

IICA/CE/Res.356(XXI-O/01)
25 July 2001
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RESOLUTION No. 356

INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR

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

CONSIDERING:

That the recognition of superior achievement in the agricultural sector is vital for motivating talented individuals in the Member States to devote their lives to improving agriculture through scientific inquiry, government service, political action, and other professional activities;

That although there are a number of individuals in the Americas who satisfy the requirements for IICA's Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, the present regulations for those Awards ("Awards Regulations") have failed to generate widespread interest in nominating candidates for them;

That the Executive Committee, at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting, based on the Report of the Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector ("the Awards Selection Committee"), recommended in Resolution CE/Res.328(XIX-99) revision of the regulations to include greater incentives and mechanisms for generating nominations and stimulating interest in the awards;

That the current Awards Selection Committee has reaffirmed the recommendation made by its predecessor for the proposal and adoption of improvements in the Awards Regulations and nomination process; has recommended the elimination of restrictions barring former awards recipients from competing for awards in other categories and barring candidates rejected in one biennium from being nominated for another; and has noted the need to make a number of technical corrections in those Regulations to provide for greater clarity and insure more uniform application;

That the Awards Selection Committee has concluded that strict enforcement of current regulations would result in a recommendation to make no awards in several categories for the 2000-2001 biennium;

That Article 19 of the Awards Regulations and Article 3(h) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee permit the Executive Committee to modify, revoke, and thus make exceptions to the Awards Regulations;

That in accordance with the Institute's compelling interest in assuring that awards in all categories will be made for the 2000-2001 biennium from a broader pool of deserving candidates, the Awards Selection Committee has recommended that the Executive Committee make a one-time exception to Article 8 of the Awards Regulations so as to extend the date for member governments to make nominations to the Director General (directly or through his duly appointed representative in each Member State) through October 31, 2001;

That the proposed extension of that date would provide an opportunity for Member States to conform nominations already made to those regulations, would allow other countries that have not done so to make nominations prior to the new date, consistent with the requirements of due process, and would require the Executive Committee, as another exception to the Awards Regulations, to request the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to make the awards for the 2000-2001 biennium in its stead, based on the recommendation of the Awards Selection Committee;

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the recommendation of the Awards Selection Committee to change the date for the presentation of nominations for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector to October 31, 2001, as a one-time exception to Article 8 of the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector and for the purpose of permitting the Institute to confer awards in all categories for the 2000-2001 biennium consistent with legal requirements, due process considerations, and the best interests of the Institute.

2. To instruct the Director General to convene the Awards Selection Committee at the next Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and to request the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, based on the recommendations of that Committee, to select the recipients of Inter-

American Awards in the Rural Sector in all categories for the 2000-2001 biennium.

3. To request the Director General to present for consideration of the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee draft modifications to the Awards Regulations which: (1) provide mechanisms for prior screening of candidates for Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector at the national and regional level with the active participation of IICA's cooperation agencies in the Member States and its Regional Directorates; (2) eliminate restrictions against worthy candidates who have received awards in one category from being nominated for an award in another and restrictions against worthy candidates who have been rejected in one biennium from being nominated again in another; and (3) introduce technical corrections in those Regulations to provide for greater clarity and insure more uniform application.