

IICA and the Americas

A successful partnership



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IICA and the Americas: a successful partnership



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

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Preface



Chelston W.D. Brathwaite
Director General

Since it took office, this Administration's technical cooperation has been geared to achieving results that have a big impact on the development of agriculture and rural life in the member countries. This document presents the Institute's most successful and important actions since January 2002 and through 2005, highlighting the main achievements in implementing IICA's national, regional and hemispheric technical cooperation agendas, as proposed in the 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan.

This Administration has concentrated on establishing an organization of excellence that is more modern and managed with a business approach, geared to the needs of the Member States. During the four years of this Administration, emphasis has been placed on technical excellence, respect for the Institute's rules, financial prudence, transparency and accountability, and on establishing and strengthening alliances with strategic partners and reducing the bureaucracy. Special importance has also been attached to strengthening IICA's auditing and performance management and evaluation system, to reinforce these principles.

This document underscores the institutional actions in partnership with institutions with member countries. We have focused our technical cooperation on inter-thematic programs involving seve-

ral Strategic Areas and making it possible to offer the Member States better-value, pertinent and comprehensive products that meet their needs and priorities. A case in point is the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety, based in Miami, whose core objective is to help the Member States successfully integrate into global agricultural markets.

Special attention has been paid to the continuing efforts to strengthen relations and alliances with our strategic global and hemispheric partners, in particular with financial and technical cooperation agencies.

The Institute has played an active role in the Summit of the Americas process and made every possible effort to implement the resolutions adopted at the Summits. As part of the Inter-American System, it has scrupulously carried out the mandates of the OAS General Assembly and IICA's governing bodies.

The information contained in this document highlights the Institute's programs, projects and initiatives since January 2002. More detailed information about the actions undertaken by IICA in each year of this Administration is available on the Institute's website, www.iica.int

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chelston W.D. Brathwaite".

IICA and the Americas: a successful partnership



1 *Vision, Mission and Objectives*

The current administration began its tenure for the period 2002-2006 with a clear commitment of repositioning the Institute as the most important provider of technical cooperation for the development of agriculture and the rural communities of the Americas.

As a starting point, the new Administration presented to its Member States the strategic framework described in the document “Repositioning IICA to Meet the Challenges of the 21st Century”, which presented the new vision, mission and objectives for the Institute.

New Vision: To transform IICA into a development agency designed to promote sustainable agricultural development, food security and prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas.

New Mission: To support the Member States in their pursuit of progress and prosperity in the hemisphere through the modernization of the rural sector, the promotion of food security, and the development of an agricultural sector that is competitive, technologically prepared, environmentally managed, and socially equitable for the peoples of the Americas.

New objectives for Technical Cooperation

- To support the countries of the hemisphere in their efforts on integration, cooperation, and participation in the global economy;
- To support the Member States in ensuring the safety of food supplies and the elimination of the sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade;
- To support agro-industrial and agri-business development by promoting the incorporation of new technologies and business principles in order to promote competitiveness and the development of a global agri-business environment;
- To promote sustainable rural development and the sustainable use of natural resources for present and future generations;
- To support the ministries of agriculture in the process of transforming their role, structure and functions to face the new realities of globalization and modernization of the State;
- To support the process of transforming agricultural education, so that it produces scientists, technicians and entrepreneurs who can develop and reposition agriculture effectively.

2 *A New Model of Technical Cooperation*

Since 2002, the IICA Administration has promoted a new model of technical cooperation. The results-based management style adopted by IICA in its dealings with its Member States, and its decision to develop a proactive agenda of common interests, reflects, in many respects, the new vision required to meet the challenges of agriculture and rural life in the 21st Century.

The cornerstone of IICA's new technical cooperation model is its commitment to elaborate technical cooperation agendas driven by the needs and demands of the Member States, in accordance with the countries' priorities.

With Offices in each of its Member States, IICA set out to foster a continuous dialogue with the authorities in the countries, along with the key stakeholders in the agricultural sector, from private or public organizations, the private sector, NGOs, academia, etc. The objective was to harmonize, according to the Institute's strategic areas of action and strengths, IICA's actions in the countries according to their priorities and national development plans.

This new and unique model in terms of international cooperation, permits a regular review and update of the agendas at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, and facilitates planning, investment and institutional action.

2.1

The National Agendas

Cognizant of the Member States' desire for technical cooperation to respond to their demands and priorities, the first step of the new model consists of a process of dialogue and consensus building with national authorities, the private sector, academia and civil society to prepare national technical cooperation agendas and to spur an institutional transformation in relation to the traditional form of delivering our services.

The preparation of these agendas represents a new approach to technical cooperation in which the concepts of participation, partnership, cooperation and demand-driven efforts are emphasized.

The national agendas recognize the unique nature of each Member State of the Institute, and emphasize a holistic approach

that prioritizes food security, sustainable agricultural development, national trade capacity building, and rural community development.

The process of preparing an overall strategy for IICA's actions at the national level is based on an extensive process of consultation and consensus-building with key stakeholders in agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

The process of consultation and consensus building is governed by the following principles:

- The strategy is based on the interests of the countries, and designed to impact each of them as quickly as possible;

- It takes into account IICA's mandate, new vision, mission and priorities, and concurs with the priorities of the countries;
- Its preparation is a continuous process based on consultations with partners and their participation, but it does not impose a result or create a commitment. The strategy reflects what IICA believes it can do effectively in each country and region; and,
- The strategy defines those areas in which the parties' interest coincides with the existence of the institutional resources needed to implement the respective actions. Recognition of the constraints imposed by the resources available is a key consideration.

IICA Representatives lead the process for the preparation of the agendas taking into account the national development plans, the country's policies, the information generated in the preceding steps and following the guidelines established for preparing same.

Once agreement on cooperation actions has been reached with national authorities, each Office prepares a draft national agenda

that includes a timetable of activities for each year, as well as an assessment of opportunities for accessing financial resources in support of cooperation actions.

After it has made sure that the proposed national agenda is consistent with IICA's Medium Term Plan (MTP) and programming and budget considerations have been reviewed, the National Agendas are approved and the national authorities and representatives of the private sector, universities, NGOs and other clients and partners are informed.

IICA's strategic planning process is dynamic and ongoing and the agendas are evaluated annually in order to assess the progress made and results achieved, identify problems, document lessons learned, identify and propose any changes in needs and priorities. The aim of this evaluation is to ensure that IICA's actions are up to date and relevant to changing circumstances in agriculture and the rural milieu in the region. This evaluation is undertaken with the stakeholders and strategic partners that participated in the preparation of the agendas.

2.2

The Regional Agendas

The second major step that adds value to the model is the development of the Regional Agenda for Technical Cooperation. The method for preparing these agendas is also based on a broad-based process of consultation and consensus building. Every effort is made to encourage the active participation of the key stakeholders involved in IICA's technical cooperation actions at the regional level.

The process includes two important components:

- The national agendas and regional actions aimed at solving problems common to a group of countries;
- The institutional commitment to continue supporting integration processes through existing mechanisms at the regional and sub-regional levels.

Taking into consideration the specific characteristics and needs of each region, the regional agendas are developed in line with the

institutional objectives, the regional priorities, and the ability for those actions to achieve significant impact at the regional level.

In the spirit of transparency, on a yearly basis the Directors of Operations report to the Regional Council of Ministers, or the equivalent, and organize a seminar to present a regional report

and account for the actions taken at a regional level and present the Ministers with the Regional Annual Report.

The regional technical cooperation agendas are also periodically reviewed and adjusted to reflect the priorities adopted at the Regional Council of Ministers.

2.3

The Hemispheric Agenda

The third step of the model is the preparation of the Hemispheric Agenda for Technical Cooperation based on the priority lines of action of the Institute's Thematic Areas and on inter-thematic and integrated programs. These integrated programs respond more comprehensively and systematically to the priorities and expectations of the Member States identified in the two previous agendas.

The inter-thematic programs are aimed at undertaking actions that will produce important results in the following areas:

- Promoting Hemispheric and Regional Integration
- Promoting Agribusiness Competitiveness and Global Trade
- Promoting the Incorporation of Technology and Innovation
- Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety

- Strengthening Rural Communities
- Developing the Human Capital
- Promoting Environmental Management
- Promoting Institutional Modernization

These programs are based on the principles of partnership and strategic alliances, cooperation, result-driven actions and accountability. All of them aim to respond to the mandates conferred to IICA during the Third Summit of the Americas, the First and Second Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life (Bavaro 2001 and Panama 2003) and lastly during the Special Summit of the Americas held in Monterrey, Mexico, in January 2004.

The Directors of Strategic Areas take the lead in preparing the hemispheric agenda, with the close participation of the Regional Specialists.

2002-2003: The National Agendas as the linchpin of Technical Cooperation



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The National Agendas for Technical Cooperation
Executive Summary

3 *2002-2003: The National Agendas as the linchpin of Technical Cooperation*

In the 2002-2003 period, IICA implemented important actions to carry out the mandates related to agriculture and rural life of the Third Summit of the Americas in Quebec, Canada, in April 2001, and the terms of the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture signed in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, in November 2001.

During this period the Institute aligned its mission, vision, objectives and the strategic areas of action set out in its 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan with the Summit mandates.

The first step was to prepare, jointly with key actors in the agricultural sector (public and private sectors, academia and civil society), technical cooperation agendas in line with national priorities and geared to addressing supranational problems.

As presented in the document “Repositioning IICA to meet the challenges of the 21st Century, the new Administration established a mechanism for performance evaluation and to increase accountability to the national authorities, through ad hoc instru-

ments and detailed annual reports on the implementation of the cooperation agendas. This enhances transparency and the countries’ involvement in preparing the agendas.

The structure of the Institute was adjusted with the creation of the Technical Cooperation Secretariat, which articulates and focuses the Institute’s technical resources to implement the cooperation agendas. The Directorate for Performance Management and Evaluation; the Directorate for Follow up of the Summits of the Americas Process; and, the Directorate of Strategic Partnerships, in Washington, D.C., were also created. The latter facilitates and promotes actions with third parties and acts as the focal point to establish relations with other international organizations located in the United States, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The result of these changes has been a shift in the Institute’s organization and actions toward those of a development agency that promotes the sustainable development of agriculture, food security and the prosperity of rural communities.

2003-2004: The Inter-thematic Programs



4 2003-2004: *The Inter-thematic Programs*

In 2003 and 2004, IICA made progress in implementing the 2002-2006 Technical Cooperation Agenda and promoted the aim of focusing technical cooperation under inter-thematic programs, so that its actions would have a greater impact on its Member States' development.

During this report period, in addition to providing cooperation activities in its member countries, IICA followed up and implemented initiatives to comply with the mandates on agriculture and rural life issued at the Third Summit of the Americas, and with the terms of the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture, signed in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, in 2001.

Among other activities, IICA updated the National and Regional Technical Cooperation Agendas for the 2002-2006 period with key stakeholders of agriculture (public and private sector, academia and civil society). In the spirit of accountability, IICA Offices prepared annual reports for the authorities of each Member State on the actions conducted in 2002 to implement their Technical Cooperation Agendas.

A hemispheric agenda was formulated to promote the sustainable development of agriculture, food security, and prosperity in the rural communities of the hemisphere. It is based on thematic and cross-cutting, inter-thematic actions that involve two or more of the Institute's Strategic Areas, and enables IICA to respond more effectively to the development priorities of the Member States.

With regard to enhancing relations with strategic partners, IICA's ties with PAHO were strengthened and joint efforts now focus on allevia-

ting the hunger and malnutrition that affect so many people in Latin America and the Caribbean. Initiatives were also agreed to within the framework of the Interagency Group on Rural Development, of which IICA is a member along with the IDB, IFAD, the World Bank, FAO, ECLAC, USAID and GTZ.

In addition, in the context of the OAS, an agreement was signed with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights to strengthen relations in order to more effectively promote rural development, equal rights in rural and urban areas, social peace, and democracy.

In the 2003-2004 period, the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety was launched and its office opened Miami. Its purpose is to help member countries participate successfully in world markets, offering information and high-quality services to the agricultural and agroindustrial sector. It also aims to integrate, promote and develop export capacities as a means of facilitating access to international markets.

An external evaluation was conducted of IICA's Agricultural Health and Food Safety Program and, in follow up, IICA's Executive Committee approved the work plan recommended in the evaluation. Member States were asked to consider making extra-quota contributions to facilitate implementation of same.

During this period, a new human resources management system was established, which includes innovations in the classification and remuneration systems, improvements in recruitment practices, new procedures for performance evaluation, and new tools for developing the Institute's human resources.

A strategy was approved for collecting quotas owed to the Institute. Member States in arrears have been encouraged to agree to payment arrangements with the Institute, in order to make it possible for IICA to comply fully with the mandates it has received.

Of major importance was the Second Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life and the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) which were held in Panama in November 2003.

During the Ministerial Meeting, the ministers signed the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, a fundamental document in relation to the course for agriculture of the hemisphere. Immediately following the Ministerial Meeting, the meeting of the IABA was held, affording the ministers an opportunity to analyze the progress of the Institute. Under the title "More than food on the table: The true contribution of agriculture to economic development," IICA presented its research findings that demonstrate that agriculture is considerably more important to economic and social development than suggested by national accounts. Another IICA study was presented at the meeting, on the agricultural policies and institutions required in the 21st century.

*2004-2005: Accountability, update of the
agendas and the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan*



5 *2004-2005: Accountability, update of the agendas and the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan*

During 2004, the Institute continued its efforts to comply with the mandates related to agriculture and rural life issued at the Third Summit of the Americas, the Monterrey Summit and the Meetings of Ministers of Agriculture held in Bavaro in 2001 and Panama in 2003. The Institute has renewed its commitment to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in its areas of competence and specialization.

IICA provided support, at the hemispheric level, for implementation of the Agro 2003-2015 Plan, approved by the Ministers of Agriculture at the meeting in Panama. It also followed up on implementation in the countries, through constant support from its technical personnel and Offices, and through development of a system of indicators for monitoring progress and results achieved.

In the spirit of accountability and transparency, IICA prepared annual reports and presented them to the corresponding authorities in each Member State and to the agricultural community in separate national workshops which reported in detail on activities carried out by IICA in 2003 to implement the Technical Cooperation Agendas.

In the context of modern strategic planning, changes in the global and national arenas made it necessary to continue to revise and adjust those agendas in conjunction with public and private stakeholders in the inter-American agricultural area. As part of the review process and to underscore the dialogue, the inter-thematic approach to technical cooperation was gradually introduced. In this approach, all thematic areas of the Institute commit to

providing a more comprehensive response to the needs of Member States, stakeholders and partners of the Institute.

IICA continued to promote and develop the “working together” strategy with the entities of the Inter-American System (OAS, PAHO, IDB, Inter-American Court of Human Rights), international organizations (FAO, IFAD, UN-ECLAC) and the cooperation agencies of developed countries (USAID, CIDA, AECI, GTZ, etc.). Efforts to strengthen institutional cooperation are focused on making agriculture more competitive and alleviating the poverty affecting so many rural dwellers.

The opening of the IICA Office in Miami made it possible to expand the scope of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety. Under this program, the Export Platform Program is executed as part of a strategy to gain access for agrifood products to the markets of Canada and the United States. As support for agricultural exporters and technical personnel in the member countries, the Institute provided them with training, assisted them in validating and promoting their products, in compliance with the procedures and requirements for entering these demanding markets.

Convinced of the great potential for agricultural trade to make a substantial improvement in living conditions in the countries, IICA continued its efforts to promote regional and hemispheric integration processes and support the parties in the process of negotiating free trade agreements. Specifically, it supported the countries and blocs in formulating positions for negotiations, and

provided information on and conducted analyses of the potential impact of such treaties on the national and regional agrifood sector.

In May 2004, the Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology to Increase Agricultural Productivity was held in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Conference, organized by IICA, the Ministries of Agriculture and Science and Technology of Costa Rica, and the Departments of State and Agriculture of the United States, was attended by representatives of Central America, Argentina, Chile, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. At the conference, the discussions focused on the development of agro biotechnologies and their socioeconomic impact, and the importance of promoting the transformation of agriculture based on knowledge, technology development and international competition. The conclusions of the event will serve as the basis for the design of national and regional policies on technological innovation.

In the area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, the second stage of the Initiative for the Countries of the Americas in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures within the framework of the WTO was carried out, making it possible for almost 100% of the countries of the Americas to participate in the meetings of the WTO/SPS Committee. In partnership with the OIE, the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) instrument was prepared. That instrument makes it possible to characterize the operation of national veterinary services and determine the strategy and the joint actions required to strengthen them. The PVS has already been applied with success in Central America.

In support of the strengthening of rural communities, IICA focused its activities on promoting the territorial approach to rural development in all possible inter-American and international forums. At the level of direct cooperation, the Institute supported the formulation of rural development strategies, policies and programs consistent with that approach and assisted in the design and

strengthening of the necessary institutional frameworks. Added to this was the continuation of the joint effort carried out with the key Inter-Agency Group on Rural Development.

As part of the strategy for repositioning IICA technically, a series of Technical Forums were held in 2004. The Forums, the purpose of which is to exchange opinions on issues of critical importance to agriculture and rural life, are intended to yield ideas and approaches which can be applied in IICA's technical cooperation actions and to generate information of use to decision makers in the public and private sectors.

In the eleven forums held in 2004, highly qualified speakers, including the former Ministers of Agriculture of Canada and Costa Rica, addressed the following topics: 1) comprehensive policy analysis, reassessing the role of agriculture and the rural milieu in sustainable development; 2) challenges for agriculture in the Americas in the context of trade negotiations; 3) importance of agricultural health, food safety and Codex Alimentarius; 4) agriculture and energy; 5) opening to exports and health problems the case of foot and mouth disease in Uruguay; 6) education, rural employment and poverty alleviation; 7) development and safe use of agrobiotechnologies in the Americas; 8) agriculture's potential as a source of energy in the Americas; 9) agriculture's contribution to rural poverty alleviation and job creation; 10) impact of CAFTA on agriculture and the rural milieu in 5 Central American countries; and, 11) agribusiness and solutions to rural poverty: the social responsibility of agribusinesses.

Also, the Institute continued to promote human resource training for those with the required ability to stimulate the development of agriculture and rural well-being. Accordingly, it adopted modern communication technologies and developed cooperative mechanisms, including the GDLNA, established with the World Bank.

Lastly, IICA has undertaken the task of developing and expanding its capabilities and systems for the management of knowledge and

information as a means of strengthening technical cooperation and repositioning itself firmly. The aim here is to convert the Institute into the principal reference point for information and knowledge on agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere. To this end, the Agricultural Information and Documentation System of the Americas – SIDALC – which started with financing from the Kellogg Foundation, is one of the most important sources of agricultural knowledge in the Americas.

Another important step in achieving this objective was the adoption of

a number of information technologies, including the new Web Portal (<http://www.iica.int>), which was redesigned using the highest international standards and the technical content of which was updated and expanded continually. The site is a platform for dialogue and the exchange of knowledge and information with Member States, public and private agents linked to agriculture and the Institute's strategic partners. In the same vein, the technical information system Infoagro.net was strengthened and the Virtual Private Network and the Intranet were developed as tools to help achieve institutional objectives.

Technical Cooperation 2002-2005



6 *Technical Cooperation 2002-2005*

6.1

Trade and Agribusiness Development

One of the most important issues addressed from the beginning of this Administration was the strengthening of IICA's regional capacity to support the evaluation and monitoring of trade agricultural and sectoral policies, and technical and thematic aspects of agricultural trade negotiations and the administration of multilateral and regional agreements.

As part of the initiatives related to the proposed Free Trade Agreement between Central America and the United States, IICA directed the Global Dialogue on the Prospects, Challenges and Possibilities for the Agreement; prepared a profile on agrifood trade between the U.S. and the Central American countries; and approved a project proposal entitled "Support for the Region's Agricultural Trade as related to Policies, International Negotiations and the Application of Sanitary Measures and Food Safety."

With reference to efforts to help **strengthen domestic markets**, IICA developed a

methodology for determining the best moment to buy and sell products and thereby maximize the return on capital invested in producing and marketing agricultural products.

IICA **supported the development of regional positions** and facilitated the search for consensus in agricultural trade and sectoral policy by fostering the first meeting of agricultural trade policy offices of the Central American countries. IICA served as technical secretariat for various discussion forums, among them the Southern Agricultural Council, the Informal Group of Southern Agricultural Negotiators, and the Network for the Coordination of Agricultural Policies in the Southern Region.

Peru

IICA assisted the Government of Peru, the CENI-SNI, private agricultural organizations and associations of producers and processors in studying the situation and the possible impact of a free trade agreement between Peru and the U.S., focusing on the chains of nine of the country's sensitive agricultural products.

The analysis looked at the status and outlook for each sensitive product, mainly in terms of the impact on production, employment and rural income. This study, and the dialogue that also formed part of the initiative, helped determine the negotiating position that best served Peru's interests.

Brazil

Brazil is recognized as being one of the world's agrifood powerhouses and a source of many important lessons for the LAC countries in the agribusiness field.

IICA established an agribusiness hub of excellence that was to become a permanent focal point for coordinating actions between Brazil and the rest of the hemisphere, geared to sharing experiences and achieving joint results in four areas: i) risk coverage to afford protection from changes in prices; ii) analysis and dissemination of financing instruments for promoting production and businesses; iii) analysis of the development of wholesale food supply and distribution systems; and, iv) support for training, skills development, research and technical assistance in this field.

In order to contribute to **strengthening domestic markets**, IICA supported the Member States in designing and administering new financial support instruments for the agrifood sector. In this connection, training was provided on the use of titling of agricultural assets as a source of financing. Technical support was given for developing agricultural commodity exchanges in Chile, Bolivia and Mexico, and advisory services were provided to exchanges already in existence in other countries of the hemisphere.

Bolivia

IICA prepared a study for the creation of a dynamic market for fresh and dried llama meat, camelid fibers for the textile industry and the processing of llama hides. The development of high-quality South American camelidae and their byproducts is a market with potential for expansion in Bolivia that would make it possible to improve the income of local producers.

Also, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and the IDB, IICA successfully concluded two technological training, job creation and income generating projects for rural women alpaca wool graders in the Bautista Saavedra, Franz Tamayo and Camacho provinces of the Department of La Paz. These actions have improved the lot of women alpaca workers in the Bolivian highlands.

In support of the **market integration process**, IICA participated as technical secretariat of the eleventh meeting of the Pan American Association of Commodity Exchanges, at which it made presentations and submitted technical documents on the improvement of the marketing of agrifood products.

Various Central American, Caribbean, and Andean Region countries received support for establishing agrifood chains, which facilitate the identification and implementation of strategies for improving competitiveness.

El Salvador

Since 2002, IICA has been implementing the MAG-FRUTALES National Fruit Program, which encompasses nearly 6,000 new hectares of permanent crops. Created by the Government to promote agricultural diversification, the Program has helped generate foreign exchange, create sources of employment and increase sustainable management in a densely populated country where there is great pressure on natural resources.

With an investment of US\$3.5 million, the Government has leveraged private investment of nearly US\$20 million and generated 6,000 permanent new jobs. It is estimated that in the future, annual fruit production will be worth US\$50 million. To consolidate the results achieved, IICA drafted a strategy for increasing the competitiveness of fruit-growing through 2014, aimed at promoting competitive clusters of agribusinesses, linked to poles of development and based on the responsible use of the environment.

Honduras

IICA provided direct assistance to the Planning and Evaluation Management Unit (UPEG/SAG) with the application of the CADIAC methodology to analyze the agrifood chains of dairy products, corn and coffee; and provided advisory services for analyses of the oil palm, horticultural products, pig and poultry chains.

The Institute also helped the National Agrifood Program set up the Committees on Competitiveness. Finally, it helped the efforts of the UPEG-SAG to design and apply the methodology for monitoring the agreements and commitments assumed by the actors in the agrifood chains.

Through PRODAR, IICA supported the development of small- and medium-scale rural agribusinesses, facilitating horizontal cooperation and the upgrading of business management capabilities and product transformation processes.

Panama

IICA helped develop and enhance expertise with regard to the application of agricultural marketing instruments, such as commodity exchanges and the use of tariff quotas. The Institute supported the efforts to improve the capabilities of MIDA and private-sector specialists, with a view to negotiating a free trade agreement with the U.S.

IICA conducted an analysis of the competitiveness of Panamanian products in international markets and determined the public policies required to chart the sector's course for the next five years. This initiative has helped the country assume positions in the trade and economic integration negotiations in the region.

Together with members of the Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA) and the Caribbean Youth Agricultural Forum, a number of seminars were conducted to share information on the trade negotiation process, business management, and agro-tourism.

Barbados

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development set as one of its goals the development of the production of native (black belly) sheep as a traditional Barbadian product.

As a result, IICA provided technical support for the development of this industry by coordinating a workshop for stakeholders. The representative sample of the industry that took part was introduced to the use of IICA's agrifood chains and dialogue for action approach (CADIAC) to achieve industrial competitiveness. Under the first stage of this initiative, major strides have already been taken to develop competitiveness in this industry.

With regard to participation in external markets, IICA promoted sustained growth of agricultural exports and increases in the number of exporters through the "Export Platforms" program in four countries of the Central Region. As a result, medium- and small-scale agrifood businesses launched exports to the United States of America and Canada. Contacts have been made for extending this program to the Andean and Caribbean Regions.

As mentioned earlier, IICA launched the Miami office of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety, which concentrates its actions in four core

Costa Rica Nicaragua El Salvador and Honduras

To develop agribusiness capabilities in the food markets of Canada and the United States, IICA implemented the "Creating exporters: Export platforms" Program. It has been carried out in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Honduras, with over 110 firms benefiting that export a wide range of agricultural products.

The success rate of companies that manage to develop strong commercial ties with markets in the U.S. and Canada is over 50%. This and the Program's relevance has led to it being extended to the Dominican Republic, while negotiations are under way to implement it in the Andean Region.

areas: market development, strengthening of business capabilities, food safety, and trade information. Partnerships were forged with firms that supply trade information (i.e., Indigo Key), and a cooperation agreement was signed with the Market Information Organization of the Americas for developing activities to pool the market information systems of its members.

Belize

The production and export of sugar is a key source of foreign exchange and employment in Belize. Mindful of this situation, IICA has been involved in technical assessments of the activity and in proposing measures to increase its competitiveness, contributing directly to the preparation of government policies for the development of the sugar industry.

Recently, the Institute helped organize the stakeholders to conduct a chain analysis of the sugarcane system. This effort included methodological training for local technical personnel and the identification of strengths and weaknesses and priority areas for intervention.

As part of the permanent process for monitoring agriculture and rural life, and based on a methodology developed within the Institute that makes it possible to measure agriculture's true contribution to economic development, a study was carried out whose preliminary results suggest that, when the value added of the pre-harvest and post-harvest components of production chains are included, agriculture contributes a significantly large percentage of GDP, as well as being a source of important linkages with the rest of the economy.

Following on from this study, IICA spearheaded the

	A. GDP /GDP	Ag.GDP Expanded /GDP	Relation between both
Costa Rica	11,30%	32,50%	2,9%
Mexico	4,60%	24,50%	5,3%
Chile	5,60%	32,10%	5,7%
Brazil	4,30%	26,20%	6,1%
USA	0,70%	8,10%	11,6%

development of a program to strengthen sustainable development and the growth of agriculture in the Caribbean, known as the "Jagdeo Initiative."

The Institute also continued to promote the development of small rural agroindustries. Through PRODAR, a network of specialists in the field was set up; a fair on rural agro-industry and territories was planned, coordinated and held in Mexico; and, in cooperation with FAO, a training manual was prepared to help small- and medium-scale rural business organizations more effectively penetrate markets.

Also, the project Documentary Requirements for the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety was implemented in coordination with the USDA; assistance in holding a hemispheric meeting on trade-related aspects of the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol was provided in Argentina; and support was provided for officials from El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama to attend the First Meeting of the Parties to the Protocol, held in February in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Andean Region

To help improve competitiveness and global trade, working with the General Secretariat of the CAN and public and private organizations, IICA held an international seminar in Lima on other countries' experiences in conducting bilateral negotiations with the United States and the impact on the agricultural sector of Mexico and Chile and the Central American countries. It is currently assisting Peru, Ecuador and Colombia with an analysis of the potential impact of the free trade agreement on specific sensitive products, in support of the negotiations with the United States.

In order to support the development of the public institutional framework for the promotion and development of agribusiness, a technical cooperation agreement was signed with the MIOA,

Argentina

IICA adds value to quantitative and qualitative data generated by government agencies, so that public sector officials can use it as input for policy-making and performance audits.

The various analytical inputs related to the effective integration of the agrifood sector into the domestic and world economy include the status report that presents an analysis of, and the outlook for, the agricultural sector, "Argentina in numbers," and "China in the world agrifood market," which, combined with dissemination activities and seminars, promote trade and business development. The dairy and wine-producing sectors are already benefiting from these initiatives.

in which IICA serves as Technical Secretariat. Two meetings of the MIOA Executive Committee were coordinated and a call for bids to conduct an assessment of agricultural market information systems in the member countries of MIOA was issued.

With regard to the strengthening of interinstitutional relations, a technical cooperation agreement was signed with

the Business School at Florida International University, in an effort to assist in making agribusinesses in IICA's member countries more competitive.

Uruguay

IICA devised and implemented a lecture series entitled "State policies: the agricultural sector in the years ahead." The activities focused on issues of strategic importance to Uruguay's agricultural sector and made it possible to share experiences with other countries in the region. Some of the themes of these meetings were: "Agricultural expansion, the Argentine experience," which emphasized technological innovation and the importance of social capital; "Agribusiness, the Brazilian experience," which

IICA participated in numerous conferences, congresses and other events with a view to publicizing IICA's activities and increasing its presence in different international forums. These included: a) the World Agricultural Forum, held in St. Louis, Missouri; b) the Conference of Montreal; c) the Agri-business Task Force, which met during the annual meeting of the CCAA; and d) the global dialogue on the importance of incorporating small farmers into value chains, coordinated by the World Bank and held in Washington, D.C.

Bahamas

IICA promoted diversification and increased the income of rural communities by preparing a study on the tomato chain and concluding a pre-feasibility study on a bottled tomato project.

It also supported the establishment of the Bahamas Agricultural Producers Association (BAPA) and the preparation of a market study on the demand for tomatoes and their byproducts.

demonstrated the use of the concept of expanded agriculture and agriculture's multiple linkages; and "Agro-export policy, the Chilean experience," which centered on the interaction needed between the public and private sectors, and the definition of policies for integration into world markets. A total of 1500 people from Uruguay's agricultural sector took part in the series of meetings, which enabled greater interaction with the panelists and national experts.

A horizontal technical cooperation program entitled “Policy and Trade Node: Focal Point Mexico” was initiated as a means of drawing on Mexico’s experience in the application and administration of free trade agreements in order to improve the capabilities of other countries of the hemisphere. Participants in the program were technical personnel from the public and private sectors of Central America.

Mexico

The “Policy and Trade Node: Focal Point Mexico” was established to share Mexico’s experience in making the transition toward free trade, publicizing analyses of the performance of Mexico’s agricultural sector and disseminating the sectoral perspective ten years after NAFTA came into force.

Within this framework, IICA promoted visits to Mexico by Central American professionals from the agrifood sector, to learn first-hand about the experience acquired. It also advised Panama’s public and private sectors about trade negotiations, and conducted missions to Peru, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic to support the implementation of workshops on agricultural trade negotiations.

Honduras, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Barbados and Bolivia received direct technical support in the area of agrifood chains. Using the CADIAC methodology, representatives of the public and private sectors defined policies and programs intended to overcome the problems that hinder competitiveness.

Through the Infoagro/ Comercio information system, follow-up was provided on developments in agriculture in the multilateral and bilateral negotiations of the countries of the hemisphere, both within the WTO and the FTAA. Weekly electronic bulletins containing documents and news on the status of the negotiations were prepared and distributed to more than 3,000 subscribers.

Dominican Republic

IICA supported the development of the skills of the team for the agricultural trade negotiations. As a result, the agricultural sector now has a group of 24 professionals with up-to-date information and trained for the agricultural trade negotiations, particularly those with the FTAA, the WTO, Central America and CARICOM.

The country is also involved in bilateral trade negotiations with Canada, the United States, Venezuela, Panama, Ecuador and Chile.

Nicaragua

With the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Institute assisted the Agricultural and Forestry Ministry (MAGFOR) and the private sector in designing general and product-specific strategies to increase production of goods, replacing agricultural imports and increasing the country’s export capacity.

A study was conducted to identify and assess market opportunities and commercial contacts, and the key factors for success and constraints to competitiveness. IICA also supported or played an active role in the implementation of 16 studies of agricultural production chains for the same number of products.

IICA also published 12 volumes of the electronic magazine “InterCambio,” which presented institutional analyses and opinions on trade, trade negotiations and agribusiness, and included articles on the implications of the Free Trade Agreement between Central America and the United States, the status of negotiations at the WTO, labeling, agro-tourism in the Caribbean, and other topics.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

IICA sponsored several meetings of the national chapter of the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu, during which officials from the Ministry of Agriculture and Trade, producers and exporters studied common concerns related to the production and marketing of manioc, pineapples, mangoes, sweet potato, hot peppers and limes.

Thanks to these events, 16 agricultural entrepreneurs had the opportunity to compete more successfully in the national and international markets by participating in agribusiness management workshops, while 23 producers received training in inspection and quality control for agricultural products, to enable them to access the United States market.

Ecuador

With financing from the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (COSUDE) and in partnership with the MCCH consortium, IICA assisted farmers with management tools, technical aspects and access to credit.

The results are already visible in the highlands of Ecuador: tens of bean producers have improved their marketing, cheesemakers in Guamote have set up a consortium to organize the sale of their products and several indigenous communities in Gatazo formed the Huertos GZ company to export broccoli (250 producers and their families).

Paraguay

The final report was published containing the agenda for national competitiveness, and follow-up to the policy measures established in the agendas of the chains of oil-seeds, grains, cotton, sugarcane, yerba mate, fruits and vegetables, beef, pork, milk, poultry and forestry products.

This joint action with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, businesspeople and producers of Paraguay’s agricultural and agroindustrial sector has established a basic frame of reference for enhancing the skills required in a global economy and created an important forum for dialogue between the agricultural public and private sectors.

With regard to training in agrifood policies and trade, progress was made in producing a virtual course targeting professionals in the public and private sectors. Also, IICA participated in the organization of several regional and national workshops and seminars. The module on agriculture which IICA presented at the Regional Workshop on Agricultural Trade and the WTO Negotiations is worthy of special mention.

Guatemala

Agriculture and the rural milieu are suffering from the reduction in investment and credit in absolute and relative terms. To identify ways of counteracting this trend, and at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, IICA conducted four studies on investment, credit and capitalization in agriculture, which include proposals for an agricultural and rural development investment strategy; the creation of a fund to attract private investment in agribusiness; the creation of a rural financial system; an investment program for agricultural and rural development based on shared social responsibility, and an estimation of the demand for resources and public utilities.

In the context of the modernization of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems, IICA concentrated its efforts in assisting countries to evaluate the progress in their performance and the quality of the national agricultural health and food safety systems. With this objective, the Institute, in partnership with the OIE, developed an instrument of performance evaluation for these systems entitled “Performance, Vision and Strategy” (PVS), which considers processes, products and services. This instrument was developed to evaluate their performance, and continuously compares it to other similar organizations. The model begins by identifying the basic components for the operation of these systems, and involves all public and private stakeholders, so as to cover the many different health-related responsibilities in the agrifood chain

Canada

Within the framework of the Canada-CARICOM Alliance on Codex and Food Protection Systems, IICA organized a workshop entitled “Strengthening food safety alliances,” for food specialists from all of the Caribbean countries.

The aim of the workshop was to give the participants a better grasp of the structure required for food inspection and safety at the national level; improve communications and create partnerships at the national and regional levels; learn about existing regional strategic plans for food safety; and report on emerging issues based on scientific evidence.

that are required for the marketing and consumption of agricultural products at the national and international levels. The instru-

Central Region

The institutional performance of the Central American countries’ veterinary services was analyzed and assessed using the “Performance, Vision and Strategy” (PVS) instrument.

The process made it possible to arrive at a shared vision and identify the priorities for modernizing the veterinary services, so they meet current international standards and regulations.

Along with the public AHFS services, private associations representing the most important livestock activities were actively involved in the assessment.

ment was created in an electronic format to make it easier to use.

In the Caribbean, IICA took the leadership in the process for the development of a strategy against invasive species.

The “Performance, Vision and Strategy” instrument was implemented in Central America, in response to a mandate from the CAC, producing specific results for six countries and general results for the region. The OIE conducted an evaluation of the impact and results of this experience with a view to replicating it in other countries. The instrument was also applied to the animal health, plant protection and food safety services of Mexico, and development of a computerized application of the model began.

As regards the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS), IICA in tandem with the USDA, implemented a program to facilitate the participation of national delegates in the meetings of the WTO SPS Committee. This program has had a major impact, helping to strengthen the institutional framework in the countries and thereby ensuring that the WTO/SPS Agreement is implemented and administered effectively.

Suriname

IICA supported the management of carambola fruit fly control in the Guyanas, financed by USDA, IFAD and the Dutch Treaty Fund.

The Institute also strengthened the quarantine and certification infrastructure and facilitated the setting up of the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee, financed by the IDB.

The outputs include a register of the country's livestock farms and the data collected and stored in an information system.

Implementation of the Initiative for the Americas in SPS continued, and as a result, measures were promoted to ensure the successful participation of the countries in the SPS Committee, such as:

- The establishment of effective mechanisms for coordination between the public and private sectors (currently, 32 of the 34 countries of the Americas have some formal or informal mechanism in place for both sectors to work together on formulating a national SPS agenda).
- The operation of channels for fluid and ongoing communication among national entities responsible for matters related to

SPS and their representatives at the WTO (23 of the countries in the Americas have such channels).

- The assignment of responsibility for monitoring matters related to SPS at the international level to officials of those entities (almost 60% of the countries have at least one official responsible for this area).

Thanks to this initiative, the countries acquired important knowledge of the workings of the SPS/WTO Committee, the

Antigua and Barbuda

In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries and agribusiness entrepreneurs, IICA supported the establishment of the local chapter of the Caribbean Association of Agro-entrepreneurs.

This made it possible to increase the creation of networks to link local agro-entrepreneurs and their counterparts on neighboring islands.

Groups of agro-entrepreneurs also have access to information on new technologies, markets and companies, making it easier for them to gain entry to new markets and increase the earnings of small and medium-sized enterprises.

Colombia

The Center for Plant Health Excellence (CEF) is a project implemented with technical support from the ICA, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and IICA, with resources from USAID. The CEF is designed to promote exports of Colombian fresh produce, generating the studies or preliminary risk analyses (PRA), needed to speed up export applications.

The most important results include six PRAs being studied by APHIS and five in first phase of preparation, the sharing of experiences with Canada and Brazil and the beginning of exports of Colombian cape gooseberries to the U.S.

Venezuela

IICA supported the institution building efforts of the Autonomous Agricultural Health Service (SASA), aware of the importance of promoting protective plant and animal health actions throughout production chains.

As a result of the joint efforts, the country is now playing a bigger role in the consolidation of Codex, the National Commission on Zoonoses is being coordinated and the foot-and-mouth, fruit fly and equine encephalitis programs are being supported. Good livestock practices in the Special Development Areas are also being improved and there are ongoing training and dissemination activities related to Good Agricultural Practices and the Bioterrorism Act.

subjects it addresses, and the benefits of active participation in its meetings. Also, they made important contacts at the regional and international levels and strengthened their inquiry and notification points, their positions on the topic of SPS and their ability to engage in bilateral negotiations and set up a hemispheric community to discuss and analyze technical issues. Also, they were able to participate more effectively in meetings on topics related to SPS, even making important contributions in areas such as special and differential treatment, equivalence and regionalization.

The Initiative has benefited more than 150 specialists from Ministries of Agriculture, Trade and Health in LAC, which, in turn, has led to greater interinstitutional coordination. The three meetings of the SPS Committee held in 2004 were attended by representatives of 95% of the countries of the Central, Andean and Caribbean regions; this contrasts with figures in previous years, which never exceeded 3%.

It has also enabled IICA to strengthen its strategic partnerships with international organizations such as the WTO, the IPPC and the OIE. In fact, the Institute has been designated by the WTO as a regional support organization for its training courses.

With regard to emerging issues and agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) emergencies, a strategy was implemented in the

Canada

In collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), IICA facilitated the implementation of a hemispheric workshop on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), to raise awareness of the need to take a proactive approach and develop the capabilities required to tackle the disease.

This workshop helped the participants understand the international standards regarding BSE and the disease's limited impact on public health, unlike the consequences for trade.

Representatives of Canada and the United States summarized the research carried out in the two countries and emphasized the need to invest in national agricultural health and food safety systems, to enable the countries to respond to emerging cases and maintain consumer confidence.

Caribbean Region to control and prevent the spread of the giant African snail. This involved conducting risk assessments, preparing proposals to update legislation on the pest, and organizing regional seminars to support educational plant protection campaigns.

Furthermore, the Institute revised the rules on the emerging and emergency issues fund, coordinated with the regional specialists in identifying issues that are a priority for the different regions, in studies for the Andean and Caribbean regions were completed. In the Caribbean, IICA developed manuals and organized simulation exercises in various countries, in order to prepare them to respond to emerging diseases.

The Institute disseminated information on bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and avian influenza to help the countries address emergencies that arose during the year. It continued to operate the “Agrosalud” information platform, which offers up-to-date information on AHFS; and strengthened its linkages with international organizations such as WTO, OIE, FAO, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius, supporting several workshops and joint activities.

In Central America, IICA evaluated screwworm infestation, quantified the economic losses caused by this pest in livestock, analyzed the damage done to other socioeconomic sectors, and recommended control and prevention actions.

Argentina

Working with the SAGPyA, SENASA and INTA, IICA prepared a National Program, financed by the World Bank, to step up efforts to prevent Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or “mad cow disease.” As a result of this project, SAGPyA, IICA and the BIRFN signed a letter of understanding and carried out the first training activity for the technical staff of the epidemiological surveillance program.

national legislation. The participants are working in their respective countries on 16 food safety research, extension and education projects.

With respect to food safety, four modules of the first Executive Series on Leadership in Food Safety were conducted. A 30-member group was set up with people from the public and private sectors of 22 countries. This group aims to challenge existing food safety paradigms, help raise awareness of the subject’s importance, and define a framework of policies and

Brazil

At the request of the MAPA, IICA submitted proposals regarding border surveillance, traceability and bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) with a view to stepping up the cooperation actions on these subjects. A BSE project was prepared jointly, to secure the official recognition and continuation of Brazil’s status as a country free from the disease.

Haiti

The Institute implemented the program to control classical swine fever and the program to strengthen agricultural health infrastructure to improve access to markets, financed by USDA, the European Union and the Government of Haiti, in collaboration with the Dominican Republic.

The aim of these programs is to bolster the animal and plant quarantine structures in Haiti and eradicate classical swine fever and its impact on the country’s rural economies.

By 2004, the coverage of the hog vaccination program had reached 85%, with vaccination operations following the manual of procedures to combat classical swine fever defined during the first year of the program.

In addition, IICA participated in the meetings of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and shared the results widely with key public and private sector officials in LAC, emphasizing the need for them to participate more actively in the Commission’s work. Research was also carried out on the countries’ needs

Costa Rica

IICA supported the Intersectoral Food Safety Commission (CIIA), a group comprising 17 public and private institutions that promotes the issue throughout the agricultural production chain.

IICA took part in the preparation of a medium-term work plan that prioritizes the training of producers, institution building, the dissemination of the importance of the issue for public health and trade, and the drafting of apposite policies and regulations. Thanks to the CIIA's work, previously fragmented institutional efforts are now better coordinated. A bill is now being drafted that will create a national food safety system.

IICA was actively involved in the design and operation of the CIIA's Internet portal, which facilitates communication and the dissemination of information and knowledge.

with regard to Codex standards. IICA improved its communication with the member countries and organizations working in the field of food safety. The production of newsletters and its participation in strategic meetings have opened the door for IICA to cooperate more actively in this area.

In the field of information management, IICA's collaboration made it possible to extend the coverage of the Agrosalud (Agrihealth) information platform to 35 countries and increase the number of users by 68%.

IICA also supported the Joint FAO/WHO Commission of Codex Alimentarius and the Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean, analyzing proposed norms and disseminating the results of the meetings in the AccessPlus bulletin.

Also of relevance is the progress with the WTO, the IPPC, the OIE and Codex Alimentarius in the identification of joint actions compatible with IICA's priorities in agricultural health and food safety.

In addition, the Institute prepared and published the study: "Making agricultural exports more competitive and improving market access by developing and implementing safety and quality standards: The example of asparagus in Peru," which describes a successful experiment in the application of Codex norms in the America.

Ecuador

In 2003, Ecuador's program for the inspection of export bananas and musaceae was consolidated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, the Association of Banana Exporters and other public and private stakeholders. The program is now making it possible to promote and improve the plant health quality of the various fruits (bananas, oritos, dominicos, morados, plantains and others) for international markets, by providing professional plant health inspection services run by specialists in the ports.

New markets have been secured for the fruits, a national standard has been established, fewer boxes are rejected due to plant health problems and an information system is in place. All these achievements have assured the image of Ecuadorian bananas worldwide.

Finally, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting, the IABA instructed IICA to conduct an assessment of its Agricultural Health and Food Safety Program.

The Institute did this in 2003 and, in the process, established a frame of reference for maximizing the impact of its technical cooperation efforts in this strategic area. The assessment process was

transparent and realistic, and provided useful additional input for the national agendas. Common needs were identified that can be met by means of actions that have a multiplier effect.

Chile

With support from IICA and FAO, Chile's Agriculture and Livestock Service organized the First Hemispheric Meeting on the International Border Control of Animal and Plant Health. Held in Puerto Varas, the meeting made it possible to initiate a hemispheric dialogue aimed at formulating guidelines and policies that will harmonize and strengthen border control strategies.

As a result, a series of recommendations were drawn up related to policies, trade facilitation, the use of technology and horizontal cooperation.

Paraguay

The conditions for implementing the foot-and-mouth eradication program were improved, working in coordination with SENACSA, the MAG, private-sector livestock institutions and livestock producers.

As a result of this joint effort, 101 veterinarians were trained for their new role as technical coordinators and a further 850 to oversee the implementation of the second stage of the foot-and-mouth vaccination efforts. All this was done using teaching material and operational manuals prepared and produced through IICA's technical cooperation.

IICA continued its support on several fronts for the consolidation of the Regional Technology Innovation System. First, within the framework of FORAGRO, dialogue, hemispheric alliances and inter-regional coordination were promoted. The Forum's Technical Advisory Group made progress in the execution of activities in the following priority areas: new biotechnologies; conservation and use of genetic resources; agribusiness and technological innovation for small-scale agriculture; and sustainable management of natural resources.

Belize

IICA provided support and direct technical cooperation to promote research on alternative tropical fruit and root crop production.

Belize has a large number of smallholders (farmers with less than 20 acres of land) and is endeavoring to develop tropical fruits and root crops that will permit them to diversify their production while conserving the environment and increasing earnings in a sustainable way, using the wealth of plant resources available in the country.

Secondly, ties with the GFAR were strengthened and joint activities were programmed. Included here were efforts to secure technical and financial support for FORAGRO activities. Both forums supported CIRAD in conducting consultation on LAC priorities in the area of technological innovation, and promoted an initiative calling for intercontinental cooperation in the management of institutional innovation.

Thirdly, thanks to a joint effort with the authorities of the Agricultural Research Institute of Panama (IDIAP), progress was

Central Region

In response to a request from the CAC ministers, and by means of reciprocal cooperation among the countries of the region, IICA prepared a proposed Standard Regulatory Framework (SRF) for living modified organisms for agricultural use in the Central American countries; a regional agrobiotechnology strategy; and a proposal for strengthening national capabilities in the area of biosafety. This was a joint effort by IICA, CATIE and OIRSA, with support from the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock of Mexico.

made in organizing the Fourth International Meeting of the Forum, Technological Innovation and Agribusiness Priorities: Toward a New Institutional Dimension in the Americas, to be held in Panama in 2005.

Fourthly, IICA supported the consolidation of FONTAGRO through an alliance with the IDB and member countries of the Fund. This support took the form of the execution of regional research projects, the updating of the Fund's Medium-term Plan, the execution of a work program aimed at evaluating the impact of the regional research projects, and the organization of a course on the formulation of projects and evaluation of impact aimed at the partners of the Fund. Also, assistance was provided in the evaluation of PROCICARIBE.

As regards the management of scientific and technological information, the needs of the national systems in this area were defined, and further efforts were made to promote the exchange of information through INFOTEC, whose membership has increased by 30%.

With regard to the design and implementation of technology innovation policies, the Institute drafted a guide for formulating agricultural policies from the standpoint of technological change and completed an assessment of the institutional panorama for biosafety in the Americas. The results were disseminated at the IICA/IDB Seminar on Biotechnology Development. With FONTAGRO funding, IICA helped formulate new institutional frameworks and national policies for modernizing agricultural extension targeting small-scale agriculture.

Andean Region

Under the leadership of PROCIANDINO, IICA developed methodological instruments on experiences with the financing of public-private partnerships; assessed the INIA's institutional capabilities in the fields of agrobiotechnology and biosafety; strengthened the institutional capabilities for developing dual-purpose cattle systems in special sustainable development areas; and beefed up the Andean technological innovation observatory as an information platform for the National Agricultural Research System.

The following highlights the most important technical cooperation activities carried out by the regional mechanisms for reciprocal cooperation (PROCI).

Andean Region: **PROCIANDINO** was consolidated with the implementation of a Fourth Agreement (2003-2006) among the countries and IICA. Cooperation in the areas of technology innovation was strengthened through the networks for fruits, vegetables, potatoes, maize, and dual purpose cattle, among other programs and projects. A Colombian-Venezuelan cooperation and integra-

Bolivia

The National System for the Management, Conservation, Use and Evaluation of Genetic Resources (SINARGEAA) was designed at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, as a tool for the sustainable diversification of agriculture, agroindustrial development and food security. This system classifies genetic resources into six subsystems and is based on the principles of biodiversity, integration and sustainability for the protection and conservation of genetic resources.

tion program was implemented under this mechanism in the binational Tachira River watershed, focusing on technology issues. Cooperation was promoted through the innovation network, an observatory of institutional performance, the Networks of Agroforestry Systems, and REDARFIT. The Program also coordinated implementation of 12 regional projects financed partially by FONTAGRO.

Amazon Region: **PROCI TROPICOS** continued to foster the horizontal transfer of technology and institution-building activities. The application of cutting-edge technologies was promoted in workshops and seminars on the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, the recovery of degraded areas and sustainable natural resource management, technological platforms, and the identification of technological limitations in agro-production chains, among others.

Central Region: Within the framework of **PROMECAFE**, technologies were developed to detect and control pests and diseases in coffee; the BROCAP trap was validated in El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, and Jamaica; the breeding and release of parasitoids with special impact on organic coffee-growing was promoted; a contribution was made to efforts to combat coffee rust through the development and use of rust-resistant varieties; cooperation activities were carried out with biotechnology laboratories in coffee institutes in Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador; the production of seeds for root stock of root nematode resistant plants got under way; and, with CIRAD support, progress was made in developing new high-quality, high-yielding hybrids of Arabica coffee.

Guatemala

The National Coffee Association (ANACAFE) of Guatemala has benefited from the technology generation, validation and transfer activities carried out by the PROMECAFE Regional Project, which IICA spearheads with the participation of CATIE and in partnership with CIRAD.

These efforts improved the productivity of coffee farms by producing and distributing seed of the nematode-resistant Nemaya variety, producing and releasing parasitoids, creating and disseminating traps and setting up a plant breeding database. They also made an important contribution to the sustainable management of the environment, thanks to a study that was carried out on water externalities of the agroforestry system with coffee, in the Rio Guacalate watershed.

The SICTA–IICA–CATIE cooperation agreement was signed and a proposal was prepared for the formulation of a Central American policy on technology and diversification. With regard to the conservation of biodiversity and genetic resources, a project was submitted to the World Bank GEF Fund, within the framework of the Central American Network for Plant Genetic Resources (REMERFI).

A similar project was developed within the TROPIGEN network (PROCITROPICOS), with the aim to submit it to the GEF for consideration.

Nicaragua

The Institute assisted the Government of Nicaragua in implementing an improved seed program called "Pound for Pound," aimed at increasing the production and yields of corn, rice, beans and other products.

Implementation of the program coincided with a good farm year and resulted in record harvests and surpluses of these commodities, which are being offered for export. Under a joint initiative involving the Government of Nicaragua, the World Bank's Agricultural Technology Program, DANIDA and IICA, a team of specialists was set up that formulated the program in record time and facilitated its organization and implementation.

Northern Region: **PROCI-NORTE** was further consolidated with the strengthening of four task forces (networks) on the following: plant genetic resources (NORGEN); tropical and subtropical fruits; research on agricultural health; and inter-library cooperation. Among the most important actions, noteworthy is the Institute's support to implement the work plan of the NORGEN network, organize and hold

Mexico

IICA coordinated the external institutional evaluation of two entities that are of key importance for the competitiveness of the agricultural sector: the National Agricultural and Forestry Research Institute (INIFAP) and the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service (SENASICA).

In the first case, the evaluation led to a sweeping institutional reorganization of INIFAP, to achieve greater decentralization and the participation of the productive sector, and the drafting of a decree-law to consolidate the restructuring. In the second case, the PVS instrument developed by IICA was applied and the report - which contains important recommendations for improving services - has already been presented to the Director of SENASICA.

the meetings of the working groups on tropical and subtropical fruits, and identify the priority research and development topics of the Northern Region countries.

United States

IICA supplied cooperation for the consolidation and expansion of the Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO). IICA provided technical support and administrative services to ensure that the financing granted follows established guidelines and procedures, and that the results are consistent with the parameters agreed on in the project documents.

IICA supported the Fund's efforts to recruit other member countries, in particular Brazil and the Central American nations. In 2004, more than US\$2 million in funds were granted for 22 projects.

Southern Region: The work with **PROCISUR** included the organization of three regional technological platforms: a) technology advances for quality/traceability in the beef chain; b) critical

Paraguay

IICA provided technical and administrative cooperation for the implementation of agricultural projects with financial resources from the IDB. As part of the interagency efforts and as a result of the institutional transparency that has characterized IICA, cooperation agencies have joined IICA in meeting the needs of Paraguayan entities by means of joint projects.

Some of the most important are: the Program to Support the Development of Small Cotton Farms (PRODESAL), the Program to Modernize and Diversify Small-scale Production, the Program in Support of the National Environmental System, the Program to Strengthen the Paraguayan Indigenous Institute and the Health Education Program for the Protection of Public Health and Zoonoses. The complete project portfolio is worth close to US\$12 million.

technologies and environmental management; and c) functional genomics in plants, animals and microorganisms. A portfolio was established of eight projects with FONTAGRO, one with the European Union/CIRAD and another with the German ministry for cooperation/ISNAR. In addition, the Genetic Resources Network was promoted; a regional workshop on precision agriculture and an international course on agricultural research priorities were held; and the third version of the Dreamsur software was produced.

A new cooperation agreement was signed between IICA and the agricultural research institutes of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. PROCISUR's strategic role in promoting technological change in agriculture within the regional integration process was reaffirmed in the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS). Networks were created to foster regional innovation in the areas of beef quality and environmental sustainability.

Caribbean Region: IICA continued its support to CARDI with the signing of an agreement in December 2002, and in the framework of this agreement, continued its support to PROCICARIBE. In the Caribbean, the Institute provided support to the efforts of sensitization of policy makers and the general public on the use and commercialization of agro-biotechnologies.

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

IICA spearheaded the process of preparing and approving a strategic agricultural development plan for the OECS countries, which was approved by the ministers of agriculture and heads of government of the Caribbean.

IICA is the lead organization in charge of supervising and supporting the implementation of several projects contained in the Plan aimed at developing agriculture and promoting rural prosperity.

In regard to **institutional modernization and the strengthening of competitiveness**, IICA continued to disseminate the conceptual and operational framework to support the countries' appropriation of a new paradigm that views technological innovation as the pillar of agricultural competitiveness. Transformation processes for research institutions received support in Mexico (INIFAP), Costa Rica (INTA), and Colombia (CORPOICA).

Colombia

The Colombian Government's National Technology Transfer Program (PRONATTA), with loan resources from the World Bank, is promoting technological improvements in small-scale production. These efforts have strengthened the social fabric, harmonious relations among members of the community and the State's presence.

The program financed 635 projects (an investment of 90,600 million pesos). These projects benefited 159,000 people directly. It is estimated that 51,000 families adopted the technological changes, with each increasing its income by around 4.3 million pesos per year.

With regard to policies on biotechnology and biosafety, and taking into consideration a mandate from the ministers of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), a regulatory framework was designed for living modified organisms (LMO) used in agriculture in Central America; a regional strategy was proposed for agrobiotechnology, and a proposal was formulated for strengthening national capabilities in biosafety. This work was undertaken in collaboration with RIOPPAH, CATIE and the ministries of agriculture and of environment, and received support from SAGARPA in Mexico, the Secretariats of CAC and CCAD, and IICA's Areas of Trade and Agribusiness Development, and Agricultural Health and Food Safety.

Central America, Dominican Republic and United States

IICA organized the Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology to Increase Agricultural Productivity with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Department of State, and the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Science and Technology of Costa Rica.

In the area of biotechnology, biosafety and plant genetic resources, IICA complied with the mandate issued in IABA Resolution No. 386 (Twelfth Regular Meeting, Panama, 2003), calling for cooperation with the countries in three main areas:

a *Convening of forums and meetings:* Information compiled on the status of biotechnology and biosafety and on their impact on agriculture and trade was distributed at 15 events held in the Caribbean, Central America, the United States and Chile.

The Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology to Increase Agricultural Productivity was held in conjunction with the United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of State, and the Ministries of Agriculture and Science and Technology of Costa Rica. At the meeting, discussions focused on the development and socioeconomic impact of agrobiotechnology, and important inputs were generated for the design of national and regional policies on technological innovation. Also, the amount of information on biotechnology available in the Information System for Science, Technology and

Innovation for Agriculture in the Americas (INFOTEC), which is administered by IICA, increased considerably.

b *Monitoring of international and multilateral agreements:* The results and impact of the Meeting on the Implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, held in Malaysia, and those of the ratification of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources, were the subject of analysis. Through INFOTEC and different conferences and seminars, the agreement signed by Canada, Mexico and the United States for the implementation of measures relative to the transboundary movement of LMOs was disseminated. Also, a proposal was drawn up for inter-thematic action in compliance with IABA Resolution No. 386.

c *Hemispheric and regional strategies and their dissemination:* The design of policies on agrobiotechnology was promoted through the formulation of strategies and consultation in Central America and the Caribbean. The Institute also hosted an international meeting of REDBIO in the Dominican Republic and initiated the revival of an agrobiotechnology group for the Caribbean.

With regard to the **strengthening of rural communities**, IICA participated in the World Bank international consultation to evaluate the role of agricultural science and technology in reducing hunger and improving rural life. An additional consultation for the Central American region of LAC was made possible.

In order to promote **hemispheric integration**, support was provided for **consolidating the regional technological innovation system** promoted by FORAGRO, for which IICA serves as Technical Secretariat. FORAGRO's Executive Committee met in Panama and established the FORAGRO Technical Advisory Group,

Central Region

IICA is supporting the implementation of the Agricultural Innovation Network Project (SICTA Network). The project is promoting efforts to secure financing for priority technological innovation proposals, studies of the situation in each country and technical and market analysis on complementary production alternatives for corn, beans and root crops.

The project also includes the development of a system for managing technological information and know-how in the Central American region.

which articulates the Secretariats of FORAGRO, FONTAGRO and the PROCIS.

Within this framework, the foundation was laid for a hemispheric agenda on new biotechnologies, the conservation and use of genetic resources, agribusiness, and technological innovations targeting small-scale agriculture, among other things. In addition, FONTAGRO was consolidated through a partnership between IICA, IDB and the member countries.

Many important **strategic partnerships** were developed and strengthened during the year, for example with GFAR, the World Bank, FAO, the CGIAR, CIRAD, IDB, ISNAR, CATIE, EMBRAPA, and other national and international organizations.

IICA and CATIE

IICA and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) are collaborating in crop and technology research and development, particularly coffee, cacao, bananas and plantains. Both are supporting the project to modernize cocoa growing in Bolivia and Belize and are participating, together with CIRAD of France, in the PROMECAFE program in the countries of Mesoamerica. Research was also carried out with banana and plantain cultivars resistant to black sigatoka and other diseases. IICA and CATIE maintain and continue to build up the collection of the Orton Library, which specializes in agricultural, forestry and related sciences.

A Web page on biotechnology and biosafety was designed in conjunction with the USDA, and is available since the beginning of 2005. A work program was prepared with a view to setting the terms of reference and determining the commitments required to develop a hemispheric plan on biotechnology and strengthen national capabilities through reciprocal cooperation among countries.

In an effort to promote the internalization and adoption of a new paradigm for technological innovation, IICA supported institutional rebuilding at national organizations, such as the National

Science and Technology Council of the Dominican Republic and the Institute for Agricultural Technology Innovation and Transfer of Costa Rica. It also supported FONTAGRO in reformulating its Medium-term Plan and in implementing the first stage of the project Red SICTA. Preparation of the "Directory of agricultural research institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean," partly financed and published by FAO, was completed. Also, the first steps were taken to formulate the project, Support for the Institutional Strengthening of the Technological Innovation System (PAFISIT).

6.4

Sustainable Rural Development

IICA supported the design of investment policies, strategies and programs for sustainable rural development (SRD) in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Jamaica and Paraguay. Direct technical cooperation was provided in Brazil (International Seminar on SRD and the territorial approach; International Seminar on Rural Development and Family Agriculture); Jamaica (Workshop to Design the National SRD Strategy); Mexico (Seminar: Evaluation of Priority Groups in the Rural Milieu;

Seminar on Territorial Development; Workshop to Design the National Strategy); Dominican Republic (participation in the Thirty-first Assembly of Delegates of the Inter-American Commission of Women - IACW); Panama (support for the Rural Panama Program); and Costa Rica (International Workshop on SRD).

Brazil

IICA prepared and implemented rural poverty alleviation projects financed by the World Bank in the states of Ceara, Bahia, Pernambuco, Rio Grande do Norte, Sergipe, Piaui, Maranhao and Rio Grande do Sul.

This process has already provided an opportunity to consider the core problems and their causes and consequences, and the instruments needed to tackle them collaboratively and independently. A methodology for training community leaders was developed and has already been used with groups of women, Afro-Caribbean people and small-scale fishermen. Also, five municipal districts have set their priorities for community investments in Caxias, Lima Campos, Lago do Junco, Viana and Vargem Grande.

Mexico

IICA has been implementing the Zocalo Rural, an initiative designed to coordinate technical cooperation for direct support for the Government of Mexico in implementing the Sustainable Rural Development Act (SRDA).

IICA has continued its efforts to strengthen the Municipal Rural Development Councils and set up over ten of the main product systems stipulated in the Act. The Institute has supported the training in sustainable rural development and the territorial approach for national specialists and the creation of an observatory of rural development policies.

With the participation of the Produce foundations, progress was made in organizing the National System for Technology Generation and Transfer for Sustainable Rural Development, stipulated in the SRDA.

In Mexico joint efforts were undertaken with the SAGARPA; technical instruments were developed for the use and training of national technicians; two international seminars were held (“Reassessment of Priority Groups in the Rural Milieu” and “Territorial Approach to Rural Development”); support was provided to NGOs and local governments; and work was carried out with strategic partners such as the Mexican Rural Development Foundation and the Autonomous University of Chapingo.

In the Central Region, the IICA-Holland/Hillsides project was concluded. The following was achieved: an institutional platform to facilitate innovations in the area of sustainable development; an innovation platform to increase productivity and natural resource conservation; local development committees; a methodological platform for systematizing and sharing strategies, methodologies and lessons learned; and new types of intervention to facilitate sustainable development using participatory and democratic approaches.

El Salvador

Sustainable environmental management is a priority issue in El Salvador, given the country’s large population and small surface area. Therefore, IICA has placed emphasis on technical cooperation in this field.

In tandem with CATIE, the Central American University and the Catholic Aid Service, IICA carried out the first phase of the Environmental Program for El Salvador (PAES). The second phase is under way in the departments of Santa Ana and Chalatenango.

The PAES includes components such as soil and water conservation, agricultural diversification, agroforestry, gender promotion, community organization and management, marketing and agribusiness.

In the Andean Region, IICA worked with Peru’s MINAG, the Consensus-building Forum to Combat Poverty and a national interagency group to formulate a rural development policy. It also began designing a project for marketing the region’s agroindustrial products, underpinned by the rural agroindustry networks (REDAR); supported the Sustainable Tree Crop Program (STCP) for promoting cacao cultivation; undertook to create a regional rural development committee in each country and a regional interagency group; and supported the border development efforts in Santander (Colombia) and Zulia (Venezuela).

Chile

The IV Region of Chile benefited from a series of actions spearheaded by the Institute, including: the coordination of the technical group comprising farmers and professionals from public institutions for agricultural and rural development in the area; the program “Generation of capabilities for small-scale agricultural producers in Viejo Convento,” to improve business management skills; and, the characterization of women producers in the area.

In the Southern Region, IICA worked to reposition rural development as an issue and formulated a plan of action for Sustainable Rural Development in the Southern Region, using a territorial approach.

To promote the sustainable management of rural territories, IICA made progress developing a methodology for characterizing its experiences in the countries. This will be used in designing policies or institutional mechanisms to strengthen the management of local governments, micro-watersheds, communities and rural enterprises, with a view to making rational natural resource management viable.

In Brazil, the Institute worked on water issues and, jointly with the IDB and the World Bank, a project got under way on desertification indicators for six Southern Region countries. The

Jamaica

IICA forged a strategic partnership with the Jamaica Bauxite Institute for the implementation of a project oriented to rehabilitate mined-out bauxite lands for goat production in the Mocho Region in Clarendon.

The project aimed to integrate goat herds on a mother farm where technical assistance was provided not only for goat raising, but also related components such as good agricultural practices for the production of milk and cheese, meat, hides and handicraft products.

The main achievements of this project were increased goat production, better incomes for producers, job creation and the generation of foreign exchange.

Venezuela

Managing territorial development in rural communities of Venezuela has made it possible to facilitate the management of financial resources and the generation of institutional capabilities, by designing terms of reference and formulating rural development projects. The latter include the integral development of coffee-growing areas in the Andres Eloy Blanco municipal district (Yacambu), sustainable endogenous development in the south of the Jimenez municipal district (Valle de Quibor) and a series of mini-production projects in the Jacambu area (upper watershed).

One of the first results achieved was a commitment to cooperating in the construction of a "new institutional fabric." In a coordinated and collective way, this will make it possible to adopt the territorial approach to promote sustainable development in the service area of the Jacambu-Quibor Water System. IICA and CAF are also formulating the project for the integrated management of water resources and hydro-agricultural development in the region.

objective of the latter is to implement national action plans to combat desertification and drought, with emphasis on the participation of local communities, NGOs, the private sector, civil society and government agencies. IICA also took part in the Thirty-first Assembly

of Delegates of the IACW, where it presented a report entitled Progress in Gender and Rural Women: IICA's Principal Technical Cooperation Actions, 2000-2002.

In addition, the first version of the Virtual Management Model was concluded; Infoagro's web page on the subject was updated on a weekly basis; a preliminary proposal was prepared for developing a Knowledge Management System (KMS); and possible partners were identified for hosting the regional and national nodes of the KMS.

IICA provided technical assistance and training for the formulation of rural development strategies and programs with a territorial approach in Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay, Honduras, Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Venezuela. In cooperation with the IDB, the Institute created instruments for building capacities and incorporating the gender approach into micro-enterprises and access to credit in rural communities. These instruments were then validated in northern Costa Rica and southern Nicaragua.

Central Region

In partnership with the OAS and with financing from CABEL, IICA is implementing the Project for Sustainable Development in Ecologically Fragile Areas of the Trifinio Region (PRODERT), which encompasses semiarid and degraded parts of the region where the borders of El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras intersect. As well as executing the project, IICA is training national personnel and providing advisory services to producers to improve the organizational arrangements and the management of production and marketing.

As a result, agricultural yields are up, land use has been rationalized, forest cover is on the increase and new jobs have been created. The health of the population has also improved thanks to the new systems of potable water and latrines now in place, reducing the morbidity and mortality rates for gastrointestinal diseases considerably.

IICA also participated in numerous international events that helped position the Institute's territorial approach to rural development internationally, as a frame of reference for the design and implementation of strategies, policies, and investments to improve agricultural competitiveness, rural prosperity and food security.

In the field of hemispheric integration, IICA's work with key partners was strengthened by participating in the activities of the Interagency Group on Rural Development (made up of the IDB, IFAD, the World Bank, FAO, IICA, ECLAC, USAID, GTZ and the AECI), and through joint efforts with the AECI, FEMUR, INFO-DAL, AMFAR, UNCEAR, the World Rural Forum, CIRAD, ECLAC's Women and Development Unit, the IISD (Canada), RELAJUR, and universities in Europe and the Americas.

Within IICA, progress was made in consolidating the strategic line of work known as BRAMCO, the goal of which is to strengthen the Institute's wide-ranging experience in rural development in Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia, and to establish a platform for disseminating same in other countries of the hemisphere and to consolidate inter-thematic integration.

Guyana

The Institute provided technical support to improve the quality of life under the Guyana Dairy Development Programme and the Linden Economic Advancement Programme, involving the characterization of the Moblissa community.

New technologies were also introduced in two indigenous communities in the Essequibo region, making it possible to increase the production and income of local producers.

IICA provided training on topics such as the diagnosing of pests and diseases, the development of companies, organic production and good agricultural practices.

IICA also promoted the development of human capital. In Costa Rica, it helped train groups of extension workers from public institutions and implement a self-guided training model for upgrading micro-business development capabilities. The Institute also continued to promote the construction of a shared body of knowledge and information on the development of agriculture and the rural sector by creating a virtual management module for work with the regional rural development specialists.

Dominican Republic

The "Milk that Reforests" Milk Bank Project operates in rural communities in the economically and environmentally depressed provinces of Elias Piña and Perdenales. It has helped strengthen the communities and improve their residents' quality of life.

Under the project, hundreds of thousands of fruit and timber-yielding trees have been planted in micro-watersheds affected by erosion and the use of inappropriate farming techniques.

The inhabitants and project beneficiaries have also received training in how to plant small orchards that will improve family diets and income. The project has been managed jointly by the beneficiaries, the public and private agricultural sector agencies, IICA and the NGOs taking part.

The first version of a methodology for systematizing rural development experiences was designed and then validated in Colombia, Chile, and Paraguay. Finally, the Institute's sustainable rural development Web page was redesigned (<http://www.infoagro.net/codes>) and the number of users increased by 46%.

In the area of environmental management, IICA continued to implement the Program to Combat Desertification in South America (Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador and Peru), the objective of which is to implement national action plans to combat desertification and drought. Steps were taken to formulate and implement similar multinational projects in Paraguay, Uruguay, Venezuela, Colombia, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and the Chaco region (Argentina, Chile and Bolivia).

IICA was accredited as an intergovernmental agency before the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. In addition, it organized a technical mission to assist the SENARA of Costa Rica in formulating the Program for the Integrated Administration, Conservation and Sustainable Management of Water Resources, which is based on the territorial approach to rural development and the principles of the convention on desertification.

Costa Rica

In a joint effort with the National Irrigation, Drainage and Groundwater Service (SENARA) and the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), IICA spearheaded the formulation of the “Program for Integrated Water Resource Management in Costa Rica.”

The program calls for an investment of US\$70 million to promote the sustainable and efficient use of water and soil on more than 250,000 hectares of land, the strengthening of the SENARA by providing training and equipment, the implementation of national geographic information, planning, monitoring and evaluation systems, and the creation of a fund to make the beneficiaries more competitive and increase their management capabilities.

This proposal is a benchmark for projects in other LAC countries for the management and protection of water resources.

With regard to institution building, technical support was provided for creating the Colombian Rural Development Institute (INCODER) and including policy and rural development issues in the Observatory of Competitiveness of Agro-chains in Colombia.

In Mexico, technical assistance was provided to SAGARPA for creating a policy and rural development observatory (Zocalo Rural).

In Brazil, the Institute helped the Secretariat for Territorial Development design a program for the sustainable development of rural territories; similar processes were supported in Uruguay, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay and Costa Rica.

Brazil

IICA is contributing to the defense of the environment by helping the national Secretariat of Water Resources to prepare and implement the National Action Plan to Combat Desertification.

A series of efficient solutions to make rational use of water resources, raise agricultural productivity and preserve the country’s potential have been implemented with some of the state secretariats in charge of these resources.

As part of the effort to strengthen rural communities, IICA focused its cooperation activities on the formulation of strategies, policies and programs for rural development with a territorial approach, and on the design and strengthening of the institutional frameworks required. In this context, technical assistance and relevant training were provided in Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Guatemala and Panama; initial steps

were taken in connection with an initiative designed to develop pilot projects in the Andean and Central Regions, with a view to fostering intersectoral actions; and, in Mexico, cooperation was provided to hold ten events on important aspects of the implementation of the Law on Rural Development organized by SAGARPA and other public entities.

The Institute's participation in 17 international events provided an opportunity to publicize the territorial approach to rural development being promoted by the Institute as a conceptual and operating framework for the design and implementation of strategies and policies aimed at making agriculture more competitive and increasing food security and rural prosperity.

Argentina

IICA-Argentina is providing the legal framework for a pilot experience with microcredits in a rural community of the area of Lujan, Buenos Aires Province. The aim is to evaluate its impact and replicate it in other poor small-farmer communities in Argentina.

Assisted by the "De la Nada" organization, various studies and training activities are being carried out and prizes and scholarships awarded. A total of 417 microcredits have been granted and 94.6% of the funds repaid. Two new centers have been opened in the Lanusse and Los Naranjos neighborhoods.

In an effort to support hemispheric integration, IICA worked more closely with key partners by participating actively in the Inter-Agency Group on Rural Development and through efforts with CIRAD, the World Bank, the GECAFS Program, ECLAC, AAFC (Canada) and universities in Spain, Argentina, Canada and Costa Rica. With the IISD of Canada, arrangements were finalized for an internship program for young Canadian professionals to conduct research and support technical cooperation agendas on gender and rural micro-financing.

IICA's organization of a Permanent Forum on Sustainable Rural Development (SRD FORUM) is at an advanced stage. The forum will be used to share, coordinate and disseminate knowledge and experiences related to rural development, and foster cooperation aimed at proposing new solutions. The Forum will comprise a network of institutions based in different parts of the world, especially Latin America, with a central node at IICA's Office in Brasilia, Brazil. The Forum in Brazil has already secured a commitment to the initiative from 37 organizations, including civil society, government and academic institutions. At the international level, public institutions and networks of NGOs have already signed up in 10 Latin American countries (Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay). Also, with MAPA and AECI, both from Spain, an internship program was established for officials from public and private entities in Latin America to observe first-hand the operation of rural development and water management projects and initiatives. Two internships and a short course were held for officials from Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and Costa Rica.

Perú

Network of Peoples: a CAF-financed project to improve local economic and production capabilities in the province of Huaura, is part of a territorial intervention that complements actions in the different dimensions: the social dimension ("Network of Peoples"), the environmental dimension (GSSAC), the economic dimension (corn-poultry farming chain) and the political-institutional dimension (local governments, university, consensus-building forums, NGOs, social organizations and producers' associations).

This effort has strengthened capabilities and local cooperation, developed the musical talents of children and adolescents, led to the implementation of the Technology Research and Transfer Unit linked to the local university, trained the operators of agricultural production chains in the use of innovative methodologies, recovered ancestral collection systems and conserved water resources in the High Andes of Huaura (Amunas).

The training activities organized and sponsored by IICA, MAPA and the AECI were another important area of work. Between 2003 and 2005, six training events were held involving roughly 150 specialists from IICA and the following countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Paraguay, Uruguay, Mexico, Costa Rica and Guatemala. The subjects covered and methods used were as follows: three activities to share experiences in local development and integrated water resource management, and two three-week specialized courses in sustainable rural development, all held in Spain.

Within the framework of the International Program of Global Dialogues, via videoconference, four workshops on the importance of considering the gender perspective in promoting microenterprises and small rural enterprises and on sustainable credit were held for officials from public and private organizations in Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru. Also, support was provided in holding events on small- and medium-scale enterprises and rural women in Brazil, Colombia and Ecuador.

As regards the technical publications program, the Institute published six technical booklets, eight synopses and an article in an academic journal as a contribution to the development of capabilities

Saint Lucia

IICA promoted the development and consolidation of the local chapter of the Caribbean AgriBusiness Association (CABA) to spearhead the promotion of the development of agriculture and the rural milieu, and, in particular, the establishment of linkages between the agricultural sector and tourism, developing partnerships involving tourism firms and small and medium-scale agricultural producers.

The Institute also disseminated information about the Caribbean AgriBusiness Association's success in establishing ties between agriculture and tourism, reorienting several industrial groups and promoting dialogue on the agriculture policy framework and strategy of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States.

for the management of rural development. To promote the process of institutional modernization for sustainable rural development, the Institute produced documents containing technical guidelines for sustainable rural development on: the territorial approach to SRD; gender, youth and indigenous peoples; and natural resources and the knowledge management system.

Together with the IAI, the IHDP and the National Science Academy of Costa Rica, IICA organized the Scientific-Political Forum on Globalization, Global Environmental Change and Food Systems, with the participation of 25 young scientists and decision makers from around the globe. Also, contacts were established with the GECAFS Program to formulate and implement a project on climatic change, globalization and food security in the Caribbean Region, and to identify opportunities for joint work in the Americas.

Dominica

The IICA Office implemented a UNESCO-funded project entitled "Enhancing the participation of marginalized youth in the development process of the Eastern Caribbean States." The project's objective is to contribute knowledge of poverty reduction strategies from the human rights standpoint.

The technical skills of the young people in the rural communities were strengthened to enable them to undertake agricultural activities that will permit them to make economic progress. The young people also received training designed to improve their business, social and technical skills.

As a result, a contract was signed with the National Development Foundation of Dominica (NDFD) to manage and implement a system of revolving credit to facilitate credit to the beneficiaries of the project.

Execution of the Program to Combat Desertification in South America continued. IICA provided support for national workshops to define pilot projects that could be implemented in the affected territories and to discuss and propose indicators of desertification for those territories.

Drawing on its internal capabilities, the Institute responded quickly

Haiti

IICA supported the aid efforts implemented in the wake of the floods in Haiti. The objectives were to help the victims in the Gonaives region by creating jobs and developing local institutional capabilities to handle and coordinate these efforts so that the communities become key players in watershed management and disaster prevention.

This project will create jobs to rebuild the productive infrastructure and help reduce the risks of future disasters. Although a watershed management approach will be needed to address the environmental problems, irrigation canals will help provide a more efficient flow of water in the short term.

to the disasters and emergencies that occurred, mainly in the Caribbean region, as a result of the 2004 hurricane season. A number of professionals from Headquarters and personnel from the Offices undertook missions to perform assessments and prepare projects proposals aimed at the economic and social recovery of the nation most affected.

Grenada

IICA spearheaded the process of developing a plan for the rehabilitation and modernization of the agricultural and rural sectors following the devastation caused by Hurricane Ivan. It also provided technical assistance for the production of cash crops that are easy to sell and the breeding of small animals.

IICA also collaborated by assessing the damage in the agricultural sector, formulating a short-term program for the replanting of short-cycle products, and designing projects for the agricultural and rural sectors to be presented to donors and the international financial community.

6.5

Education and Training

IICA strengthened the digital distance education program and consolidated its Distance Education and Training Center by creating a team specializing in the design and management of distance education activities, using new information and communication technologies.

Granada

IICA established a Distance Training Center that gave courses on farm management, organic agriculture and e-commerce. Farmers and agriculturists received training under the project Assistance in Institutionalizing Good Agricultural Practices for Caribbean Crops. In the same field, the Institute supported overseas training for specialists of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Standards Office of Grenada, who subsequently trained local technical staff.

In another matter, financed by the Canadian International Development Agency, IICA organized a training course with eight modules dealing with the various stages involved in farm management and the marketing of agricultural goods.

The University of McGill (Montreal, Canada) also provided support for the development of the GDLNA of the World Bank.

Distance education programs on strategic subjects were launched, including courses on health and food safety, international agricultural trade, organic agriculture, competitiveness and farm management. IICA also contributed to increasing access to the knowledge and expertise of key stakeholders in agriculture and the rural community, for promoting change and the development of modern institutional systems, through global virtual dialogues in which institutions in 25 countries took part.

St. Kitts and Nevis

In collaboration with the interagency forum on trade issues, a national consultation process was organized on the impact of trade liberalization on the development of local agriculture. The participants included agricultural producers, importers and exporters, agro-processors, supermarket managers, customs brokers and other representatives of the private sector.

The main objective of the consultation was to sensitize the participants to the issues addressed within the WTO and their effects on agricultural development and trade. Thanks to this effort, they gained a better understanding of the requirements of the market and the adjustments needed in policies and practices to maintain markets and access new ones.

The Institute also cooperated with public and private higher agricultural education institutions in the countries to improve the quality and relevance of their educational curriculums and programs. Numerous educational activities (courses, seminars and workshops) were conducted to enhance the teaching skills of educators and trainers of agricultural and rural education institutions and organizations in the Americas.

IICA promoted dialogue and the integration of agricultural and rural education and horizontal cooperation between institutions

through the consolidation of regional agricultural and rural education forums (Southern, Central and Caribbean regions) and several national forums and associations. In this way, it also supported the implementation of programs and projects to improve the quality of education.

One of IICA's objectives is to support the Member States' efforts to upgrade and strengthen human capital and talent for the sustainable development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life, by means of training in strategic subject areas, the modernization of educational programs, and dialogue aimed at integrating agricultural and rural education in the Americas.

In connection with **training in strategic subject areas**, the stakeholders in agriculture and rural life now have the benefit of courses developed with new information and communication technologies (ICTs), especially video-conferencing, CD-ROMs and the Internet. The courses deal with subjects such as food safety (HACCP), organic agriculture, farm management, e-commerce, the quality of agricultural education, and the competitiveness of agrifood chains. IICA also helped set up training centers for agricultural entrepreneurs and technical per-

Panama

With a view to improving the quality of higher agricultural education, IICA was heavily involved in the development of a strategic plan for the National Agriculture Institute (INA). The Institute also consolidated the curriculum guidelines of the INA and the School of Agronomy of Panama University, thereby contributing to the preparation of a study program that includes the core elements of the sustainable development approach.

Likewise, IICA helped conduct a review of the INA's training programs for producers and other actors in the agrifood chain, to ensure that the objectives, content and teaching-learning strategies are consistent with the sustainable development approach.

sonnel (CECAT) in Central America, and train instructors for distance education programs in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Ecuador.

Barbados

IICA continued to support the operation of the Caribbean Agricultural Distance Learning Centre (CADLC), which provides training not only in Barbados but also in other Caribbean countries.

In collaboration with the private sector, courses were given on the sustainable management of soils and fertilizers and young agribusiness entrepreneurs. A course on hydroponics was produced on CD-ROM. The CADLC now offers a total of seven distance learning courses.

To help **modernize agricultural and rural education and training** of public and private agricultural and rural education institutions, IICA developed a strategy called "Improving the quality and relevance of higher agricultural education." This strategy includes a distance education program consisting of four modules, which is now available on CD-ROM, consisting of analyses of the situa-

Nicaragua

IICA continued to assist the International Agriculture and Livestock School in Rivas with the process of strategic planning and curriculum accreditation. The school values the Institute's work highly and requested that it continue provide technical assistance under the IDB project in support of local universities.

tion, strategic planning, curriculum review and development, as well as the preparation of improvement plans. This program was implemented successfully in Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Guatemala. Further support was also lent to new programs of universities such as Chapingo (Mexico), San Carlos (Guatemala), La Molina (Peru), Cuenca (Ecuador), and the University of Costa Rica.

In the Caribbean, efforts were made to strengthen student and teacher exchange programs involving agricultural education institutions; the establishment of the Distance Education Network for Agricultural Education in the Caribbean and the Program to Enhance the Quality of Education in Institutions for Agricultural Education in the Caribbean were promoted, and the organization of forums for dialogue and the integration of agricultural and rural education was encouraged.

Dominican Republic

IICA co-sponsored the Sixth Assembly of CACHE and pioneered the introduction of annual exchanges of officials and students among members of the Council. It also served as the secretariat of CACHE, which made it possible to consolidate CACHE as the most important group of agricultural schools in the Caribbean.

Thanks to IICA's contribution, the membership of the CACHE increased from seven to eleven universities. Two master's degree courses were held with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture and Texas A&M University.

In regard to the **dialogue on, and integration of, agricultural and rural education**, IICA helped the forums in the Andean, Southern and Central regions, the Central American Association of Higher Agricultural Education (ACEAS) and the Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE) to organize their

annual meetings to discuss the progress being made and to plan activities. This further strengthened ties and made it possible to promote joint programs among national and regional institutions of higher agricultural education. An agreement was signed with the American Distance Education Consortium (ADEC), an umbrella organization of institutions that develop distance education programs in the hemisphere. Ibero-American dialogues were held on agricultural and rural issues, with the World Bank's Global Development Learning Network (GDLN). All the relevant sectors were actively involved

Uruguay

IICA was responsible for an innovative project designed to coordinate the agricultural sector, the educational system, local governments, the private sector and civil society. Representatives of all these stakeholders now meet to discuss and reach agreement on the actions required for pertinent human resource development in Uruguay.

Three results in particular demonstrate the Institute's accomplishments: a) The consolidation of the Executive Group of the Permanent National Forum on Human Resources Education, b) the importance now attached to distance learning for rural areas, and c) implementation of a project for children in urban schools in Montevideo, to raise awareness of the strategic importance of Uruguay's agricultural sector.

Trinidad and Tobago

IICA organized workshops on the management of information services, the identification and detection of invasive species, good agricultural practices and quality control in fresh crops, microbial risk analysis and the use of GIS and GPS technologies to monitor and detect pests and diseases. These workshops benefited the officials of the CARICOM ministries of agriculture.

The information was also published in the CARAPHIN bulletin, including information on plant, animal and food health. This information will make it possible to design an effective monitoring and observation system and arrive at a better understanding of pests and diseases and the destruction they can cause.

As a result of the joint efforts of IICA, the World Bank and the CTA in consolidating a digital distance education system, "ed.rural," a mechanism for linking and training of the different actors of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere, emerged. With regard to relations with strategic partners, noteworthy are the alliance established with FAO to support the flagship program on education for rural people; the partnership established with CATIE and the Oxford Forestry Institute for the development of multimedia materials related to agroforestry; and the productive relations that exist with the Universities of McGill and Nova Scotia (Canada) and with the University of the West Indies (Trinidad y Tobago).

With regard to Southern/Andean interregional cooperation, IICA, MAPA and the AECI organized and sponsored important training

Haiti

The IICA Office invested a large part of its time and efforts in training individuals who work for its public and private sector partners. The Office facilitated the participation of several executives in training seminars, workshops, study trips and training overseas.

IICA strengthened the Haitian Committee of the restructured CACHE and supported the Committee's participation in the Council's Seventh Annual Assembly in Puerto Rico.

An alliance was also established with the EARTH University in Costa Rica, to reengineer the member universities' curricula and permit Haitian scholarship holders to attend that university.

Peru

Under the IICA-Dutch Cooperation program Social Management of Water and the Environment in Watersheds, 270 professionals in the agrarian sciences were trained to facilitate events for the social management of water and the environment. The participants then initiated a training process for their colleagues in each region of the country.

activities. Between 2003 and 2005, six training events were held for roughly 150 specialists from IICA and the following countries: Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Paraguay, Uruguay, Mexico, Costa Rica and Guatemala. Different types of events were used to deal with a range of topics. They included the sharing of experiences in local development and integrated water resource management, two three-week specialized courses in rural development in Spain and a weeklong course on the same subject held in Cartagena, Colombia. To tap the potential of information and communication technologies (ICTs), a system was set up to teach stakeholders in the rural milieu how to obtain information that is useful for strengthening extension or production programs.

6.6

Information and Communication

In response to requests from the member countries for further information and knowledge on agriculture and rural life, IICA reoriented its work based on a strategy designed to make better use of technologies, the knowledge it possesses and its communication processes for the benefit of the technical cooperation services it offers. The Institute created the Technology, Information and Institutional Image Division and drew up a plan for knowledge sharing that includes the modernization of the Institute in relation to information management, the production of technical literature and the strengthening of strategic alliances in these fields.

The Institute also made progress in integrating its agricultural documentation centers and libraries. A meeting of IICA's libraries and documentation centers was held, as a result of which they were organized into a system designed to strengthen technical cooperation in the countries.

Jamaica

The project "Strengthening the Competitive Advantage of Primary Producers, with Emphasis on Rural Women in Agriculture" is part of the Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development Program (CPEC) being financed by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). It is targeted at rural women involved in agriculture, production, processing and extension.

The project began in 2003 and its objective is to train the participants in areas such as computer skills, business management and finances, marketing and trade, good agricultural practices and food and environmental health.

Some 150 women farmers, extension workers and small agro-entrepreneurs were trained and, as a result, their production for the local and export markets became more competitive. The training focused on the institutionalization and promotion of technological advances, good management practices and compliance with WTO standards.

Bolivia

The House of Agriculture in Bolivia began as a reference center for knowledge and deliberations, to channel actions aimed at improving agriculture and rural life in the country. Three initiatives have been consolidated so far: a) the Agricultural Information and Documentation Center of Bolivia, which houses a collection of over 60,000 volumes from the MAG's libraries and the former Bolivian Technology Institute; b) the National Agricultural Information and Documentation Network of Bolivia (RIDAB), which includes 10 centers; and, c) with support from GTZ, the INFOAGRO/Bolivia Agricultural Information System, set up to offer technical and statistical information on 14 agricultural production chains.

Information is now available at the House of Agriculture, and transformed into knowledge via lectures, talks and specialized studies. Hundreds of students, educators, government officials, consultants, producers, agricultural entrepreneurs and development specialists visit the center.

As a result, the IICA System of Agricultural Libraries (SIBIICA) was developed, which permits better integrated efforts, coordination between units and a more consistent service delivery. The Orton Commemorative Library and the Venezuela Library were strengthened, as was their role as leaders of the System. Both acquired more than 15 000 titles, received 21,500 copies of publications through exchanges or donations and maintained subscriptions to 95 journals and 25 scientific books. They also lent more than 75 000 documents, assisted a total of 49,724 users on site and 122,684 on line. Moreover, they trained 823 people on the management of agricultural scientific literature and on the use of conventional and electronic sources of information; coordinated inter-library loans with various libraries; established an agreement with the University of Idaho to access their sources of information and updated the bibliographic database, which reached some 77000 records.

SIBIICA

This currently includes 16 of the Institute's information units located in the following member countries: Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The catalogue available online consists of a collection containing 154,834 entries.

Some of the information products developed in this period were: the reference library on CD that includes IICA's contributions to the development of agriculture and the database on forest seeds for Latin America and the Caribbean requested by the Regional Forest Seeds Network (REMSEFOR).

Other information products designed by the Orton Commemorative Library were the database of Insect Pests of Persea Americana produced for publication on CD and on line, which was requested by the CATIE/MIP-AF (NORAD) Program in Nicaragua, and the database on coffee requested by the Regional Cooperative Program for Technology Development and the Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Central America, Panama, Dominican Republic and Jamaica (PROMECAFE).

In this context, the **Information Management System** (www.infoagro.net) was strengthened, providing 5,500 registered users with technical information over the Internet, on topics such as trade and agribusiness, technological innovation, agricultural health and food safety, and sustainable rural development. Support was also provided to the Agricultural Commodity Exchange System of the Americas, the Digital Agribusiness Trade Platform and the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information

Uruguay

Working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries, IICA compiled and systematized a directory of the country's professionals who specialize in agricultural and rural subjects.

The directory includes details of 300 professionals recognized for their academic excellence, professional accomplishments and contributions to the sector. Available on CD and via government websites, it is helping to increase south-south cooperation.

PRODAR

The Rural Agroindustry Development Program for Latin America and the Caribbean (PRODAR) provides a number of services, including the information platform (www.infoagro.net/proar), an interest list (PRODARNET), an electronic bulletin (INFORMAIR), the processing of queries and the periodic organization of events to promote and strengthen agroindustry. It is based in the offices of IICA-Peru.

Network. The Virtual Private Network (VPN) was also developed as a technological tool that helps the Institute achieve its strategic objectives.

Access to and dissemination of information was also facilitated thanks to a total redesign of the **Web portal** (www.iica.int) in accordance to the highest world standards. As a result, IICA now has an expeditious, effective and very useful tool for transmitting information, in keeping with its vision of being the chief source of information and knowledge about agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere. Four information systems were designed and implemented via the website to support the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, the 2003 Executive Committee, the Second Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life, and the Area of Trade and Agribusiness. Another Web page was created to support the Summit of the Americas process, with its respective information system.

Within IICA, administrative management was facilitated by restructuring the **institutional Intranet**, implementing 14 new information systems, including various sets of internal rules and regulations and new institutional bulletins and the design of information systems to serve IICA units.

IICA strengthened its institutional repositioning by designing new communication products such as IICAConexion, an electronic bi-monthly bulleting with relevant information on the Headquarters and the Member States. AgroEnlace, a by-monthly radio program aimed at small and medium size entrepreneurs was developed, as well as ComunIICA, a technical publication with information

about IICA's actions, which is published four times a year. IICA's technical areas also have their own bulletins, such as ACCESO, INTERCAMBIO and SINOPSIS. With this type of products, developed thanks to the modern information and communication technologies, IICA promotes the strategic importance of agriculture for democracy and sustainable and equitable development in its Member States.

As regards to the inter-American information management, following four years of work at the hemispheric level, the first phase of the **Agricultural Information and Documentation System of the Americas (SIDALC)** project (www.sidalc.net), financed by the Kellogg Foundation was concluded. AGRi2000, a megabase which includes 196 databases of bibliographic references, serves as an information bank on the delivery of services on agricultural information in the hemisphere.

Suriname

With the Anton de Kom University of Suriname, IICA set up the country's first virtual library. The Internet-based effort has made available all the agricultural data of six partner institutions in Suriname. All the databases were then shared with the SIDALC, thus consolidating the country's information network.

The directory of information units was updated and, through the IICA/SIDALC Web page, over 112,000 queries were processed. Some 2000 CDs of the third edition of the Agri2000 megabase were produced and 23 workshops/courses and 13 presentations on IICA/SIDALC were made in the Northern, Central, Southern

Peru

IICA promoted and strengthened the Network of Agrarian Libraries of Peru (REBIAPE) by means of training courses and computer equipment that permits access to 17 specialized agricultural libraries at national universities and NGOs.

and consolidate another six networks (Belize, Dominica, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

Worthy of mention also are the actions of technical assistance, the provision of equipment and the training of librarians and specialists on information in 10 countries of the Central, Caribbean, Andean and Southern regions, namely Argentina, Costa Rica, Suriname, Honduras, Bolivia, Jamaica, Peru and Venezuela. The third evaluation of the system was also carried out, which included countries like Panama, Peru, Chile and Argentina, and the Third Progress Report on the Project was presented to the Kellogg Foundation.

Nicaragua

IICA strengthened information systems and networks such as the National Agricultural Information and Documentation Network (RENIDA and SIA), and its links to international networks like the SIDALC. As a result of this effort, regular electronic bulletins are produced to disseminate successful examples of agricultural production and marketing.

IICA's Documentation Center responded to requests for assistance from key players in the agricultural sector and helped them update and modernize their information services, the circulation of documents and book sales.

and Caribbean regions. During the Second Workshop of SIDALC coordinators, a new strategy and workplan were prepared for the 2004-2006 period. IICA also assisted in strengthening the operation of 15 national agricultural information networks, and worked to conso-

This joint IICA-Kellogg Foundation project demonstrated the important need that it fulfills, not only in terms of knowledge management and modernization of agricultural documentation centres, but also in relation to facilitating access to them and to the specialized services they offer. As a result, this hemispheric action was institutionalized within IICA's Unit of Documentation and Publications, ensuring its operation, regular update and attention to the countries' demands.

In 2004 the SIDALC website was renewed, 76 catalogues were updated, 27 new databases and the information systems of 17 countries were incorporated, the catalogue of journals available from IICA (654 titles) was included and 121 institutions interested in continuing to disseminate and share agricultural knowledge via the system confirmed their participation.

RECDIA: Dominican Republic

IICA consolidated the Dominican Network of Documentation and Information Centers (RECDIA), and its links with the SIDALC. The Institute provided technical assistance for the integration of databases using the Microsis system. A series of training events were held to enhance the skills of the staff of the centers belonging to the Network.

To consolidate the System further and increase its outreach at the local level, a new investment project was prepared worth close to US\$3 million, called "Knowledge management to improve the competitiveness of production and the quality of life in agricultural and rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean." Envisioned as a second phase of the SIDALC, it has already been

submitted to donor agencies. The system was also presented as a successful initiative at the World Congress of Agricultural Information Specialists, held in Lexington, Kentucky.

It is important to highlight the Institute's efforts to put in operation information strategies, at headquarters and in the IICA Offices in the countries, either in the form of information systems of agricultural observatories, which allow to share knowledge on the national, regional and hemispheric agri-food context.

In regard to the **production and dissemination of technical literature**, an area was created within IICA's website to promote the Institute's publications, making a collection of over 159 titles available worldwide. This initiative was the first step in improving the marketing of books, and the cornerstone of what later would become the virtual bookstore. It allows for the marketing of both IICA and CATIE publications, using an e-commerce application. Over 8,000 books have been sold to date.

Bolivia, Costa Rica and Venezuela

For several years, the Institute has been promoting the creation of information systems in the countries. The strategy is designed to empower local actors by harnessing the information and communication technologies (ICTs) available in today's global world and affording them access to timely information.

The initiatives already in operation include www.infoagro.go.cr (INFOAGRO Costa Rica), www.infoagro.gov.bo (INFOAGRO Bolivia) and www.zulia.infoagro.info.ve (INFOAGRO Zulia/Venezuela).

This progress led to a first review of editorial standards and procedures, copyright, the distribution and marketing of publications and other related matters.

Jamaica

IICA supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development by guiding the efforts to strengthen national policies on competitiveness, consolidate national agreements and create 23 chains with their respective indicators and comparative benchmarks. The market and chains in Venezuela and Ecuador are monitored continuously and 47 product-specific reports, 10 market profiles and 3 market studies were prepared to explore markets.

All this knowledge is accessible via Colombia's Agricultural Chains Observatory, and others that reflect the situation of the country and of its neighbors. (Available at www.agrocadenas.org.co)

With a view to sharing our knowledge, a cooperation project was implemented to increase the bibliographic collections of public and private institutions in the member countries. Over 6000 books were distributed among primary and secondary schools, agricultural universities and development associations and public libraries.

Ecuador

IICA and the MAG implemented the GIS-BANANA program, aimed at creating a geographic information system for the banana and plantain sector.

This tool has made it possible to characterize the sector, achieve better planning and improve institution building by decentralizing responsibilities to the under secretariats of the Southern Coast and the Northern Coast. The national register of producers and exporters was updated, as was the exact location of farms by means of aerial and satellite photography in three provinces, accompanied by cartographic information such as contour lines, rivers, population centers, climate, among others.

Finally, in regard to the Institute's **strategic alliances**, FAO, CIRAD, UNESCO, the CTA and the APC, IICA became a member of the group responsible for the Information Management Resource Kit (IMARK) initiative. Four distance education modules on agricultural information management are being produced. The first, on electronic document management, is already available from the interagency Web page set up for the purpose.

IICA renewed its alliance with the Inter-American Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (AIBDA) and continues to operate its Technical Secretariat. As a result, the Association increased its membership and eight electronic bulletins and three journals were published dealing with different information experiences in the hemisphere.

IICA and FAO

To build a community of agricultural knowledge in the hemisphere, FAO and IICA have pooled efforts for a work plan that includes the coordination of training modules for information management (IMARK), the creation of new information management tools, the AGRIS regional hub and the preparation of joint projects related to thesauruses, networks and systems.

IICA and AIBDA supported the realization of the Thirteenth Inter-American Meeting of Agricultural Librarians, Documentalists and Information Specialists, held in Antigua, Guatemala in September 2003, which gathered an important

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay

To support the Policy Coordination Network (REDPA), a document was prepared on the status of agricultural insurance in the six CAS countries. This marked the first step in developing the information tools needed to formulate and implement regional policies aimed at consolidating strategies for evaluating and managing agricultural risks.

group of information professionals dedicated to achieving the objectives of competitiveness, food security and rural prosperity.

Lastly, the USDA's National Library of Agriculture helped IICA obtain a new mirror server for the SIDALC that operates at Michigan State University in order to initiate the process of digitalization of the Turrialba publication.

2005-2006: Towards the future



7 *2005-2006: Towards the future*

Given the mandates which IICA has received in Quebec, Bavaro, Panama and Monterrey, the Administration sees IICA's future in the context of a development agenda that recognises that the Institute cannot dissociate itself from social problems such as unemployment, lack of shelter, education and health care, poverty and social injustice that prevail among the majority of the peoples of the Americas.

Consequently, in the future, the Institute will embrace greater social responsibility and a development agenda that allows it to play a more dynamic and strategic role in the promotion of prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas.

That role takes IICA beyond traditional support to agricultural production and makes it a partner in the development process dedicated to increasing the competitiveness of the entire agri-food chain and fostering linkages between the chain and other sectors of the economy, such as tourism, health, nutrition, infrastructure, education and the environment.

IICA's National Agendas must reflect a holistic, integrated approach that responds to the reality of the national agricultural community and national circumstances, and must link macro-policy with territorial reality.

Given this expanded mandate, a close relationship with strategic development partners, at the national, regional as well as global levels, becomes very important for the Institute's work and, consequently, IICA must actively seek to promote strategic partnerships as part of this change. The agreements signed with FAO, PAHO and ECLAC are all part of this strategy.

The work and reports of the Institute will no longer focus on narrow scientific aspects but must embrace the wider aspects of the Institute's contribution to society and to development. Such themes will include the contribution of the Institute to food security and rural prosperity, through technical programmes that are designed to:

- a** To support the countries of the hemisphere in their efforts at integration, cooperation and participation in the global economy;
- b** To support the Member States in ensuring the safety of food supplies and removing sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade;
- c** To support agro-industrial and agri-business development of the sector by promoting the incorporation of new technology and business principles into the enterprises of the sector in order to promote competitiveness and the development of a global agri-business environment;
- d** To promote sustainable rural development and sustainable use of natural resources for present and future generations;
- e** To support the Ministries of Agriculture in the process of transforming their role, structure, and functions in order to face the new realities of globalization and modernization of the State;
- f** To support the process of agricultural educational transformation, so as to produce scientist, technicians and entrepreneurs that can effectively develop/reposition agriculture.

In addition, IICA must also support Member States in actions that:

- a** Support Hemispheric and Regional Integration;
- b** Support the implementation of the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan of Action;
- c** Monitor the state and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere; and
- d** Promote an interagency agenda in support of sustainable rural development.

The Administration sees the monitoring of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere and the identification of trends, threats,

critical emerging issues and opportunities as an important future role of this Institute as IICA seeks to assist in the creation of societies of knowledge. Implementation of this responsibility will allow the Institute to accompany Member States in the implementation of the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan and the development of a modern agricultural sector in the Americas.

The Administration believes that the consolidation of these initiatives will result in a modernized IICA ready to assist Member States in the modernization of the rural sector, the promotion of food security and the promotion of prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas. Our goal is to build IICA into an institution of excellence for the Member States of the Americas.

Acronyms

AAFC	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	APC	Association for Progressive Communications
ACCI	Colombian Agency for International Cooperation	APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Protection and Inspection Service (USDA)
ACEAS	Central American Association of Higher Agricultural Education	ARC	Audit Review Committee (IICA)
ADEC	American Distance Education Consortium	ARS	Agricultural Research Service (USDA)
ADIZAL	Integral Development Association of the Chalatenango Highlands (El Salvador)	BANRURAL	Rural Development Bank (Guatemala)
AECI	Spanish International Cooperation Agency	BSE	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
AGEXPRONT	Association of Exporters of Non-Traditional Goods (Guatemala)	CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
AHFS	Agricultural health and food safety	CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration
AID	United States Agency for International Development	CAC	Central American Agricultural Council
ALADI	Latin American Integration Association	CACHE	Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture
ANAM	National Environmental Authority (Panama)	CADEXCO	Costa Rican Chamber of Exporters
APBP	Pan American Association of Agricultural Commodity Exchanges	CADIAC	Agri-food chains and dialogue for action
		CAF	Andean Development Corporation
		CAFY	Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth

CAN	Andean Community	CFNI	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
CAPECO	Paraguayan Chamber of Grain and Oilseed Exporters	CGPC	Coordinating Group of Pesticide Control Boards of the Caribbean
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute	CHN	National Horticulture Corporation (Costa Rica)
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum	CIDAB	Agricultural Information and Documentation Center of Bolivia
CARIRI	Caribbean Industrial Research Institute	CIHA	Inter-sectoral Food Safety Commission
CAS	Southern Agricultural Council	CIRAD	International Center for Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (France)
CATIE	Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center	CNRWP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
CCAA	Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association	CODESSER	Rural Social Development Corporation (Chile)
CCAA	Caribbean-Central American Action	COFIDE	Financial Corporation for Development (Peru)
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development	COMSA	Agricultural Insurance Committee (Chile)
CCI	Corporación Colombia Internacional	CONADEA	National Council for Agricultural Development (Guatemala)
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank	CONAM	National Environmental Council (Peru)
CEAR	Center for Training and Assistance in Irrigation (Mexico)	CONASEM	National Seed Commission (Nicaragua)
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute	CONCULTURA	National Council for Culture and Art (El Salvador)
CENILAC	Nicaraguan Dairy Export Authority	CONIF	National Corporation for Forestry Research and Development (Colombia)

CORECA	Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama, and Dominican Republic	ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
CORPOICA	Colombian Agricultural Research Corporation	EDUCONS	Education and Communication Network of Suriname
COSAVE	Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Area	EMBRAPA	Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research
CPEC	Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development Program for Economic Competitiveness (CIDA)	ESEN	School for Advanced Studies in Economics and Business (El Salvador)
CREP	Caribbean Region Environmental Program	EU	European Union
CRISP	Caribbean Regional Intern-Scholarship Programme (USAID)	EXPRO	Export Promotion Program for Micro-, Small- and Medium-scale Enterprises (El Salvador)
CRNM	Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery	FANS	Faculty of Agricultural and Natural Sciences (UWI)
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy	FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations)
CSUCA	Central American Higher University Council	FAVA/CA	Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action (United States)
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation	FECARROZ	Central American Rice Federation
CVP	Standing Veterinary Council (CAS)	FECOPROD	Federation of Production Cooperatives (Paraguay)
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency	FEDEGAN	Livestock Breeders Federation (Colombia)
DINCAP	National Office for Project Coordination and Administration (Paraguay)	FEPALE	Pan American Dairy Federation
DNP	National Planning Department (Colombia)	FOMRENA	Regional Fund for Appropriate Technologies for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (Andean Region)
EC	Executive Committee (IICA)		

FONTAGRO	Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology	GINA	Informal Group of Agricultural Negotiators
FORAGRO	Regional Forum on Agricultural Research and Technology Development	GIS	Geographic information system
FORTIPAPA	Project to Support Research on and Production of Potatoes in Ecuador	GMP	Good manufacturing practices
FRADIEAR	Andean Forum on Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education	GPPA	Guyana Poultry Producers Association
FRUTAL-ES	National Fruit Program of El Salvador	GPS	Global positioning system
FTA	Free trade agreement	GRICA	Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas	GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
FUNDAGRI	Foundation for the Development of Agricultural Science and Technology (Venezuela)	HACCP	Hazard analysis and critical control points
GAP	Good agricultural practices	IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture
GARDC	Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center	IAI	Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research
GDLN	Global Development Learning Network (World Bank)	ICA	Colombian Agricultural Institute
GDLNA	Global Development Learning Network for Agricultural Development in the Americas	ICT	Information and communication technologies
GECAFS	Global Environmental Change and Food Systems	ICTA	Agricultural Science and Technology Institute
GEF	Global Environment Facility	IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research	IDIAP	Agricultural Research Institute of Panama
		IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
		IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development

IHDP	International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change	INIEA	National Institute for Agrarian Research and Extension (Peru)
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture	INIFAP	National Institute for Forestry, Agricultural and Livestock Research (Mexico)
IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development (Canada)	INR	Institutional net rate (IICA)
ILO	International Labour Organization	INRA	National Agrarian Reform Institute (Bolivia)
INA	National Agriculture Institute (Panama)	INTA	National Agricultural Technology Institute (Argentina), Nicaraguan Agricultural Technology Institute
INCAGRO	Agricultural Innovation and Competitiveness Project (Peru)	INTAL	Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean
INCCA	National Small-farmer Training Institute (Ecuador)	IOM	International Organization for Migration
INCODER	Colombian Institute of Rural Development	IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
INDAP	Agricultural Development Institute (Chile)	IRDC	International Development Research Centre (Canada)
INFOAGRO	Agricultural Information System (Costa Rica, Venezuela)	ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research
INIA	National Agricultural Research Institute (Venezuela, Uruguay)	ISO	International Organization for Standardization
INIAP	Autonomous National Agricultural Research Institute (Ecuador)	JBI	Jamaica Bauxite Institute
INIBAP	International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
INIDEP	National Institute for Fisheries Research and Development (Argentina)	JNRWP	Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers
		LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean

LMO	Living modified organism	MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market
MACA	Ministry of Small-farm and Agricultural Affairs (Bolivia)	MFCL	Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock (Guyana)
MADR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Colombia)	MGAP	Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (Uruguay)
MAFLG	Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Local Government (Bahamas)	MIDA	Ministry of Agricultural Development (Panama)
MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay)	MIFIC	Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce (Nicaragua)
MAGA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (Guatemala)	MINAG	Ministry of Agriculture (Peru)
MAGFOR	Ministry of Agricultural and Forest Resources (Nicaragua)	MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture (Chile)
MALMR	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Trinidad and Tobago)	MINEDUC	Ministry of Education (Chile)
MAPA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brazil), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Spain)	MIOA	Market Information Organization of the Americas
MARD	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Barbados)	MTP	Medium term plan (IICA)
MARNDR	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (Haiti)	MUCECH	Movimiento Unitario Campesino y de Etnias de Chile
MASHAV	Center for International Development (Israel)	NABI	North American Biotechnology Initiative
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation	NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
		NAHFSC	National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Committee (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
		NAPPO	North American Plant Protection Organization
		NAYA	National Association of Youth in Agriculture (Dominica)

NFU	National Farmers Union (Canada)	PROCINORTE	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Northern Region
OAITA	Andean Observatory of Technological Innovation	PROCISUR	Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone
OAS	Organization of American States	PROCI TROPICOS	Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics
ODEPA	Office of Agricultural Studies and Policies (Chile)	PROCOMER	Foreign Trade Promotion Office (Costa Rica)
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States	PRODAR	Rural Agroindustry Development Program for Latin America and the Caribbean
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health	PRODERT	Project for Sustainable Rural Development in Ecologically Fragile Areas of the Trifinio Region (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras)
OIRSA	International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health	PRODESAL	Small-scale Cotton Farm Development and Diversification Program (Paraguay)
PADEMER	Rural Microenterprise Development Project (Colombia)	PROFORPYMES	Strengthening of Agribusiness Management for Market Access and Internationalization of Small- and Medium-scale Enterprises in Central America
PAES	Environmental Program of El Salvador	PROMECAFE	Regional Cooperative Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization	PROMSA	Project for the Modernization of Agricultural Services (Ecuador)
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica	PROSAP	Provincial Agricultural Services Program (SAGPYA, Argentina)
PRISMA	Salvadoran Program for Research on the Environment and Development		
PROCI	Cooperative agricultural research and technology transfer program		
PROCIANDINO	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion		
PROCICARIBE	Caribbean Agricultural Science and Technology Network System		

RDC	Rural Development Commission (Barbados)	SDC	Social Development Commission (Jamaica)
REDPA	Coordination Network for Agricultural Policies in the Southern Region	SDC	Swiss Cooperation Agency for Development
REMERFI	Mesoamerican Network for Plant Genetic Resources	SEA	Secretariat of State for Agriculture (Dominican Republic)
RENAMUR	Mexican Network of Rural Women	SEDI	Executive Secretariat for Integral Development (OAS)
RENRUS	National Network of Sustainable Rural Development (Mexico)	SEGEPLAN	Planning and Programming Secretariat (Guatemala)
RIDAB	Agricultural Information and Documentation Center of Bolivia	SELA	Latin American Economic System (Venezuela)
SACMI	Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (IICA)	SENACSA	National Animal Health and Quality Service (Paraguay)
SAG	Agricultural and Livestock Service (Chile), Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (Honduras)	SENARA	National Groundwater, Irrigation, and Drainage Service (Costa Rica)
SAGARPA	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (Mexico)	SENASA	National Agrifood Health and Quality Service (Argentina), National Agricultural Health Service (Honduras)
SAGPYA	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (Argentina)	SENASICA	National Service for Agri-food Health, Safety and Quality (Mexico)
SANIBANANO	Plant Health Program for Export-quality Bananas and Musaceae (Ecuador)	SEPREM	Presidential Office for Women's Affairs (Guatemala)
SAQS	Project for Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services in the Caribbean	SEPSA	Executive Secretariat for Agricultural Sectoral Planning (Costa Rica)
SASA	Autonomous Agricultural Health Service (Venezuela)	SERNAM	National Office for Women's Affairs (Chile)
		SESA	Ecuadoran Agricultural Health Service

SG-CAN	General Secretariat of the Andean Community	SVGNRWP	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Network of Rural Women Producers
SHYQ	Yacambu Quibor Water System (Venezuela)	TBT	Technical barriers to trade
SIAP	Agrifood and Fisheries Information and Statistics Service (Mexico)	TCGA	Toledo Cacao Growers Association (Belize)
SIBIICA	IICA Library System	TROPIGEN	Amazonian Network of Plant Genetic Resources
SIBTA	Bolivian Agricultural Technology System	UNAM	National Autonomous University of Mexico
SICTA	Central American System for Agricultural Technology Integration	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
SIDALC	Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
SIHCA	Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development	UNJFSC	Jose Faustino Sanchez Carrion National University (Peru)
SIRENARE	Superintendency of the Renewable Natural Resources Regulation System (Bolivia)	UPEG	Management Planning and Evaluation Unit (SAG/Honduras)
SIRG	Summit Implementation Review Group	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SPS Agreement	Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO)	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
SPS Committee	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee (WTO)	UWI	University of the West Indies
SPS measures	Sanitary and phytosanitary measures	WB	World Bank
SRD	Sustainable rural development	WHO	World Health Organization
		WINFA	Windward Islands Farmers Association
		WTO	World Trade Organization