



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR 2006 - 2007

San Jose, Costa Rica

INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR

In conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, the Member States of IICA recognize the accomplishments of individuals and institutions that have made outstanding contributions to the development of agricultural and the improvement of rural life in the Americas. They are also intended to encourage the creativity and continued dedication of talented individuals and public and private organizations in the Member States.

The Executive Committee, at its Twenty-second Meeting, and the Ministers of Agriculture, at the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA, agreed that such efforts should be acknowledged and rewarded in a two-stage process: i) a national competition; and ii) an inter-American competition (Resolutions IICA/CE/Res.376(XXII-O/02) and IICA/JIA/Res.384(XII-O/03)). The regulations for the awards can be consulted at http://www.iica.int/organos_iica/JIA/

1. The process

1.1 First Stage: National Awards

The Institute, through its Offices in the Member States, will receive nominations from government and private institutions, enterprises, universities, nongovernmental organizations and trade associations for the following National Awards: Agricultural Medal, Award for Young Professionals, Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development, and Award for Institutional Contributions.

The Institute will propose to an honorary National Panel of Judges a list of three candidates for each of the awards. Based on the background of the candidates, the National Panel of Judges will confer the national awards, which will consist of a certificate and a metal plaque. The winners of the national awards will be automatically designated as candidates for the Inter-American Awards in their respective categories.

The National Awards are:

- National Agricultural Award
- National Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development
- National Agricultural Award for Young Professionals
- National Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development

The award ceremony will be held in the corresponding IICA Office, jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture. Also, the award itself, the qualifications of the winners, and their contributions to agricultural and rural development, will be given broad coverage in the local media.

1.2 Second stage: Inter-American Awards

The winners of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector shall be selected by the Executive Committee in those years in which a Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture is to be held. The Committee shall appoint a Selection Committee to analyze the supporting documentation received from the IICA Offices in the Member States (Curriculum Vitae, justification for the nomination and contact information for the individual or institution). Subsequent to review of this information, the Selection Committee will make its recommendation to the Executive Committee.

The Inter-American Awards are:

- Inter-American Agricultural Medal
- Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development
- Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals
- Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development

a. Inter-American Agricultural Medal

The Inter-American Agricultural Medal is bestowed upon professionals who have received the National Agricultural Medal in their country and who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the development of agriculture and to the improvement of rural life, in their own country or in other countries of the Americas. The key criterion for selection will be the accomplishments and contributions of the candidates.

b. Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development

The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development is awarded to women who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to facilitating or improving the participation of women in rural development, in general, and to improving the quality of rural life, in particular, in their own country or in other countries of the Americas.

c. Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals

The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals is a distinction granted to professionals working in the agricultural sciences who are under thirty-five years of age at the time of nomination and who have distinguished themselves in any of the areas covered by IICA's Programs, who have demonstrated an outstanding willingness to serve, exceptional initiative and dedication in working for the well-being of the rural population, and an ability to plan and carry out activities which

contribute to this well-being, principally by upgrading agricultural methods as well as social and entrepreneurial organization systems.

d. Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development

The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development is conferred on a public or private organization, enterprise, university or nongovernmental organization of the Member States of IICA that has made significant corporate contributions to improving agriculture and rural life in one or more countries of the Americas

2. Procedure for selecting the winners of the Inter-American Awards

Pursuant to the regulations currently in effect, the Executive Committee, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting, to be held at IICA Headquarters on May 15-17, 2007, will be responsible for analyzing nominations and selecting the winners.

The Executive Committee, during the inaugural session, shall set up a Selection Committee comprising representatives of the Member States. The Selection Committee, after examining the documentation submitted in support of each candidate, shall propose to the plenary of the Executive Committee the most appropriate candidate for each award. The proposal must be accompanied by the considerations presented by the Committee to justify its choices.

The Executive Committee, in the plenary session, shall review the recommendations of the Selection Committee and shall elect the persons and institutions which, in its judgment, are most deserving of the Inter-American Awards. It will also decide which persons and institutions are to receive honorable mentions.

3. Awards Ceremony

The Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector shall be presented by the Ministers of Agriculture and the Director General in a solemn ceremony during the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), to be held in Antigua, Guatemala, during the last week of July 2007.

Following the conferral of the awards, IICA shall ensure that broad national and international publicity shall be given to the awards themselves and to the recipients of the awards. IICA shall publish a document containing the speeches made at the ceremonies and biographical sketches of the winners.