

RESOLUTION No. 410

PROPOSED HEMISPHERIC PROGRAM ON AGRO-ENERGY

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 289(05) "Proposed Hemispheric Program on Agro-energy,"

CONSIDERING:

That at the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on August 30 and 31, 2005, the Ministers of Agriculture recognized the importance of agro-energy and bio-fuels, and their impact on agricultural development in and the economies of the countries of the Americas;

That the current crisis, attributable to the high price of oil and oil by-products, makes it necessary for countries to look for alternatives to offset rising fuel prices;

That the production of bio-fuels is gaining in popularity among nations interested in reducing the emission of toxic gases, reducing imports of oil and supporting the development of agriculture;

That the production of bio-fuels is a technologically proven alternative that would enable many countries in the Americas to promote the modernization of agriculture, offering producers, through the use of agro-energy, new options with a guaranteed market;

That Brazil, the world's largest producer of fuel based on alcohol derived from sugar cane, at the Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, offered to cooperate with other countries in the region interested in developing their agro-energy sector; and that the Ministers of Agriculture of IICA's member countries present at the meeting expressed interest in learning from the Brazilian experience;

That the Executive Committee, in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.429 (XXV-O/05), entrusted the General Directorate of IICA with presenting to the IABA a draft resolution on horizontal cooperation in the area of agro-energy and bio-fuels,

RESOLVES

1. To ask IICA to serve as a platform for hemispheric cooperation, with a view to drawing on the successful experiences in the area of agro-energy of countries in the region that produce alcohol from sugar cane, and other bio-fuels.
2. To instruct the Director General of IICA, in consultation with the Member States:
 - a. to convene meetings to discuss the importance of agro-energy and bio-fuels and their potentially favorable impact on agricultural development in and the economies of the Member States; and
 - b. to set up a task force comprising experts from the Member States appointed by the Ministers of Agriculture, IICA personnel and strategic partners, and task them with

drawing up a hemispheric program on bio-energy and bio-fuels, to be presented to the Executive Committee at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting.

3. To instruct the Director General to submit a proposal to the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting, on the resources required to support activities to be carried out under the aforementioned Program