

RESOLUTION No. 409

JOINT ACTIONS IN THE FIELD OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/288 (05) “Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program: Frame of reference for its formulation and implementation,”

CONSIDERING:

That by IICA/JIA/Res.386(XII-O/03), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (“IABA”) entrusted IICA, in consultation with the Member States, with discussing the importance of agricultural biotechnology and biosafety and their impact on trade and development;

That the same Resolution charged IICA with developing a plan to promote biotechnology and biosafety in the hemisphere, and encouraged horizontal cooperation among the IICA Member States in these areas, urging them to contribute additional resources for furthering IICA’s work in this field;

That IICA convened the task force on biotechnology, which agreed on the need to focus actions on gathering and disseminating information related to the costs and benefits of agricultural biotechnologies; assessing and studying regional needs in the field; and formulating policies for agricultural biotechnology, which will be the basic priorities for the development of a hemispheric biotechnology and biosafety program;

That by Resolution IICA/CE/Res.428(XXV-O/05), the Executive Committee studied and endorsed the proposal prepared by the General Directorate of IICA calling for increased horizontal cooperation and other activities aimed at developing biotechnology and biosafety in the Americas;

That IICA has circulated the draft document IICA/JIA/288 (05) “Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program: Frame of reference for its formulation and implementation,” into which the observations and comments of the member countries will be incorporated,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the continuation of the efforts of the General Directorate aimed at reviewing and finalizing, with the representatives appointed by the Ministries of Agriculture of the Members States, as soon as possible, the proposed Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program, for which the General Directorate will continue to provide the necessary financial support.
2. To instruct the Director General to present the final proposal on the aforementioned Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program, and the corresponding proposed budget, to the next meetings of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues and the Executive Committee, for consideration and final approval by the member countries.
3. To urge the Member States to make voluntary, non-quota, contributions for the implementation of the proposal, and to support IICA in its efforts to secure financial

resources for this hemispheric activity from regional and international technical and financial cooperation agencies.