



**INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE - IABA**

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**REPORT ON EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS  
BETWEEN IICA AND CATIE, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF  
JOINT ACTIONS**

**Guayaquil, Ecuador**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is the governing body of both the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), each of which has another lower level governing body: the Executive Committee at IICA and the Governing Council at CATIE. The Council has a managerial body, the Board of Directors. Also, IICA has an advisory body, the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI).

The IABA, in Resolution No. 384, approved at its Twelfth Regular Meeting, recognized the importance of the “Working together” strategy as a means of improving the service that the group of international organizations provides to the Member States. Therefore, it is important to strengthen joint work, complementary efforts and cooperation between IICA and CATIE, for the good of their member countries.

IICA and CATIE must collaborate with and support each other in order to make maximum use of their resources and undertake special actions aimed at securing financial and other resources with which to support their member countries. All of these cooperation actions will be carried out through specific agreements and joint projects between countries or regions.

## 2. BACKGROUND

IICA's and CATIE's fields of action are clearly differentiated, based on the nature and purposes of each organization.

<b>NATURE OF IICA</b>	<b>NATURE OF CATIE</b>
<p data-bbox="232 1293 493 1325"><b>Legal framework</b></p> <p data-bbox="232 1367 768 1528">The legal instrument on which the foundation of IICA is based is the Convention signed in 1942, which grants the Institute international juridical personality.</p> <p data-bbox="232 1570 732 1732">The Member States of IICA are 34 countries of the Americas, all of which are members of the Organization of American States and sit on the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.</p>	<p data-bbox="797 1293 1057 1325"><b>Legal framework</b></p> <p data-bbox="797 1367 1390 1493">CATIE was created as a civil association focused on science and education, by means of a contract signed in 1983 between the Government of Costa Rica and IICA.</p> <p data-bbox="797 1535 1390 1661">Under Law 8028, published in the Official Gazette of Costa Rica on October 12, 2000, a modification of the IICA-Government of Costa Rica contract was approved.</p> <p data-bbox="797 1703 1365 1864">The regular members of CATIE are: the Government of Costa Rica and the governments of the other Member States of IICA which join CATIE subsequently via acceptance of the Contract.</p>

<p><b>Mandates</b></p> <p>It is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American system, and its purposes are to encourage, promote and support the efforts of the Member States to achieve their agricultural development and rural well-being.</p>	<p><b>Mandates</b></p> <p>Its principal objectives are “research in the agricultural sciences, natural resources and related fields in the tropical regions of the Americas, especially Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate education.”</p>
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Relations between IICA and CATIE are legally established in the contract signed between the Government of Costa Rica and IICA, under Law 8020 of 2000, scheduled to expire in 2020.

For three decades, since CATIE was created, relations between the two institutions have been closely linked to the development of agriculture and they have supported each other via different financial, technical and administrative activities. All activities have been carried out within the established legal framework and have been characterized by a spirit of collaboration in those areas the two institutions share common interests.

### 3. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHS AND COMPLEMENTARITIES

IICA and CATIE have a number of individual strengths which, when combined, strengthen their partnership. These strengths are recognized by the member countries and are based on the accumulated experience and the capabilities of each organization. These strengths include:

<b>STRENGTHS OF IICA</b>	<b>STRENGTHS OF CATIE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Offices in 34 countries of the Americas</li> <li>b) Qualified human resources in technical agricultural fields such as policies, trade, agribusiness, rural development, agricultural health and education and training.</li> <li>c) Agricultural information, communication, documentation and dissemination systems.</li> <li>d) Consolidated procedures, instruments and mechanisms for cooperation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Academic and scientific infrastructure</li> <li>b) Interaction with other scientific and research organizations</li> <li>c) Specialized human resources in research, education and training, with emphasis on tropical agriculture and agroforestry, plant genetic resources, biotechnology, watershed management, forest management, biodiversity, environmental services, climate change and environmental management.</li> <li>d) Communication, information, documentation and dissemination infrastructure.</li> </ul>

One example of complementarity between the two institutions is the operation of the Orton Commemorative Library (OCL), founded in 1942 by IICA, and administered jointly with CATIE since 1978. From the beginning, the key objective of the library has been to serve as a link between educational and research programs throughout the Americas.

The OCL has developed one of the most extensive collections on tropical agriculture in the world, comprising conventional and non-conventional technical and scientific literature generated in the tropical regions of the Americas and other parts of the world, making it one of the best sources of information and knowledge available in the field of tropical agriculture.

IICA provides technical, administrative and financial support to CATIE activities from Headquarters and its Offices in the countries, primarily those in Central America. CATIE uses in usufruct the farms, buildings, equipment and other movable and immovable property contributed by IICA, under the terms of the CATIE contract.

IICA provides CATIE and its personnel with the necessary legal and institutional protection, similar to that granted to its personnel (status as Associate Personnel, use of the official OAS document, group insurance plan) for the development of their activities both in and outside Costa Rica. Also, IICA includes in its Program Budget a financial contribution to CATIE's core budget.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF JOINT WORK BETWEEN 2002 – 2004**

Both institutions have tried to develop different types of joint work, such as participation in projects at the regional and national levels, and in complementary activities in the areas of training, technology development and natural resource management. These initiative have been in response to demands from the countries, but today they deserve a shared strategy and guidelines that will generate a greater impact. In this regard, it is urgent to intensify collaboration based on institutional strengths in order to meet national and regional demands and make maximum use of resources.

##### **4.1 COUNTRIES OF THE CENTRAL REGION**

Belize

###### **2002**

1. Two courses held on **formulating, monitoring and evaluating agricultural projects**, directed at extension agents from the

Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock and other private-sector employees.

2. Support for the Ministry of Agriculture in holding two training activities for Ministry technical personnel, on **diversification and organic agriculture**.
3. Coordination of a visit by personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture and from the Toledo Cacao Growers Association to **organic cacao farms in Costa Rica and Panama**, to learn about cultural practices, technology transfer, processing and marketing.
4. Organization of workshop on **procedures for certifying and marketing organic products**, for extension personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture and cacao, citrus, rice and cattle producers.

### 2003

1. **Three training events** held for extension personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers and high school students from the Toledo, Stann Creek and Cayo districts.
2. Support in the establishment of a **national organic agriculture program**.

### 2004

1. Technical assistance provided to the Ministry of Agriculture for the identification of **moniliasis of cacao**, and the formulation of a national plan of action to eradicate it.
2. Seminar held on opportunities and challenges for the development of **small- and medium-scale rural eco-enterprises** in a globalized world.
3. Conference held on state of and outlook for **organic cacao** in Belize.
4. Within the framework of the project "Support for Agricultural Diversification in Belize," **plantain and coco yam germ plasm** from CATIE was introduced in order to have access to clean seed for reproduction and increase the availability of plants for small-scale growers.
5. Conference held on **sustainable livestock raising** in the tropics, with the GAMMA Group from CATIE and the Office in Belize.

6. Affiliation of Belize to REMERFI facilitated and GEF resources managed to finance a project on **plant genetic resources**.
7. Information on CATIE's **post-graduate courses** and the participation of students from Belize in CATIE's strategic courses disseminated.
8. **Joint proposals prepared for the projects** "Sustainable Management of the Mopan-Belize Watershed in Belize and Guatemala" and "Agricultural Diversification for Sustainable Economic Development."

## COSTA RICA

### 2002

1. Follow-up to execution by CATIE of the project "Development of Black Sigatoka-resistant **Plantain and Banana Cultivars** for Local Consumption, for Latin America" (April 2002 to December 2004), under the IICA/IDB ATN/SF-6486-RG technical cooperation project.

### 2003

1. Follow-up to execution by CATIE of the project "**Mycoinsecticides** for the Integrated Management of the White Fly in Fruits and Vegetables in Neo-tropical Zones" (April 2003 to April 2006), under the IICA/IDB FTG-1/2001 FTG-4/2001 FTG 22/2001 and FTG-52/2001 technical cooperation agreement.

## EL SALVADOR

### 2002

1. Within the framework of the **Environmental Program of El Salvador (PAES) IICA-CATIE-CRS-UCA**, support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock in the regions of Tenancingo and Guazapa, with the following results: a) 95% of the 9230 farm families implemented farm plans in which three or more technologies are used, b) the organization of 116 community associations was consolidated, with 464 boards and committees established, c) seven municipal organizations were created, d) 98 community and municipal associations participated in the purchase and sale of inputs and staple grains, e) 672 community extension agents and 151 farmers were trained, and f) infrastructure was built to hold 18,784,963 m<sup>3</sup> of water, which were lost in the past as runoff.

Thanks to this experience, a **model has been developed** to integrate key stakeholders in the communities, municipalities and the central government, and to promote the sustainable development of natural resources, the development of social capital and the market approach, as determining factors in the generation of income and the improvement of living conditions for rural families.

### **2003**

1. CATIE and IICA supported and participated in a workshop held with experts from the public and private agricultural sectors, in which the discussions focused on policies for promoting **micro-irrigation systems** and on proposals for action in the field.
2. Within the framework of the **PAES** project, 35,155 workdays were generated in the construction of infrastructure for soil and water conservation, representing a contribution of US\$120,533 to the family economy. Also, the creation of nine community banks, three producer associations and 24 local and municipal environmental committees were created, and 20 community organizations were consolidated, all of which received support in managing seven of their projects.

### **2004**

1. CATIE and IICA participated in the bidding process on the new stage of the PAES project, to be executed in the Departments of Santa Ana and Chalaltenango. Their bid was selected and the second stage of the PAES program is currently under way.
2. A joint work plan was prepared to seek opportunities in the countries and strengthen/complement institutional relations.

## HONDURAS

### **2004**

1. IICA and CATIE participated in the **University Advisory Committee** of the National Agricultural University and in the Agroforestry Donors and Cooperation Agencies Task Force.



## GUATEMALA

### 2002

1. Sub-projects on **Integrated Pest Management and Agroforestry in Coffee** in the Trifinio Region (IICA-CATIE-MIP-AF).
2. Joint support provided in planning **participatory training** for vegetable growers in the service area of the PRODERT project.

### 2003

1. **Courses held for university students** on techniques for writing bibliographic citations for researchers.
2. Updated study published on the performance of **agriculture and the rural sector in Guatemala**, and on the current impediments to sustainable development, food security and rural prosperity.
3. Technical assistance provided in preparing the **National Rural Development Plan**, through the Office of the Vice President of the Republic.

## NICARAGUA

### 2002

1. Several **cooperation actions** carried out related to exchanges of information, networks, studies, data bases and documentation.
2. Support provided to information and documentation institutions and networks through the **Nicaraguan Agricultural Information and Documentation Network (RENIDA)**.
3. Further support was provided in holding **training events**, conducting courses and linking that network to the SIDALC network at IICA and the Orton Commemorative Library.

### 2003

1. Two courses held on **environmental impact and integrated pest management**.
2. Study on the supply of and demand for technical assistance and agricultural training conducted jointly.

## 2004

1. Two courses offered on **homeopathic** medicine for organic livestock raising, and one on the **management of forestry plantations**.
2. Workshop held on **environmental policies** within the framework of the GEF/World Bank-funded project on agroforestry-grazing systems.
3. Technical support provided in the preparation of the national component of the SICTA Regional Technology Transfer Plan, through the execution of studies aimed at ascertaining the state of ITT, with a view to defining policies.
4. **Joint participation in the consortium** responsible for responding to the RFP from the USAID in connection with the execution of the project "More Competitive, Market-oriented Private Enterprises and Improved Environmental Management in Nicaragua."

## PANAMA

### 2004

1. **Regional course** held to update the skills and knowledge of professionals in organic agriculture, with support from the Taiwanese Technical Mission and OIRSA.
2. Ministry of Agricultural Development (**MIDA**) supported in organizing and holding the Regional Course to Update the Skills and Knowledge of Professionals in Organic Agriculture, attended by more than 25 specialists from Central America, the Caribbean and Panama.

## 4.2 COUNTRIES OF THE ANDEAN REGION

## BOLIVIA

### 2002

1. Agreement signed between IICA and CATIE calling for IICA to support the **Organic Cacao Production Modernization** project in Alto Beni, through the organization of an executing unit staffed with management-level human resources, and the administration of the financial resources.

### 2003

1. IICA and CATIE continued to provide cooperation services to support execution of the **Organic Cacao Production Modernization** project in Alto Beni, with the same executing unit producing satisfactory results.

### 2004

1. Support for the Organic Cacao Production Modernization project in Alto Beni continued.

## 4.3 COUNTRIES IN THE NORTHERN REGION

### MEXICO

#### 2002

1. Support and **ongoing exchange of agricultural information** from the Orton Commemorative Library (IICA/CATIE) for strengthening of the Mexican Network of Agricultural Libraries (REMBA).

#### 2003

1. Support to the **College of Post-Graduates** for the **course** on “Planning and Management of Agricultural and Forestry Research for Latin America and the Caribbean”, held in Costa Rica.

#### 2004

1. In conjunction with the Orton Commemorative Library (IICA/CATIE), execution of activities of the **Working Group on Agricultural Libraries** and Information Services of PROCINORTE (Canada, United States and Mexico), under a program coordinated by Mexico at the present time.
2. **Technical support** provided by three specialists of CATIE for the external evaluation of the National Center for Disciplinary Research on the Water-Soil-Plant Relationship (CENID-RASPA) of INIFAP, the National CENAPROS Center and the National Center for Disciplinary Research on the Conservation and Improvement of Forestry Ecosystems (CENID-COMED) of Mexico.

#### 4.4 COUNTRIES OF THE CARIBBEAN REGION

##### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

###### 2003

1. **Technical and logistic support** to the National Evangelical University (Universidad Nacional Evanglica-UNEV) for the First International Course on Livestock and the Environment, in which 25 officials from the public and private agricultural sectors participated.
2. Support to UNEV in the organization and holding of the **Third Seminar** on the Definition of Strategies and Policy for the Development of Dairy and Beef Cattle.

#### 5. REGIONAL PROJECTS

##### 5.1 EDUCATION AND TRAINING

###### 2003

1. Establishment of the CATIE-IICA cooperation plan to offer **training in the Americas** with regard to which a joint work plan for 2004 is expected.

###### 2004

1. Production of **multimedia materials** in the area of agro forestry. The interactive CD contains five modules: a) Module 1. Key concepts on Agro forestry systems, b) Module 2. Agricultural forestry Systems, c) Module 3. Forestry-grazing Systems, d) Module 4. Agriculture-forestry-grazing Systems, and e) Module 5. Characteristics and Management of Various Types of Trees Commonly Included in Agro-forestry Systems. This material was validated in Guayaquil, Ecuador.
2. Overtures made to **Oxford Forestry Institute** (OFI) to replicate the Mesoamerican Trees Project in countries in the Caribbean.

##### 5.2 TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

###### 2002

1. Support to the **process for consolidation** of the Regional Technological Innovation System.

2. Consolidation of reciprocal cooperation among countries in the framework of the Regional **PROMECAFE** Program.
3. Technical assistance to the Ministers of Agriculture of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) in the preparation of a diagnosis of the national situation with regard to **biosafety** in the seven countries of the Central American Isthmus as a basis for the preparation of regional model legislation on genetically modified organisms for agricultural use (LMO).

## **2003**

1. In the area of policies on **biotechnology and biosafety**, the mandate of the Ministers of the CAC was fulfilled through consultations in countries and in regional workshops, which led to three results: a) proposed model regulatory framework on living modified organisms for agricultural use in the Central American countries; b) regional strategy in agro-biotechnology in Central America, and c) proposed strengthening of national capabilities in biosafety through reciprocal cooperation among countries of Central America.

## **2004**

1. A **workshop** was held to define a work program to design a regional agro-biotechnology strategy in Central America. **Biotechnologists** from Central America participated in that workshop.
2. In the framework of cooperative relations with the **CIRAD-TERA**, support was provided to the CIRAD/IDB Workshop for the Competitive Diversification of Central American Coffee Plantations. That workshop was held in Nicaragua, with the participation of CATIE, CIRAD, IDB and national and regional institutions.
3. In the framework of the **Mesoamerican Coffee Protection Program** (PROMECAFE), the following was achieved:
  - a. Technological options were generated to cover the detection of, and control measures for, diseases and pests related to coffee leaf scorch caused by the *Xylella fastidiosa* bacteria; coffee leaf spot disease (*Mycena citricolor*) and coffee leaf rust (*Hemileia vasatrix*) as a result of which resistant varieties were developed, harmful species were characterized and a resistant rootstock variety (Nemaya) became available.
  - b. With regard to genetic improvement, thanks to support from CIRAD, progress was made in developing new hybrids of Arabic coffee which have competitive advantages in terms of high

- production, excellent quality and resistance to common diseases.
- c. Work continued to develop agro-forestry systems with coffee.
  - d. Support was provided to the Network of Coffee Tasters in Honduras and El Salvador, the aim being to improve the quality of supply in coffee market niches.
  - e. Support was provided to CAC/CORECA in defining regional actions for alleviating the coffee crisis through the formulation of projects, and in following up on these actions with the WTO. A strategic partnership was also forged with the US Coffee Quality Institute for purposes of negotiation, use of quality and marketing technologies.
4. In the framework of the Central American System for Agricultural Technology Integration (SICTA), the following results were obtained:
- a) Implementation of the IICA-SICTA-CATIE Agreement.
  - b) At the request of the CAC, preparation of a proposal to formulate a Central American technology and diversification policy.
  - c) Inclusion into the SICTA structure of the Agricultural Innovation Network Project (SICTA Network), to be financed by COSUDE, with a budget of US\$1.2 million per annum, in support of corn, bean and tuber crops, in the framework of regional integration in technological innovation.
  - d) Compilation of information on the main institutions in the region that conduct agricultural research and design of a SICTA portal linked to the INFOTEC web page.
5. In the framework of the **Mesoamerican Network for Plant Genetic Resources** (REMERFI), the following was achieved:
- a) The inclusion of actors involved in phytogenetic resources on National Phytogenetic Resources Committees was promoted.
  - b) The electronic forum for the discussion of major topics on phytogenetic resources continued. This forum receives contributions from other actors from outside the Mesoamerican region, including other regional phytogenetic resource networks.
  - c) The process of compiling documentation from collections *ex situ* on native crops in the countries of the region was promoted through training courses and donations of equipment and computer programs. A strategy was also designed for sharing information and increasing contacts between the members of the Network and other organizations through the Internet platform available and affording easy access for researchers and other potential users.

- d) Regional documents were prepared on: a) diagnosis of the situation regarding germplasm banks *ex situ* in the Mesoamerican region (including Mexico), b) diagnosis of the situation regarding the legal framework for agro-biodiversity and phylogenetic resources in member countries (policies and laws), and c) methodological instruments for the economic appraisal of phylogenetic resources.
- e) Holding of successful workshops on biosafety, intellectual property rights and access to germplasm, thereby generating practical solutions in aid of development of policies to manage biodiversity.
- f) Horizontal cooperation was promoted through studies on the management of phylogenetic resources, in cooperation with international organizations. Examples of such studies are: a) study of the perception of farmers of agro biodiversity losses caused by Hurricane Mitch in Honduras and Nicaragua, with support from the international centers of the CGIAR, b) regionally consolidated methodologies to conduct eco-geographic, ethno-botanical studies, with a gender perspective, on native crops of regional interest, and c) studies on diversity, conservation and the sustainable use of native species, with an agro-marketing perspective, which draw on existing experience in the development of capabilities at the NCs.
- g) More than 250 professionals were trained in priority areas of phylogenetic resources, such as: modern conservation techniques *ex situ*, production techniques, with a market focus, the formulation of environmental projects, transgenic crops, policies for access to germplasm and intellectual property rights and biosafety policies.
- h) Establishment of ongoing cooperative relations with other networks of phylogenetic resources in the Americas.
- i) Support was provided for the formulation of joint strategies and projects in the framework of the FAO's Global Plan of Action and direct cooperation was given to other regional and supraregional projects to manage agro-biodiversity carried out by several international agencies. Examples of the supra-regional projects are "Management of Agro-biodiversity in Rural Areas" and "Development of Framework Conditions for the Use of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering", executed by the GTZ.

## 5.3 SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

### 2003

1. Process of evaluating the opportunities for technical cooperation between IICA and CATIE with regard to the development of border regions. IICA participated in a meeting organized by CATIE with the mayors of the cantons of Costa Rica in the region bordering Nicaragua. The CATIE initiative covers the preparation of a project on local economic development, the sustainable management of lands, water and natural resources and overcoming poverty in the Nicaragua-Costa Rica border region.

## 6. HEMISPHERIC ACTIONS

### 6.1 ORTON COMMEMORATIVE LIBRARY

The Orton Commemorative Library, which has been in operation for 61 years, functions within the Documentation and Publications Unit of IICA whose working agenda is dictated by the Medium-term Plan and the ministerial mandates in relation to the subject of agricultural information and knowledge. The Library is the institutional memory, coordinates SIDALC technically and develops innovative information products required by member countries. Each year, the Library attends to 15,000 users *in situ* and 55,000 on line.

Administration of the library is the joint responsibility of IICA and CATIE, through the CABCO Committee (in operation), which reviews the Library's specific work plans.

Given the dynamics and the responsibilities of the institutions involved, this library has maintained a leadership role with regard to the development of capability in member countries in the area of agricultural information throughout its more than sixty uninterrupted years in operation. It has done so through:

- a) The organization of, and access to, its bibliographic resources.
- b) Relevant technical and scientific literature it made available through its specialized services and products which are constantly adjusted to keep up with advances in technology and communication.
- c) Training for librarians and document specialists responsible for the organization of information at national institutions.



- d) The development of skills to enable users to access and manage technological and scientific information.
- e) The establishment of information systems at the national, regional and hemispheric levels to improve access to agricultural information.
- f) Support for the establishment and development of one of the longest standing post-graduate schools in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- g) The establishment of strategic partnerships with national and international organizations in an effort to maximize resources.

## **7. THE FUTURE**

Strengthening mechanisms to forge closer ties between the two institutions that have a common origin and the same Governing Body, whose mandates complement one another and whose joint actions have a good chance of being promoted should be seen as something that is natural and necessary.

Undoubtedly, that strategy will make it possible to make better use of the resources contributed by the Member State Governments to both institutions and provide them more effective cooperation.

Strengthening technological innovation, training and the transfer of knowledge produced by effectively coordinating a research and training center and an organization that specializes in international technical cooperation undoubtedly holds much potential. Up until now, that complementarity has manifested itself in the response to demands from the countries themselves, or in some instances, through the presentation of joint proposals to multilateral funding sources. However, in the context of the new strategy governing the way the two institutions relate to each other, strengthening capability based on a clear plan that defines their complementary roles would seem to be the most appropriate orientation. This strengthening of capabilities must be tailored to each institution in such a way that each one will build on its strengths and deal with concrete topics and areas.

Below is an overview of the fields in which a solid partnership between IICA and CATIE could be the best strategy for the future to benefit Member States as they address areas of high priority.

## **7.1 DISTANCE TRAINING**

It is important to carry forward distance training activities by adapting the curricula developed and tested by CATIE at its post-graduate and training courses, which will make it possible to increase the coverage of those activities significantly. IICA is working with an important network of 17 distance education centers in Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Uruguay and Venezuela that are affiliated with the World Bank's GDLN network. In this way, the combination of teacher training and academic experience offered by CATIE and IICA's network of distance education centers would represent a highly valuable option for professionals and specialists in the countries of the Americas for whom distance education is an accessible option.

## **7.2 BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY**

A more focused approach to the new topics in the fields of biotechnology and biosafety is in the interest of the vast majority of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. In these fields, the mandates of both institutions are perfectly complementary.

CATIE contributes technical capability, direct links with national and international research centers and trained teaching personnel that are committed to training a new generation of professionals. IICA, for its part, makes available a significant number of cooperative programs in technological innovation (PROCI) which it has been promoting, in which major national and international research institutions participate. Through these programs, significant technological capability in the countries is mobilized and investments and research efforts are shared with a view to engaging in joint projects in areas of common interest.

In addition, IICA contributes with the promotion and development of technical cooperation programs aimed at modernizing and updating policy frameworks as well as strengthening and modernizing regional and national technological research and development institutions through advisory services and cooperation provided to the highest echelons of government.

## **7.3 RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

Conservation of the productive capacity of natural ecosystems, the protection and sustainable management of basins and the development of agro forestry are key components of the territorially based rural development projects promoted by IICA.

Given its recognized experience in the management of basins and agro forestry, CATIE can bring to these projects know-how and experience that are highly valuable in terms of environmental management and appropriate technologies. IICA, for its part, can contribute its experience in the design and implementation of national strategies and policies, in the improvement of institutional capability in the management of rural territories at the local, regional and national levels, and in the development of capabilities to strengthen ways of organizing family agriculture in rural development projects in the hemisphere. The technical capability developed by IICA in the formulation, evaluation of major investment projects can also be highly useful.

Systematic and programmed coordination of a whole set of activities described above, on the part of the two institutions, will make it possible to offer the countries of the Americas a technologically coherent response to their current demands in this area that is vital for the modernization of agriculture and for an improvement in living conditions in rural areas.

#### **7.4 CROSS-BORDER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

The growing interest of governments and of international financial organizations in promoting programs to develop border regions affected by problems of underdevelopment, unemployment and poverty have in the opening-up of trade a new opportunity that must be seized. These programs generally cover border territories that are in essence shared basins, given the fact that rivers have been the preferred geographical accidents for tracing border lines. Basins that belong to two or more countries make the integrated management of resources and use of them for production and trade purposes difficult. These regions, especially in the Central American Isthmus, represent another scenario where joint action on the part of IICA and CATIE, could be highly useful and important.

#### **7.5 TROPICAL AGRICULTURE DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAMS**

IICA has developed a successful methodology for analyzing market opportunities that can be applied in complementary fashion through methodologies for the zonification of production. In addition to orienting governments to establish precisely potential areas for each crop, that methodology also makes it possible to promote and focus promotional and technical assistance activities, stimulate private investment and channel credit to development. CATIE, for its part, has the capacity to complement the application of those methodologies, since its recognized experience in crops, livestock farming and tropical agro forestry make it possible to bring to the new production systems, the technology required for sustainable management and promote market access for those products.

Joint work by IICA and CATIE can pave the way for achieving diversification with market logic and a viable, competitive production structure and with sustainable management that ensure stability and success. The new crop lines and forest

production at farms, in localities and regions, based on the appropriate use of soils and climate, technological innovation, value aggregation and access to promising markets are the basis of future agriculture in the hemisphere.

## **7.6 AGRICULTURAL HEALTH, FOOD SAFETY AND MARKET ACCESS**

IICA has been working in this field that is so important for the modernization of traditional tropical agriculture by applying a strategy designed to develop know-how, promote the institutional strengthening of AHFS services, promote the new role of the private sector and stimulate participation by the countries in the for a that regulate international agri-food trade, such as the WTO, OIE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius. CATIE, for its part, has developed experience in good agricultural practices and has generated knowledge and methodologies for the integrated management of pests and diseases in crops and species of economic importance to the countries.

IICA and CATIE have different and complementary advantages for the successful promotion of new technologies, the effective control of pests and diseases, good agricultural, livestock farming and forestry practices as well as sound practices in relation to training procedures, competitiveness and access to markets, *inter alia*. Both institutions therefore have excellent opportunities to explore joint spheres of action to guide the process to transform the production structure which the opening-up of trade makes necessary.

## **7.7 ORTON COMMEMORATIVE LIBRARY**

The administration of the Orton Commemorative Library continues to be shared. It continues to provide services *in situ* and on line to users across the hemisphere, in the framework of the cooperation agendas established with the countries. The agreement for the administration of the Library must be renewed so as to define clearly the responsibilities of each of the parties in the interest of its effective operation and the functions of the Management Committee will need to be upgraded.

IICA will continue to contribute the basic structure and CATIE will contribute the complementary structure. Both institutions will make the necessary effort to modernize the functioning of the Library in such a way as to: a) preserve and increase the collection of technological and scientific material, b) introduce information and communication technologies (ICT), and c) provide high-quality services to member countries, and mainly, to users on line and *in situ*.

IICA and CATIE promote a culture for the management of knowledge where the libraries and, especially, the major institution, the Orton Library, is fundamental.

## **8. JOINT ACTION: AN IMPERATIVE NEED**

In short, the possibilities are vast. The will and the commitment exist on the part of the Directors General and the staff of both institutions to promote joint, more involved work that achieves greater coverage. The countries are the ones which, as owners and at the same time clients of the two institutions, must generate the policy guidelines in the framework of which this strategic partnership is to develop and flourish. The regional and multilateral financial organizations, for their part, must see in the IICA-CATIE partnership an important means for ensuring that investments achieve a greater impact, since the use of advanced technology and the solid basis for financial management afforded by this partnership are a guarantee that resources allocated will be successfully invested for the benefit of governments and producers.