



Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)

**Sixteenth Regular Meeting
Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)**

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**Proposed Amendments to Article 22 of the Rules of
Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)**

**San Jose, Costa Rica
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1. BACKGROUND

At its 2010 Regular Meeting, the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues (SACMI) accepted the recommendation put forth by the Director General of IICA calling for an amendment to Article 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee (EC) that would reduce from 45 to 30 days the period established for delivering the working documents of the regular meetings of the EC, as is the case for its special meetings (Article 34). The SACMI also recommended making the same adjustment in Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, calling for a reduction from 45 to 30 days in the period established for delivering the working documents of the regular meetings of that Governing Body of the Institute.

The period of delivery of 45 days prior to the meeting, established in the Rules of Procedure since 1983, took into consideration the time required to send the documents by mail (sea or air) or via courier in special cases. However, information and communication technologies available today make it possible to send documents to the Member States on line in a matter of minutes and at a much lower cost than in the past.

Furthermore, the proposed amendment to the deadline will make it possible to prepare documents that are more up to date and will give the administration sufficient time to review, edit and translated them.

At its Thirtieth Regular Meeting, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, on October 5-7, 2010, the EC approved Resolution No. 525, in which it recommended “To task the Director General with presenting for consideration by the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA a draft resolution amending Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA in the same way that Article 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee has been amended by this resolution.”

Accordingly, the Director General submits to the consideration of the IABA a proposal calling on the Board to amend Article 22 of its Rules of Procedure, reducing from 45 to 30 calendar days the period for the delivery of the working documents for its regular meetings.

2. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE 22

CURRENT TEXT OF ARTICLE 22 OF FOR THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE IABA	PROPOSED TEXT FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE IABA
<p>Article 22 (Last sentence)</p> <p>“The Director General shall send the necessary background documentation to the Member States, IICA Associates and Permanent Observers, at least 45 days prior to the opening date of meeting.”</p>	<p>Article 22 (Last sentence)</p> <p>“The Director General shall send the necessary background documentation to the Member States, IICA Associates and Permanent Observers, at least 45 30 days prior to the opening date of meeting.”</p>
<p>JUSTIFICATION OF THE SECTION</p> <p>Thanks to advances in information and communication technologies, IICA uses electronic means to distribute the working documents for the meetings of its Governing Bodies and the Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues. As a result, the cost of sending documents via courier, as was the custom in the past, has been cut considerably, as has the time required for the documents to reach those who will represent the Member States in the meetings off the Executive Committee, the IABA and the SACMI, which in the past was from three to seven days.</p> <p>Experience has shown that the on-line distribution of working documents has proven to be effective, efficient and economical. Therefore, it is proposed that 30 days is a reasonable period of time for the representatives of the Member States participating in the meetings of the IABA to review the documents, consult with the corresponding authorities, and make recommendations or proposals on decisions regarding the different items contained in the agenda of the IABA meetings.</p> <p>In sum, it is proposed that the reduction to 30 days in the period for the delivery of the working documents for the regular meetings of the IABA will facilitate the preparation of more up-to-date and well-founded document, and will allow sufficient time for them to be studied. Therefore, the IABA is asked to approve this amendment of its Rules of Procedure.</p>	