



**REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SECOND  
REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**San Jose, Costa Rica**

**09-10 October, 2012**

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). 2012



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# **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**





## **MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held pursuant to the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 530 (XXX-O/10) of said governing body of the Institute.

The 2012 Executive Committee comprised the following countries: Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guyana, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Suriname, United States of America, and Venezuela.

### ***PREPARATORY SESSION***

#### **0.1 *Opening of the session***

- 0.1.1** The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 08:50 on October 9, 2012, in the Sala Magna (United States/Canada Room) at IICA Headquarters. It was chaired by Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, the country that chaired the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 0.1.2** The representatives of all but one of the Member States that formed part of the 2012 Executive Committee attended the meeting. Venezuela was not represented due to the presidential elections held in that country on October 7. The IICA Member States not on the Executive Committee that also participated

in the meeting included Canada, Dominica, and Mexico. Spain was present in its capacity as an Associate Member of the Institute, and Israel in its capacity as a Permanent Observer.

0.1.3 In her capacity as Chair of the Executive Committee, Ms. Gloria Abraham Peralta, Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, welcomed the representatives of the Institute's Member States and conducted the first part of the Preparatory Session, which was private in nature and carried out in accordance with the agenda, which adhered to Article No. 45 of the Rules of Procedure of said governing body of the Institute.

## 0.2 Agreements

### 0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting

The Representative of Ecuador, Ms. Silvana Vallejo Páez, proposed that Ms. María Guadalupe Bardelli, Director of Regional Negotiations and Disputes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, chair the meeting, and the representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee voted unanimously in favor of her proposal. The Representative of Nicaragua, Ms. Claudia Tijerino Haslam, then proposed that Ms. Vallejo, Deputy Minister for Rural Development of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries of Ecuador, be elected to serve as rapporteur. This proposal also received unanimous approval.

As a result, the officers of the meeting were as follows:

Chairperson:	María Guadalupe Bardelli
Rapporteur:	Silvana Vallejo Páez
<i>Ex officio</i> secretary:	Víctor Villalobos

### 0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

Ms. María Guadalupe Bardelli thanked the representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee for having elected her and assumed her role as Chair of the Executive Committee. She will continue to discharge that responsibility until a new chairperson is elected at the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of said IICA governing body, in the first half of 2013. Turning to the first item on the agenda, she asked the representatives to consider the agenda proposed by the General Directorate for the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of

the Executive Committee, contained in document IICA/CE/Doc. 590(12). The agenda was approved without modifications.

The Chair informed the representatives that the folders they had received contained the working and information documents for the meeting, which had been made available to the Member States 30 days in advance, in electronic format, via the online system of the Executive Committee, pursuant to Article No. 29 of the Rules of Procedure of said Committee. The only exceptions were the Report of the Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), and the Report on the progress made in strengthening relations between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), which had been uploaded to the online system more recently.

#### 0.2.3 Duration of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

The plenary decided that the meeting would conclude on Wednesday, October 10, 2012 at 18:00 hours, as proposed by the Technical Secretariat.

#### 0.2.4 Deadline for submitting proposals

The meeting established 16:00 hours on October 9 as the deadline for submitting new proposed draft resolutions.

#### 0.2.5 Countries' right to vote

The Director General asked the Legal Advisor of the Organization of American States (OAS) and IICA for an opinion regarding the application of Article 24 of the Convention on the Institute, vis-à-vis the suspension of the right to vote at meetings of the Institute's governing bodies of Member States that were more than two years behind in the payment of their quotas. The Legal Adviser explained that none of the Member States on the 2012 Executive Committee were behind with the payment of their quota obligations and, therefore, all would be participating in the meeting with full rights.

#### 0.2.6 Order of precedence of the Member States

Chapter V of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that the regular representatives of the Member States on the Committee would

be *ex-officio* vice-chairpersons of the meeting and would replace the Chairperson in the event of his/her incapacity, in accordance with the order of precedence of the Member States.

0.3 *Close of the session*

The Technical Secretary reported that credentials had been received from the Member States, issued by the competent authorities, authorizing the participation of all the delegations present. The Chair adjourned the preparatory session at 09:15 hours.

## ***FIRST PLENARY SESSION***

### 1.1 *Opening of the session*

- 1.1.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 09:30 hours on Tuesday, October 9, 2012, and was chaired by Ms. María Guadalupe Bardelli, Director of Regional Negotiations and Disputes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina.

### 1.2 *Situation and outlook for IICA*

- 1.2.1 The Chair asked the Director General to present his report on the situation and outlook for IICA to the Executive Committee.
- 1.2.2 The Director General expressed appreciation for the opportunity, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Institute, to give an overview of the main results of the first two years of his Administration, which in his opinion, demonstrated IICA's capacity to adapt its cooperation services to the needs of its Member States in a flexible, responsive, relevant, and timely manner. He was certain he was carrying out the Institute's mandate and the guidelines contained in the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan (MTP).
- 1.2.3 The Director General believed the results confirmed IICA's commitment to its member countries. He encouraged the representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee to make observations and recommendations concerning the services provided to them by the Institute, since a frank and open dialogue would make it easier to improve IICA's performance and channel its work.
- 1.2.4 The Director General then explained that his presentation would focus on the progress achieved in relation to the four strategic objectives established in the

MTP,<sup>1</sup> and that the operating strategy being used to execute the plan was based on implementation of hemispheric, regional, and national projects. He reported that IICA was involved in the execution of 437 cooperation projects, which were compatible with the countries' development objectives, since they were framed within the respective IICA country strategy agreed with each Member State.

- 1.2.5 The Director General pointed out that, although the number of externally funded projects had fallen in 2012, the average amount of financing involved had increased. The figure was expected to be in excess of USD650,000 per project by the end of 2012. Mr. Villalobos informed the meeting that resources generated by internal savings and extra-quota contributions from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) were being used to implement 17 projects under the aegis of the Competitive Fund for Technical Cooperation. The fund had had a total of USD1.5 million at its disposal in 2012. He explained that the projects were designed to endow IICA's technical personnel with more resources for promoting cooperation and meeting specific, high-priority needs in the countries or with seed capital intended to generate larger-scale projects.
- 1.2.6 With respect to the strategic objective "improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector," the Director General mentioned the results achieved through the provision of direct technical cooperation and training in the following areas: (i) strengthening of national innovation systems; (ii) wider and safer use of biotechnologies, respecting the policy framework that each country had established in that field and promoting the adoption and application of regulatory frameworks and biosafety measures; (iii) promotion of the use of clean energies, in particular in remote areas of the Andean region; and, (iv) knowledge management for innovation through videoconferencing systems and a number of information networks (Innovagro, Infotec, SIDALC).
- 1.2.7 Mr. Villalobos then turned to the main actions and results of the cooperation provided to promote: (i) the integration of producers into markets; (ii) capacity development for smallholders and the creation of value added; (iii) risk management in agricultural enterprises; (iv) strengthening of national sanitary and phytosanitary services through the application of instruments such as the Performance, Vision, and Strategy (PVS) tool; (v) capacity building to improve

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<sup>1</sup> Those objectives are as follows: (i) to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector; (ii) to strengthen agriculture's contribution to the development of territories and to rural well-being; (iii) to improve agriculture's capacity to mitigate the effects of and adapt to climate change, and make better use of natural resources; and, (iv) to improve agriculture's contribution to food security.

the institutional systems responsible for ensuring food safety; and, (vi) provision of a rapid and effective response to emerging issues, particularly in countries in the Andean and Caribbean regions.

- 1.2.8 With regard to the strategic objective “strengthen agriculture’s contribution to the development of territories and to rural well-being,” the Director General stressed IICA’s important collaboration in the design and implementation of the Central American Strategy for Rural Area-based Development (ECADERT), as well as other initiatives that the Institute was supporting in Argentina, Brazil, and the Andean and Caribbean regions, through the application of the area-based approach to rural development. He then singled out for special mention the assistance that IICA had provided to promote family farming, in particular in order to strengthen the role of women in agriculture and rural life.
- 1.2.9 Moving on to the strategic objective of improving “agriculture’s capacity to mitigate the effects of and adapt to climate change, and make better use of natural resources,” the Director General highlighted the execution of the Intergovernmental Program for Cooperation on Climate Change: Opportunities and Challenges in Agriculture (PRICA-ADO), as well as efficient integrated natural resource management through 11 projects implemented in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru with financing from the Government of Finland.
- 1.2.10 Turning to the strategic objective of improving “agriculture’s contribution to food security,” the Director General noted that the main results included the execution of the Family Agriculture Plan (PAF) of the Government of El Salvador, involving 13,500 producers in seven agricultural chains, as well as the implementation in Haiti, with support from Argentina and Canada, of the PROHUERTA program that was benefiting nearly 14,000 rural families. Furthermore, he reported that the Purchase for Progress Program was being carried out in Central America in partnership with the WFP.
- 1.2.11 The Director General then referred to IICA’s achievements in the area of the strategic analysis of agriculture, highlighting the preparation of the joint FAO/ECLAC/IICA report on the outlook for agriculture and rural development in the Americas, the establishment of the WTO Reference Center at the Institute’s Headquarters, and the training of 357 officials in eight countries in international trade regulations and policy impact analysis. The Institute had also supported the formulation of the Caribbean Agricultural Policy, and the elaboration of the Dominican Republic’s Livestock Development Plan,

Paraguay's Strategic Framework for Agriculture, Argentina's Strategic Agrifood and Agroindustry Plan, and Haiti's Agricultural Sector Investment Plan.

- 1.2.12 Other significant results included a general cooperation agreement with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), signed by the Directors General of the two institutions, and the implementation of a joint action program for the Caribbean; the agreement and program for joint action with CATIE; the preparation and dissemination of the report on the state of food security in the Americas; the support provided to the G-20 Summit; and the signing of an agreement with the Government of Mexico for the granting of 100 scholarships per year, under which eight students had already commenced their graduate courses in that country, with 25 more due to begin their studies in January 2013.
- 1.2.13 The Director General concluded his report by describing the main results in the administrative area. He explained that a budgetary policy had been instituted based on prioritization, rationality, equity, discipline, transparency, and a culture of savings. Financial management had been improved through the implementation of the SAP platform, which was being used in 32 of IICA's Offices in the Member States. The Individual Performance Evaluation system had been modernized and simplified; and the physical and technological facilities had been upgraded in five Institute Offices in the member countries and at Headquarters, all financed with savings.
- 1.2.14 After Mr. Villalobos had completed his presentation, the Chair opened the floor for comments by the representatives of the countries, who began by congratulating the Institute on its 70th anniversary and expressing satisfaction with the report presented by the Director General.
- 1.2.15 The Observer Representative of Dominica mentioned the hard work needed in the Americas to combat food insecurity, mitigate poverty in rural areas, combat plant and animal diseases, and arrest social degradation. He stressed the importance of maintaining current programs and projects, while at the same time encouraging the emergence of new ideas. In that regard, he recommended continuing and expanding the training of young people in agribusiness operations, given the importance of new generations being able to achieve the desired level of solidity and sustainability for their undertakings.
- 1.2.16 The Representative of Costa Rica noted that her country's technical agenda was reflected in the report presented by the Director General. She then expressed



interest in seeing two areas in which IICA had been working strengthened: (i) climate change and the countries' efforts with regard to mitigation, adaptation, and risk reduction; and, (ii) links between specialized national institutions and the international research centers for work in the area of technological innovation. She pointed out that at the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP 17) the conditions had been established for agriculture to be included in the Subsidiary Body, to enable greater interaction between the agricultural and environmental sectors. She also called on the authorities responsible for agriculture to focus on COP 18, and suggested that a parallel event be held dealing with production activities characterized by low carbon emissions.

- 1.2.17 She added that advantage should be taken of the germplasm banks and plant genetic resources of the international centers, so that national research systems could use them to meet many needs. Finally, she congratulated IICA on the shrewd way in which it was addressing both new and traditional issues.
- 1.2.18 The Representative of Ecuador acknowledged the work carried out by the Institute and commented that there were three areas in which IICA's assistance could be of great value to the Member States: i) the provision of information on the true impact of biotechnology and genetically modified organisms, to counter disinformation on the subject; ii) food security and food sovereignty, in which innovation had a key role to play; and, iii) the connection between climate change and biotechnology in agricultural policy.
- 1.2.19 The Representative of Guyana pointed out that food insecurity affected nearly 52 million people in the region, and was preventing them from making progress. Public investment needed to be stepped up to cope with climate change, find new renewable energies and biofuels, and, at the same time, boost food production. He mentioned that the crisis in 2008 had pushed up the cost of living, and some people thought that the most recent crisis could have even more serious effects. He emphasized the need for countries in the region to enhance their agricultural health, food safety, and food security capabilities. Finally, he felt it important to undertake efforts to develop a policy on genetically modified organisms, designed, among other things, to reduce the uncertainty that was becoming an obstacle to progress in that field.
- 1.2.20 The Representative of Panama pointed to the challenge of feeding the world's burgeoning population in the face of declining food production and insufficient natural resources such as land and water. He added that IICA should strengthen the areas of knowledge and innovation, and promote state-of-the-art

technologies. He noted that a large slice of the country's farmers were smallholders who had no access to technology and little schooling, so it was important for them to learn about successful efforts to increase production, and he would appreciate any support that IICA could offer. Put in a nutshell, the problem with the agricultural sector was that it was an island of solutions in a sea of needs.

- 1.2.21 The Observer Representative of Mexico underscored the Institute's major actions and achievements, which were consistent with the objectives of the 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan. She also stressed the importance of the results achieved in terms of their contribution to food security, through more competitive and sustainable agriculture, and the emphasis being placed on the promotion of technological innovation. Finally, she endorsed the management report presented by the Director General and the actions carried out.
- 1.2.22 The Representative of Haiti explained that, thanks to an agreement signed with the Government of Canada, producers had enhanced their capabilities and were more aware of the importance of a balanced diet. She also mentioned the good results of the training in agribusiness administration that IICA had provided to 20 young Haitians.
- 1.2.23 The Representative of Argentina pointed out that the dialogue between IICA and the ministries of agriculture had fostered communication and facilitated numerous changes. She highlighted as one of the Institute's virtues its capacity to respond quickly to requests for technical cooperation. She also mentioned IICA's support to enable the countries to adopt regional positions in their dealings with international organizations, facilitating access to larger markets and the Institute's support for decision-making and the preparation of positions prior to international forums. She underscored IICA's collaboration in articulating actions related to biotechnology between the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) and the North American Biotechnology Initiative (NABI), as well as its work in the area of agricultural health and food safety.
- 1.2.24 The Representative of Nicaragua thanked the Director General for the information on the management of the Institute, and emphasized the importance of forging partnerships, which made it possible to construct joint agendas. She urged the Institute to maintain and strengthen them.
- 1.2.25 The Representative of the United States of America remarked that IICA was a key partner for his country, which contributed resources for projects on issues

such as food security, food safety, natural disasters, agricultural health, biotechnology, climate change, and agro-energy, among others. He also referred to the usefulness of the meetings of the Executive Committee, noting that technology was no substitute for dialogue and personal interaction. Finally, he encouraged the countries to support the improvement of IICA's technical capabilities, and to continue to establish strategic partnerships. He regarded as important the results-based approach and accountability reflected in the General Director's report.

- 1.2.26 The Representative of Colombia praised the Institute for having remained faithful to its mission and objectives during its 70 years of existence. He commented that, at the last Summit of the Americas, emphasis had been placed on IICA's key role in the field of agriculture. Finally, on behalf of his Government, President, and Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, he acknowledged and expressed appreciation for the work of the Institute. He added that, on a recent working visit to Canada, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development had stressed the importance his country attached to access to safer food and the strengthening of national biosafety systems in the countries, two areas in which the Institute was promoting actions.
- 1.2.27 The Observer Representative of Canada, after expressing appreciation for the usefulness of the Director General's report, referred to the focus on innovation and remarked that, properly disseminated, the report could help attract partners and projects and secure resources, since it explained clearly and in detail what IICA was doing and the results being achieved.
- 1.2.28 Replying to the delegates, the Director General thanked the Representative of the United States of America for his expression of support, and for the extra-quota contributions made by the USDA and the Department of State. He then gave the Executive Committee additional information about the matters raised by the representatives of the Member States.
- 1.2.29 In relation to technological innovation and the effects of climate change on agriculture, Mr. Villalobos emphasized the limited average growth in productivity in the region over the previous decade, and the need to raise productivity so as to produce more on the same amount of land. He underscored the following aspects: (i) the great importance of investing more to create sufficient technical and scientific capabilities to generate innovations that would make it possible to improve yields, ensure enough food for a growing population, and help tackle climate change better; and, (ii) the need to see

biotechnology not only as genetically modified organisms, but as a package of technical tools, and to offer technical and scientific data on which to base decisions. He remarked that the region faced crises of different kinds (in relation to social and environmental issues, energy and food security), to whose solution agriculture could make a major contribution.

- 1.2.30 The Director General agreed with the comments made by members of the Executive Committee on the importance of innovation in tackling the challenges facing agriculture. He highlighted the initiative involving technology kits for soybean production. In addition to genetically modified seeds, use was being made of direct planting and other techniques that were more effective than conventional technological options. IICA would be publishing a document on an experience related to genetically modified soybeans at the end of the month. He added that the Institute would continue to work with the ministries of agriculture on those issues, always within the framework of national policies established in that area, paying particular attention to the Caribbean countries, with which IICA would share experiences from other regions.
- 1.2.31 With regard to the training of young professionals to strengthen their contribution to the competitive, sustainable, and inclusive development of agriculture, the Director General pledged to give continuity to capacity building for young people in the Caribbean countries, and to extend the activities to other Member States. He pointed out that the Caribbean was in need of instruments to help foster agricultural productivity and encourage young people to remain in the sector. He then referred to the difficulty that Caribbean students had encountered in obtaining scholarships under IICA's agreement with Mexico's CONACYT, basically due to their inability to speak Spanish. He informed the Committee that during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture, at the end of October, he would be meeting with the region's ministers of agriculture with a view to seeking other alternatives that would permit Caribbean students to opt for short workshop activities for which they could obtain credits. Finally, the Director General thanked the Representative of Haiti for her remarks concerning IICA's projects in her country, and expressed his readiness to continue to promote the incorporation of young people into the agribusiness subsector, both in Haiti and in other countries.
- 1.2.32 Turning to the importance of agriculture for rural development, poverty reduction, and the recovery of conflict-affected areas, the Director General agreed completely with the Representative of Colombia's comments on the subject.

- 1.2.33 In relation to the importance of strategic partnerships and international forums, Mr. Villalobos agreed with the Representative of Nicaragua on the importance of partnerships in meeting the needs of the Member States. He pointed out that the Institute had made great strides in establishing closer ties with the private sector, and that the agreements signed with the CGIAR's different international centers, the FAO, CATIE, and other partners had produced benefits for the region.
- 1.2.34 With respect to the comments of the Representative of Costa Rica, the Director General underscored the role that IICA had played in the preparations for various international forums, including the COP 17 and Rio+20. He informed the meeting that the Institute was working with CATIE and the Government of Costa Rica to ensure they were better informed to take part in the biotechnology and biosafety forums. He then acknowledged the need to work more closely with the ministries of environment. Finally, he announced that IICA would be taking part in the COP 18, due to be held in Doha, Qatar, from November 26 to December 7, 2012.
- 1.2.35 Mr. Villalobos then referred to the content of the report and the results presented therein. He thanked the Observer Representative of Canada for his comment on the usefulness of IICA presenting the information focused on results and projects, as had been done in this report. He drew attention to the fact that, in achieving most of the results mentioned, the Institute had promoted, facilitated, advanced, and/or coordinated actions in whose implementation many other stakeholders had been involved, so the governments and other partners, not just IICA, should also take credit for the results.
- 1.2.36 In relation to the organization of the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas and the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the Director General told the Representative of Argentina that he wished to work with her country more closely on the organization of the two events scheduled to take place in Argentina in 2013. In response to the Representative's comment on the wide variety of problems faced by the staff of the ministries of agriculture, he remarked that while IICA should be in position to help solve all those problems, it was not; hence, the importance of establishing alliances with other partners. In conclusion, he expressed his satisfaction with the link established between the CAS and the NABI, in the creation of which he had been involved.

1.3 *Close of the session*

The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 12:15 hours on October 9, 2012.

## ***SECOND PLENARY SESSION***

### 2.1 *Opening*

- 2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, chaired by Maria Guadalupe Bardelli, Director of Regional Negotiations and Disputes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Farming and Fisheries of Argentina, was called to order at 14:10 on October 9, 2012.

### 2.2 *Report from the Ad Hoc Group on the Situation in Colombia*

- 2.2.1 The Chair asked the Technical Secretary to present the report prepared by the ad hoc group set up to consider the situation in Colombia.
- 2.2.2 The Technical Secretary provided background information on the case and read aloud the report prepared by the group. He explained that the report was being presented strictly for information purposes and that, for now, a decision from the Executive Committee would not be required because the matter was currently being addressed by the parties and with a view to achieving a satisfactory outcome.

#### *Background to the case*

- 2.2.3 The government of Colombia signed a contract with IICA, in its capacity as a public international organization, calling for the Institute to implement in 2007, 2008 and 2009 the drainage and irrigation component of an agricultural subsidy program known as Agro Ingreso Seguro (AIS). Based on accusations leveled by the press, in late 2009, authorities of the government of Dr. Alvaro Uribe launched a series of investigations into the alleged fraudulent use of AIS resources by program beneficiaries. As a result of these investigations, which have continued under President Juan Manuel Santos, the procedures used to contract the services of IICA have been brought into question and all contracts signed with IICA have been suspended.

- 2.2.4 One of the measures adopted by the previous government was to issue Resolution 191, which declared IICA in default in the case of Agreement 055, and to submit a claim to the corresponding insurance company demanding the payment of almost USD7 million. The current government has adopted additional measures, including the close out of the contracts signed with IICA.
- 2.2.5 At its Sixteenth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), considering that the case might eventually lead to claims against the Institute totaling several million dollars, decided to set up an ad hoc group, as provided for in Article 52 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA.

*Position adopted by the government of Colombia at the IABA meeting*

- 2.2.6 Mr. Juan Camilo Restrepo S., Minister of Agriculture of Colombia and Head of the Colombian delegation to the IABA meeting, stated his agreement with the creation of the ad hoc group, and that the government of Colombia stood ready to provide any information the group might require to carry out the tasks entrusted to it by the IABA. In addition, he proposed that the committee be empowered to seek information rather than engage in negotiations, which was accepted by the IABA.
- 2.2.7 He further indicated that all the control and oversight organs and the judicial branch of the Colombian government were involved, and that the media were following developments in the case closely. He concluded that the matter that gave rise to the case was very awkward and distressing, especially since IICA and Colombia had enjoyed a long-standing, professional and highly valued relationship, and that the situation could be resolved in the best interests of both parties.

*Decisions adopted by the IABA*

- 2.2.8 The IABA felt strongly that the Member States should have information regarding the possible eventual financial impact of the case on the Institute, given the measures adopted by the Colombian authorities. In response, it agreed to establish an ad hoc group, in keeping with Article 52 of its Rules of Procedure, comprising representatives of five countries representing the five IICA regions: Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, the United States of America and Grenada, and tasked the members with: (i) learning all they could about the problem, if necessary by interviewing the Colombian authorities; and (ii) recommending decisions for adoption by the Director General, which would be



presented to the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) and submitted for approval to the Executive Committee at its next meeting.

*Work of the ad hoc group*

2.2.9 In compliance with the mandate from the IABA, the governments of Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica, the United States of America and Grenada designated delegates to sit on the ad hoc group, as follows: Liliana M. Sola, Miguel G. Murillo, Julieta Murillo, Andrew Burst and Daniel Lewis, respectively. The group has reviewed all the information made available by IICA and has met twice via teleconference, on April 9, 2012 and July 6, 2012, on the latter occasion, just prior to the SACMI meeting. The group analyzed the situation carefully and concluded that, for the moment, no developments relating to the case needed be brought to the attention of the Executive Committee. The situation can be summed up as follows:

- a. The most important risk is that the Confianza insurance company may take legal action against IICA to demand payment of USD7 million, which has not yet occurred. The Colombian government has not withdrawn Resolution 191, which would require Confianza to pay the government that amount, forcing Confianza to file suit against IICA.
- b. The Colombian authorities have not filed a lawsuit against the Institute directly. However, inasmuch as the close out of the contracts signed with IICA is under way, it would be wise to be on the lookout for lawsuits once the settlement process concludes.
- c. Third parties have not filed lawsuits against the Institute as a result of their participation in the AIS program or the close out process. Nor have any criminal lawsuits been filed against IICA or its international personnel.
- d. With respect to protection of the privileges and immunities of the Institute, the group was informed of the requests made by the Contraloria of Colombia (equivalent to government accounting office) to have them withdrawn, all of which were rejected because they did not adhere to the procedures established in the Basic Agreement on Privileges and Immunities currently in force between IICA and the government of Colombia, or international law. There have been no further developments in this aspect of the case either.

- 2.2.10 As a result, it has not been necessary for the ad hoc group to enter into direct contact with the Colombian authorities or to endorse or recommend a course of action for the Director General of IICA, considering that all the actions taken by the Institute to date have been of an administrative nature and were the responsibility of the IICA Office in Colombia or the corresponding units at Headquarters.
- 2.2.11 The ad hoc group was also informed of the actions taken by the Director General to enter into and maintain a dialogue with the government of Colombia, including the decision to replace the IICA Representative there. The group was also made aware of the willingness of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia to find a solution that would be satisfactory to the parties involved in the conflict, and to continue working in collaboration with IICA on other matters of interest to Colombia, which reflected the position he had adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

*Recommendations of the group to the Executive Committee*

- 2.2.12 The ad hoc group made the following recommendations:
- a. To extend the mandate and the terms of reference of the ad hoc group until such time as a definitive resolution to the case could be achieved.
  - b. To ask the government of Colombia and the Director General of IICA to continue to search for a mutually acceptable solution.
  - c. To underscore how important it was, for the smooth operation of the Institute and the work of its personnel, to protect the privileges and immunities that Colombian and international law had bestowed on the Institute.
- 2.2.13 The Chair gave the floor to Mr. Hernando de Jesús Herrera Vergara, Colombian Ambassador to Costa Rica, who was also serving as Head of the Colombian delegation.
- 2.2.14 The Head of the Colombian Delegation thanked the Chair, the Director General and the other members of the Executive Committee for the opportunity to speak to this matter. He added that, because the present meeting was informational in nature, it was not necessary to reach decisions on a sensitive and distressing situation that had arisen under the previous government, involving the alleged

improper granting of benefits to certain persons who were currently facing criminal charges.

- 2.2.15 In his remarks, he (i) stated his agreement with the report of the ad hoc group; (ii) felt it was important to maintain the group and its terms of reference in place until a definitive resolution to the case could be reached; and (iii) endorsed the recommendation of the group calling for the government of Colombia and the Director General of IICA to continue their efforts to find a mutually acceptable solution.
- 2.2.16 He added that, as stated by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Juan Camilo Restrepo, the government of Colombia was willing to continue the dialogue aimed at resolving this problem that had arisen during the previous administration, and ensured those in attendance that the legal positions of IICA and the government of Colombia would never come into conflict.
- 2.2.17 He stated that Colombia was a nation governed by the rule of law in which legitimately constituted democratic institutions were respected and in which the judiciary adopted the decisions the government must obey; decisions that would affect those persons who, at some point in time, made improper use of the subsidies granted to them. He referred to the report of the ad hoc group, which underscored the fact that Colombia had not instituted legal action and had no direct conflict with IICA. Rather, it was simply a matter of providing the government with protection against decisions that the insurance company might take.
- 2.2.18 He stated that his government would continue to develop mechanisms for reaching consensus and finding a solution to the case that would not have a negative impact on the finances of the Institute, in which his country was also invested. He agreed that it was important, for the smooth operation of the Institute and the work of its personnel, to protect the privileges and immunities that Colombian and international law bestowed on the Institute.
- 2.2.19 He mentioned that he was accompanied by Andres Bernal, Legal Advisor of the Ministry of Agriculture, who, given his intimate knowledge of the details of the case, could provide any information required. He thanked the Chair for the opportunity to address this matter. In concluding, he reiterated that both the President of the Republic of Colombia and the Minister of Agriculture of Colombia believed firmly in the transparency that must exist in such cases and

were open to dialogue, the most effective mechanism available in a democracy for the peaceful resolution of conflicts.

- 2.2.20 The Chair thanked the Ambassador for his remarks and gave the floor to the Legal Advisor of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia.
- 2.2.21 The Legal Advisor echoed the words of the Ambassador, Head of the Colombian delegation, and added that the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, as well as the IICA Office in Colombia, had been working to resolve the administrative and legal problems that arose during the implementation of the contracts. He underscored the important role IICA had played for 48 years in Colombia and its many contributions to the design of public policies in the area of rural and agricultural development. He felt that, given the circumstances surrounding this case, IICA had been unable to fulfill that important role for some time, but he was hopeful that it would do so again once the conflict was resolved. He concluded by stating that the government of Colombia was more than willing to bring this situation to a successful end, and that he would keep abreast of any decisions adopted by the Judicial Branch, which are out of the hands of the Executive Branch.
- 2.2.22 The Director General thanked the Ambassador and the Legal Advisor for their contributions to the discussion on the topic, and stated his determination to find a way out of the situation. He noted that, as stated in the report of the ad hoc group, it was important for the General Directorate of IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia to continue working together in the spirit that had prevailed throughout the present meeting. He called attention to the fact that the Ministry and the current IICA Administration had inherited the problem from previous administrations, and that both had taken on the responsibility of solving it. He added that he felt it was important to keep the Executive Committee informed of developments in the case.
- 2.2.23 He then thanked the Minister of Agriculture of Colombia, Juan Camilo Restrepo, for his openness and close attention to this matter. He reaffirmed the willingness and wish of the General Directorate of IICA to continue working with the Colombian authorities to find a solution to the problem. He noted that both parties were cognizant of the need to: (i) resolve the matter as quickly as possible; (ii) keep the countries informed of developments in the case; and (iii) promote efforts to find a prompt and negotiated solution, one that will benefit both the Institute and Colombia, which is also a member country. He concluded

by asking the Executive Committee to renew the mandate of the ad hoc group under its current terms of reference.

2.2.24 The members of the Executive Committee accepted the report and the recommendations of the ad hoc group, and endorsed the idea of the group continuing its work with the mandate it had received from the IABA.

### 2.3 Strengthening the Institute's Finances

#### 2.3.1 Progress in the collection of quotas

2.3.1.1 At the request of the Chair, the Secretary of Corporate Services, Carlos O'Farrill, reported that as at September 2012, IICA had received more than 75% of the quotas for the year, information that was available on the website to which the Representatives of the Member States and all those in attendance at this meeting of the Executive Committee had access. He took the opportunity to acknowledge the efforts made by the countries to meet their financial obligations to the Institute, which enabled IICA to operate normally and fulfill the commitments made to its Member States. In particular, he recognized the important effort made by the government of Spain, which had paid its annual quota, as well as the government of Costa Rica, which had recently made a new payment.

#### 2.3.2 2011 IICA Financial Statements and Report from the External Auditors

2.3.2.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services then referred to the 2011 Financial Statements. He noted that, according to the report submitted by the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche, IICA had presented, in a reasonable manner, all relevant aspects of its financial position as at December 31, 2011. Likewise, Mr. O'Farrill stated that the report attested to a rational, responsible, equitable and transparent use of the resources allocated to the Institute by its Member States.

#### 2.3.3 Eighteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

2.3.3.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services explained that the ARC had met in accordance with relevant Institute regulations, and that the Chair of the ARC, Tracy LaPoint, was present in the meeting room. He then gave the floor to Mr. LaPoint.

- 2.3.3.2 Mr. LaPoint reported that the ARC had carefully analyzed the financial and auditors' report and had held discussions with the Secretary of Corporate Services, the Director and other personnel of the Financial Management Division, as well as the external auditors regarding the financial operations of the Institute. Based on the information gathered, the ARC had prepared a report that was available to the Member States in which it stated that IICA had adopted measures to implement the recommendations made by the ARC.
- 2.3.3.3 The Representative of Argentina requested further information on the evaluation that IICA needed to conduct on the usefulness of actuarial studies, given the high cost of the evaluation and the fact that it covered only a part of the population.
- 2.3.3.4 Mr. LaPoint explained that the external auditors had observed that IICA was not adhering to generally accepted accounting principles by not conducting annual actuarial studies. He added that, given the way in which benefits are applied when IICA personnel retired in each country, and the number of laws that governed retirement in each, it would be necessary to conduct at least 20 different actuarial studies per year, which would be very costly. The ARC, therefore, was of the opinion that the current calculation procedure should continue to be applied.
- 2.4 *Proposed policy for the administration of externally funded projects*
- 2.4.1 The Secretary of Corporate Services, Mr. Carlos O'Farrill, explained that the current administration had identified the need to apply a policy aimed at full recovery of costs generated in the administration of externally funded projects. Furthermore, he noted that, in compliance with Resolution 541 of the Executive Committee and Resolution 417 of the IABA, IICA had retained the services of the firm Mosley & Associates to conduct a study on the methodology used to calculate the Institutional Net Rate (INR). That study was presented on July 12 to the SACMI, which issued recommendations calling for greater clarity vis-à-vis the contents of the study. He then introduced James Ebbitt, a consultant with the firm EAM Inc./ Mosley & Associates, who was asked to make a presentation on the study of the methodology used for calculating the INR.
- 2.4.2 Mr. Ebbitt provided some background to the study and called attention to its two most important objectives: (i) to analyze the costs IICA incurred in the implementation of externally funded projects, as well as the methodology it applied to recover the indirect costs generated in implementing such projects;

and (ii) to study the international technical cooperation market and compare IICA's policy with the policies applied by international organizations similar to IICA in recovering the costs of externally funded projects.

- 2.4.3 He then explained that the INR resources IICA received were used to cover the indirect costs it incurred in implementing externally funded projects. He noted that IICA's objective in recovering its indirect costs was to apply a "net neutral approach," which is based on recovering only those costs generated in the start up and implementation of externally funded projects, and which were not contemplated in the costs to be covered with regular resources.
- 2.4.4 He then explained that the INR was calculated on the basis of the audited financial information and the identification of the direct and indirect costs financed with the different types of resources executed by the Institute (Regular Fund, external and INR resource). He explained that the INR was the basic rate required to recover the portion of the indirect costs generated by such projects, with a net neutral approach. Two criteria are the basis for calculating the rate: (i) proportionality, which referred to the part of the indirect costs which externally funded projects must cover; and (ii) competitiveness, which referred to the capacity of the Institute to maintain its standards of quality, coverage and efficiency in the provision of cooperation, compared with the rest of the market.
- 2.4.5 He noted that, based on the final data on receipts and expenditures for 2011, the recommended INR was 8.1%, which was within the range of the rates charged by a group of similar international organizations used for comparison that charge between 5% and 20%. He added there were also some legislative barriers or policies that had an impact on the INR. He underscored some aspects related to the INR that were very important for IICA: (i) the need to ensure transparency in analyzing and setting the INR; (ii) the need to review and update the INR annually; (iii) the negative impact on the Regular Fund when an amount less than the established INR was recovered; and (iv) the financial risk for IICA posed by the continued use of Regular Fund resources to cover the costs of projects to be financed with external funds.
- 2.4.6 He went on to explain that the preliminary results of the study had been presented at the SACMI meeting held on July 12, 2012, in which the participants had had an opportunity to provide valuable feedback. Lastly, he indicated that the consulting firm had reviewed the suggestions from IICA on how to make the Institute more competitive and to ensure that all indirect costs of projects were covered with external resources in accordance with the

principle of proportionality. He noted that IICA needed to consider rising costs when calculating the INR each year, and indicated that his firm agreed that those suggestions would help the Institute to achieve its objective of strengthening its financial situation in the future.

- 2.4.7 The Observer Representatives of Mexico and Canada and the Representatives of Guyana, Ecuador, Argentina and the United States of America thanked Mr. Ebbitt for his presentation and underscored the importance of the review of the methodology used to calculate the INR, which was important for ensuring the financial sustainability of the Institute, and that resources of the Regular Fund were not used to cover the indirect costs of externally funded projects. In particular, the Observer Representative of Mexico stated that his country, where IICA administers the greatest number of such projects, consistently paid the INR established in the IICA policy, and expressed his support for the results of the study, including the establishment of a new methodology for calculating the INR.
- 2.4.8 The Observer Representative of Canada asked for clarification as to why external relations costs were not considered when calculating total indirect costs, and which external relations activities were included in such costs. He reiterated his support for the initiative and was pleased with the measures adopted. The consultant indicated that the costs generated by external relations activities were indirect costs that had traditionally been covered with Regular Fund resources. However, when the criterion of proportionality was applied, they should be financed with both Regular Fund and INR resources.
- 2.4.9 The Representative of Ecuador agreed that the financial sustainability of institutions was a matter of utmost importance, and suggested that the distinction be made between the INR and the term overhead expenses, the use of which was usually frowned upon. She felt that, even when it was competitive, the INR should be reviewed periodically, and asked if there had ever been a case in which the full rate was not recovered.
- 2.4.10 The consultant explained that one of the recommendations of the study was to conduct an annual review of the INR. He offered two explanations for the differences between the percentage set for the INR and the rate actually recovered: a) in projects implemented over a number of years, the rate remained fixed at the one in effect during the first year; and b) in some countries, an amount below the IICA rate had been established. In both cases, the total amount recovered in each cycle varied in terms of the rate set for that year.



- 2.4.11 The Representative of Argentina expressed appreciation for the fact that the recommendations made at the 2012 SACMI meeting had been taken into consideration. She agreed that it was important to review the INR annually using the methodology outlined, and that it truly be based on a net neutral approach; in other words, that the objective be to recover indirect costs and not to generate revenues.
- 2.4.12 The Representative of the United States of America agreed on the importance of the study and stated that his country was willing to consider an INR of 8.1% or 8.9% provided those figures reflected real costs. He agreed that the INR should be monitored continuously, that all costs should be identifiable and auditable and that the INR should be calculated on the basis of information over a number of years. He added that the United Nations system was currently reviewing and standardizing the INR policies of all its agencies, and that his country was monitoring that process closely.
- 2.4.13 The Representative of Guyana asked whether the Executive Committee was responsible for setting the INR. The IICA Legal Advisor explained that the Financial Rules of IICA stated that a study was to be conducted annually. He added that there was no rule calling for the Executive Committee to ratify the INR. He specified that, according to Rule 3.5.1, the Director General must negotiate a rate for each project, one which was not less than the minimum rate recommended in the study and one that would ensure that all indirect costs of externally funded projects could be covered.
- 2.4.14 The Representative of Costa Rica stated that the INR suggested in the study was reasonable since it fell in the middle of the range of rates charged by other international organizations. She remarked that it was important to consider the negative impact on IICA's finances of the revaluation of local currencies against the US dollar, and that the countries must strive to strengthen the financial situation of IICA since it was they that were demanding more and more services from the Institute.
- 2.5 Reading and approval of draft resolutions
- 2.5.1 The Rapporteur read aloud the following draft resolutions: "2011 Financial Statements of the Institute, Report of the External Auditors and Eighteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)" and "Report on the Collection of Quotas," all of which were approved as read.

- 2.5.2 At 16:30 on Tuesday, October 9, 2012, the Chair announced that the study and discussion of the draft resolution “Recovery of the indirect costs of externally funded projects – Institutional Net Rate (INR)” would be postponed until the morning of the following day, Wednesday, October 10.
- 2.6 *Resumption of the Second Plenary Session*
- 2.6.1 The Second Plenary Session, chaired by Mrs. Maria Guadalupe Bardelli, Director of Regional Negotiations and Disputes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Farming and Fisheries of Argentina, commenced at 8:00 on October 10, 2012.
- 2.7 *Draft Resolution “Recovery of the indirect costs of externally funded projects – Institutional Net Rate (INR)”*
- 2.7.1 The Rapporteur read aloud the draft resolution “Recovery of the indirect costs of externally funded projects – Institutional Net Rate (INR).”
- 2.7.2 The Representative of Argentina noted that her country was in second place on the list of countries that entrust IICA with the administration of externally funded projects. She mentioned that it was important to consider the net neutral approach when calculating the INR and that the Director General, rather than the Executive Committee, was responsible for setting the INR. She then said it was important to consider the criteria of proportionality and competitiveness. She asked the Technical Secretary to ensure that the draft resolution was amended accordingly, to reflect the discussion held on the topic and that it be redistributed prior to the conclusion of the meeting.
- 2.7.3 The Observer Representative of Canada stated that the resolution should make reference to the methodology used, but not set a specific rate. He added that the Executive Committee was responsible for offering guidelines and recommendations on procedures for charging the INR.
- 2.7.4 The IICA Legal Advisor explained that the Executive Committee was empowered to modify the provision of the Financial Rules which stated that the Director General was responsible for setting the INR, and to again assume that responsibility. He felt that what was important was for the Executive Committee to decide whether or not the proposed methodology was appropriate and met the needs of the Institute and, if so, it could opt to set it as a basis for the annual review of the INR.

- 2.7.5 The Representative of Costa Rica felt that the proposed INR was reasonable and explained that the problems of liquidity, inflation and revaluation of local currencies, among others, made an annual review of the rate necessary. She added that the Executive Committee should address that topic.
- 2.7.6 The Representative of Argentina reiterated that the INR should not be viewed as a tool for generating revenue, and that a net neutral approach should be applied when calculating it. She recalled that the SACMI had proposed as a basic criterion for setting the INR the need to cover only the indirect costs generated by externally funded projects, and that the Financial Rules of the Institute (Rules 3.5.1 and 3.5.2) outlined the procedures for setting and applying the INR. She concluded her remarks by pointing out that it was not the responsibility of the Executive Committee to set the INR.
- 2.7.7 The Representative of the United States of America agreed with the Representative of Argentina that the INR should accurately reflect the real costs incurred in administering externally funded projects. She suggested that operative paragraph 4 be amended to take into consideration the criteria of competitiveness and proportionality.
- 2.7.8 The Chair asked that the Technical Secretariat to amend the draft resolution to reflect to comments of the Representatives and to present it later during the meeting.
- 2.8 Close

The Second Plenary Session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 8:45 on Wednesday, October 10, 2012.



## ***THIRD PLENARY SESSION***

### ***3.1 Opening of the session***

- 3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 09:15 hours on October 10, 2012 by the Chairperson, Ms. María Guadalupe Bardelli, Director of Regional Negotiations and Disputes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina.

### ***3.2 Strengthening of strategic partnerships with other institutions***

- 3.2.1 The Chair of the meeting gave the floor to IICA's Director of Technical Cooperation, who underscored the importance of the Institute's strategic partnerships, inasmuch as they offered a way to make actions more effective, complement capabilities, and achieve synergies that strengthen the cooperation provided to the Member States.

### ***3.3 Progress made in strengthening IICA-CARDI relations***

- 3.3.1 IICA's Director of Technical Cooperation asked the Head of Strategic Alliances of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) to present the progress report on the strengthening of IICA-CARDI relations.
- 3.3.2 CARDI's Head of Strategic Alliances, Mr. Bruce Lauckner, pointed out that CARDI's collaboration with IICA dated from 1989, when a five-year cooperation agreement was signed. The organizations had signed four consecutive agreements since then, the most recent of which covered a four-year period ending in 2014. He emphasized that the last agreement signed was consistent with the Jagdeo Initiative and the Declaration of Liliendaal, in which agriculture was recognized as an engine of economic growth in the Caribbean. He added that the region faced enormous challenges in increasing the productivity and competitiveness of its agricultural sector within a framework of growing dependence on food imports, and the limited capacity of small and medium-scale farmers to meet the demand.

- 3.3.3 He described the progress achieved in the six main areas of joint work between IICA and CARDI: (i) the facilitation of ties between CARDI and institutions in Latin America; (ii) the establishment of the System of Science, Technology, and Innovation Networks; (iii) the development of synergies with ongoing projects; (iv) participation in projects financed by IICA's Competitive Fund for Technical Cooperation; (v) access to external resources to carry out joint projects; and, (vi) the implementation of the current IICA-CARDI agreement. He then explained that most of the activities that the two institutions were implementing together were related to the last area mentioned, under the following components: herbs, condiments, and beverages; protected agriculture; root and tuber crops; small ruminant production; knowledge sharing, coordination and management; and cereals and grain legumes.
- 3.4 *Progress made with the implementation of the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action*
- 3.4.1 IICA's Director of Technical Cooperation described the progress made in each area of collaboration established in the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action for the period 2011-2014. With regard to the *strengthening of processes aimed at innovation in production*, he pointed to the progress achieved with the use of the germplasm bank administered by CATIE, the development of the PROCITROPICOS cacao network, the implementation of the joint IICA-PROCITROPICOS-GIZ-EMBRAPA project in the southwest of the Amazon region, and the joint assistance provided to PROMECAFE for the benefit of the Central American countries, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.
- 3.4.2 The Director of Technical Cooperation then gave details of the progress achieved vis-à-vis the *development of institutional frameworks and capabilities for the sustainable management of rural territories*, including the implementation of an international diploma course on area-based management in Mexico, the holding of several training workshops on the same subject, the development of conceptual frameworks, the execution of the Mexico-Guatemala Cross-border Watershed Project, the implementation of forestation and reforestation programs in Haiti, and, in particular, the provision of joint support to the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC) for the implementation of the Central American Strategy for Rural Area-based Development (ECADERT) and the Regional Agro-environmental and Health Strategy (ERAS).
- 3.4.3 Turning to the joint efforts to *increase the availability of food produced by small and medium-scale producers*, the official mentioned the research undertaken

and the publication of a book on families that produce quinoa in Colombia. He added that, with regard to *knowledge management*, the Orton Memorial Library was being strengthened and online courses for joint training activities were being developed.

3.4.4 In conclusion, the Director of Technical Cooperation explained that the joint activities were currently focused on five areas: (i) distance learning; (ii) the IICA-PROCITROPICOS-CATIE Initiative in the Amazon region; (iii) climate change preparedness, which consisted of three components (agriculture, sustainable watershed management, and water and production); (iv) cooperation with Haiti; and, (v) collaboration with the seven Central American countries and the Dominican Republic, through the Regional Platform for Technical Support for Rural Area-based Development, in the application of ECADERT in 37 rural territories.

### 3.5 Progress made in strengthening IICA-CGIAR relations

3.5.1 The Director of Technical Cooperation explained that the IICA-CGIAR partnership was geared toward strengthening the Institute's relationship with the CGIAR's international centers, with a view to improving and facilitating coordination between those centers and national research systems and regional bodies. The effort was affording those systems access to innovations and technologies that were directly benefiting small-scale producers.

3.5.2 He then gave an overview of the main activities and joint projects implemented with the CGIAR centers (CIMMYT, CIAT, IFPRI and CIP). He referred to the CIMMYT-IICA agenda, which included actions to promote the close coordination of CIMMYT-IICA/SICTA activities in Central America, the common approach to biofortification, and the efforts to combat tar spot of maize.

3.5.3 With regard to IICA's relationship with CIAT, he pointed out that the joint agenda included issues related to seeds, biotechnology/biosafety, and the development of knowledge management capabilities. Furthermore, the two institutions' technical personnel frequently shared information on rice, cassava, and forage crop improvement programs.

3.5.4 The Director of Technical Cooperation then noted that IICA's initiatives with IFPRI included a training project on a policy and growth model. He added that IFPRI, IICA, and other agencies had jointly prepared the document "Sustainable

Agricultural Productivity Growth: Bridging the Gap for Small Family Farms” for the G-20 Meeting held in Mexico.

- 3.5.5 Turning to IICA’s relationship with the CIP, he commented that the Institute aimed to strengthen collaboration with that center in order to promote the use of improved germplasm of roots and tubers in the Caribbean, the improvement of agricultural practices, pest and disease management, and the introduction of better postharvest methods for roots and tubers.
- 3.5.6 The Director of Technical Cooperation concluded his remarks by outlining the next steps to be taken to strengthen IICA-CGIAR relations: (i) strengthen the coordination of the consortium’s research programs with the needs of Latin America and the Caribbean; (ii) hold a meeting of the CGIAR-IICA group during the upcoming GCARD2 meeting, to discuss forecasts and priorities for LAC; and, (iii) hold a follow-up meeting in Colombia to broaden the partnership and reach agreement on new actions and joint projects.
- 3.6 *Progress made in strengthening IICA-FAO relations*
- 3.6.1 IICA’s Director of Technical Cooperation noted that, pursuant to resolutions No. 531 of the Executive Committee and No. 477 of the IABA, IICA and FAO had focused on preparing a strategy and program for joint action. They had signed a memorandum of understanding whose general objective was to strengthen the technical cooperation of the two institutions through joint actions aimed at making more efficient use of their resources and capabilities, and achieving common goals on behalf of the countries of the Americas.
- 3.6.2 He then reported that the IICA-FAO teams had agreed to gear their efforts toward the attainment of three critical objectives for the Caribbean Region: (i) making agribusinesses more competitive and sustainable; (ii) improving access to technologies and genetic resources; and, (iii) strengthening the regional capabilities of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in sanitary and phytosanitary measures.
- 3.6.3 Finally, the Director of Technical Cooperation noted the Directors General of the two institutions were in constant communication to prevent duplication of efforts, and were promoting joint and complementary work throughout the hemisphere, although priority had initially been given to the Caribbean.



*Comments on Strategic Partnerships*

- 3.6.4 The Observer Representative of Dominica expressed his agreement with the joint work that IICA was carrying out with other institutions, which, in the case of CARDI, was making it possible to maximize the use of resources and reduce inefficiency. He then expressed concern at CARDI's financial crisis, which could lead to the center being closed, and called upon the delegations to the Executive Committee and IICA to join efforts in support of CARDI.
- 3.6.5 The Observer Representative of Canada endorsed IICA's efforts to work closely with other agencies. He then asked for further details of the Institute's involvement in the G-20 and Rio+20 meetings.
- 3.6.6 The Representative of Ecuador expressed appreciation for the synergies between institutions and commented that the priorities set for IICA's work with other organizations for the most part dovetailed with the priorities of Ecuador's Agricultural Policy Agenda. She added that she would like to know more about the general strategy applied to each IICA partnership.
- 3.6.7 The Representative of Costa Rica remarked that in the partnerships with other institutions, greater efforts should be made to: (i) align the technical cooperation that the agencies provided with the needs of the countries; (ii) avoid the duplication of efforts; and (iii) build on the strengths and work of each institution. With regard to climate change, she acknowledged that great progress had been achieved in relation to mitigation and adaptation, but not vulnerability. She expressed interest in seeing that aspect reflected more strongly in the agendas, since Central America and the Caribbean were more vulnerable than other regions to extreme weather events.
- 3.6.8 The Representative of Argentina thanked the Institute for its presentation on strategic partnerships and urged it to continue to work in that area. She then asked about the IABA's representatives to CATIE, noting that Argentina currently represented the IABA on the organization's Board of Directors. She explained that the IABA was represented on two CATIE governing bodies, the Board of Directors and the Governing Council, by two different countries. She wondered whether it would be better for a single country to represent the IABA on CATIE's two bodies, to facilitate the monitoring of agreements and the presentation of results to the IABA and the Executive Committee.

- 3.6.9 The Director General thanked the representatives for their comments and asked Mr. James French, IICA's Director of Technical Cooperation, to provide the additional information requested.
- 3.6.10 The Director of Technical Cooperation explained the Institute's role and contributions to the work carried out for the G-20 meeting in Mexico. He pointed out that the government of the host country had asked the Institute to facilitate the process and set up a mechanism for channeling the contributions of countries in the region. With the Institute taking the technical lead, an online mechanism had been developed which was still in place, making it possible to continue discussing issues of interest. He noted that the unit in charge of IICA's Agribusiness and Commercialization Program had facilitated the coordination of the international external group (IFPRI, CGIAR, IFAD, and other bodies), and an interagency document had been prepared that was used as the basis for the proposal submitted to the leaders of the G20 with regard to food security. IICA had participated in the preparatory meetings of deputy ministers tasked with preparing recommendations for the leaders on the subject, and the Director General had taken part as an observer of the G20 to learn about the implications of the proposals.
- 3.6.11 Turning to Rio+20, IICA's Director of Technical Cooperation remarked that the Institute felt it important to help the countries gain a better grasp of the issues under discussion, and their bearing on the agricultural sector. Special attention was paid to the issue of climate change. A position was prepared that was shared with the countries, with which there was greater interaction, and various technical notes were also circulated. The technical team of the IICA Office in Brazil had attended the meeting. In reply to the question from the Representative of Ecuador, he explained that the strategy was still under construction, as well as discussion with the other organizations. Although he agreed with the suggestions made by the Representative of Costa Rica, he said it was difficult to focus the Institute's actions on specific areas, adding that vulnerability was an important part of the interinstitutional agenda.
- 3.6.12 The Representative of CARDI referred to the comments of the Representative of Dominica. He pointed out that interagency collaboration was one of the core principles of CARDI's work, as demonstrated by its ties with a number of organizations, including FAO and the University of the West Indies (UWI), among others. He added that most of the Institute's resources came from externally fund projects. He commented that CARDI faced a financial crisis that threatened its very existence, since, like IICA, its quota budget was frozen.

Efforts were being made to implement commercial projects to address the situation, but some countries were not in agreement, since CARDI's core mandate was to conduct research.

- 3.6.13 The Director General thanked the speakers and the representatives for their observations. He stressed that developing partnerships with other organizations was vitally important to IICA, to enable it to work with them to help solve the chief problems affecting the agricultural sectors of its Member States. He then expressed satisfaction with the steps that the Institute had been taking with its partner organizations and requested the support of the Member States, especially of the representatives of the countries present, to continue to strengthen interagency relations. He mentioned that IICA's openness had been met with a similar response from the partner agencies, with which the Institute did not compete, but rather complemented.
- 3.6.14 The Director General then thanked the Observer Representative of Dominica for his comment and reiterated IICA's interest in having a bigger presence in the Caribbean. With regard to the question raised by the Representative of Ecuador, concerning the Institute's strategy in the area of strategic partnerships, he pointed out that IICA's aim was to make its actions in support of the countries more efficient and pertinent; hence, the efforts to complement its capabilities with those of partner organizations. Partnerships were of great importance, he said, because they allowed the institutions involved to do more with fewer resources. He announced that soon he would be meeting with the FAO Deputy Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean to discuss the joint cooperation that the two organizations could offer to the Caribbean region.
- 3.6.15 The Director General asked the Technical Secretary to answer the Representative of Argentina's question concerning the possibility of a single country representing the IABA on CATIE's Board of Directors and Governing Council.
- 3.6.16 The Technical Secretary explained that the IABA was the highest government body of IICA and CATIE. He added that, at the regular meeting of the IABA held in Panama in 2003, the ministers of agriculture had approved the procedure for appointing the IABA's representatives to the governing bodies of CATIE. It included a mechanism for geographical rotation based on two tables designed to ensure that all the Member States took part by nominating one person each. He pointed out that the Representative to CATIE's Board of Directors served for two years, while the Representative to the Governing Council served for only

one year. He added that the IABA would be choosing a new Representative on CATIE's Board of Directors in 2014, which would be a good opportunity to revisit the matter and consider the Representative of Argentina's proposal.

- 3.6.17 The Representative of Argentina thanked the Technical Secretary for the explanation and proposed defining the duties of the IABA Representative to CATIE's Board of Directors, based on those established for the IABA Representative to the center's Governing Council.

3.7 *Presentation on the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA)*

- 3.7.1 At the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011, the ministers committed to "supporting the work of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA) to promote greater collaboration between the Member States on innovative means to collect, process, analyze and disseminate information relative to markets and agrifood commodities fostering greater market transparency and efficiencies." The Director General therefore asked the Manager of IICA's Agribusiness and Commercialization Program, Mr. Miguel García Winder, and Ms. Enid Cuéllar, Vice President of the MIOA, to give a presentation on the subject.

- 3.7.2 The Manager of the Agribusiness and Commercialization Program explained that IICA was committed to strengthening initiatives aimed at developing competitive, sustainable, and inclusive agribusinesses, one of which was the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA). The MIOA was a cooperation network that fostered greater collaboration among the Member States on innovative ways to gather, process, analyze, and disseminate data on markets and agrifood products, promoting greater market transparency and efficiency. He highlighted the fact that the provision of accurate information in a timely manner and with equality of access reduced asymmetries among the actors in value chains, provided input for commercial and investment decisions, and facilitated the formulation of public policies, making it a key element for domestic and foreign trade.

- 3.7.3 Ms. Cuéllar explained that the MIOA had been tasked with helping to support the strengthening, standardization and sustainable development of the agricultural market information systems of the Americas. Operated through an alliance of institutions specializing in such information, the organization had begun its work with five countries in the Americas and was now working with 33, with technical assistance from IICA and financial support from the

Government of the United States of America. She pointed out that the MIOA's inaugural meeting had been held in Brazil in 2000, and that IICA had been chosen to operate its Technical Secretariat in 2004.

- 3.7.4 The MIOA's achievements included numerous multilateral and bilateral technical assistance efforts; the enhancement of the skills of information system administrators and market reporters; the support provided to projects implemented by various national, regional, and global organizations; the positioning of the MIOA as a world leader in information systems for agricultural products; and the recognition and support that the ministers of agriculture had given the organization in their Declaration of San Jose, issued at the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2011, held during the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.
- 3.7.5 Finally, the Vice President of the MIOA announced that the organization's future plans included implementing a process to ensure that it could work effectively over the long term, promoting greater support for the member countries, fostering the strengthening of capabilities, forging new partnerships and supporting those that already existed, and lobbying for the establishment of the World Organization of Agricultural Market Information Systems.
- 3.7.6 The representatives of Ecuador, Haiti, and Panama, the observer representatives of Dominica and Mexico, and the Deputy Director General of IICA congratulated the Vice President of the MIOA and the Manager of IICA's Agribusiness and Commercialization Program on their presentation, and the achievements of the MIOA. They were agreed on the importance of market information to promote the competitiveness of producers and countries.
- 3.7.7 The Representative of Ecuador commended the MIOA for ensuring that the information was viewed as a public good, and asked about the additional support required from the countries to further the organization's efforts. The Representative of Panama asked what progress had been made in the MIOA's relationship with the Agricultural Marketing Institute (IMA) of Panama. The Observer Representative of Dominica wished to know how his country could benefit from the MIOA. Finally, the Representative of Haiti asked for details of the agricultural products about which the MIOA provided information.
- 3.7.8 The Vice President of the MIOA acknowledged that the information systems most in need of support were the small ones, due to their lack of sufficient equipment and the limited budgets allocated, which even made it difficult to

visit the places where the data needed to be collected. She added that in some countries the system operated on the basis of donations or projects. She urged the representatives to brief their ministries about the importance of the issue of market information, and drew attention to the need to prevent high staff turnover. She pointed out that the MIOA had been able to make progress thanks to the resources that had been contributed, especially by the Government of the United States of America, but that support was also needed from the other countries in the hemisphere. She then referred to the MIOA's lobbying efforts designed to raise awareness of the importance of ministries of agriculture having the budgets they needed to establish and operate market information systems.

- 3.7.9 The Manager of the Agribusiness and Commercialization Program underscored the need for the countries to commit to the sustainability of their market information systems. He also urged countries to provide financial support for the MIOA, so that it was not dependent on a single contributor. He then noted that the MIOA mainly provided information on fruit and vegetable markets, given that they were very important for smallholders and that other initiatives dealt with products such as coffee and grains. In reply to the question from the Observer Representative of Dominica, he commented that work was under way on the preparation of a proposed information system for CARICOM.
- 3.7.10 In sum, the representatives of the Member States were agreed that information on prices and markets, defined as an international public good, was strategically important for the efforts of IICA's member countries to achieve competitive, sustainable, and inclusive agriculture. They also agreed that price information and market intelligence were key elements in affording farmers and companies access to national and international markets, and useful tools for decision makers responsible for policies that affect agriculture and the standard of living of rural producers.
- 3.7.11 The members of the Executive Committee reached agreement on the need for the ministers of agriculture of the Institute's Member States, with cooperation from the MIOA and IICA, to provide the support required to strengthen, modernize, and guarantee the sustainability of their national information systems on prices and markets. There was also consensus on the urgent need for the Member States to commit to: (i) achieving the technical and financial strengthening of the MIOA as a strategic component for agriculture in the hemisphere, and (ii) strengthening horizontal cooperation among countries and regions, so that countries with more advanced information systems provided effective support to those whose systems were relatively less developed.

3.7.12 Finally, they were agreed on the importance of continuing to keep IICA's governing bodies abreast of the MIOA's institution building processes, and its work with regard to information from agricultural markets.

3.8 *Close of the session*

The Third Plenary Session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 12:35 hours on October 10, 2012.





## ***FOURTH PLENARY SESSION***

### 4.1 *Opening of the session*

4.1.1 The Chair of the meeting, Ms. María Guadalupe Bardelli, Director of Regional Negotiations and Disputes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, called to order the fourth plenary session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at 14:14 hours on October 10, 2012, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada rooms) at IICA Headquarters.

### 4.2 *Reading and approval of draft resolutions*

#### 4.2.1 Draft resolution “Recovery of the indirect costs of externally funded projects”

4.2.1.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution, “Recovery of the indirect costs of externally funded projects.”

4.2.1.2 The Technical Secretary explained that the version submitted to the plenary contained the modification requested by the Representative of Argentina, which had been incorporated into the last whereas clause. The draft resolution was approved as amended.

#### 4.2.2 Draft resolutions “Report on the evaluation of activities under the Program for Joint Action between the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and IICA for the period 2011-2014,” “Report on the status of the activities of the Joint Action Program of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and IICA,” and “Report on collaboration between IICA and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR)”

4.2.2.1 The Rapporteur read out the aforementioned draft resolutions, which were approved without modifications.

- 4.3 *Report on the work of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE*
- 4.3.1 The Observer Representative of Dominica explained that, under IABA Resolution No. 461, his country had been tasked with representing the Board on the Governing Council of CATIE during the period 2011-2012. He added that, in that capacity, he had taken part in the regular meeting of the Council held in Turrialba, Costa Rica, on August 31, 2012.
- 4.3.2 He pointed out that his main responsibilities were to represent the IABA, monitor the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action, consult the Member States about IICA-related matters (in particular, those that required a vote by the Council), and submit an annual report on his work to the Executive Committee and the Director General of IICA.
- 4.3.3 He remarked that, under the joint action program, significant progress had been made in the areas of public policies for rural development, rural area-based development, distance learning, and climate change. Joint cooperation activities had also been carried out in the Amazon and Caribbean regions, and assistance provided in response to specific requests from the following eight countries: Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. He added that the program covered only a small number of member countries, so the joint activities should be expanded to benefit more countries.
- 4.3.4 He then commented that the success of the IICA-CATIE partnership was due to the complementarity of the mandates, capabilities, and strengths of the two institutions. With regard to the latter, he noted that IICA had broad experience and an institutional framework that encompassed the entire hemisphere, which facilitated the provision of technical cooperation. Another of the Institute's strengths was the fact that it had close ties with all the ministries of agriculture. CATIE, on the other hand, had clear advantages in the areas of education and research. He added that the member countries' had a critical role to play in the success of the IICA-CATIE partnership. Therefore, the countries should commit to providing facilities to enable the two institutions to work in them together, and ensure that national institutions supported IICA-CATIE initiatives on strategically important issues.
- 4.3.5 The Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE recommended that IICA and CATIE support the dialogue of the ministers of agriculture on matters of strategic importance for agriculture in the hemisphere;

focus their joint activities on lending support to capacity building in the institutions of the countries; develop mechanisms for joint action to enable them to provide cooperation more effectively; and, document successful experiences that could be replicated in other countries or territories. He was also of the opinion that CATIE should meet the needs of the countries in the tropical region of the Americas before thinking about extending its services to other regions, especially within the framework of the South-South initiative. For its part, IICA should attach greater importance to the strengthening of joint work under regional projects with national components, especially in the Caribbean and Central America.

4.3.6 Finally, he expressed appreciation for the positive attitude and commitment of the Directors General of IICA and CATIE to continuing to work together to broaden the scope of the program and develop mechanisms for its successful implementation.

4.3.7 The Director General of IICA thanked the Observer Representative of Dominica for his remarks and stated that the Institute and CATIE had developed a solid relationship for the benefit of both institutions and their respective member countries.

#### 4.4 *The activities of the General Directorate and the governing bodies*

##### 4.4.1 2011 Annual Report of IICA

4.4.1.1 The Chair gave the floor to the Technical Secretary, who explained that, in its capacity as a member of the Inter-American System, IICA was required to submit an annual report on its work to the bodies of the Organization of American States (OAS) in the early months of the year. This meant that when the meetings of IICA's governing bodies took place, the report had already been delivered to the Member States some months previously, either through its representatives at the OAS or the IICA Offices in the countries. Therefore, and given the fact that the report had been made available to the Member States 30 days before the meeting of the Executive Committee, the Technical Secretary suggested that no detailed presentation was necessary. However, he said he would be happy to clarify any doubts or listen to the comments of the representatives of the Member States. If they had no queries or observations, he proposed that they approve the 2011 Annual Report of IICA.

- 4.4.1.2 The Representative of Mexico endorsed the Technical Secretary's proposal and pointed out that the 2011 report had already been reviewed and considered by the members of the SACMI at their last meeting, also held at IICA Headquarters, on July 12, 2012.
- 4.4.1.3 There being no other observations, the Chair proposed that the Committee approve the report, which it proceeded to do.
- 4.4.2 Report of the 2012 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues
- 4.4.2.1 At the Chair's request, the Technical Secretary explained that the report distributed among the members of the Executive Committee and the other Member States contained the recommendations made by the SACMI. He suggested that the members of the Executive Committee accept the report, if they had no queries or observations to make.
- 4.4.2.2 Since none of the representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee asked for the floor, the Chair recommended that the report of the 2012 SACMI meeting be accepted, and her proposal was positively received.
- 4.4.3 Status of the resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee
- 4.4.3.1 The Technical Secretary reminded the meeting that the status report had been made available to the member countries and the members of the Executive Committee through the Executive Committee's Online Information System, pursuant to the rules on the subject currently in effect. He pointed out that a hard copy of the document had been included in the folders that the delegates had received at the beginning of the meeting containing the working documents. He then offered to clarify any doubts or explain any aspects of the matters addressed in the report.
- 4.4.3.2 In relation to IABA Resolution No. 475, the Representative of Argentina gave details of the progress that her country had made with the preparations for the 2013 ministerial meeting and the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the Board. She noted that her country's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries had ratified its commitment to hosting the meeting, which would be taking place at the end of September 2013 in Los Cardales, a town near Buenos Aires. She explained that the agreement between IICA and the Government of Argentina

for the organization and implementation of the event had already been submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, and she expected it to be signed in a matter of weeks. Finally, she announced that “water use” had been chosen as the theme of the meeting, and a motto would also be selected in the near future.

- 4.4.3.3 The Director General thanked the Government of Argentina and congratulated it on choosing water use as the theme, an issue that was so important for agriculture in the hemisphere. He pledged to work with the government on all the aspects required to ensure the success of the meeting. The first step should be to reach a consensus on the agenda, which would be submitted for consideration by the Member States at the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, due to be held in 2013.
- 4.4.3.4 The Observer Representative of Canada expressed appreciation for the information provided and pointed out that, at the next meetings of the SACMI and the Executive Committee, the countries would be discussing in depth the preparations for the next meeting of the IABA and the Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the hemisphere. He felt that the Member States should seize the opportunity provided by the process of preparing for the events to share their respective positions on issues of crucial importance for agriculture in the Americas, so that the ministers and heads of delegation could focus their attention on the strategic dialogue at the two meetings. He suggested using as a model the mechanism used by IICA to prepare the countries for the Rio+20 conference and the meeting of the G20 held in Mexico, which had made it possible to discuss different issues and reach agreement on positions before the meetings.
- 4.4.3.5 The Observer Representative of Canada referred to resolutions No. 525 of the Executive Committee and No. 472 of the IABA, in which the Institute’s governing bodies had established that the documents and agendas for their meetings could be delivered to the ministers closer to the meetings themselves. Although he did not object to the timeframes involved, he requested that the agendas of the meetings be sent further in advance, as it took a considerable amount of time to prepare for such trips.
- 4.4.3.6 With respect to the ministerial meetings, the Director General explained that IICA made every effort to ensure that at meetings of the IABA the ministers and heads of delegation addressed strategic issues rather than administrative matters. To that end, it was essential that the Member States themselves define the

agenda and topics for the meeting, to promote dialogue on critical issues. Finally, he pledged to coordinate the preparation of the agenda with the Government of Argentina, in consultation with the ministers of agriculture of the Member States.

4.4.3.7 The Representative of Argentina pointed out that, as the organizers, his country realized that defining the issues and drawing up the agenda was a dynamic process that had to be carried out with the participation and contribution of all the Member States. She added that the lessons learned from the last meeting of the IABA, held in Costa Rica, would be taken into account, since an expeditious dialogue had taken place on the issues that the countries agreed to discuss. She agreed with the Observer Representative of Canada that, at the next meetings of the SACMI and the Executive Committee, the discussions on the agenda and preparations for the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA (2013) would be very important.

4.5 *Date and Venue of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee*

4.5.1 The Observer Representative of Mexico announced that his country wished to host the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.

4.5.2 The Chair and the Representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee thanked Mexico for its offer, which was accepted unanimously. The date of the meeting would be decided later.

4.6 *Reading and approval of draft resolutions*

4.6.1 Draft resolutions “Report of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE),” “2011 Annual Report of IICA,” “Report of the 2012 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI),” “Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,” and “Date and Venue of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”

4.6.2 The foregoing draft resolutions were read out and approved without modifications.

4.7 *Close of the session*

- 4.7.1 The Fourth Plenary Session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 15:10 hours on October 10, 2012.





## ***CLOSING SESSION***

### 5.1 *Opening of the session*

- 5.1.1 The closing session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 15:10 hours on October 10, 2012, with Ms. María Guadalupe Bardelli, Director of Regional Negotiations and Disputes of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries of Argentina, in the chair.

### 5.2 *Address by the Director General of IICA*

- 5.2.1 The Director General thanked the Chairperson, the Representatives, the Observer Representatives, and the other participants for their support, which had ensured the success of the meeting, and for their participation as guests of honor in the activity held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Institute.
- 5.2.2 He remarked that, throughout its 70-year history, IICA had had to adapt continually to the changes taking place, adopting institutional innovations to meet the new challenges faced by agriculture and the needs of its Member States, for which the guidance received from the Institute's governing bodies had been vital.
- 5.2.3 The Director General believed that recent developments had highlighted the great importance of agriculture for all of humankind, given the need to produce more and better food, and to achieve sustainable production with limited resources. He added that, to do a better job of promoting the achievement of food security and the development of agriculture, it was necessary to forge effective partnerships with other organizations.
- 5.2.4 He then announced that the delegations would be receiving copies of the "Libro de los 70 años del IICA," summarizing the most important events in the organization's history and acknowledging all the leaders of the Institute who had made outstanding contributions from which producers, agricultural organizations, and agriculture in general had benefited.

5.2.5 The Director General singled out for special recognition the Legal Adviser, Mr. William Berenson, for his many years of service to IICA, his manifold contributions and his sound advice. As he would shortly be retiring from the OAS, the Director General expressed his profound gratitude and presented him with a copy of the “Libro de los 70 años del IICA,” which contained an acknowledgement of his work as Legal Adviser to the Institute, which he hoped he would continue to perform in the future.

5.2.6 In conclusion, he thanked all the representatives for their presence, contributions, and commitment; the Chairperson, for her outstanding conduct of the meeting; the Rapporteur, for her valuable work; the technical and logistical staff of IICA and the interpreters, for their efforts in ensuring that the meeting was a success. Finally, he wished all the visitors a safe return to their countries.

### 5.3 Remarks from the Chair

5.3.1 The Chair of the meeting thanked the representatives of the Member States, the Associate and Observer Countries, and the various institutions, as well as the Institute’s senior management and staff for the support she had received in performing the tasks entrusted to her as Chair of the meeting. She acknowledged that the efficient and effective work of the IICA Administration had been the key to the meeting’s successful conclusion.

5.3.2 She then remarked that her country, which in 2013 would be hosting the next Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas and the IABA, was working hard to ensure that the two events were successful and of great benefit for the agricultural development of the Member States. Finally, she wished everyone a safe return to their respective countries.

### 5.4 Close of the session

5.4.1 The closing session of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 15:20 hours on October 10, 2012.

## **RESOLUTIONS**



## ***RESOLUTIONS***

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IICA/CE/Res. 554 (XXXII-O/12)

9 October 2012

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 554**

**2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INSTITUTE,  
REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND  
EIGHTEENTH REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 602 (12), “2011 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors,” and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 603 (12), “Eighteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4(d) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to study the Institute’s financial statements and, when a decision is required, forward the corresponding report and recommendations to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That the external auditors have attested to the sound management of IICA’s financial resources during 2011, and that the administration of the Institute has acted in conformity with the regulations of IICA;

That at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the IABA, by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 231 (VII-O/93), created the Audit Review Committee (ARC) and approved its Statute;

That, in its Eighteenth Report, the ARC states that it studied the report of the external auditors on IICA’s 2011 financial statements and found the work performed to

be thorough and in accordance with the Institute's rules and international auditing standards;

That the ARC took into account the report and recommendations of the external auditors in making recommendations and preparing its report; and,

That Article 3(k) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of IICA is to receive and approve the ARC's reports and make a determination on its recommendations,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2011 financial statements of the Institute and the report of the external auditors, and to instruct the Director General to submit them, for information, to the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
2. To approve the Eighteenth Report of the ARC and instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations contained therein.
3. To thank the members of the ARC for the work accomplished.



IICA/CE/Res. 555 (XXXII-O/12)

9 October 2012

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 555**

**REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 601 (12), “Status of the collection of quota contributions for the Institute,”

CONSIDERING:

That, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 414 (XIII-O/05), adopted the document “Revised measures for collecting quotas owed to the Institute”;

That, thanks to the measures adopted, the goodwill and support of the Ministers of Agriculture and other authorities in the Member States and the efforts of the General Directorate, it has been possible to reduce considerably the total amount of quotas owed to the Institute; and,

That the above has facilitated the implementation of the programs and projects included in the cooperation strategies established in IICA’s 2010-2014 MTP at the national, regional and hemispheric levels,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Ministers of Agriculture and Foreign Affairs, and other high-level government officials in IICA’s Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.

2. To acknowledge the importance of maintaining in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage IICA's Member States to make their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion and to pay arrears for previous years.
3. To instruct the Director General to: a) continue efforts to collect the quotas for 2012 and those owed for previous years; and, b) to keep IICA's Member States informed of progress in this area.
4. To urge the Member States to keep up to date with the payment of their quotas to the Institute, and those that are in arrears, to follow through with the plans agreed to meet their financial obligations to IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 556 (XXXII-O/12)

10 October 2012

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 556**

**RECOVERY OF THE INDIRECT COSTS OF EXTERNALLY FUNDED PROJECTS  
INSTITUTIONAL NET RATE (INR)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 604 (12), “Study on the Recovery of Costs Incurred by the Administration of Externally Funded Projects,”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 3.5 of the Financial Rules provides that the Director General, in establishing the Institutional Net Rate (INR), shall take into account the results of an annual study that determines the actual costs incurred by the Institute in administering projects financed with external resources;

That the document presented for consideration of the Executive Committee responded to the request set out in Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 541 (XXXI-O/11) of July 13, 2011, adopted at the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, and Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 471 (XVI-O/11) of October 21, 2011, approved at the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, as well as the recommendations of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) at its 2012 Regular Meeting;

That the aforementioned document includes the methodology, criteria, and exceptions to be used as the basis for determining the INR;

That the methodology makes it possible to: (i) fine-tune the procedure for calculating the INR, so that the rate recognizes all the indirect costs that IICA incurs in

implementing projects and other externally funded cooperation activities; and, (ii) consider the SACMI's recommendations to incorporate the analysis on competitiveness and proportionality in seeking the best interests of the Institute; and,

That it is necessary to consider a period of transition for the application of a new INR percentage in the case of projects whose agreements or contracts are already in force,

RESOLVES:

To instruct the Director General, in determining the INR to be applied in Agreements or Contracts entered into by IICA for the implementation of externally funded projects and activities:

1. To adopt the methodology and criteria defined in Document IICA/CE/Doc. 604 (12), "Study on the Recovery of Costs Incurred by the Administration of Externally Funded Projects," for establishing the minimum INR applicable to projects and other externally funded cooperation activities, with due regard for the exceptions established in that document.
2. To consider in the annual studies the criteria of competitiveness and proportionality and the net neutral approach established in the methodology, which may also take into account the tendencies of the last two or three years, for the purpose of seeking the rate that is fair and representative of actual costs.

IICA/CE/Res. 557 (XXXII-O/12)

10 October 2012

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 557**

**REPORT ON THE EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES UNDER THE PROGRAM FOR JOINT ACTION BETWEEN THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) AND IICA FOR THE PERIOD 2011-2014**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 591 (12), “Report on the evaluation of the progress made in implementing the IICA-CATIE Joint Action Program,”

CONSIDERING:

That, in compliance with Law No. 8028 of the Republic of Costa Rica and in order to establish a legal framework for strengthening, complementing and enhancing cooperation between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), on July 13, 2011, the Directors General of the two institutions signed the General Bilateral Agreement for Inter-institutional Cooperation between IICA and CATIE;

That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 532 (XXX-O/10), the Executive Committee instructed the Directors General of IICA and CATIE to present to the consideration of the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee a joint action program including projects in high-priority areas identified in IICA’s 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan that would effectively complement the capabilities and resources of the two institutions for the benefit of the Institute’s Member States;

That, in the same resolution, the Executive Committee urged CATIE and IICA to strengthen the technical and administrative mechanisms for joint efforts in the Member States with a view to consolidating and broadening joint actions;

That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 550 (XXXI-O/11), the Executive Committee accepted the “IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action for 2011-2014”; and,

That the Directors General of CATIE and IICA presented the progress and results of the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action for 2011-2012,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the “Report on the evaluation of the progress made in implementing the IICA-CATIE Joint Action Program.”
2. To urge IICA and CATIE to continue strengthening their links and mechanisms for implementing the activities of the Program for Joint Action, with a view to enhancing the contribution of the two institutions in support of the efforts of the Member States to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.

IICA/CE/Res. 558 (XXXII-O/12)

10 October 2012

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 558**

**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE JOINT ACTION  
PROGRAM OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND  
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) AND IICA**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 592 (12), “Director General’s Report on the progress made in strengthening IICA-CARDI relations,”

CONSIDERING:

That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 533 (XXX-O/10), the Executive Committee instructed the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Executive Director of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) to present, for consideration by the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, a joint action program, including projects in high-priority areas identified in IICA’s 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan that would effectively complement the capabilities and resources of the two institutions for the benefit of the Institute’s Member States;

That, in the same resolution, the Executive Committee urged CARDI and IICA to reinforce their institutional links and programs for joint action, and instructed the two institutions to establish a committee, chaired by the Executive Director of CARDI and the Director General of IICA, or the officials that they chose to represent them, to program their joint activities each year, and monitor the execution of projects and their contributions;

That IICA and CARDI have made significant progress in establishing more effective mechanisms for joint action, and in identifying and preparing the projects that are being implemented under the above-mentioned joint action program within the framework of the financial constraints facing both institutions; and,

That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 552 (XXXI-O/11), the Executive Committee accepted the program and urged IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their technical links and mechanisms for implementing joint activities and seeking external resources, with a view to enhancing the contribution of the two institutions in support of agricultural and rural development efforts in the Caribbean,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the “Director General’s Report on the progress made in strengthening IICA-CARDI relations.”
2. To urge IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their technical links and mechanisms for implementing joint activities, with a view to enhancing the contribution of the two institutions in support of agricultural and rural development efforts in the Caribbean.
3. To urge IICA and CARDI to formulate and implement a proposal to jointly seek external financing as a basis for technical cooperation between the two institutions, that is broader, more active and more beneficial to the member countries of both organizations.



IICA/CE/Res. 559 (XXXII-O/12)

10 October 2012

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 559**

**REPORT ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN IICA AND THE CONSULTATIVE  
GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (CGIAR)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 593 (12), “Report on IICA-CGIAR Collaboration,”

CONSIDERING:

That the CGIAR was established to reduce poverty and hunger, improve human health and nutrition, and enhance ecosystem resilience through high-quality international agricultural research, partnership, and leadership;

That the CGIAR is a global partnership of 15 international centers that work on research oriented to the sustainable development of agriculture, and that their activities are financed by developing and industrial countries, foundations and international organizations;

That four of those international centers: the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), and the International Potato Center (CIP) operate in the hemisphere, and that their Directors General held a working meeting with the Director General of IICA on August 25, 2011;

That the CGIAR has operations in more than 200 locations around the world via a network that links thousand of associates at all levels involved in agriculture, natural resource conservation and preservation of the environment;

That CGIAR expenditures amounted to USD572 million in 2009, the single largest investment made to mobilize science for the benefit of the rural poor worldwide; and,

That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 553 (XXXI-O/11), the Executive Committee decided to support the proposal of the Director General calling for the strengthening of relations between IICA and the CGIAR by establishing a partnership intended to support the Member States in the development and application of technology required to make agriculture competitive, sustainable and inclusive; and to request that the Director General keep the Member States informed of progress in and the results of this initiative,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the “Report on IICA-CGIAR Collaboration.”
2. To urge the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States of the Institute to provide, in their respective countries and in the integration mechanisms, the support required to reach agreement on, strengthen, and expand joint actions between IICA and the CGIAR at the national and/or regional levels.
3. To support the efforts of the Director General of IICA to consolidate the partnership between IICA and the CGIAR, given its importance in strengthening the technical cooperation provided to the Member States.

IICA/CE/Res. 560 (XXXII-O/12)  
10 October 2012  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 560**

**2011 ANNUAL REPORT OF IICA**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 595 (12), “2011 Annual Report of IICA,”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4(f) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to receive, analyze and approve the annual report on the activities of the General Directorate and take appropriate action;

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2011 Annual Report of IICA, which was presented by the Director General of the Institute to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on April 25, 2012;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by IICA in 2011 for the purpose of implementing the Institute’s national, regional and hemispheric cooperation agendas within the framework of IICA’s 2010-2014 Medium-term Plan;

That the Representative of the Institute in each of its 34 Member States presented to the national authorities the respective report on the cooperation that IICA provided to the country in 2011; and,

That the Annual Report for 2011 is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute’s website ([www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int)),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2011 Annual Report of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 561 (XXXII-O/12)  
10 October 2012  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 561**

**REPORT OF THE 2012 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL  
ADVISORY COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 596 (12), “Report of the 2012 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI),”

CONSIDERING:

That the purpose of the SACMI, as a standing commission of the Executive Committee, is to advise the Director General to promote more regular discussion with the Member States on administrative, financial and strategic issues, in order to facilitate the process of reaching consensus in the Executive Committee and in the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA); and,

That the above-referenced report of the SACMI contains recommendations for the consideration of the Director General and the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the Report of the 2012 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

IICA/CE/Res. 562 (XXXII-O/12)

10 October 2012

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 562****STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE SIXTEENTH REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE IABA AND THE THIRTY-FIRST REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

**HAVING SEEN:**

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 597 (12), “Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),” and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 598 (12), “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,”

**CONSIDERING:**

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and has carried out satisfactorily the tasks required to comply with the resolutions adopted at the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

**RESOLVES:**

To accept the reports: (i) “Status of the Resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),” and (ii) “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.”

IICA/CE/Res. 563 (XXXII-O/12)

10 October 2012

Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 563**

**REPORT OF THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE IABA TO THE  
GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE  
RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report of Mr. Matthew Walter, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Dominica and Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) covering the period 2011-2012,

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with the Law establishing CATIE, the IABA is that Center's highest governing body and has the right to appoint a Representative to sit on the Governing Council of CATIE with the right to vote;

That, in accordance with IABA Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 461 (XV-O/09), the Member States that will designate the IABA's Representative to the Governing Council of CATIE are as follows: Dominica (2011-2012); United States of America (2013-2014); Chile (2015-2016) and Ecuador (2017-2018);

That the Executive Committee, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 532 (XXX-O/10), stipulated that, at its Thirty-first Regular Meeting, it would propose to the IABA that the latter's Representative on the Governing Council of CATIE, in carrying out his mandate, should ensure that the joint work with IICA is performed, strengthened and expanded, and that the technical, administrative and financial mechanisms used to facilitate joint actions are strengthened; and,

That the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-first Regular Meeting, adopted Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 550 (XXXI-O/11), in which it approved the IICA-CATIE Program for Joint Action for the period 2011-2014, and Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 543 (XXXI-O/11), in which it approved the responsibilities of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE, which include presenting an annual report of his work to the Executive Committee and the Director General of IICA,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the report of Mr. Matthew Walter, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Dominica and Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE for the period 2011-2012;
2. To task the Director General of IICA with presenting to the Seventeenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, scheduled to be held in Argentina in 2013, the report of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE for the period 2011-2012.



IICA/CE/Res. 564 (XXXII-O/12)  
10 October 2012  
Original: Spanish

**RESOLUTION No. 564**

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRTY-THIRD REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 600 (12), “Date and Venue of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,”

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, that governing body of the Institute must hold one regular meeting each year;

That it is necessary to set the date and site of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2013;

That Article 23 of said Rules of Procedure states that governments of Member States interested in hosting a regular meeting of the Executive Committee shall so inform the Director General in writing, before the expiration of the deadline set by the Executive Committee for presentation of offers;

That Article 24 of said Rules of Procedure stipulates that the Executive Committee shall examine the offers to host a meeting in accordance with the principle of rotation and geographic distribution; and,

That the Government of Mexico wrote to the Director General of IICA offering to host the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

## RESOLVES:

1. To sincerely thank the Government of Mexico for its offer to host the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in that country.
2. To establish that the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee shall be held in Mexico in the first half of 2013.
3. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation to the Member States to participate in the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.

## **SIGNING OF THE REPORT**



## **SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SECOND REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 15:20 on the tenth day of October of the year two thousand twelve, in Vazquez de Coronado, Costa Rica.

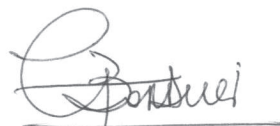
This report will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes approved during the Closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Institute, in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretariat shall file the original texts in the archives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, post the electronic files on the Institute's Web page and send the final version of this report to the governments of the Member States, the Associate States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

Vazquez de Coronado, Costa Rica.



Victor M. Villalobos  
Director General of IICA  
*Ex officio* Secretary of the  
Executive Committee



María Guadalupe Bardelli  
Director of Trade Negotiations and  
Disputes of the Ministry of  
Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries  
of Argentina and Chair of the 2012  
Executive Committee



## **ANNEXES**





## ***ANNEX 1: AGENDA OF THE MEETING***

*IICA/CE/Doc. 589 (12)*

- 1. Provisional Schedule** IICA/CE/Doc. 590 (12)
  
- 2. Current Situation and Outlook for IICA**
  
- 3. Strengthening of Strategic Partnerships with Other Institutions**
  - 3.1. Report on the Evaluation of the Progress made in implementing the IICA-CATIE Joint Action Program IICA/CE/Doc. 591 (12)
  
  - 3.2. Director General's Report on the Progress made in strengthening IICA-CARDI Relations IICA/CE/Doc. 592 (12)
  
  - 3.3. Director General's Report on the Progress made in strengthening IICA-CGIAR Relations IICA/CE/Doc. 593 (12)
  
  - 3.4. IICA-FAO Strategy and Joint Action Program IICA/CE/Doc. 594 (12)
  
  - 3.5. Strengthening of support from the MIOA and IICA, and of collaboration between the Member States, in the area of market information (No document)
  
- 4. The Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies**
  - 4.1. 2011 IICA Annual Report IICA/CE/Doc. 595 (12)
  
  - 4.2. Report of the 2012 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) IICA/CE/Doc. 596 (12)

- |      |  |                       |
|------|--|-----------------------|
| 4.3. | Status of the resolutions of the Sixteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA                   | IICA/CE/Doc. 597 (12) |
| 4.4  | Status of the resolutions of the Thirty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee | IICA/CE/Doc. 598 (12) |
| 4.5  | Report on the work of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE   | IICA/CE/Doc. 599 (12) |
| 4.6  | Date and Venue of the Thirty-third Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee            | IICA/CE/Doc. 600 (12) |

## **5. Financial strengthening of the Institute**

- |     |   |                       |
|-----|---|-----------------------|
| 5.1 | Status of the collection of quota contributions of the Institute                    | IICA/CE/Doc. 601 (12) |
| 5.2 | 2011 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors      | IICA/CE/Doc. 602 (12) |
| 5.3 | Eighteenth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)                               | IICA/CE/Doc. 603 (12) |
| 5.4 | Study on the recovery of costs incurred in administering externally funded projects | IICA/CE/Doc. 604 (12) |

## **6. Report of the ad hoc group on the Colombia issue** (No document)

## **7. Other Business**

## ***ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS***

### ***Member States sitting on the 2012 Executive Committee***

#### **ARGENTINA**

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*Associated Country*

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*Permanent Observers*

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*International Organizations*

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 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT  
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***Special Guests***

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**SENIOR PERSONNEL OF IICA**

Víctor M. Villalobos	Director General
Lloyd Day	Deputy Director General
Arturo Barrera	Manager of the Innovation for Productivity and Competitiveness Program
Giovanna Badilla	Legal Advisor
Evangelina Beltrán	Coordinator of the Office of the Director General
Dowlat Budhram	Secretary of Planning and Evaluation
Luis Condines	Internal Auditor
Víctor Del Ángel	Director of Management and Regional Integration
Nelson Espinoza	Coordinator of the Projects Unit
James French	Director of Technical Cooperation
Miguel García	Manager of the Agribusiness and Commercialization Program
Yanko Goic	Head of the Programming, Budgeting and Control Division
Ena Harvey	Coordinator of Management and Regional Integration for the Caribbean
Miguel Herrera	Coordinator of Diplomatic Relations and Protocol
Héctor Iturbe	Technical Secretary
Karen Kleinheinz	Director of the Financial Management Division
Linda Landry	Director of the Management of Human Talent Division
Patricia León	Head of the Social Communication Unit
Franklin Marín	Coordinator of the Center for the Promotion of Technical Capabilities and Leadership
Byron Miranda	Manager of the Agriculture, Territories and Rural Well-being Program
Diego Montenegro	IICA Representative in Costa Rica
Laura Mora	Head of the Services and Administrative Support Division
Carlos O'Farrill	Secretary of Corporate Services
Rafael Trejos	Coordinator of the Center for Strategic Analysis for Agriculture
David Williams	Manager of the Program for Cross-cutting Coordination of Agriculture, Natural Resource Management and Climate Change



### ***ANNEX 3: MEETING STAFF***

#### **- Secretariat of the meeting**

Ex officio Secretary and Director General of IICA      Víctor M. Villalobos

Technical Secretariat      Evangelina Beltrán  
Hector Iturbe

Logistics      Patricia Ross

**- Legal advisor**      William Berenson

**- Publicity and press**      Patricia León Coto

Adriana Araya  
Rafael Cartín  
Randall Cordero  
Alejandra Chaves  
Karla Cruz  
Mónica Montero  
Carlos Umaña

**- Diplomacy and protocol**      Miguel Herrera  
Sonia González

#### **- Services for delegates**

*Registration and secretariat*      Wendy Esquivel  
Marielos Salazar

*Assistance at hotel*      Leticia Giménez

*Assistance at the airport*      Randy Alexander  
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