

**RESOLUTION No. 479**

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE FIRST CLAUSE  
OF THE LAW ESTABLISHING CATIE**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution No. CS-Extraordinary No.1-2007 of the Governing Council of Ministers of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and the presentation made before the Executive Committee by the Director General of CATIE, Dr. Pedro Ferreira,

CONSIDERING:

That CATIE, created in 1973 by means of a contract between IICA and the Government of Costa Rica, is an entity dedicated to research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects and also to post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, for the benefit of the Member States of IICA;

That Law No. 8028, of the Republic of Costa Rica, of September 12, 2000, establishes that CATIE's participation in post-graduate programs must be based on "such agreements and programs as may be agreed upon for this purpose;"

That under such law, CATIE does not have the legal authority to grant on its own academic degrees or professional credentials, a situation that is not consistent with its caliber as the oldest post-graduate school that is one of the most prestigious in Latin America and that does not recognize the track record of this Center as an institution of learning;

That, by virtue of the above, the Board of Directors of CATIE, through ratification of resolution 14-07/XXVIII ROCEF, requested the Director General to negotiate with CATIE's Governing Council authorization, as a matter of duress, to propose an amendment of Law No. 8028 of CATIE in order to give the Center authority to grant academic degrees and professional credentials;

That Article 34 of Law No. 8028 provides that before any modification of that law can be presented to Costa Rica's Legislative Assembly for consideration, it must first be approved by the CATIE's Governing Council and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture;

That the Governing Council of CATIE approved, in Resolution CS/Extraordinary No. 1-2007, said modification and requested that same be submitted for approval to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture; and

That, as a precedent, by means of an amendment to Law No. 7044 creating EARTH University (*Escuela de Agricultura de la Región del Trópico Húmedo-EARTH*)(Law No. 7357 of 1993) of the Republic of Costa Rica, that institution was granted the right to offer academic degrees and professional credentials which give authority to exercise the respective professions,

**RESOLVES:**

To recommend to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture that it give favorable consideration to the proposed amendment of the Contract between IICA and the Government of Costa Rica establishing the Center, set out in Annex 1, so as to give that Center the power to grant professional credentials and academic degrees.

ANNEX 1

<p><b>Current Text</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed amendment of text</b> <i>(The text underlined in bold is the proposed amendment)</i></p>
<p><b>FIRST CLAUSE.-</b> The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects, for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under the agreements and programs established for those purposes.</p>	<p><b>FIRST CLAUSE.-</b> The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects, for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). <b><u>As such, CATIE is empowered to grant academia degrees and professional credentials in its areas of competence, which will enable its graduates to exercise their respective professions.</u></b></p>