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Foreword

In its 2006-2010 Medium Term Plan, the Institute redefined its mission, placing greater emphasis on the provision of innovative technical cooperation in an effort to make IICA the leading agricultural institute in the Americas.

Given the challenges in agriculture and rural life today, and our commitment to participate in international efforts aimed at reducing poverty worldwide, we have intensified our efforts to promote a new way of looking at agriculture, to recognize the unique characteristics of each region and to consolidate the institutional management model.

IICA, in keeping with the dynamic changes under way throughout the hemisphere as a result of the Summits process, and with the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, provided its member countries with ongoing support, helping them to comply with commitments assumed in the Summits process and the ministerial agreements. Together with the Government of Guatemala, preparations got under way for the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Fourth Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” whose motto is “Working together for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” to be held in July 2007 in Antigua, Guatemala.

The Administration made changes in the organizational structure which facilitated greater integration of the Institute’s units, the consolidation of the IICA model for technical cooperation, and joint efforts involving the Directorate of Regional Operations and Integration, the Director of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management, the Directorate of Administration and Finance, and the Offices in the member countries.

The Institute continued to focus its technical cooperation on the achievement of concrete results. Examples of this include inter-agency cooperation in the preparation of the 2007 Report on the State of Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Life, the widespread application of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) instrument in efforts to modernize agricultural health and food safety services, the establishment of “reference territories” in which to apply the territorial approach to rural development, and the implementation of the Inter-American Biotechnology and Biosafety Program (IBBP). All of these initiatives were promoted by the new Directorate of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management, which gives direction to and monitors IICA’s cooperation from a hemispheric perspective.

Our Directorates of Regional Operations and Integration and the 34 Offices in the countries worked closely together to develop and strengthen the capabilities institutions and individuals need in the areas of policy formulation, agricultural health and food safety, technology innovation, territorial development, competitiveness of agribusinesses, and the linkage of farmers to markets.

The Institute, as part of its efforts to continually improve, dispatched several missions to the Member States to review and evaluate our technical cooperation actions. As a result of the missions, the internal management of the Offices, the institutional image and relations with stakeholders have been improved.

IICA is on sound financial footing thanks to both the application of measures designed to ensure financial prudence, and to the delivery of results which are in line with the needs identified in the technical cooperation agendas. For the third consecutive year, the collection of quotas has improved and external funding has increased, which clearly reflects the satisfaction of our Member States and our strategic partners.

Aware of the fact that the development of agricultural and the improvement of rural life is a very complex task and requires the efforts of all actors (public sector, private sector and cooperation agencies), we encouraged inter-agency dialogue, opened our doors to new partners interested in the development of the hemisphere, and worked to strengthen existing agreements with organizations such as OAS, FAO, IDB, World Bank, PAHO, ECLAC, CATIE, the AECI and many others, which have produced positive results in different fields.

The backbone of the IICA work model, which has been widely recognized as promising, is transparency and accountability. As part of our efforts to ensure both, we report to our stakeholders annually in a number of reports and forums, and consult on a regular basis with authorities at the national, regional and hemispheric levels.

The 2006 Annual Report summarizes the principal actions we carried out during the year. Specific reports on the results of our cooperation in the member countries and regions are available on our Web site www.iica.int.



Chelston W. D. Brathwaite
Director General

Executive Summary

Founded in 1942, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agency of the Inter-American System for the agricultural sector and rural territories. It encourages, promotes and supports the efforts of its Member States to achieve the sustainable development of agriculture and the prosperity of rural communities.

In 2006, IICA approved a new Medium-Term Plan covering the period 2006-2010, adapted its annual programming and budget, and updated the national and regional cooperation agendas, bringing them in line with its mission of providing innovative technical cooperation to the Member States, with a view to achieving their sustainable development in aid of the peoples of the Americas.

IICA continued to promote the AGRO 2003-2015 plan, the hemispheric agreement setting out the objectives and strategic actions of agriculture and rural life in the Americas for the period concerned. It also focused its efforts on the three areas of work defined at the Ministerial Meeting of Guayaquil (2005): the promotion of state policies for agriculture and rural life, the development of an information system for monitoring and evaluating the AGRO Plan between 2003 and 2007, and the adjusting of the regional strategies for implementing the plan. As the Secretariat of the ministerial process and its ministerial meetings, the Institute placed special emphasis on facilitating the continuity of that process, including regional integration efforts, and its articulation with the Summit of the Americas process.

In the area of **hemispheric technical cooperation**, during 2006, IICA focused on six strategic priorities: i) the repositioning of agriculture and rural life, ii) the promotion of trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses, iii) the strengthening of agricultural health and food safety systems, iv) the promotion of the sustainable management of resources and the environment, v) the strengthening of rural communities based on a territorial approach, and vi) the promotion of technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life.

Some of the most important activities carried out in relation to these priorities were the efforts to reposition agriculture by conducting studies on the true contribution of agriculture to economic development and the holding of technical forums and international meetings, including “IICA Day at the OAS.”

The Institute’s actions included strengthening the business capabilities and competitiveness of small- and medium-scale producers in Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, Guatemala, Panama and Barbados by holding seminars, workshops, and studies, applying the export platforms methodology and publishing technical documents for use by current and potential exporters.

With support from IICA, the Member States made the issue of SPS a priority and were able to better defend their interests in dealings with the WTO SPS Committee. In this

field, the Institute also helped modernize health services through the application of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) instrument. In addition to enhancing the countries' SPS capabilities, IICA implemented a coordinated response for dealing with emergencies caused by transboundary diseases such as avian influenza.

The work in rural territories of the Americas focused on institution building and the development of technical and policy-making capabilities for rural development based on a territorial approach, mainly in Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. In Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Chile, territories were selected for the implementation of this approach, while studies were carried out in Chile, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay to characterize family agriculture.

Given the importance of technology and innovation, IICA agreed to contribute to the implementation of the "International Assessment of the Role of Science and Technology in Development." Through the Technical Secretariat of FORAGRO, the Institute promoted the hemispheric dialogue for the design of technology policies. It also supported the consolidation of FONTAGRO as a mechanism for funding regional research and, through the cooperative programs for technological innovation (PROCI), continued to strengthen reciprocal cooperation between countries in the five regions.

The Institute undertook two new hemispheric initiatives: one related to agro-energy and bio-fuels, and another entitled the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program. With regard to the former, IICA's Executive Committee approved the strategy for building a horizontal cooperation platform on agro-energy and bio-fuels. In the case of the latter, the Institute made major progress in identifying biotechnology needs, formulating regional initiatives, coordinating networks and establishing lines of work with specialized agencies.

Turning to information, the countries now have greater access to relevant, up-to-date sources and are sharing their experiences via the INFOAGRO Information System (www.infoagro.net), comprised of various modules (trade, agribusiness, technology, biotechnology, health, rural development and agroindustry), and the Agricultural Documentation and Information System of the Americas - SIDALC (www.sidalc.net), which involves 21 countries and 141 institutions.

In the area of **regional technical cooperation**, the Andean Region decided to make the strengthening of biotechnology and agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) systems and institutions a priority. IICA responded by placing emphasis on the development of the human and institutional capabilities needed to strengthen national AHFS systems, and implementing a virtual traceability network in the region. The Institute also undertook initiatives for the implementation of measures to prevent, control and eradicate diseases and pests of economic and social importance, and carried out regional actions to deal with the threat of transboundary diseases and pests, such as avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease and the fruit fly.

In the Caribbean Region, the Institute continued to play a leading role in the actions of the Secretariat of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu, the Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA) and other organizations. It also continued to support the Jagdeo Initiative, aimed at promoting actions to overcome the constraints to development and agricultural diversification in the Caribbean. In preparation for a possible outbreak of avian influenza, the Institute carried out two simulation exercises in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, with support from FAO and the USDA/APHIS, and played an important role in the implementation of the strategy for combating invasive species.

In the Central Region, thanks to a collective effort by the public and private sectors and regional and international organizations, the Third International Forum of Tropical Fruit Agribusinesses took place. The event was implemented under the Action Plan for Agricultural and Rural Development signed by the presidents of Central America and Mexico. With regard to AHFS, IICA evaluated the level of preparedness of the Central American countries for a possible outbreak of avian influenza, working with the Regional International Organization for Animal Health (OIRSA) and the Central American Federation of Poultry Farmers (FEDAVICAC). Working with the same regional organizations, the Institute supported the drafting of the Safety Plan for the Central American Poultry Sector. With regard to agricultural technology development, through the operation of the Central American System for Integration on Agricultural Technology (SICTA) IICA helped strengthen and articulate the national agricultural research institutes and the agricultural technology research and transfer systems.

In the Northern Region, IICA focused its efforts on sharing Mexico's experience in negotiating and managing the agricultural component of trade treaties with countries in Central America, the Caribbean and other regions. As in other regions, the Institute played a key role in the cooperative efforts to deal with the threat posed by a possible outbreak of avian influenza. It also continued to give continuous support to the countries to reduce or eliminate the risk of the fruit fly, foot-and-mouth disease and bovine spongiform encephalopathy. The signing of a memorandum of understanding with the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) created an important opportunity for dialogue and cooperation on an extremely important global issue.

In the Southern Region, IICA continued to support the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) by operating its Technical Secretariat and implementing cooperation actions with CAS advisory bodies such as REDPA, the GINA-Sur, PROCISUR and the secretariats of the Permanent Veterinary Committee and the Plant Protection Council. The Institute also promoted the efforts to reach agreement on a regional strategy to meet the threat of avian influenza and, with the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center, helped identify the training needed to diagnose the disease in the region. The Institute also supported the Regional Forum of Schools of Agronomy of the Expanded MERCOSUR. Furthermore, it continued to assist in the efforts to tailor the study programs of higher education centers to the needs of agricultural producers, and to provide advisory assistance for the self-evaluation of agronomy and veterinary medicine courses, strategic planning and

curriculum design in several countries of the region. Finally, IICA collaborated in the design of projects in support of the CAS and facilitated their presentation to international financial organizations.

Moreover, through the implementation of the national cooperation agendas the Institute made important contributions to the countries, particularly in capacity building, the design of projects, institutional modernization and the strengthening of dialogue and regional and hemispheric integration.

Mindful of the importance of coordinated work with other organizations, IICA stepped up its joint efforts with the following, among other, organizations: FAO, the OAS, the IDB, PAHO, ECLAC, COSUDE, OIE, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture, the U.S. Grain Council, Florida International University, the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), American Agri-Women and AIBDA.

1. Origin, Legal Basis, Structure and Purposes

IICA was created by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union in 1942. In 1949 it was recognized by the OAS as the specialized agency for agriculture and well-being of the rural population of the Inter-American System.

A new IICA Convention came into force in 1980, establishing two governing bodies: the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), composed of all Member States, and the Executive Committee (EC), made up of 12 Member States appointed to the Committee on a rotating basis. The IABA holds regular meetings every two years to consider and adopt measures related to the Institute's policy and action. The EC acts on behalf of the IABA when the latter is not in session and holds regular meetings once a year.

In 2000, the OAS, by General Assembly Resolution 1728, recognized the IABA as the primary ministerial forum for analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere.

The Institute's executive organ is the General Directorate and its Headquarters is in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Director General of IICA is Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, a citizen of Barbados.

The Institute has a network of Offices in its 34 Member States and a Permanent Office for Europe, located in Madrid, Spain, which promotes relations with strategic partners. It also has a trade office in Florida, United States, which directs the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety.

IICA's mission is to provide innovative technical cooperation to the Member States, with a view to achieving their sustainable development in aid of the peoples of the Americas. The Institute proposes to assume a leadership role in the Americas in the areas of agriculture and rural development and become a partner of choice by virtue of the quality of the technical cooperation it provides in response to the needs of Member States, and its contributions to sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity.

2. Implementation of Resolutions and Mandates

2.1 *Summit of the Americas Process*

Global challenges, particularly attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and compliance with the commitments and mandates of the Summits of the Americas process, have given a new hemispheric dynamic to agriculture, rural life and IICA. The positioning achieved by agriculture and rural life on the inter-American development agenda; the definition of a political framework to encourage their development at the three most recent Summits; and the building of a “new institutional architecture” based on the Summits which, for purposes of this report, is reflected in the Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas,” are conspicuous elements of this dynamic.

Within the framework of the process initiated in 2001, the Ministers of Agriculture have held three hemispheric meetings at which they have adopted agreements on strategic issues for the improvement of agriculture and rural life. Among the most important are the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, which contains a shared vision for agriculture and rural life and the strategic actions required to achieve it through 2015. During 2006, under Guatemala’s chairmanship, and with support from the Secretariat in which capacity IICA serves, the ministerial process has advanced in the preparation of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting to be held in Guatemala in July 2007; its theme will be “Working together for agriculture and rural life in the Americas.”

Agriculture and rural life: strategic issues for the integral development of the countries

During the Fourth Summit of the Americas, the Heads of State and Government reaffirmed the strategic importance of agriculture and rural life for the integral development of the countries. They also supported the dialogue, consensus-building and commitment in which the Ministers of Agriculture have been engaged in order to implement the mandates of the Summits. Specifically, in the Plan of Action adopted at the Fourth Summit, the leaders decided to make a national commitment “to support the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil in 2005, Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (Plan AGRO 2003-2015 Action).”

This commitment, together with the declarations and decisions on agriculture and rural life from the meetings of Heads and State and Government of the Americas (Quebec 2001 and Monterrey 2004), constitute a political framework that demonstrates clear support for processes to improve agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere.

The ministerial meetings are an instrument of the Summits of the Americas Process; consequently, in keeping with the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil 2005, the ministerial process to prepare for the Fourth Meeting has focused on three areas: (a) the promotion of a State policy for agriculture and rural life; (b) the development of an

information system for monitoring and evaluating the AGRO 2003-2007 Plan, and (c) the adjustment of regional strategies.

A renewed IICA in the face of the new hemispheric dynamic for the XXI century

Since the start of the streamlining process in 2002, IICA has played a dual and complementary role to support the countries with the fulfillment of their commitments relating to the mandates of the Summits and the ministerial agreements. It has continued to play its conventional, albeit renewed, role of an international cooperation organization in keeping with the new hemispheric dynamic that has emerged from the Summits Process (and whose main results are described in the following chapters of this report). However, it is also beginning to play a new role as Secretariat of the ministerial process and its meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.”

The Institute has been responsible for this Secretariat since it became a partner in the Summits Process and in the institutional framework for the ministerial meetings. In performing this role, IICA has focused on facilitating the continuity of the process, coordinating that process with that of the Summit of the Americas, and facilitating regional integration within the framework of the hemispheric ministerial process.

Accordingly, during 2006, the Institute publicized the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and the ministerial agreements on agriculture and rural life, supported the chairmanship of the ministerial process 2006-2007 in which capacity Guatemala served, provided cooperation for the regional processes to implement the ministerial agreements, and coordinated with other international organizations actions to support implementation of the mandates. With regard to the latter, IICA, ECLAC and FAO have worked together to develop indicators for the for the system for monitoring and evaluating the AGRO Plan in fulfillment of mandate 43 of the 2005 Plan of Action of Mar del Plata.

To facilitate the coordination of the ministerial process and that of the Americas Summits Process, IICA has participated in the review and follow-up mechanisms led by OAS with a view to renewing and consolidating the positioning of agriculture and rural life in subsequent meetings of Heads of State and Government. To this end, the Institute has kept the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), made up of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the hemisphere and their National Coordinators, informed continually about preparations for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, progress with the 2006-2007 ministerial process, and the contributions of IICA and other international organizations to the implementation of the 2005 Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil.

In addition, in its capacity as an institutional member of the Summits Process, IICA participates in the Joint Summit Working Group, coordinated by the OAS. That Group is composed of ECLAC, IDB, PAHO, the World Bank, ILO, and the regional banks. Within this Group, progress with the 2006-2007 ministerial process has been discussed, and the possibility of joint actions to support the mandates of Heads of State and Government and the ministerial agreements has been explored. As part of its functions as Secretariat, the Institute also facilitates and supports coordination between the Ministerial Delegate on

Agriculture and Rural Life and the National Summit Coordinator at the respective Ministries of Foreign Affairs.

Regarding regional integration within the framework of the hemispheric ministerial process, IICA has focused on the implementation and follow-up of the 2005 Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil. Accordingly, it has served as Secretariat of CAC, the Caribbean Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu (the Alliance) and, more recently, CAS. In this capacity, the Institute supported the political decisions taken during the regional meetings of Ministers of Agriculture. In the Caribbean, within the framework of the Jagdeo Initiative, support was provided to the Alliance to develop a system to follow up on and evaluate this Initiative and the AGRO Plan. In Central America, in response to a decision taken by CAC in June 2006, support was provided for the organization of the First Central American Workshop for Ministerial Delegates, which defined a strategy to guide each country's work.

2.2 Governing Bodies of IICA

The Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from August 30 to September 1, 2005, and the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in San José, Costa Rica, from September 27-28, 2006, issued a series of resolutions that contain specific mandates for the General Directorate, as well as provisions to be complied with by Member States. This section describes the work of the General Directorate of the Institute during 2006 in fulfillment of the mandates of the IICA governing bodies.

a. Resolutions concerning technical cooperation

At its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee approved IICA's 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan, as expressly delegated by the IABA. That Plan, which has been in effect since September 28, 2006, constitutes the strategic framework to guide IICA's actions.

In compliance with mandates issued by its governing bodies, IICA has been implementing cooperation activities in the following new emerging areas: (a) biotechnology and biosafety; (b) agro-energy and bio-fuels, and (c) agricultural insurance.

Regarding the first area, the Institute prepared the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program with the direct participation of technical delegates from Member States. Implementation of that Program, which was approved by Executive Committee Resolution No. 445, commenced in October 2006.

Both the IABA (Resolution No. 410) and the Executive Committee (Resolution No. 446) established the basis for an inter-American platform for horizontal cooperation in agro-

energy and bio-fuels, which will allow IICA to facilitate a process of exchange of experiences and technical support among Member States over the coming years. Work started on the preparation of a hemispheric program in these areas and efforts were made to promote horizontal cooperation activities among Member States.

Furthermore, pursuant to IABA Resolution No. 411, the Institute undertook initial efforts to cooperate with its Member States in the area of agricultural insurance. Negotiations got under way to secure the support of the State Agricultural Insurance Institute (ENESA) in Spain in drawing up a proposal on this matter.

b. Resolutions concerning budgetary and financial matters

Both the IABA (Resolution No. 414) and the Executive Committee (Resolution No. 435) adopted measures for collecting quotas owed to the Institute by the Member States. The adoption of these measures resulted in a substantial reduction in the amount of quotas owed, and this improved IICA's financial standing for the execution of its technical cooperation plans and programs.

By Resolution No. 416, the IABA approved IICA's detailed Program Budget for 2006 and an overall amount for 2007, delegating to the Executive Committee the power to examine and approve the detailed 2007 Program Budget. That Program Budget was approved by the Executive Committee by Resolution No. 452. In addition, the Institute prepared the plan of action to implement this Program Budget.

By Resolution No. 417, the IABA approved a special budget for 2006 to increase the allocation of funds for activities related to agricultural health and food safety and to finance the replacement of equipment and repairs to infrastructure. As a result, the Institute strengthened the capabilities of its Member States to take advantage of the Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. It was also able to remodel offices and provide adequate maintenance, tasks that had been postponed for several years owing to IICA's financial constraints.

Regarding the Institute's 2005 financial statements, these were approved by Executive Committee Resolution No. 449. The statements were audited by external auditors and, together with the Twelfth Report of the Audit Review Committee, they show that IICA managed its resources carefully and transparently.

c. Resolutions concerning the work of the Institute's governing bodies

By Resolution No. 454, the Executive Committee approved amendments to Staff Rules concerning the annual disclosure statement of staff members in positions of trust, and leaves of absence that allow staff members to pursue professional training relevant to their work. By Resolution No. 458, the Executive Committee decided to hold its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting in San José, Costa Rica, in May 2007.

By Resolution No. 419, the IABA extended the term of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) from 2006 to 2010. Pursuant to this resolution, SACMI held a special meeting on June 15, 2006, and its regular meeting on July 26 and 27, 2006, which resulted in a series of valuable recommendations to improve the proposals that the General Directorate submitted to the Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

Furthermore, by Resolution No. 422, the IABA approved the reports on the progress made in complying with the resolutions of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee, held in May 2005 and September 2006, respectively. The Executive Committee also approved the reports on progress in compliance with the mandates issued at its Twenty-fifth Regular meeting. Both the IABA and the Executive Committee expressed their satisfaction with the progress made by the General Directorate in complying with their mandates and with the results achieved.

In compliance with the provisions of IABA Resolution No. 423, during 2006, the General Directorate, together with the Government of Guatemala, made progress in the organization of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Fourth Ministerial Meeting within the framework of the Summits of the Americas Process, to be held in Antigua, Guatemala, in July 2007.

2.3 Promotion of women's rights and gender equity and equality

In the context of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, IICA has placed emphasis on promoting opportunities for rural women and young people to participate in development and on the management of rural territories.

Both aspects are included in the new 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan of the Institute, which promotes the interdisciplinary and inter-thematic integration of IICA specialists with a view to strengthening micro and small rural businesses (a sector in which the contribution of rural women has been growing in importance), as well as supporting the formulation and negotiation of policies and strategies for territorial rural development.

The principal contributions made by the Institute in each region through this Program are detailed below:

In the Andean Region, IICA, together with its national partners, promoted the incorporation of the gender approach and the promotion of rural women micro-entrepreneurs into territorial development efforts, particularly in Colombia (Tequendama) and Peru (Huaura). In Ecuador, the consolidation of the Ecuadorian Corporation of Rural Women Entrepreneurs was facilitated by providing training to rural women entrepreneurs

as well as officials and representatives of public and private institutions that assist them. In Colombia, support was provided to the PADEMUR program, in the context of which an international seminar was organized for the exchange of successful experiences by women entrepreneurs. In addition, follow-up was provided to the FOMMUR and *Suma Solidaria* Agreement, which provided training to rural women in business management and solidarity economics with a gender approach. The Institute also facilitated discussions on current issues concerning women, and followed up on efforts to enact the Rural Women's Act.

In the Caribbean Region, IICA supported the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP), which was expanded to nine national chapters. In a workshop on ways to strengthen the Network, annual work plans were developed for each national chapter. Finally, in collaboration with the office of the First Lady of the Dominican Republic, the Secretariat for Agriculture and the Secretariat for Women's Affairs, the Institute supported the International Seminar on Gender and Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In the Central Region, in Nicaragua, IICA supported the strengthening of a group of 656 rural women entrepreneurs organized in associations and cooperatives by creating a series of tools and instruments adapted to the particular situation of women producers. Also, together with UNDP and UNIFEM, the Institute provided technical support to the second phase of the Women's Economic Agenda Project in Nicaragua; in particular, with regard to strategic planning for the period 2006-2010.

In the Northern Region, during recent years IICA has promoted the establishment of a two-way North-South technical cooperation agenda, paying special attention to the exchange of experiences between rural women entrepreneurs and the establishment of networks of women and young people. In this regard, IICA established a formal contract with American AgriWomen (AAW), a coalition of 51 organizations, farmers and providers of agricultural services in the United States. As a first result of this collaboration, the Institute was invited to work with the Advisory Board on Education of the AAW, and is endeavoring to promote a cooperation agreement that facilitates dialogue and exchanges of experiences among networks of women rural producers of the Americas starting in 2007. In Mexico, IICA provided support to the National Rural Women's Network and followed up on the IICA-RENAMUR-CONGES agreement, designed to increase access by RENAMUR members to niches in the ethical and fair and solidarity-based trade segments of the European market.

In the Southern Region, through the Standing Rural Development Forum, experiences relating to the particular circumstances of the social actors, in particular, those of rural women producers engaged in family agriculture and of rural women workers, in general, were shared. In Uruguay, support was provided to groups of small-scale producers, both men and women, members of the Rural Federation by promoting the strengthening of federations of rural associations, while at the same time placing emphasis on the integration of rural families based on increased participation of youths and women.

3. Technical Cooperation

3.1 *Implementing the hemispheric agenda*

In response to the mandates issued by its highest-level governing body and in order to meet the needs of the regions and the countries, IICA focused its hemispheric agenda on three strategic priorities: *a) consolidation of the new model for technical cooperation, b) contribution to the repositioning of agriculture, and c) delivery of direct technical cooperation.*

Consolidating the new model for technical cooperation

The Executive Committee approved the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan (MTP), which redefines the Institute's vision and mission and establishes the strategic actions that it will be implementing through 2010, designed to consolidate the important changes in IICA's *modus operandi* implemented during the previous four years.

To meet the new challenges posed by the adoption of the MTP, the Institute strengthened its technical management through the Directorate of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management. This unit is responsible for providing global follow-up to the trends determining the evolution of agriculture and the rural milieu; for monitoring and guiding the Institute's cooperation; for promoting technical excellence in all the organization's programs, projects and activities; and for implementing knowledge management processes aimed at making IICA's operations more effective and efficient.

The Institute prepared the proposed Program to Enhance Leadership Skills in Strategic Sectors of Agriculture, which will lead to the implementation of courses and workshops in the different areas of concentration and IICA units, and the execution of joint activities with strategic partners.

Technical leadership and knowledge management are becoming standard forms of work within IICA. They are intended to consolidate a model for technical cooperation that places special emphasis on the cross-thematic work aimed at repositioning agriculture and providing direct technical cooperation. The Institute is endeavoring to make its technical cooperation more effective and relevant, directly linking its actions to the needs and the priorities of its clients.

IICA has adopted a cross-thematic approach to knowledge management, establishing a permanent working group on the issue and initiating the actions required for a process of this kind, such as the creation of a repository of institutional publications, the testing of the beta version of the Integrated System for the Management of Agricultural Libraries in the Orton Commemorative and Venezuela libraries, and the maintenance of a cutting-edge technological platform.

As part of the efforts to modernize the technological infrastructure and thereby improve communication and information sharing among the Institute's Offices, Headquarters, staff and partners, the Virtual Private Network is now in operation in 95% of IICA's Offices. Technological tools, such as the Intranet, the system for preparing and recording reports and monitoring institutional agreements, were also designed and revised. Furthermore, the Institute's Web portal was redesigned. The focus is now on the management of technical knowledge and information resources can be administered from each country. This, in turn, facilitates the publication and decentralized management of information, the creation of virtual communities and the implementation of Internet-based forums and videoconferences, among other benefits.

The coverage of the Infoagro.net system was expanded, thanks to the inclusion of new regional technical information systems that permit over 17,000 registered users in Latin America and the Caribbean to share and exchange information. Two successful examples of these new regional systems are the Sicta Network and Infoagro/Comercio for the Central Region.

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

The Institute discussed and coordinated with other institutions the preparation of the 2007 Report on the State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Life, and the methodological procedure to be used to gather and analyze the data and other inputs required.

In addition, IICA, FAO and ECLAC set up a working group that led to the creation of a shared base of information from the three institutions and made progress with the conceptual and methodological definition of the terms "rural," "agroindustrial" and "expanded agriculture." They also began preparing a joint document analyzing the trends in, and outlook for, agriculture and the rural milieu.

The results of the studies on the true contribution of agriculture (TCA) to economic development are a key argument for defending the strategic role of the agricultural sector and repositioning it in State policies. Consequently, IICA played an active part in the assessing or updating the TCA study in Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

The hemispheric dialogue on critical issues that impact the agricultural sector or determine its development was promoted through hemispheric technical forums involving pertinent experts and representatives of specialized centers. The topics addressed included:

- The Doha Round of Agricultural Negotiations: the results of Hong Kong
- Policies for the development of rural territories in Brazil
- State policies for agriculture and rural life, and
- Climate change and the vulnerability of agriculture and the rural milieu

Another result related to IICA's efforts to reposition agriculture was the establishment of *IICA Day* at the OAS. During the first activity of this kind, the Permanent Council of the OAS recognized the Institute's work on behalf of agricultural and rural development, and underscored the importance of its actions in the fields of agricultural health and food safety, biotechnology and agro-tourism. In other events held in the member countries, IICA also presented and defended its arguments concerning the important role that agriculture and rural life play in socioeconomic development.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses

Eight Salvadorian companies validated their products, visited points of sale and held more than 35 business meetings as members of a trade mission that visited Miami. The mission marked the culmination of the fourth Export Platforms Program to be implemented in El Salvador. A third Program also got under way in Honduras that will conclude in 2007 with efforts to attract new business in the Florida market (USA).

Making small and medium-sized agribusinesses in the hemisphere more competitive is one of the priorities of the Institute's work. To meet the specific information needs of agricultural entrepreneurs, three *Agroenlace* radio programs were used to disseminate information about export business plans, export consortia, food safety, mycotoxins and *Salmonella*. Furthermore, seminars were held in Nicaragua, Haiti, El Salvador, Guatemala and Panama to explain the requirements for exporting fresh and processed agricultural products to markets in the United States, Canada and the European Union. Training activities on good agricultural practices also took place in Barbados and Haiti.

In coordination with the LATN Network, IICA conducted comparative analyses of the complementary agendas of the Andean countries that have signed free trade agreements with the United States (Colombia, Peru, Ecuador).

As a result of the partnership with Florida International University (FIU), the first of the Hemispheric Agribusiness Seminars (HAS) was held, entitled "CAFTA-DR: Agribusiness Opportunities in Florida." In support of the National Fruit Program of El Salvador (FRUTALES), IICA also coordinated and implemented the "Markets and Marketing" course of the Fruit-growing Diploma Program of the University of El Salvador.

Working through its Office in Spain, the Institute promoted and selected the participants for the Third Meeting on Innovation and Technology, held during the Barcelona Food Fair, and identified contacts in the small producers market for the companies that took part in the Rural Business Fair in Segovia.

The Institute also formed part of the executive committee of the ninth Food and Beverages Show and organized the CAFTA-DR area with the World Trade Center of Miami.

In support of Nicaragua, IICA organized two trade missions involving over 50 small- and medium-scale agricultural entrepreneurs interested in identifying business opportunities and learning about the market in South Florida.

As part of its duties as the Technical Secretariat of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), IICA focused on administering the Web page, which serves as a focal point, and organizing the Regular Meeting (Cartagena, Colombia) and two Executive Committee meetings (Washington and Miami). The Institute also concluded its assessment of the information systems of the agricultural markets in the MIOA member countries and defined a catalogue of the best practices implemented in those systems, which will be used as the basis for the training workshop for administrators of information systems due to be held in 2007.

The Infoagro/Agronegocios system was consolidated and more tools included, such as the *Cuadernos para la exportación* series and the “Are you ready to export?” methodology, which is used to gauge the preparedness of agri-food companies and pinpoint areas in which training is required.

IICA gave presentations in various forums on the implementation of the CAFTA-DR and the possible consequences, the trade negotiations between Central America and the United States, and food and nutritional security in Central America and the challenges they pose for universities. By participating in debates and the sharing of experiences about trade-related issues, the Institute strengthened the capabilities of various actors linked to the national and international agricultural sectors.

At the request of the regional associations of producers in Central America, the Institute prepared documents for the poultry, rice and fruit sub-sectors, analyzing the implications of the CAFTA-DR for the competitiveness of those sectors. Furthermore, IICA assisted the CAC in drafting the Central American common agricultural policy and strengthening the Central American Customs Union, whose creation is a pre-condition for an association agreement with the European Union on economic matters.

With regard to regional integration, IICA supported and provided technical assistance to the regional agricultural councils (CAC, CAS, CARICOM and CAN). It also worked with national agricultural trade policy offices to develop regional positions and seek consensus on trade and sectoral policy.

To foster a better understanding of the economic impact of policies in support of agriculture and the different trade liberalization scenarios, IICA conducted studies, developed methodologies and carried out training and direct advisory activities, for both the public and private sectors. To enhance the expertise of the officials responsible for implementing and managing free trade agreements, the Institute set up and implemented a horizontal technical cooperation program called “Policy and Trade Node: Focal Point Mexico.” The objective of the program is to tap Mexico’s experience in this field for the benefit of other countries in the hemisphere.

Through the Infoagro/Comercio information system, IICA provided follow-up to the issue of agriculture in the multilateral and bilateral negotiations in which the countries of the hemisphere are involved, and distributed weekly electronic bulletins containing documents and news about the status of the negotiations.

The InterCambio e-magazine is yet another of IICA's technical cooperation instruments. Distributed periodically, it provides a forum for the Institute's specialists to discuss current issues in the thematic areas of trade, trade negotiations and agribusiness.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

IICA continued to support the institution-building efforts of the member countries designed to enable them to implement the WTO's sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS) effectively. This action not only permitted the countries to defend their interests and positions in international forums, particularly in dealings with the WTO SPS Committee, but also resulted in their coordinating their institutional structures better to provide follow-up to the agendas of the international organizations involved in SPS.

The Institute promoted better coordination among the specialists of the national institutions involved with SPS and their respective missions to the WTO. It also increased the feedback among institutions and the circulation of news about the latest developments in the international forums, the designation of personnel to deal with SPS issues, awareness of the urgency of SPS issues among decision makers and the allocation of financial resources for participating in international events and to coordinate actions within the countries. These efforts were supported by the implementation of the Initiative for the Americas, which facilitated the participation of 28 countries from the hemisphere in four meetings of the WTO SPS Committee.

To enhance capabilities and share experiences related to SPS, IICA supported a WTO workshop involving representatives of eleven countries from the hemisphere, and a workshop to provide follow-up to the specialized course in SPS held in 2005. The Institute also collaborated in the review of the plant health standards of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), for which workshops were held in a number of Latin American countries.

IICA implemented an institutional strategy for managing emergencies stemming from the risk of transboundary diseases, such as avian influenza (AI). This strategy is helping the countries strengthen their institutional capabilities and implement a series of actions designed to prepare and train producers and opinion leaders. The strategy made it possible to strengthen veterinary services by means of joint activities with the public and private sectors, including the application of the "Performance, Vision and Strategy" (PVS) instrument, the production of series of radio and video programs, the issuing of press releases, the preparation of documents with information on AI and the conducting of studies on the global and hemispheric economic impact of AI on the poultry chain.

With a view to strengthening interagency cooperation on behalf of the countries, the Institute became a partner in the OIE-FAO joint action known as the Global Frontiers - Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TAD) Initiative. Other international organizations and agencies are also involved, such as OIRSA, PAHO and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The objective is to prevent outbreaks of transboundary and zoonotic diseases in the Americas. Furthermore, IICA entered into a wide-ranging cooperation agreement with FAO that includes agricultural health and food safety issues.

With PAHO's endorsement, the PVS instrument was made available to the national food safety services and applied in Ecuador and Peru. This tool helps services of this kind modernize their operations, as it enables them to assess their current level of performance, create and share a common vision with the private sector, set priorities and facilitate strategic planning to meet international commitments, and tap the opportunities for globalization.

As a result of the strategic partnership with the OIE, the PVS instrument was reviewed and adjusted to conform to the guidelines of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code. The OIE then endorsed the PVS, describing it as a very useful tool for strengthening national veterinary services.

Another important development was the OAS Secretary General's recognition of the joint IICA-PAHO effort with regard to zoonoses and food safety, agriculture and health.

To provide important information about AI and other strategic AHFS issues, IICA maintains the "Agrosalud" website, which was visited by 3257 users seeking news and up-to-date documents, and information about events.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

The Institute fostered the institutional repositioning of organic agriculture in Central America by providing technical cooperation to the Central American Commission of Competent Authorities, made up of the directors of the offices responsible for organic agriculture in Central America and the Dominican Republic. IICA also attracted the interest of other cooperation agencies active in the region, such as the Austrian Development Cooperation and the Government of Spain, with which the Institute began to formulate national and regional projects.

The Institute guided the conceptual development of the academic program of an international course on agro-ecology and rural development, and took part in its implementation. Held in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, the course was organized by the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) and the Autonomous National University of Nicaragua. Following this collaboration, the UCSC and IICA are discussing the possibility of formalizing their relationship, with a view to holding a similar course every two years.

A technical forum entitled “Climate Change and climatic variability in agriculture and the rural milieu” was held in Costa Rica. Participants shared their experiences with regard to food systems, rural poverty, agriculture in Central America and other regions of the hemisphere, and risk management in the rural milieu.

The Institute also hosted a workshop sponsored by the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research (IAI) and the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), where emphasis was placed on the importance of a proper understanding of the functions of ecosystems and environmental constraints to guide future land management strategies.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

IICA continued to play a key role in the management of rural territories by supporting institution-building and policy-making processes for rural development with a territorial approach. The Mexican government sponsored the “International Seminar on Rural Development and the Agri-food Sector: Future Strategies.” Held in Queretaro, Mexico, the event demonstrated IICA’s positioning on this issue. Parallel to the seminar, the Institute hosted the Tri-national Meeting of Deputy Ministers of Rural Development of Colombia, Brazil and Mexico, where the Deputy Ministers requested IICA’s support for a project joint involving a comparative analysis of rural development policies.

With regard to the creation of technical capabilities, IICA provided follow-up to the cooperation agreement signed the previous year with the Rural Policy Research Institute (RUPRI), a consortium of midwestern universities in the United States of America. Agreement was reached on the general guidelines of a joint agenda known as The Alliance for Rural America.

The Institute defined criteria for selecting and demarcating the so-called “reference territories,” conceived as areas where tools for the application of the territorial approach to rural development can be developed, adapted and validated. The areas are also used to orient the methodology used for the social management of the territory. IICA implemented technical cooperation activities in this field in Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala and Chile, and the establishment of a reference territory in Guyana was confirmed. Furthermore, progress was made in articulating the reference territories with the rural development observatories of Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, as knowledge management tools.

The Inter-Agency Group on Rural Development (IAGRD) made further progress with the development of a methodology for defining the terms “urban” and “rural” more precisely. This work, based on information from Costa Rica, is one of the inputs for a hemispheric initiative of the IAGRD aimed at contributing to the definition of the term “rural” before the next round of national censuses in the LAC countries.

With regard to the consolidation of family agriculture and small and medium-sized rural businesses, the Institute completed the studies aimed at characterizing this type of

agriculture in Chile, Paraguay, Argentina and Uruguay. Similar to the studies carried out in Brazil, they provide valuable input for the public policymakers responsible for the development of family agriculture. In addition, based on the differentiation of production, and as a first step in capacity building to tap the market opportunities available to family production units and small- and medium-sized rural businesses, IICA promoted the dissemination of information and knowledge related to fair trade in Colombia, Mexico and Brazil, focused on networks and organizations of rural producers.

To support the promotion of development opportunities for rural women and young people, the Institute implemented a strategy designed to change the emphasis of its cooperation with the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP), to strengthen the Network technically and make it sustainable. Furthermore, by providing conceptual and methodological guidelines on sustainable micro-credits, IICA strengthened the Hemispheric Business Development Program for Rural Women (PADEMUR) in the Dominican Republic.

The Institute promoted the formulation of an institution-building program on inclusive rural development policies for young people, with a view to reactivating the cooperation between IICA and the Ibero-American Youth Organization, executing actions in at least three countries.

With regard to the management of knowledge for rural development, the Institute consolidated the Permanent Forum on Rural Development in Brazil, comprised of a network of national institutions linked to similar initiatives in other countries of the region. The Forum is a mechanism for sharing, articulating and disseminating knowledge and experiences related to sustainable rural development. One of the Forum's first achievements was the holding of the "Rural Territories Exhibition," which became the main national showcase of the progress made in implementing the territorial approach in Brazil. The Forum also continued to develop instruments for facilitating territorial development processes.

In the Southern Region, IICA continued to consolidate a postgraduate program at the University of Cuyo, in Mendoza, Argentina, and to implement a collaborative effort in Uruguay, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil for the sharing of lessons and expertise related to the formulation of postgraduate programs. In the field of institutional modernization, the Institute and the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) of Chile identified priority areas for technical cooperation.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

IICA's activities in this field made it possible to strengthen national capabilities for modernizing research and innovation institutions. It carried out a study on concepts and strategies for promoting institutional modernization, and the design of policies for developing and introducing technologies. In addition, a project profile was prepared for cooperation between countries and regions of the Americas in the field of innovation.

The Institute contributed to the implementation of the International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development, sponsored by the World Bank, FAO, UNDP, GEF, UNEP, UNESCO and the WHO. IICA was responsible for coordinating the assessment for Latin America and the Caribbean; creating a database of the authors of the study; facilitating three meetings to determine the respective chapters and content; revising and discussing the first drafts; and, coordinating the actions with the IAASTD Secretariat, operated by the World Bank and UNESCO.

With a view to strengthening the Hemispheric System for Cooperation on Agricultural Technological Innovation and its links with the International Research System, the Institute promoted the dialogue for the design of technology policies under the aegis of FORAGRO, whose Technical Secretariat is operated by IICA. It also supported the meeting of FORAGRO's Executive Committee, where the Forum elected a new president and vice president, and approved the 2006-2008 plan of action, which includes cooperation initiatives in the institutional innovation fields. The Forum also took important decisions with respect to the integration of small-scale agriculture into the market, innovation applied to family agriculture and the topics to be discussed at the Forum's International Meeting, due to take place in Montevideo in 2008.

Several members of FORAGRO from Latin America and the Caribbean played an active role in the Third Conference of the Global Research Forum, held in New Delhi, which facilitated cooperation between the Americas and other regions of the world in the field of innovation. Inputs were also generated for the design of research strategies to help the countries achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

FORAGRO's role in sensitizing decision makers to the strategic importance of agricultural research was strengthened through the participation of its President in the Meeting of Agricultural Committees of the Latin American Parliament, held in Costa Rica.

Under the agreement signed with the IDB, the Institute supported the consolidation of FONTAGRO as a mechanism for funding regional research. Under this same line of action, IICA supported the implementation of three workshops aimed at providing technical follow-up to the projects already under way and evaluating the performance of the institutional consortia responsible for executing them. Studies were carried out to evaluate the socioeconomic, environmental and institutional impact of FONTAGRO's regional projects. Furthermore, a training course was held in Antigua, Guatemala on the design of high-quality projects intended to have a big impact. This activity was implemented in partnership with the NARI and the AECI (Spain).

The Institute promoted reciprocal cooperation between countries of the Americas by means of the cooperative agricultural research and technology innovation programs (PROCI) and other, similar efforts. IICA evaluated the performance of these programs and pursued new agreements with the institutions of the countries of the Southern Region (PROCISUR) and the Amazon watershed (PROCITROPICOS). The PROCINORTE

information group drew up its work plan for 2007, which focuses on the creation of the Agricultural Information Collection of Mexico, and increased information sharing among Mexico, the United States and Canada.

The Institute began the process of updating the SICTA (Central America) and PROCIANDINO to align them with the strategic priorities and objectives of the countries in those regions. The partnership with COSUDE was strengthened, with a view to executing the second stage of the SICTA-Network project, designed to reduce poverty and create better living conditions for small and medium-scale producers of staple foods in Central America, by means of technological innovation and agricultural diversification.

With regard to information and knowledge management related to technology and innovation, the number of users of the Scientific and Technological Information System (INFOTEC) rose by 22%. The system's administrator took part in a meeting on sensitization and cooperation among regions in technologies and information management and communications for agricultural research and development, organized by GFAR-APAARI-AIT and held in Thailand.

A project got under way in partnership with GFAR, entitled "Information management for agricultural R&D: indicators, successful cases and a sensitization strategy for LAC." IICA also held an online course on information management for agricultural research and innovation, working with FAO-RLC through the FODEPAL virtual teaching platform.

The development of INFOTEC, the dissemination of up-to-date information on the state and performance of agriculture in the region from the technological perspective, and the organization of conferences and workshops on these issues have helped develop a prospective vision of agricultural technology and innovation among public and private stakeholders and civil society.

In regard to biotechnology and biosafety, IICA prepared the proposed Inter-American Biotechnology and Biosafety Program (IBBP), whose implementation was endorsed by the Institute's governing bodies. The proposal had been discussed and agreed upon by the IBBP Working Group, comprising IICA and representatives of the CAS Biotechnology Group and Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, the United States and Venezuela.

Parallel to this process, the Institute helped ascertain the biotechnology and biosafety needs of the Andean, Caribbean and Central regions, with a view to identifying and formulating strategic projects for the Caribbean and Central regions. The projects in question were then discussed by representatives of Central America, the Caribbean and the European Union during the meeting of the Seventh Framework Program for Technological Research and Development, coordinated by Bioeurolatina/European Commission, the University of Costa Rica and IICA, to promote cooperation in the area of food, agriculture and biotechnology.

With respect to the development of coordination mechanisms at the hemispheric, regional and national levels, the Institute worked with new regional technical cooperation models for biotechnology that make it possible to share information and experiences and identify possible joint activities with the North American Biotechnology Initiative (NABI) and the CAS, on issues such as intellectual property rights (IPR), risk analysis and regulatory frameworks.

IICA established a partnership with the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) for work on the following lines of action: the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, the Convention on Biological Diversity, Codex Alimentarius, the International Plant Protection Convention and the WTO agreements.

Codex Alimentarius held the sixth meeting of its Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Task Force on Food Derived from Biotechnology, in Japan. As part of the preparations for the event, the Institute organized the Consultation for the Western Hemisphere, in which all the countries of the Americas took part. IICA facilitated information sharing and the efforts to determine each country's level of preparedness prior to the meeting. Delegates from Costa Rica, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile took part in the meeting thanks to financial assistance from the BIO under the memorandum of understanding signed with the Institute.

Under the terms of an agreement with the U.S. Grain Council, the Technical Conference on Agrobiotechnology and Biosafety and the Basic Elements of the Cartagena Protocol was held, in Brasilia. Delegations from IICA member countries received up-to-date information about the role of biotechnology in agriculture at the world and hemispheric levels, and the legal implications of the Cartagena Protocol.

The Fourth Inter-governmental Hemispheric Meeting for the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was held, with financial support from the USDA and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. In addition, during the international negotiations concerning the Protocol, IICA helped the member countries share experiences and prepare joint positions on aspects that will affect agricultural trade and the role of biotechnology in food production and wealth creation.

The Third Meeting of the Committee of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol took place in Curitiba, Brazil. Prior to the event, IICA organized a preparatory technical meeting to enable the countries to share information about the current negotiations, particularly the implications of cross-border trade in living modified organisms (LMOs). The delegates to the meeting accepted the proposal put forward by the countries of the hemisphere regarding article 18.2(a), on the labeling, transportation and transboundary movement of LMOs.

In Paraguay, a national workshop was held to establish the basic elements of a biotechnology and biosafety policy. A multisectoral group was set up comprising representatives of the public and private sectors and academia. Other biotechnology and

biosafety cooperation networks were created in the Caribbean and Central America, and close contact was maintained with other organizations, such as FAO and World Society for the Protection of Animals.

In the field of information and communication, IICA strengthened the System for Specialized Information on Biotechnology and Biosafety (SIBB). This made it possible to compile, analyze and distribute up-to-date information on the subject via the Web page (www.infoagro.net/bioteconologia), the Infoagro-Bioteconología bulletin and the regional information modules. The system serves as a repository of information in the Americas and has 900 users drawn from the public, private and academic sectors.

The Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture (PIPRA) organized a meeting in Mexico in October 2006. IICA took part and established an alliance with PIPRA to strengthen the institution's work with regard to one of the most important components of the IBBP.

The important role that biotechnology can play in making agricultural production more efficient and competitive was highlighted in major international forums, such as IICA Day, at OAS Headquarters in Washington, and the meetings of the Agricultural Forum of Tabasco and the International Livestock Forum, both of which took place in Mexico.

Agricultural insurance and investment projects

During 2006, much of IICA's work was directed at supporting the countries in their efforts to promote investment in agriculture and rural development and to foster agricultural insurance systems that respond to the needs of a modern, dynamic and competitive agricultural sector. With these goals in mind, the Institute's work in these areas focused on promoting and implementing initiatives to capture external resources; stimulating and coordinating pre-investment and investment processes; supporting capacity-building for the elaboration, execution and evaluation of pre-investment and investment projects, by training human resources and through the development and application of project methodologies, and support for bidding processes.

At the hemispheric level, IICA prepared the "Business plan for technical cooperation on agricultural insurance" and started working towards its implementation in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Initiatives were presented for the signing of legal instruments with the *Entidad Estatal de Seguros Agrarios* (ENESA) [State Agrarian Insurance Institute] of Spain and the *Federación Interamericana de Empresas de Seguros* (FIDES) [Inter-American Federation of Insurance Companies]. In addition, a workshop was held in Bolivia to promote agricultural insurance and support was provided for preparation of a proposal to design a model agricultural insurance program for the Caribbean, with pilot projects in Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas and Dominica.

In the context of actions under IICA's Inter-American Biotechnology and Biosafety Program, the Institute worked on designing a methodology to determine the needs of the countries in this area; formulating three profiles for strategic projects; and preparing three

specific projects for the Caribbean Region. IICA provided training in the application of the problem-solving tree methodology and the preparation of a logical framework to support the Regional Workshop for the Design of Profiles for Regional Projects in Agrobiotechnology in Central America.

As part of the commitment to improve living conditions in the rural milieu, IICA and PAHO moved forward with the design of the Hemispheric Program to Strengthen the School-Community Partnership for Rural Well-being.

A manual for the preparation and presentation of investment projects to prevent avian influenza was prepared with a view to capacity-building in relation to project methodologies. A virtual course on fundraising was also designed, in English, to train IICA officials in the Caribbean region, and materials were prepared for designing a methodology for the joint preparation of plans and projects as a means for developing human resources and social capital in rural territories. In addition, the proposed guidelines for re-routing loan resources for investment and technical cooperation programs and projects were prepared as a means of supporting countries with limited borrowing capacity.

IICA supported the *Plan Puebla Panamá* (PPP/IMDS) by participating in the preparation of proposals for negotiating the pre-investment funds needed to formulate the following projects: (a) capacity-building for quality education centers to meet labor needs; (b) innovation for the development of fruit agribusinesses, and (c) integrated management of water resources and hydro-agricultural development of irrigation and drainage. Support was also provided for the preparation of a proposal designed to establish the Forum for the Integration of Agri-food Markets in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

In the Caribbean Region, assistance was provided to CACHE for preparation of the proposal “Capacity-building to improve the competitiveness of the agricultural sector in the Caribbean”. That proposal was submitted to the IDB Initiative for the Promotion of Regional Public Goods (RPGs). In the Southern Region, support was provided to CAS in preparing the project “Regional information system for agricultural development in CAS member countries,” which was also presented to RPGs.

IICA worked directly with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in preparing and evaluating investment profiles, preliminary projects and projects consistent with the integral approach to rural and agricultural development encouraged by the Institute. Technical support was also provided to the negotiation processes between the countries and the regional financial institutions, cooperation agencies, and donors of financial resources for pre-investment or investment projects.

Other important results of the Institute’s work in the countries and regions in relation to investment projects are described in the corresponding sections of this report. In addition, the 2006 national and regional reports presented by the Institute to the authorities in Member States and to the corresponding regional entities include a detailed description of IICA’s work in this area.

Other areas of support for technical cooperation

Other important results were achieved in the areas of education, information and information technology, which have helped IICA provide more pertinent and effective technical cooperation.

The Distance Training Center was restructured, making it possible to give courses in English and Spanish on agro-forestry, the handling of foodstuffs, organic agriculture, GAPs, agro-ecotourism and other subjects.

With regard to education, with assistance from the SIHCA, IICA helped upgrade expertise for professors and administrators at universities in Peru, Venezuela, Paraguay and Mexico in specific regard to drafting and implementing strategic plans, redesigning curricula, obtaining accreditation for quality and training external evaluators.

The number of institutions contributing information to the Agricultural Information and Documentation System of the Americas (SIDALC) rose to 141, with a total of 221 databases and 1,781,264 entries available. The number of users of the SIDALC (including the AGRIC2000 metabase) reached 394,691, an increase of 23% over 2005.

The Orton Commemorative Library attended to more than 11,050 on-site users and processed over 96,000 on-line requests for services. The number of bibliographic entries in its collection of monographs increased by more than 81,814, including 2,421 full-text documents. The library acquired 32,672 scientific and technical documents (printed or electronic versions) and now subscribes to 91 scientific journals, all of which affords researchers and users access to the latest documentary information.

As part of its joint activities with FAO, IICA finished revising and adapting the IMARK self-teaching module entitled “Investing in information for development.” This module is designed to generate knowledge and support the formulation of strategies for improving information management by agricultural organizations. IICA’s work in agricultural information management was recognized by FAO at the meeting of the group that administers the IMARK products, held at UNESCO headquarters.

Finally, IICA provided support for the Fourteenth Inter-American Meeting of Agricultural Information Specialists, which took place in Mexico. The participants shared knowledge about topics such as digital libraries, information systems, knowledge management and capacity building, metadata and information management tools.

3.2 Implementation of the regional agendas

Andean Region

IICA's regional agenda reflected the regional needs identified by the countries themselves. One of their top priorities was to strengthen their agricultural health and food safety systems, and the institutions responsible for implementing and administering those systems. Accordingly, the activities programmed under the regional agenda involved the development and strengthening of national traceability systems, including the implementation of a virtual traceability network among the countries of the region.

The Institute also undertook initiatives to implement measures designed to prevent, control and eradicate economically and socially important pests and diseases. It carried out actions aimed at preventing an outbreak of avian influenza and strengthening programs to combat transboundary pests and diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease and the fruit fly.

The signing of trade and free trade agreements between the Andean countries and the United States created new responsibilities for the ministries of agriculture, which were obliged to review and revamp their institutional framework. IICA assisted them in their efforts to study the agendas that complement the bilateral agreements signed with the United States, and the implications of those agendas and of the treaties. The objective was to propose institutional changes for the ministries and other agricultural sector bodies involved in implementing and administering the trade treaties.

The Institute promoted the definition and harmonization of the different levels of responsibility and the development of the regional approaches to the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, with mechanisms for financing production, the study and promotion of viable production chains, the promotion of rural tourism, training and the organization of the actors and institutions involved.

With regard to rural development, IICA determinedly promoted the territorial approach to development, in a region characterized by marked cultural and ethnic diversity. In meeting the countries' needs, the Institute respected the goals and actions of the endogenous models adopted by Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela, which have opted for a nationalist development model.

Working with the CAN, the Institute promoted the Andean Rural Development Forum, in which the region's ministries of rural development and rural welfare are involved. IICA also supported the creation of the Andean Rural Development Network and promoted the establishment of an Observatory of Rural Territories in each country, to provide follow-up and disseminate the lessons learned and successful experiences in the rural development field.

In the area of technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life, and as a member of PROCIANDINO, IICA continued to promote the efforts to

gather data about traditional Andean technologies and strengthen specialized networks, integrated thematic-technical systems and nodes for matching technical cooperation capabilities with the opportunities available.

With regard to education, the Institute supported the creation and operation of the portal of the schools of agricultural sciences in the Andean Region (www.sihca.org), which provides information about degree and training courses and other subjects related to education and rural development. It also cooperated with the Andean Regional Education Forum (FRADIEAR), whose members include the region's schools of agricultural, veterinary and forestry sciences.

Caribbean Region

IICA assisted ECLAC in assessing the damage caused by climatic events in the Caribbean Region. In making its proposals, the Institute emphasized the need to develop long-term sectoral plans to attract investment, spur the development of agribusinesses, promote the improvement of food security, reduce poverty and make progress toward sustainable development.

Despite traditional agriculture's low, and even negative, rates of growth, specific sectors showed signs of recovery, better use was made of the links between agriculture and tourism, and access to specific market niches increased. The Institute, along with CARDI, the CARICOM Secretariat and FAO, is a member of the Secretariat of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu of the Expanded Caribbean. It is also in the forefront of the efforts to promote and develop a renewed, more dynamic and competitive agricultural sector, linked to international markets and capable of harnessing technological developments and improving living conditions in rural territories.

IICA also continues to provide key direct support to the operations of the Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA), the Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE), the Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth (CAFY) and other regional organizations. One important achievement was the holding of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in The Bahamas, which included five workshops, a trade fair and a field visit. The event attracted a large number of local people who are involved in agriculture and over 200 overseas visitors.

The Institute continued to support the Jagdeo Initiative. By strengthening regional coordination, this will ensure that the Member States receive more efficient assistance as they endeavor to overcome the constraints to agricultural development and diversification, and to provide a platform for agricultural development as part of the CARICOM Single Market. Under this initiative, IICA placed emphasis on strengthening the capabilities for implementing good agricultural and environmental practices, executing actions aimed at improving preparedness for natural disasters and mitigating their effects, promoting agricultural diversification and integration, enhancing agricultural health and food safety systems, and implementing regional strategies for the

development of biotechnology and agro-energy while at the same time ensuring that natural resources are managed in a way that makes them sustainable.

In collaboration with ECLAC, and with financing from the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), the Institute initiated a project designed to create an agricultural information monitoring and evaluating system. The aim is to consolidate and strengthen the capabilities of the processes and systems already in place for monitoring and evaluating the progress made in implementing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and the Jagdeo Initiative.

IICA continued to support the public and private sectors with regional and national actions designed to foster agricultural trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses. The Institute helped The Bahamas, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the Eastern Caribbean States draft policies, rules, regulations and specific protocols.

In support of agribusinesses, IICA cooperated in capacity building efforts by formulating strategic plans for producers' organizations, coordinating the cooperation that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) is providing to the CABA and assessing how prepared 16 producers' associations and networks were to undertake modernization processes.

In the area of agricultural health and food safety, the Institute, in addition to providing direct technical assistance to some countries, collaborated with several regional and international organizations, such as FAO, PAHO, the USDA/APHIS and CIRAD. In particular, IICA co-hosted technical meetings of the Caribbean Veterinary Network and various regional and national workshops on good agricultural practices, export guides, plant and animal health regulations, etc.

The Institute continued to play an important role in the implementation of the strategy of the Caribbean Working Group on Invasive Species. IICA co-organized a meeting on animal disease surveillance and preparedness, with emphasis on avian influenza (AI) in the Caribbean. It also developed a preparedness strategy and, assisted by FAO and the USDA/APHIS, in Jamaica it conducted a regional simulation exercise for combating AI.

As part of its efforts to strengthen rural communities based on the territorial approach, IICA continued to support the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP), in particular with the holding of its Fifth Annual General Meeting and consciousness-raising and institutional capacity building workshops.

Mindful of the potentially negative impact that trade agreements can have on traditional commodities (bananas, sugar and rice), employment and the environment, the Institute continued to explore new economic opportunities in rural areas. It commissioned a study on the opportunities for agro-energy in the region and, with support from the OAS, the Caribbean Hotel Association and the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, consolidated agro-tourism activities through the Agro-tourism Linkages Centre, located in Barbados.

With regard to the introduction of technology and innovation to modernize agriculture and rural life, IICA continued to assist CARDI financially and collaborated with CARDI and CARIRI in implementing workshops to develop policies, strategies and technology research and development networks.

Given biotechnology's potential for increasing productivity and competitiveness, IICA held two important workshops on the subject, one of them with the University of the West Indies (UWI), and assisted the UWI with a workshop on the marketing of varieties developed using biotechnologies.

The Institute promoted the adoption of technologies that produce little or no greenhouse effect and the development of organic agriculture. It also continued to cooperate in the development of the herb industry, providing technical and financial support to several associations that promote this promising agribusiness.

Central Region

IICA supported and took part in the First Workshop of Central American Delegates for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, convened to provide follow-up to the commitments on priority issues approved at the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (Guayaquil, 2005). The event was used to disseminate information about the progress made in drafting the Central American Agricultural Policy, and to provide a technical approach to the relationship between the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and regional strategies.

As a result of this workshop, the Ministerial Delegates reached agreement on a work program to promote a State Policy for Agriculture and Rural Life, adjust the Regional Strategy to the hemispheric framework established in the 2005 Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil and develop the Information System for Monitoring and Evaluating the AGRO Plan. The CAC Secretariat also agreed to prepare conceptual and methodological guidelines for adjusting regional strategies, and a proposal for implementing them in Central America.

For the third consecutive year, IICA supported the participation of Central American businesses in the BIOFACH organic products fair, held in Germany. Once again, their stand was called The Central American Alliance. This initiative was the result of joint action by the private sector, trade promotion entities and international cooperation agencies.

The Third International Forum of Tropical Fruit Agribusinesses took place. The activity forms part of the Plan of Action for Agricultural and Rural Development signed by the presidents of Central America and Mexico. Some 354 people from Central America and the Dominican Republic took part, sharing their experiences with renowned international experts. For this collective effort, the Ministry of Production of Costa Rica and IICA worked with the Mesoamerican Sustainable Development Initiative of the Puebla-Panama Plan, CABEI, RUTA, FAO, OIRSA, USDA, other public organizations,

international cooperation agencies and producers' associations. In addition, a workshop on agricultural health and food safety held under the aegis of the Forum was used to identify the main plant health and safety requirements that the region's fruits have to meet to be accepted in international markets.

IICA also supported the International Co-operative Alliance and the organization Sugar Producers of the Central American Isthmus (AICA), furnishing them with information and input concerning the progress of the agricultural negotiations and the free trade agreements, and their impact on the agricultural sector. The Institute also gave a presentation to the CAC ministers on the negotiations that will be getting under way shortly leading to the signing of an association agreement between Central America and the European Union.

With regard to the strengthening of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) systems, IICA worked with OIRSA and the Central American Federation of Poultry Farmers (FEDAVICAC) to assess the level of preparedness of the Central American countries in the event of an outbreak of avian influenza. The assessment provided input for the ministers of agriculture, health and environment, who took the decisions needed to improve the preparedness of the countries. The Institute also worked with the same two organizations to draft the Safety Plan for the Central American Poultry Sector.

IICA contributed to the implementation of the project Improvement of the Productivity, Quality, Safety and Marketing of Beef in Central America. The Institute is responsible for executing or directly supporting the training components related to quality, the analysis of the data of the Veterinary Animal Management Production Program (VAMPP), HACCP, GAPs, GMPs, audits in safety systems, antibiotic resistance and the use of the OIE information system. The Institute also supported the standardization of the methodology used to study the elements that limit safety in the beef chain. These actions enhanced the capabilities of the national AHFS services and strengthened the national and regional mechanisms for articulating the public and private sectors.

To support the strengthening of rural communities based on the territorial approach, IICA and the University of California at Santa Cruz organized an international academic program consisting of two specialized courses (in agro-ecology and rural development, respectively) for 70 administrators, specialists and rural leaders. The aim was to enhance regional capabilities for formulating and implementing rural development policies, programs and projects that adopt the territorial approach. Nicaraguan universities and other international and national sponsors were also involved in this program.

The Institute also supported the creation of the Forum for Directors of PRODERT/CABEI Projects in the Trifinio Region (where the borders of Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala meet), thereby facilitating the execution of cross-border horizontal cooperation activities. Furthermore, IICA supported the design and execution of three territorial development projects in the Trifinio Region and in Costa Rica that include the territorial approach to sustainable rural development, operate as a network of territories and demonstrate participatory management processes.

Moreover, through the Central American System for the Integration of Agricultural Technology (SICTA) the Institute supported the integration and coordination at the regional level of the national agricultural research institutes and national agricultural research and technology transfer systems. The activities focused on strategic issues such as agrobiotechnology, plant genetic resources, the corn and bean chains and tropical fruits. IICA entered into agreements with CATIE and ACEAS as part of this process. Furthermore, IICA strengthened its ties with FORAGRO and the GFAR and promoted the participation of the SICTA in the International Assessment of the Role of Science and Technology in Development (IAASTD), as a means of linking the SICTA with hemispheric and global agricultural technology research and innovation initiatives. At the regional level, the Institute strengthened support for the Central American Cooperative Program for the Improvement of Crops and Livestock (PCCMCA).

Under the SICTA Network Project and with resources from COSUDE, IICA financed ten projects involving small producers, research institutes, universities and private enterprise. The aim of this project is to identify the technological innovation needed in the bean and corn chains, create partnerships among the stakeholders and make the chains more competitive.

PROMECAFE continued to implement technologies aimed at combating coffee pests and diseases. Biological control methods were used to contain the coffee berry borer (the Program reproduced and released its natural enemies and employed the fungus *Beauveria bassiana*), as well as hand-made traps. Other important achievements included the characterization of parasitic nematodes of the coffee plant, the development of technology for the integrated management of nematodes, the use of the Nemaya variety for grafting and the reduction of the volume of high-risk pesticides used in coffee growing.

Northern Region

The Tri-national Council (made up of the representatives of Mexico, Canada and the United States) established four priorities for regional actions: the strengthening of agricultural health and food safety, the development and introduction of agricultural technology, the promotion of agribusinesses and trade, and support for efforts to improve the countries' institutional and administrative capabilities.

During 2006, the Institute focused its efforts on seeking and leveraging resources to finance agricultural and rural development activities. In doing so, IICA served as a platform for the dialogue on agricultural issues through seminars, forums and various events held in the region on topics in which the Institute specializes.

IICA continued to strengthen its alliances with clients, strategic partners and organizations that work at the regional and hemispheric levels, such as the WTO, FAO, the OAS, ECLAC, the IDB, PAHO, USAID, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research. The Institute interacted with these institutions continually and sought partners for cooperation actions. It also briefed

them about its programs and the progress of the technical cooperation it provides in the Americas.

To promote trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses, the Institute supported Mexico's efforts to build capabilities and be more competitive. It also made available to the Central American and Caribbean countries Mexico's experience and the lessons it learned in negotiating, implementing and administering the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and the United States.

IICA's efforts also dovetailed with the cooperation activities of the U.S. aimed at developing national capabilities for participating in the meetings of the WTO SPS Committee, providing follow-up to the Doha Round of the WTO negotiations and supporting South-South cooperation initiatives.

In addition, the Institute supported the Mexico-Canada Bean Congress and, working with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, sponsored and supported the 2006 Forum on Agriculture. This forum, which focused on Brazil's experience in developing agribusinesses, took place in Montreal under the aegis of the 12th International Economic Forum of the Americas. Furthermore, at the IICA seminar on good management practices that formed part of the Congress of the Mexican Farm Management Association, held in Sonora, the Institute shared its experiences in that area.

IICA gave top priority to the efforts to strengthen agricultural health and food safety systems in the region, particularly as regards the consolidation of institutional and interagency efforts to address the potential threat of avian influenza, bovine spongiform encephalopathy, foot-and-mouth disease and the fruit fly. Particularly important for these regional efforts were the coordination and reciprocal support with FAO and the OIE.

Given the private sector's decisive role in implementing and administering the WTO SPS Agreement and other international agreements dealing with the issue, IICA made every effort to promote the sector's direct involvement in cooperation initiatives related to AHFS. IICA also promoted the execution of horizontal technical cooperation plans in the field of AHFS, under which veterinarians from the Northern Region shared their experiences with their counterparts from Colombia and Chile.

In the Northern Region, IICA undertook many successful efforts to responsibly link agriculture, agricultural trade and environmental protection. The most important were those aimed at helping the Member States cope with climate change by adapting their agriculture to the new conditions. IICA is also committed to working with the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research to organize a technical forum and coordinate research projects.

The Institute's efforts to ensure that arable land is used in a more sustainable way include its support for scholarship programs in the Northern Region, under which grantees studied and proposed solutions to the problems of small-scale agriculture in the Brazilian Amazon and soil erosion in potato production in Costa Rica.

To help strengthen rural communities through the use of the territorial approach, IICA held or supported workshops to share experiences involving renowned specialists from Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay and Spain.

With respect to biotechnology and biosafety, IICA signed a memorandum of understanding with the BIO for work on strategic issues, the development of regulations, the implementation of agreements and the marketing of biotechnology products. The Institute also promoted a forum for dialogue and cooperation on biotechnology that made it possible for different actors to discuss positions and reach agreement on actions at both the hemispheric and regional levels.

Finally, PROCINORTE continues to be a valuable institutional mechanism for coordinating regional activities, specifically those designed to increase agricultural competitiveness through technological innovation. Particularly important were IICA's efforts to expand horizontal cooperation within the region and with other countries, and to encourage the region's different agricultural research centers to do more to coordinate their activities.

Southern Region

In its capacity as the Technical and Administrative Secretariat of the CAS, IICA took part in the organization and implementation of the three regular meetings of CAS ministers of agriculture (Brasilia, Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Montevideo) and the special ministerial meeting held in Buenos Aires. At these meetings, the ministers adopted agreements and resolutions designed to help address regional problems in the agricultural sector. In addition to the technical and administrative support that it provided to the CAS, IICA consolidated the Regional Network of CAS Communicators (INFOCAS), made up of journalists and press secretaries of the region's ministries of agriculture. The network plays an important role in disseminating information about the progress of, and agreements adopted by, the CAS via the mass media.

With regard to the promotion of trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses, IICA worked with the European Union and ECLAC to organize the Seminar on Methodologies for the Analysis of Livestock Policies. In partnership with ECLAC, the Ministry of Agriculture of Chile and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, it held the Seminar on Agricultural Trade Liberalization and the Developing Countries. Both events were held in Chile and IICA facilitated the participation of the directors of policy and international negotiations from the region.

The Institute participated directly in several regional conferences and forums that focused on the current situation, potential and outlook for agribusinesses, in light of the ongoing globalization processes and agricultural trade negotiations. Such events included the conferences "Agribusiness in international trade: the implications of the results of the Doha Round for MERCOSUR," held in Paraguay, and "Integration into the international market and the future of agriculture in the region," which took place in Uruguay.

With the WTO, ALADI, the IDB-INTAL and the Government of Spain, IICA also co-organized the Sixth Short Course on Trade Policy for the Member Countries of ALADI, held in Montevideo. The Institute was in charge of the module on the agricultural trade agreements and the WTO's sanitary measures. IICA also took part in the Third Annual Meeting of the North American Agrifood Market Integration Consortium, giving a presentation entitled "The countries of the Expanded MERCOSUR in the global agrifood market and regional efforts to articulate the sector."

With a view to fostering prospective analysis and the dissemination of experiences, knowledge and up-to-date information, the Institute prepared five technical documents on regional and global agrifood trade, the multilateral trade negotiations, the integration process and regional articulation, and agricultural policies.

With regard to the strengthening of AHFS systems, by distributing the e-bulletin "Codex-MSF. Foro de Opinión" IICA helped enhance the technical capabilities of the members of the national committees responsible for implementing and monitoring the WTO SPS agreements and the Codex Alimentarius. Furthermore, during the First Pan American Congress on Zoonoses and the regular meeting of the Association of Veterinary Schools of MERCOSUR, both of which took place in Argentina, IICA promoted a proposal for improving animal health control systems and strengthening veterinary services through the use of the PVS instrument.

The Institute held an International Workshop on Traceability for the beef chain for technical personnel from the public, private and academic sectors of the countries of the region. The main conclusions and agreements of the workshop were included in the publication "Estado actual de los sistemas de trazabilidad para bovinos de carne en los países del Cono Sur."

Furthermore, in support of the CAS Secretariat IICA undertook several initiatives to secure resources for combating avian influenza from the World Bank.

To support the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment, IICA presented the results of the evaluation of the regional projects "Direct Planting" and "Models of indicators for eco-certification" at an international workshop with representatives of regional institutions and private organizations associated with the Confederation of Farmers for Sustainable Agriculture in the Americas (CAAPAS).

As part of its actions for strengthening the rural communities through the use of the territorial approach, the Institute helped identify the social and productive characteristics of small-scale family agriculture in each country of the region, using a standard methodology, and supported institution-building processes related to rural development.

Finally, in the training field IICA continued to support the efforts to improve the quality of university courses in Chile, Argentina and Paraguay. It helped revise study programs and implement initiatives aimed at adjusting them to the requirements of agricultural producers.

3.3 Implementation of the national agendas

Antigua and Barbuda

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- IICA facilitated the country's efforts to report on interventions relating to the Jagdeo Initiative and to prepare for the Summit of the Americas process.
- Provided support to the CABA local chapter, which has been working towards alleviating a key binding constraint on agricultural development in the country, praedial larceny.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- The Christian Valley Mango Festival of the Ministry of Agriculture increased the use of mango and other fruits, while at the same time bringing into focus the potential that Christian Valley has as an agro-eco-tourism site.
- Enhanced livelihood for local producers was achieved through a competition among agro-processors for the "IICA Best Agro-processor Award", held during the Mango Festival.
- In collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank, the Directorate of Gender Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture, improved the capacity of individuals in the public and private sectors to develop and manage successful enterprises.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- The capability of the Ministry of Agriculture to honor its obligations to the World Trade Organization/Sanitary and Phytosanitary agreements was enhanced as a result of technical advisory services from IICA.
- The capacity of producers and technicians in the management of Imported Red Fire Ant was increased through cooperation received from the Florida Association Voluntary Agencies/Caribbean Area.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Provided technical advice to and shared information with the Pesticides Control Board concerning activities for Pesticide Awareness Week.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- The Antigua Agro-processors Association has improved its capacity to respond to the challenges facing its industry through the development of a strategic plan for the Association.
- The Bethesda Rural Women's Group received technical and secretarial support to host a cultural event in its community for Easter and an agro-festival to commemorate World Food Day.

- The Antigua and Barbuda Agricultural Forum for Youth is now better positioned to extend its actions to other youths in the country due to technical advice received regarding the implementation of its programs.

Argentina

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Worked with the Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (SAGPyA) on the study entitled “Small-scale producers in the Argentine Republic: importance in production and employment, based on the 2007 National Agricultural Census”. This study provided input in defining national rural development policies and establishing the Argentine position at the MERCOSUR Specialized Meeting on Family Agriculture.
- Wrote the book entitled “The Argentine Agri-food Sector: 2000-2005”, which depicts events and trends in the sector over the last five-years. The book emphasizes the contribution of the sector to the economy and society.
- Supported specific groups of the CAS in topics related to market information systems, harvest prognoses, agricultural insurance and risk, policy matrices and GINA-SUR.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Wrote and published the book entitled “Agro-energy in the Energy Matrix”, which analyzes the world energy context and the current situation with regard to agro-energy, as well as prospects, and provides guidelines for public policies in this area.
- Conferences on agro-energy were held at events organized by the University of Buenos Aires, the SAGPyA, the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA), the Argentine Rural Society and the Directorate of Regional Operations of IICA.
- Prepared and circulated the monthly electronic bulletin entitled “International and Argentine Bio-fuels Market News”, which conducts continuing follow-up of local and international bio-fuel chains.
- Conducted the Forum on Alternative Crops for the Production of Bio-fuels, in conjunction with the SAGPyA, INTA and the Secretariat of Science and Technology.
- Prepared the study entitled “Current Panorama with respect to Agribusinesses in the Argentine Republic”.
- Prepared the Argentine chapter for 20 issues of the Southern Cone Agrifood Electronic Bulletin which publishes regulations, prognoses and news on the agrifood sector.
- Supported three Agricultural Risk and Insurance Seminars, held by the Agricultural Risk Office of the SAGPyA and the INTA.
- Prepared seven rural infrastructure projects under the Provincial Agricultural Services Program (PROSAP) which were presented to the IDB and World Bank for funding by the Argentine Government.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Worked with the SAGPyA on 18 technical reports analyzing projects or approved versions of CODEX rules and regulations, standards and agreements; another 18 reports for the WTO/SPS Committee; and delivered technical assistance in coordinating the Focal Point of the CODEX Committee for LAC.
- Worked with the National Committees on General Principles, Inspection Systems and Certification of Food Imports and Exports and Food Hygiene Systems.
- Supported the SAGPyA, the National Agrifood Health and Quality Service (SENASA) and the INTA with the Project to Prevent Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in Argentina. This project seeks to maintain Argentina's status as being free of Mad Cow Disease. As a result of this cooperation, the document analyzing the risk of BSE in Argentina was updated, 2,000 people were trained and the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on BSE was organized.
- Worked with SENASA's GPA Training Program through courses for 540 specialists and producers of various crops.
- Provided administrative and logistic support to the COSAVE Secretariat and cooperated in the implementation of the "Strategy to Control Cotton Boll Weevil in the Southern Cone".
- Provided support for the International Seminar on the Impact of International Food Quality and Safety Standards on Agro-industrial Chains, under the European project ALCUEFOOD, financed by the European Commission

Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life

- Signed a new technical cooperation agreement with the INTA for 2006-2008, which includes cooperative activities in the areas of internal project evaluation, the organization and conclusion of studies and publicity seminars, internal and external training and the contracting of specialists.
- Conducted the Regional Seminar "Advances with the Development of Biological Control Strategies for the Integrated Management of Pests in Fruit Trees (apple trees)", at which the results of the PROCISUR were circulated.

Bahamas

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Decision makers were able to gain a better understanding of the scope of key issues and solutions to the problems from a regional prospective during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Two exhibitions and radio talk shows supported the training of members of the Bahamas Producer Association and cooperative agents and leaders.
- In partnership with the Bahamas Agricultural Industrial Corporation (BAIC), support was provided for several training events for the Women's Arts and Crafts Cooperative.
- IICA encouraged the small ruminant producers and bottled tomato cooperatives to consolidate and move their cooperatives to an improved processing mode.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- A guide to emergency animal health issues, one of IICA's supporting documents for agricultural health, was formally discussed by the Ministry's professionals.
- IICA and PAHO worked with national authorities in the group discussion of Avian Influenza and participated in its emergency preparedness plan.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- The use of sustainable fishing techniques has been promoted with the North Abaco fishing cooperative in cooperation with the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI).

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- The introduction of a well-needed improved seed production system and other new aspects of agriculture were promoted.
- Students and teachers from New Providence and other islands know about the importance of agriculture and the wide range of opportunities for them in agriculture, including hydroponics and preparedness for disaster management and compensation.

Barbados

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Contributed to the repositioning of the agricultural sector was possible thanks to the promotion of agricultural diversification under the agro-tourism programme; the campaign to instill an awareness of primary agriculture as being only one part of an entire agri-food chain of inter-related activities; and the promotion of the modernization of the sector through the use of greenhouse technologies.
- Helped change the negative cultural mindset on agriculture by hosting a Plantation Breakfast at AgroFest, an Art/Craft Exhibition "*Home Grown and Hand Made*", and a Benefit Variety Concert "*From De Land*".

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Under the Agro-Tourism Programme with the OAS Agro-Tourism Project, inventory and market studies were completed in Barbados and six other Caribbean territories, videos documenting the various agro-tourism experiences were produced, and related seminars and workshops were hosted.
- A national strategy and action plan for Agro-Tourism in Barbados was developed in a multi-stakeholder workshop co-hosted with the Ministries of Agriculture and Tourism and the private sector.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- IICA provided tremendous support on the National CODEX Committee, chaired the CROSQ Regional Technical Committee on Foods and played an integral role in the preparation for implementation of the international wood packaging standard in Barbados.
- A national workshop was held to build capacity in GAPs for officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector. The National Infrastructure Plan for Avian Influenza was developed in collaboration with PAHO and FAO and with the participation of IICA.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- A model greenhouse was erected at AgroFest to illustrate agricultural management practices related to efficient crop production that reduce soil erosion and harvest rain water.
- Worked with the Green Barbados Legacy Team (GBLT) on designing greening projects prior to and following the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- The “*First Free Village*” of Rock Hall was identified as an area for the application of the territorial approach for sustainable rural development for 2007.
- A programme was charted jointly with MAR to encourage cooperative farming, and a plan was prepared for trials of appropriate seed varieties for use in local greenhouse conditions.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Contributed to the National Council for Science and Technology consultation on regional science technology and innovation policy.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and the Environment, participated in the Land Degradation Exhibition in the Jubilee Gardens by erecting a model greenhouse.
- Support was provided to a private-sector initiative led by SuperCentre Ltd to promote school gardening.

- A regional fact-finding mission was conducted on youth in agriculture, and IICA supported the hosting of the 9th Regional Assembly of CACHE in Barbados.

Belize

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Supported the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, establishing a mechanism to monitor agriculture and the rural sector and identify trends, threats, emerging critical issues, and opportunities.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Conducted a SWOT analysis of Belize Trade and Investment Development Services (BELTRAIDE), which revealed the need to strengthen its capabilities to provide export promotion services.
- Organized a trip to Miami for agricultural exporters to learn more about the services provided by the Inter-American Program for Promotion of Trade, Agribusiness and Agricultural Health, and about business opportunities in the Florida market.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Continued support for the National SPS Measures Committee, which provides liaison between the public and private sectors, serves as a forum for dialogue on SPS measures, and disseminates information on that subject.
- Continued to participate in the working group established to address the issue of Avian Influenza (AI); provided technical information and horizontal cooperation in connection with same; and provided technical assistance in conducting a simulation to determine the potential impact of AI in Belize, which led to the development of a mechanism that will make it possible to provide a rapid response in an emergency.
- Collaborated in the implementation of a plant health program in the countryside, which effectively controlled diseases affecting organic cacao and helped reduce the economic losses suffered by the members of the Toledo Cacao Growers Association.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Reviewed and updated, together with the University of Belize and CATIE, the plan for joint work in Belize, placing emphasis on the development of capabilities, research and the provision of scholarships in the area of sustainable development.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Prepared, at the request of the Sugar Industry Control Board, a national strategy aimed at making the sugar industry more competitive, and formulated proposals to seek funding for the implementation of same.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Supported the National Committee on Biosafety in drafting a national policy and legislation on biotechnology and biosafety, and in conducting an educational and public awareness campaign on that subject.
- Continued to support the formulation of standards and regulations applicable to organic production, and efforts to make the public sector more aware of its role in facilitating the implementation of the Organic Agriculture Program.
- Promoted improvements in the services provided by the University of Belize library, partnering with CATIE and the university to develop a documentation center on campus.

Bolivia

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Contributed to the methodological development of the Sectoral Development Plan of the Ministry of Agricultural Rural Development and Environment (MDRAyMA) and to its implementation and consolidation.
- Through horizontal cooperation activities, supported the initial process to create the National Agricultural Insurance of the MDRAyMA.
- Prepared the document entitled “Status of and prospects for agriculture and rural life in Bolivia in 2005”.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Developed the export strategy for Bolivia’s poultry sector in partnership with the National Association of Poultry Farmers, departmental associations and other agencies in the sector.
- Held the first meeting of the ACCESS Program to define its National Action Plan, in coordination with the MDRAyMA and the USAID.
- Supported the Agricultural Oriental Chamber with preparation of the profile for the project “Market Intelligence Information System for Agriculture in Bolivia”.
- Continued to provide information to actors in the production chains in Bolivia through the Information System for Agricultural Production Chains (INFOAGRO-Bolivia).

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- Supported the development of the Plan of Action against Avian Influenza, prepared by the National Agricultural Health and Livestock Service (SENASAG), in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports (MINSAD).
- Promoted the subject of traceability by means of a workshop, which resulted in the establishment of two technical teams, one of which was for organic agriculture and

the other of which was for Camelidae, and the implementation of the Virtual National Network on Traceability.

- Supported SENASAG with the preparation of the proposed second phase of the National Program for the Integrated Management of Potato Pests (MIP-PAPA).
- Presented to the SENASAG the final reports on its organic-functional re-engineering process and on the tariff system.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Systematized the most important experiences with the Regional Fund for Appropriate Technologies in the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (FOMRENA), a joint initiative between IICA and GTZ.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- As a means of supporting the Municipal Government of La Paz, designed and validated the project profile: “Real Communities: Development of the Local and Productive Capabilities of the Macro Rural Districts of Zongo and Hampaturi”.
- Promoted the strengthening of four small-scale producer associations and the improvement of their productivity, post-harvest management and competitiveness through the project to provide support to the production and marketing of peaches in the upper valley of the Department of Cochabamba, which was carried out in partnership with the Foundation for the Agricultural Technological Development of the Valleys.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Gave follow-up to the implementation of Applied Technology Innovation Projects and National Strategic Innovation Projects executed by four agricultural technology development foundations and the MDRAyMA.
- Prepared a diagnosis of the situational and legal framework of biotechnology and biosafety in Bolivia as input for the hemispheric program implemented by IICA in these two topics.
- Through PROCISUR, PROCIANDINO and PROCITROPICOS, facilitated training for and the participation of Bolivian professionals in regional projects.
- Supported the founding of the Association of Agronomy Schools of Bolivia (AFAB) at the National Inter-institutional Meeting of Schools of Agricultural Sciences, promoted by MDRAyMA.
- Participated in the committee to support the Bolivian Agricultural Technology Innovation System (CAS-SIBTA) as a means of supporting the new institutional framework that will address technology and innovation processes in the country.

Brazil

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- In support of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA), implemented a technical cooperation project aimed at improving strategic and operational management procedures and institutional training.
- Supported MAPA in the formulation and implementation of policies for the development of agribusiness, through studies and assessments of the main production chains.
- Cooperated with the process to assess the status of the Sectoral and Thematic Working Groups, supported the strategic plan of the coordination body linked to these Groups, and the preparation and follow-up of the work agendas of the sectoral and thematic groups of the National Agribusiness Council and of MAPA.
- In the context of the Agribusiness Node, systematized technical contributions, successful experiences, policies to strengthen agribusiness and family agriculture and modalities of financing, *inter alia*.
- Prepared and disseminated documents containing information on opportunities in agribusiness, and prepared an analysis on the implications for the country of the changes in trade regulations and the global trade negotiations.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Worked with MAPA on the institutional strengthening of the Secretariat for Agricultural Defense (SDA) through initiatives and projects aimed at strengthening and equipping specific areas of the SDA.
- Provided technical cooperation for the implementation of the National Agricultural Health Education Program, the design of the Master Plan of the Laboratory Support Coordination Body, technical training in the application and use of the PVS (performance, vision, strategy) instrument and the promotion of mechanisms to disseminate experiences in animal and plant health measures.
- Supported capacity building efforts in the National Agricultural Reference Laboratories, the design of development projects for these laboratories and the promotion of animal health issues.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Provided assistance to the Secretariat for Territorial Development of the Ministry of Agrarian Development to encourage endogenous development in rural territories, and strengthened organizational, assessment, planning and community management capacities in 118 rural territories.
- Strengthened the institutional capacity of the Ministry of Integration to formulate policies, apply regional development mechanisms and instruments and implement comprehensive development programs aimed at reducing regional inequalities.
- Together with the Secretariat for Family Agriculture of the Ministry of Agrarian Development, implemented the National Program for Strengthening Family

Agriculture, aimed at reappraising and disseminating the concept of family agriculture as an economic activity essential for the sustainable social and economic development of the rural milieu, through the diversification of rural activities and the generation of value added.

- Supported the implementation of actions to combat rural poverty implemented by the state governments of Maranhão, Ceara, Piaui and Rio Grande do Norte.
- Created the Permanent Forum for Rural Development, a body established to coordinate horizontal technical cooperation actions at national level in that thematic area and to promote the transfer of Brazil's RD experiences to other countries of the hemisphere.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Supported the strengthening of the technical, institutional and management capabilities of both the Federal and State Governments, as well as the national institutions responsible for designing, executing and evaluating strategies, policies, programs and projects in the areas of integrated management of natural resources and environmental conservation.
- Coordinated the national chapter of the Program to Combat Desertification in South America, financed by the IDB, whose objective is to improve the social and economic conditions of rural communities affected by desertification, through the adoption of appropriate technologies and training in the sustainable use of natural resources.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- In conjunction with the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA), continued to implement the Technological Innovation Program and New Forms of Management in Agricultural Research– *Agrofuturo*, aimed at generating and applying agricultural research to improve the competitiveness of the production chains.
- In the context of that Program, carried out various studies on the needs of rural communities in terms of technical know-how, agricultural production technologies, value added and conservation of natural resources.

Canada

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Contributed to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life in Chile by supporting a national forum organized by the Government of Chile to review the institutional structure and functions of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The Canada-Chile Horizontal Action Plan was developed on the basis of experience with reorganizing and modernizing Agriculture and Agrifood Canada, as well as the creation of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA).

- In Argentina and Uruguay, explored, in conjunction with Veterinarians Without Borders-Canada, areas for cooperation with the Deans of the Faculties of Veterinary Medicine in both countries.
- In response to cooperation demands in the Southern Cone countries, developed the Canada-Southern Cone Cooperation Plan focused on promoting Canadian expertise in topics of mutual interest, such as institutional reform, AHFS and innovation.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Trade and agribusiness between Canada and Mexico were promoted through the joint sponsorship of two exchange tours to Manitoba and Ontario for 26 Mexican bean producers and authorities from five different states.
- Sponsored the CCAA 2006 North American Consulting School in Vancouver, BC to improve management and competitiveness in agribusiness by sponsoring and the participation of two consultants from LAC.
- Canadian experiences in improving farm management were shared with Mexican professionals during the IICA Best Management Practices Seminar and Workshop at the SOMEXXA Congress in Sonora, Mexico.
- The AAFC and IICA jointly supported the 2006 Agriculture Forum on Brazil during the XII International Economic Forum of the Americas in Montreal.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- A horizontal cooperation program between the CFIA and the Southern Region was implemented. The program began with a workshop seminar on Canadian experiences in laboratory diagnosis in Montevideo, which was followed by a training course at the CFIA's National Center of Foreign Animal Diseases (NCFAD) on PCR techniques for AI and Foot and Mouth Disease.
- Training material for emergency response in AI outbreaks was negotiated with Brazil. Additionally, CFIA field staff participated in emergency training in Paraná, Brazil and documents on sharing the costs of transboundary animal disease eradication were compiled and circulated.
- In support of the North American Plant Protection Organization initiative to increase capacity in the implementation of the ISPM 15, supported NAPPO and the Andean countries through a seminary held in Lima.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Worked with Headquarters to support the joint meeting and seminar held by IICA and the Inter-American Institute for Research in Global Climate Change (IAI) in Costa Rica. The meeting addressed agricultural adaptation to climate change and included a concept paper on IICA's potential role.
- As part of the IICA-Canada Internship Program, young Canadian researchers examined the issues of sustainable land use by small-scale agriculture producers in the Amazon region of Brazil and soil erosion in potato production in Costa Rica.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- The Canadian commitment to the PROCINORTE initiative was enhanced by support to and participation in the PROCINORTE Board of Directors' annual meeting in Ottawa and joint sponsorship of the Library and Information Services Task Force or Working Group.
- Documents on the AAFC Strategic Directions and Public Consultation in National Agriculture Research Programs were compiled and circulated among PROCIN secretariats and IICA countries.

Chile

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Advised the *Agroforma* Network of Region VIII, which coordinates the actions of farmers' associations, NGOs, technical agricultural colleges and universities, on the design of a system of continuous training and improvement of professional skills required by the production sectors.
- In coordination with the *Movimiento Unitario Campesino* and *Etnias de Chile*, organized a meeting to analyze and plan human resource training needs in family agriculture; the participants systematized experiences and made projections regarding opportunities for the generation, development and management of knowledge in areas that are sensitive to the development of national production.
- Supported the National Council of Deans of the Faculties of Agronomy in the organization of the seminar "Challenges and Prospects for the Agrifood Sector: Training Human Resources", published the seminar presentations in a document, and promoted links between the Council and CAS.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Supported the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) and the Regional Governments in the formulation of national policies on priority issues for the development of the agrifood sector, particularly those related to agricultural export policies.
- Together with the Office for Agricultural Studies and Policies (ODEPA), organized a workshop on agro-energy and biofuels with the participation of MINAGRI representatives at which the experiences of Brazil and Argentina were analyzed; technical papers were presented at the International Seminar on Agro-energy and Biofuels, organized by FAO and MINAGRI; and also joined the Advisory Committee on Biofuels.
- Provided technical cooperation to MINAGRI, to Chile's National Senate and to the Universidad Austral in the organization of the seminar on the Institutional Modernization Process of MINAGRI at which representatives of the Executive and Legislative branches, the public sector, academia and producers' organizations participated.

- In the context of the technical cooperation agreement signed with the National Institute for Agricultural Development (INDAP), supported the organization of a visit to Uruguay to train producers and professionals of that Institute, and to share experiences in production and marketing of exportable meat products.
- In the context of that same agreement, prepared the study “Participation of AFC Central in the export process of ovine meat”; established the “Ovine Group” to analyze the technical and economic situation of this product; and organized a workshop on genetic improvement for producers of ovine meat from Region V to Region XI.
- In the context of the technical cooperation agreement signed with INDAP to support the development of quality standards in the agrifood sector, organized regional events to develop concepts and analyze successful experiences in quality management and the adoption of BAP, and prepared a study on BAP audits.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Strengthened the Bi-national Chile-Peru Fruit-Fly Eradication Program in the Border Zones, thanks to an agreement signed between the Agriculture and Livestock Service, the Exporters Association and IICA (which acts as the program’s Executive Secretariat).
- Submitted to MINAGRI a project for the organization and execution of preventive actions in the event of a possible outbreak of avian influenza, implemented jointly by SAG, the private sector and IICA:

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Prepared and presented to the new authorities of the National Government a proposal for the evaluation of agro-environmental policies from a territorial perspective.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- In coordination with MINAGRI, the Municipality of Corral (X Region) and representatives of local rural organizations, organized a workshop to prepare a situation assessment of population, production, territorial aspects and infrastructure, which will provide a basis for implementing rural development actions; the workshop also considered the contribution to local development of the different agents of the agricultural, fishing, forestry and small-scale production sectors.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Supported the strengthening of the horizontal cooperation body established between Chile and various LAC countries, and together with ODEPA, organized a seminar on South-South cooperation nodes, with the participation of representatives of MINAGRI and of IICA Offices in LAC.

- Together with the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), implemented several activities to promote precision agriculture, such as preparations to hold a world congress on this subject, the organization of a workshop and the dissemination of a book on this subject produced by PROCISUR.

Colombia

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Responded to the information needs of public and private agents associated with agriculture and rural life through the Observatories on Competitiveness and Territories.
- Participated actively in the Inter-agency Group on Rural Development, which has become consolidated as a forum for the exchange of information, the sharing of experiences and the implementation of joint initiatives at the national and territorial levels.
- Jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), supported the National Council of Agriculture Secretariats (CONSA) in the design and implementation of its Executive Directorate, conceived as the body in charge of coordinating regional and national agricultural policy.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Supported MADR in the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with the United States; supported the design and implementation of the Agro Ingreso Seguro (AIS) Program aimed at improving the competitiveness of the agricultural sector and reducing the possible negative effects of the internationalization of the Colombian economy; and, together with MADR, implemented a methodology to assess the possible impacts of the FTA on the productivity and income of producers of rice, sorghum, maize, wheat, barley, soy and beans.
- Provided technical cooperation to MADR in the implementation of the Project to Support Production Partnerships aimed at promoting business partnerships between primary and agroindustrial producers.
- Cooperated with the Project to Support the Development of Rural Micro-enterprises, which provides training and technical assistance services.
- Together with the Colombian Rural Development Institute (INCODER), promoted the operational and technical strengthening of associations of artisanal fishermen.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- Contributed to efforts to modernize the official AHFS services by supporting the establishment of the National SPS Committee and the Inter-institutional BAP Committee.
- Sensitized and trained farmers in the application of Best Agricultural Practices (BAP), and developed BAP in aviculture with the National Federation of Poultry Farmers of Colombia.

- Coordinated efforts to convert the Center of Excellence on Plant Health into a competitive and self-sufficient institution capable of satisfying national and regional demand in capacity building on plant health issues, necessary to facilitate the entry of agricultural products into the United States markets.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- In the context of the agreement signed with the Technical Administrative Department of the Environment, implemented awareness-raising and training processes, together with production projects aimed at small- and medium-scale producers, with an emphasis on the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.
- In partnership with the Amazonian Scientific Research Institute, local government bodies and producers' associations, obtained funding from the European Commission for a project for the sustainable exploitation and management of tropical rainforests in the northern Amazon region.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Promoted sustainable rural development projects with a territorial approach in the departments of Cauca and Tolima in the context of the Municipal Alternative Development Project (ADAM).
- In a joint study with the National University of Colombia, the Territories Observatory prepared a preliminary analysis of the rural development situation in the province of Tequendama-Cundinamarca, selected to validate rural development methodologies with a territorial approach.
- Supported the Ministry of Education in the implementation of a Rural Education Project aimed at training teachers, redesigning educational projects and creating networks to execute programs to increase the coverage, quality and relevance of rural education.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Organized the First National Workshop on Agro-energy and Biofuels in order to discuss IICA's proposal to create a hemispheric platform for horizontal cooperation on these issues; also made a commitment to the National Government to support the formulation of a national research plan in agro-energy and biofuels.
- Organized the seminar "Outlook for Production Chains" aimed at supporting the development of a technology research agenda for agricultural production chains.

Costa Rica

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Supported the process of devising and modernizing the structure and role of the new public institutional framework for the agricultural sector, under which the law

creating the Ministry of Production (MIPRO) originated, and the alignment of the sector's institutions with the new vision was promoted.

- Cooperated with MIPRO in designing the development banking system and the areas relating to international affairs and public policies for production.
- Formulated a proposal to ensure that the law creating MIPRO establishes that the Agrarian Development Institute (IDA) is the leading agency that would coordinate rural development.
- Prepared the proposed “Inter-agency Mechanism for Harmonizing International Cooperation with National Priorities” and, in participation with FAO, RUTA and the Taiwan Mission, established the Inter-agency Commission for International Cooperation whose function is to guide the action of the agencies that operate in the country.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Supported the permanent working group (MIPRO, Ministry of Economy and the private sector) with the discussion of topics related to the competitiveness of the sector and trade negotiations. The group submitted its proposals and recommendations to the Minister of MAG and to the Costa Rica Mission at the WTO.
- Provided ongoing support to the Comprehensive Agricultural Marketing Program (PIMA) for the design and implementation of the “Tomato Auction”, which seeks to make commercial intermediation with regard to this product more efficient and transparent and promote organizational development, better business management and food safety.
- In conjunction with the Chamber of Exporters, prepared the study entitled “Conditions for the access of Costa Rican products to the European Union market” which analyzes access and tariff and non-tariff treatment for 25 products.
- Updated the study entitled “System for Managing International Trade in Costa Rica”. In so doing, variables for analyzing and identifying commercial stakeholders as well as institutions involved in trade management were incorporated with a view to a possible association agreement between Central America and the EU.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Formulated the “Proposal for technical cooperation to the National Animal Health Service (SENASA)”, to give this Service equivalency with the WTO/SPS Committee.
- Upgraded the expertise of management personnel and specialists in the public and private sectors who have responsibility in the national AGFS through courses on GAP, GMP and regional workshops on HACCP, which were coordinated under the Regional ILRI-CFC/IICA Project, in partnership with OIRSA, PAHO and the OIE.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Participated in the process of reorganizing the Program for Rural Development in Regions with a Low Human Development Index (northern, central Pacific and southern Pacific regions).

- Supported the design and basic studies of the project for territorial development of the Aranjuez and Sardinal River Basins, for which a team of facilitators was formed and local leaders identified and mobilized.
- In the northern region, continued to execute the project for territorial development of the Cantons of Los Chiles, Guatuso and Upala under which support was provided to local development groups and territorial action plans were prepared.
- In partnership with the Academy, MIPRO/PDR, the Association of Agricultural and Forestry Extension Agents and the FAO, the document entitled “Meeting for reflection and debate: agricultural policies, rural development strategies, food security, rural poverty and agricultural extension services”.
- Formulated the proposal entitled “Comprehensive planning for the farms of technical vocational colleges in the northern Huetar region and Cartago” with a view to supporting the process to improve quality and the relevance of the vocational technical institutes.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Supported the participation of the National Institute for Innovation in Agricultural Technology in the Central American System for Integration on Agricultural Technology (SICTA).
- Provided assistance for the participation of national institutions for technological innovation in FONTAGRO and in the SICTA Network.

Dominica

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- The capabilities of public- and private-sector stakeholders to pursue and implement an improved policy framework to reposition agriculture were improved through support to the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment.
- A regional and sub-regional dialogue to implement decisions of the OECS Agricultural Policy and the Jagdeo Initiative was supported.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- IICA supported mechanisms to strengthen private-sector involvement in agricultural planning and development so as to diversify the agricultural product base and arrest the decline of the sector. This effort included the consolidation of all agribusinesses as a single entity, the draft articles of association for the establishment and operation of the Dominica Agribusiness Association (DABA INC.), as well as the consolidation of the Dominica Foundation of Herbal Researchers and Practitioners (DFHRP) and the Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA), the local chapter of CHBA.
- A coordinated approach to the development of sustained linkages between agricultural and other economic sectors is being pursued through the successful

implementation of the OAS/IICA project “*Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean*”.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- With a view to contributing to the rationalization, development and upgrading of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Systems, actively participated in the meetings of the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (NSPSC).
- Supported the harmonization and rationalization of national AHFS legislation and standards relating to safe agricultural products being offered to consumers in domestic and export trade in Dominica. Accordingly, it was appointed to serve on the National CODEX Committee as Chairman.
- Priority areas on which to focus efforts and resources for the Division of Agriculture in the area of veterinary services were identified with the use of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) instrument.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Supported the efforts of Clemson University in capacity-building in applications of biotechnology for the conservation and utilization of Dominica’s rich biodiversity.
- A consultation on biodiversity prospecting and access to genetic resources and traditional knowledge conducted jointly with Archbold Tropical Research and Education Centre (ATREC) improved awareness about the political, legal and technical issues.
- Public and private entities, traditional healers, indigenous and non-governmental organizations increased their knowledge, acceptance and espousal of new technologies and processes that were adapted for the purpose of expanding business opportunities in the sustainable utilization of Dominica’s genetic resources and traditional/indigenous knowledge.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- A first Business Labs ‘Training of Trainers’ Workshop focusing on small- and medium-scale enterprise development, with an emphasis on rural tourism, organized in conjunction with the National Association of Youth in Agriculture (NAYA) and the Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), improved the capacity and capabilities of youth.
- In collaboration with the EU Agricultural Diversification Programme, a technical exchange visit was organized to access information on organic production, processing, marketing and certification in the Dominican Republic and related technologies

Dominican Republic

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Carried out studies on the agricultural sector's real contribution to GDP and on the situation of and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the country.
- Coordinated and facilitated the reform and modernization process in the agricultural sector, in support of the Steering Committee and in conjunction with the work groups and participating institutions; in this context, designed a policy framework for the agricultural sector, prepared a proposal for institutional reform and a first draft of the Plan for Medium and Short-Term Measures.
- Made progress in drafting a proposal for a framework law for the agricultural and rural sectors, and prepared proposals for the animal health and plant protection laws and a proposal aimed at modifying the Law on Seeds.
- Promoted the Law for the Protection of Plant Breeders Rights and ratified the country's adhesion to the relevant International Agreement (UPOV).

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Carried out studies on the rice, garlic, onion, milk, pork and beef agrifood chains.
- Provided support to entrepreneurs participating in the First Agricultural Exports Platform, two-thirds of whom continue to export their products, and completed a study on the country's exportable agricultural commodities.
- Supported the organization of training and direct technical assistance programs implemented by the Clusters Network, promoted by the National Competitiveness Council and the Dominican Agribusiness Board (JAD).

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Supported efforts to build institutional capacity for the application of the SPS agreement and contributed to the country's participation in the meetings of the SPS Committee of the WTO.
- Drafted Regulations for the Registration of Veterinary Establishments and Medicines, which were approved through Decree 521-06.
- Prepared a Project for the Control and Eradication of Classic Swine Fever, which is being executed by the General Directorate of Livestock (DIGEGA), and supported the campaign to combat this disease.
- Designed the proposal for a Monitoring and Emergency Response Plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in the Dominican Republic and, together with DIGEGA, carried out a simulation of the introduction of bird flu into the Dominican Republic.
- Contributed to the organization of two bilateral technical meetings between Haiti and Dominican Republic, to discuss various aspects of the Monitoring and Emergency Response Plan for Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.
- Implemented two workshops for the registration of veterinary establishments and medicines, and trained 100 veterinarians who were accredited by the State Secretariat for Agriculture (SEA).

- Organized four workshops on regional animal health emergency response plans, in which 120 technicians and leading producers of the Animal Health Defense Groups received training.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Promoted the country's entry into the European Union's List of "Third Countries".
- Supported the strengthening of the National Organic Agriculture Program and the National Council for Organic Agriculture, through training, technical assistance and horizontal cooperation actions, and consolidated the progress achieved in the registration of operators and certification agencies.
- With the support of GTZ and the EU, facilitated two preliminary audits of the Organic Agriculture Monitoring System, whose recommendations prompted modifications in the presidential decrees that form the basis of the legal framework for the country's organic agriculture.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Supported the organization of the International Seminar on Gender and Sustainable Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the design of various project profiles.
- In the context of the reform and modernization process in the agricultural sector, designed "Rural Development Consortia", i.e. public-private organizations of a territorial nature, responsible for executing rural development processes.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- With funding from FONTAGRO, the Dominican Agricultural and Forestry Research Institute (IDIAF) has completed 70% of the project to use non-destructive methods and molecular markers to determine appropriate dates for the harvesting of five varieties of avocado.
- Supported the implementation of a seminar on agricultural extension, the training of instructors and the design of training tools.
- Supported capacity building efforts in biotechnology and biosafety at the Institute for Innovation in Biotechnology and Industry (IIBI), IDIAF and other institutions.
- Drafted a proposal for the establishment of the Biosafety Commission.

Ecuador

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Participated in the Inter-institutional Commission that supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) with the drafting of Ecuador's 2006-2010 State Policies for the Agricultural Sector, which were published in Executive Decree No. 1419, dated May 18, 2006.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of trade and agribusiness

- Analyzed the agendas that are a supplement to bilateral agreements signed with the United States as a result of which the country's strategies for moving ahead with the process of new trade negotiations were reinforced.
- Implemented the Program for the Strengthening of Public and Private Institutional Capacity which seeks to promote agro-exports and, at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Trade, a task force was organized to coordinate the various efforts of agro-export businesses.
- Prepared the diagnosis and national plan for agro-industrial development.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- Supported the modernization of AHFS services by promoting projects and programs aimed at strengthening ten phytosanitary surveillance units and nine zoonosary surveillance units; establishing the Pest Risk Analysis Center; strengthening the sanitary barrier of the Mariscal Sucre Airport; and creating the Sanitary Risk Analysis Center and Geographical Information Systems (CAR-SIG).
- Provided support for the programs to eradicate foot and mouth disease through vaccine processes agreed upon with the regional coordinators of the National Commission for the Eradication of Foot and Mouth Disease.
- Prepared a project to set up a laboratory for the diagnosis of Avian diseases, including Avian Influenza.
- Prepared the Project for the Harmonization of National Standards; prepared the animal health and plant health draft legislation in concert with the public and private sectors and, in the area of food safety, prepared the national guides on Good Agricultural Practices and Good Livestock Practices.
- Developed the SANIFLORES system for issuing and registering phytosanitary export certificates for ornamental flowers and plants.
- Conducted a diagnosis of national food safety services by applying the PVS instrument, which made it possible to determine their current level of performance, set priorities and facilitate strategic planning.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Supported the establishment of the Center for Excellence in the Management of Natural Renewable Resources, a project prepared jointly with the University of Guayaquil.
- Prepared the methodology for optimum indicators to be used in characterizing irrigation systems "transferred" to users or farmers.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Cooperated in defining the inter-thematic intervention strategy and agricultural provincial policies in the province of Los Rios, which articulate public management in the framework of the process for the decentralization of competencies.

- Contributed to enhancing the value of products identified with a particular territory in the province of Cotopaxi and supported the establishment of the Salcedo Association of Ice Cream Producers.
- Supported the preparation of the 2007-2012 Strategic Plan of the National Rural Training Institute.
- In conjunction with the Provincial Government of Cotopaxi, contributing to making better use of information and preparing an on-line system aimed at presenting progress in its management in a transparent light.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Organized the Andean Meeting for the Identification of Needs and Opportunities in Biotechnology and Biosafety in Ecuador and formed an inter-institutional working group on this subject.

El Salvador

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Assessed capabilities in knowledge management and use at six institutions in the agricultural sector and trained 108 people in the management of information systems.
- Supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) with the analysis and preparation of documents related to rural life, competitiveness in the national agricultural sector and Central American agricultural policy.
- Held the exhibit “Rural life in El Salvador through art”, which led to a broad-based dialogue on agriculture and social reflection on the subject.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Under the MAG-FRUTALES program, administered by IICA, identified new market for fruit byproducts and promoted the development of expertise through the participation of entrepreneurs in the AGRITRADE fair in Guatemala and in the ninth Food and Beverage Fair in Miami.
- In conjunction with the Scientific Research Center of Yucatán and the National Partnership System for Technological Innovation, commenced a project to produce certified hybrid seeds resistant to lethal yellowing.
- Formulated three fruit projects which were presented by the Presidential Commissioner for Agriculture to the governments of Japan and Taiwan.
- Through the project “Promoting the Competitiveness of Rural Indigo and Cashew Companies, financed by the OAS, installed a pilot plant for processing cashew and other frozen fruits.
- Systematized and shared lessons learnt from reactivation of the indigo crop and other natural dyes and from the processing and marketing of those products; developed new indigo products; expanded and improved the range of designs of dyed products and designed a semi-industrial dyeing machine.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Under the MAG-FRUTALES program, provided orientation to ten processing plants in the use of quality control systems, and implemented a quality control plant at the cashew pilot plant.
- Circulated among specialists at the MAG and other stakeholders the Comprehensive Agricultural Protection Program which contributes to guaranteeing food safety.
- Negotiated the Project entitled “Design of a System for Food Safety Certification with respect to Export Fruit Products”.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Concluded the MAG-PAES-TRIFINIO Project, executed by the CRS-IICA-CATIE-UCA Consortium, which involved 2,500 farmers and which resulted in the protection and agricultural diversification of 2,500 hectares.
- Provided support to the MAG-PRODERT Project in the implementation of agro-forestry systems, including the establishment of timber-yielding forests and energy forests, and in the execution of conservation works.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Approved the project for promoting tourism in the upper zone of Chalatenango.
- In partnership with the National Development Foundation, designed the project entitled “Psycho-social Attitudes of Stakeholders in the Salvadoran Rural Sector” which will provide invaluable information on rural protagonists.
- In partnership with national stakeholders in research and teaching, designed the project entitled “Contribution of the religious and spiritual factor to rural development programs and projects.
- The Forum of Directors of the PRODERTs (Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador) was put into operation and, as a result, transborder cooperation activities were promoted.
- Supported and followed upon the MAG-PRODERT-TRIFINIO project through the IICA-SG/OEA Technical-Administrative Unit.
- A consultancy was conducted with respect to the design of the Regional Plan for Agricultural, Forestry, Fisheries and Water Development in the eastern zone. That Plan will be based on the participation of public, private and cooperative strategic partners.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Two cooperation projects were developed with ABC-EMBRAPA through which technical assistance was received in growing fruit, and internships were held in Brazil.
- Through the MAG-FRUTALES program, trained 1,175 specialists, producers and entrepreneurs and provided technical assistance to 1,342 producers.

- Trained 40 specialists in the preparation of projects, the management of relations with donors and the mobilization of resources for agricultural innovation.

Grenada

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Constituents of the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu (The Alliance) were revitalized, and national authorities' efforts to alleviate some of the *key binding constraints* to Grenada's agricultural development were supported.
- Increased the understanding of stakeholders in the agricultural sector of the *Jagdeo Initiative* and its implication for the development of Grenada's agricultural and rural sector.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Increased the capability of the national chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) to attract external funds for implementing developmental projects.
- Improved trade competitiveness of the local herbal industry through the acquisition of quality packaging material by the Grenada Network of Rural Women Producers (GRENROP).

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Improved the coordination and effective functioning of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety (NAHFS) Committee.
- Enhanced the capability of farmers to produce safe foods through training and follow-up actions provided in the area of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Increased prospects for obtaining the necessary funds for implementation of a *Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Demonstration Project Proposal* as a result of the efforts of the national SLM Committee on which IICA is represented.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Youths in the rural St. Andrew's parish have increased their lobbying power as a result of their decision to join the Grenada Agricultural Forum for Youth (GAFY).
- Improved the quality of agro-processed products through training in Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and observance of those practices.
- The linkage between agriculture and tourism has been strengthened through the promotion of dialogue between hoteliers and farmers, and an initiative to plan a *food festival*.

- Improved the capability of the Grenada Association of Beekeepers (GAB) to manage its assets through the formulation and adoption of appropriate policy measures.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- The national chapter of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP), known as GRENROP, is better positioned to access external funds to implement a project proposal to acquire modern farm equipment for establishing a *Farm Labour Company*.

Guatemala

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Provided technical and administrative cooperation to the School of Agronomy of San Carlos University (FAUSAC) for execution of the diploma program on international agricultural trade. That program was concluded successfully.
- Signed and put into effect a new agreement with the FAUSAC whereby technical and administrative support will be provided for diploma courses in topics related to the development of agricultural production and trade.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Upgraded capabilities to promote trade and agribusiness for specialists under the project to develop fruit cultivation and agro-industry of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA). The work plan includes the marketing of fruit and the establishment of committees in priority agro chains.
- Upgraded the expertise of the Technical Secretariat of the National Agricultural Development Council (CONADEA) to prepare diagnostic studies and plans of action to improve the competitiveness of agro-chains.
- Under the agreement signed with the MAGA, and in an effort to support the working agendas of CONADEA, created four technical teams, made up of public and private stakeholders, who, under IICA leadership, prepared diagnostic studies and plans of action to improve the competitiveness of beef and lamb, honey and goat meat agro-chains.
- Supported the Milk Commission (COMLECHE) with preparation of the bill on the sustainable and competitive development of the National Dairy Chain and provided advisory services to bodies of COMLECHE on updating standards for production, processing and marketing milk and its byproducts.
- Prepared the Program for Support in Improving Competitiveness for the Small-Scale Milk Producer, which was approved by MAGA and COMLECHE.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Provided training in HACCP to 35 officials from the public and academic sectors who are involved in processes designed to ensure food safety and animal health.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Completed the performance evaluation of the project for the protection of Peten's forests (PROBOPETEN)", which was approved by MAGA.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Designed the second phase of the project for the sustainable rural development of ecologically fragile areas in the Trifinio region (PRODERT-Guatemala) which calls for training for technical personnel from the Special Execution Unit in applying the territorial approach.
- Provided support to the General Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Office of the President in formulating public rural development policy, which contemplates application of the territorial approach, a process that was coordinated with the Inter-sectoral Group for Dialogue and Participation with respect to Integral Rural Development and the Rural Development Cabinet.
- Fulfilled the technical, physical and financial goals of four units executing priority rural development projects which were carried out in the framework of agreements to provide cooperation and technical services for the management of programs and projects.
- Under a cooperation agreement signed with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food of Spain, trained officials from the public and academic sectors in the design and analysis of policies, instruments, strategies and methodologies for intervening in rural development.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Trained coffee growers affiliated with the National Coffee Association (ANACAFE) in new technologies, integrated management of pests and control of coffee berry borer.
- Finalized the project for development of the cacao production chain on the southern coast of Guatemala to support the National Association of Cacao Producers.
- Supported the installation and operation of the Chairmanship and Secretariat of SICTA and upgraded the integration of national agricultural research institutes of Central America.

Guyana

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- The Guyana Rural Women's Network (GRWN) improved capabilities in hydroponics and strategic planning, as well as business and skills training.
- Participants in a seminar on agricultural diversification in Guyana exchanged experiences with IICA specialist in competitiveness and heard her presentation "The Fruit Sector: An Example of a Strategic Approach to Agricultural Diversification in El Salvador".

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- Improvements were made in quality, production levels and marketing as a result of a joint effort with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and private-sector entities. Activities to this effect included disease surveys, monitoring and surveillance, the identification and preparation of production and marketing standards for a number of products, and training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP).
- Assistance was provided in investigating a poultry "stunted growth" syndrome which was affecting the local poultry industry.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Under the Kellogg Foundation-funded Lake Communities Project, "*Supporting the Expansion of Income Generation Activities in the Lake Communities in Guyana*", significant efforts were made in the area of the sustainable management of natural resources.
- The hydroponics vegetable production programme promoted the use of discarded material, such as cans, bottles and paddy shells, which would otherwise cause pollution.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- The Tri-Lakes Farmers' Association comprising members of the three communities- Mainstay, Tapakuma and Capoey was formed as part of the Kellogg funded project.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Over 200 participants, including women and youth, were trained and several have started to produce and market vegetables after training workshops and expansion activities carried out in conjunction with the St. Stanislaus Training Centre (SSTC)
- IICA was involved in transferring technology, using botanicals for the control of the Acoushi ant, *Atta sp.*, a leaf-cutting ant. A Neem-based product was used and farmers were trained in the formulation of baits.

Haiti

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- In cooperation with strategic partners and with the participation of the public and private sectors, prepared the national technical cooperation agenda for the period 2006-2010 and a document on the status of and prospects for agriculture.
- In support of efforts to reactivate and modernize the agricultural sector, formed a working group to prepare and define a state policy for agriculture and the rural milieu.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Moved ahead with opening up a market for agricultural products and handicrafts in the CARICOM countries. Met with stakeholders in the public-sector and private entrepreneurs in an effort to promote the development of agricultural exports.
- Made recommendations for tourism development, which were incorporated into the Plan of the respective Ministry.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- Under the Project to Control Classic Swine Fever, 600,000 pigs were vaccinated and a national epidemiological surveillance network was established.
- Cooperated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development in preparing two projects to control pests, including the fruit fly and the fire ant.
- Under the Project for the Integrated Control of Coffee Berry Borer, installed nine laboratories for the production of parasitoids and distributed 5,000 “BrocalP” traps in coffee growing areas.
- Through the Project to Control Black Sigatoka, established a center for the production of healthy seedlings using the PIF method, and trained 50 producers and officials in this new technology.
- With financial support from the USAID, commenced implementation of a national strategy to circulate information and issue communications on Avian Influenza.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- In cooperation with CATIE, organized a workshop on “carib trees” (*Sabinea carinalis*) and prepared a manual on the management of trees in the Caribbean region.
- Strengthened the capabilities of students from the schools of agronomy in the CACHE network with regard to the adoption of GAP.
- Conducted workshops on risk management and natural disasters for beneficiaries of the Project for Flood Victim Support in the Rural Zones of Gonaives (AVIG), financed by the USAID.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Under the Pwotokol-Kredifanm Project, financed by the Kellogg Foundation, granted micro-credit to a group of 600 women and provided assistance to other groups in consolidating their businesses and acquiring equipment.
- In the area of Areguy-Jacmel, distributed 300 mango plants, "Madame Fransik" variety, under a reforestry program that makes use of fruit trees and that targets young people and women, especially.
- Under the Pro-Huerta Program, introduced, in conjunction with the Government of Argentina, 23 improved species of vegetables in five rural communities.
- Trained small-scale producers in the use of chicken-breeding systems on family farms who were given recommendations on poultry feed and health and on financial management of their production units.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Rehabilitated irrigation systems in the Desbarrières and Zabriko communities, and as part of the “social engineering” accomplished under the AVIG Project, organized producers from both communities in a group and trained them in water management.

Honduras

Contributing to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life

- In conjunction with the cooperation community of the Agroforestry Group, provided technical assistance to the sector’s new authorities, in order to achieve consensus and maintain the agreements of the Agriculture Group on a national policy for the agrifood sector and the rural milieu of Honduras 2004-2021.
- Supported the design of the 2006-2010 Strategic Operational Plan of the Agrifood Sector, in the context of the guidelines established in the aforementioned National Policy.
- Supported the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) in the implementation of technology incentives aimed at restoring national capacity in the production of basic grains.
- In coordination with USDA, implemented the “Food for Progress” program, aimed at developing technical and business skills that will enable Honduran farmers to take advantage of the opportunities created by CAFTA, and executed 45 projects that benefited 2790 farmers and 245 rural enterprises.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Established an alliance with the Trade Facilitation Office of Canada (TFOC), in order to strengthen the knowledge and export capacities of small and medium businesses in Honduras and help them contact potential trade partners in Canada.
- Supported the preparation of a proposal to create a trust fund for the beef chain, in order to finance the activities established in its plan of action.

- Established the Technical Commission on Poultry, executed workshops to assess the poultry and egg subsectors, in which 70 key actors participated, and began drafting plans of action for both subsectors.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Supported the design and official adoption of the rules of procedure of the National SPS Committee and led the preparation of the National SPS Agenda, with the participation of the public and private sectors.
- Supported the National Agricultural Health Service in the drafting of the 2006-2010 Strategic Plan and in the identification of key actors in the areas of animal health, plant health and food safety, to which the PVS instrument will be applied.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Assisted 17 local governments that are participating in PRODERT in the design of their respective environmental management work plans, which include actions in areas such as waste management, protection of micro-basins, forest management and environmental educations in schools and colleges.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Supported the formulation and review of national rural development policies, through an agreement signed with the National Program for Sustainable Rural Development.
- Supported the assimilation and implementation of the theoretical and methodological aspects of rural development with a territorial approach, through an agreement with the PRODERT project.
- Began training the technical teams of PRODERT and the NGOs that are co-executors of this initiative in the theoretical and methodological aspects of the territorial approach.
- Implemented a rural development project using the territorial approach in Belen Gualcho, and in the Trifinio region, emphasizing social and environmental aspects; also prepared an inventory of stakeholders and an investment plan.
- Convened a meeting of stakeholders of the territory of Belen Gualcho, at which the Territorial Management Group was established and its members trained, and supported the process to accredit this group before the authorities, service institutions and the inhabitants of the territory.
- In coordination with PRODERT, consolidated the Rural Savings and Loans Cooperatives, with the aim of establishing an alternative rural financial system.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Supported the creation of the National Science and Technology System, in order to regulate and implement technological development activities for the agrifood sector

and promote horizontal cooperation among the different public and private stakeholders involved in research and technology transfer.

Jamaica

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands on its priority investment programs, such as veterinary services, crop (sweet potato) research and development, participation in WTO/SPS negotiations, and the crafting of its sustainable rural development policy framework.
- Contributed to repositioning the country's agricultural sector through a national consultation to determine Jamaica's priority issues and participation in the Dialogue Forum series convened by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ).
- Facilitated the participation of MOA& L and the private sector in the implementation of the OAS-funded project '*Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean*'.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- In collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture and Lands and Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness were promoted via the Clearing House Forum, which focuses on private-sector involvement in the trade negotiation process.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- To assist in strengthening the agricultural health and food safety systems, participated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and other agencies in a real-time simulation exercise of an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).
- With the OIE and the MOA& L, assisted in an assessment of the Veterinary Division.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- The promotion of integrated rural development based on the territorial approach was geared towards assisting two specific communities, namely, Elim in St Elizabeth, and Charles Town in Portland, mainly through training workshops in organization, conflict management and institution-building.
- A detailed review of the performance of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) with respect to the credit scheme was completed and their abilities were strengthened in business management and soap-making.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- To catalyze the priority investment programme under the Ministry's Agricultural Development Strategy in the area of root crop production, supported the programming of funds under an agreed '*Sweet Potato Technology Research and Development Fund*' (Ministry of Agriculture, the Christian Potato Growers Cooperative Association and CARDI).

Mexico

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- In the context of the General Agreement on Institutional Technical Cooperation (2002-2006), completed a series of joint actions with the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA), which included the implementation of work programs related to agricultural health and food safety, technology and innovation, education and training, sustainable rural development and marketing services.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Through the Regional Trade and Agribusiness Program, participated in the coordination of technical exchange mechanisms and activities, such as internships and missions to promote horizontal technical cooperation.
- Designed and currently implementing the proposal for the development of the "Policy and Trade Node: Focal Point Mexico", a regional and hemispheric technical cooperation initiative.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Collaborated with the National Agrifood Safety, Health and Quality Service (SENASICA) in the execution of monitoring, prevention and eradication of diseases and pests (fruit fly, avian influenza and others) and in the implementation of training programs for the adoption of BAP, BMP, Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) and HACCP.
- Drafted recommendations aimed at improving the country's animal health situation, which were submitted to the Technical Council of the National Advisory Council on Animal Health (CONASA) and the National Consultative Council on Plant Health (CONACOFI).
- Supported the strengthening of national animal health inspection services in ports, airports and borders.
- Began joint work with SAGARPA to develop a program to promote the establishment of nurseries free from citrus tristeza virus (CTV).

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- The consortium made up of IICA, CIRAD and CATIE, led by the IICA Office, was awarded the international contract to execute the Integrated Social and Sustainable Development Project (PRODESIS) financed by the EU and the State of Chiapas, which contemplates three components: management of rural micro-enterprises, environmental management and geographic information systems (GIS).

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Continued with the dissemination and promotion of the territorial approach among stakeholders of the agricultural, rural and academic sectors, in order to promote the synergetic coordination of the agrifood chains in the economic, physical, human and social capital aspects.
- IICA supported the creation of the Masters Program in Development Management in Rural Territories, in cooperation with the National Institute for the Development of Capacities in the Rural Sector (INCA Rural).
- Designed a proposal for the Masters Program in Rural Agroindustry, Territorial Development and Agro-tourism, for the Universidad Autonoma of the State of Mexico, together with CIRAD and the University of Versailles.
- Promoted the systematization of information and the use of computer technologies to follow up on the Local Sustainable Rural Development Councils, together with the Integrated Agrifood and Fisheries Information System.
- In cooperation with INCA Rural, organized an international seminar on rural development, and also a workshop to exchange experiences on this issue, with the participation of local experts and representatives of different institutions from Brazil, Colombia, Spain and Argentina.
- Proposed and promoted the creation of the Knowledge Management Network for the Development of Rural Territories.
- Carried out a study on rural development in Mexico, in conjunction with INCA Rural and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).
- Carried out a study on agricultural and fisheries policy, in partnership with the Agricultural Marketing Support Services (ASERCA) organization and the OECD.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Supported the dissemination and implementation of regional initiatives in biotechnology and the coordination of technical cooperation actions on biosafety.
- Provided assistance for the national-level operation of the Integrated Agrifood and Fisheries Information System and for the coordination of geographic information and mapping systems, in cooperation with SAGARPA and the *Global Environmental Fund* (GEF) Project.

Nicaragua

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Provided support for the participation of officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAG-FOR) and from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in various hemispheric and regional fora conducted by IICA Headquarters.
- Supported consolidation of the Sectoral Program for Productive Sustainable Rural Development (PRORURAL) under which headway was made in shaping a shared vision of rural development and agriculture, building consensus on priorities in these areas and seeking sources of funding for implementation of the Program.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Trained 20 officials from the agricultural public sector and 1,500 producers from various departments in the country; and circulated information in an effort to assist in taking better advantage of the free trade treaty with the United States.
- Promoted the identification and use of trade opportunities with respect to products that are admissible on the United States market and, accordingly, promoted the participation of agro-exporters in 15 national and international fairs; prepared 45 guides relating to agricultural export products; identified 35 organizations of producers with agro-export potential; and consolidated 12 partnerships for export purposes.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- In the framework of PRORURAL, provided training in agricultural health and food safety for officials from various institutions and producers
- Signed and concluded the technical revision of the agreement among IICA, the Nicaraguan Import Company and the USDA for the evaluation of five project proposals on agricultural health in the specific areas of classic swine fever, brucellosis and tuberculosis, Avian Influenza, Mediterranean fly and dairy quality laboratories.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Spearheaded a process to instill awareness nationwide of the importance and potential of biofuels, which resulted in consistent private-sector participation in the “IICA” initiative and an understanding of the subject on the part of the public sector.
- Supported preparation of the presidential decree declaring biodiesel and ethanol as products of “strategic national interest” and instructing MAGFOR to draw up the National Biofuels Program.
- Promoted broad political and social mobilization with respect to a bill on biofuels which lays the foundation for biofuels development.

- Supported the process to conclude an agreement with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) aimed at conducting studies on the African palm in the Tortuguero region.
- Proceeded with negotiations with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration for funding of the National Program to Develop Biofuels.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Provided technical advisory services to agricultural public-sector institutions, both at the national and at the departmental levels, for preparation of annual agricultural development plans of operations, a process spearheaded by MAG-FOR, with funding from Finland.
- In partnership with municipalities in the north of Chinandega, prepared strategic sustainable rural development plans which have already started to be implemented.
- Under the Project to Develop Territorial Competitiveness in the Municipality of Villa Sandino, formulated and executed five business plans for the development of beekeeping, cacao and chocolate.
- Conducted the international course on agro-ecology and sustainable rural development, which was attended by 54 participants from 12 countries in the Americas and Europe.
- Incorporated the territorial approach to rural development in the Master's program in rural development at the Central American University.
- Donated computers to the rural communities in Campana and Guabo at which a workshop on personal computer management was held for children.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Developed the project entitled "Production and Marketing of Organic Products", financed by the Austrian Cooperation. Among the achievements of that project are the development of institutional expertise in drawing up rules and regulations to govern organic production and the design of certification and production control systems, as well as the training of 1,300 producers in organic certification.
- Established the country's SICTA-Network and executed two technological innovation projects for the production of *naranjilla* and *hoja de chan*.
- Promoted the bean cluster, made up of a group of producer and other organizations.
- In conjunction with various national strategic partners, international organizations and NGOs, conducted 11 training events on technological innovation and environmental conservation.

Panama

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Supported the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA), the Ministry of Social Development and the National Secretariat for the Nutritional Food Plan with the

formulation, follow-up and evaluation of social policies, with an emphasis on the social policies, with an emphasis on the fight against poverty in rural communities.

- Supported the formulation of state policies for the agrifood and rural sector of Central America and the implementation of the Information System for the Follow-up and Evaluation of Strategies and Policies for Agriculture and Rural Life.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Worked with the MIDA and the Agricultural Marketing Institute (IMA) in the formulation of studies on tropical fruits intended for the United States market and the European Union market.
- In partnership with the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation, supported the MIDA with the formulation of a policy proposal for the agro-industrial sector and with the preparation of a proposed bill to promote the development of national agro-industry.
- Contributed to the institutional upgrading of MIDA through the establishment of a team with training in relevant topics related to the agrifood sector, within the framework of the regional integration process.
- Provided technical support to the MIDA in preparing the National Program for the Development of Fruit Cultivation.
- Trained five specialists from the MIDA in applying the methodology for the rapid diagnostic study and analysis of agrifood chains.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Worked with the MIDA in setting up a quality control system, which has contributed to the institutional upgrading of AHFS public services.
- Supported the public and private sectors and academy with the establishment of the National Multisectoral Group for the Application of WTO/SPS agreements.
- Trained 48 specialists from the Animal and Plant Health Directorate in the application of ISO 9000 and ISO 17025 standards with a view to the adoption of quality systems for the delivery of services, which made it possible to evaluate the management of laboratories based on the ISO 17025 standard.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- In coordination with MIDA and the institutions that make up the Social Cabinet, supported the application of the territorial approach in the district of Anton in the province of Coclé, which led to the creation of an “experimental observatory” and to other activities for the management of information and knowledge.
- Worked with MIDA on the design and implementation of a project for developing the cultivation of citrus in the province of Coclé, which promotes the sustainable management of natural resources and job creation in target communities.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Worked with MIDA, IDIAP and several academic institutions on instituting national components of regional projects (REMERFI, FONTAGRO, Agro-biodiversity and Biotechnology).
- Worked with MIDA, IDIAP, IMA, the Technological University of Panama and other organizations on the execution of the following projects: “Production, Processing and Marketing of *Yuca* (cassava) and its Food Byproducts in Panama” and “Potential Use of Boats on Lake Alajuela for Production Purposes” in the framework of the Agricultural Innovation Network (SICTA Network).

Paraguay

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Produced a publication entitled “Characterization of *campesino* family agriculture in Paraguay”, to support the design of strategies and actions aimed at improving the situation of communities.
- Under the general technical cooperation agreement signed with the Vice-President’s Office, prepared the terms of reference for studies on the conceptualization of rural development and the necessary institutional framework, in order to reach a consensus on a model of sustainable rural development for the country.
- In support of INDERT, defined the terms of reference for drafting its regulations, its operating manuals and a model for the administration of the Rural Investment Fund for Sustainable Development; also the terms of reference for modernizing the land registration process, the issue of land titles and analysis of the legal regimen on land tenure.
- Prepared a plan to modernize the web site of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG), in order to strengthen its institutional image and its online information system.
- Continued operating the IICA Observatory in Paraguay, which provides up-to-date qualitative and quantitative information to public and private institutions on the performance of the agricultural and agroindustrial sectors.
- Designed the Postgraduate Program in Territorial Management for Sustainable Development, in support of the Rector’s Office of the National University of Asunción (UNA).
- Provided technical support to the Faculties of Veterinary Science and Agricultural Sciences of the UNA, with the aim of strengthening its curriculum and technical capacities through seminars, workshops and training courses imparted by international specialists.
- Prepared and executed a program to develop technical capacity among officials and teaching staff of UNA’s Faculty of Veterinary Science in the use of self-evaluation systems.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Supported the Catholic University's Specialist Program on Agribusiness Management through the training of competent technical resources.
- Prepared an assessment on the conditions in the country with a view to establishing an agricultural commodities exchange.
- Together with the social and political actors of the meat chain, drafted the Meat Products Bill, which has been submitted to Congress.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Collaborated with the National Food Quality and Animal Health Service (SENACSA) in the preparation of its institutional plan, a medium-term training program and 40 handbooks on functions and procedures in line with ISO 9000 standards.
- Supported the National Plant and Seed Quality and Health Service (SENAVE) in the design of a framework for the new organic structure; in the design of a manual of functions and procedures; and in the design of a comprehensive technical training program for its human resources.
- Provided training to SENAVE technicians to enable them to better fulfill their functions in the areas of plant and seed health and quality.
- Contributed to the improvement of the capacities of SENAVE to improve their service to clients, respond promptly to emergencies and emerging issues and improve the monitoring of compliance with technical standards.
- Supported the development and implementation of the policies identified in the Livestock Production Improvement Program and the Program to Strengthen the Animal Health and Food Safety System.
- Supported the technical and legal consolidation of the National Technical Committee for the application of the WTO's SPS Agreements.
- Promoted among the public and private sectors the knowledge and adoption of the SPS agreements and the animal health standards of the CODEX, the OIE and the IPPC.
- Collaborated with SENACSA and other sectoral institutions in studies and negotiations and in the implementation of information, traceability and HACCP systems, aimed at securing the reopening of the EU meat market.
- Supported the creation of the Multisectoral Technical Group on Meat, which promotes shared responsibility and efforts to maintain the sector's animal health achievements.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Supported MAG in the execution of the Strategic Project in Jopoi Mbareterã, and advanced in the design of a proposal to expand the project's coverage to the national level.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Implemented the National Workshop on Biotechnology and Biosafety, which served to increase the knowledge and capacity of the public and private sectors in those areas.
- Provided support to increase knowledge regarding the scope of the Cartagena Protocol and its implementation by MAG, SENAIVE and the academic and private sectors.
- Consolidated a space for dialogue between the public and private sectors aimed at increasing knowledge on biotechnology and biosafety and at promoting the adoption of the latest advances in these areas.

Peru

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Made available to various strategic units of the MAG an inventory of policies for agriculture in the Andean Region, a document analyzing in quantitative terms the distributive effects of the opening up of trade, a model for analyzing various scenarios and another model for analyzing the possible economic impact of the free trade agreement with the United States.
- The Regional Andean Forum for Dialogue on and the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education was upgraded and the Third Forum of the Peruvian Association of Agrarian Faculties was held.
- A system for monitoring and exchanging information on policies in Peru was established and was included as a module in the Hemispheric System of Information on Agrifood and Agricultural Production Policies.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Improved management know-how and expertise of public and private actors in agricultural production chains related to maize cultivation, poultry farming, pig rearing, cotton-textile-clothing and cacao-chocolate.
- Improved know-how in the management of livestock and crops for producers in the province of Huaura and the department of Junin, which led to further adoption of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Livestock Practices (GLP).
- The document entitled “Experiences in negotiations with the European Union and implications for the Andean Region” was made available to the public and private sectors.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Continued to implement the Bi-national Chile-Peru/IICA Program to Control and Eradicate the Fruit Fly and prepared a proposed strategy for disseminating its activities and training its technical personnel.

- Supported application of the PVS instrument for the evaluation of the animal, plant health and food safety systems, which resulted in improved performance of the National Agrarian Health Service.
- Prepared a project for implementing the National Traceability System.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Upgraded the expertise of local actors in the province of Huaura in the area of sound environmental management by supporting preparation of the project “Recovery of ancient water conservation and replenishment systems in Paccho”.
- Introduced environmental health activities in the plans of operations of 15 public and private institutions in the province of Huaura.
- Provided information to authorities in the districts of Sincos and Jarpa in the Junin region for decision-making on water and environmental management.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Upgraded expertise in formulating proposals for agricultural development based on the territorial approach by generating and circulating impact studies; training officials and leading producers; exchanging experiences with other countries in topics related to trade, institutional framework and policies; exchanging information among ministers; systematizing experiences and lessons learnt; providing technical assistance in instituting successful practices; and supporting the formulation of State policies for the development of agriculture and rural life.
- Reinforced partnerships between and among public and private actors in Huara and Junin with a view to executing sustainable local development projects which include the five dimensions of the territorial approach.
- Improved the expertise of members of the local cooperation networks in Huaura and of the residents of the districts of Sincos and Jarpa (Junin) in defining objectives and intervention strategies and upgrading production and service activities in the area of rural development based on the territorial approach, which benefited 850 inhabitants.
- Promoted conservation and dissemination of the cultural wealth among the inhabitants of Huaura and Junin.
- Established the Peruvian link in the Andean Rural Development Network for which IICA serves as Technical Secretariat.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Upgraded expertise in the areas of genetic resources and biotechnology at the National Institute of Agrarian Research and Extension.
- Prepared the Technology Protocol for the cultivation of cacao for key actors in the chain who apply participatory extension methodologies (schools in rural areas).

Saint Kitts and Nevis

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Conducted extensive consultation with stakeholders on St. Kitts and developed an agricultural development strategy and an implementation plan for the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Supported several agro-tourism initiatives, including: the hosting of a visioning session for stakeholders from the Fothergills Heritage Village, and convened meetings with leaders of producers' organizations and the tourism sector.
- Implemented various components and activities of the OAS/IICA Project "Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector".

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Collaborated with the Republic of China in agro-processing training and introduced a food safety/HAACP module.
- Distributed information through radio and television programs as well as printed material on Avian Influenza and food safety tips.
- Various stakeholders acquired an improved level of knowledge from workshops that were conducted with the assistance of FAVA/CA on the management of fire ants.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Supported the work of the National Biodiversity Committee and the development of the national bio-safety framework and assisted in conducting a pre-feasibility study for agro-energy as a partial option for renewable energy.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Empowered various groups, both individually and collectively, including members of the Fahie's Women Agricultural Producers, who participated in several workshops, project formulation and effective fund raising. This included an EC\$25,000 grant to procure equipment and other inputs to enhance their productive capacity.
- Collaborated with the Youth Skills Department in the implementation of the UNESCO-sponsored project, "Youth in Business". Participants were exposed to technical and business training with a focus on starting a business.
- Fifteen marginalized youths of Project Strong were able to deliver on a contractual arrangement to produce school uniforms and gift baskets as a result of a skills-training project, which was initiated by the Institute.
- Supported the launching of the Nevis Growers' Cooperative Society Ltd. The launching also showcased agricultural produce from a drip irrigation project, which was funded by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute and IICA.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- The Institute conducted a diagnostic evaluation of the Ministry of Agriculture and developed a strategic plan for its restructuring.

Saint Lucia

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Increased understanding of the Key Binding Constraints as identified by the Jagdeo Initiative, as well as the Agro Plan 2003-2015, the OECS Agriculture Strategy and the MAFF Strategic Framework for the repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life, which continued to be implemented.
- Continued dialogue towards the implementation of the new strategic framework for agriculture was facilitated through the MAFF/IICA and WIBDECO-sponsored national consultations.
- Continued its support to build knowledge capability and advance the ministerial agenda within the MAFF and the Secretariat of OECS by facilitating their participation in national, regional and hemispheric dialogue.
- Efforts towards determining the true contribution of agriculture to economic development continued with a training of trainers' workshop.
- The IICA/MAFF-sponsored seminar series entitled "**Saint Lucia Agriculture Facing the Future**" continued with an examination of the *Potential Impact of the CSME on Agriculture Development and Farmer Organizations in Saint Lucia*.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Enhanced the enabling environment for increasing trade for local produce with a focus on the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) and an emphasis on linkages with the tourism sector, in particular.
- IICA's efforts resulted in an overall increased understanding, capacity development and a strengthening of cooperative actions to solve finance and marketing problems.
- Aimed at effecting improvement to foster institutional partnerships between financial institutions and the rural and agricultural sectors.
- The capacity of rural women's enterprises was enhanced and the capacity of the Pig and Bee Producers' Cooperatives was strengthened in terms of identifying and planning for the challenges and opportunities within the industry.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Support for the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Standards Committee (AHFSSC) focused on strategies to enhance and increase cooperation amongst the public sector agencies and also amongst the public and private sectors.
- The capability of the veterinary services to assess services rendered and to make recommendations that will enable it to take full advantage of new opportunities and

meet obligations deriving from globalization was strengthened through a workshop organized for private- and public-sector veterinarians.

- A food safety strategy document was prepared as the basis for a national food safety strategy. Other draft procedures for good agricultural practices for pigs and small ruminants were prepared for discussion with the Veterinary Services.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Supported the drafting of regulations for the national bio-safety framework, which were placed before the Attorney General's Chambers. Also participated actively in the development of the national biodiversity strategy.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- The introduction of the wider concept of the territorial approach to rural development continued in 2006 with actions focused on people development and social organizations.
- The St Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth (SLAFY) has increased membership from nine to 55 and the national chapter of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP) has moved from a base of one community to five groups.
- The effectiveness of community groups and the strengthening of their institutional mechanism to identify challenges and ensuing solutions were enhanced.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- The knowledge capability of the Hewanorra Organic Agricultural Movement (HOAM) was enhanced and its efforts advanced towards certification.
- Attracting youth to the sector continued with the greenhouse project to promote the use of the technology among grades 4 to 6 at the Fond Assau Primary School.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) are poised to benefit from the implementation of the CABA/MIF Project.
- In collaboration with CARDI, succeeded in encouraging the participation of members of CABA (SVG) Chapter Inc. in the **First Caribbean Agrifood Convention "Enhancing Regional Trade and Investments in the Agrifood Sector"** and the **Sixth Caribbean Week of Agriculture**.
- Beekeepers have been motivated to resume their beekeeping activities as a result of their participation in a training workshop on **Integrated Pest/Disease Management**.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers (SVGNRWP) improved its planning and execution of activities through the convening of meetings of its Executive and the general membership.
- Inputs for the 2006 Annual Work Plan of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Agricultural Forum for Youth (SVGAFY) were obtained through participation in the Annual Executive Meeting of the Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth (CAFY) and the Sixth Caribbean Week of Agriculture.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- In the spirit of inter-institutional cooperation and networking, as well as informing major stakeholders, IICA assisted in organizing shared work plans and participated in the meetings of the National Coordinating Committee for Agricultural Research and Development (NCCARD).
- The enhanced capacity in vegetable production of Rabacca and surrounding areas was the result of the commissioning of two greenhouses and the graduation of several agri-entrepreneurs, youths and women, from a training workshop in greenhouse technology. The project was implemented with resources provided under the IICA/CARDI Agreement.
- Frontline extension officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the St. Vincent Banana Growers' Association enhanced their capabilities to respond to the technological challenges of the agricultural sector.

Suriname

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Products from the agricultural sector in Suriname were identified for possible export to the CARICOM market.
- Worked with the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare a Diversification Program for Small Rice Farmers in the District of Nickerie and identified alternative income generation activities.
- The Nickerie District received guidance on diversification as the result of alliances formed with other institutions.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Worked with the Ministry of Agriculture on the monitoring and surveillance of the carambola fruit fly (*Bactrocera carambolae*).
- Provided support in preparing a plan to mitigate the effects of the exotic pest in tomato production, namely, the tomato fruit borer (*Neoleucinodes sp.*).
- Prepared a National Emergency Plan for Avian Influenza with the Ministry of Agriculture and other partners.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Evaluated Suriname's participation in the Amazon Initiative in the workshop "Sustainable Land Use in the Amazon Region and the Amazon Initiative", organized in conjunction with the Center for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS).
- Participants in the Twelfth Meeting of the TROPIGEN Network on phylogenetic resources in the tropics of South America were provided with tools to evaluate their use and management. (IICA, CELOS, PROCITROPICOS).

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- A plan for alternative income generation for bauxite mined-out areas in Moengo, District of Marowijne, was prepared with partners from the public and private sector.
- Two major studies were conducted under the agrotourism project to identify potential linkages between agriculture and tourism.
- A video was prepared to show Suriname's potential in the various areas of agro tourism, such as the culinary area and areas relating to well-being, health, culture, etc.
- The POWAKKA community received technical assistance to improve their production. This covered soil preparation, composting, seeding, community organization management.
- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of American States (OAS) in Suriname and the Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF) to bring relief to some communities in the hinterland affected by flooding.
- A project in the Brownsberg area, funded by WWF Guyanas, was implemented. The project was on alternative income for gold miners to reduce the negative impacts in the nature reserve park.
- Strengthened Suriname's participation in regional networks such as CAFY and CANROP.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- To encourage youngsters to join the agricultural sector, two school gardens are being established with the financial support of the Lions Club of Para, using interactive CD material.

Trinidad and Tobago

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Participants from across the region received information on a project to establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Agricultural Information System. That System seeks to satisfy the need for monitoring and evaluating progress in the Agro Plan 2003-2015. (UN/ECLAC, CTA, IICA)

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- In conjunction with the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI), organized and hosted the regional workshop “*Optimizing the Benefits of Research and Development for the enhancement of Agribusiness in the Caribbean*” in an effort to proceed with the coordination of research and development within the agribusiness sector.
- Under projects funded by the European Union, supported operations of the Caribbean Herbal Business Association (CHBA) Secretariat in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.
- At the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, delivered a series of project management workshops aimed at training agricultural and extension officers and planning officers in the Agricultural Planning Division.
- Strengthened its relationship with the Faculty of Science and Agriculture of the University of the West Indies (UWI) through training and internship in agribusiness.
- Worked with CABA, CARDI, NAMDEVCO and the Ministry of Trade and Industry’s Food and Beverage Industry Development Committee (MTI/FBIDC), on the First Caribbean Agri-Food Trade Convention (CAFTC).
- Provided support to NAMDEVCO in a survey to determine the demand for fruits and vegetables in supermarkets.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- The AHFS programme continued to provide training in topical areas of interest and importance to the development of AHFS in the region, including Avian Influenza, Mites of Economic Importance, GAPS, among others.
- The Dairy Herd Health Manual was completed and distributed to schools, Ministry personnel and farmers.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Contributed to the development of the organic agriculture sector with the preparation of plans for development of three model organic farms, located on Government demonstration stations.

Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach

- Continued to provide support to the Network of Rural Women Producers for their meetings and for the reorganization of their micro-credit scheme.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Project proposals on capacity building and the establishment of institutions were prepared to initiate implementation of the biotechnology and biosafety strategy in the Caribbean.

- Spearheaded the organization of a regional biotechnology workshop, hosted at the Sixth Caribbean Week of Agriculture, and supported the University of the West Indies with a workshop on the commercialization of biotechnology-improved anthurium varieties.
- Revisited a project of the Tobago House of Assembly – for which funding was approved in 2006 – and commenced work on a feasibility study to develop an agro-tourism attraction at Hope Farm in Tobago.
- A study surveying machine and technology use in Trinidad and Tobago’s agricultural sector was prepared to assess the level of capitalization and technology transfer in the farming sector in Trinidad & Tobago.

United States of America

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Five project proposals were developed and presented to the Inter-American Development Bank, positioning IICA favorably within the donor agency.
- Information and an analysis of current trends regarding agricultural health, food safety, trade and agribusiness, rural development and Avian Influenza were presented to our stakeholders and partners.
- The importance of agriculture and agricultural health in the Americas was strengthened as a result of various conferences and forums on themes of hemispheric integration and regional trade.
- Organized a team of experts to visit Washington in a continued effort to strengthen cooperation between IICA and the OAS. The event was aimed at elevating the critical importance of agriculture and rural development in the Americas.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- In conjunction with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), executed joint Avian Influenza briefings for stakeholders from the Organization of American States (OAS), U.S. private-sector entities, multilateral development banks, and international organizations.
- Promoted the Performance Vision Strategy (PVS) instrument as a national veterinary capacity-building tool with the Inter-American Development Bank and the World Bank.
- IICA hosted, with the Caribbean Central American Action, a conference on Avian Influenza that featured U.S. Ambassador John Lange, Special Representative on Avian and Pandemic Influenza, U.S. Department of State.
- IICA facilitated private-sector involvement between CARGILL and the National Poultry Association.
- IICA facilitated the attendance of delegates from targeted countries at the CODEX meeting in Chiba, Japan; hosted hemisphere consultation meetings before and during the formal Codex meeting; and provided the necessary technical assistance to delegates (24 participants from seven Member States at the pre-meeting).

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- FONTAGRO'S hemispheric efforts were expanded by facilitating administrative support, technical assistance and logistical support as an integral link between IICA and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Uruguay

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Contributed to the debate on the agricultural sector through the organization of the Third Series of Lectures on “National Policies: Agriculture in the Times Ahead”, in which the Minister of the Economy and Finance, the Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining and the Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries gave presentations under the slogan “Productive Uruguay”.
- Implemented the Office's Quality Management System, to promote continuous improvements, which has been certified by the Uruguayan Technical Standards Institute (UNIT) and the Spanish Association for Standardization and Certification (AENOR).
- Developed a Distance Education Platform “*Uruguay Agropecuario al Mundo*”, established through an alliance with the National Meat Institute (INAC), the Teachers' Institute of Artigas (IPA), the Uruguayan Wool Secretariat (SUL), the Business University (Universidad de la Empresa - UDE) and the Faculties of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Through the service “Uruguay agrifood in figures”, available on the IICA Office's web site, systematized technical information on the agrifood chains for dissemination to the key actors of the rural and agrifood sectors.
- Strengthened the technical capacity of young people and women entrepreneurs in rural areas to enable them to generate their own sources of employment and income.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Designed the Project on Strengthening Private Sector Participation in the National Animal Health System, with the active participation of agricultural organizations (ARU, CAF, FR, CNFR, FUCREA, ANPL and IPA).
- Supported the General Directorate of Agricultural Services of the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) in the application of the PVS tool and in the design of a training plan.
- Organized training sessions, directed at professionals, producers and rural workers, regarding the importance of sound agricultural health practices to increase competitiveness in production and the role of agricultural production units as a first line of protection in agricultural health.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Supported the MGAP's "Responsible Production" project in the implementation of a system of environmental indicators to evaluate the ecological, environmental, economic and social sustainability of rural production plants.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Assisted the Directorate of Productive Development of the Municipal Administration of Canelones in the design of a strategic rural development plan for the Northeast of that department, which was designed using a territorial approach and with the broad participation of grassroots organizations.
- Strengthened the capacities of the Departmental Administrations through the establishment of the Network of Local Government Development Offices (RODDE), whose Technical Secretariat is IICA.
- Consolidated the Uruguayan Rural Development Network (ReDes) as a reference point on rural development issues; in this context, organized the second meeting to share experiences entitled "The Protagonists of Rural Development Speak - 2006", whose slogan was "Small-scale rural production: meeting the challenges".
- Supported small-scale food producers through their participation in the sixth round of the *Mesa Criolla*, an event that included lectures on rural tourism and agrifood routes and a course on network management and information and communications technologies.
- Contributed to the conceptualization of the role of rural education in local development strategies and, together with national authorities, organized a national meeting to discuss this issue with nearly 100 participants.
- Provided training to education authorities and rural teachers in the use of the Census Information System, through joint activities with the Department of Rural Education and the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).
- Jointly with the National Commission for Rural Development (CNFR), organized a series of Rural Youth Meetings in three localities, to discuss issues related to family production.
- Published the document "Consortium for the Development of the Eastern Region: preliminary assessment of two years of management (2003-2004)", to support the dissemination of a cooperative development initiative involving that Region's municipalities.

Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life

- Launched the Working Group on Biotechnology, made up of representatives of the public and private sectors and, together with the Zonamerica Foundation and PROCISUR, implemented a Seminar on the National Policy for the Development of Biotechnology: The Chilean Experience, with the participation of two experts from that country.

- In the context of the Project to Validate a Technology Transfer System for the Agricultural Sector through the use of ICTs, trained tutors of the Instituto Plan Agropecuario in aspects of distance education.

Venezuela

Contributing to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Supported the strengthening of the national, public and private institutional framework responsible for promoting agricultural and rural development, in which process the different strategic alliances with national and international bodies played a vital role.
- Expanded the sociopolitical analysis of the agrifood chains in different regions of the country.
- Developed technical capacities in public institutions for the analysis of agrifood chains, strategic planning, in the design of logical frameworks and in the design and application of economic models for the analysis of agricultural policies.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Worked with the Ministry of Agriculture and Land (MAT) on the preparation of an inventory of agrifood policies, and made progress in consolidating the integration and planning processes using an agrifood chains approach.
- Designed a preliminary proposal for the socio-productive management and consolidation of the milk chain of the State of Portuguesa, in partnership with the Social Management School of the Ministry of Planning and Development.
- In coordination with the Polar Foundation, organized a course on economic analysis of agrifood chains in the State of Portuguesa and began a process to consolidate the milk chain.
- Supported the coffee chain program in the municipality Andres Eloy Blanco, in the State of Lara.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety

- Continued supporting the consolidation of the institutions responsible for the AHFS system, in order to guarantee the protection of agricultural health, consolidate the agricultural commodity markets and comply with international obligations.
- Began implementation of the National Agricultural Traceability System and organized a national workshop for the formulation of project profiles for the regional portfolio of the Livestock Traceability System.
- Supported the Inter-institutional BAP Committee in preparing General Directives for the Application of BAP through consultancies, the facilitation of information and documentation and the formulation of recommendations to include environmental impact issues in said Directives.
- In association with APHIS and in support of the Venezuelan Commission for the Control Foot and Mouth Disease, promoted the strengthening of the Foot and Mouth Program and of the respective diagnostic laboratory.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Designed a program on sustainable use and management of natural resources to promote the economic and social development of the Yacambu-Quibor territory, in the context of the Integrated Water Resource Management Project.
- Began a process to analyze the Program on Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in the Gran Sabana Territory, in partnership with the Mayu/EDELCA Program.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Provided direct technical cooperation for the promotion and design of the Integrated Water Resource Management Project and the Yacambu-Quibor Territorial Development Project, based on a territorial approach and inter-thematic coordination.
- Together with the Ministry of Tourism and various governors' offices and mayors' offices, launched a program to promote rural tourism, in order to generate supplementary incomes in the rural sector and promote environmental conservation.
- Implemented programs to promote rural tourism in the States of Portuguesa and Lara, and promoted this activity at the Tourism Fair in Caracas.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- With the participation of PROCINDINO, strengthened the Andean Region's Fruit Trees and Vegetables Network, particularly its regional project on guava and tree tomato.
- Jointly with the IICA Office in Colombia, organized a horizontal cooperation mission between the Colombian Agricultural Research Corporation (CORPOICA) and Venezuela's National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI), with the aim of establishing the Agrifood Chains Observatory and the Centers of Excellence in Innovation and at supporting work on priority issues such as biotechnology and bio-energy.
- Incorporated agricultural and livestock indicators into the INFOAGRO Yacambu-Quibor and INFOAGRO Zulia information systems and promoted the integration of Venezuela's agricultural libraries.
- Cooperated with the NARI in the execution of the Agricultural Technology Program and in the design of capacity building projects in bio-energy and biosafety.

4. Relations with Strategic Partners

Aware of the magnitude of the problems and challenges that confront the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas, and that the opportunities that exist are beyond the capabilities of just one organization on its own, IICA has remained faithful to its principle of seeking consensus, understandings on specific issues, and thematic and operational coordination with different bilateral and multilateral agencies and organizations whose work plans are related to attention to the needs of agriculture and rural development

In keeping with the above, IICA has signed and implemented memorandums of understanding and cooperation agreements with OAS, PAHO, FAO, OIE, ECLAC and other public and private organizations, which, added to the different coordination meetings held with these agencies and institutions, provide the institutional and technical framework necessary for the development of joint initiatives of an inter-agency nature.

Based on these agreements and letters of understanding, IICA has coordinated an effective inter-agency response to the threat of avian influenza (AI) in the Americas with PAHO, FAO, OAS, financial institutions (WB, IDB, and CABEI), and several official agencies and private organizations of the United States and Canada, according to the specific areas of expertise of each one. This joint response involves actions ranging from the formulation and implementation of a joint communication strategy about the risk of AI, to capacity-building and the preparation of institutions, trade unions and companies to confront an eventual appearance of this transborder disease, and includes the socio-economic assessment of its possible impact on several regions and countries of the hemisphere.

Together with OIE and FAO, progress has been made on inter-agency cooperation to respond in a coordinated manner to the efforts made by the countries to prevent the appearance of and strengthen measures to control and eliminate pests and other transborder and zoonotic diseases in the Americas, such as foot-and-mouth disease, classic porcine pest, and the fruit fly. The joint initiative known as the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (GF-TADs), in which other international agencies and organizations such as OIRSA and PAHO and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) also participate, falls within this context.

It is worth underscoring the cooperation between IICA and PAHO to promote the use of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) instrument and expand its sphere of application to several countries of the Americas and to different areas of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS), in order to evaluate the national AHFS services and formulate proposals to improve them.

The agreement reached between FAO, ECLAC and IICA to create a common database on this issue, examine and evaluate agricultural policies, and prepare a joint document analyzing trends, perspectives and challenges for agriculture and the rural milieu has been crucial for the analysis of the situation and perspective of agriculture and rural life.

Also, it is worth mentioning the progress achieved in the definition of a common conceptual and methodological basis of what the three institutions understand by “rural,” “agro-industrial” and “expanded agriculture.”

Together with IDB, IICA has become involved in the development of proposals for various projects and in their execution. These include: (a) project to support the Central American Integration System (SICA); (b) project to strengthen CAS communication and coordination mechanisms; (c) capacity-building project in the area of agricultural education in the Caribbean; (d) project to promote proprietary brands of coffee in Central America through PROMECAFE, and (e) project aimed at developing biodiversity resources in the Amazon Region.

Under a specific agreement signed with IDB, the Institute continued to support FONTAGRO in financing regional research. This initiative covered both creating and strengthening capacities to elaborate, execute and evaluate projects, and also the joint evaluation of the executing agencies and the assessment of the social, economic and environmental impact of specific projects.

Another area for joint action has been the inter-agency coordination of efforts designed to recuperate Haiti’s economy and institutional framework, particularly the evaluation of the country’s situation and the elaboration of proposals by a working group coordinated by the OAS General Secretariat and composed of IICA, ECLAC, PAHO, IDB and other international and hemispheric agencies.

Of equal importance has been the joint effort to strengthen the hemispheric capabilities in relation to biotechnology and biosafety and to promote the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. This effort has been possible owing to financing from USDA and from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada.

Finally, in support of the human resources development actions required by the new agriculture, IICA has negotiated with FAO the acquisition of courses in English on AI, with a view to using them as training tools in joint activities with FAO itself, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, OIE, and others. The Institute has assumed the work of adapting them to Spanish to facilitate their application in most of its Member States.

In addition, the FAO self-learning module IMARK “Investing in Information for Development” was adapted and implemented, and this helped generate the necessary abilities and know-how to improve information management in the agricultural organizations.

With the World Bank, and especially with IDB, there are cooperation agendas that include the participation of IICA in various projects financed principally with non-reimbursable resources, in which the Institute acts as facilitator and adviser to the Governments or regional agencies that receive cooperation, providing an element of security and confidence to the development banks.

IICA-CATIE joint work

Relations between IICA and CATIE were established legally by Act No. 8028 (2000), under which the Costa Rican Government and IICA signed a contract that expires in 2020.

In 2006, both institutions focused their collaboration on capacity-building, coffee technological innovation, the promotion of appropriate natural resource management, and greater efficiency in agricultural information services in Central America, the Caribbean, and several countries in the Andean Region.

In the area of capacity-building, IICA and CATIE have elaborated and co-financed a multimedia training course in agro-forestry, and have agreed on a work plan designed to create an accredited program offering a higher education diploma in forestry. The two organizations have joined the American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC) in order to strengthen relations and distance education actions.

With a similar aim, in the Central and Andean Regions, the two organizations have developed institution-building actions to identify, analyze, manage and communicate risks associated with biosafety within the framework of the Inter-American Biotechnology and Biosafety Program. In addition, IICA, in coordination with CATIE, OIRSA and SICTA, has promoted the implementation of the regional strategy for Central America on this issue.

Within the framework of PROMECAFE, CATIE, IICA and the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) have provided support to the regional network for testing 19 new F1 hybrid varieties of high-quality coffee which were developed jointly. A significant event was the organization of two workshops with the participation of CIRAD, CATIE, IICA, PROMECAFE, and the Costa Rican Coffee Institute (ICAFE), which led on to the final stage in the preparation of the Project to strengthen the Central American coffee-growing sector, through the recognition of geographical indications and proprietary names, which has received financial support from the Spanish International Cooperation Agency (AECI) and IDB.

Following various institutional approaches to the Agricultural Network Information Center (AGNIC), a donation of US\$7,000 was obtained to make the Revista Turrialba (1950-1995) available on the Internet. Also, the project for the Preservation of the Specialized IICA-CATIE Collection for Research on Tropical Agriculture in Latin America in the Orton Commemorative Library was prepared and Harvard University, through its Program for Latin American Libraries and Archives, provided US\$20,000 to make the necessary technological improvements to conserve this collection.

Furthermore, IICA and CATIE have drawn up a proposal concerning the contributions of the Orton Commemorative Library to the development of agriculture in the hemisphere, and this has been submitted to the consideration of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

The IICA/CATIE Information Center was inaugurated in the University of Belize and a joint work plan with this country was elaborated. Execution of the El Salvador Environmental Program (PAES) was completed; the program was implemented in the region of Trifinio by Catholic Relief Service (CRS), IICA, CATIE and the “José Simeón Cañas” Central American University (UCA). This project led to the protection and diversification of 2,500 hectares, owing to the change in attitude to natural resource management of more than 2,000 farmers and their families.

Training activities were conducted in Nicaragua and, in Haiti, a workshop on “carib trees” (*Sabinea carinalis*) was organized, which should result in a publication. Finally, in Mexico, the consortium IICA-CATIE-CIRAD was awarded the public bid to execute the Project for integrated social and sustainable development in the Lacandona Forest (PRODESIS).

CATIE has also worked with the Meso-American Network on Plant Genetic Resources (REMERRFI). Funding for this network is based on a GEF project, spearheaded by IICA and the CIAT, which is now in its second phase (PDG-B). The REMERRFI Secretariat has been headed by a scientist from CATIE and the planning of the work has received constant support from that Center’s Genetic Resources Group.

5. Financial information

In 2006, IICA obtained positive financial results, which permitted effective implementation of its technical cooperation programs in response to the requests of Member States. As a result of the actions undertaken to promote an institutional culture of efficiency, financial prudence and accountability, the execution of the expenditure financed with quota resources was kept at a conservative level.

The actions undertaken to collect overdue quotas, which were supported by the Institute's governing bodies, resulted in the payment of the balances owing on these quotas for the third consecutive year. This helped strengthen IICA's financial situation, and allowed it to continue promoting the plans and work agendas agreed with Member States.

The operations of the Institute are financed by the following types of resources: (a) quota resources and miscellaneous income for financing the Institute's operations and actions and, above all, the expenses associated with direct technical cooperation services; (b) external resources, for specific activities and projects, in keeping with the objectives established with counterparts, and (c) the Institutional Net Rate (INR) for covering costs generated by the administration of external resources and to strengthen institutional capacity. In 2006, the execution of external resources continued to increase and represented an important source of financing for the Institute's actions. In addition, IICA continued to focus on developing a portfolio of projects related entirely to technical cooperation.

The following tables contain relevant information on the financial resources executed by IICA in 2006.

Table 1. Execution of quota and external resources in 2004, 2005 and 2006 (in millions of US\$).

Resources	Year		
	2004	2005	2006*
Quotas	26.5	26.1	26.5
External	100.8	125.4	134.1

* Estimated

Table 2. Execution of quota resources by chapter in 2006 (in millions of US\$)*.

Chapters	Budget	Execution	
		Amount	%
Chap. 1: Direct technical cooperation services	24.5	24.1	91
Chap. 2: Management costs	1.6	1.6	6
Chap. 3: General costs and reserves	1.0	0.8	3
Total	27.1	26.5	100

* Estimated

Table 3. Execution of resources by source of financing in 2006 (in millions of US\$)*

Type of resource	Execution	
	Amount	%
External	134.1	79
Quotas	26.5	15
INR	6.7	4
Miscellaneous	2.8	2
Total	170.1	100

* Estimated

Table 4. Sources of external resources in 2006 (in millions of US\$)*

Source	Amount
Governmental institutions of the Member States	120.4
International financial institutions, other organizations, and Governments	13.7
Total	134.1

* Estimated

6. Human resources

The following tables provide information on the evolution of the Institute's human resources over the last six years and the current situation:

Table 1. Distribution of human resources by category in the period 2001-2006.

Classification	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
International Professional (IPP)	109	100	97	91	95	95
Local Professional (LPP)	183	237	217	198	219	225
General Services (GSP)	524	501	385	366	379	383
Total	816	838	699	655	693	703

Source: Human Resource Directorate

Table 2. Distribution of human resources by category and sources of financing in 2006

Category	Source of financing				Total	Percentage
	Regular funds		External Funds			
	Quantity	%	Quantity	%		
IPP	89	12.66	6	0.85	95	13.51
LPP	176	25.04	49	6.97	225	32.01
GSP	346	49.22	37	5.26	383	54.48
Total	611	86.91	92	13.09	703	100.0

Source: Human Resource Directorate

Table 3. Distribution of human resources by place of work and sources of financing in 2006

Location	IPP		LPP		GSP		Totals	
	Regular funds	External funds	Regular funds	External funds	Regular funds	External funds	Regular funds	External funds
Head Office	29	1	78	2	115	1	222	4
Andean region	12	1	19	2	53	3	84	6
Caribbean region	14	1	20	0	53	1	87	2
Central Region	13	2	22	29	52	14	87	45
Northern Region	10	0	5	0	20	0	35	0
Southern Region	11	1	32	16	53	18	96	35
Totals	89	6	176	49	346	37	611	92

Source: Human Resource Directorate

Acronyms

AAFC	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
AAW	American AgriWomen (United States)
ACEAS	Central American Association of Higher Agricultural Education
AECI	Spanish International Cooperation Agency
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
AI	Avian Influenza
AIT	Asian Institute of Technology
ALADI	Latin American Integration Association
ALCUEFOOD	From European fork to Latin American Farm
ANPLO	National Dairy Farmers Association (Uruguay)
APAARI	Asia-Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Protection and Inspection Service (USDA)
ARU	Rural Association of Uruguay
AVIG	Project to Support Flood Victims in Rural Areas of Gonaïves (Haiti)
BIO	Biotechnology Industry Organization
BRAMCO	Brazil, Mexico, Colombia
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
CAC	Central American Agricultural Council
CACHE	Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture
CAF	Andean Development Corporation
CAFTA	United States and Central America Free Trade Agreement
CAFY	Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth
CAN	Andean Community
CAPECO	Paraguayan Chamber of Grain and Oilseed Exporters
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIRI	Caribbean Industrial Research Institute
CAS	Southern Agricultural Council
CATIE	Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center
CCAA	Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association
CE	Executive Committee (IICA)
CELOS	Center of Agricultural Research in Suriname
CENTA	National Agricultural and Forestry Technology Center (El Salvador)
CFC	Common Fund for Commodities
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CHBA	Caribbean Herbal Business Association
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIOEC	Organization for the Integration of Small-farm Economic Organizations in Bolivia
CIRAD	International Center for Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (France)
CNFR	National Rural Development Commission (Uruguay)
CNRWP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
COMLECHE	Milk Commission (Guatemala)
CONADEA	National Council for Agricultural Development (Guatemala)
ConGES	Consortium for the Guardianship of Fair Trade and Solidarity-based Products
COSAVE	Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Area
CROSQ	CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality
CRS	Catholic Relief Services (El Salvador)
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation

DIGEGA	General Directorate of Livestock (Dominican Republic)
EC	Executive Committee (IICA)
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EDELCA	Hydroelectric Generation Firm (Venezuela)
ENESA	State Agricultural Insurance Institute (Spain)
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations)
FAO-RLC	FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
FAUSAC	School of Agronomy – University of San Carlos (Guatemala)
FEDAVICAC	Federation of Poultry Farmers of Central America and the Caribbean
FINRURAL	Association of Financial Institutions for Rural Development (Bolivia)
FIU	Florida International University
FODEPAL	Regional Technical Cooperation Project – Education in Economics, Agricultural Policies and Rural Development in Latin America
FOMMUR	Development Fund for Rural Women (Colombia)
FONTAGRO	Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology
FORAGRO	Regional Forum on Agricultural Research and Technology Development
FR	Rural Federation (Uruguay)
FRADIEAR	Andean Regional Forum for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education
FTA	Free trade agreement
FUCREA	Federation of CREA Groups (Uruguay)
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
GIADR	Inter-Agency Group for Rural Development
GINA	Informal Group of Agricultural Negotiators
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practices
GRENROP	Grenada Network of Rural Women Producers
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points
HBBP	Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program
IAASTD	International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development
IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture
IAI	Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ICTA	Agricultural Science and Technology Institute
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IDIAF	Dominican Agricultural and Forestry Research Institute
IDIAP	Agricultural Research Institute of Panama
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
IMA	Agricultural Marketing Institute (Panama)
IMARK	Information Management Resource Kit
INCA RURAL	Institute for the Development of Capabilities in the Rural Sector (Mexico)
INDERT	National Rural and Land Development Institute (Paraguay)
INFOAGRO	Agricultural Information System (Bolivia, Costa Rica, Venezuela)
INFOCAS	Regional Network of CAS Communities
INFOTEC	Scientific and Technological Information System
INIA	National Agricultural Research Institute (Venezuela, Uruguay)
INR	Institutional Net Rate (IICA)
INTA	National Agricultural Technology Institute (Argentina)
INTAL	Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean
IPA	Agriculture Plan Institute (Uruguay)

IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
MADR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Colombia)
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (St. Lucia)
MAG FRUTALES	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock –National Fruit Program of El Salvador
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador)
MAGA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (Guatemala)
MAGFOR	Ministry of Agricultural and Forest Resources (Nicaragua)
MAPA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brazil)
MAR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Barbados)
MAT	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (Venezuela)
MDRA y MA (Bolivia)	Ministry of Rural and Agricultural Development and the Environment
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
MGAP	Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (Uruguay)
MIDA	Ministry of Agricultural Development (Panama)
MIF	Multilateral Investment Fund
MINAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Peru)
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture (Chile)
MIOA	Market Information Organization of the Americas
MIPRO	Ministry of Production (Costa Rica)
MTP	Medium Term Plan (IICA)
NAMDEVCO	The National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (Trinidad and Tobago)
NAPPO	North American Plant Protection Organization
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
ODEPA	Office of Agricultural Studies and Policies (Chile)
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
OIRSA	International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health
PAES	Environmental Program of El Salvador
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PCB	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
PCCMA	Central American Plant and Animal Breeding Cooperative Program
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction (Analysis)
PDR	Rural Development Program (Costa Rica)
PIPRA	Public Intellectual Property Resource for Agriculture
PPP	Puebla-Panama Plan
PROBOPETEN	Project to Protect Forests in the Peten
PROCI	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program
PROCIANDINO	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion
PROCICARIBE	Caribbean Agricultural Science and Technology Network System
PROCINORTE	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Northern Region
PROCISUR	Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone
PROCITROPICOS	Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics
PRODERT	Project for Sustainable Rural Development in Ecologically Fragile Areas of the Trifinio Region (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras)
PROMECAFE	Regional Cooperative Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation
PRORURAL	Sectoral Program for Sustainable Rural Development (Nicaragua)

PVS	Performance, Vision, Strategy
Red LATN	Latin American Trade Policy Network
RED-SICTA	Agricultural Innovation Network Project SICTA
RENAMUR	National Rural Women's Network (Mexico)
RUPRI	Rural Policy Research Institute
RUTA	Regional Unit for Technical Assistance
SACMI	Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (IICA)
SAG	Agricultural and Livestock Service (Chile)
SAGPYA	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (Argentina)
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEA	Secretariat of State for Agriculture (Dominican Republic)
SEC y T	Secretariat of Science, Technology and Innovation in Production (Argentina)
SENACSA	National Animal Health and Quality Service (Paraguay)
SENASAG	National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service (Bolivia)
SENAVE	National Plant and Seed Quality Service (Uruguay)
SICTA	Central American System for Agricultural Technology Integration
SIDALC	Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas
SIHCA	Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development
SIRG	Summit Implementation and Review Group
SLM	Sustainable Land Management (Grenada)
SPS Agreement	Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO)
SPS Committee	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee (WT)
TROPIGEN	Amazonian Network of Plant Genetic Resources
UB	University of Belize
UCA	José Simeón Cañas Central American University (El Salvador)
UNA	National University of Asunción
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UWI	University of the West Indies
VAMPP	Veterinary Automated Management and Production Program
WB	World Bank
WHO	World Health Organization
WIBDECO	Windward Islands Banana Development Company (St. Lucia)
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund