



Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

**Joint report on the status of strengthened cooperation  
between IICA and FAO**

San Jose, Costa Rica  
17-18 July 2018



# **Joint report on the status of strengthened cooperation between IICA and FAO**

## **Introduction**

Pursuant to Resolution No. 508 of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, we present the following joint report on the status of strengthened cooperation between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), in accordance with the provisions of the memorandum of understanding signed by both institutions, which seeks to: *“strengthen the technical cooperation that FAO and IICA deliver to their Member States, by means of joint activities that will make it possible to enhance the efficient and complementary use of resources and capabilities, and to achieve their common objectives, on behalf of the agrifood sectors of the countries of the Americas, especially those linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.”*

## **Mechanisms for joint work**

### *Meetings:*

Initial contact was established through a joint virtual meeting held on 31 January 2018 between the administrative teams of the Organization and of the Institute, represented by Julio Berdegué and Manuel Otero, respectively.

The first high-level meeting was held during the Thirty-fifth Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Latin America and the Caribbean in Montego Bay, Jamaica, on 5 March 2018. Mr. José Graciano, Director General of FAO; Mr. Julio Berdegué, Assistant Director General of FAO and Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Mr. Manuel Otero, Director General of IICA, participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, agreements on the following topics were expanded and ratified:

1. Creation of a FAO-IICA coordination and communication committee, overseen by Adoniram Sánchez and Miguel Ángel Arvelo, on behalf of the Organization and the Institute, respectively.
2. Identification of common areas of work in which FAO has expertise and IICA provides assistance, such as food and nutritional security.
3. Identification of common areas of work in which IICA has expertise and FAO provides assistance, such as agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) and trade.
4. Definition of coordinated work areas:
  - a. Family farming
  - b. Rural development
5. Identification of priority countries in which to establish programs of joint action, such as the members of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), namely:

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, in addition to Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, Peru and Argentina.

6. Delivery of a joint message on behalf of FAO and IICA to personnel of both institutions, urging them to establish joint work plans in the countries and regions that:
  - a. Map out the joint activities that will be carried out.
  - b. Explore the possibility of sharing facilities and resources.
  - c. Identify, formulate and implement joint technical cooperation projects while enabling each institution to maintain its own identity and contribute its unique capabilities, leadership and resources within the framework of its respective mandates, regulations and processes.
7. Agreement stating that each institution will prepare and share an informational profile of each of its offices in the countries prioritized, providing details on:
  - a. The type or category of the office/delegation in the country.
  - b. The facilities (square meters, leased or owned).
  - c. Operating costs of the office/delegation (including rental fees and costs related to electricity, water and gas services, among other costs).
  - d. Personnel and their respective positions.
  - e. Personnel assigned to specific projects, and their respective duties.
  - f. Projects currently underway (the title and budget of each project should be included).
  - g. The 2017 budget allocated to technical cooperation.
  - h. Country-specific priorities.
8. Both institutions will exchange their regional work plans following approval by their respective governing bodies. In the case of IICA, its 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan will be submitted for approval in July and will be subsequently shared with the Organization. FAO shared the agreed-upon work plan with IICA during its Thirty-fifth Subregional Meeting.

### **Cooperation modalities at the regional level**

To prepare specific work plans, the Institute and the Organization have established working groups or technical missions through their national offices: the FAO Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, and IICA Headquarters.

1. For instance, during the first semester of 2018, periodic and exploratory work meetings were held in order to identify joint projects and activities in 28 countries of the hemisphere, including Honduras, Suriname, Guyana, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Venezuela, Belize, Ecuador, Uruguay, Paraguay, El Salvador, Barbados, Guatemala, Chile, Panama, Bolivia, Brazil, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Argentina, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

2. Additionally, the Organization, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Institute reiterated their commitment to prepare the document entitled “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean,” which is published every two years and is presented to the ministers of agriculture.
3. Continuous efforts aimed at boosting inter-institutional integration and complementarity with respect to family farming issues and work teams are noteworthy, given that they resulted in a joint work proposal in support of extension services and the Latin American Network of Rural Extension Services (RELASER), with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).
4. At the request of FAO, IICA was invited to participate in the meeting entitled “Rural societies in LAC and the 2030 Agenda,” which was carried out together with IFAD and World Food Program in Santiago, Chile.

### **Areas of collaboration**

The progress achieved in the different areas of joint collaboration, which is described below, exemplifies an efficient and complementary use of resources and capabilities to achieve shared objectives.

#### **A. Improve interinstitutional effectiveness**

Efforts in this area of collaboration were carried out primarily in Eastern Caribbean countries.

- The Institute provided the Organization with administrative services to implement a project aimed at supporting restoration and cleaning activities in Dominica in the aftermath of tropical storm Erika in 2015.
- Initial discussions were held with the regional coordinator of FAO regarding collaboration to implement the Organization’s program for the period 2018-2019, for which IICA’s offices would be utilized to facilitate activities (OECS).

#### **B. Joint projects**

Several joint projects have already been implemented or are currently underway in eleven countries, namely: Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Paraguay, Guatemala, Honduras, Bolivia, Belize, Guyana, Suriname and Panama.

Additionally, the following activities of joint support for technical cooperation projects were established:

- Argentina: Application of the “Commodity Systems Assessment Methodology” (CSAM) in the dairy chain, in support of the National Institute of Industrial Technology as well as the Ministry of Agroindustry (MINAGRO); and institutional

strengthening of the Secretariat of Family Farming, Coordination and Territorial Development of MINAGRO.

- Dominican Republic: Technical assistance to strengthen the National Land and Water Service of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Dominican Republic and Haiti: Proposal for a binational project on AHFS.
- Paraguay: Strengthening of national risk management systems that affect food security in the member countries of the Southern Agricultural Council, which gave rise to a new project also funded by FAO; and joint support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) to build capabilities in the areas of entrepreneurship and rural youth.
- Guatemala: Preparation of the National Strategy for the Cocoa Chain; preparation of the Capacity-building Plan for Local Stakeholders in the Cocoa Chain; and drafting of the Rural Youth Strategy of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food and of the *Chispa Rural* platform. Additionally, the Organization became part of the technical committee of the Regional Consortia for Agricultural Research program.
- Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay: Implementation of the project entitled “Latin American network for the implementation of the International Treaty on Phytogenic Resources for Food and Agriculture (LANIIT).”
- Panama: Execution of joint activities to develop the National Climate Change Plan for the Agriculture Sector; and relaunch of Panama’s Territorial Development Strategy, with the participation of other State and private sector institutions, in order to drive the implementation of the strategy throughout the country.
- Honduras: Preparation of the National Family Farming Strategy, in coordination with the members of the National Family Farming Committee; and participation in the National Committee of the Central American Strategy for Rural Territorial Development to drive the approval of the public policy for territorial development by the Council of Ministers.
- Bolivia: Strengthening of the National Codex Alimentarius Committee (NCAC) through complementary and coordinated actions.
- Belize: Strengthening of the value chains and productivity of onion, honey and sheep; contribution to food and nutritional security; and capacity building for and rehabilitation of the Central Agriculture Station.
- Guyana: Installation of shade structures in primary and secondary schools to facilitate vegetable production in the school complexes.

- Suriname: Preparation of a project on sedentary indigenous agriculture, to assist indigenous communities in shifting from migratory farming systems to sustainable farming systems; capacity building for local vegetable farmers in technologies and strategies for adapting to climate change; and application of the System of Rice Intensification in indigenous communities of Suriname.

### **C. Research, analytical production and events**

Collaborative actions with different achievements and activities prompted new cooperation schemes in Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, Peru, Uruguay, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Barbados, Guatemala, Honduras, Bolivia and El Salvador, as detailed below.

- Colombia: Coordination of the RELASER Forum in Colombia and systematization of experiences with rural extension; and organization of the Twelfth International Territorial Development Forum.
- Ecuador: Coordination of the international event “Scenarios and experiences in extension systems for family farming;” and development of the First International Symposium on Tropical Livestock Farming.
- Argentina: Organization of “A first step toward reducing food losses” (IICA-FAO-MINAGRI), a capacity-building workshop on the CSAM aimed at identifying problems and projects; as well as the First Meeting of the National Network for the Reduction of Food Losses and Waste.
- Peru: Organization of the RELASER Forum in 2018.
- Uruguay: Preparation of a public opinion study on Uruguay’s agriculture sector (agricultural awareness).
- Paraguay: Organization of an international workshop-seminar on technical assistance and rural extension, entitled “Advancing toward innovative and results-based rural extension;” and preparation of the international photo exhibit entitled “Rural Women in Action” within the framework of the Twenty-eighth Specialized Meeting on Family Farming of MERCOSUR.
- Costa Rica: Participation in the Sixteenth Meeting of the Commission on Livestock Development for Latin America and the Caribbean – Mesoamerica Chapter, with the presentation entitled “Lessons learned from the Central American Agricultural Policy; Case: regional regulation of dairy products,” as well as in the Consultation and Dialogue Workshop on Indicators for Agro-environmental Policies of Latin America and the Caribbean; and facilitation of the process for designing the National Seed Policy of Costa Rica, together with the Organization as well as the Research

Center for Grains and Seeds of the University of Costa Rica, on the basis of the FAO Voluntary Guide for National Seed Policy Formulation.

- Barbados: Financial support from the Organization to the Youth Farm Summer Program of the Institute; and organization of the workshop entitled “Joint work program between IICA and FAO with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and Water Resource Management (MAFFW).”
- Guatemala: Establishment of the organizing committee for the “Cocoa Room Guatemala 2018” event, and curriculum design process for the online course entitled “Reduction of rural poverty.”
- Honduras: Strengthening of NCAC actions.
- Bolivia: Support for issues related to food security, through the organization of a round table discussion entitled “From the Bolivian Andes to the world: Bolivian quinoa; an opportunity to strengthen food and nutritional security.”
- El Salvador: Participation in the forum entitled “Rural development challenges and opportunities for women and youth in El Salvador.”

#### **D. Other areas of coordination**

A wide variety of joint and participatory technical cooperation activities were organized in thirteen Latin American and Caribbean countries.

- Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada: Negotiations by the Institute in support of the joint program of the Organization and the ministries of agriculture (cassava); negotiation with FAO to implement the 2018-2019 Land Bank Project in the member countries of the OECS. The signing of an agreement to establish a project in Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Grenada is currently underway.
- Colombia: Joint participation in the National Family Farming Committee and the National Public Spending Committee.
- Ecuador: Coordination and promotion of the Andean Meeting of Ministers, which primarily focused on the topic of family farming; and creation of the Technical Assistance and Agricultural Rural Extension Committee of MAG, which received technical assistance from the Institute and the Organization.
- Argentina: Organization of a workshop on the Global Environment Facility.



- Dominican Republic: Coordination of the Agricultural Committee on Cooperation Agencies and Donors and assistance to the Water Committee of the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development.
- Peru: Establishment of the “Sustainable Agrarian Development” cooperation group; and activation of the postharvest losses platform, which evaluates the CSAM.
- Nicaragua: Coordination of the country’s Committee of Agricultural Partners in matters related to the competitiveness and sustainability of family farming, resilient agriculture, climate change adaptation and AHFS.
- Brazil: Application of the methodologies developed by the Organization within the framework of the Semear Internacional program, including the capitalization of experiences to improve the impact of rural development projects.
- Honduras: Technical, conceptual and methodological assistance from the Institute to FAO in order to systematize experiences with knowledge management in the field of rural development.
- El Salvador: Participation in the Committee on International Cooperation for Agriculture.
- Belize: Strengthening of inter-institutional cooperation and technical assistance in the agriculture sector; development of a project together with the Poultry Association of Belize, in order to improve rural livelihoods and safeguard the national poultry industry, by controlling Newcastle disease in domestic poultry.
- Guyana: Establishment of a policy and planning unit, aimed at initiating and coordinating the development and implementation of the strategic and operating plans of the Ministry of Agriculture; and development of Green Climate Fund projects on Climate Change and Resilience.