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**RESOLUTION No. 404**

**PARTICIPATION IN THE FORUM OF THE AMERICAS ON AGRICULTURAL  
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT (FORAGRO)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The report containing the conclusions of the Third International Meeting of the Forum of the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO), held April 23-26, 2002, in the city of Brasilia, Brazil, whose theme was "Agriculture and Technological Development: Towards the Integration of the Americas,"

CONSIDERING:

That FORAGRO is a hemispheric mechanism that facilitates dialogue, coordination and alliances among the public and private sectors, universities and NGOs, producers and international agricultural research agencies, whose aim is to promote technological innovation in agriculture, foster and develop a regional research agenda, and that supports efforts to implement the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and the recommendations of the ministerial meetings on agriculture and rural life as concerns technology;

That, at the FORAGRO meeting in Brasilia in 2002, the technology institutions of the countries underscored the importance of consolidating FORAGRO as the appropriate hemispheric mechanism for facilitating dialogue among the different actors committed to technological change and as a relevant factor for promoting technological integration in the Americas;

That FORAGRO has been performing the important task of promoting the development of a common vision of agriculture and the rural milieu, and a regional research and technological development agenda built around common priority issues, for joint action among national technology innovation systems. This is essential for modernizing agriculture and for improving its competitiveness in the present scenario of globalization and the creation of free trade areas in the Americas;

That it is essential to strengthen these national systems and FORAGRO's regional system, to ensure the success of the efforts that the countries and IICA have been channeling for increasing competitiveness, diversifying agriculture, promoting food security and the use of environmentally friendly technological systems, and conserving natural resources,

**RESOLVES:**

To take note of the report containing the conclusions of the Third International Meeting of FORAGRO and urge the Member States and IICA to increase their participation in this Forum.