and the obstacles to financing, and the second, regarding its activity as a multilateral development agency.

He commented that alternatives were being sought to help countries not only with loans but also with different instruments that could facilitate access to different funding options, such as thematic subsidies and debt swaps. He added that within IDB's Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector, the Housing and Urban Development Division, and the Environment, Rural Development and Disaster Risk Management Division addressed agricultural and cross-cutting sustainability issues. He explained that they were analyzing the integration of sustainability matters in territorial development and agricultural-urban issues, given the fact that food and nutrition security was multidimensional and multisectoral and transcended the context of the agriculture sector. He also pointed out that there were social, infrastructure and educational variables.

He mentioned that the IDB had different tools to address agriculture's multisectoral connections, including conditional lines, which were programs to address food security related to nutrition or social, logistical and infrastructure issues tied to agriculture and technological development.

Regarding the second perspective, he reported that the Bank had taken the first steps in the application of other instruments, such as: debt-for-nature swaps; the IDB CLIMA program, which applied discounts to eligible loans if they met specific goals in terms of biodiversity and climate; and guarantees based on policy changes to release resources and reconvert debt. He highlighted the good experiences of Barbados, Ecuador and Uruguay in implementing these new instruments. He noted that capital rating agencies counted these guarantees at the same level as loans, which made it an obstacle for finance ministries to request this type of guarantee.

He highlighted that the IDB was the first development bank that, with its own capital, would offer in the next five years a facility for payment from results in credit operations. He added that there was also a hurricane clause which had already been implemented in various countries of the Caribbean and which allowed the main payment to be postponed for two years in the event of such disasters. He explained that their application was being analyzed for other disasters, such as droughts and floods, which were closely tied to agricultural development and the sector's adaptation and resilience.

Lastly, he proposed that to achieve much greater productivity and competitiveness and adopt mitigation and adaptation measures, the agricultural sector must access all these new instruments.

*Remarks by David Treguer, leader of the World Bank's Sustainable Development Program for Central America and the Dominican Republic*

First, Mr. Treguer referred to the support that the World Bank had given to the region's agriculture sector.

He considered that the sector would need to establish a very close relationship with others to promote a healthy economy and ensure that LAC was considered a driving force for the global economy in general. He added that the statistics for the region offered a very encouraging outlook in terms of the gross domestic product in exports of agricultural materials, but that despite these good indices, the region would need to tackle some challenges in food insecurity, which was on the rise.

He indicated that the World Bank not only implemented projects and provided loans, but also offered consultancy services, which were reimbursable or non-reimbursable, depending on the country. He mentioned that the different projects executed included typical investment and budget support projects, as well as the results-based program, within which it was highly possible to implement innovations that benefited the sector's inclusion in the overall economy. As an example, he highlighted the implementation of

a program in Morocco that had focused not only on the agriculture sector, but also on agro-industry, the generation of green jobs, innovation and digital agriculture. In this regard, he cited some programs that were underway in Colombia, Costa Rica, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Lastly, he stated that productive partnerships were a way of opening up to the private sector to find other funding sources.

*Comments by the delegates of the Member States*

The delegate of Honduras listed the following subjects to discuss based on the panelists' presentations:

- Multilateral banks offer similar solutions, so addressing strategic matters such as sustainable production, food security and agro-industrial development present the same complexity for efficient access to financing.
- Understanding countries' different situations is one of the greatest challenges in terms of formulating proposals to access financing mechanisms.
- Commitments and special conditions in terms of energy, water, financial services and digitalization to obtain access are complex and slow to process.
- Financing and public debt aspects generate contradictions and limitations to speed up the sector's development.
- There is an efficiency gap at the national level between private banks and multilateral banks in relation to the individual producer.
- Organization and governance, which vary by country and administration, speed up or delay the processes of accessing financing mechanisms.
- Multilateral banks must reduce bureaucracy and adapt financing to agrifood systems.

The delegate of Barbados stated that the following aspects must be considered in the services that multilateral financing agencies offer to countries:

- LAC shows similar results in food security; however, continental and island states face different challenges. For instance, the production sectors of island states are considered irrelevant, due to their scale and productivity levels.

- Rules regarding access to and management and implementation of funding are the same for all countries and therefore fail to consider the particularities of island states, which are not able to meet or fully apply all their components or gender, youth and inclusivity approaches, which often dilutes the impact of actions.
- The focus on compliance with controls and components, rather than on guidelines or the impact of funding, neglects the agricultural reality of Caribbean states.

The delegate of Panama referred to various aspects of financing:

- Multilateralism currently focuses on compliance with controls and components, instead of focusing on guidelines and the impact of financing.
- When financing mechanisms are accessed, it is unclear whether the objective is to address the effects of climate change or to improve food security.
- Developed countries have contributed to increasing the effects of climate change.
- It is important to challenge the perception that agriculture is responsible for climate change.
- Conditions for insurance, guarantees and pledges must be improved, and rules regarding the operation of funding mechanisms must be changed.
- Agriculture must be considered an investment, not an expense. In this regard, capacity building and knowledge management are key assets for financing agricultural activities.

The delegate of St. Vincent and the Grenadines also made various observations about this matter.

- Precision agriculture and the consolidation of science in agriculture are of great importance to obtain funding, and not all countries are capable of meeting the conditions set out in these funds.
- The regulatory frameworks for funds aimed at combating climate change demand capacities and human resources that island states do not necessarily have.

- It is necessary to create a platform that considers the different national regulations and jurisdictions, given the fact that every Member State requires financing at a different level.

The delegate of Mexico offered the following observations:

- Mexico has had different experiences with multilateral agencies and has provided cooperation between countries to access climate funds.
- It is necessary to orient financing towards territories with a predominance of family farming, with a productive, sustainable approach for the social and inclusive development of agriculture.
- It is essential to drive medium and long-term actions that exceed administration periods to give continuity to the implementation of funds.
- It is necessary to design innovative capitalization mechanisms for small producers in terms of credit, investment and non-reimbursable funds, considering the particularities of the regions.

There being no further comments, the event was concluded.



## SECOND PLENARY SESSION

### 2.1 Opening of the session

2.1.1 The second plenary session of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 - Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 09:06 hours on 5 October 2023, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada meeting rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). It was chaired by Mr. Fernando Mattos, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Uruguay.

### 2.2 Request by the Director General of the Institute

2.2.1 The Director General applauded the efforts and commitment of the delegates, who had expressed their support for IICA's actions during the first day of the conference. He requested that the Chair of the IABA give the floor to Mr. Federico Villarreal, Director of Technical Cooperation of the Institute, to present a summary of the first day of the meeting.

### 2.3 Summary of the first day of the meeting

2.3.1 The Director of Technical Cooperation pointed out that the 16 messages that had been presented at the United Nations Food Systems Summit 2021, which had continued to guide collective action in forums for dialogue, had served as the foundation for the Hemispheric Partnership. He also highlighted progress achieved in consolidating initiatives and proposals within the framework of the Twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties, as had been discussed during the four forums held on the first day of the conference of ministers.

2.3.2 He indicated that this process demonstrated the need to strengthen the Institute's technical cooperation through direct, South-South and triangular cooperation actions, as well as through multi-country initiatives and with multilateral cooperation partners.

2.3.3 He pointed out that these collective actions should focus on the following four principles: 1) agrifood systems are not failed systems and although they could be further strengthened, their performance in recent decades has demonstrated their resilience and capacity to address the challenges of each

era; 2) agriculture, given its importance to national economies and its endogenous capacity to mitigate climate change, must be seen as part of the solution; 3) science and technology are major transformative agents and should provide fundamental input for a new generation of public policies; and 4) farmers are central to the transformation that will take place and are the ones best able to improve sustainable resource management.

- 2.3.4 He outlined the main ideas of the four forums, which had focused on: 1) bridging innovation, science and technology gaps, with special emphasis on digital agriculture and the bioeconomy, to strengthen agrifood systems through digital technical assistance; 2) expanding climate funding to generate opportunities for agriculture, particularly carbon farming to care for living soils and linkages to the Water and Agriculture initiative; 3) the inclusion of family farming in the development of agrifood systems, the role of associative and cooperative undertakings in rural areas, the social inclusion of youth, rural women and vulnerable groups, as well as a new generation of public policies for family farming and agricultural health in agrifood systems.
- 2.3.5 He highlighted Paraguay's proposal to draft a resolution aimed at strengthening collective action under a One Health approach and actions related to pests and diseases that affect agrifood systems. Lastly, he underscored the importance of consolidating international and intraregional trade for food security and sustainable development.
- 2.3.6 The delegate of Grenada considered that, with contributions from all the Member States, countries of the Americas would be able to address food insecurity and climate change, converting plans into actions. She underscored the significance of the conference in placing producers at the center of the Hemispheric Partnership. She also emphasized the importance of gender and youth approaches, technological innovation and the One Health approach for agrifood systems of the Americas, specifically to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, as well as to modernize agriculture in the regions, especially in the Caribbean.



## 2.4 Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation

### 2.4.1 Financial Statements of IICA for 2021 and 2022 and Report of the External Auditors

2.4.1.1 The Director of Corporate Services reported that the financial statements had been prepared, audited and approved in strict adherence to generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (US GAAP). He presented the results of the 2021-2022 external audit, carried out by the audit firm Deloitte, which had concluded that, based on the audit evidence, the financial statements of the Institute “(...) present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of IICA as of the years ended 31 December 2021 and 2022”. He emphasized that for the fifth consecutive year the statements had received a clean audit opinion.

2.4.1.2 He indicated that, with a view to overcoming the current global economic-financial situation, the Institute had strengthened its policy for the strict, rational, austere and transparent management of resources. He added that resources had been geared towards delivering technical cooperation of excellence, prioritizing expenses that responded to demands by Member States. Lastly, he announced budgetary savings in the amount of USD 6.5 million, which had allowed for safeguarding the Institute’s finances by “doing more with less” and further strengthening technical cooperation actions.

### 2.4.2 Twenty-ninth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

2.4.2.1 Mrs. Mitzila Samudio pointed out that the work of the external auditors complied with International Auditing Standards and with IICA’s rules. She also stated that, in the opinion of the external auditors, the Institute’s financial statements presented fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of IICA as at 31 December 2021 and 2022, in accordance with US GAAP.

2.4.2.2 She highlighted three aspects: 1) quotas receivable: the ARC recognized the recovery of quotas and recommended that, in 2023, the Institute strengthen efforts to collect quotas, which are key to the provision of technical cooperation; 2) follow-up actions to the findings of the audit: the Institute addressed, in a timely manner, the recommendations of the external auditors; and 3) policies and procedures: the ARC supported the updates made by IICA to the auditing, human talent and finance policies. Lastly, she congratulated

the Institute on having received a clean audit opinion for the fifth consecutive year.

2.4.2.3 The Director of Corporate services presented an informational video that summarized the evolution of the Institute's technical cooperation model and resource management, which highlighted the following:

- The model is based on the seven principles of administrative management set out in the Medium-term Plan (MTP) for the period 2022-2026: 1) transparency, 2) decentralization, 3) innovation, 4) efficiency and effectiveness, 5) resilience, 6) coordination and 7) team spirit.
- Since the start of the current administration in 2018, the Institute had focused on two corporate priorities: 1) institutional transformation by shifting to a process culture that fosters efficiency, alignment, coordination and collaborative work, while reducing the time needed to respond to and address internal and external needs; and 2) more efficient and effective institutional management, by optimizing resources to provide technical cooperation services of excellence.
- The most noteworthy achievements have been with respect to: 1) strategic management and institutional modernization, as the Institute had made headway in implementing its business model and achieved more than 90% compliance with the proposed objectives to date; and 2) the promotion of a change from a hierarchical culture to a process culture focused on decentralization, effectiveness and efficiency, with a view to drastically reducing the steps to undertake daily tasks, while optimizing resources to ensure first-class service.
- Specifically, IICA has achieved the following: 1) the design of thirteen macroprocesses that are clearly aligned and comprise the Institute's value chain; and 2) optimization of those processes through automation. As a result, 85% of external resources are managed by means of a system developed in-house and tailored to the needs of the Institute and its counterparts.
- As part of the process to modernize IICA's management, a new governance model has been developed, which, based on networking teams and new guidelines, has sought to transform IICA into a dual organization (functional and based on networks) that enhances

collaborative work and maximizes the use of its collective intelligence to provide technical cooperation services of excellence.

- With respect to work in networks, IICA has set up 25 work teams, which include two thirds of its technical and administrative staff. In the same vein, a decentralization plan was approved for the period 2023-2025, whose purpose is to foster dynamic and modern administrative management through decentralization and by delegating responsibilities to the Delegations, in order to optimize the provision of services in an integrated, efficient, responsible and transparent manner.
- The Institute's various units have offered proactive responses in matters related to the updating of institutional regulations and policies, planning, monitoring, evaluation, knowledge management, institutional risk management, finance and administration, among others, which has enabled the organization to achieve accreditation by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and by the European Union, for EU pillars 7, 8 and 9.
- With respect to planning, monitoring and evaluation, IICA has implemented strategies to increase its corporate productivity and guarantee the Institute's financial soundness. It has also consolidated management through results-driven integrated planning.
- This integrated planning approach, which has been perfected in recent years, has enabled IICA to define its objectives with greater precision, as demonstrated by greater technical and financial achievements for the benefit of the Member States. The Institute's senior managers, program managers and representatives in the countries have access to up-to-date, timely information through more than 80 business intelligence dashboards, which has facilitated the fulfillment of the institutional mandate with respect to monitoring and evaluation to meet its goals.
- Additionally, the Institute has implemented an annual evaluation plan, with a view to identifying areas for improvement and lessons learned in more than 70 teams at Headquarters and in the Delegations. These dashboards are one of the main sources of information for bodies such as the Program to Accelerate the Mobilization and Execution of External Resources, which has played a key role in the definition, monitoring and fulfillment of resource execution goals. Specifically, the program has allowed for increasing the execution of external resources by 34% over the past five years.

- The Institute has developed a system for managing institutional and project risks for its 34 offices, based on five elements: a) system governance, b) an IT platform, c) an institutional risk matrix, d) a risk guide and e) a decentralization process to implement response plans for high-impact risks.
- In relation to the budget and finances, the Program Budget is being implemented in close alignment with the management and thematic direction established in the 2022-2026 MTP, as well as with the business model. This has made it possible to strengthen the response capacity and flexibility of institutional actions aimed at addressing technical cooperation priorities, which have focused on achieving results, strengthening strategic partnerships and applying the criteria of quality, effectiveness, rationality, equity, transparency and accountability.
- For the fifth consecutive year, the external auditors issued a positive and unqualified opinion on the Institute's financial statements, stating that financial resources had been managed in a reasonable and transparent manner.
- A process restructuring plan has been implemented to improve operations and, in turn, cushion the impact of price increases by capitalizing on institutional capabilities and achieving economies of scale. As part of its efforts to effectively manage its budget, the Institute has promoted better administration of cash, generating an average of USD 8 million in savings for the annual budget. The efficient use of budgetary allocations for technical cooperation activities and the intensive use of information and communication technologies (ICT) have contributed in this regard.
- The Institute has been able to increase its cash flow by USD 24 million over the past five years thanks to its solid financial structure, which is the result of improvements in resource investment and a reduction in the cost of services.
- IICA has implemented a costing system for technical cooperation initiatives, in order to provide a framework to guide investments and the associated expenses. Furthermore, cooperation activities have been increased through the mobilization and execution of externally funded projects, based on legal instruments signed with partners and counterparts. As part of the administrative support to facilitate the

approval of these initiatives, the programming process has been restructured, reducing response times from 45 days to two days.

- In the field of human talent, an in-depth analysis of the organizational climate and culture has been conducted through the “Your Voice” survey. There was a significant improvement in the 2023 survey results compared to 2019 and 2021.
- IICA has implemented a new Institutional Recognition Program, which was designed based on IICA’s strategic indicators, the MTP objectives, and the fulfillment of predefined goals. This has fostered a learning and continuous improvement culture that is aligned with the plans of each work team. Additionally, 200 staff members have received certifications in conscious leadership, project negotiation and conflict resolution skills over the past five years. Furthermore, in support of its financial sustainability efforts, three courses were designed on public policy and investment, development projects and business strategy.
- Based on best practices and lessons learned from the work-from-home experience that was effectively carried out during the pandemic caused by the coronavirus 2019 disease (COVID-19), an institutional Telework Policy was implemented in June 2022 at the Institute’s Headquarters. Starting in September of that year, its application was expanded to all 34 Delegations, based on each country’s conditions and characteristics.
- In relation to ICTs, despite the limitations to in-person work resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the institution remained very well connected, through the intensive use of the Teams platform and the organization of more than 350 virtual events, held via the Zoom platform. These events included the IABA and Executive Committee meetings, bilateral meetings with international agencies and more than 100 events for the general public that were broadcast on its social media pages.
- The Institute has developed digital administrative management solutions, including for electronic document management, procurement, contracting, travel, fixed assets, risks, costing, external resource management, and human talent performance and mentoring. Additionally, the catalogue of corporate services was implemented using artificial intelligence.

- The IICA of Open Doors initiative has enabled the Institute to draw closer to the community, by undertaking various projects that increase awareness about the future, innovation and agricultural transformation in the Americas. IICA has welcomed and trained more than 10,000 youth, who represent the younger generations of rural areas, equipping them with the latest knowledge on the generation and application of new digital technologies for agriculture.
- These projects include: 1) the Interpretive Center for Tomorrow's Agriculture, whose purpose is to provide a virtual educational space that highlights the fundamental role of new technologies in the agriculture sector and demonstrate their impact on families in rural and urban areas; 2) the IICA-CATIE Forest of the Americas, established together with the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), which contributes to disseminating knowledge of our hemisphere's natural heritage; 3) the Plaza of Agriculture of the Americas, which brings together all elements of sustainable agriculture in a large, public community park; 4) the Digital Fabrication Laboratory, a space to create innovative, technology-based solutions to issues that hinder agricultural and rural development in the Americas; and 5) the Typical Rural House, which pays tribute to rural inhabitants of the Americas, aiming to serve as a bridge that connects the past and the future.
- As a result of concrete actions carried out within the framework of the Blue Flag program and geared towards carbon neutrality, such as the installation of solar panels, IICA was designated as a carbon neutral organization by the Costa Rican Government's Country Program on Carbon Neutrality. This distinction was granted in recognition of the actions that the Institute has adopted to reduce and offset greenhouse gas emissions.

#### 2.4.3 2024-2025 Program Budget

- 2.4.3.1 The Director of Corporate Services outlined the basic principles used in developing the Institute's Program Budget for the 2024-2025 two-year period: 1) the IICA quota scale was defined on the basis of the percentages approved by the Organization of American States (OAS), 2) the Program Budget is the instrument that funds the MTP, 3) the Program Budget is aligned with the Institute's strategic planning and programming, and 4) the

Regular Fund is financed from the quotas of Member States and miscellaneous income generated.

- 2.4.3.2 He added that the draft Program Budget outlined estimated resources to fund the actions of the seven hemispheric programs, interdisciplinary initiatives, the management of technical cooperation in the Member States, technical support services and actions, management units and other institutional commitments. He added that the Institute expected to execute externally funded projects in the amounts of USD 210 million and USD 230 million for each year of the biennium, respectively.
- 2.4.3.3 He explained that the budget of regular income 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 in miscellaneous income. He indicated that, compared to the previous biennium, the quota amount remained the same while the miscellaneous income was USD 1 million greater, given that the miscellaneous income fund had grown thanks to improvements made in the investment process and higher investment rates.
- 2.4.3.4 Next, he referred to the distribution of Program Budget resources by major object of expenditure. In that regard, he pointed out that, from 2024 to 2025, personnel costs had increased slightly, by 1.75%, which was equivalent to USD 407,600. He explained that this increase would allow for maintaining salary levels based on each country's labor market, and would be covered by savings in operating costs, so as to avoid any variation in the total budget amount.
- 2.4.3.5 He advised that the percentage allocation of the resources of the Regular Fund, according to budgetary chapter, was as follows: 1) direct technical cooperation services: 87.6% in 2024 and 87.7% in 2025; 2) management costs: 7.6% for the biennium; 3) general costs and provisions: 4.1% in 2024 and 4% in 2025; and 4) renewal of infrastructure and equipment: 0.7% for the biennium.
- 2.4.3.6 Lastly, he referred to the execution of the 2022 Program Budget, stating that the total amount executed had been USD 28,593,123, distributed as follows: 1) direct technical cooperation services: 82%; 2) management costs: 9%; 3) general costs and provisions: 8%; and 4) renewal of infrastructure and equipment: 1%. He underscored the importance of Member States paying their quotas in a timely fashion so that the Institute could carry out all

programmed activities. In that regard, he commented that, in 2022, close to USD 9.5 million, or 32% of expected quota contributions, had not been received.

#### 2.4.4 Report on the collection of quotas

2.4.4.1 The Manager of the Financial Management Division reported on progress in the collection of quotas from Member States, both as at the close of 2022, as well as for the current year, updated to 14 July 2023. She referred to Article 23 of the Convention on IICA and 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 the Institute through annual quotas established by the IABA, in accordance with the calculation system for OAS quotas.

2.4.4.2 She explained that, for the purposes of these measures, the following definitions would apply: a) up-to-date status, b) regular status, c) special status and d) in arrears status. She indicated that countries that are not complying with a payment plan are included in the latter category, and that the quota is considered due as of the first day of the year and in arrears as of 1 July of each year.

2.4.4.3 She indicated that at the end of 2022, 20 countries were up to date in their payments, 11 were in regular status and 3 were in arrears. She also reported that as at 30 September 2023, 14 countries were up to date in their payments, 17 were in regular status and 3 were in arrears.

2.4.4.4 Lastly, she advised that as at 30 September of the current year, USD 27.5 million had been received in quota contributions from the Member States. She noted that it was crucial for the Institute to receive expected resources in order to effectively execute technical cooperation plans.

#### 2.4.5 Amendments to the regulations of the General Directorate of IICA

2.4.5.1 The Legal Advisor of the Institute reported that, at the Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), held in April 2023, it had been announced that the Institute would undertake a study to review the regulations of the General Directorate related to human talent and financial operations, as part of the institutional modernization process promoted by the Director General. He also reported that, at its Forty-third Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee had adopted Resolution



IICA/CE/Res. 709 (XLIII-O/23), through which it had expressed support for this initiative.

- 2.4.5.2 He commented that the aim of the study was 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 the Institute's needs, and reflect the changes that have taken place in administrative practices since the rules were established in 1983 – some 40 years ago.
- 2.4.5.3 He added that the regulations to be reviewed were the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate (RPGD), the Staff Rules, the Remuneration System and the Financial Rules. He clarified that only the IABA could 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. He added that the Executive Committee, in turn, could 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 and of the General Directorate.
- 2.4.5.4 Lastly, he requested that the IABA approve a resolution to express support for the study launched by the Director General (together with a specialized committee and the Staff Association) to review the Institute's regulations, and to authorize the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, to adopt the modifications to regulations that are within its competence and to adopt and put into effect the necessary modifications to the RPGD, subject to the approval of the IABA at its 2025 Regular Meeting.
- 2.4.6 *Comments by the delegates of the Member States*
- 2.4.6.1 The delegate of the United States of America applauded the Institute's efforts to avoid quota increases, through financial management and architecture strategies, as well as to strengthen technical cooperation services and actions. He highlighted the importance of quota payments and urged the Member States to remain up to date to enable the Institute to meet its technical cooperation objectives. He added that his country had paid 75% of its 2023 quota and planned to pay the remaining 25% during the fourth quarter of the year.
- 2.4.6.2 The delegate of Canada expressed support for the 2024-2025 Program Budget. He added that he was impressed with IICA's capacity to reduce

expenditure and efficiently utilize resources related to travel and events during the pandemic. He pointed out that, now that activities were back to normal, costs had risen due to multiple factors, yet the budget for the current period was the same as that for 2021-2022. Therefore, he asked what the Institute's strategy had been to undertake actions with a reduced budget for travel, events and other face-to-face activities during the current period.

- 2.4.6.3 The Director of Corporate Services mentioned the lessons learned during the pandemic with respect to the use of virtual resources, which continued to be utilized in technical cooperation activities, along with a more strategic prioritization of actions, based on their impact.
- 2.4.6.4 The Director General indicated that, with a view to substantially reducing the number of staff members participating in face-to-face events, greater priority was being given to specialized technical personnel who carry out relevant actions for technical cooperation, whose impact had remained unchanged.
- 2.4.6.5 The delegate of Brazil highlighted the importance of modifying regulations to adapt the Institute's management to the current context, strengthen technical cooperation actions and utilize resources in an efficient and transparent manner. He added that he had witnessed the challenges faced by IICA in his country and the strategies it had implemented to offer more impactful technical cooperation of excellence. He echoed the remarks of his counterparts from the United States and Canada regarding the importance of countries paying their quotas, as well as finding other ways to deal with the rising costs of travel and in-person events.
- 2.4.6.6 The delegate of Guyana expressed his agreement with the comments made by the United States of America, Canada and Brazil and highlighted the Institute's efforts to continue operating in an efficient and transparent manner. He expressed his support for the 2024-2025 Program Budget and mentioned that his government was taking steps to remain up to date with its financial obligations to the Institute and to pay an additional quota to support new cooperation programs in his country and in the Caribbean region. He urged the other Member States to consider the payment of additional quotas to strengthen the exceptional technical cooperation delivered by IICA, which had had to overcome the pandemic and other global and regional crises.
- 2.4.6.7 The delegate of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines agreed with his colleague from Guyana. He considered that the Institute had done an excellent job

during very challenging times, assisting the Caribbean in grappling with the pandemic and climate crises, and the rest of the world in matters related to trade, inputs and armed conflicts. He also underscored the need to strengthen IICA's finances.

- 2.4.6.8 The delegate of Mexico expressed her support for the Institute's management of technical cooperation during the current period. She made reference to the current context and its challenges, which made it more difficult to carry out cooperation activities. She emphasized the Institute's efforts to make adjustments aimed at strengthening technical cooperation in all the countries, without increasing their quotas.
- 2.4.6.9 The delegate of Panama pointed out that the reports presented reflected IICA's transparent, responsible and effective management of institutional funds. He commented on the financial issues faced by the countries as a result of current crises. He underscored the importance of keeping up to date and increasing resources to provide technical cooperation in the hemisphere. Finally, he considered it important to continue working to access global funds such as the GCF, in order to achieve a greater impact in rural areas, the agriculture sector and agrifood systems in general.
- 2.4.6.10 The delegate of Jamaica underscored the fact that IICA continued to fulfill its role as a provider of technical cooperation of excellence with a limited budget, in response to national and regional demands. He applauded the Director General's efficient management of the Institute in collaboration with the Member States and key sector stakeholders, through networks and collective actions, aimed at adapting agriculture to the impact of climate change and achieving food security and improved productive development in Caribbean agriculture.
- 2.4.6.11 The delegate of Barbados supported the proposals and actions presented by the Directorate of Corporate Services and underscored the importance of Member States continuing to strengthen the financial situation and support the institution's technical cooperation. He expressed his concern regarding missed opportunities in multiple global climate action funds, among other types of funds, and urged the other Member States to develop resource management strategies with the Institute, with a view to strengthening agrifood systems in the face of climate change and improving food security and production activities.

- 2.4.6.12 The delegate of Honduras inquired about: 1) indirect cost recovery, 2) the criteria for storing institutional resources in different banks, 3) the mechanisms used to allocate resources to CATIE, and 4) the status of resources earmarked for IICA's legal proceedings in Colombia. She highlighted the Institute's transparent and efficient technical management of the resources transferred by Honduras.
- 2.4.6.13 The Director of Corporate Services explained that the regular funds are comprised of quotas paid by the countries. With respect to miscellaneous funds, he stated that resources are mobilized to recover indirect costs, which vary depending on external resource mobilization.
- 2.4.6.14 With respect to the management of resources in different banks, he explained that IICA has specific accounts in each country for the transfer of resources used to implement technical cooperation activities, and that it has a general lead account in Washington, D.C. He also reported that, over the previous five years, efforts had been undertaken to diversify investments in order to achieve better returns and strengthen institutional finances. Lastly, with respect to the proceedings in Colombia, he stated that the Institute manages its resource reserve responsibly to prepare for any eventuality and that it was undertaking considerable efforts to advance, together with Colombia, towards a legal and administrative solution.
- 2.4.6.15 The Director General stated that IICA, whose budget was estimated at USD 33 million per year, carried out operations in 35 countries with 560 professionals and 250 technical cooperation projects in the Americas, which required highly efficient and transparent resource management to guarantee the operation of the organization, maintenance of infrastructure and staffing, travel, and the organization of events and direct technical cooperation activities.
- 2.4.6.16 He mentioned that the Institute's contribution to CATIE varied based on the collection of annual quotas from the Member States. He noted that open, ongoing dialogue with the Director General of that Center had resulted in synergies and coordination between both institutions. As an example, he cited the fact that, at the initiative of that official, 15% of the quota had been earmarked for the generation of competitive research and production funds to foster tropical agriculture. This had included the installation of greenhouses to grow coffee seedlings and the improvement of the dairy herd in the Center's sustainable livestock farming program, which had generated resources that could be reinvested in research and teaching and, in turn, had

fostered greater transparency with respect to the efficient use of resources provided by IICA.

- 2.4.6.17 In response to the query about resources set aside for the process in Colombia, he reported that he had spoken with the Minister of Agriculture of that country during her visit to Headquarters and during his visit to Bogotá that year. He pointed out that these efforts had allowed for strengthening and expanding technical cooperation initiatives in that country, providing support to the national rural development forum, carrying out joint actions with the Dean's Office of the National University of Colombia (where the Delegation is located) and strengthening the technical cooperation provided to the Council of Secretaries of Agriculture of Colombia.
- 2.4.6.18 The delegate of Uruguay applauded the Director General's management and his efficiency and transparency strategies to improve the Institute's financial standing. He underscored the importance of this forum of ministers in fostering dialogue on climate change, food security and the transformation of agrifood systems, which had allowed for defining priorities and driving synergies to meet national and regional needs and demands for technical cooperation.
- 2.4.6.19 He noted that, although the current Administration had undertaken efforts to rationalize resources, there should be a limit to this measure, so as not to affect the technical cooperation that countries requested. He underscored the need to obtain a greater amount of resources and called upon the Member States to agree on and propose measures that would allow for recovering the purchasing power of quotas, in keeping with the corresponding mechanisms and regulations. In that regard, he noted that there had been no increases in 8 years and that the effect of inflation had accumulated. Lastly, he considered it necessary to strengthen the response capacity of technical cooperation in order to implement the programs and actions required by the agriculture sector of the Americas. Therefore, he urged the Member States to keep up to date on the payment of their quotas and to support IICA in securing resources.
- 2.5 *Report of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE for the period 2022- 2023*
- 2.5.1 The Technical Secretary mentioned that the information related to this report, prepared by Grenada, had been made available to the Member States through the corresponding online information system.

- 2.5.2 The delegate of Grenada expressed her gratitude to the IABA for the trust it had placed in the country to serve as its representative to the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE for the period 2022-2023, as well as to the Director General of the Center for the support it had provided to the Caribbean region during that period.
- 2.5.3 On behalf of the Caribbean region, the delegate of Guyana expressed his support for CATIE's management of programs related to high-quality plant materials that were important to the economy, particularly in his country. He also highlighted the Center's contributions with respect to dairy industry training, agroforestry systems, smart crops, biotechnology, modern coffee farming and cocoa. Lastly, he commented on progress achieved with respect to the use of resources and technical skills at the master's and doctoral levels, which had greatly benefited technical staff in the ministries and other institutions.
- 2.5.4 The Technical Secretary submitted the report prepared by Grenada for analysis by the Member States, who expressed their satisfaction.
- 2.6 *Report on the Status of Resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA and of the Forty-second and Forty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee*
- 2.6.1 The Technical Secretary indicated that the reports on the status of the resolutions adopted at the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Forty-second and Forty-third regular meetings of the Executive Committee had been made available to the Member States in advance via the online information system of the meeting. He explained that the reports provided details on the status of implementation of each of the resolutions adopted at the aforementioned meetings.
- 2.6.2 The Technical Secretary submitted the reports for analysis by the Member States, who expressed their satisfaction.
- 2.7 *Date and venue of the Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the IABA*
- 2.7.1 The Technical Secretary informed the delegates that up to that time, the governments of Brazil and Mexico had submitted proposals to host the next regular meeting of the IABA, to be held in 2025.

- 2.7.2 The delegate of Brazil shared his government's great interest in having the Amazon host this meeting, within the framework of the Thirtieth Conference of the Parties (COP30). First, he argued that it was important to hold the largest meeting of the Americas on agrifood systems within the framework of COP30, in order to demonstrate to heads of state, researchers and representatives of the private sector and civil society that it is possible to produce in a sustainable manner, in harmony with biodiversity in the region and around the world. He reiterated the importance of placing agriculture and agrifood systems at the center of global climate change discussions at the conferences of the parties (COPs), as had been done in 2022 and 2023.
- 2.7.3 Second, he underscored Brazil's interest in strengthening investment in agricultural technology with a focus on productivity, sustainable management and food security. To that end, his country would make available to all the Member States the support of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation. Therefore, he invited the delegations to support the proposal by his country's government.
- 2.7.4 The delegate of Mexico referred to her country's mission and commitment to the region's agrifood sector, particularly the areas of food security and the development of technological innovations. She stated that Mexico, as a founding member of the Institute, would also be honored to receive the support of countries of the Americas to host the next regular meeting of the IABA.
- 2.7.5 The delegate of Argentina expressed his support for Brazil's proposal, arguing that: 1) the hosting of COP30 in Brazil was a milestone they should take advantage of, 2) Brazil and Argentina had a historical relationship developing forums for dialogue and global collective actions, 3) it was important for heads of state and global decision-makers to be in attendance at COP30, and 4) the organization of a COP in the Amazon would allow for showing the rest of the world that it is possible to achieve agricultural development in harmony with biodiversity.
- 2.7.6 The delegates of Barbados, Chile, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Paraguay, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay highlighted the points in favor of both proposals and considered that having a forum for political and technical decision making on climate change, with the participation of ministers of Agriculture, the Environment and Finance, as well as heads of state, would be ideal, as it would allow for strengthening agricultural development in the hemisphere.

Therefore, they endorsed Brazil's proposal to host the next regular meeting of the IABA.

- 2.7.7 The delegate of Nicaragua highlighted the strengths and experience of both countries with agricultural development in the Americas, as well as their long-standing relationship with Nicaragua. He proposed that both delegates be provided with an opportunity to engage in bilateral dialogue in order to reach an agreement on this matter, given that there was still enough time to organize the next IABA meeting, and that they could subsequently inform the countries of their decision.
- 2.7.8 The delegate of Canada described the upcoming COP30 as a once-in-a-generation opportunity, given that it was only held in Latin America and the Caribbean every ten years. He pointed out that the IABA and COP were typically held in different months (September and November-December, respectively), and asked whether this would affect the transition period following the election of the new Director General.
- 2.7.9 The Director General highlighted three key aspects of the discussion: 1) restrictions related to COVID-19 were no longer in place and therefore no longer affected face-to-face meetings; 2) agriculture was now at the top of the global agenda; and 3) because of the Institute's relevance, the Hemispheric Partnership served as a key tool for collective action that would bring agrifood system stakeholders of the Americas closer together. In response to the query by the delegate of Canada, he mentioned that the IABA meeting could be held any time between September and November, and that the necessary measures would be taken in relation to the election process and the transition period between one administration and the next.
- 2.7.10 The delegate of Mexico expressed her appreciation for the dialogue and attention given to the matter. She considered that any country would be glad to host one of these high-level meetings. However, she stated that, in the interest of maintaining the unity that characterized the Institute, Mexico would withdraw its offer.
- 2.7.11 The delegate of Honduras proposed that, based on the dialogue regarding the venue of the next regular meeting of the IABA, a meeting be held beforehand in order to make progress on the hemisphere's technical agenda.



- 2.7.12 The delegate of Brazil thanked Mexico for its decision and invited all the delegates to contribute to the organization of the Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 2.7.13 The Technical Secretary clarified that the Member States could request that the Director General, in his capacity as *ex officio* Secretary of the Board, determine and subsequently announce, in coordination with the Government of Brazil, the exact date on which the 2025 IABA would be held, given that there was a 2-year timeframe for its organization.
- 2.8 *Reading and approval of draft resolutions*<sup>1</sup>
- 2.8.1 The Rapporteur read out draft resolution “Coordination of Hemispheric Strategies for Agricultural Health”.
- 2.8.2 The delegate of Canada asked whether the concept of agricultural health included only animal health or plant health as well, given that this could affect the participation of experts in preparing and implementing proposals.
- 2.8.3 The delegate of Honduras inquired whether the topic to be addressed would be agricultural health or agrifood health, noting that the latter would include the topic of food safety.
- 2.8.4 The Deputy Director General suggested utilizing the terms animal health and plant health, to encompass both topics. He argued that the topic of safety was very broad; therefore, he questioned whether it should be included in the event, adding that it deviated from the proposal presented in the draft resolution.
- 2.8.5 The delegate of Paraguay clarified that his country’s proposal focused on animal health. He added that plant health was equally important, but suggested that it be dealt with at another event, as could the issue of food safety.
- 2.8.6 The delegate of Uruguay expressed his support for Paraguay’s proposal and proposed that several events be held instead of just one, in order to address all those broad and complex issues.
- 2.8.7 The draft resolution was approved without modifications.

- 2.8.8 The Rapporteur read out draft resolution ““Carlos Aquino González’ Center for Applied Knowledge Management and Innovation in Agrifood Systems, in the Dominican Republic”.
- 2.8.9 The delegate of Canada inquired whether the approval of the draft resolution would have budgetary or administrative implications for IICA.
- 2.8.10 The Director General explained that the resources allocated to this center were managed by the Government of the Dominican Republic and that the Institute would provide support and advisory services in knowledge management.
- 2.8.11 The draft resolution was approved without modifications.
- 2.8.12 The Rapporteur read out draft resolution “Strengthening the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development”, which was approved without modifications.
- 2.8.13 The Rapporteur read out draft resolution “Participation of IICA in the Twenty-Eighth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28)”.
- 2.8.14 The delegate of Colombia proposed that operative paragraph 2 emphasize the strengthening of resilient and sustainable agrifood systems and the importance of farmers in such systems.
- 2.8.15 The draft resolution was approved without modifications.
- 2.8.16 The Rapporteur read out draft resolutions “2021 and 2022 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Report of the External Auditors and Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)” and “2024-2025 Program Budget”, which were approved without modifications.
- 2.8.17 The Rapporteur read out draft resolution “Report on the Collection of Quotas”.
- 2.8.18 The delegate of Uruguay referred to the suggestion he had made about having the Institute encourage countries to pay their quotas in a timely fashion, in keeping with the internal mechanisms established by each government. He also reiterated the need for IICA to review the calculation of quotas.

- 2.8.19 The delegate of Argentina recommended that a study be prepared to assess an increase of quotas from Member States.
- 2.8.20 The draft resolution was approved without modifications.
- 2.8.21 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolutions “Amendments to the Regulations of the General Directorate” and “Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and of the Forty-second and Forty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee”, which were approved without modifications.
- 2.8.22 The Rapporteur read out draft resolution “Date and Venue of the Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”.
- 2.8.23 The delegate of Nicaragua pointed out that, during the discussion regarding the venue of the next IABA meeting, there had been no mention of the principles of geographic rotation and distribution. Therefore, he requested that the resolution be modified.
- 2.8.24 The delegate of Canada suggested that operative paragraph 2 could refer to the establishment of a committee related to the agenda for the 2025 COP within the framework of the IABA.
- 2.8.25 The draft resolution was approved without modifications.
- 2.9 *Working luncheon “Water and Agriculture Initiative”*
- 2.9.1 The Institute’s Director of Projects described the importance of water for agriculture in the hemisphere, the impact of climate change on the region and the water crisis facing its agriculture and agrifood systems.
- 2.9.2 He indicated that the initiative, which was based on an intensive internal and external consultation process with countries and specialists, was seeking to consolidate capacities and foster strategic public-private partnerships to improve the integrated management and efficient use of water in agriculture.
- 2.9.3 He reported that IICA had supported the ministries of Agriculture and lead agencies by carrying out more than 70 technical cooperation actions related to that resource. Therefore, he emphasized the importance of prioritizing the topic of water management for agriculture, given that without water there can

be no agriculture, and without agriculture there can be no food security. He added that joint hemispheric action to improve the integrated management and efficient use of water in agriculture, within the framework of the Hemispheric Partnership, was a matter of urgency.

2.9.4 Next, he mentioned the following key concepts: water is a limited resource, its efficient use is crucial for competitive agriculture, and water is a manageable resource, which requires sound governance mechanisms.

2.9.5 He indicated that, in recent years, the water crisis had affected agrifood systems and food security in many countries of the Americas, particularly Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, as well as those in the Central American Dry Corridor region, which had faced severe droughts, growing desertification and limited water access or drinking water scarcity. Therefore, he considered it necessary to move forward with the initiative, which championed the idea that, in addition to producing food, agriculture must be a major producer of this liquid, through its efficient storage and use by means of innovative technologies.

2.9.6 Lastly, he outlined the four key areas of the initiative: 1) production and storage of water for agriculture, which would require strengthening countries' capacities to design and implement programs and projects; 2) efficient water use, through climate smart solutions, good agricultural practices, the digitalization of irrigation systems and sustainable soil management; 3) governance of this resource, which is essential to the design and application of public policies; and 4) investments to implement cooperation projects, programs and actions aimed at improving public-private planning, resource allocation and coordination.

2.10 *Close of the session*

2.10.1 The second plenary session of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 - Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 12:25 hours on 5 October 2023.

## THIRD PLENARY SESSION

### 3.1 Opening of the session

3.1.1 The third plenary session of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 - Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 14:34 hours on 5 October 2023 in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada meeting rooms) at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). It was chaired by Mr. Fernando Mattos, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Uruguay.

### 3.2 The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC-FAO-IICA)

3.2.1 Mr. José Manuel Salazar, Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), delivered a presentation on the tenth edition of the report, which ECLAC, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and IICA had jointly prepared for about 20 years. He began his remarks by mentioning various actions that ECLAC and the Institute had jointly carried out that year, related to water for agriculture as well as other actions developed with FAO, many of which were discussed in that edition of the report.

3.2.2 He noted that the economy in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) was expected to grow at a rate of 1.7% in 2023 and 1.5% in 2024. He indicated that this would have implications for data for the past decade, during which the annual regional growth rate had averaged just 0.8%, which was even lower than that during the so-called “lost decade” of the 1980s. He emphasized that this data was not a result of the shocks that had occurred in 2020, but rather of persistent issues over the past decades, which had worsened during the most recent decade. He added that, as a result of the 2008-2009 crisis, conditions for economic growth in the region had changed.

3.2.3 He commented that, if a country were to grow by 1.5% each year, it would take 140 years to double its per capita income. Therefore, given the rate at which LAC had grown over the past decade, it would take 300 years to double the income per person in the region. The outlook for economic growth was therefore disastrous and affected by a number of factors, including globalization, technological development, the digital era and digital

intelligence, with growing inequality with respect to social peace and societal development.

- 3.2.4 He pointed out that, according to the outlook for 2024, the gross domestic product (GDP) would be around 3%, which was lower than what had been expected prior to the onset of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. He explained that negative shocks over the previous three years, triggered by the pandemic, armed conflicts and rising inflation had had a lasting impact on the global economy. Therefore, a boost from the global economy that could enhance the growth of LAC's trading partners could not be expected. He reported that the region's main global and trading partners, such as the United States, China and the European Union, had had historically low growth rates of 1% to 4.5%.
- 3.2.5 He warned that the global economy would not be spurred by a tailwind, which was troublesome. As a result of poor economic performance, the region would be caught in a structural trap of low growth, which could be further aggravated by climate shocks. By way of example, he indicated that in 2022 the regional agricultural value added had dropped due to the heavy impact of droughts and the third consecutive year of the La Niña phenomenon. On the other hand, from 2023 to 2024, the El Niño phenomenon could increase the average temperature and occurrence of extreme weather events, which would require investing in climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture and agrifood systems.
- 3.2.6 He commented that the agriculture sector would provide a regional response to climate change. In that regard, he emphasized the fact that agrifood systems would need to drive up investment in climate smart technologies, improve technology adoption and attract private investment to generate green financial ecosystems and, in turn, meet the objectives of the Paris Agreement on climate change.
- 3.2.7 He indicated that, to break out of the low growth trap, it would be necessary to advance towards a productive, inclusive and sustainable development model, which would require focusing on elements that drive growth, such as the bioeconomy, the circular economy, renewable energies and the energy transition, water management in agriculture, food security, gender and youth, digital development and the modernization of export services. To that end, it would be important to develop new talent and training actions that would allow for achieving sustainable development.

3.2.8 The Executive Secretary of ECLAC concluded his remarks by indicating that multilateralism as well as regional, South-South and triangular cooperation could make a difference in achieving a productive, inclusive and sustainable development model.

3.2.9 Next, Mr. Mario Lubetkin, FAO Assistant Director General and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean, delivered a video presentation, whose main ideas are summarized below:

- According to the data presented in the report “The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World”, prepared by FAO and four United Nations agencies, 735 million people face hunger in the world, meaning we are far from achieving a world without hunger in 2030.
- In the Americas, the Caribbean region faces several persistent challenges, such as income inequality, poverty, the impact of climate change and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, which have contributed to increasing the number of people who suffer from hunger and poverty—a setback compared to the situation in 2000.
- In LAC in 2021, the average cost of a healthy diet was USD 4.08 per person per day, compared to USD 3.66 worldwide.
- Investments in agrifood systems are currently affected by changes in prices for food and agricultural inputs, due to crises such as the war in Ukraine.
- Greater regional collaboration is crucial to face a complex future. Recent events that have affected the region call for profound reflection to overcome multiple crises and strengthen work for the benefit of agrifood systems. This can be achieved by collective action, as well as by strengthening regional integration mechanisms and generating joint solutions that guarantee access to nutritious food and economic prosperity, particularly in rural communities.
- Greater multisectoral cooperation is key to achieving food and nutritional security. To that end, it is advisable to:
  - o Promote sustainable agricultural strategies within the context of extreme climate events, through the responsible use of natural resources, such as land and water, and landscape restoration.

- Strengthen capacities related to the bioeconomy, addressing its social and economic dimensions. In that regard, the economic model of the Amazon could serve as a reference point for the region.
- Improve regional integration with respect to public policies and public-private partnerships aimed at maximizing the benefits of the One Health approach.
- Foster social and gender equality in agriculture and rural areas by improving opportunities to access productive resources and technologies.
- Strengthen technical capacities and exchange experiences to foster international trade.
- Achieve more efficient, inclusive, resilient and sustainable agrifood systems. To that end, facing crises and achieving sustainable, equitable growth in the region is a matter of urgency.

3.2.10 The Director General of the Institute delivered a presentation on key regional cooperation actions aimed at driving the sustainable and inclusive development of agrifood systems. He pointed out that, in recent years, LAC had been affected by multiple crises that had generated the challenges addressed during the conference. He mentioned that regional cooperation allowed for facilitating collaborative and joint actions, aligning regional and global agendas, strengthening the sharing of experiences and making decisions based on science and reliable information. This, in turn, made it possible to mobilize resources to transform agrifood systems by making them more inclusive and resilient. To that end, he explained, it would be necessary to enable and accelerate the transformation of those systems through digital technology use, the energy transition, the implementation of funding strategies and the operation of knowledge management platforms.

3.2.11 He highlighted the importance of the topic of agrifood trade within the framework of the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Americas. He added that LAC countries were carrying out multiple actions at the subregional level to foster open, transparent trade with science-based rules that would allow for further diversifying markets.



3.2.12 With respect to the One Health approach, he commented on the need to increase coordination actions, drive the modernization of policies and foster the generation of partnerships that would capitalize on national and regional capabilities.

3.2.13 The Director General concluded his remarks by recognizing the efforts of the technical teams and specialists of ECLAC, FAO and IICA, whose thorough work was evident in the report “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean”.

### 3.3 Analysis and comments

3.3.1 The delegate of Argentina emphasized the importance of strengthening the integration of both an intraregional and a hemispheric bloc to strengthen and redirect multilateralism, so as to transform and improve agrifood systems and, in turn, strengthen food security, climate resilience and regional and global trade, by addressing common issues and interests for the well-being of the Americas.

3.3.2 The delegate of Barbados requested that the teams of the institutions involved in preparing the report provide detailed information and support in conducting an analysis that would allow for strengthening the agricultural programs underway in his country. He highlighted the importance of the information being broken down by region and country, given that this would contribute to strengthening dialogue and provide input for planning, implementing and evaluating national and regional actions.

3.3.3 The delegate of Guyana mentioned that multiple challenges had yet to be faced, but that it was crucial to channel efforts towards driving the growth of agrifood systems, making them truly inclusive and fostering their development based on a territorial approach, technological advances and scientific knowledge.

3.3.4 The delegate of Peru expressed his concern regarding the fact that the outlook was not promising. He believed that the challenges mentioned called for changes in the actions and innovations undertaken within the framework of the Hemispheric Partnership. He referred to the complex situation that livestock farming in Puno, a region in southern Peru, was facing as a result of climate change, which had caused significant losses in that sector, a situation that other countries in the region were likely experiencing as well.

He pointed out the need to develop joint agendas to learn about experiences generated at the national level to solve common issues, as well as to mobilize resources and build capacities that would allow for strengthening and increasing the resilience of production activities.

- 3.3.5 The delegate of Panama considered that, given the situation that prevailed in LAC, national, regional and hemispheric goals and objectives should be clearly targeted towards combating hunger, poverty and destitution, all of which were aggravated by climate change. He called for prioritizing actions to mobilize resources within the framework of the Twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties (COP28) to address the food crisis in the short and medium term and to strengthen agrifood systems.
- 3.3.6 The delegate of Honduras echoed the remarks of the delegates of Barbados, Guyana, Peru and Panama. He highlighted the data that illustrated the situation in Honduras. He reiterated the need to prioritize the issues of inequality and exclusion that affected the rural population, especially youth and women. In closing, he noted that it was necessary to make decisions at the national and regional levels to increase the value added and contribution of agrifood systems to the GDP.
- 3.3.7 The Executive Secretary of ECLAC mentioned three ideas that summarized the dialogue regarding the report:
- Multilateralism and addressing issues on the international agenda are of the utmost importance, given that geopolitics and the interdependence of countries have triggered transformations that are here to stay.
  - Shifting the focus of trade and financial cooperation blocs is key to adopting common positions for integration.
  - Food security and the position of intraregional and regional blocs should be promoted to position the global agenda, increase trade within the region and generate an ecosystem that integrates agrifood systems at various levels.

### 3.4 Reading of draft resolutions

3.4.1 The Chair requested that the Rapporteur read out draft resolutions 2 and 4, entitled “Water and Agriculture Initiative” and “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean”, respectively, which were approved without modifications.

### 3.5 Leaders of Rurality of the Americas

3.5.1 Journalist Pia Castro presented the individuals who would be recognized as Leaders of Rurality of the Americas: Mr. Alfredo Carrasco, of Chile; Mrs. Eodora Méndez, of Honduras; and Mrs. Rosamund Benn, of Guyana. She explained that the initiative sought to highlight the life experiences of individuals who were making a difference and whose voices should be heard to improve public policies in their countries. She stated that, to date, IICA had granted this recognition to more than 43 rural leaders who had overcome adversity, fostered change in their rural communities and achieved tangible, impactful results.

3.5.2 Next, a video on the Leaders of Rurality of the Americas who would receive this recognition was presented. The video stated the following:

- The leaders are role models, because they drive transformation, overcome adversity and inspire.
- The leaders are guardians of the planet’s biodiversity and the lifeblood of their districts, towns and rural communities.
- Their influence can be seen in the food that we eat, in each plot of agricultural land and in the communities where they live.
- They are men and women who are leaving a mark, caring for soil and water, and building a more resilient and sustainable agriculture sector. They are the soul of rurality.
- Mr. Alfredo Carrasco, of Chile, is an inspirational produce farmer and leader of FarmHability—an inclusive project.
- Mrs. Rosamund Benn, of Guyana, is a coconut oil producer who

encourages other rural women in Guyana to process and market their crops to improve their income and quality of life.

- Mrs. Eodora Méndez, of Honduras, is a farmer who encourages rural dwellers to establish associations among themselves, in order to increase the efficiency of their food production and marketing.

3.5.3 Mrs. Rosamund Benn expressed her gratitude for the recognition and congratulated the Institute on the initiative, which would allow her to encourage even more rural women not to abandon their activities or communities, to preserve their ancestral knowledge and to become better trained in agriculture. She mentioned that she led twelve women's groups related to production and marketing in their rural areas and urban centers. She listed the main challenges they faced with respect to marketing and market prices, which they had been able to overcome thanks to their ability to organize and unite as a community. Among other things, she promoted actions aimed at facilitating access to funding, fostering training and supporting women's involvement in projects and programs in her country.

3.5.4 Mrs. Eodora Méndez thanked IICA for the award in recognition of her work, which she received on behalf of all women in her community, whom she described as the driving force behind inclusive agriculture. She mentioned that she led an agricultural business that manages technical assistance and training to improve production and access to markets with fair prices. She recounted the challenges they had faced during the production crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic and how, with the help of partners, they had been able to restore their production systems.

3.5.5 Mr. Alfredo Carrasco described the origins of his initiative FarmHability, which promotes sustainable, integrative agriculture, enabling people with disabilities to work in the countryside and produce food for society. He recounted how, after suffering an accident, he began working on a project that promotes more inclusive development in Chilean communities. He described the positive impact of the recognition by IICA as a rural leader, which had enabled him to be in contact with a greater number of people and countries. He expressed his interest in contributing to the creation of a hemispheric program aimed at fostering the labor inclusion of people with disabilities in the agriculture sector.

- 3.5.6 Journalist Pía Castro described the three rural leaders as inspirational and noted that they gave a human face to public policies. She added that the IICA initiative offered ministries of Agriculture an opportunity to raise awareness in their countries of the importance of all types of producers for agrifood systems.
- 3.5.7 The Director General of the Institute presented the award to Mr. Alfredo Carrasco, of Chile; Mrs. Eodora Méndez, of Honduras; and Mrs. Rosamund Benn, of Guyana. He called on the ministers to place farmers at the center of their actions and to take advantage of the “Leaders of Rurality” initiative, in order to present this recognition to even more people.
- 3.6 *Reading of draft resolutions*
- 3.6.1 The Chair asked the Rapporteur to read out Draft Resolution No. 11, “Recognition of Leaders of Rurality of the Americas”, which was approved without modifications.
- 3.7 *The importance of public-private coordination to transform agrifood systems*
- 3.7.1 The Deputy Director General of IICA reminded the delegates that, during the conference four and a half years earlier, ministers had begun to discuss the transformation of agrifood systems and had pointed out the need to include farmers, organizations, the private sector and technology companies in these discussions. He also recalled that, in the process of preparing for the Food Systems Summit, various dialogues had been held with key system stakeholders. He noted that the message that the Institute and its Member States had presented at the summit was based on three fundamental principles: 1) farmers must be represented and valued in the discussions, 2) science must serve as the foundation for public policies, and 3) agriculture is part of the solution to climate challenges. He reiterated that food systems are not failed systems, although they can be improved.
- 3.7.2 Mr. Jaime Castañeda, Executive Vice-President for Policy Development and Strategy of the National Milk Producers Federation (NMPF) and the U.S. Dairy Export Council (USDEC), explained that he represented the U.S. dairy industry, producers and exporters of all the country’s manufactured goods. He highlighted the importance of the relationship between the public and private sectors in the agrifood sector, especially in LAC.

- 3.7.3 He went on to mention that the discussion over the previous three days had highlighted the lack of resources; however, he clarified that it was not merely a financial issue, explaining that there were also limitations with respect to the capacity of human resources in the region. He added that the organization he represented considered it crucial to strengthen partnerships and relationships between the private sector and all other agricultural stakeholders in the region, particularly in the dairy sector, with a view to increasing and strengthening the participation of producers in this sector.
- 3.7.4 Mr. Francisco González, President of the Federation of Agricultural and Agroindustrial Chambers of Central America and the Dominican Republic (FECAGRO), Costa Rican coffee producer and owner of a family business with a history of more than 135 years, commented that, over the course of this period, the coffee sector had had to reinvent itself in many ways to face the global changes that had occurred. He informed the delegates that, at that time, FECAGRO represented 4,450 production companies and 800 trade associations, had a workforce of approximately 4,500,000 and accounted for 44% of the region's total exports. By way of example, he mentioned a series of actions and initiatives carried out in Central America, including the following:
- Establishment of the first association of avocado producers in Costa Rica, under a public-private partnership arrangement with the participation of 200 producers.
  - Implementation in Guatemala of a project to develop an energy model for the country, whereby more than 75% of energy would be produced from renewable sources and the rest from biomass in sugarcane production.
  - Implementation of a zero-deforestation program, whereby the African palm sector would be monitored through satellite technology.
  - Provision of support to Costa Rica in the process of developing NAMAs for coffee, livestock and sugarcane.
  - Signing of agreements with IICA, the International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health (OIRSA) and the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), aimed at addressing topics related to policies on the environment, health, trade, technology and other issues.

- 3.7.5 He emphasized the importance of national institutions in the sector strengthening and increasing the participation of the private sector in public policymaking, in order to accelerate the sector's transformation and improve conditions in the region.
- 3.7.6 The Deputy Director General of the Institute posed the following questions to the panelists: 1) What are the main messages you would like to convey to the ministers? and 2) What do you hope the ministers will take from this panel to apply in their daily work?
- 3.7.7 Mr. Jaime Castañeda shared the following conclusions based on the discussions carried out during the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023:
- IICA's efforts to establish partnerships and develop joint actions with the private sector represents a paradigm shift for the Institute.
  - It is advisable to seek the support of the private sector to learn about and undertake actions, given the sector's knowledge of other regions of the world.
  - Regional mechanisms, such as Codex Alimentarius, should be taken advantage of and strengthened, given that they afford greater opportunities to drive agrifood system transformation. Relationships with other international organizations should also be strengthened.
  - Intersectoral actions must be strengthened, in order to promote the importance of agriculture within these mechanisms and improve the participation of the ministries of Agriculture in these forums.
  - There is a need to invest in the agriculture sector, both in small-scale farmers and medium and large-scale producers who participate in agrifood system value chains.
  - The National Milk Producers Federation of the United States was at the disposal of IICA, to carry out work in Latin America within the framework of agreements and other mechanisms.

3.7.8 Mr. Francisco González shared the following conclusions, based on the discussions during the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 and the questions posed during the panel:

- It is important to take part in COP28 and access funding to accelerate agrifood systems transformation, as the Delegate of Panama had commented.
- To increase production in our countries, it is necessary to draft policies aimed at mitigating the effects and impacts of crises in recent years as a result of rising prices for inputs and food, food insecurity and logistical issues in trade.
- Generational succession and the reintegration of youth into agriculture must be addressed, but from a business standpoint. To that end, strategies should be implemented together with the private sector in matters related to precision, digital, biotechnology and regenerative agriculture, with a view to curbing the major issues that had been mentioned, such as migration.
- Communication between the agriculture and agroindustrial sectors must be strengthened in order to challenge the perception that agriculture is harmful to the environment or that it does not contribute to environmental sustainability.
- Now more than ever, the private, productive and social sectors must take part in the discussions, adopt joint decisions and engage in collaborative work to strengthen agrifood systems.

3.7.9 The Deputy Director General of the Institute provided an overview of all the actions taken and agreements adopted within the framework of the Conference in relation to biotechnology, the implementation of projects in the regions together with small-scale farmers, work within the framework of regional mechanisms such as CODEX and efforts required to achieve an impact in COP28. He also mentioned the importance of continuing to work on issues such as generational succession, technology and science-based agriculture. He concluded his remarks by underscoring the importance of generating public policies with the support of the private sector that address the ideas raised, such as the integration of communication strategies and the development of science-based policies.



3.8 *Close of the session*

- 3.8.1 The third plenary session of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 17:58 hours on 5 October 2023.



## CLOSING SESSION

### 4.1 Opening

4.1.1 The closing session of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 – Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) began at 17:59 hours on 5 October 2023, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada meeting rooms) of the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), with the Representative of Argentina chairing the meeting, standing in for Fernando Mattos, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Uruguay.

### 4.2 Remarks by the Director General of the Institute

4.2.1 The Director General thanked the Chair of the IABA and the delegate of Argentina for their excellent steering of the meeting, as well as the Rapporteur for his work and all the Member States in attendance.

4.2.2 He expressed his commitment to continue working alongside the entire team to make IICA the twenty-first century's technical cooperation institution of excellence.

4.2.3 He also expressed his gratitude to the countries for supporting the 16 messages summarizing the vision of the Americas that were presented at the United Nations Food Systems Summit and various global forums.

4.2.4 He expressed his satisfaction at the many important issues that had been addressed during the meeting and the approval of resolutions for all of them. He concluded his remarks by describing the meeting as an important milestone for IICA.

### 4.3 Remarks by the Chair of the IABA

4.3.1 The delegate of Argentina congratulated the Chair of the meeting on the excellent conduct of all its sessions and thanked the representatives for their vote of confidence to chair the closing session.

4.3.2 He commented on the great work that the Institute had been carrying out under the leadership of Director General Manuel Otero, as demonstrated by

all the actions that were being carried out within the framework of COP28 and the technical cooperation projects that were underway in all the countries.

4.3.3 He stressed the importance of seeking out the support of the productive, social and private sectors, as this would allow for deepening and broadening the scope of the work carried out by the ministries of Agriculture.

4.3.4 He pointed out that agriculture is part of the solution to current challenges, rather than the problem. He concluded his remarks by stating that policies must be based on science and that multilateral forums should continue to be strengthened, in order to continue providing technical cooperation of excellence.

#### 4.4 *Close of the meeting*

4.4.1 The closing session of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 - Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA was adjourned at 17:01 hours on 5 October 2023.

## **RESOLUTIONS**



## RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/JIA/Res. 545 (XXII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 545****STRENGTHENING THE HEMISPHERIC PARTNERSHIP FOR FOOD SECURITY  
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The information document IICA/JIA/DI-02 (23) “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 with respect to major challenges on the global agenda that agriculture in the hemisphere can play a strategic role in tackling, 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 in New York in 2021, in the form of sixteen messages approved via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 531 (XXI-O/21);

That, addressing the IX Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles in 2022, the Director General of the Institute presented “Proposals on Strengthening Collective Action in the Americas to Tackle Food Insecurity and Ensure Sustainable Development”, which were well received by the Heads of State and Government at that summit;

That, in the same spirit, the message of the ministries and secretariats of Agriculture and Livestock of the Americas, was then presented at the Twenty-seventh United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2021, where IICA installed the “Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas” pavilion;

That the General Directorate of the Institute has hosted a series of technical events involving various stakeholders from the public, private, academic and scientific sectors, addressing strategic issues such as biofuels, digital agriculture, science, technology and innovation, applied bioeconomy, family farming, and trade and integration, among others of great importance for tomorrow's agriculture;

That collective action will allow the countries to work together to devise solutions to common problems, complementing each other's national capacities, strengthening the region's standing, scaling up available resources and coordinating efforts among public, private and civil society entities, and international organizations; and

That, at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 (the Conference), IICA Member States agreed on the need to continue strengthening the hemispheric partnership, with a view to consolidating and systematizing the collective efforts of the governments and civil societies of the countries of the Americas to achieve food security and sustainable development,

RESOLVES:

1. To wholeheartedly endorse the building of a Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development and instruct the Director General of the Institute to expand and intensify any actions needed for its consolidation, in consultation and coordination with the Member States, and including the widest possible cross-section of stakeholders in the agrifood sector.
2. To establish that this collective action be guided by the following strategic principles:
  - a) Agrifood systems can and should be improved. In recent decades, their performance has demonstrated their capacity to rise to the challenges of each era. Therefore, we categorically state that they are not failed systems;
  - b) Agriculture must be considered as part of the solution, given its importance to national economies, its significant contribution to global food security, through trade, and its endogenous capacity to mitigate climate change;
  - c) Science and technology are the great transformational tools of our age and will provide the basis for possible solutions; and

- d) Farmers will be key players in the transformations to be implemented, given that they are the ones most able to contribute to more sustainable and resilient resource management.
3. To instruct IICA to strengthen its technical cooperation services in the specific areas and actions identified at the Conference, and within the framework of its 2022-2026 Medium-term Plan, as set out in the Annex to this resolution.
4. To urge the governments of IICA Member States to pursue and strengthen actions in the areas identified at the Conference, in accordance with their regulatory frameworks, institutional structures and the national public policies currently in force in each of the States.

## ANNEX IICA/IABA/Res. 545 (XXII-O/23)

### 1. The bioeconomy as a strategy that coincides with the 2030 Agenda

- a) Launch of the **Latin American Bioeconomy Network**, as a mechanism for knowledge exchange and the creation of partnerships to promote capacity building, technological innovation, public policies, support services and biobusinesses in the region.
- a) Establishment of the **Pan-American Liquid Biofuels Coalition (CPBIO)**, which seeks to promote sustainable production and consumption of liquid biofuels, coordinate effective communication on this issue and ensure adequate representation of the sector in relevant international forums.
- b) Introduction of a **Hemispheric Platform** to promote and foster the adoption and use of **Bioinputs** in the region, through innovation and knowledge management, South-South cooperation, and the promotion of more efficient regulatory systems with greater convergence among countries.

### 2. Science, technology and innovation, including digital agriculture.

- a) Revision of research priorities, **by identifying new technological public goods** and jointly developing prospective and strategic work and research agendas for national agricultural research institutes (NARIs) and international organizations (such as the CGIAR), as well as global forums.
- b) **Modernization and strengthening of the STI institutional framework**, focusing on operational agility and coordination with the private sector and funding mechanisms, in order to address the magnitude of the challenges.
- c) **The design of effective public policy frameworks** that create an ecosystem that is favorable to the private sector and conducive to the modernization that the agrifood systems of the region requires.
- d) Strengthening of existing collaborative mechanisms (such as PROCISUR and PROCINORTE) and implementation of **new reciprocal cooperation platforms** to access cutting-edge technology, drive technology development in the Amazon region and spur innovation in the smaller countries in the tropical region and the Caribbean.

## 2.1. Digitalization of agrifood systems

- a) Establishment of an **AgTech Network** among key digitalization stakeholders. The Network began to propose actions for countries to promote the development of digital innovation ecosystems.
- b) Creation of a **Digital Agricultural Policy Platform** to survey and analyze policies to promote the development and adoption of digital technologies, as well as to create opportunities for dialogue and collaboration among countries to implement a new generation of public policies for that purpose.
- c) Development and continuous updating of a **Repository of Digital Solutions and Best Practices for Agrifood Digitalization** to facilitate the identification and adoption of options that are more appropriate for the challenges of farmers in the Americas.

## 3. International and regional trade as a means of bolstering sustainable development and food security.

- a) Establishing a **network of agrifood negotiators to the WTO**, spear headed by IICA and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), to strengthen the multilateral trade system in the face of the new agrifood trade challenges, while fostering greater participation by countries in the region in WTO multilateral forums and promoting common regional negotiating positions that facilitate open, transparent and predictable international trade.
- b) Undertaking **joint efforts among countries** to address the introduction of rules, regulations and actions with the **potential to restrict the agrifood trade** of countries in the region, through coordination with strategic partners to generate evidence, strengthen the capacities of relevant stakeholders and create networks and forums for dialogue.
- c) Contributing to increased **intra-regional trade, by making better use of existing trade agreements** and coordinating with mechanisms and other institutions that promote regional integration, such as the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), to make headway in removing non-tariff barriers, increasing regulatory convergence and facilitating trade. The region must also pursue actions that promote linkages between companies and producer organizations, with special emphasis on small and medium-scale enterprises.

4. **Climate action and financing that focuses on agriculture's capacity to overcome challenges.**
  - a) **Facilitating more active and informed participation of the agriculture sector in climate planning and action.** Starting from: i) by supporting and coordinating with climate negotiators focusing on agricultural issues within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and strengthening agriculture's role in achieving the NDCs and the national adaptation plans (NAPs).
  - b) **Promoting actions to increase the agriculture sector's access to different types of climate financing,** including private financing, and options such as voluntary carbon markets, green funds, and guarantees, among others, involving capacity building and the development of institutional frameworks with high integrity, transparency, and inclusivity.
  - c) **Promoting a greater visibility and participation of agri-food sector of the Americas in the COPs of the UNFCCC** by way of the Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas pavilion.
  - d) To promote the **Living Soils of the Americas Program and the Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture** to improve soil health and the integrated management of water.
  
5. **One Health as an agricultural health strategy in agrifood systems**
  - a) Creation of a **Permanent One Health Working Group in Agrifood Systems,** consisting of representatives of countries in the hemisphere and of the relevant agencies to enable continuous and coordinated collaboration in **operationalization of the "One Health" approach in the Region.**
  - b) Promote the **systematization of successful experiences, , best practices and lessons learned** in the operationalization of the "One Health" approach in the Americas, that serve as models and guidelines for the determinants of success and challenges. At the same time, formulate indicators that allow us to know and quantify aspects related to the implementation of the one-health approach in agri-food systems.
  - c) **Focus the work agenda,** joining efforts with other specialized institutions, with special emphasis on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), food safety, zoonotic diseases and the environment.

## 6. Family farming and inclusive rural development.

- a) **Institutionalization of an exchange mechanism**, with representation from key FF stakeholders, aiming to **design and evaluate a new generation of public policies**, as well as the investments and financing needed for their implementation.
- b) Support for the design of **regional initiatives that link the policies and climate actions** of the countries, thereby contributing to the viability of production units in the face of climate-related challenges.
- c) Promotion of FF modernization in the production, management, trading and marketing of its products through a **“Cooperative Skills Center for Digital Transformation”**. This Center will assist associative enterprises and cooperatives to collect strategic information, as well as transmit, systematize and analyze it, as a means of improving the efficiency of services to members.

## 7. Equity and equality.

- a) **Consolidation of the Permanent Forum of Female Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials<sup>7</sup> of Agriculture of the Americas** to promote policies and actions that reduce gender gaps and inequalities and facilitate the inclusion of rural women, on an equal footing. The Secretariat of this permanent forum falls under IICA’s Gender Equality and Youth Hemispheric Program.
- b) **Promotion of rural women’s participation in hemispheric and regional conferences to ensure that their rights are taken into account in international agendas**. Possible examples include the Ibero-American Roundtable of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), within the framework of the Declaration for the Rights of All Women, Adolescents and Girls in Rural Settings of the Americas; the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC and UN Women) and the follow-up to the World Conferences on Women (United Nations), among others.
- c) **Strengthening of rural women’s hemispheric platforms and the hemispheric community of rural youth**, in order to generate concrete opportunities for these two groups in agrifood systems, through experience sharing, training and the creation of regional networks.
- d) **The continued strengthening and promotion of actions involving rural youth in the Americas** to enhance their leadership in agricultural initiatives, such as those undertaken as part of IICA of Open Doors (FabLab and CIMAG),

as well as other actions with strategic partners that affect agrifood systems, such as the Next Gen Ag Impact Network (NGIN), Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), I4Nature and 4H, among others.

Moreover, IICA will need to strengthen its support mechanisms, such as the **Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA)**, the **Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA)**, as well as create a **Hemispheric Fund for Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability in the Americas**, which will seek to facilitate the participation of smaller countries with less economic clout in collective actions.



IICA/JIA/Res. 546 (XLII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 546****HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVE ON “WATER AND AGRICULTURE”**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Information document IICA/JIA/DI-03 (23) “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 has altered 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 “Water to Feed the Land”, adopted at the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2013, held in Argentina, 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 to design and adopt 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;

That the “Living Soils of the Americas” initiative, spearheaded by IICA to improve soil health, is closely linked to the integrated management of water resources;

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; and

That, the Institute hosted the technical launch of the “Water and Agriculture” initiative on 27 September 2023, which featured the participation of the main water and agricultural authorities of the member countries, as well as strategic partners of the initiative, among them the University of Nebraska, the World Bank, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF),

RESOLVES:

1. To recognize the strategic importance of strengthening participation of the ministries of Agriculture in designing and implementing cross-cutting public policies for the integrated management of water resources.
2. To endorse the “Water and Agriculture” initiative proposed by IICA and to request that its Director General take the necessary actions to ensure its implementation, in collaboration with the Institute’s member countries, international organizations, donor agencies and other strategic partners.
3. To urge the governments of IICA Member States to strengthen actions that will facilitate increased production and storage of water, improve the efficiency of its use, strengthen governance for water management in agriculture and foster public-private investment for that purpose.
4. To support the appeals by ministers of Agriculture at various forums, requesting the full implementation of mechanisms that will enable countries to access the funding committed by the developed countries for climate change mitigation and adaptation, for which water management in agriculture will be a key factor.

IICA/JIA/Res. 547 (XXII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 547****PARTICIPATION OF IICA IN THE TWENTY-EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (COP28)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

**CONSIDERING:**

That, in the “Our Sustainable Green Future” declaration adopted at the IX Summit of the Americas, held in Los Angeles, United States, in 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 Conference of the Parties (COP27)”, and that this meeting was organized by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in September 2022;

That, pursuant to Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 687 (XLII-O/22) of the Executive Committee, the Director General of the Institute delivered a presentation at the Twenty-seventh Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP27), held in Egypt in November 2022, outlining the messages approved by the Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change and Agriculture, and arranged for the installation of the “Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas” pavilion at the conference, with financial contributions from governments and the private sector;

That, at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023, IICA Member States agreed that agrifood systems are part of the solution to climate change and that it is therefore necessary to ensure that the contributions of these systems to overcoming this global challenge be taken into account at all forums and negotiations held by the international community on this matter;

That driving climate action and funding in agriculture, given the sector's capacity to respond positively to such challenges, is a priority strategy of the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development; 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 Twenty-eighth Conference of the Parties (COP28), to be held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 30 November to 12 December 2023,

RESOLVES:

1. To continue to promote and implement effective climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in our countries, in keeping with the regulatory frameworks, institutional structures and public policies they currently have in place.
2. To support collective action and the adoption of joint positions among countries of the Americas regarding climate change, particularly in the agriculture sector, and the development of more resilient and sustainable agrifood systems, to guarantee food security and sustainable development through North-South, South-South and other cooperation modalities.
3. To promote actions to increase the agriculture sector's access to all types of climate financing, including private financing, as well as options such as voluntary carbon markets, green funds and guarantees, among others, which should involve capacity building and the development of institutional frameworks that demonstrate the highest level of integrity, transparency and inclusiveness.
4. To request that the Director General of IICA, in coordination with the Member States of the Institute, continue to foster national, regional and global analysis and action in matters related to the positive relationship between agriculture and climate change.
5. To entrust the Director General with supporting the participation of the ministries and secretariats of Agriculture of countries of the Americas, as well as of IICA, at COP28, and with installing a pavilion at the conference venue.

IICA/JIA/Res. 548 (XXII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 548**

**REPORT ON “THE OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL  
DEVELOPMENT IN THE AMERICAS: A PERSPECTIVE ON LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN”**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report, “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean”,

CONSIDERING:

That, in Ministerial Declaration Bávaro 2001, the countries of the Americas pledged to target the problem of rural poverty and to make significant strides in reducing it;

That Article 3.a of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA establishes that this highest-level governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to take note of the report of the Director General of the Institute on the status of the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas; and

That the General Directorate has presented to the Member States of the Institute the report entitled “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean”, which was prepared jointly by IICA, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and which highlights the key role of agrifood systems in the rural and agricultural transformation of Latin America and the Caribbean,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report, “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean”, a document that will prove extremely useful for the governments of the region as input for analysis and policy formulation.
2. To thank the Executive Secretary of ECLAC, the Deputy Director General of FAO, the Regional Representative of FAO for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Director General of IICA for their presentation and to urge the three organizations to continue to jointly prepare this report, allocating the necessary human, financial and other resources to successfully carry out this task.
3. To request that the member countries of the Institute supply the official information required to continue advancing towards the development of a competitive, sustainable and inclusive agriculture sector.

IICA/JIA/Res. 549 (XXII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 549****“CARLOS AQUINO GONZÁLEZ” CENTER FOR APPLIED KNOWLEDGE  
MANAGEMENT AND INNOVATION IN AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS, IN THE  
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

**CONSIDERING:**

That the XXVIII Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in March 2023, adopted the **Critical Path to Achieve Inclusive and Sustainable Food Security in Ibero-America**, which includes a series of urgent actions to be carried out bearing in mind each country’s unique characteristics and priorities;

That one of those actions involves “strengthening the rural digital infrastructure for innovation and knowledge management”, which will require “increasing public-private investment in digital infrastructure and access to broadband in rural areas, thereby expanding access to digital platforms for innovation in agricultural systems, trade access and knowledge management in the rural areas of Ibero-American countries, especially developing countries”;

That, as a result, the Summit decided to “support the creation and entry into operation of the CARLOS AQUINO GONZÁLEZ Center for Applied Knowledge Management and Innovation in Agrifood Systems, launched by the Dominican Republic with the support of IICA (...)”;

That, at the IABA meeting, the Delegation of the Dominican Republic made the Center available to the Member States of the Institute and announced that it would house the IICA Delegation in that country;

That this initiative is aligned with the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development,

RESOLVES:

1. To endorse and support the initiative of the Government of the Dominican Republic to create the CARLOS AQUINO GONZÁLEZ Center for Applied Knowledge Management and Innovation in Agrifood Systems.
2. To thank the Government of the Dominican Republic for providing the Institute's Delegation in that country with its own facilities.
3. To instruct the Director General of IICA to undertake, together with the Government of the Dominican Republic, the actions required to strengthen and achieve optimal use of the Center, for the benefit of agriculture in that country and all other Member States of the Institute.



IICA/JIA/Res. 550 (XXII-O/23)  
5 October 2023  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 550**

**COORDINATION OF HEMISPHERIC STRATEGIES FOR  
AGRICULTURAL HEALTH**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

BEARING IN MIND:

The importance of the agriculture sector for the economies, societies and food security of the countries of the Americas,

HAVING SEEN:

Document DI-02, “Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development in the Americas”, specifically subsection no. 5, entitled “One Health as an agricultural health strategy in agrifood systems”,

CONSIDERING:

That pests and diseases pose a permanent threat that affects or stands to affect the countries of the Americas;

That one of the major challenges we face is the need to improve agrifood systems, and that agricultural health plays a key role in guaranteeing “safe and healthy food” for everyone and particularly in strengthening food and nutrition security, by ensuring the ideal balance, quantity and quality of food of both animal and plant origin;

That it is of paramount importance that a hemispheric meeting be convened to allow the countries to analyze new challenges and opportunities and to propose solutions in relation to agricultural health;

That on 12 and 13 September 2023, as part of the activities of the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) hosted an event entitled “One Health

in the Americas: The Importance of Interinstitutional Collaboration in the Hemisphere and its Rural Communities”, during which renowned experts and leaders from various fields explored critical issues related to human, environmental, animal and plant health, and defined collective actions to strengthen close cooperation among institutions and rural communities throughout the hemisphere; and

That on 4 October 2023, during the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, the Member States of the Institute analyzed the issue of agricultural health in agrifood systems and Paraguay subsequently proposed that a hemispheric event be convened on the issue of the implications of agricultural health in the Americas, a proposal that was seconded by Honduras and Costa Rica,

**RESOLVES:**

To request that the IICA Director General coordinate, together with its Member States and regional agencies specializing in animal and plant health, hemispheric meetings to assess and determine the current status of animal and plant health in the hemisphere, and based on that assessment, and as a follow-up to the collective actions defined for that thematic area of the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development, generate joint cooperation strategies, learn about successful public-private experiences and promote an integrated approach, laying the foundation for effective and coordinated collaboration at the hemispheric level.

IICA/JIA/Res. 551 (XXII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 551**

**RECOGNITION OF LEADERS OF RURALITY OF THE AMERICAS**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That guaranteeing the food security of all people and fostering the sustainable development of agriculture can only be achieved with the involvement of all the countries of the Americas;

That the work of the women and men who produce food every day and make an immense contribution to rural retention and the well-being of their communities in rural areas will be instrumental in ensuring that these objectives are achieved; and

That, in 2021, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), on the initiative of its Director General, introduced the “Soul of Rurality” award to recognize those individuals who are leaving their mark and making a difference in the rural Americas – an award that to date has been conferred on 25 women and 13 men from 20 countries in the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank IICA and its Director General for the initiative to recognize the contributions of these male and female leaders of rurality and to recommend that this initiative be continued and expanded.
2. To join the Institute in recognizing and thanking those who through their leadership are the guarantors of the food and nutrition security of our people and the custodians of the environmental sustainability and biodiversity of the planet.

3. To recommend that the Institute create and expand opportunities to meet and interact with leaders of rurality, to consider their proposals and suggestions for the development of public policies.
4. To urge the Member States of the Institute to identify and recommend to the General Directorate those individuals who are deserving of the “Soul of Rurality” award, especially women, youth and people with disabilities.

IICA/JIA/Res. 552 (XXII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 552**

**2024-2025 PROGRAM BUDGET**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 419 (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 IABA is “to approve the biennial Program-budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States”,
- ii. 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”, and
- iii. 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”;

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 March 2023; and

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2024-2025 Program Budget for consideration by 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 that, by way of resolution IICA/CE/Res. 703 (XLIII-O/23), the Committee recommended that the IABA approve it,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the overall allocation of USD 33,074,100 per year from the Institute's Regular Fund for the 2024-2025 Program Budget, financed by: (i) USD 29,574,100 in annual quota contributions from the Member States, as indicated in the scale attached hereto as Annex A, which includes the assessed quotas computed in accordance with the percentages established in the quota scale approved by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) for that year, together with over-quota contributions, and (ii) USD 3,500,000 per year in estimated miscellaneous income.
2. To approve the use of resources for the 2024-2025 Program Budget, in the amount of USD 33,074,100, in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, headings and programs specified in Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 419 (23), "2024-2025 Program Budget", of which a summary by chapter is attached to this resolution as Annex B.
3. To authorize the Director General to effect transfers among chapters of the Program Budget, provided that the total transfers do not significantly affect the priorities approved.
4. To authorize 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 estimated levels, and to inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.
5. To instruct 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 <sup>1</sup>	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS	OAS <sup>1</sup>	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS
		%	USD <sup>2</sup>	USD <sup>2</sup>		USD <sup>2</sup>	%	USD <sup>2</sup>
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
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>99.314</b>	<b>29,187,600</b>	<b>386,500</b>	<b>29,574,100</b>	<b>99.841</b>	<b>29,187,600</b>	<b>386,500</b>	<b>29,574,100</b>
Cuba	0.686	201,600	0	201,600	0.548	161,100	0	161,100
<b>TOTAL QUOTAS</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>29,389,200</b>	<b>386,500</b>	<b>29,775,700</b>	<b>100.39</b>	<b>29,348,700</b>	<b>386,500</b>	<b>29,735,200</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME<sup>2</sup></b>		<b>3,500,000</b>		<b>3,500,000</b>		<b>3,500,000</b>		<b>3,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL REGULAR FUND<sup>3</sup></b>		<b>32,687,600</b>		<b>33,074,100</b>		<b>32,687,600</b>		<b>33,074,100</b>

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 (24/32/23), 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%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,074,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>33,074,100</b>	<b>100.0%</b>



IICA/JIA/Res. 553 (XXII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 553**

**REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 420 (23), “Report on the Collection of Quotas”,

CONSIDERING:

That financing of the operation of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and its technical cooperation projects can only be achieved if Member States remain current with the payment of their annual quota contributions;

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

That, thanks to the support of the ministers of Agriculture and other authorities in the Member States, the measures adopted and the efforts of the General Directorate of IICA, the collection of quotas has contributed to the satisfactory implementation of the technical cooperation services established in the 2022-2023 Program Budget of the Institute; and

That the payment of quotas by the Member States 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 of IICA’s Member States, for the efforts

they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion.

2. To maintain in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage the Member States to make their annual quota payments to IICA in a timely fashion and to pay arrears for previous years.
3. To instruct the Director General of the Institute to continue efforts to collect the quotas of the Member States, both for the current year and previous years, and to keep the Member States informed of progress in this area.
4. To strengthen the commitment of the Member States to remain current with the payment of their annual quotas, and to reach an agreement with IICA, as necessary, for the payment of quotas owed for previous years.
5. To advise the Director General to prepare a study on increasing Member State quotas to offset inflationary losses during the period 2016-2023.

IICA/JIA/Res. 554 (XXII-O/23)  
5 October 2023  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 554**

**2021 AND 2022 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE  
EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND TWENTY-EIGHTH AND TWENTY-NINTH  
REPORTS OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/JIA/Doc. 421 (23), “Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) for 2021 and 2022 and Reports of the External Auditors”, and IICA/JIA/Doc. 422 (23), “Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Executive Committee, pursuant to articles 3.c and 4.d of its Rules of Procedure, examined, at its Forty-second and Forty-third Regular Meetings, the financial statements of the Institute and the reports of the external auditors for 2021 and 2022, and by means of resolutions IICA/CE/Res. 689 (XLII-O/22) and IICA/CE/Res. 702 (XLIII-O/23), recommended that the documents in question be submitted for the consideration of the IABA;

That, in its Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Reports, the ARC stated that it had examined the reports of the external auditors and found that the General Directorate of the Institute had properly administered IICA’s financial resources, in accordance with the rules of the Institute and with generally accepted auditing standards; and

That the Executive Committee, at its Forty-second and Forty-third Regular Meetings, resolved to approve said reports by means of resolutions IICA/CE/Res. 689 (XLII-O/22) and IICA/CE/Res. 702 (XLIII-O/23),

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the 2021 and 2022 financial statements of the Institute, as well as the reports of the external auditors.
2. To accept the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Reports of the ARC.
3. To express to the members of the ARC the satisfaction and appreciation of the IICA Member States for the work accomplished.

IICA/JIA/Res. 555 (XXII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 555**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 423, “Amendments to the Regulations of the General Directorate”,

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 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;

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”; and

That, at its Forty-third Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 709 (XLIII-O/23), through which it resolved to support the study; to request that, in consultation with the SACMI, the Director General present the proposed modifications for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next regular meeting; and to recommend that the IABA support and authorize the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, to adopt the modifications to regulations that are within its competence and put into effect the necessary modifications to the RPGD, subject to the approval of the IABA at its 2025 Regular Meeting,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the study launched by the Director General to review the Institute’s regulations.
2. To 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/JIA/Res. 556 (XXII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 556**

**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND THE FORTY-SECOND AND FORTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/JIA/Doc. 424 (23), “Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”, and IICA/JIA/Doc. 425 (23), “Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-second and Forty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee”,

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 Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA, and has carried out satisfactorily the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Forty-second and Forty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

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

IICA/JIA/Res. 557 (XXII-O/23)

5 October 2023

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 557**

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE TWENTY-THIRD REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 426 (23), “Date and Venue of the Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”,

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, regular meetings of this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) are to be held every two years, preferably in the second half of the second year of the biennium, and that, at each regular meeting of the IABA, a tentative date and place for the next meeting is to be determined, in accordance with written offers addressed by the governments of the Member States to the Director General of IICA;

That, pursuant to Article 9 of the Convention on IICA and Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Board is to choose from among the offers of the Member States to host regular meetings of the IABA, in accordance with the principles of rotation and geographic distribution;

That the governments of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the United Mexican States, by written communication, offered their countries as the venue of the Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the IABA;

That the majority of the delegations expressed a preference for the Brazilian offer, given that it would provide a unique opportunity to bolster the participation of the ministries of Agriculture at the Thirtieth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP30), to be organized by the Brazilian Government in 2025; and



That, as an expression of solidarity, and in order to maintain unity between countries of the Americas, the Mexican delegation withdrew its offer,

RESOLVES:

1. To express deep appreciation to the governments of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the United Mexican States for their offers to host the Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the IABA, which demonstrates their exceptional interest in the affairs of the Institute.
2. To accept the offer made by the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil to hold the next regular meeting of the IABA in that country.



## **SIGNING OF THE REPORT**



**SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN  
BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

Pursuant to Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), the Report of the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the IABA is hereby signed at 16:00 hours on the fifth day of October of the year two thousand and twenty-three, in San Jose, Costa Rica.

This report will be edited by the Technical Secretariat of the meeting. It will then be 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 and send copies of the official version of this report to the governments of the Member States, the Associate Countries, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting, and will make a digital version of the document available via the IICA website.

San Jose, Costa Rica.



Manuel Otero  
Director General of IICA  
*Ex-officio* Secretary of the  
Inter-American Board of Agriculture  
(IABA)



Fernando Mattos  
Minister of Livestock, Agriculture  
and Fisheries of Uruguay and  
Chair of the Inter-American Board of  
Agriculture for 2023



## **ANNEXES**





**ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA**  
IICA/JIA/Doc. 417 (23)

- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>1. Provisional schedule of the meeting</b>   | IICA/JIA/Doc. 418 (23)        |
| <b>2. Report to the Member States</b>   |                               |
| 2.1. Message from the Director General  | No document                   |
| <b>3. Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas: “Strengthening the Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development”</b> | No document                   |
| <b>4. Strategic partnerships</b>  |                               |
| 4.1. The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean                                    | Unnumbered                    |
| 4.2. Report on strategic partnerships   | Information document<br>No. 1 |
| <b>5. Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation</b>  |                               |
| 5.1. 2024-2025 Program Budget   | IICA/JIA/Doc. 419 (23)        |
| 5.2. Report on the collection of quotas   | IICA/JIA/Doc. 420 (23)        |
| 5.3. Financial Statements of IICA for 2021 and 2022 and reports of the external auditors  | IICA/JIA/Doc. 421 (23)        |
| 5.4. Twenty- eighth and Twenty-ninth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)  | IICA/JIA/Doc. 422 (23)        |
| 5.5. Amendments to the Regulations of the General Directorate of IICA   | IICA/JIA/Doc. 423 (23)        |

**6. Matters pertaining to the governing bodies of IICA**

- |   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| 6.1. Report of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE for the period 2022-2023 | No document            |
| 6.2. Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the IABA  | IICA/JIA/Doc. 424 (23) |
| 6.3. Status of the Resolutions of the Forty-second and Forty-third Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee                  | IICA/JIA/Doc. 425 (23) |
| 6.4. Date and Venue of the Twenty-third Regular Meeting of the IABA   | IICA/JIA/Doc. 426 (23) |

**7. Other matters**

## ANNEX 2: MEETING PROGRAM

Date and time	Activity
<b>Tuesday, 3 October</b>	
<i>IICA Main Lobby Auditoriums</i>	
07:45	Participants transported to IICA
17:00-18:40	<p>Opening ceremony</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National anthem of the Republic of Costa Rica</li> <li>• National anthem of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana</li> <li>• National anthem of the Republic of Panama</li> <li>• Remarks by Honorable Mr. Manuel Otero, Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)</li> <li>• Message by Mr. Alfredo Carrasco, rural leader from Chile</li> <li>• Remarks by the Chair of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) - Brazil: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- His Excellency Mr. Carlos Fávoro, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock (video)</li> <li>- His Excellency Mr. Paulo Teixeira, Minister of Agricultural Development and Family Farming</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Remarks by His Excellency Amb. James Lambert, Secretary for Hemispheric Affairs of the General of the Organization of American States (OAS)</li> <li>▪ Video message from Her Excellency Mrs. Marian Bint Mohammed Saeed Hareb Almheiri, Minister of Environment of the United Arab Emirates (host country of COP28) (video)</li> <li>▪ Remarks from His Excellency Mr. Terry Branstad, CEO of the World Food Prize Foundation</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Remarks by His Excellency Mr. Alejandro Solano, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Costa Rica</li> </ul> <p>Presentation of an award of recognition to His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Remarks by His Excellency Mr. Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana</li> </ul> <p>Presentation of an award of recognition to His Excellency Mr. Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, President of the Republic of Panama</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Remarks by His Excellency Mr. Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, President of the Republic of Panama</li> </ul> <p>Remarks by His Excellency Mr. Victor Carvajal Porras, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, who will announce the official opening of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 and the Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)</p>
18:25-18:35	Formalization the General Technical Cooperation Agreement between the World Food Prize Foundation and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
18:35-18:55	Cultural presentation
18:55	Official photograph
19:10	Cocktail reception

Date and time	Activity
<b>Wednesday, 4 October</b>	
<i>United States and Canada Meeting Rooms</i>	
07:00	Participants transported to IICA
07:40	Registration continues
<i>Preparatory Session</i>	
08:00-08:30	Election of meeting officials  Approval of meeting schedule
<b>Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 “Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development”</b>	
08:30-09:00	Remarks by the Director General of IICA
09:00-09:30	Comments by the Member States
09:30-11:00	<p>Forum 1: “Bridging gaps in innovation, science and technology, with special emphasis on digital agriculture and the bioeconomy”</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Michael Kremer, recipient of the Nobel Prize in Economics</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Central Region (Panama)</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Southern Region (Argentina)</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Northern Region (Canada)</li> </ul> <p>Comments by the Member States</p> <p>Signing of a memorandum of understanding between IICA and the University of Chicago</p>
11:00-11:30	Break

11:30-13:00	<p>Forum 2: “Scaling up climate funding: opportunities for agriculture”</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mr. Rattan Lal, recipient of the World Food Prize</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Andean Region (Ecuador)</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Central Region (El Salvador)</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Caribbean Region (Barbados)</li> </ul> <p>Comments by the Member States</p>
<b><i>Auditoriums</i></b>	
13:00-14:30	Working luncheon “Trade and integration”
<b><i>United States and Canada Meeting Rooms</i></b>	
14:30-16:00	<p>Forum 3: “Including family farming, women and youth in the development of agrifood systems”</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mrs. Graciela Fernández Quintas, President of the International Cooperative Alliance for the Americas</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Southern Region (Brazil)</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Andean Region (Colombia)</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Northern Region (Mexico)</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Southern Region (Chile)</li> </ul> <p>Comments by the Member States</p>
16:00-17:30	<p>Forum 4: “Agricultural health in agrifood systems”</p> <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mrs. Carol Thomas, Agricultural Health and Food Safety Consultant</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Northern Region (United States of America)</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Southern Region (Paraguay)</li> <li>▪ Minister of the Caribbean Region (Dominican Republic)</li> </ul>

	Comments by the Member States
17:30-17:50	Break
17:50-18:10	Presentation of a gift to IICA on behalf of the Government of Ecuador
18:10-18:30	Informational video on COP28
18:30-19:30	<p>Side-event: “Roundtable on funding for food security and sustainable development”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras</b></li> <li>▪ <b>International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)</b> Mr. Álvaro Lario, President</li> <li>▪ <b>Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF)</b> Mrs. Alicia Montalvo Santamaria, Climate Action and Positive Biodiversity Manager, Corporate Vice Presidency of Strategic Programming</li> <li>▪ <b>Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</b> Mr. Juan Pablo Bonilla, Manager of the Climate Change and Sustainable Development Sector</li> <li>▪ <b>World Bank</b> Sr. Mr. David Treguer, Program Leader, Sustainable Development, Central America and the Dominican Republic</li> </ul> <p>Comments by the Member States</p>

<b>Date and time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
<b>Thursday, 5 October</b>	
<i>United States and Canada Meeting Rooms</i>	
08:00	Participants transported to IICA
<b>Twenty-second Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)</b>	
<i>United States and Canada Meeting Rooms</i>	
09:00-09:10	Welcoming remarks by the Director General
09:10-09:40	Agreements of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023
09:40-10:40	<p>Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Financial Statements of IICA for 2021 and 2022 and Reports of the External Auditors</li> <li>▪ Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)</li> <li>▪ Video</li> <li>▪ 2024-2025 Program Budget</li> <li>▪ Report on the Collection of Quotas</li> <li>▪ Amendments to the regulations of the General Directorate of IICA</li> </ul> <p>Comments by the Member States</p>
10:40-11:10	Break
11:30-12:00	Reading and approval of draft resolutions
<i>Auditoriums</i>	
12:00-14:00	Working luncheon “Water and Agriculture Initiative”



<i>United States and Canada Meeting Rooms</i>	
14:00-14:50	<p>The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p><b>Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)</b> Mr. José Manuel Salazar-Xirinachs, Executive Secretary</p> <p><b>Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)</b> Mr. Mario Lubetkin, Assistant Director-General of FAO and Regional Representative of FAO for Latin America and the Caribbean</p> <p><b>IICA</b> Mr. Manuel Otero, Director General</p> <p>Comments by the Member States</p>
14:50-15:40	<p>“Leaders of Rurality in the Americas”</p> <p><b>Chile</b> Mr. Alfredo Carrasco</p> <p><b>Honduras</b> Mrs. Eodora Méndez</p> <p><b>Guyana</b> Mrs. Rosamund Benn</p>
15:40-16:20	<p>“The importance of public-private coordination to transform agrifood systems”</p> <p><b>Maris Llorens Foundation</b> Mrs. Maris Llorens, Director</p> <p><b>Bayer Crop Science</b> Mr. Alejandro Girardi, Head of Agricultural Affairs Sustainability for Latin America</p> <p><b>National Milk Producers Federation / United States Dairy Export Council</b> Mr. Jaime Castañeda, Executive Vice President for Policy and Strategy</p> <p><b>Federation of Agricultural Chambers of Central America and the Dominican Republic (FECAGRO)</b> Mr. Francisco González, President</p>
16:20	Close of meeting

16:30	Optional tour of the "IICA of Open Doors" (CIMAG, FabLab, Plaza of Agriculture of the Americas, Forest of the Americas, Typical Rural House)
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### ANNEX 3: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

#### MEMBER STATES

##### **Argentina**

Luis Eugenio Bellando (*regular*)  
Embajador  
Embajada de la República Argentina en  
Costa Rica

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

##### **Barbados**

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

Keeley Holder (*alternate*)  
Director of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture and Food  
Security

##### **Belize**

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

##### **Bolivia**

Jaime Quiroga Carvajal (*regular*)  
Encargado de Negocios a.i.  
Embajada de Bolivia en Costa Rica

##### **Brazil**

Paulo Teixeira (*regular*)  
Ministro  
Ministério do Desenvolvimento Agrário e  
Agricultura Familiar

Roberto Serroni Perosa (*alternate*)  
Secretário de Comércio e Relações  
Internacionais  
Ministério da Agricultura e Pecuária

Moisés Savian (*alternate*)  
Secretario de Gobernanza de la Tierra,  
Desarrollo Territorial y Socioambiental  
Ministerio do Desenvolvimento Agrário e  
Agricultura Familiar

Isabelle Alline Lopes Picelli (*alternate*)  
Coordinadora de Apoyo a la Gestión  
Ministerio do Desenvolvimento Agrário e  
Agricultura Familiar

##### **Canada**

Tom Rosser (*regular*)  
Assistant Deputy Minister  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

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

## **Chile**

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

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

Andrea García (*alternate*)  
Directora Nacional de ODEPA  
Ministerio de Agricultura

## **Colombia**

Martha V. Carvajalino Villegas (*regular*)  
Viceministra de Desarrollo Rural  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Desarrollo Rural

## **Costa Rica**

Alejandro Solano (*regular*)  
Viceministro de Asuntos Multilaterales  
Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores y Culto

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

Fernando Vargas Pérez (*alternate*)  
Viceministro de Agricultura y Ganadería  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

Karla Mena Soto (*alternate*)  
Directora Nacional de Extensión Agropecuaria  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

## **Dominica**

Ricky Brumant (*regular*)  
Director of Agriculture  
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy

## **Ecuador**

Paul Nuñez (*regular*)  
Viceministro de Desarrollo Productivo Agropecuario  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

José Cansing (*alternate*)  
Subsecretario de Fortalecimiento de Musáceas  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

Bolívar Vicente Torres (*alternate*)  
Embajador Extraordinario y Plenipotenciario  
Embajada de la República del Ecuador en Costa Rica

Ana Victoria Rosero H. (*alternate*)  
Primera Secretaria  
Embajada del Ecuador en Costa Rica

## **El Salvador**

Oscar E. Guardado Calderón (*regular*)  
Ministro  
Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería

**Grenada**

Allison Haynes (*regular*)  
Senior Agronomist  
Ministry of Agriculture and Lands,  
Forestry, Marine Resources and  
Cooperatives  
Manager AGRICOM Project  
Ministry for Agriculture, Lands and  
Forestry

**Guatemala**

César Vinicio Arreaga (*regular*)  
Viceministro de Seguridad Alimentaria y  
Nutricional  
Ministro de Seguridad Alimentaria y  
Nutricional

Sandra Noriega de Kugler (*alternate*)  
Embajadora  
Embajada de Guatemala en Costa Rica

Luis Ernesto Molina C. (*alternate*)  
Primer Secretario y Cónsul  
Embajada de Guatemala en Costa Rica

**Guyana**

Irfaan Ali (*regular*)  
President of the Co-operative Republic of  
Guyana and Commander-in-Chief of the  
Armed Forces

Zulfikar Mustapha (*alternate*)  
Minister  
Ministry of Agriculture

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

**Haiti**

Charlot Bredy (*regular*)  
Ministre de l'Agriculture, des  
Ressources naturelles et du  
développement rural  
Ministère de l'Agriculture, des  
Ressources naturelles et du  
Développement rural

Harmel Cazeau (*alternate*)  
Coordonnateur de la Coordination  
Nationale de la Sécurité  
Alimentaire (CNSA)  
Ministère de l'Agriculture, des  
Ressources Naturelles et du  
Développement Rural

**Honduras**

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

Cintya Suazo (*alternate*)  
Asistente Ministerial  
Secretaria de Estado en los Despachos de  
Agricultura y Ganadería

**Jamaica**

Courtney Cole (*regular*)  
Chief Technical Director

Special Projects  
Ministry of Industry, Commerce,  
Agriculture and Fisheries

Augusto Valderrama (*regular*)  
Ministro  
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario

## **Mexico**

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

Carlos Salcedo Zaldívar (*alternate*)  
Ministro Consejero para Asuntos  
Agropecuarios  
Gobierno Nacional de la  
República de Panamá

Santiago J. Argüello Campos (*alternate*)  
Coordinador General de Agricultura  
Secretaría de Agricultura y Desarrollo  
Rural (SADER)

Carlos Rognoni (*alternate*)  
Director del Instituto de Mercadeo  
Agropecuario (IMA)  
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario

Víctor Manuel Sánchez Colín (*alternate*)  
Encargado de Negocios a.i  
Embajada de México en Costa Rica

José Bernardo González (*alternate*)  
Director de Desarrollo Rural  
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario

Aida Margarita Flores Díaz (*alternate*)  
Consejera, Encargada de Asuntos  
Políticos, Jurídicos, Prensa y Medios  
Embajada de México en Costa Rica

Milagros González (*alternate*)  
Asistente Despacho Ministro  
Ministerio de Desarrollo Agropecuario

## **Nicaragua**

Valdrack Jaentschke Whitaker (*regular*)  
Ministro Consejero con Funciones  
Consulares  
Embajada de Nicaragua en Costa Rica

Luis Carlos Cabezas (*alternate*)  
Embajador  
Embajada de Panamá en Costa Rica

Eric Ureta (*alternate*)  
Primer Secretario  
Embajada de Panamá en Costa Rica

## **Panama**

Laurentino Cortizo  
Presidente de la República de Panamá

## **Paraguay**

Carlos A. Giménez D. (*regular*)  
Ministro  
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