

RESOLUTION No. 496

IICA-CATIE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc.526(08), “Status of IICA-CATIE Joint Actions”,

CONSIDERING:

That for more than three decades, both institutions have engaged in joint agricultural and rural development activities and have supported each other through various technical, financial and administrative undertakings and that these inter-relationships have been conducted within the established legal framework in clearly differentiated spheres of action, in accordance with the nature of each organization and the purposes for which they were created;

That both IICA and CATIE have been engaging in joint activities to support the efforts of Member States to develop agriculture, livestock farming and forestry, based on a sustainable development approach that is respectful of the environment;

That given the new challenges facing the countries of the Americas, it is imperative that cooperation be strengthened between the two organizations on the basis of their respective areas of expertise and strengths to enable them to meet Member States’ cooperation needs and maximize the use of resources;

That in order for the joint effort to have greater impact, a strategy and shared guidelines are required, and operating mechanisms need to be consolidated to facilitate increased joint cooperation activities and reinforce the ability of both institutions to meet the needs of Member States,

RESOLVES:

1. To congratulate both the Director General of CATIE and the Director General of IICA on progress achieved in the execution of joint activities in aid of Member States.

2. To instruct the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE to prepare and submit to the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, a joint program of action for 2009 and 2010. That program should:
 - a. Attach priority to the execution of joint activities in the following areas: (i) territorial rural development, natural resource management, the environment, climate change, and (ii) technological innovation, value chains and competitiveness;
 - b. Define a strategy and more appropriate management, administrative and operating mechanisms to ensure the necessary continuity and enhance the results of joint action.
3. To mandate both the Director General of IICA and the Director General of CATIE to build a common knowledge management platform so as to facilitate access for all professionals, institutions and individuals working for agricultural and rural development in the Americas, as well as students pursuing professional and technical degrees related to agriculture, to the information and knowledge of both institutions.