

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SERIES No. 98

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

San Jose, Costa Rica

18-19 July 2017



What is IICA?

More than 70 years ago, a group of visionaries recognized the need to create an agency specializing in agriculture for the American continent, with a purpose that still remains valid today: to promote agricultural development and rural well-being in this region.

As a result, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was born. Throughout this time, the Institute has succeeded in identifying challenges and opportunities and, most importantly, evolving into an international technical cooperation organization that permanently responds to the new demands of the agricultural sector.

Our **mission** is to *encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence.*

In partnership with our Member States, our **vision** is to *create a competitive, inclusive and sustainable inter-American agriculture that feeds the hemisphere and the world, while at the same time generating opportunities to reduce hunger and poverty among farmers and rural dwellers.*

We provide cooperation by working closely and continuously with our 34 Member States, addressing their needs in a timely manner. Our most valuable asset is undoubtedly the close relationship we nurture with the beneficiaries of our work.

We have a wealth of experience in areas such as technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development, natural resource management and training.

We are also committed to achieving results. Our 2014-2018 Medium Term Plan contributes to the evolution of our technical cooperation model with the aim of consolidating IICA as an organization geared toward accomplishing concrete and visible results. We work to facilitate the positive changes that our Member States wish to achieve in their agricultural and rural sectors.



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REGULAR MEETING OF THE
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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), 2017



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

The Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Resolution No. 614 of said governing body of the Institute.

The 2017 Executive Committee comprised the following Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Saint Lucia and the United States of America.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 08:45 hours on July 18, 2017, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada Rooms) at IICA Headquarters. It was chaired by Mr. Santiago Bertoni, President of the Paraguayan Institute of Agricultural Technology (IPTA), given that Paraguay was the country chairing the Executive Committee.

0.1.2 In attendance were representatives of the Member States sitting on the 2017 Executive Committee.

0.2 Agreements

0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting

0.2.1.1 The representatives of the Member States of the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. Bryce Quick, Associate Administrator and Chief Operating Officer of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), to serve as Chair of the Meeting, as proposed by the Representative of Costa Rica. Mrs. Ana Isabel Gómez, Executive Director of the Executive Secretariat for Agricultural Sector Planning (SEPSA) of Costa Rica, was proposed as Rapporteur. The motion was approved unanimously.

0.2.1.2 The Officers of the Meeting were elected as follows:

Chair:	Bryce Quick
Rapporteur:	Ana Isabel Gómez
<i>Ex officio</i> Secretary:	Victor M. Villalobos

0.2.2 Agenda for the meeting

0.2.2.1 The Chair submitted the provisional work agenda of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, contained in document No. 660 (17), for consideration by the representatives. The provisional work agenda was approved without changes.

0.2.2.2 The Chair informed the representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee that their folders contained the working and background documents for the meeting, digital versions of which had been made available online on June 19, 2017, in Spanish and English.

0.2.3 Working committees

0.2.3.1 It was agreed that no working committees would be established and that all topics would be discussed in the plenary sessions.

0.2.4 Duration of the meeting

0.2.4.1 The Plenary agreed that the Closing Session of the Meeting would take place on Wednesday, July 19, 2017, at 17:00 hours.

0.2.5 Deadline for submitting proposals

0.2.5.1 Tuesday, July 18, at 15:00 hours was set as the deadline for submitting new draft resolutions.

0.2.6 Countries' right to vote

0.2.6.1 The Director General of IICA asked the Legal Adviser for an opinion regarding the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the Executive Committee, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure and other relevant provisions.

0.2.6.2 The Legal Adviser explained the provisions of Chapter IX of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee regarding the right to vote in meetings. He then informed the Plenary that four of the twelve Member States sitting on the Executive Committee had been in arrears in the payment of their quotas for more than two fiscal years, exceeding the limit established for the right to vote. Therefore, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Paraguay were asked to explain the reasons for which they had fallen into arrears.

0.2.6.3 The Representative of Paraguay indicated that the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock had already authorized payment of the quotas corresponding to 2016 and 2017, which were expected to be finalized by the end of July.

0.2.6.4 The Representative of Colombia underscored the importance of IICA to his country. He explained that one of the main reasons for delayed payment was that his country was undergoing a difficult fiscal situation as a result of the fall in prices for oil and other raw materials. He pointed out that these difficulties had prevented his country from paying quotas owed to all of the organizations of which it formed part, not only IICA. He reported that Congress had already approved a budgetary management plan to pay quotas owed to the Institute for 2015 and 2016 as soon as possible; however, he was unable to commit to an exact date.

- 0.2.6.5 The Representative of Nicaragua reported that it was highly likely that his country would pay the quotas for 2017 within 30 days; after that date, his Government would analyze whether it would be possible to pay all other quotas owed.
- 0.2.6.6 The Representative of Ecuador highlighted the relevance of agriculture to his country and his government's intention to settle the debt owed to the Institute. He explained that Ecuador had fallen into arrears due to the earthquake that struck the country in 2016, the recent change of government and the postponement of budgets for the second half of 2017. He mentioned that the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of his country had reached a decision to fulfill the country's financial commitments with international organizations; therefore, payment of the quota for the current year was expected to be completed within 60 days, and all other quotas were expected to be paid by the end of the year.
- 0.2.6.7 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda commented that his country appreciated IICA's contributions and was struggling to cover the cost of salaries and other commitments. He added that his government was undertaking efforts to settle pending quota payments by the end of 2017.
- 0.2.6.8 It was agreed that all the delegations of the Member States sitting on the Executive Committee could participate in the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting with full rights.
- 0.2.7 Credentials
- 0.2.7.1 The Technical Secretary announced that all Member States' delegations to the Executive Committee had been duly accredited through appropriate letters of accreditation issued by the competent authorities of each country. He stated that the credentials of the delegations of Brazil and Canada, the member countries of IICA that would be participating as observers on this occasion, had been received. He added that Germany and Turkey, two observer countries of the Institute, would also be participating in this meeting of the Executive Committee.

0.3 *Close of the session*

- 0.3.1 The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 09:40 hours on July 18, 2017.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 *Opening of the session*

- 1.1.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 09:47 hours on July 18, 2017 and was chaired by the Representative of the United States of America.

1.2 *Welcome address by the Director General of IICA*

- 1.2.1 The Director General welcomed the Chair of the Executive Committee as well as the representatives of the Member States, observer countries and international organizations attending the meeting. He declared that 2017 was a special year for IICA, since it would be celebrating 75 years of contributing to the efforts undertaken by the Member States for the benefit of agricultural development and rural well-being.
- 1.2.2 He expressed his gratitude for the support he had received during his terms in office. He then described the evolution of agriculture over the past ten years, both at the global and hemispheric levels, listing some of its main characteristics and highlighting the fact that this sector generally performed better than others.
- 1.2.3 He mentioned that 28% of global agrifood exports in 2015 were carried out by countries in the Americas, which demonstrated that the region was a relevant stakeholder in the global agrifood market. He added that in 2015, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) accounted for 13.9% of global agrifood exports, most of which were destined to the Asian market. On the other hand, he stated that although the population living in poverty in LAC had diminished, the percentage of rural dwellers in this situation continued to be very high.
- 1.2.4 He then recalled that when he applied for the position of Director General of the Institute, his proposal focused on a specific objective: “strengthening the technical expertise of IICA to support countries in achieving a productive, competitive, inclusive, and sustainable agriculture.” He added that this objective became a clear mandate for the Institute’s actions, as stated in the

2010-2020 Strategic Plan as well as the two medium-term plans developed during his term in office, which outlined four strategic objectives: a) to improve the productivity and competitiveness of the agricultural sector, b) to strengthen agriculture's contribution to the development of rural areas and the well-being of the rural population, c) to improve agriculture's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate change and make better use of natural resources, and d) to improve agriculture's contribution to food security.

- 1.2.5 He listed the main achievements of the Institute's cooperation, including the following: a) urgent or short-term needs of IICA member countries were effectively addressed through 47 rapid response actions in areas related to health services, competitiveness of agro-productive chains and institutional strengthening; b) an average of 200 technical cooperation projects were managed every year since 2010, for an amount close to USD 150 million; c) since 2014, 26 multinational projects were financed via the Technical Cooperation Fund (FonTC) through an investment of over USD 1.8 million, to benefit 25 countries in the Americas; d) the Institute provided training to more than 6,200 stakeholders involved in markets, innovation, business management and public institutional frameworks, which allowed for improving the competitiveness of 32 agricultural chains in 23 countries; and e) more than 300 technical results, most of which were related to the strengthening of institutional capabilities as well as the promotion of innovation, agricultural health and agricultural businesses, were achieved each year through the flagship projects.
- 1.2.6 The Director General then highlighted the results of the scholarship program offered by IICA and the National Council on Science and Technology (CONACYT) of Mexico, which began in January of 2012. By the end of the first half of 2017, the program had awarded scholarships to a total of 1,108 young professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean, 243 of whom had already completed their postgraduate studies. He indicated that the total value of scholarships awarded exceeded USD 30 million, and that scholarships had been granted to students in 25 countries of the region; Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, Honduras and Peru were the countries with the highest number of scholarship recipients.
- 1.2.7 He explained that the Institute had undertaken efforts to secure external resources, one of the most noteworthy of which was the process to become accredited by the Green Fund, which was well underway.

- 1.2.8 He encouraged the members of the Executive Committee to reflect on the financial future of the Institute, to comprehensively analyze the operation of the organizations of which they formed part, and to find ways to join efforts with IICA.
- 1.2.9 The Director General concluded his remarks by stating that the future of American peoples was closely tied to agriculture, and, as a result, it was of the utmost importance to support this sector in order to eliminate poverty and hunger.
- 1.3 *Analysis and comments*
- 1.3.1 The Chair, speaking as the Representative of the United States of America, congratulated the Director General of IICA for his leadership in managing the Institute during his two terms, and for giving continuity to the visionary spirit of Henry Wallace and the other founders of the Institute. He also recognized his success in fostering joint work among the Member States in order to strengthen IICA.
- 1.3.2 The Representative of Mexico expressed his satisfaction with the report presented by the Director General. He added that the Institute's contributions to agriculture, research and technical cooperation were noteworthy. He agreed that achieving agricultural development was the best way to combat hunger and poverty, which were areas of focus for IICA. Lastly, he congratulated the Director General on his excellent management during his two terms in office.
- 1.3.3 The Observer Representative of Canada congratulated IICA on the celebration of its 75th anniversary. He expressed his gratitude for the report presented and highlighted the efforts that the Institute had undertaken to drive technical training and its impact on food security, trade and prosperity in the hemisphere. He emphasized the fact that his country valued the work geared toward promoting the adoption of food safety standards and benefiting countries through biotechnology.
- 1.3.4 The Representative of Argentina stated that the relationship between his country and IICA had been very productive during the Director General's terms in office. He expressed his interest in addressing resolutions No. 501, No. 502 and No. 615. With respect to the latter resolution, he highlighted the

topics of climate change, coordination of different types of agriculture, improvement of trade flows, food security and the strengthening of health controls. He added that he looked forward to listening to the presentations of the two candidates for Director General for the 2018-2022 period, and expressed his support for the candidate from Argentina, Dr. Manuel Otero, highlighting his long history with the Institute.

- 1.3.5 The Observer Representative of Brazil congratulated the Institute on its 75 years of work for the benefit of agriculture, combating poverty and driving rural development in the Americas. He highlighted the Director General's leadership in working with his country on agricultural health, food safety, rural development and food security projects. He mentioned that the resources that Brazil had contributed to IICA represented an investment in agricultural development. Lastly, he extended his best wishes to the Director General and encouraged him to continue sharing his knowledge for the benefit of agricultural development.
- 1.3.6 The Representative of Paraguay thanked the Director General for his support in topics related to sectoral policies on trade and biotechnology, which had enabled his country of 6 million inhabitants to produce enough food to feed 100 million people. He congratulated the Director General on his report and wished him great success in his future endeavors.
- 1.3.7 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda congratulated IICA on its 75th anniversary as well as the Director General for the report presented. He recognized IICA's leadership in matters related to training, technical cooperation and facilitation of cooperation among countries.
- 1.4 *Presentation of the Report on Resolution No. 615 of the Executive Committee "Progress Made in Drafting Proposals for the Financial Strengthening and Strategic Restructuring of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)"*
- 1.4.1 The Director General explained that the internal adjustments made by the Institute and its efforts geared toward securing additional external resources had not prevented the continuous deterioration of its financial situation, which could impact the quality of cooperation services provided by IICA and could even lead to its disappearance. For this reason, at its Eighteenth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) approved

Resolution No. 501, “Institutional Process for the Formulation and Presentation of Proposals for the Financial Strengthening and Strategic Restructuring of the Institute.”

1.4.2 He added that, in compliance with this mandate, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution No. 615 at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting, in which it requested that the Director General of IICA conduct a comprehensive study of the model established between the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO). This report could serve as the basis for a proposed partnership between IICA and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), describing potential benefits, opportunities, advantages and disadvantages. He announced that, in compliance with this resolution, a study was prepared and presented to the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), which included the following main conclusions:

- It is feasible to align the cooperation agendas of IICA and FAO, given their similarities and complementarities, such as the following: a) both institutions address topics related to agriculture and food, b) their mandates are similar, and c) both organizations have a need to reduce their operational costs.
- It is viable to establish a partnership model between IICA and FAO that is similar to the successful WHO-PAHO model, without affecting the IABA’s relevance or IICA’s inter-American nature or autonomy in managing the hemispheric cooperation agenda.
- This partnership would be useful for both organizations and especially for the countries that they serve, by facilitating the development and implementation of a hemispheric cooperation agenda aligned with the global agenda.
- It is relatively simple to develop a single structure that includes all countries in the Americas and generates savings with respect to operating costs.
- The regular meetings of the IABA and the FAO Regional Conference take place every two years, a few months apart, and are generally held at the ministerial level. Consequently, an agreement establishing the IABA as the FAO Regional Conference would not only provide a larger space and greater consistency for strategic multilateral discussions in the region, but would also save resources that could be used for technical cooperation.

- It is viable to integrate Canada, the United States and Cuba into a single hemispheric structure by means of the resolutions of the IABA and the FAO Regional Conference, following the same reasoning that has enabled these countries to participate in PAHO.
- There is a crucial difference in the leadership of these cooperation efforts: whereas the Director General of IICA is elected by affirmative vote of the Member States for a maximum period of eight years, the Representative of the FAO Regional Office is appointed, and can be removed by the Director General of FAO. This difference could be resolved by including a provision in the Basic Agreement between IICA and FAO requiring that the Director General of FAO appoint the Director General of IICA as Director of the Regional Office.
- It is feasible to gradually adopt the WHO/PAHO model, trying to apply lessons learned in order to ensure a gradual transition toward joint and coordinated technical cooperation activities, as a first step in this partnership.
- Regarding the formal steps required to establish this partnership, the Director General mentioned the need for a negotiation process geared toward drafting a basic agreement, approved by both the FAO Conference and the IABA, so that no amendment of the constituent instruments of either organization would be required.
- It is recommended that the next regular meeting of the IABA be used to advance the political process toward the possible establishment of the WHO/PAHO model for the IICA/FAO partnership, by means of a resolution declaring the implementation of said model as an “objective” and calling on Member States to adopt a similar resolution at the next meeting of the FAO Regional Conference.

1.4.3 The Director General pointed out that strong political will on the part of the countries would be necessary in order to establish this partnership. He recommended exploring the possibility of countries instructing both Directors General to further strengthen the relationship between IICA and FAO through this new agreement, in order to begin this process. He reported that a new draft resolution on this topic had been prepared, and instructed the Technical Secretary to present it.

1.4.4 The Technical Secretary provided a detailed explanation of the draft resolution.

1.5 Analysis and comments

- 1.5.1 The Observer Representative of Canada commented that, at one point, at least six options for IICA's financial strengthening and strategic restructuring were presented, one of which was the possibility of applying the WHO/PAHO cooperation model to the relationship between IICA and FAO. He asked whether any of the other options were being considered. He stated that he agreed in principle with fostering a strengthened alliance between IICA and FAO that could lead to greater effectiveness and efficiency; however, he wished to know to what extent both organizations would change as a result of this partnership. He anticipated that Canada would not be in a position to endorse an initiative that could imply an increase in contributions to these organizations. He requested further information on the potential risks and benefits of this partnership, mentioning, as an example, possible savings through a merger of national offices. He ended his remarks by stating that his country would be willing to consider a draft resolution that took into account these concerns.
- 1.5.2 The Representative of the United States of America agreed with the Observer Representative of Canada on the need for more information regarding all of the other options that were considered for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute, including the partnership with FAO. She requested that the Director General provide more information on the agreement signed between FAO and IICA in order to better understand the opportunities afforded by the proposed partnership.
- 1.5.3 The Representative of Mexico commented that the possibility of establishing a partnership between IICA and FAO had been under review since 2009, with a view to eliminating duplication and bolstering the technical cooperation that countries received. She considered that current conditions were highly favorable to establishing the proposed partnership, given that a good core document had been prepared. She recommended continuing to work on this document and delving deeper into the topic of governance.
- 1.5.4 She felt that the proposal should be presented by the countries themselves to the FAO Conference or be channeled through the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries in the United Nations (GRULAC), to give it greater force. She believed that the greatest degree of political will on the part of both organizations was necessary and that, contrary to what was stated during

the presentation, she deemed it necessary to modify the constituent documents of both institutions. Lastly, she acknowledged the efforts undertaken by the Director General to comply with the mandate to improve the relationship between IICA and FAO, including the processes it had conducted with FAO authorities.

- 1.5.5 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda expressed his interest in learning more about the other options for IICA's institutional strengthening, as well as his concern regarding the repercussions that a possible partnership between IICA and FAO could have on technical cooperation. He also expressed his interest in learning about the savings that this partnership could generate, and requested information on the meetings that had been held with FAO regarding this topic as well as their results.
- 1.5.6 The Director General commented that the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) had proposed, for several years, that IICA and FAO coordinate their actions and conduct joint activities. He mentioned that current conditions were highly favorable to identifying areas of joint work between both institutions. He added that it was still necessary to define certain details with greater precision in order to implement the proposal; as a result, both institutions would need to take part in a coordinated process geared toward developing a shared agenda. He pointed out that the WHO/PAHO model was an important benchmark that was worth considering, given that it had functioned successfully for over 70 years.
- 1.5.7 He commented that additional options for strengthening IICA had been analyzed, but that the proposal presented was considered to be the most viable option. He then summarized the other options: a) increasing quota contributions by the Member States, which would be difficult for countries to adopt, since it would imply a substantial increase in this type of contribution; b) driving the search for externally funded projects, which would generate a high level of dependency on these resources, which could not be used with a great deal of flexibility to, among other things, cover operational costs or staff salaries in the IICA Delegations; c) increasing indirect cost recovery (ICR), but this would not increase financial resources, given that ICR funds are used exclusively to cover indirect costs generated from the administration of externally funded projects, which allows for absorbing the implementation costs of projects themselves; d) fostering

greater participation of the private sector through the sale of services, which went beyond the Institute's current mandate, and would need to be discussed within the IABA; and e) reducing the IICA Delegations in Member States, but this would affect staff presence in each of those countries, which was one of the Institute's greatest strengths.

- 1.5.8 He added that the proposed IICA/FAO cooperation model was a “win-win” alternative that included mechanisms for complementing capacities and resources. He also stated that this option would not imply a reduction of institutional capabilities, but rather an increase in financial and human resources; as a result, the Institute would avoid reducing its presence in the countries. He stated that complementarities between IICA and FAO were a lot stronger at present, and outlined the areas of expertise of both institutions.
- 1.5.9 He explained that the long-term objective was for the Institute to carry out the duties of FAO's Regional Office; the medium and short-term objectives, on the other hand, were for IICA to maintain its current conditions and to gradually begin assuming the execution of FAO's agenda in the continent through a synergetic approach. He added that any other options for institutional strengthening proposed by the Member States could also be considered. He stated that the main benefit of the proposed partnership would be achieving an improved and more efficient presence of both institutions in the hemisphere; the main risk, on the other hand, would be the inability to maintain the status quo, which could be exacerbated by the Institute's deteriorating budgetary situation.
- 1.5.10 The Director General reported that the signing of a new agreement between IICA and FAO was currently underway, and that the agreement incorporated conditions that would benefit collaborative and coordinated work. He deemed it unnecessary to adjust the constituent documents of both organizations. He also highlighted the fact that strong political will on the part of IICA Member States and FAO authorities would be necessary in order to achieve progress in linking both institutions.
- 1.5.11 The Legal Adviser indicated that an analysis of the constituent documents of the WHO/PAHO model had been carried out and allowed for concluding that neither institution would need to adjust its convention. He added that neither institution would need to review its constituent documents in order to implement the IICA/FAO partnership, although it was possible that the FAO

Conference would need to change its rules and that FAO would need to modify the members of its regional conferences by means of resolutions, given that Canada and the United States of America formed part of its European conference. On the other hand, he commented that IICA would retain its own governance, quota system and procedures for electing its Director General, similar to PAHO. He added that certain specific conditions could be negotiated when implementing the model. Lastly, he agreed that in order to establish the IICA/FAO partnership, political will and support from the member countries of the IABA and the FAO Regional Conference would be necessary.

- 1.5.12 The Representative of Panama expressed his concern that IICA could be absorbed by FAO with respect to its governance; therefore, he recommended guaranteeing operational equity between both institutions should the partnership be established. Furthermore, he requested that the new partnership strive to maintain the pragmatism that characterized IICA's concrete actions for the benefit of its Member States.
- 1.5.13 The Observer Representative of Brazil agreed with the comments made by the Representative of Panama. He highlighted the importance of IICA preserving its institutional identity and avoiding becoming absorbed by FAO, to which end the effectiveness of its actions would be more important than its size.
- 1.5.14 The Representative of Colombia considered that a partnership with FAO must not weaken but rather strengthen the Institute. He stated that he would take advantage of the opportunity to share a message from the Minister of Agriculture of his country with respect to the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Colombia, which required international cooperation. He acknowledged the fact that controlling the outbreak would be a major undertaking, but that IICA specialists and the Ministry of Agriculture were preparing a joint intervention in order to stop further spread of the disease and eliminate it. He reiterated his country's commitment to IICA, which it viewed as a valued partner, especially due to the support it had provided throughout the post-conflict period in driving rural development. He announced that a meeting would be held the following Friday at the Pan-American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA) to discuss the spread of this disease.

- 1.5.15 The Chair proposed creating a work group responsible for reviewing, in greater detail, the proposal on the IICA/FAO partnership, in order to improve its presentation as well as options for its implementation.
- 1.6 *Report on Resolution No. 502 of the IABA, "Working group to improve the capabilities of the countries of the Americas for sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessment"*
- 1.6.1 The leader of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) of IICA reported that, in compliance with Resolution No. 502 of the IABA, a virtual forum was held with the participation of representatives of the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Plant Health Committee of the Southern Cone (COSAVE), the Standing Veterinary Committee of the Southern Cone (CVP), the International Regional Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA), the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO), IICA, the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC), the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the Secretariat of the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization (SPS/WTO). Participants from Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico, the United States of America and Uruguay were also in attendance.
- 1.6.2 He explained that the forum had been carried out in two sessions. During the first session, held on December 12, 2016, participants established a baseline for the status of risk assessments in the Americas. During the second session, held on May 31, 2017, participating international organizations shared various resources for improving risk assessment capabilities, which were developed for the benefit of countries in the region and had proven very useful in fostering coordination and avoiding the duplication of work.
- 1.6.3 He then stated that risk assessment based on science and international standards was critical to decision making on plant and animal health, as well as to facilitating safe trade in agricultural products. He added that the support of regional and international organizations was very important in order to improve the performance of risk assessments conducted by national authorities.

1.6.4 Lastly, he enumerated the actions that IICA had been conducting in order to strengthen risk assessment capabilities across the American continent through externally funded projects as well as the flagship projects “Competitiveness and sustainability of agricultural chains for food security and economic development” and “Resilience and integrated risk management in agriculture.”

1.7 *Analysis and comments*

1.7.1 The Representative of Panama expressed his country’s concern regarding the recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Colombia, referencing the fact that, in 1972, his country signed a cooperation agreement with the United States of America to prevent the spread of this disease in Panama. He urged countries to provide his country with financial support in order to strengthen its prevention efforts, which would in turn allow for protecting the animal biodiversity of many other countries to the north of Panama and in the Caribbean. He requested that a draft resolution on this topic be prepared, and offered to assist in preparing the document.

1.7.2 The Technical Secretary offered his support in preparing the draft resolution. He recommended that the Representative of Panama meet with Institute specialists to define the scope of the proposal and that other representatives of the Executive Committee also take part in this task. He explained that the draft resolution would be shared with the Representative of Panama once it was ready, and would subsequently be presented to the Plenary.

1.7.3 The Observer Representative of Canada acknowledged the value of capacity-building in the AHFS area. He reported that this year, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of his country had provided financial resources to combat animal diseases.

1.7.4 The Representative of Argentina mentioned that the Minister of Agriculture of his country met recently with the Deputy Minister of Colombia to exchange information on foot-and-mouth disease. He considered that Colombia should participate in preparing the draft resolution.

1.7.5 The Representative of Ecuador supported the proposal made by the Representative of Panama, which was also of interest to his country. He added that Ecuador had implemented a vaccination initiative in order to

control foot-and-mouth disease, and highlighted the country's considerable investments aimed at remaining free from the disease. He also offered to form part of the group responsible for preparing the draft resolution.

- 1.7.6 The Representative of Colombia clarified that the outbreaks had occurred in only a few areas of his country and that prevention protocols had been activated. He reported that, with support from the OIE and other institutions, the Ministry of Agriculture had been implementing control measures such as the slaughter of infected animals. He added that his country was open to clarifying any questions and offering technical cooperation.
- 1.7.7 The Representative of Dominica expressed his interest in what was stated by the Representative of Panama, and underscored the importance of addressing this situation. As a veterinarian and the person responsible for this topic in CARICOM, he offered his support in preparing the draft resolution.
- 1.7.8 The Chair proposed creating a work group responsible for preparing the requested draft resolution, under the guidance of the AHFS leader at IICA. The members of the group would be Argentina, Colombia, Dominica, Ecuador, Panama and the United States of America.
- 1.8 *Close of the session*
- 1.8.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 12:09 hours on July 18, 2017.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the session

2.1.1 The second plenary session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 14:15 hours on July 18, 2017. It was chaired by the Representative of the United States of America.

2.2 Relations between IICA and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)

2.2.1 CATIE Report for the 2015-2016 biennium

2.2.1.1 Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Director General of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), gave the CATIE report for the 2015-2016 biennium. He explained that his administration had been focusing on four areas: education, research and development, outreach and finances.

2.2.1.2 He first discussed the main achievements in higher education, including the accreditation granted by Costa Rica's System for Higher Education (SINAES) for a doctoral degree and four international academic master's degrees, curriculum improvement for master's degrees in the Graduate School (with support from IICA) and capacity building through the Field Schools (ECA). He added that CATIE had become consolidated as a platform for scientific research. He commented on the development of rust-resistant coffee hybrids, along with highly productive and resistant cacao clones which had been transferred to countries and producers. CATIE also promoted the application of sustainable livestock production models that emitted low levels of greenhouse gases.

2.2.1.3 Outreach work included the building of new partnerships for CATIE, especially with the Korea-Latin America Food and Agriculture Cooperation Initiative (KoLFACI) for a new cacao breeding project, and with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Regional Climate Change Program. He stressed that CATIE had made major

achievements in its finances, including a net surplus of nearly USD 39,000 and reduction of administrative costs.

- 2.2.1.4 The Director General of CATIE then thanked IICA for its support and assistance and noted that the two institutions shared a joint cooperation agenda on a number of issues such as research (projects and new proposals), graduate-level training and strengthening their offices in the member countries. He commented that the two organizations were working together to implement the Regional Program for Integrated Coffee Rust Management (PROCAGICA) and to coordinate management of a new joint project with the Mexican Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) and the Mexican National Commission for Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (CONABIO), funded with grant money from Germany. He noted that IICA had also cooperated with CATIE in such areas as academic reorganization, training courses, joint events and support for the drafting of proposals.
- 2.2.1.5 The Director General of CATIE completed his presentation with a discussion of areas targeted for future action by the center, emphasizing institutional modernization, consolidation of the Office of Strategic Alliances, development of a resource management plan and shaping a new working agenda with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and, with IICA support, strengthening the business model of the graduate school and the role of the offices in the countries.
- 2.2.2 Presentation of the Report on Resolution No. 500 of the IABA, “Extension of the contract signed between the Government of Costa Rica and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”
- 2.2.2.1 The IICA Secretary of Corporate Services introduced the report on the results of the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action for 2016-2018 (second semester of 2016 and first semester of 2017), pursuant to the terms of the IICA-CATIE Bilateral Agreement and Resolution No. 500 of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). He discussed the program's main achievements in the area of technical cooperation through projects and actions involving coffee, livestock production, research, agricultural development, food security and adapting to climate change and mitigating its effects. He pointed out that most of the progress in the field of capacity building had been accomplished

through face-to-face academic education, distance education, continuing education, and upgrading the Orton Memorial Library and the Henry Wallace Legacy Scholars (HWLS) program.

- 2.2.2.2 The next area, corporate management, had included the signing of a tripartite agreement by IICA, CATIE and the Costa Rican Social Security Administration (CCSS) and the signing of letters of understanding to modernize the Orton Memorial Library, and set up joint cooperation on corporate and technical issues in the IICA Delegation in Bolivia. He noted that IICA had contributed USD 6.8 million to CATIE since 2010, a clear reflection of the Institute's continued commitment to the work CATIE was doing. He explained that a process was currently underway to formalize a letter of understanding for IICA-CATIE joint activities in Mexico and El Salvador, that work was about to begin on a joint analysis of the CATIE Financial Rules, and that suggestions had been made for establishing a working group to develop a strategic proposal to update and improve the regulatory framework of Law 8028 “Comprehensive Reform of the Government of Costa Rica / IICA Contract on the Creation of CATIE,” of the Republic of Costa Rica.

2.3 *Report by the Representative of the IABA to the CATIE Council for the 2015-2017 period*

- 2.3.1 The Technical Secretary informed the Committee that Chile had been serving as the IABA representative on the CATIE governing bodies for the 2015-2017 term, and that one of the responsibilities of this position was to deliver a report on their actions. He noted that the report had been included in the documentation sent in advance to all the Member States sitting on the Executive Committee. He added that the representative for the 2018-2020 term would be Ecuador.
- 2.3.2 The Chair commended the Director General of CATIE for his report and for the progress made, and extended his recognition to both institutions for having reinvigorated their relations.

2.4 *Analysis and comments*

- 2.4.1 The Observer Representative of Canada expressed appreciation to the two speakers and stressed her country's support for academic research. She

clarified that while Canada was not a member of CATIE, it understood how important CATIE's relationship with IICA was, as well as the efforts made by the new administration of CATIE to improve conditions and the transparency of financial management. With respect to the extension of the contract between IICA and CATIE, she felt that it would be advisable to perform an in-depth analysis of its financial implications for the Institute and the benefits that could be drawn from such a contract.

- 2.4.2 The Director General of IICA acknowledged the work that both institutions had carried out since the current Director General of CATIE had taken office. He underscored the coordinated work that the two organizations had been doing and CATIE's standing as a good partner of IICA and of other institutions. He also praised the Director General of CATIE for his excellent work, and most particularly for his transparency in financial management and his achievements in redirecting CATIE's activities.
- 2.4.3 The Representative of Dominica asked CATIE to continue supporting coffee production, cacao production and the husbandry of small ruminants, as all three areas were of great interest to his country.
- 2.4.4 The Representative of the United States of America asked for further explanation about the membership and tasks of the IICA/CATIE *ad hoc* working group.
- 2.4.5 The Deputy Director General of the Institute explained that the inter-institutional *ad hoc* working group set up by CATIE and IICA was following up on strategies intended to improve technical cooperation; it was made up of an equal number of representatives from each organization. The group reported to the CATIE governing bodies with respect to its work plans. He added that the group's performance had improved significantly over the past few years.
- 2.5 *Relations between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)*
- 2.5.1 CARDI Report for the 2015-2016 biennium
- 2.5.1.1 The Representative of CARDI explained that IICA and CARDI had signed an agreement that would help them consolidate their relationship and joint

work to promote agricultural research and development in the Caribbean. He underscored some of the challenges facing both institutions in this region: improving productivity and competitiveness, enhancing food and nutrition security, improving the management of natural resources and production capacity, understanding the implications of climate change, managing the increase in natural disasters, lessening dependence on imported food and building up the capacity of small farmers to supply and compete in domestic and external markets.

2.5.1.2 He discussed the cooperation agreement for 2015-2017, emphasizing three areas of action: (a) direct technical cooperation to facilitate the use of innovative technologies and systems, (b) building CARDI's internal institutional capacity and (c) mobilization of resources through joint projects intended to secure additional funding.

2.5.1.3 He pointed out that the current plan of action called for institutional improvement and for coordinating activities between IICA and CARDI. He added that eight projects on a variety of topics had been conducted in selected countries, including production of first generation seed of yellow hot pepper, development of elite seed lines of Trinidad pimento, implementing a community training program on climate change, training in the use of information and communication technologies for members of the small ruminant industry and institutional strengthening in the form of project management training.

2.5.1.4 The Representative of CARDI recognized that the center had received excellent support from IICA to promote the use of climate change technologies (such as hydroponics), the use of communication technologies and developing a regional learning platform. He reported that IICA, CARDI and the International Potato Center (CIP) had signed a letter of intent to pursue more extensive technical and scientific cooperation among the three organizations and to develop future initiatives on germplasm management, genetic improvement, production technologies and strengthening value chains for roots and tubers.

2.5.2 Report of joint collaboration activities between IICA and CARDI

2.5.2.1 The Director General of IICA informed the Committee that he had visited the CIP together with Dr. Barton Clarke. They had met with Barbara Wells,

Director General of the CIP, to sign an agreement granting Caribbean countries access to bio-fortified germplasm of sweet potato and other roots and tubers, which they could then offer to producers to be propagated; this was considered highly beneficial, as these crops are very important in the Caribbean.

- 2.5.2.2 The Representative of CARDI submitted the report on activities and cooperation between CARDI and IICA, and the Director of Technical Cooperation added to the report by highlighting the importance of CARDI's work to promote innovation in agriculture within the Caribbean region. He felt that CARDI could play a more decisive role in the process of promoting agricultural innovation, and therefore the joint working plan called for an external evaluation of CARDI that would identify opportunities to build up its capacity.

2.6 Analysis and comments

- 2.6.1 The Representative of Saint Lucia thanked the Director General of CATIE and the Representative of CARDI for their two reports. He recalled a proposal made nine years earlier to eliminate the subsidy that IICA paid to CARDI, and expressed his appreciation that this had not happened; he also voiced his hope that the next IICA administration would continue to support CARDI.
- 2.6.2 The Representative of Antigua and Barbuda also thanked CATIE and CARDI for their reports and agreed with the Representative of Saint Lucia that it was important to continue fostering research and development in the Caribbean. He drew attention to the excellent work CARDI had been doing to promote sweet potato production.
- 2.6.3 The Representative of Mexico thanked CATIE and CARDI for all the contributions they had made to research. She highlighted the support that CATIE had given to agriculture in Mexico, particularly under the new administration. She then reiterated her country's support for the Directors General of the two institutions.
- 2.6.4 The Deputy Director General of IICA responded to two important points raised by the Representative of Dominica: cacao production and Codex Alimentarius. He emphasized CATIE's experience with cacao germplasm,

the joint work the countries had been doing in the framework of the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean and the achievements made in developing science-based standards.

2.7 Activities of the General Directorate and the governing bodies of IICA

2.7.1 2016 Annual Report of IICA

2.7.1.1 The Technical Secretary explained that the report had been made available to the members of the Executive Committee via the on-line information system. He commented that the Director General of IICA had presented it to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on April 19, 2017.

2.7.1.2 He invited the representatives to share their comments or questions on the content of the report.

2.7.2 Report of the 2017 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)

2.7.2.1 The Technical Secretary indicated that the report had been sent to the Member States of the SACMI on June 8, 2017, and had been made available to the members of the Executive Committee via the on-line information system. He invited the representatives to share their comments or questions on the content of the report.

2.7.3 Rotation of the Member States on the Executive Committee for the 2019-2033 period

2.7.3.1 The Technical Secretary noted that the table on revolving membership of Member States on the Executive Committee for 2019 to 2033 had been made available to the members of the Executive Committee via the on-line information system. He invited the representatives to share their comments or questions on the content of the table, which would be submitted for review and approval at the upcoming meeting of the IABA.

2.7.4 Status of the resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

2.7.4.1 The Technical Secretary invited the representatives to share their questions or comments on the reports on the status of resolutions from the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, which had been sent in advance via the Committee's on-line information system.

2.7.4.2 He then spoke specifically about Executive Committee Resolution No. 506 on the bylaws of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA); Executive Committee Resolution No. 572 on IICA cooperation with the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), and Executive Committee Resolution No. 606 concerning the CATIE report. He explained that the first two resolutions charged both organizations with submitting annual reports, while the third required CATIE to submit annual financial reports to the Executive Committee and the IABA. In all three cases, the relevant information had been posted in advance to the Executive Committee's on-line information system.

2.8 Close of the session

2.8.1 The second plenary session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the IICA Executive Committee ended at 17:25 hours on July 18, 2017.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 Opening of the session

3.1.1 The third plenary session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 08:56 hours on July 19, 2017. It was chaired by the Representative of the United States of America.

3.2 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

3.2.1 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: “2014-2017 Management Report;” “Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for 2015-2016;” “2016 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA);” “Report of the 2017 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI);” “Rotation of Member States on the Executive Committee for the period 2019-2033” and “Status of the Resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.” The Chair submitted each of these draft resolutions to a vote, and they were approved as read.

3.2.2 The Rapporteur read out draft resolution “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2015-2016.”

3.2.3 The Representative of Argentina proposed an additional phrase at the close of the first operative paragraph, to read as follows: “...and outstanding management.” The Chair declared the draft resolution “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2015-2016” approved as amended with the modification proposed by the Representative of Argentina.

3.2.4 The Director General offered a modification to draft resolution “IICA/FAO Strategic Partnership based on the WHO/PAHO Model, for the Structural and Financial Strengthening of the Multinational Cooperation provided by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA),” taking into account the concerns raised and the need to perform a more in-depth

analysis of the draft resolution and the supporting document. He suggested that the members of the Executive Committee be given one month to submit their comments, thoughts and suggested wording for the draft resolution, to be used by the Technical Secretariat in developing a new version and sending it back to them; the Executive Committee could then hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss this new version of the draft resolution the day before the upcoming meeting of the IABA.

- 3.2.5 The Representatives of the United States of America, Antigua and Barbuda, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Ecuador and Costa Rica and the Observer Representative of Canada expressed their support for the Director General's suggestion.
- 3.2.6 The Representative of Saint Lucia agreed with the Director General's proposal, noting that this issue had been under consideration for quite some time. He reminded participants that a new Director General would be elected during the upcoming meeting of the IABA, and therefore it would be advisable to consider the opinions of the candidates on this subject.
- 3.2.7 The Representative of Nicaragua proposed that IICA send the draft resolution to all the Member States so they could express their views in writing over the following 30 days.
- 3.2.8 The Director General explained that, if the discussion on the draft resolution were expanded to include the other member countries as well, many uncertainties would arise because the other countries had not been involved in the discussion at this meeting, and this would further delay the process. He asked that the suggestion be reconsidered and the draft resolution sent only to the member countries on the Executive Committee. He clarified that this would not limit other Member States from being able to express opinions on the draft resolution during the proposed time period.
- 3.2.9 The Representative of Argentina said that because this draft resolution was the responsibility of the Executive Committee, it should be discussed by that body, as planned, during the extraordinary meeting of the Committee to take place one day prior to the upcoming meeting of the IABA.
- 3.2.10 The Representative of Nicaragua explained that his intention had not been to further delay the process, and that he had no problem with the draft resolution

being reviewed only by the members of the current Executive Committee; he therefore expressed his support for the Director General's proposal.

- 3.2.11 The Director General noted that it was important to enter the IABA meeting with a consensus-based draft resolution from the Executive Committee, and added that he had personally discussed the matter with several ministers and would continue to do so at every opportunity, so they would clearly understand the scope and advantages of the proposal.
- 3.2.12 The Chair agreed with the Representative of Saint Lucia that the item addressed by the draft resolution had been on the agenda for a very long time, and that a decision by the IABA was unquestionably needed. He felt that obtaining such a decision was an important challenge for the future Director General of IICA. He then held a vote on the Director General's proposal, which carried unanimously.
- 3.2.13 The Representative of Panama thanked the working group that had assisted in drafting the resolution "Support for a Coordinated Response to Outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Americas" and asked the group to meet together so he could propose a change to the text.
- 3.2.14 The Representative of Colombia reported that he was awaiting instructions from his minister concerning the draft resolution whose approval Panama was requesting.

3.3 *The future of IICA's technical cooperation*

- 3.3.1 The Director of Technical Cooperation described the results-based technical cooperation model currently in use by IICA. He explained that the Institute's cooperation activities produced outcomes in support of IICA's contributions, which in turn led to the transformations desired in the Member States and proposed by their governments. He stressed that IICA's technical cooperation was programmed as a function of these transformations and the contributions that the member countries requested from the Institute, and for this purpose IICA made strategic investments by means of the four interlocking technical cooperation instruments set out in IICA's 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan (MTP): flagship projects, rapid response actions, pre-investment initiatives and mobilization of external resources.

- 3.3.2 He added that the Institute's technical cooperation actions were organized into five strategic themes: (a) competitiveness and sustainability of agricultural chains, (b) inclusion in agriculture and rural territories, (c) resilience and integrated risk management in agriculture, (d) productivity and sustainability of family farming and (e) agricultural health and food safety. He reported on the 2016 achievements made under initiatives addressing these themes and commented on the need to progress toward an IICA that not only produced results, but was also able to respond to the challenges of the future.
- 3.3.3 He went on to describe the main features of the future scenario in terms of their relevance for agriculture in the Americas: people, food, land, water, climate and productivity. Finally, he listed four relevant issues that IICA should bear in mind for providing technical cooperation in the future: (a) the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, as a basis for setting the course of technical cooperation; (b) the need to coordinate actions for obtaining regional public goods that are useful in solving shared problems; (c) technological and institutional innovation, and (d) a comprehensive vision of agriculture and IICA's technical cooperation, to be drawn from the institution's experiences and strengths.
- 3.4 *Analysis and comments*
- 3.4.1 The Representative of Brazil emphasized the importance of various issues listed by the Director of Technical Cooperation for the countries, such as people, water, climate, productivity and South-South cooperation. He cited Brazil's *Semear* Program as an example, noting that it had provided water to 130,000 farmers in the country's semi-arid region by collecting rainwater. The program was slated to provide water to around 6,000 schools by the end of 2017.
- 3.4.2 The Representative of Argentina stressed IICA's actions in his country to prevent huanglongbing (HLB) disease and to develop organic farming, as well as the Institute's involvement in the Specialized Meeting on Family Farming (REAF). He underscored the need to lay scientific groundwork for reconciling productive interests with environmental sustainability. He closed by specifically mentioning several of the items covered in the presentation by the Director of Technical Cooperation, whom he commended for his report.

- 3.4.3 The Representative of Mexico also praised the Director of Technical Cooperation for having addressed the major challenges facing agriculture in his report, as this would make it easier to identify high-priority, strategic technical cooperation projects. She cited an example from her own country, which she said was working on projects with young entrepreneurs to bolster their skills in the use of new technologies as a way to discourage them from moving away.
- 3.4.4 The Representative of Costa Rica expressed her appreciation for the report and commended IICA for its technical team and for the way it had applied a results-based management and technical cooperation model. She pointed out that the Institute's support helped the countries to direct their actions and resources more effectively.
- 3.4.5 The Observer Representative of Canada agreed with the report's view that the Institute should focus its actions on achieving results and that its technical cooperation model should take account of national development plans. She asked whether a gap had been detected regarding strategies or policies that were worth considering to strengthen the Institute's technical cooperation. She also wished to know whether results were available on the impact of IICA actions on women and girls, an issue that merited attention in the future.
- 3.4.6 The Representative of Paraguay addressed the issue of changes in land use by sharing information on his country's forest management work. He explained that under a 2005 law, Paraguay had banned deforestation in the Eastern region; the law allowed for changes in land use in areas planted as forest in the Chaco region, although owners were required to keep 25% of the land as a forest reserve and to protect biological corridors and watersheds, which meant that around 40% of the land should be under forest cover.
- 3.4.7 The Representative of Ecuador commended IICA for its work in support of its member countries and the Director of Technical Cooperation for his report. He felt that South-South cooperation strengthened IICA's presence in the region and made it more meaningful. He added that his country was about to launch an initiative known as the "Great National Agricultural *Minga*," or collective community undertaking, whose focal points were very closely associated with the same themes covered in the presentation.

- 3.4.8 The Director of Technical Cooperation agreed with the representatives' comments. He pointed out that the lessons learned in a number of projects (as in Northeastern Brazil) were applicable to other regions. He then responded to the question as to whether the IICA technical cooperation model was subject to improvement or change, expressing his view that the Institute should prepare for the challenges of the future, and improvement of the model should therefore be an ongoing exercise. When the current MTP had been written, for example, the Sustainable Development Goals had not yet taken root, but today they were strong, and therefore the next MTP should take them into account. He believed that the institution should be better prepared to take on long-standing challenges and should address them in the writing of the new MTP. He further felt that, from a conceptual standpoint, the IICA technical cooperation model was appropriate and effective and therefore he did not see the need for substantial change, although a good strategy for financing it was essential.
- 3.5 *Presentation of candidates to the post of Director General for the 2018-2022 period and presentation of their work plans*
- 3.5.1 The candidates were asked to give their presentations in alphabetical order by the names of their home countries, and the Chair first invited Manuel Otero, nominated by the Government of Argentina, to present his proposal for leading IICA in the 2018-2022 term. After he finished, he took comments from the United States of America, Mexico, Brazil, Paraguay, Canada and Saint Lucia.
- 3.5.2 The Chair then invited Carlos Furche, nominated by the Government of Chile, to present his proposal for leading IICA during the 2018-2022 term. After he finished, he took comments from the United States of America and Canada.
- 3.6 *Close of the session*
- 3.6.1 The third plenary session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee ended at 13:10 hours on July 19, 2017.

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION

4.1 Opening of the session

4.1.1 The fourth plenary session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 14:30 hours on July 19, 2017. It was chaired by the Representative of the United States of America.

4.2 Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation of IICA

4.2.1 2018-2019 Program Budget

4.2.1.1 The Director of the Programming, Budgeting and Control Division explained that the overall budget, aligned with the Institute's strategic planning as contained in the 2010-2020 Strategic Plan and the 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan (MTP), was oriented toward projects that would contribute more efficiently to meeting the needs of agriculture in the Member States, and for this reason, it took into account the Institute's strategic objectives and the contributions outlined in the MTP. She noted that the 2018-2019 Program Budget was being submitted for approval of funding sources for the Regular Fund (quota payments and miscellaneous income) for the years 2018 and 2019, as well as a detailed expense budget proposed for 2018.

4.2.1.2 She went on to explain that the Member State quotas had been based on the scale approved by the Organization of American States (OAS) and that the Miscellaneous Income Fund was depleted, so that the Regular Fund was down by USD 800,000 per year. She commented that the 2018 expense budget could require adjustments in order to facilitate immediate implementation of the 2018-2022 MTP, and that approval of the 2019 expense budget would need to be contingent on the guidelines given in that MTP.

4.2.1.3 She reminded the representatives that the Institute funded its technical cooperation activities and operations with resources from the Regular Fund, which consisted of Member State quota payments and miscellaneous income. The Regular Fund income budget would be USD 33,561,400 for each year of the 2018-2019 biennium, of which USD 30,061,400 would come from

Member State quotas including overquotas, and USD 3,500,000, from miscellaneous income.

4.2.1.4 Resource allocations were shown in detail for the 2018 expense budget, but only a general estimate had been given for 2019, leaving the new administration with enough flexibility to propose allocations for that year. She closed by noting that the 2018-2019 Program Budget would be implemented in tandem with the Institute's strategic institutional model, addressing financial restrictions with a responsible balance of quality, effectiveness, rationality, equity, transparency and accountability.

4.2.2 Report on the collection of quotas

4.2.2.1 The Director of the Financial Management Division stated that transparency in the use of resources had always been one of the hallmarks of institutional management. She further explained that the SAP financial information system was up and running in all the Institute delegations, where it was strengthening the planning, control and financial management processes.

4.2.2.2 She remarked that IICA had published a number of strategic documents for management and modernization, including the Code of Ethics, Gender Policy, Policy on the Prevention and Resolution of Sexual Harassment, and Anti-fraud Policy, among others. The Financial Rules had also been updated and approved by the Executive Committee at its 2016 meeting, and progress had been made in implementing the human resources system and database known as SAPIENS.

4.2.2.3 She then introduced the report on quota collection. She clarified that Member State quota payments were the main source of income for the Regular Fund, allowing the Institute to pursue its cooperation programs in each country to meet the needs and requests of the agricultural sector and promote sustainable, competitive agriculture in the Americas. She added that the Member States, by means of Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) Resolution No. 493, "2016-2017 Program Budget," had approved the biennial budget with USD 30,064,900 per year in quota funding, which included the first quota budget increase since 1995; this increase would make it possible to recover the loss of resources from the Miscellaneous Income Fund, along with the USD 873,800 from the over-quota contributions agreed by the countries.

- 4.2.2.4 She reported that USD 24.2 million in quotas had been collected for the year ending 31 December 2016, or 80.41% of the annual quota budget, and that USD 13.1 million was still owed at the close of 2016. Fully 67.5% of the quota budget for the current year had been received by July 2017, for a total of USD 20.3 million. Nine countries were up to date as of July, she noted, while 18 were in regular status (owing two years or less of quotas) and seven were past due (owing over two years of quotas).
- 4.2.2.5 She drew the Committee’s attention to IABA resolution No. 414, which stated that current-year quotas were considered to be past due if they were not paid by June 30 of that year, which was considered a reasonable date for paying annual quotas owed since January 1 of each year. She closed by asking the Member States for their support in paying their quota obligations, as this was essential for IICA to carry out its plan of action successfully.
- 4.2.3 2016 financial statements of IICA and report of the external auditors
- 4.2.3.1 The Director of the Financial Management Division reported that the financial statements had been prepared, audited and approved in strict compliance with the accounting standard known as US GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles of the United States). She submitted the findings of the 2016 external audit, contracted to the Deloitte company, and its conclusions that “... the financial statements [of the Institute] present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of IICA as of December 31, 2016...”
- 4.2.3.2 She stressed that the evidence obtained for the audit was found to be sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for a qualified opinion. She clarified that the qualified opinion was due to the fact that some of the personnel termination benefits provisions required actuarial studies based on the application of generally accepted accounting principles of the United States of America, and that the necessary information was not available to assess quotas owed for more than one year.
- 4.2.4 Twenty-third report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)
- 4.2.4.1 Mr. Steve Rickrode, speaking in his capacity as a member of the ARC, gave the committee’s report on its review of IICA’s 2016 financial statements and external audit.

- 4.2.4.2 He reported that the ARC had conducted an in-depth review of the external auditors' comments on the valuation of termination benefits, the status of movement of quotas receivable and the AIS program in Colombia.
- 4.2.4.3 The ARC acknowledged IICA's actions to address the previous years' recommendation regarding the information technology vulnerability assessment. He added that the ARC appreciated the IICA administration's appropriate handling of all the comments by the external auditors.
- 4.2.5 Election of a member of the ARC
- 4.2.5.1 The Chair asked the Legal Adviser of IICA to discuss the process for electing members of the ARC.
- 4.2.5.2 The Legal Adviser explained that the Executive Committee needed to elect an ARC member because the term of office for the person nominated by all the Member States would expire on December 31, 2017. He then outlined the procedures laid down in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and the ARC, noting that a member needed at least seven votes to be elected.
- 4.2.5.3 The Representatives of Mexico and Costa Rica were designated to serve as election scrutineers. The Legal Adviser presented the list of nominees: Gustavo Pereira da Silva Filho of Brazil, Ana Marissa Díaz Román of Panama, Carlos Roberto Yegros Pereira of Paraguay and Isabel Picún Carranza of Uruguay.
- 4.2.5.4 The Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina and Saint Lucia asked whether the majority would be calculated based on the number of members of the Executive Committee or only the number of members present at the meeting. The Representative of Saint Lucia also suggested that the election take place at the extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee meeting to be held in October.
- 4.2.5.5 The Legal Adviser explained that, in keeping with article 79 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the majority of votes was determined on the basis of all the Member States of the Executive Committee, which meant that at least seven votes were needed.

- 4.2.5.6 Following four rounds of voting, the Chair announced that Ana Marissa Díaz Román of Panama had been elected to sit on the ARC, having received eight votes.
- 4.3 *Progress in the organization of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA: proposed draft agenda*
- 4.3.1 The Technical Secretary explained that one of the duties of the Executive Committee, according to article 4 subparagraph k of its Rules of Procedure, was to analyze the provisional agenda for meetings of the Board, and therefore the representatives had been provided with document 674 (17), “Proposed Agenda for the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.” He reminded the Committee that the meeting would take place on October 25-26 at Institute Headquarters.
- 4.3.2 An extraordinary meeting of the Executive Committee was expected to take place prior to the meeting of the IABA, possibly on October 24. This meeting, he added, would be open to the participation of all the Member States, although only the twelve members of the Executive Committee would have the right to vote.
- 4.3.3 He emphasized that this meeting of the IABA would coincide with the celebration of IICA's 75th anniversary. A commemoration ceremony was being planned, which would set a special tone for the meeting.
- 4.3.4 He closed by reminding the representatives that the election of the IICA Director General for the 2018-2022 term would take place on October 25, within the framework of this Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- 4.3.5 The Representative of the United States of America suggested that the new OAS quota scale should be included in the IABA discussion on the Program Budget.
- 4.4 *Date and venue of the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee*
- 4.4.1 The Technical Secretary again cited the Rules of Procedure, indicating that the Executive Committee needed to set a date and venue for its subsequent

regular meeting. He added that because no member country had sent in a written offer to host the meeting, it would take place at IICA Headquarters.

4.5 *Reading and approval of draft resolutions*

4.5.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “2018-2019 Program Budget.”

4.5.2 The Representative of the United States of America asked to include a text clarifying that the Program Budget for 2019 would use the quota distribution approved by the OAS.

4.5.3 The Chair replied that the text to be included would read: “...for fiscal year 2019, the Assessed Quotas will be those computed in accordance with the percentages established in the quota scale approved by the OAS General Assembly for that year.” The draft resolution “2018-2019 Program Budget” was approved as amended by the Representative of the United States of America.

4.5.4 The Rapporteur then read out the following draft resolutions: “Report on the Collection of Quotas,” “2016 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Report of the External Auditors and Twenty-third Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),” “Recognition of the Contribution made by the Government of Panama as a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)” and “Provisional Agenda for the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).” The Chair held a vote on each of these draft resolutions, which were approved as read.

4.5.5 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Support for a Coordinated Response to Outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in the Americas.”

4.5.6 The Representative of Colombia commented that he could not support the draft resolution because his country's Minister of Agriculture had instructed him to await decisions to be made at the Sixth Special Meeting of the South American Commission for the Fight against Foot-and-Mouth Disease (COSALFA), promoted by the Pan American Foot-and-Mouth Disease Center (PANAFTOSA) of the Pan American Health Organization/World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), to take place on Friday, July 21 in Brasilia, Brazil.

- 4.5.7 The Representatives of Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda praised Panama's effort to prepare this draft resolution on such an important issue, but stated that they could not commit to providing the financial support stipulated in the first operative paragraph.
- 4.5.8 The Representative of Mexico asked for a change in the title of the resolution, to read "Support for a Coordinated Response to Outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in Some Countries of the Americas." She pointed out that, as her country was free of the disease, she could not support a resolution making reference to foot-and-mouth disease outbreaks in "the Americas."
- 4.5.9 The Representative of Panama explained that his country served as a natural barrier to halt the spread of the disease toward North America. He underscored the broad experience that several of the South American countries had acquired in foot and mouth disease, the infrastructure they had developed for taking action quickly in the event of new outbreaks, and the presence of PANAFTOSA in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 4.5.10 He added that although Panama had a foot-and-mouth disease diagnostic laboratory, it was limited in its ability to control the illness and was therefore on an emergency footing because its only recourse was to slaughter affected animals. He said that this disease tended to spread explosively and to display erratic behaviors, which was why it was so important for the countries to remain on the alert to possible outbreaks, strengthen their prevention plans, and take cognizance of the serious consequences should the disease spread.
- 4.5.11 The Representative of Panama acknowledged that the draft resolution did not have a consensus for approval, but nevertheless asserted that his country would continue to exert its best efforts to control foot-and-mouth disease. He closed by expressing his interest in having this initiative acknowledged at the COSALFA meeting scheduled for July 21 in Brazil, given that the benefits of such actions would spread to other countries, especially those lying northward of Panama.
- 4.5.12 The Chair announced that the draft resolution would be withdrawn, but that the topic could be further discussed on another occasion.
- 4.5.13 The Observer Representative of Canada stated that her country would be interested in sponsoring a parallel event during the IABA meeting to discuss

international food standards or Codex Alimentarius, specifically on how such standards could make a positive contribution to the food trade.

4.5.14 The Director General enthusiastically accepted the suggestion that the agenda of the upcoming IABA meeting include such an important topic as international food standards; he expressed his willingness to develop the initiative jointly with Canada and requested a detailed proposal on the event as soon as possible.

4.6 *Close of the session*

4.6.1 The fourth plenary session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee ended at 16:58 hours on July 19, 2017.

CLOSING SESSION

5.1 Opening of the session

5.1.1 The closing session of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 16:59 hours on July 19, 2017. It was chaired by the Representative of the United States of America.

5.2 Remarks by the Director General of IICA

5.2.1 The Director General thanked the Chair and the Rapporteur of the Executive Committee for their efficient work. He also thanked the representatives of the Member States and of other organizations in attendance, as well as the team of translators and Institute staff members.

5.2.2 He thanked Manuel Otero and Carlos Furche, candidates to the position of Institute Director General for the 2018-2022 term of office, for having shared their proposals. He expressed his view that the vision and ideas expressed by both candidates had filled him with confidence about the future of IICA, regardless of which one were ultimately elected by the IABA, as both had the ability and knowledge required to perform the job with excellence.

5.2.3 He praised the Executive Committee's decision to review and improve the draft resolution "IICA/FAO Strategic Partnership based on the WHO/PAHO Model, for the Structural and Financial Strengthening of the Multinational Cooperation provided by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)" in follow-up to IABA Resolution No. 501 (2015) and Executive Committee Resolution No. 615 (2016). He stressed how important it was to reach consensus on an item of such vital importance for the Institute as seeking opportunities to grow stronger, especially in the financial arena, and building partnerships that would safeguard its future.

5.2.4 He pointed to the crucial importance of the upcoming IABA meeting, due to the celebration of the Institute's 75th anniversary and the election of a new Director General. He urged the ministers to attend this activity of such importance for IICA.

5.2.5 Finally, he thanked the Deputy Foreign Minister of Colombia for having attended this meeting of the Executive Committee and for seeking mechanisms to lay a foundation for IICA's cooperation with post-conflict Colombia.

5.3 *Close of the Meeting*

5.3.1 The Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 17:10 hours on July 19, 2017.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/CE/Res. 617 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 617

2014-2017 MANAGEMENT REPORT

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by the Director General on the work of his administration during the period 2014-2017,

CONSIDERING:

That, 21 May 2014, the Executive Committee, in the execution of the powers delegated to it by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), approved the 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan (MTP) by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 592 (XXXIV-O/14); and

That the Executive Committee has recognized the results achieved and the progress made with the implementation of the 2014-2018 MTP, as described in the Director General's reports for 2015 and 2016 on the technical cooperation provided to the Member States and with the process of transforming the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2014-2017 Management Report and congratulate the Director General and other officials of the Institute on the work performed and results achieved, which were possible thanks to the support received from the Member States.
2. To urge the Member States to undertake initiatives to strengthen the technical-administrative and financial situation of the Institute, in order to properly equip IICA to carry out its mandates.

IICA/CE/Res. 618 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 618**2016 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 671 (17), “2016 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.f of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of 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 2016 Annual Report of the Institute, which the Director General of the Institute presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on 19 April 2017;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by IICA in 2016 for the purpose of implementing the cooperation agendas of the Institute at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, within the framework of IICA’s 2014-2018 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 2016; and,

That the Annual Report for 2016 is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute’s website (www.iica.int),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2016 Annual Report of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 619 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 619

REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 663 (17), “Report on the collection of quotas”,

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, as well as the efforts of the General Directorate, it has been possible to reduce considerably the total amount of quotas owed to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and,

That the above has facilitated the implementation of the programs and projects included in the cooperation strategies established in the 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan of the Institute at the national, regional and hemispheric levels,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the ministers of agriculture and foreign affairs, as well as 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 2017 and those owed for previous years; and, (b) keep IICA's Member States informed of progress in this area.
4. To urge the Member States to remain current 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. 620 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 620

**2016 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL
AUDITORS AND TWENTY-THIRD REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW
COMMITTEE (ARC)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 664 (17), “2016 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors,” and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 665 (17), “Twenty-third Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.d of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that the mandate of 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, at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the IABA, by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 231 (VII-O/93), created the ARC and approved its Statute;

That, pursuant to Article 3.k of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the mandate of this governing body of IICA is to receive and approve the ARC’s reports and make a determination on its recommendations; and,

That, in its Twenty-third Report, the ARC states that it examined the report of the external auditors on IICA’s 2016 financial statements and found the work performed to be satisfactory and in accordance with the rules of the Institute and international auditing standards,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2016 financial statements of the Institute and the report of the external auditors, and to instruct the Director General to submit them to the consideration of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
2. To approve the Twenty-third 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. 621 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 621

2018-2019 PROGRAM-BUDGET

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 662 (17), “2018-2019 Program-budget,”

CONSIDERING:

That the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) establishes:

- i. In Article 8.b, that a function of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is “to approve the biennial Program-budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States”;
- ii. In Article 23, that “the Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States”;
- iii. In Article 14.b, that a function of the Executive Committee is “to examine the proposed biennial Program-budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate”;

That the current medium-term plan covers the period 2014-2018 and that in January 2018 a new administration takes office, and will have to submit to the governing bodies a new medium-term plan for the period 2018-2022;

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2018-2019 Program-budget to the Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI), held in April 2017; and,

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2018-2019 Program-budget to the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting, in a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect, and incorporating the recommendations made by the SACMI,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the IABA adopt a resolution:

- i. Approving the overall allocation of USD33,561,400 per year from the Institute's Regular Fund for the 2018-2019 biennium, financed with USD30,061,400 annually in assigned quotas from the Member States, as per the amounts indicated in the scale attached hereto as "Annex A," and over-quota contributions; and with USD3,500,000 per year in miscellaneous resources, from income that it is estimated will be generated; however, for fiscal year 2019, the Assessed Quotas will be those computed in accordance with the percentages established in the quota scale approved by the OAS General Assembly for that year.
- ii. Approving the expenditure budget for 2018, in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, headings and strategic priorities specified in Document IICA/CE/Doc. 662 (17), "2018-2019 Program-budget." The summary of allocations by chapter is attached to this resolution as Annex B.
- iii. Instructing the Director General to submit to the consideration of the Executive Committee at its Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting, a draft allocation of the funds approved for the 2019 Program-budget, consistent with the priorities of the new medium-term plan of the Institute.
- iv. Authorizing the Director General of IICA to effect transfers among chapters of the Program-budget, provided that the total transfers do not significantly affect the priorities approved.

- v. Authorizing the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for fiscal years 2018 and 2019 fall below the levels estimated for the biennium, and to inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of the situation.

ANNEX A
SCALE OF QUOTAS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF OVER-QUOTA OF MEMBER STATE
AND MISCELLANEOUS INCOME 2018 - 2019

MEMBER STATES	2018				2019			
	IICA				IICA			
	OEAs ¹	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS	OEAs ¹	ASSESSED QUOTA	OVER-QUOTA	TOTAL QUOTAS
	%	USD ²	US\$	USD ²	%	USD ²	US\$	USD ²
Antigua and Barbuda	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Argentina	3.000	879,500	247,000	1,126,500	3.000	879,500	247,000	1,126,500
Bahamas	0.047	13,800	7,000	20,800	0.047	13,800	7,000	20,800
Barbados	0.026	7,600	5,500	13,100	0.026	7,600	5,500	13,100
Belize	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Bolivia	0.070	20,500	600	21,100	0.070	20,500	600	21,100
Brazil	12.457	3,652,000		3,652,000	12.457	3,652,000		3,652,000
Canada	9.801	2,873,400		2,873,400	9.801	2,873,400		2,873,400
Chile	1.415	414,800	14,600	429,400	1.415	414,800	14,600	429,400
Colombia	1.638	480,300		480,300	1.638	480,300		480,300
Costa Rica	0.256	75,100	2,500	77,600	0.256	75,100	2,500	77,600
Dominica	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Dominican Republic	0.268	78,600	3,500	82,100	0.268	78,600	3,500	82,100
Ecuador	0.402	117,900	3,500	121,400	0.402	117,900	3,500	121,400
El Salvador	0.076	22,300	12,500	34,800	0.076	22,300	12,500	34,800
Grenada	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Guatemala	0.171	50,100	13,800	63,900	0.171	50,100	13,800	63,900
Guyana	0.022	6,500	1,700	8,200	0.022	6,500	1,700	8,200
Haiti	0.022	6,500	4,200	10,700	0.022	6,500	4,200	10,700
Honduras	0.043	12,600	3,200	15,800	0.043	12,600	3,200	15,800
Jamaica	0.053	15,500	5,100	20,600	0.053	15,500	5,100	20,600
Mexico	6.470	1,896,800	4,873,300	2,384,100	6.470	1,896,800	4,873,300	2,384,100
Nicaragua	0.022	6,400	2,800	9,200	0.022	6,400	2,800	9,200
Panama	0.191	56,000	6,000	62,000	0.191	56,000	6,000	62,000
Paraguay	0.087	25,500	8,800	34,300	0.087	25,500	8,800	34,300
Peru	1.005	294,600	9,400	304,000	1.005	294,600	9,400	304,000
Saint Lucia	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600	0.022	6,500	1,100	7,600
Suriname	0.022	6,500	4,200	10,700	0.022	6,500	4,200	10,700
Trinidad and Tobago	0.129	37,800	15,000	52,800	0.129	37,800	15,000	52,800
United States of America	59.470	17,435,300		17,435,300	59.470	17,435,300		17,435,300
Uruguay	0.298	87,400	7,900	95,300	0.298	87,400	7,900	95,300
Venezuela	1.940	568,800		568,800	1.940	568,800		568,800
SUB TOTAL	99.555	29,187,600	873,800	30,061,400	99.555	29,187,600	873,800	30,061,400
Cuba	0.446	130,800		130,800	0.446	130,800		130,800
TOTAL QUOTAS	100.001	29,318,400	873,800	30,192,200	100.001	29,318,400	873,800	30,192,200
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME²		3,500,000		3,500,000		3,500,000		3,500,000
TOTAL REGULAR FUND³		32,687,600		33,561,400		32,687,600		33,561,400

Note: The Kingdom of Spain contributes an annual quota of USD60,000 as an Associate Member, pursuant to the agreement adopted in the First Plenary Session of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, held on November 26, 2001, in Bávaro, Dominican Republic.

1/ As per Resolution AG/RES. 2912 (XLVII-O/17) of the General Assembly of the OAS.

2/ In USD rounded out to the nearest hundred.

3/ The total of the Regular Fund does not include Cuba.

ANNEX B
Allocation of the Regular Fund by Chapter 2018
(USD)

CHAPTER	2018	
	REGULAR FUND	
	USD	%
I: Direct Technical Cooperation Services	30.199.372	90,0%
II: Management Costs	1.688.034	5,0%
III: General Cost and Provisions	1.371.040	4,1%
IV: Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment	302.954	0,9%
TOTAL	33.561.400	100,0%

IICA/CE/Res. 622 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 622**RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF PANAMA AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

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

CONSIDERING:

That the Audit Review Committee (ARC) is an important mechanism of the Executive Committee, both for providing advice directly to the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the administrative and financial conduct of the Institute, as well as for assisting the Executive Committee with its review of the accounts of the General Directorate;

That the members of the ARC, appointed by the Member States, perform an important function; and,

That the term of the Government of Panama, which became a member of the ARC on January 1, 2012, and since then, has discharged that responsibility with great dedication and competence on behalf of the Institute, will end on December 31, 2017,

RESOLVES:

To thank the Government of Panama for the support provided as a member of the ARC and for its contributions to the administrative and financial management of the Institute.

IICA/CE/Res. 623 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 623

**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) FOR 2015-2016**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation on the “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2015-2016”,

CONSIDERING:

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 441 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing the reports and plans of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and requested that, in future, the Director General of this Center forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the biennial report and plans of CATIE for acceptance by the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept CATIE’s biennial report for 2015-2016 and thank the Director General of the Center for his presentation and outstanding management.
2. To urge IICA and CATIE to continue to strengthen their links and mechanisms for implementing joint activities, 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.

3. To urge the Director General of CATIE to make all reports provided to CATIE's governing council, including financial reports, also available to the Executive Committee and the IABA.

IICA/CE/Res. 624 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 624

**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) FOR 2015-2016**

The Executive Committee, at its Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation made by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) on the report of its activities during the 2015-2016 biennium,

CONSIDERING:

That, under the terms of the agreement currently in force between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CARDI, the latter organization must submit an annual report on its activities; and,

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 440 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing CARDI's reports and plans and requested that, in future, the Executive Director of that Institute forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the biennial report and plans of CARDI for acceptance by the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept and express appreciation to CARDI for the presentation of the report on activities implemented during the 2015-2016 biennium.
2. To urge IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their technical links and mechanisms for executing joint activities, with a view to strengthening the contribution of both institutions in support of efforts to achieve agricultural and rural development in the Caribbean.

IICA/CE/Res. 625 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 625**REPORT OF THE 2017 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 672 (17), “Report of the 2017 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 of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), and to facilitate more regular discussion with the Member States on administrative, financial and strategic issues, in order to enhance the process of reaching consensus in the Executive Committee and in the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 580 (XXXIII-O/13), the Executive Committee established that the meetings of the SACMI should preferably be held on line, so that sessions may be held as frequently as necessary and to realize savings for the Institute; and,

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

RESOLVES:

To accept the Report of the 2017 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

IICA/CE/Res. 626 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 626

**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE EIGHTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) AND THE
THIRTY-SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 674 (17) “Status of the Resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)” and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 673 (17), “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”,

CONSIDERING:

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and with the resolutions adopted at the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports: a) “Status of the Resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”; and b) “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”.

IICA/CE/Res. 627 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 627**ROTATION OF MEMBER STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR THE PERIOD 2019-2033**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 670 (17), “Rotation of Member States on the Executive Committee for the period 2019-2033,”

CONSIDERING:

That Articles 8.e and 13 of the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Article 2.e of the Rules of Procedures of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and Article 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establish that the Executive Committee shall be composed of twelve Member States, elected by the IABA for two-year periods, according to the criteria of partial rotation and equitable geographical distribution, and that the IABA shall regulate the manner in which the Member States are appointed to sit on the Committee;

That Article 6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes the procedure governing membership on the Committee;

That the table adopted by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 2 (I-E/81) was amended in 1983 by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 25 (II-E/83); in 1987 by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 126 (IV-O/87); in 1991 by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 205 (VI-O/91); in 1993 by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 238 (VII-O/93); in 1997 by Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 278 (XVII-O/97); and in 2003 by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 396 (XII-O/03); and,

That the table establishing membership on the Executive Committee covers only the 2004-2018 period and, as a result, a new table must be approved,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the IABA approve the attached new table for the 2019-2033 period, which includes the 34 Member States of the Institute.

IICA/CE/Res. 628 (XXXVII-O/17)

19 July 2017

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 628**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE NINETEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 674 (17), “Provisional Agenda for the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.p of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) shall analyze the provisional agenda for the meetings of the IABA; and,

That, the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting, analyzed the provisional agenda for the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the provisional agenda for the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
2. To urge the members of the Executive Committee to share with the ministers of agriculture of their respective countries the importance of their presence at this event.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

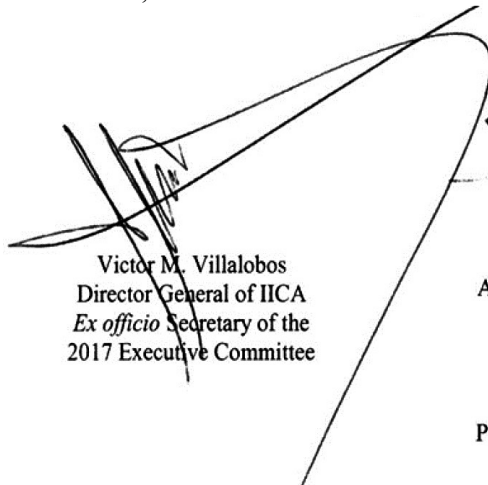
SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 16:00 hours on the 19 day of July of the year two thousand and seventeen, in San José, 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 Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretariat shall file the original texts in the archives of the Institute, 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.

San Jose, Costa Rica.



Victor M. Villalobos
Director General of IICA
Ex officio Secretary of the
2017 Executive Committee



Bryce Quick
Associate Administrator / Chief
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United States Department of
Agriculture
Foreign Agricultural Service
President of the 2017 Executive
Committee

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA
IICA/CE/Doc. 661 (17)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Provisional Schedule | IICA/CE/Doc. 660 (17) |
| 2. Message from the Director General of IICA | No document |
| 3. The future of IICA's technical cooperation | No document |
| 4. Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation of IICA | |
| 4.1. 2018-2019 Program Budget | IICA/CE/Doc. 662 (17) |
| 4.2. Status of the collection of quota contributions | IICA/CE/Doc. 663 (17) |
| 4.3. 2016 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors | IICA/CE/Doc. 664 (17) |
| 4.4. Twenty-third Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) | IICA/CE/Doc. 665 (17) |
| 4.5. Election of a Member of the ARC | IICA/CE/Doc. 666 (17) |
| 4.6. Presentation of the Report on Resolution No. 615 of the Executive Committee "Progress made in drafting proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute" (topic derived from Resolution No. 501 of the IABA, "Institutional process for the formulation and presentation of proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute") | IICA/CE/Doc. 667 (17) |

5. Strengthening of Partnerships with other Institutions

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 5.1. 2015-2016 Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) | (Unnumbered) |
| 5.2. Report on Resolution No. 500 of the IABA “Extension of the contract signed between the Government of Costa Rica and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) on the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)” | IICA/CE/Doc. 668 (17) |
| 5.3. 2015-2016 Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) | (Unnumbered) |
| 5.4. Report of joint collaboration activities between IICA and CARDI | No document |
| 5.5. Report on Resolution No. 502 of the IABA “Working group to improve the capabilities of the countries of the Americas for sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessment” | (Unnumbered) |

6. Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 6.1. Presentation of candidates to the post of Director General and outline of their work plans for the 2018-2022 period | No document |
| 6.2. Rotation of Member States on the Executive Committee for the period 2019-2033 | IICA/CE/Doc. 669 (17) |

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 6.3. 2016 IICA Annual Report | IICA/CE/Doc. 670 (17) |
| 6.4. Report of the 2017 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) | IICA/CE/Doc. 671 (17) |
| 6.5. Status of the resolutions of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee | IICA/CE/Doc. 672 (17) |
| 6.6. Status of the resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) | IICA/CE/Doc. 673 (17) |
| 6.7. Progress in the organization of the Nineteenth Regular meeting of the IABA: proposed draft agenda | IICA/CE/Doc. 674 (17) |
| 6.8. Date and Venue of the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee | IICA/CE/Doc. 675 (17) |

7. Other Business

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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Evangelina Beltrán	Coordinator of the Office of the Director General
Rocío Bohórquez	Internal Auditor
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Salvador Fernández	Director of Technical Cooperation
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Katia Marzall	Specialist and Leader in Resilience and Integrated Management of Environmental Risks
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María Rodríguez	Associate Director of Technical Cooperation
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Federico Sancho	Secretary of Planning and Evaluation
Breno Tiburcio	Principal Officer in Productivity and Sustainability of Family Farming for Food Security and the Rural Economy
Vanessa Zamora	Cooperation and Development Projects Officer

ANNEX 3: MEETING STAFF

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Katia Núñez

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Andrea Morales
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Evelyn Vargas
Isaac Zúñiga

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Michel Chartier

Services for delegates

Registration and secretariat Fanny Carreño

Assistance at hotel Sonia González

Assistance at the airport Ronald Hidalgo
Randy Alexander
Marlon Rodríguez

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