



**REGULATIONS FOR CONFERRING  
INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

*2009 Executive Committee*

San José, Costa Rica  
July 2008



# REGULATIONS FOR CONFERRING THE INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR

## CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION<sup>1</sup>

### INTRODUCTION

The Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector recognize the outstanding contributions individuals, institutions and enterprises over time to the development of sustainable agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the Americas.

For the purpose of complementing these Regulations, the General Directorate shall prepare a Guide and distribute it to the Member States (“the Guide”). The Guide will contain additional instructions for the selection process.

#### Article 1:

**1.1** The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), by resolution of the Executive Committee, shall confer the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector to bring to the attention of the international community, and especially to the Member States of IICA, the work and contributions of citizens, institutions and enterprises of its Member States that have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the development of sustainable agriculture and to the improvement of rural life in the Americas.

**1.2** The Chair of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture shall present the awards in a special ceremony at the Regular Meeting of the Board.

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<sup>1</sup> Titles affixed by the General Directorate to facilitate use of these regulations.

## CHAPTER II: THE AWARDS

### Article 2:

**2.1** The five Inter-American Awards are:

- (i) The Inter-American Agricultural Medal
- (ii) The Inter-American Award for Innovative Rural Producers
- (iii) The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals
- (iv) The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development
- (v) The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development.

### Article 3:

**3.1** The *Inter-American Agricultural Medal* is for those individuals who have distinguished themselves through outstanding contributions to the development of sustainable agriculture and to the improvement of rural life, in their own countries and, in particular, those contributions that have had an impact in other countries of the Americas and/or other parts of the world. In evaluating the candidates, the utmost consideration is given to the impact of the candidate’s contributions on progress in sustainable agriculture and on the improvement of rural life.

**3.2** The award for the Inter-American Agricultural Medal consists of a gold medal a certificate and US\$10,000.

### Article 4

**4.1** The *Inter-American Award for the Innovative Rural Producer* is for producers (individuals or groups). It recognizes producers whose experience and contributions, especially in the area of innovation in production, have

served as an example for producers in their own countries and other countries of the Americas.

**4.2** The Inter-American Award for Innovative Rural Producers consists of a medal, a certificate and US\$5,000.

**Article 5:**

**5.1** The *Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals* is for those professionals who are under thirty-five years of age at the time of nomination, have distinguished themselves through their professional contributions and have demonstrated an outstanding willingness to serve, exceptional initiative and dedication in working for the development of sustainable agriculture and the well-being of rural communities.

**5.2** The Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals consists of a medal, a certificate and a scholarship to participate in IICA's Program for Young Leaders. Nevertheless, if a winner has already participated in that Program, he/she shall receive a US\$10,000 scholarship to attend an equivalent program for the development of his/her leadership capabilities, in accordance with conditions set out in the Guide.

**Article 6:**

**6.1** The *Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development* is for those women who have distinguished themselves through outstanding-contributions to the process of involving women in rural development, in general, and to improving the quality of life, in rural communities.

**6.2** The Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development shall consist of a medal, a certificate and US\$5,000.

**Article 7:**

**7.1** The *Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development* is conferred upon the public or private organization, enterprise, university or

nongovernmental organization in the Member States of IICA that has made significant contributions to improving sustainable agriculture and rural life in one or more countries of the Americas.

**7.2** The Inter-American Award for Institutional Contributions to Agricultural and Rural Development consists of a hand-punched bronze wall hanging and a certificate.

**Article 8:**

**8.1** In its Regular meeting held in the year that the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) celebrates its Regular Biennial Meeting, the Executive Committee shall select the-winners of the Inter-American Awards

**Article 9:**

**9.1** The Inter-American Awards shall be conferred for the corresponding biennium. There will be no more than one winner for each award. No person shall receive more than one award for the same biennium.

**CHAPTER III: THE AWARDS  
SELECTION COMMISSION AND ITS  
SECRETARIAT**

**Article 10:**

**10.1** The Executive Committee shall constitute the Awards Selection Commission ("the Commission") to review and evaluate the candidates for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, and to recommend to the Executive Committee the most worthy candidate for each award. The Commission shall consist of three Member States, who shall be appointed and serve as further specified below:

- a. The three members of the Commission shall be elected by the Executive Committee during the preparatory session of its Regular Meeting in the first year of the biennium.
- b. The Member States selected shall be responsible for assigning a principal delegate

and an alternate to represent it on the Commission for the entire biennium;

- c. The term of membership shall be the biennium. No Member State may be elected for consecutive terms.
- d. One member shall be nominated by and elected from among the six major contributors of Regular Fund of the Institute; another shall be nominated by and elected from among the remaining Member States of the Institute; and the third member shall be nominated by and elected from among all the Member States other than those states elected from among the first two groups.
- e. In electing each member, the Executive Committee shall give due regard to the principles of equitable geographical representation and rotation.
- f. The Commission shall conduct one Regular meeting each biennium which shall coincide with the Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in the year of the Regular IABA meeting for the biennium. That meeting shall begin at least one day prior to the preparatory session of that Executive Committee meeting so that the Commission may timely submit its report and recommendations for the awards to the Executive Committee.
- g. The Commission may also meet at other times during the biennium either in the presence of each other in the same place or through teleconferencing and other electronic means, subject to the availability of funds as determined by the Director General.
- h. The Commission shall elect a Chairperson to preside over its meetings, and it may elect such other officials it deems necessary from among its members.
- i. The Commission may meet with a quorum of at least two Members and take decisions by a vote of a majority of its Members. The Commission may adopt additional rules of procedure for its meetings and electing its officers, provided those rules of procedure are consistent with these Regulations and other pertinent norms of the Institute.

**10.2** The Director General shall appoint two IICA staff members to serve as the Technical Secretariat of the Awards Selection Commission. The Secretariat shall be responsible for: i) organizing the documentation on the candidates; ii) informing the Commission's members of the progress in the nomination of the candidates; iii) supporting them in the performance of their duties.

#### **Article 11:**

**11.1** The Awards Selection Commission, after studying the documentation for each candidate systematized by the Technical Secretariat, shall recommend to the plenary of the Executive Committee the candidates who, in its judgment, should receive the Inter-American Awards.

**11.2** Also, the Commission shall present to the Executive Committee a Report setting out the reasons for its recommendations and explaining the process by which it arrived at them.

**11.3** The Commission may recommend that no award be conferred for the corresponding period because, in its judgment, the candidates nominated do not meet the requirements. Nevertheless it may recommend one honorable mention for each category.

#### **Article 12:**

**12.1** The Commission's Chairperson shall present the Commission's Report and Recommendations to the plenary of the Executive Committee.

### **CHAPTER IV: RESPONSABILITIES OF THE GENERAL DIRECTORATE**

#### **Article 13:**

**13.1** In order to ensure the effectiveness and transparency of the selection process, the General Directorate, through the IICA Offices in the Member States, shall be responsible for:

- a. Publicizing the convocation for the presentation of candidates for national and Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector through the Institute's Offices in the countries and in coordination with the Ministries or Secretariats of Agriculture, in the Member States;
- b. Prepare and maintain the Guide for the Nomination and Selection of Candidates for the Inter-American Awards;
- c. In collaboration with authorities in the Member States, encouraging institutions, public and private agencies, enterprises, universities and trade associations at the national level to propose qualified candidates for the awards;
- d. Provide support to national authorities for the establishment of a system of national awards for the Rural Sector;
- e. Publishing biographic sketches of the recipients and disseminating throughout the hemisphere information on their contributions to agriculture and rural life in their countries and in the Americas.

## **CHAPTER V: FINAL SELECTION**

### **Article 14:**

**14.1** The Executive Committee during a Plenary Session of its Regular Meeting in the year in which the IABA meets, shall study the report of the Awards Selection-Commission.

**14.2** Based on the conclusions and recommendations in the Report, the Executive Committee shall take the corresponding action.

## **CHAPTER VI: NOTIFICATION OF CONFERRAL AND PRESENTATION OF THE AWARD**

### **Article 15:**

**15.1** Within thirty days of the conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting in which the winners of the Inter-American Awards are selected, the General Directorate of IICA shall notify the winners and their governments.

**15.2** The IABA shall present the Inter-American Awards to the recipients during its regular meeting.

**15.3** The honorable mentions for each award shall be presented in a solemn ceremony in their country of residence.

**15.4** Broad national and international publicity shall be given to the awards themselves and to the qualities of the recipients.

## **CHAPTER VII: GENERAL CONDITIONS**

### **Article 16:**

**16.1** The General Directorate of IICA shall disseminate these regulations among the governments of the Member States, national institutions and trade associations, and shall inform the leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life in each Member State country of the importance of the Inter-American Awards as a means of recognizing the outstanding contributions of individuals and organizations to the development of agriculture and to the improvement of rural life.

**16.2** These regulations shall enter into force once approved by the Executive Committee, and render null and void all earlier provisions concerning the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.

**16.3** These regulations may be amended or altogether revoked by the Executive Committee.