

2005 Annual Report



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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
2005 Annual report / Informe anual 2005. IICA.-
San José, C.R. : IICA, 2006.
115 p. ; 22 cm.

Published also in French y Portuguese

ISBN 92-9039-705-5

1. IICA - Anual report I. IICA II. Title

AGRIS

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San José, Costa Rica
2006

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	iii	<i>Bahamas</i>	43
Foreword	1	<i>Barbados</i>	44
Executive Summary	3	<i>Belize</i>	46
1. Origin, Legal Bases, Structure and Purposes	7	<i>Bolivia</i>	47
2. Implementation of Resolutions and Mandates	9	<i>Brazil</i>	49
2.1 Summit of the Americas Process	10	<i>Canada</i>	51
2.2 Governing Bodies of IICA	13	<i>Chile</i>	53
2.3 Promotion of Women's Rights and Gender Equity and Equality	15	<i>Colombia</i>	55
3. Technical Cooperation	17	<i>Costa Rica</i>	56
3.1 Implementing the Hemispheric Agenda	18	<i>Dominica</i>	58
3.2 Implementing the Regional Agendas	31	<i>Dominican Republic</i>	60
3.3 Implementing the National Agendas	40	<i>Ecuador</i>	61
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>	40	<i>El Salvador</i>	62
<i>Argentina</i>	41	<i>Grenada</i>	65
		<i>Guatemala</i>	66
		<i>Guyana</i>	68

<i>Haiti</i>	70	<i>Suriname</i>	87
<i>Honduras</i>	72	<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>	88
<i>Jamaica</i>	73	<i>United States of America</i>	91
<i>Mexico</i>	75	<i>Uruguay</i>	92
<i>Nicaragua</i>	77	<i>Venezuela</i>	94
<i>Panama</i>	79		
<i>Paraguay</i>	81	4. Relations with Strategic Partners	97
<i>Peru</i>	82	5. Financial Information and Human Resources	101
<i>Saint Kitts and Nevis</i>	84		
<i>Saint Lucia</i>	85	Acronyms	107
<i>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</i>	86		

Foreword



The annual report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is a key component of our policy of accountability to our Member States. The report for 2005 coincides with the end of my first term at the helm of the Institute, during which we focused on modernizing and repositioning the organization so it could do an even better job of promoting sustainable agriculture and increasing the prosperity of rural communities in the hemisphere.

We are delighted to see how much importance is now being attached to agricultural and rural development in the hemispheric dialogue, as part of both the Summit of the Americas process and the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life. During 2005, we placed special emphasis on implementing the mandates issued by these hemispheric forums, particularly with respect to the monitoring of the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, for which we are directly responsible.

With the support of the Member States, we further enhanced the process of reaching consensus on national and regional agendas so that they reflect the priority needs of the countries, and paid special attention to accountability. In keeping with our governing principles, we also strengthened the ins-

titution's monitoring, supervision and evaluation system; adopted a new approach to the management of our human capital; stepped up actions in the field of information and communication; and strengthened our global strategic partnerships.

As a result of the important institutional transformations undertaken, IICA's technical cooperation is now more effective and pertinent. During 2005, the Institute invested its resources in supporting the growth of agricultural trade and the economic and trade integration processes, guaranteeing the adoption of sanitary and food safety standards, promoting agribusiness, ensuring sustainable rural development, incorporating technological innovations into production and helping to develop a competitive agricultural sector based on a more intensive use of knowledge.

I should like to highlight the enormous efforts made by our Offices and professionals in the Institute's 34 Member States, from Canada to Tierra del Fuego, including the Caribbean. In every one, we focused on strengthening the capabilities for formulating strategies and policies for agriculture and rural life, modernizing agricultural markets, promoting market access, developing institutional frameworks for technological innovation, implementing joint activities to eradicate pests and diseases, overhauling agricultural education, disseminating information and knowledge for agricultural and rural management and addressing emerging issues.

Specifically, I should like to draw attention to actions such as the implementation of diagnostic assessments for modernizing sanitary and food safety services using the PVS instrument, the creation of the Hemispheric Program on Agrobiotechnology and Biosafety and the execution of rural development strategies based on the territorial approach.

We increased horizontal cooperation by encouraging the countries to share their experience - Brazil in the area of agro-energy, Mexico in the field of policies and trade, Spain in regard to rural development and Canada with respect to agro-environmental policies. We also helped strengthen agriculture's intersectoral links with trade, tourism, health and the production of energy.

As in the previous year, in 2005 considerable progress was made in collecting quotas owed to the Institute, enabling us to expand our cooperation activities. We interpret this as an unequivocal endorsement by the Member States of IICA's work and the policy of financial prudence I instituted at the beginning of my Administration. I can only reiterate my thanks to the Member States for this vote of confidence, which motivates us to work even harder to achieve the new objectives that the Institute has set itself beginning in 2006.

I can safely say, without fear of contradiction, that IICA today is better positioned and is more modern, effective and geared to achieving what the countries expect from it. We are a service-driven organization that respects the rules of its governing bodies and has a staff team that adheres to strict ethical standards and the principle of accountability. The Institute has made impressive progress but much remains to be done if we are to realize our plans and produce better results for our Member States.

This report is a brief illustration of our wide-ranging work with the countries at the hemispheric, regional and national levels in 2005. IICA's contributions to the agricultural and rural development of its 34 member countries during the course of the year have been presented to the respective national authorities by means of national reports. These and the regional reports are available from our website (www.iica.int).



Chelston W.D. Brathwaite
Director General

Executive Summary

Sixty-three years after its founding, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), working with its Member States, continues to promote sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity in the hemisphere.

In 2005, IICA stepped up the dissemination of the findings of its studies on the true value of agriculture and rural life, which demonstrate that both these areas are strategically important for integrated national development. This position was endorsed by the Heads of State and of Government at the Fourth Summit of the Americas, held in Mar del Plata, Argentina, and by the hemisphere's Ministers of Agriculture at the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador.

The Institute's operating units and Offices helped implement the mandates issued within the framework of the summit process and the ministerial meetings. They provided technical cooperation to meet the needs of the Member States, promoted the integration processes, monitored the status of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere and facilitated hemispheric consensus and the coordination of strategies and actions with other international and regional agencies.

At the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, the Ministers recognized the Institute's efforts in recent years to modernize its operations while at the same time reaching agreement with the countries on their agendas for agriculture and presenting regular reports on its activities. The IABA also voted unanimously to reelect Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite as the Director General of IICA for a second term (2006-2010).

The "Working together" approach was strengthened by means of joint activities with organizations such as the WTO, ECLAC, the OAS, FAO, UNESCO, the ILO, the IDB, the World Bank, CATIE, the CTA, PAHO, USAID, AECI and the GTZ. These joint efforts yielded important results under our programs related to rural development, trade negotiations, agricultural health and food safety, information, agribusiness promotion, technological innovation, investment projects, environmental management and training.

IICA helped develop and enhance business skills and expertise through the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety. The Institute identified trade opportunities, provided training, facilitated access to markets such as the United States, Canada

and Europe, developed information systems, supported the modernization of markets and promoted small rural agroindustries.

With regard to trade policies and negotiations, the Institute adapted its cooperation actions to the new conditions created by trade liberalization and the proliferation of bilateral and multilateral agreements regulating production activities and agricultural trade. For example, it continued to provide strong support for the countries' agricultural trade policy units, facilitating agricultural trade negotiations, evaluations of the impact of trade agreements on the agricultural sector and the important task of administering agreements of this kind.

In this area, IICA implemented the horizontal cooperation program "Policy and Trade Node: Focal Point Mexico," designed to facilitate the sharing of experiences on these issues in the hemisphere. The Institute also served as the technical secretariat of several regional ministerial forums whose brief is to reach and consolidate consensus on policies for agriculture, rural prosperity and trade.

Another activity intended to make agriculture more competitive was the promotion of the "Chains and Dialogue for Action" (CADIAC) methodology, mainly in countries in the

Central, Andean and Caribbean regions. Applying this approach enabled public- and private-sector stakeholders to reach agreement on critical problems affecting the competitiveness of agri-food chains and on the implementation of joint activities to overcome them.

The Institute began formulating a hemispheric agrobiotechnology and biosafety program, with national experts and IICA specialists determining the priority joint lines of action. IICA also facilitated the effective implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and strengthened its ties with the North American Biotechnology Initiative and the CAS's Biotechnology Group. It also concluded an analysis of the institutional situation with regard to agrobiotechnologies in LAC and launched a Web page on the subject.

Furthermore, the Institute supported the modernization of the countries' agricultural technological innovation systems, the preparation of regional studies on issues that are a priority for FORAGRO and the consolidation of the regional cooperative technology innovation system, through the PROCIs.

Given the growing importance of world agricultural trade, IICA strengthened cooperation in the field of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS). Another important activity was the application of the "Performance, Vision and Strategy"

(PVS) instrument. Evaluating and supporting the institutional modernization efforts of AHFS services helps boost agricultural trade.

The Institute continued to implement the Initiative for the Countries of the Americas in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, under which representatives of the sanitary and phytosanitary services of the Member States took part in all the meetings of the WTO's SPS Committee. Mindful of the scope of AHFS issues, the Institute beefed up its partnerships and cooperation with other organizations working in this area, such as the WHO-PAHO, Codex Alimentarius, the OIE and the IPPC.

IICA also continued to promote and disseminate the territorial approach to rural development and support the management of policies, mechanisms, strategies and investments consistent with this approach. The Institute's activities in this field had an even bigger impact thanks to the synergies created by joint efforts undertaken with other organizations, both within the framework of the Interagency Group for Rural Development and the national interagency groups that have joined forces to address this issue.

One of the most important actions reacted to rural development was IICA's support for the strategic area of work known

as "BRAMCO," which involves rural development institutions in Brazil, Mexico and Colombia, and the implementation of a master's degree program in rural development management. Other important actions included the provision of technical assistance, the implementation of a large number of training events, the execution of pilot projects, the publication of technical documents and the work with strategic partners, including the Rural Policy Research Institute, Global Environmental Change and Food Systems, the UICN and RUTA.

Developing human capital remained a priority during 2005. IICA continued to support the integration of higher agricultural education, efforts to improve the relevance and quality of agricultural and rural education, and the recognition and standardization of agricultural courses in the Americas. In line with the national and regional agendas, it also developed distance education and training courses on subjects of strategic importance for agricultural and rural development in LAC.

To complement its direct technical cooperation, the Institute made a major effort in the field of agricultural and rural information and knowledge management, striving to become the hemisphere's benchmark platform. It modernized its portal (www.iica.int), improved the technical content and increased the number of subscribers to the Infoagro information system

(Trade, Infotec, Agrosalud, Rural Development, PRODAR), revamped the SIDALC and made the library system more visible, improved its publications management and strengthened the internal information system (Intranet and VPN).

At the regional level, in addition to serving as the technical secretariat of various ministerial standing forums, the Institute facilitated and managed thematic platforms and networks of professionals and specialists, and sought to achieve consensus between countries and between regions for the development of common agendas.

IICA continued to help the countries prepare, implement and evaluate agricultural and rural development investment projects. In this field, by means of teamwork and cross-thematic efforts, the Institute strove to ensure that the strategic thinking generated by the Thematic Areas was reflected in the design and implementation of projects.

Finally, to enhance institutional capabilities, IICA promoted the implementation of four high-level technical forums, published over 150 documents and continued to recognize the performance of human capital by rewarding excellence.

Origin, Legal Bases, Structure and Purposes



1

Origin, Legal Bases, Structure and Purposes

IICA was created in 1942 by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union. In 1949 it was recognized by the OAS as the specialized agency for agriculture and well-being of the rural population of the Inter-American System.

A new IICA Convention came into force in 1980, establishing two governing bodies: the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), composed of all the Member States, and the Executive Committee (EC), made up of 12 Member States appointed to the Committee on a rotating basis. The IABA holds regular meetings every two years to consider and adopt measures related to the Institute's policy and action. The EC acts on behalf of the IABA when the latter is not in session and holds regular meetings once a year.

In 2000, the OAS, by General Assembly Resolution 1728, recognized the IABA as the primary ministerial forum for

analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere.

The Institute's executive organ is the General Directorate and its Headquarters is in San Jose, Costa Rica. The Director General of IICA is Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, a citizen of Barbados.

The Institute has a network of Offices in its 34 Member States and a Permanent Office for Europe, located in Madrid, Spain, which promotes relations with strategic partners.

IICA's objectives are to encourage, promote and support its member countries in modernizing the rural sector, promoting food security and developing an agricultural sector that is competitive, technologically prepared, environmentally managed and socially equitable for the peoples of the Americas.

Implementation of Resolutions and Mandates



Implementation of Resolutions and Mandates

2.1 Summit of the Americas Process

At the Fourth Summit, held in November 2005 in Mar del Plata, the hemisphere's leaders reaffirmed the importance of agriculture and rural life as strategic issues for integrated national development. By means of the Summit Declaration and Plan of Action - entitled "Creating Jobs to Fight Poverty and Strengthen Democratic Governance" - they took steps to foster a renewed institutional framework and support the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan:

"We are committed to building a more solid and inclusive institutional framework, based on the coordination of economic, labor and social public policies to contribute to the generation of decent work, which must comprise:

- *A comprehensive framework for rural and agricultural development, to promote investment, job creation and rural prosperity."*

Paragraph 55 g), Declaration of Mar del Plata

To achieve the above, in the national arena the leaders pledged:

"To support the implementation of the 2005 Ministerial Agreement on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (AGRO 2003-2015 Plan)"

Paragraph 35, Plan of Action

This decision, which builds on the declarations adopted at previous meetings of the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, reflects the leaders' strong support for the improvement of agriculture and living conditions in rural areas of the hemisphere. This sustained support is underpinned by the political strength of the process and the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

The Summit of the Americas Process and the mandates on agriculture and rural life have also had an impact on the modernization of IICA. The Institute undertook this task to help the countries implement the mandates arising out of the ministerial process, dubbed "Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas." In its last Medium-Term Plan, the Institute adopted a new cooperation model to support the countries in their efforts.

IICA supports the implementation of the presidential mandates in two ways. Firstly, it is involved in the ministerial process, promoting wide-ranging national, regional and hemispheric dialogue to support the implementation and continuity of the ministerial meetings. Secondly, the Institute plays an active role in the review and monitoring mechanisms of the Summit of the Americas process. To help maintain the positioning of agriculture and rural life, IICA promotes efforts aimed at facilitating the continuity of the ministerial process and its close coordination with the summit process.

- *Facilitation of the continuity of the ministerial process*

In 2005, IICA continued to support the implementation of the summit mandates and the agreements of the Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas under the four strategic components of its cooperation model:

- *Delivery of technical cooperation to the Member States*

Employing its new style of technical cooperation, IICA continued to implement the national, regional and hemispheric technical cooperation agendas in order to help the countries carry out the presidential mandates and ministerial agree-

ments on agriculture and rural life. These agendas were arrived at by means of dialogue with the national and regional authorities regarding the support they need from IICA to help achieve the development objectives set by the countries.

The Institute also presented each Member State with a report on IICA's contribution to agriculture and the development of rural communities, detailing the progress made in implementing the national agendas. It also submitted reports to the regional and hemispheric meetings of ministers of agriculture, where the participants discuss the adjustments that need to be made to the agendas for the following biennium.

- *Monitoring of agriculture and rural life in the Americas*

The Institute made great efforts to monitor agriculture and rural life, in order to report on their development to the Ministerial Meeting held in 2005 and enable the ministers to take strategic decisions regarding 2006 and 2007. It produced the report "State of and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the Americas 2005" and the special report "The contribution of agriculture and rural territories to poverty reduction, job creation and the promotion of rural prosperity." IICA also developed a system of agricultural and rural performance indicators, working with other international and regional agencies and institutions.

- *Facilitating of consensus building and the monitoring of strategies*

As the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting, IICA continued to promote the development of the ministerial process and facilitate consensus and the adoption of strategies. At the various GRICA meetings held in 2005, the Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture gradually reached a hemispheric consensus regarding the updating of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Subsequently, at the Third Ministerial Meeting, the ministers and secretaries of agriculture adopted four hemispheric ministerial agreements designed to ensure the continuity of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and the process leading up to the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, due to take place in Guatemala in 2007. The main document approved was the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

- *Coordination with other international organizations*

In keeping with the spirit of the summit process, during 2005 IICA continued to strengthen its relations with its institutional partners in that process and with other international organizations, coordinating and complementing efforts.

With regard to technical cooperation, IICA continued to work in the national, regional and hemispheric arenas with other

international organizations to assist the countries in implementing their agricultural and rural development strategies.

IICA and ECLAC worked together to identify indicators for monitoring the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, bearing in mind the sessions of the 2005 GRICA and the Third Meeting Ministerial on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas. In doing so, they involved the ministerial delegates of agriculture and officials from ECLAC, IICA, PAHO, FAO, UNESCO, the ILO and various regional entities (OECS, CARICOM, CARDI, CRNM, CARY and CABA). Based on the preliminary results, which ECLAC and IICA presented at the 2005 Ministerial Meeting, the ministers decided that the initiative should continue.

- *Facilitation of the coordination between the ministerial process and the Summit of the Americas process*

As a member of the Joint Summit Working Group coordinated by the OAS Summit Secretariat, IICA took part in the meetings of the SIRG, comprising representatives of the ministries of foreign affairs of 34 countries in the hemisphere. The Institute presented reports on the progress made by the countries in implementing the presidential mandates, the status of the ministerial process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” and the Institute’s contributions, and provided

the technical inputs that the SIRG required to prepare the Fourth Summit.

In the countries, the Institute's Offices worked closely with the units responsible for coordinating the summit process at the ministries of foreign affairs and the delegations of the ministries of agriculture, facilitating the flow of information to the SIRG on the progress made by the countries in carrying out the mandates and developing the Ministerial Meeting's proposals for the Fourth Summit.

2.2 *Governing Bodies of IICA*

Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC)

This meeting took place on May 13 and 14, 2005 in Ribeirão Preto, in the State of Sao Paulo, Brazil. The members of the Executive Committee in 2005 were Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Mexico, Peru, Suriname, the United States of America and Uruguay.

The EC adopted a series of important resolutions, including: a) Resolution 426, in which it recognized the progress made by

the administration in transforming and modernizing IICA, as well as the results of the cooperation provided to promote agriculture and the rural communities of the Americas; b) Resolution 427, whereby it approved IICA's 2004 annual report; c) Resolution 428, in which it endorsed the General Directorate's proposal for strengthening its cooperation to the countries in the area of biotechnology and biosafety; and, d) Resolution 429, whereby it supported IICA's proposal for implementing a hemispheric agro-energy and bio-fuel program with a strong emphasis on horizontal cooperation.

The EC also adopted Resolution 432, in which it approved IICA's financial statements for 2003 and 2004 and the external auditors' report on those statements; Resolution 433, whereby it approved the eleventh report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC); Resolution 434, in which the firm of Deloitte & Touche was appointed as the external auditors of IICA and CATIE; and Resolution 439, confirming the recipients of the 2003-2005 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.

By means of Resolution 440, the Committee adopted the General Director's report on the implementation of the resolutions of the Twenty-fourth Regular Meeting of the EC and the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

- *Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA*

The IABA met on August 30 and September 1, 2005 in Guayaquil, Ecuador. Details of the objectives and status of the most important of the 21 resolutions adopted are provided below.

- *Institutional policy and technical cooperation services*

In Resolution 407, the IABA recognized the progress made in transforming and modernizing IICA and implementing the cooperation activities called for in the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan. By means of Resolution 408, it accepted the report “State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural life in the Americas 2005,” underscoring its usefulness as an instrument for analyzing policies.

In resolutions 409 and 410, the IABA endorsed IICA’s proposal for stepping up the delivery of technical cooperation to its Member States in the fields of biotechnology and biosafety, and agro-energy and bio-fuels, respectively. By means of Resolution 411, it instructed IICA to promote horizontal cooperation in the area of agricultural insurance and guarantee funds.

- *Administrative, financial and budgetary matters*

In Resolution 412, the IABA approved the Institute’s financial statements for 2003 and 2004, and the reports of the external

auditors. By means of Resolution 413, it adopted the tenth and eleventh reports of the ARC. The IABA also adopted Resolution 414, in which it clarified the provisions in effect regarding the collection of quotas owed to the Institute, and Resolution 415, whereby it created a new category in IICA’s budget called “Renewal of infrastructure and equipment.”

By means of Resolution 416, it adopted IICA’s Program Budget for 2006 and the total amount of resources allocated to the Regular Fund for 2007. Finally, in Resolution 417 it adopted a special budget of US\$2,609,000.00 that will be used for investments, building remodeling and maintenance, and the development of capabilities to enable the countries to take full advantage of the WTO SPS agreement.

- *Matters pertaining to the Institute’s governing bodies*

In a unanimous vote, and by acclamation, the IABA reelected Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite to the post of Director General of IICA for the period 2006-2010. Dr. Brathwaite’s new term of office began on January 16, 2006.

In Resolution 419, the IABA decided to extend the SACMI’s term from 2006-2010. By means of Resolution 421, the IABA authorized the EC to adopt the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan

and approve any adjustments in the 2007 Program Budget that may be required for its implementation.

In Resolution 420, the IABA established a sub-commission of the SACMI to study the CAS's proposal regarding the preparation of the MTP and the allocation of resources under the Institute's budget. The sub-commission met at IICA Headquarters on October 14, 2005, and later submitted its report to the SACMI.

With regard to the monitoring of the decisions of the Institute's governing bodies, in Resolution 422 the IABA approved the status reports on the resolutions of the Twenty-fifth Regular Meeting of the EC and the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

- *Relations with other organizations and special matters*

By means of Resolutions 424 and 425, the IABA adopted the reports of CATIE and CARDI for 2003-2004. In Resolution 426, it approved the report on the joint activities carried out by CATIE and IICA and gave instructions that the annual reports of the two institutions include a special section on their joint activities. It also asked the SACMI to study the proposals for a more effective organizational arrangement that would facilitate such actions.

- *Activities for the preparation of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA*

In Resolution 423, the IABA welcomed and approved a proposal from the Government of Guatemala to hold the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA in that country.

- *Modernization of the services in support of the work of IICA's governing bodies*

In 2005, the Institute consolidated the improvements made in the organizational arrangements and procedures for supporting the work of the IABA and the EC. It enhanced the tools that form part of the on-line system, the operation of the electronic forums and distance communication. Renewing the amplification, simultaneous interpretation and recording equipment also made it possible to offer high-quality services that permit the Institute's governing bodies to perform their work more easily.

- **2.3 *Promotion of women's rights and gender equity and equality***

IICA continued its program of forums on the gender perspective and rural development with the "Second International Series of Global Dialogues: Incorporating Gender Equity into

the Planning and Management of the Development of Rural Territories.” The participants were from Colombia, Ecuador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala. The Institute also held ten national workshops and three video conferences on key rural development issues, including the environment, technology for combating poverty and rural labor markets.

In Brasilia, IICA set up the Standing Forum on Sustainable Rural Development, to help incorporate the gender perspective and equity into regional and national programs and initiatives. The forum will disseminate information about successful rural development experiences and foster institutional synergies for the management of territorial rural development policies, strategies and investments.

Furthermore, IICA supported programs and initiatives designed to develop the entrepreneurial skills of small-scale rural producers and foster the management of environmental resources with gender equity. In this connection, the Institute provided business training to women in Bolivia, Chile,

Nicaragua, Suriname, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Saint Lucia, and supported the organization of rural women producers in Ecuador and Bolivia.

IICA also promoted initiatives to increase the inclusion of the gender equity perspective in public policies and programs in Colombia and Chile. In Guatemala, it continued to assist the President’s Secretariat for Women’s Issues with its planning processes and the incorporation of the gender perspective. The Institute also helped incorporate the perspective into the National Rural Development Policy that is being drawn up.

With regard to the strengthening of networks and the creation of partnerships, the Institute facilitated coordination between the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers and the Brazil-based Latin American Network of Rural Women Workers. It also continued to forge closer ties with Mexico’s National Network of Rural Women, while in Bolivia it supported the re-launching of the Gender in Rural Development Network under a new name - the Network in Support of Rural Women.

Technical Cooperation



Technical Cooperation

The first section of this chapter contains a summary of the main activities carried out by IICA's Strategic Areas and the most important results achieved at the hemispheric level. The second describes the main technical cooperation activities implemented at the regional level, while the third gives an overview of the actions executed by IICA's Offices in the 34 Member States.

3.1 Implementing the hemispheric agenda

In response to the mandates issued by its highest-level governing body (the IABA) and specific requests from member countries, and as part of the Director General's pledge to focus technical cooperation on priority topics, in 2005 IICA formulated a hemispheric work program whose most important results were as follows:

■ *Agribusiness development*

IICA consolidated the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Agricultural Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety, whose objectives are to provide technical cooperation to enhance business capabilities, help identify market opportunities and promote trade by providing information to facilitate decision-making.

As part of its efforts to help producers identify commercial opportunities and enhance their export capabilities, in Honduras and the Dominican Republic the Institute promoted platforms for exporting to Montreal, Canada and Miami, USA, respectively. In the case of Honduras, the effort culminated in the participation of local companies in the SIAL fair in Montreal, while a trade mission of 15 Dominican business representatives visited Miami and held over 50 meetings.

With regard to information for decision-making, the Infoagro/Agronegocios system was made available to agribusinesses in the Americas. Users have access to information about the main requirements that fresh and processed agricultural products must meet to gain entry to the markets of the United States, Canada and the European Union. The system also affords access to important business news, documents of interest and various information sources.

To support the development of the public institutional framework needed to promote agribusiness activities, IICA continued to serve as the Executive Secretariat of the MIOA. Specifically, it coordinated the arrangements for the Regular Meeting held in Ottawa, Canada, in May 2005, which was attended by over 50 specialists responsible for agricultural information systems in the hemisphere.

The Institute gave priority to a study designed to evaluate the agricultural information systems of the MIOA's member countries and define other cooperation projects, such as the one aimed at creating a Pan American dictionary of terms to facilitate the sharing of information about markets.

IICA continued to provide technical cooperation with regard to the organization, integration and operation of market instruments. The Directorate helped the Office in Paraguay set up a commodity exchange in that country and assisted with the preparations for the Twelfth Annual Meeting of the APBP, which took place in the Dominican Republic in July 2005.

PRODAR continued to promote the development of small-scale rural agroindustries by consolidating a network of rural agroindustry specialists comprising over 4000 people in 17 Latin American and Caribbean countries interested in the promotion of rural agribusiness and rural development.

■ *Trade policies and negotiations*

IICA has adapted its cooperation activities to the new conditions created by the agricultural trade negotiations and studied the latter's implications for agri-food policies.

The Institute supported the efforts of the agricultural trade policy offices of the Central American countries to reach con-

sensus on joint regional positions on agricultural and trade policy. It also served as the technical secretariat of a number of forums, such as the CAS, GINA-Sur and REDPA.

To enhance the countries' ability to administer and implement free trade agreements, the Institute created and executed a horizontal technical cooperation program entitled "Policy and Trade Node: Focal Point Mexico", whose objective is to study Mexico's experience in the fields of policies and trade, and disseminate the results among other countries in the hemisphere. The program was launched with the participation of technical personnel from the private and public sectors of Central America.

To implement IABA Resolution 385, IICA conducted an inventory of agricultural policies in the Central and Andean regions to complement the one carried out in the Southern Region. The Institute also began to create networks of the specialists of the policy units of the ministries of agriculture of the Andean and Central regions.

The Strategic Area worked with the Directorate of Education and Training to develop a virtual course on agri-food policies and trade for public- and private-sector professionals. It also provided training in various regional and national workshops and seminars, including the module on

agriculture of the annual training workshop organized by the WTO and the IDB-INTAL.

Andean, Central American and Caribbean countries continued to receive direct technical assistance with regard to the topic of agri-food chains. The CADIAC methodology was used to build consensus between the public and private sectors on programs and policies aimed at solving the problems undermining competitiveness.

The Institute continued to define and update quantitative indicators for trade and agriculture in general. They were used as the basis for institutional publications and to provide information and analyses to other international entities and organizations. IICA also assisted the Central American and Caribbean countries directly with the quantitative analysis of the true contribution that agriculture makes to their economies.

By means of the Infoagro/Trade information system (<http://Infoagro.net/Comercio>), the Institute monitored the issue of agriculture in the multilateral and bilateral negotiations in which countries of the hemisphere are involved under the umbrella of the FTAA and the WTO. IICA produced and disseminated weekly e-bulletins containing documents and news about the status of the negotiations. In November 2005 alone, this information system received over

575,000 hits and the weekly bulletins are sent out to more than 3500 registered users.

The regional information modules were incorporated into the Infoagro/Trade section to provide the regional specialists with a virtual space where they can promote their activities and results and classify information as it enters the system.

IICA created yet another technical cooperation tool, an e-magazine called “InterCambio,” to enable its specialists to share their thoughts on current issues related to trade and the trade negotiations with the hemisphere’s agricultural community. Ten issues of the magazine were distributed, dealing with topics such as the implications of CAFTA, the status of the WTO negotiations, labeling and experiences with agro-tourism in the Caribbean.

The eighth issue published in 2005 included an article by Ambassador Carlos Perez del Castillo entitled “Agriculture in the Americas and the Doha Development Agenda.” It was distributed at the Hong Kong Ministerial in December.

■ *Technology and innovation*

In accordance with IABA Resolution 386, the Institute began to formulate a hemispheric agrobiotechnology and biosafety program. Experts from the countries and IICA personnel defined its priority lines of action.

The Institute helped the countries share information about the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and its implementation, particularly regarding the minimum documentation required for the transboundary movement of products containing living genetically modified organisms. It also promoted technical meetings in Argentina and Canada in which the states party and not party to the Protocol swapped information about its implementation.

IICA facilitated a technical meeting to enable the representatives of the ministries of agriculture and environment to prepare for the COP/MOP-2 meeting in Canada. It also fostered links between the members of the NABI and the CAS Biotechnology Group, with a view to identifying joint activities.

Regional workshops were held in Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago to identify and evaluate needs in the area of agrobiotechnology and biosafety. Progress was made in collecting and disseminating scientific information about biotechnology and in monitoring scientific advances worldwide, to support the development of national policies on the subject.

IICA also created a specialized Web page on biotechnology and biosafety issues (<http://infoagro.net/biotecnologia>) and completed a regional analysis of the institutional status of

agrobiotechnologies in LAC, disseminating the findings in various forums and meetings.

The efforts in the area of hemispheric integration and institutional modernization focused on consolidating the regional technological innovation system by means of the following actions:

- Promotion of the hemispheric dialogue through FORAGRO, whose Technical Secretariat is run by IICA. IICA and Panama's IDIAP organized the Forum's Fourth International Meeting, entitled "Technological Innovation and Agribusiness Priorities: Developing a New Institutional Dimension in the Americas."
- Under the aegis of FORAGRO's Technical Advisory Group, which coordinates the secretariats of FORAGRO, FONTAGRO and the PROCIs, the regional studies on four of the Forum's priority topics were completed (new biotechnologies, the conservation and use of genetic resources, agribusiness and technological innovation, and the sustainable management of natural resources).
- The hemisphere's connectivity with the global agricultural research system was promoted through interaction with the specialized forums for North Africa, the

Asia-Pacific region, Sub-Saharan Africa, Europe and North America, under the umbrella of the GFAR.

- Formal ties were forged between FORAGRO and the LAC Chapter of the International Federation of Agricultural Producers, and progress was made with the regular analysis of the current and future performance of agriculture, from the technological perspective.

With regard to the funding of regional research, IICA supported the consolidation of FONTAGRO by signing an agreement with the IDB. Studies were conducted to evaluate the impact of FONTAGRO's projects and demonstrate the Fund's benefits. The Institute held a training course on the formulation of projects and impact assessment, in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, and supported the dissemination of the results of the Fund's projects and the regional management of several of them.

In the field of information management, the INFOTEC system continued to provide a way for users to share information. The number of users rose by 22% in 2005. Progress was made in developing the platform for regional subsystems by means of technical cooperation actions and the training provided to the officials in charge of PROCISUR's Regional Organic Agriculture Platform and the Red-SICTA informa-

tion system (IICA-SDC). Thirteen e-mail lists were maintained to support the communication needs of networks associated with this area.

The GFAR organized an interregional workshop in Cairo and FAO held a meeting of experts on information systems in Rome. IICA took part in both events.

As part of its work with IFPRI and ISNAR, the Institute supported the implementation of IFPRI's consultations in Central and South America aimed at defining an agenda for research on institutional innovation. It also supported the development of a regional strategy for the ex situ conservation of plant genetic resources, through joint action with the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the subregional plant genetic resource networks, which receive assistance through the PROCIs.

IICA supported the consolidation of the PROCIs as part of its efforts to promote hemispheric integration. Through PROCiANDINO, the Institute helped strengthen the national agricultural innovation systems and implemented important regional projects on plant genetic resources.

PROCINORTE promoted the networks on genetic resources, tropical fruits and research on agricultural health, while

PROCITROPICOS supported the research networks on aquaculture and oil palm, and identified the scientific and technological research and development needed for small-scale production.

Under the aegis of PROCISUR, priority topics were addressed through the regional technological platforms, in particular, the ones focusing on the quality of beef and environmental sustainability. The Southern Cone Network of Wheat Genetic Resources was set up and cooperative projects were executed with the European Union on mycotoxins and *Lotus corniculatus*.

In the Central Region, the Institute made progress with the formulation of a strategy on agrobiotechnology and biosafety, consolidated PROMECAFE, reactivated the SICTA and supported the implementation of the SICTA Network project (IICA/SDC). It also drafted an investment project profile for the modernization of Costa Rica's INTA and a proposal for restructuring Guatemala's ICTA. In the area of plant genetic resources, in partnership with CATIE and IPGRI the Institute promoted the reactivation of REMERFI and the national committees.

Finally, IICA played an active role in the World Bank's international assessment of the impact of agricultural science and

technology in reducing hunger and improving rural life. The Institute organized a meeting of 50 experts in Costa Rica to design the regional assessment and will assume responsibility for the work in 2006.

■ *Agricultural health and food safety*

IICA's technical cooperation actions in this area focused on promoting the institutional modernization of governmental national AHFS services and the latter's implementation of measures designed to comply with international standards. To achieve the expected results, the Institute based its strategy on the principles of targeting and specialization, strategic alliances, a long-term vision and the needs of the countries themselves.

The approach, decision-making mechanisms and procedures that the Institute recommends that AHFS services in Latin America and the Caribbean adopt are those developed by the WTO and the international standard-setting organizations (Codex Alimentarius, OIE and IPPC).

In all the specialized forums, IICA advocated the idea that if international regulations are to be applied effectively, it is essential that the countries participate actively in the prioritization, preparation and approval of international standards, procedures and activities for trade and pest and disease management. IICA worked to develop capabilities through

institution building, training and the dissemination of information.

The Institute continued to promote the Initiative for the Countries of the Americas in Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures under which the countries take part in the work of the WTO/SPS Committee. At the two meetings held in March and July, IICA promoted the participation of 40 and 37 national specialists, respectively, from the ministries of agriculture, health and trade.

The Institute complemented the Initiative with two regional workshops in the Americas and a specialized workshop at WTO headquarters. These produced important results: a) the countries now attach greater importance to SPS issues and missions to the WTO; b) bilateral discussions involving national experts take place at the WTO to settle trade disputes; c) the countries are working together to identify priority topics and defend common interests; and, d) the countries are much more involved in the work of the WTO/SPS Committee.

IICA established and strengthened mechanisms for dialogue between experts in the countries and the missions in Geneva, and formal and informal national mechanisms for monitoring issues related to the WTO/SPS Committee and other international standard-setting organizations. The Institute also

helped strengthen the information and notification centers and improve the countries' compliance with the rules of the different organizations.

With regard to the development of human capital, IICA and several international organizations joined forces to implement the Executive Series on Leadership in Food Safety. Specialists from 18 countries in the hemisphere designed and implemented individual and group projects related to leadership and food safety. At a meeting held in Colombia in April the participants evaluated the results and impact of the 16 projects, which were published and disseminated in the Americas.

In the area of institutional modernization, IICA continued to promote the restructuring of AHFS services, based on a common vision shared by the public and private sectors, so they can meet the challenges posed by an increasingly globalized environment. The new AHFS services are building on what already existed, but forging close ties and alliances and implementing cooperation actions with the ministries of health, trade and foreign affairs. Their task is to provide adequate protection and at the same time facilitate international agricultural trade, enforcing current international regulations.

This effort to modernize AHFS services consists of four core components: a) technical capabilities; b) human and financial

capital; c) interaction with the private sector; and, d) market access. These four elements form the basis of the PVS instrument, which was developed by IICA and has been fully validated. The countries are using it to evaluate their services, formulate their vision and plan joint action.

Four different versions of the PVS are used to conduct assessments of: a) national veterinary services (in a strategic partnership with the OIE); b) national food safety services (the INPPAZ endorsed the instrument's content and will help IICA apply it); c) internationalization of government services (backed by the WTO); and, d) national plant health protection organizations (applied in several countries).

The PVS instrument was applied to the veterinary services and national plant health protection organizations of Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay; and the preparations got under way for applying it to their food safety services in 2006. The use of the instrument has made the countries aware of the commitment needed to implement actions aimed at the continuous improvement of governmental services.

Finally, IICA and the World Bank's international trade area conducted a study of the capacity of the national services of Uganda, in Africa, and the sanitary and phytosanitary

barriers faced by the country's exports. The PVS instrument was used once again, showing its usefulness and how it can be adapted to countries of all kinds.

■ *Sustainable rural development*

In line with its strategic objectives, one of IICA's key tasks was to provide support for policy management, institutional mechanisms, strategies and investments for the territorial management of rural development.

Accordingly, the Institute provided technical assistance and training in strategy formulation, institutional mechanisms and rural development policies with a territorial approach in Jamaica, Guyana, Suriname, Peru, Brazil, Honduras, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Paraguay, Guatemala, Panama and Venezuela. IICA also began to manage pilot rural development projects in countries in the Andean and Central regions. It is hoped that these projects will become national benchmarks for intersectoral interventions that can be used for policy-making.

The Institute took part in over 25 national and international events, making contributions related to the various areas of IICA's work. Eleven of these activities were organized by IICA, in some cases working with strategic partners.

The Institute collaborated with the UICN and RUTA in joint activities designed to promote gender equity for rural development, and with the Youth Employment Service (YES) to coordinate its worldwide campaign in Latin America and the Caribbean, aimed at the social and economic integration of rural youths. It also undertook joint activities with the OAS on water, agriculture and food safety.

IICA continued to consolidate the strategic area of work known as “BRAMCO,” building on its own rural development experiences in Brazil, Mexico and Colombia. The main activities carried out under the aegis of BRAMCO were: a) the operation of a knowledge management system with regional nodes in Brazil, Mexico, Colombia and Costa Rica; b) the operation of a program to develop the capabilities of human resources; and, c) the strengthening of the system of experts and the horizontal technical cooperation program. The Institute also supported the creation of the Standing Forum on Rural Development in Brazil, as one of the components of the corporate knowledge management system.

With regard to the development of human capital, in Mexico the Institute coordinated the design and implementation of a master’s degree program in the management of development in rural territories. This is a SAGARPA initiative in which seven Mexican universities and two research centers are taking

part, aimed at developing human resources under the country’s Rural Development Act. The Institute is using the experience acquired to orient similar processes in other countries of the hemisphere.

IICA worked with Spain’s MAPA in designing and executing a training course for rural development organizations in the region. At the course, held in Spain in November, the participants learned about new approaches to rural development and studied Spanish experiences with regard to policies, instruments, organization, strategies and methodologies for rural development. The event was also used to set up a regional network for sharing rural development experiences.

Equally important for the strengthening of rural development management capabilities was the publication of seven books, two technical papers and eight synopses. Presentations on microcredit and rural enterprises were also made on the Agroenlaces radio program, and cooperation activities related to SMEs, rural women and young people were carried out in Costa Rica, Suriname, Guyana and Colombia.

With regard to environmental management, IICA worked with the GECAFS Program on the design of a project to improve food security in the Caribbean Region. The Institute also took part in several GECAFS events on systems to

support decision making and the analysis of the implications of global environmental change on the region's food systems.

In collaboration with AAFC and the respective IICA Offices, the Directorate drew up inventories of agro-environmental policies in Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Peru and Uruguay. The research highlighted the urgent need to improve the capabilities of public institutions for the design and participatory implementation of policies of this kind.

With respect to institutional modernization, in Brazil the Institute helped formulate the conceptual framework for the Rural Development Forum, the Brazilian node of the Knowledge Management System for Rural Development. In Mexico, as part of the activities to consolidate the Zocalo del Desarrollo Rural, IICA continued to collaborate in the technical coordination of the Management Information System that will be used to provide follow-up to, monitor and evaluate the implementation of the Rural Development Act. The system could lead to similar initiatives in other countries.

■ *Education and training*

During 2005, IICA continued to implement its education and training program, designed to help integrate higher agricultural education and improve the pertinence and quality of agricultural and rural education in the Americas.

A number of multimedia courses (interactive CDs) were developed as part of the strategic efforts to enhance distance education and training programs, and videoconferences and other Web-based activities were carried out that enabled educators, specialists, agricultural entrepreneurs, national officials and other actors in the Americas to interact with each other. Progress was made in several countries with the creation of distance education programs.

The partnerships forged with international and regional institutions and organizations made an important contribution to the results achieved in the areas of education and training. For example, the joint effort with FAO and UNESCO led to the development of global dialogues on rural education; and, working with the World Bank's Global Learning Network, the Institute promoted global dialogues on issues of strategic importance for sustainable rural development.

In conjunction with CATIE and the OFI, IICA developed a multimedia course on agro-forestry systems. The Institute and the University of Guadeloupe prepared courses on agroecotourism financed by the Government of France; and IICA worked with the University of the West Indies and Caribbean Eastern Fertilizers to develop a course on the sustainable management of soil fertility.

The Directorate produced several multimedia courses on strategic subjects, including the following: a) Introduction to international agricultural policies and trade; b) Levels and determinants of the competitiveness of an agri-food chain using a sustainable development approach; c) Good agricultural practices; and, d) Introduction to agro-forestry systems.

Training programs were also implemented on the hazard analysis and critical control point system in the food industry, organic agriculture for entrepreneurs and strategies for improving the quality and pertinence of educational programs.

Under the Quality of Education Program, IICA provided continuous support to various vocational and higher education institutions in Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Barbados, Belize, Panama, Ecuador and Venezuela, to help improve the quality and relevance of the courses they offer.

With respect to support for the dialogue on agricultural and rural education and its integration, the Institute consolidated the operation of the Hemispheric Training Network through SIHCA (www.sihca.org). Comprising over 400 faculties, the aim of this network is to coordinate the supply and demand for agricultural training. It offers nearly 1000 courses on agricultural and rural development subjects.

Finally, IICA supported the establishment of regional systems for the integration, improvement and accreditation of agricultural and rural education programs; and assisted the forums of deans of the Southern, Andean, Central and Caribbean regions in consolidating their organizational arrangements and establishing sustainable organizational and financial development processes.

■ *Information and communication*

The Institute beefed up its activities in the field of information management and made more intensive use of information and communication technologies to enhance its position as a source of specialized agricultural information.

A qualitative leap in the Institute's communication with the countries was achieved thanks to the increased coverage that IICA received in the media throughout the hemisphere and the constant flow of information about its activities (IICACONNECTION). Two new technical products were created for key target audiences. One was the ComunIICA online e-magazine, intended for decision makers involved in agriculture and rural life, in which Institute specialists share their expertise. The other was AgroEnlace, a biweekly radio magazine for small- and medium-scale agricultural entrepreneurs, which is broadcast by Radio Nederland, Radio

Exterior de España and a large number of rural radio stations in the member countries.

As a part of the technological innovations continually being introduced, the Institute's Web portal (<http://www.iica.int>) was revamped and the use of the Private Virtual Network and the Intranet was expanded.

IICA also redesigned the website of the SIDALC information system that links 21 countries and contains 200 databases, 1,670,741 entries with information on agriculture and 17,000 full-text documents. It is estimated that 320,345 people made use of the SIDALC system and the Agri2000 mega database. In the case of the latter, 66 catalogues were updated, 22 new databases were incorporated and 132 institutions helped disseminate and share the knowledge available. Various agricultural information initiatives operating in the hemisphere were integrated into the SIDALC.

IICA also conducted an evaluation of the Agricultural Information System of Honduras; helped ACEAS formulate a proposal entitled "Construction of the knowledge model for faculties of agricultural and livestock sciences in Central America;" and assisted the agricultural information networks of Mexico and Costa Rica with their short-term planning and action processes.

A new publications policy and regulations were instituted and the Institute improved its capacity to build the institutional memory, began work on its "Knowledge Bank" and produced 169 publications. Under the "Increasing Bibliographic Collections" project, IICA's Offices donated over 5000 books to public and private organizations.

The Venezuela and Orton Commemorative libraries (located at Headquarters and in Turrialba, respectively) processed over 11,000 queries in situ and 91,000 online. Some 32,447 new entries were incorporated into IICA's database and the number of journals available reached 596.

The Orton Commemorative Library translated its Virtual Bookstore into English and its catalogue of monographs now contains 79,981 entries, including 888 full-text documents. The catalogue also migrated and was adapted to the WEBAGRIS system, resulting in various improvements, such as descriptors being available in three languages and a better management of electronic resources. The library collection was kept up-to-date with the acquisition of 25,111 scientific and technical documents, both in printed and electronic formats.

A course-workshop took place in October entitled "Management of digital libraries for the agricultural area," in which 24 people from 13 Latin American countries took part.

Other training events attracted 313 participants (students, researchers, extension workers and educators), including a course on the use of scientific literature for 52 students of master's degree programs.

In view of the importance of the issue worldwide, the Institute set up a Resource Center for Information on Avian Influenza. It also created an information pack on carbon in aboveground biomass in Central America, in coordination with CIFOR and the University of Helsinki.

Working with FAO, IICA updated a work plan for the joint design of tools and methodologies for managing and retrieving agricultural information in the hemisphere. The FAO-led group that administers the "Imark" seal studied and translated into Spanish the two modules on agricultural information management (Management of Electronic Documents and Digital Libraries).

USDA provided the resources needed for IICA to digitize the Turrialba magazine (issues from 1965 to 1995). Work on the creation of the Integrated System for the Management of Agricultural Libraries (LISAGR) also got under way.

The Institute took part in the Meeting of Experts on Agricultural Information Systems, convened by FAO in

Rome to draft a regional proposal for the future management of agricultural and rural information. As a result, progress is being made in linking SIDALC to the AGRIS international system.

AIBDA attracted new members, bolstered its finances and structures, revamped its publications, bulletins and Web page, and forged closer ties with the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialists (IAALD).

■ *Preparation of investment projects*

IICA made a special effort to ensure that the strategic thinking generated by its Strategic Areas is used in the design and implementation of technical cooperation and investment projects by means of teamwork and cross-thematic work.

Through its Offices, the Institute continued to help the LAC countries prepare and evaluate profiles, draft projects and investment projects consistent with an integrated approach to agricultural and rural development, involving joint work with national and regional teams.

IICA also assisted the countries in negotiations with development cooperation and financing agencies, enhanced the capabilities of local specialists of counterpart institutions participating in pre-investment processes, provided direct support in

bidding processes (pre-qualification and qualification of technical and financial bids) and monitored and managed a portfolio of selected projects.

The results of IICA's activities under projects that took place mainly at the regional and country levels are described in the corresponding sections of this report and in the national reports for 2005 that the Institute has presented to the authorities in each country.

3.2 *Implementation of the regional agendas*

Andean Region

In 2005, IICA consolidated its partnership with the CAN Secretariat by implementing a program of joint activities to carry out the mandates issued by the Andean presidents, with special emphasis on the Andean Rural Development and Agricultural Competitiveness Program and the Integrated Social Development Program.

In the area of competitiveness and global trade, IICA has positioned itself as a benchmark institution for the analysis of agricultural production chains, the development of mecha-

nisms for managing them, and the design and application of policy instruments to foster their consolidation and development. Peru and Ecuador received direct support with the chains approach and a cooperative program was developed with FAO to train managers of agricultural production chains and agribusiness operations on various topics, including the creation of associations, business management, post-harvest management, value added and marketing.

With a view to setting up a network of policy designers of the region's ministries of agriculture, the Institute conducted an inventory of agricultural support policies. It also took the first steps to set up a regional information system that will be used to promote the sharing of knowledge related to the countries' agricultural policies.

In the field of agricultural health and food safety, IICA promoted the application of the PVS instrument in four countries of the region. This will enable each country's governmental AHFS service to arrive at a consensus as regards the strategic actions it needs to implement, and agreement to be reached on the cooperation agendas of IICA and other institutions working in this area.

IICA helped strengthen rural communities through the Regional Rural Development Project. A "reference territory"

was established in each country of the region and cross-thematic activities implemented there to validate development methodologies and instruments with a territorial approach.

In a joint effort with the CAN Secretariat, the Institute helped the countries formulate the following three projects: a) Andean Rural Development Forum: Devising a Community Rural Development Strategy; b) Andean Food Security Project: Program for Indigenous Peoples; and, c) Development and Strengthening of the Capacity to Negotiate Financing for Rural Development Initiatives.

In Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, IICA supported the inter-agency rural development groups, made up of international and national institutions involved in social and environmental issues that affect the rural milieu. The Institute also worked with several rural development institutions to prepare a proposal for the creation of the Andean Rural Development Observatory, which was then submitted to the IDB.

In the area of hemispheric integration, IICA assisted the Andean countries with the formulation of methodologies for analysis and studies on the possible impact of further opening up of trade on sensitive crops. It also supported the public and private sectors of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru in their bilateral trade negotiations with the United States aimed at

establishing a free trade agreement. The Institute also disseminated information about the background to agricultural negotiations undertaken with the United States and helped determine negotiating strategies and possible reforms to agricultural policies.

With regard to the development of human capital, IICA held a training course in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on rural development with a territorial approach. Supported by Spain's MAPA, the participants in the event included officials from institutions in the Andean countries, Chile, Uruguay and Brazil.

In the field of education and training, the Sixth Andean Regional Forum for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education took place in Cochabamba, Bolivia. Strategic guidelines were adopted for improving the quality of higher agricultural education, modernizing the institutional framework and strengthening cooperation between the universities and the countries. IICA also helped adapt the Andean Regional Distance Training and Education Project so it can be submitted to the IDB's Initiative to Promote Regional Public Goods in the call for proposals in 2006.

With regard to institutional modernization, the General Secretariat of the CAN asked IICA to administer the eCAN-

Rural Development electronic platform, which the national committees of the Integrated Social Development Program use to keep abreast of the different rural development and food security projects and hold national workshops to analyze projects.

Through PROCINDINO, IICA supported the institutional modernization processes of the countries' research systems, so they can help reduce the technological gaps in agricultural production chains by means of alliances between public- and private-sector institutions, the incorporation of quality and the differentiation of products. These efforts place great emphasis on intellectual property rights and the reduction of negative environmental effects.

■ *Caribbean Region*

IICA is spearheading the process of drafting and implementing the work plan of the Jagdeo Initiative, designed to promote agricultural competitiveness, facilitate trade and improve rural prosperity. With financing from the CTA, the Institute began the study of the region's food needs and agricultural potential, to identify opportunities and support the design of investment policies.

In conjunction with the Government of Guyana and various regional agencies, IICA sponsored a regional conference on

the financing of the development of the rice-growing sector and other agribusiness activities. In addition, it continued to support initiatives designed to boost the flow of investment toward the agricultural sector and increase its contribution to food security, savings in foreign exchange and the creation of employment and sources of income for small farmers. The Institute also helped prepare project proposals and profiles, seek financing and establish greenhouses.

In support of CABA and its members, IICA collaborated in the development of the Caribbean Biotechnology and Biosafety Program and participated in the deliberations on the establishment of the Coordinating Office of the Advisory Group on these issues.

The Institute provided assistance to the CHBA, making it possible to begin a project on market research and production technology for herbs and prepare a publication on the commercial possibilities of such products. Another project involved the identification of the commercial opportunities that exist in the region for organic products. The Dominica and Saint Lucia chapters of the Organic Agriculture Movement were also approved.

In the field of agricultural health and food safety, IICA supported the consolidation of the respective national systems. It

also organized two regional workshops in collaboration with FAO and the USDA, and disseminated information about SPS and the Codex Alimentarius.

The Institute strengthened CNRWP by implementing training and strategic planning activities, increasing its membership and launching its Web page (www.canrop.org), using resources provided by the CTA. IICA also worked with the CAFY to enhance the capabilities needed to manage, head and start businesses and integrate policies.

The Institute promoted the concept of territorial rural development in Dominica, Guyana and Suriname and, with the Caribbean Hotel Association and the Caribbean Tourism Organization, encouraged the development of agro-tourism.

Through the Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Rural Life, IICA promoted hemispheric integration and implemented the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan and the Jagdeo Initiative.

With support from CACHE, progress was made in reengineering agricultural education programs. The Institute also promoted greater use of ICTs for training, thanks to the alliance forged with the Caribbean Learning Network for Agricultural Education, an umbrella group of 23 rural education institu-

tions in ten countries of the region. In addition, IICA trained over 200 public and private sector workers in key issues for the development of agriculture and rural areas.

The Institute continued to support the integrated management of the environment, with special emphasis on actions aimed at helping the countries to prepare for natural disasters and to mitigate their effects. These efforts included an assessment of the damage caused to agriculture by the floods in Guyana, within the framework of the macroeconomic evaluation coordinated by UNELAC and supported by the UNDP. IICA also worked with the Government of Jamaica to create a database that can be used to plan and manage relief measures when disasters occur. The Institute worked with the Secretariat of the OECS to estimate the damage caused by Hurricane Emily in Grenada, and with the University of Florida to submit proposals for financing climate change projects in Guyana, Haiti and Jamaica.

The document “Natural resource management, soil degradation and organic agriculture in the Caribbean” was completed. It will be used to promote sustainable rural development in that region.

In support of the institutional modernization processes, IICA helped several Member States analyze the state of and

outlook for agriculture, as a first step in reviewing and redirecting their public agricultural policies. It also supported the efforts to formulate a sustainable development policy in Barbados and Jamaica, and collaborated in the preparation of the strategic plan to restructure the St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. In the latter country, with financing from PROINVEST, the Institute drafted the policy framework for the development of organic agriculture and a strategy aimed at accreditation, certification and training in the same area.

■ *Central Region*

With regard to competitiveness and trade, in partnership with the IDB/INTAL and the CIAC, IICA organized a regional conference to discuss dispute settlement mechanisms in which representatives of the WTO and SIECA took part. Two publications containing the results of consultations and information about the subject were also prepared.

The Institute promoted analyses of the commitments assumed and the institutional framework required to implement the free trade agreements. It organized national workshops in six countries of the region, some in partnership with FAO and the IDB, and helped Central American officials serve internships in Chile.

IICA directly supported the preparation of the project to enhance the technical capabilities of the policy analysis units of the ministries of agriculture of Central America and the Dominican Republic, which was submitted to the IDB for financing. It also concluded the policy inventory for the region's agricultural sector and helped strengthen the Network of Policy Directors.

Under the agreement signed with FECARROZ, the Institute assisted rice growers by carrying out a study entitled "The international environment and the Central American rice sector," which describes the opportunities presented and threats posed by the world market and analyzes the state of the sector as it comes to grips with the trade liberalization process and the CAFTA-RD that will enter into force in 2006. Conversations got under way with FEDAVICAC for a similar, region-wide study of the poultry sector.

In partnership with GTZ, the AGRONATURA cooperative and other institutions, IICA facilitated the participation of 22 Central American companies in the BioFach international fair, the most important for the organic market, which generated exports worth US\$2.9 million.

The Institute secured the support of the heads of state of the countries involved in the Puebla-Panama Plan for implemen-

ting eight priority projects under the Mesoamerican Program for Fruit Agribusiness Development, the Mesoamerican Program for Integrated Water Resource Management and the Mesoamerican Program for Strengthening the Integration of Quality Education Centers for Technological Agricultural and Forestry Training.

With regard to technological innovation, IICA took part in the process of reactivating SICTA and, with SDC, supported the development of 12 promising strategic initiatives in six countries of the region. In response to a request from the CAC, the Institute formulated the proposed regional framework for the policy of technological innovation and diversification. In addition, progress was made with the design of a regional agrobiotechnology strategy, for which a workshop was held in each country followed by a regional meeting, with the participation of representatives of research centers, universities and private organizations.

Working with CATIE, CIRAD and the national coffee institutes, PROMECAFE made progress in the area intellectual property and characterized coffee-growing areas in Costa Rica, Honduras and Guatemala, with a view to obtaining the denomination of origin. A regional workshop then produced a proposal on how to set about securing the financing needed to achieve that objective. The legal process is under way to

secure the property right for F1 hybrids, obtained under a plant breeding project that is receiving support from FON-TAGRO.

In the field of food safety and agricultural health, activities were implemented under the project to improve the productivity, quality, safety and marketing of beef in Central America. Aiming to strengthen the beef chain, IICA is working with CIAT, ILRI, SIDE and the GTZ under this project. In each country, the Institute encouraged the public and private sectors to work closely together, established an epidemiological surveillance system on selected farms and supported the modernization of agricultural health and food safety services with the application of the PVS instrument.

With regard to plant health protection, further work was carried out in Central America to characterize parasitic nematodes of coffee plants under the NemaCoffee project supported by the European Union. A technical mission from PROMECAFE helped Panama detect the coffee berry borer, conduct a diagnostic assessment of the disease and present the National Pest Management and Coffee-growing Plan.

Working with the Agronomic Institute in Campinas, Brazil, IICA made progress on a joint proposal for technical and

scientific cooperation and an agreement for research on coffee of interest to Brazil and the Central American countries.

In the area of the conservation of plant genetic resources, the national committees of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica were activated, along with REMERFI. This made it possible to move ahead with the negotiation of the World Bank's GEF project and the formulation of the regional strategy for the Global Crop Diversity Trust, whose objective is to support the ex situ conservation of germplasm.

With respect to the strengthening of rural communities, IICA formulated a strategy to promote the development of border areas in the binational San Juan river basin (Costa Rica-Nicaragua) and the Trifinio region (Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala), taking into account institutional management and the development of partnerships.

An identification mission was carried out for the second phase of PRODERT. Implementation also got under way of the IICA-PRODERT cooperation agreement (Honduras), the IICA-UCA cooperation agreement (southern region of Nicaragua) and a partnership with the UICN for the execution of a pilot project in northern Costa Rica.

IICA supported the implementation of three international conferences on poverty reduction and policies for increasing

rural prosperity. It also helped organize an international course for rural development specialists in Spain that attracted 20 participants from six countries of the region.

With regard to the development of human capital, IICA enhanced the capabilities of a large number of rural and institutional managers, specialists and leaders of three national rural development programs (Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala) and four SRD projects. It also promoted master's degree programs in rural development in three universities of Central America.

Progress was made with the regional study of the technological agricultural and forestry education courses on offer, with a view to identifying education centers that can meet the demand and the areas in which the quality and relevance of education need to be improved. IICA also moved ahead with the proposal for creating a Central American agency to evaluate and accredit courses related to the agri-food sector.

With regard to environmental management, the Institute studied and systematized the results of the PAES, with support from PRISMA. In addition, IICA continued the studies on the characterization of agro-forestry systems and sustainability in environments of coffee-growing regions in Mesoamerica, and the inventory of agro-environmental poli-

cies in five Central American countries, funded by Canada and the Institute itself.

■ *Northern Region*

The priorities for regional action in 2005 set by the Northern Regional Council, comprising the Representatives of Mexico, Canada and the United States, were agricultural policies and trade negotiations, agricultural health and food safety, and science and technology.

As a part of the Informal Group on Market Integration set up under NAFTA, IICA continued to support various activities aimed at strengthening the integration process.

PROCINORTE is another institutional mechanism for coordinating regional activities, specifically those designed to improve agricultural competitiveness through technological innovation. Of particular importance in this area were IICA's efforts to encourage the directors of agricultural research centers in the three countries in the region to coordinate their activities.

The NABI is another intraregional forum for dialogue and cooperation. Throughout the year, deliberations took place on key issues related to biotechnology, an area whose importance has increased rapidly at the regional level.

Mexico hosted the Fourteenth Inter-American Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture, where the threat of avian influenza was high on the agenda.

■ *Southern Region*

With regard to competitiveness and global trade, IICA helped strengthen REDPA, which developed the policy matrix, shared information about sectoral and technological policies, made progress in the area of agricultural insurance and analyzed the regional outlook for agricultural policies, with the participation of the CAS ministers. To support the establishment of a regional information system under the aegis of REDPA, a project was formulated and presented to the IDB's Initiative to Promote Regional Public Goods with a view to obtaining non-reimbursable funds.

IICA encouraged the NABI and the REDPA Biotechnology Group to forge closer ties. They met in September in Buenos Aires to discuss various biotechnology and biosafety actions in the Southern Region. Another effort worthy of mention is the work carried out in Argentina on trade with India and the trade agreements that Chile and China signed recently.

The Institute has joined the efforts of the countries in the region to promote the creation or improvement of agricultural commodity exchanges as alternative mechanisms for marketing products.

With respect to food safety and agricultural health, IICA helped strengthen the CVP as a forum for discussing sanitary problems in what is one of the world's most important stock-raising regions. In addition to contributing the Technical Secretary of the CVP, the Institute facilitated the preparation of the documents presented at the major international events on AHFS, and a regional project for the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease and other diseases that will be submitted to the IDB. In addition, IICA and PAHO-PANAFTOSA organized a hemispheric conference in Brazil to discuss the problem of avian influenza and its impact on the sector.

In the plant health field, IICA continued to support COSAVE's activities, participated in the design of the project to combat the boll weevil, promoted the improvement of sanitary control systems in border areas and encouraged the countries of the region to operate as a group in world plant health bodies.

The Institute continued to implement its training plan with regard to the use of the PVS instrument to improve the management of animal health, plant health and food safety services in the region.

The efforts to strengthen rural communities included support for the Rural Development Forum in Brazil, via which the

countries will receive information about experiences in promoting rural development. IICA also joined the IFAD/MERCOSUR Program, which involves a series of research activities on the status of rural development in the CAS countries.

In the area of hemispheric integration, IICA helped support the strengthening of the CAS and the regional integration process by coordinating efforts and delivering technical and financial cooperation on subjects that are a priority for the CAS.

In addition, the Institute provided permanent assistance to facilitate closer ties among MERCOSUR, the CAN and other integration bodies in the hemisphere. IICA also took part in the EURO/MERCOSUR project, which strengthened ties with the European Union.

With regard to the development of human capital, the Institute promoted the strengthening of the Forum of Deans of Agronomy and the Forum of Veterinary Schools, in order to improve study programs and accreditation among agronomy faculties in countries of the region. IICA also promoted distance education programs under agreements with FAO and UNESCO and assisted the National University of Cuyo (Mendoza, Argentina) in holding a course on rural development with a territorial approach, particularly with respect to the module entitled "participatory preparation of projects." In Brazil, the Institute cooperated with the University of

Campinas in preparing a study on alternative agricultural financing instruments.

One of the most important activities in the area of environmental management is the Desertification Control Program, based in Brazil, a leader in its field that contributes outputs to the countries. PROCITROPICOS and PROCISUR have also made the environmental issue a key element for the future development of agriculture in the Southern Cone.

In Brazil and Paraguay, IICA launched programs aimed at promoting institutional modernization. It also promoted strategic planning and efforts to enhance the capabilities of public-sector institutions, so they can provide timely support to the private sector.

3.3 Implementation of the national agendas

Antigua and Barbuda

Facilitating competitiveness and global trade

- Coordinated, with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO),



the steps to protect crops under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement, and shared same with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Intellectual Property and Commerce Office in the Ministry of Justice.

- Supported the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Committee, which develops local standards for fruits and vegetables, mainly for the export sector.
 - Promoting food safety and agricultural health*
- Inspected bee hives and determined their health status with regard to pests of economic and quarantine importance, in order to initiate the modernization of agricultural health and food safety systems.
- Improved the capability of the Beekeepers Cooperative to properly manage emergencies and emerging issues, add value to bee products, and maximize market opportunities for the industry.
- Provided technical assistance to the National Food Safety Committee in consultations on the draft Acts, which will set up the necessary legal framework for improved agricultural health and food safety systems.
- Increased the capabilities of the Central Marketing Corporation in safe pesticide use and practices.

- Assessed plant, animal and public health quarantine systems to determine their present status, develop an improvement plan and increase the understanding of port officials.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Provided technical support for the launch of the Bethesda Rural Women's Group, as a member of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers.
 - The Antigua and Barbuda Agriculture Youth Forum received training on the development and management of projects and on strategic management, and also participated in the Youth Policy Development Workshop held during Caribbean Week of Agriculture in St. Kitts.

- *Developing human capital*

- Developed training series for agro-processors and potential agro-processors on ways to improve their capability to manage viable enterprises, and on other topics such as processing of animal products, costing and pricing, record-keeping, and good manufacturing practices.
 - Gathered data for a study on value-added products from small ruminants, to develop a regional project.
 - Provided support for the Ministry of Agriculture to attend workshops related to the use of software for managing

WTO Enquiry Points and need assessment and identification in biotechnology.

- *Environmental management*

- Coordinated a sub-regional workshop in vermin-composting as a means of developing inputs for organic production.
 - Provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Pesticides Control Board during their Pesticide Awareness Week.
 - Represented the Institute on the National Focal Point of the Global Environment Facility, which promotes the development of projects on sustainable environmental management practices.

- *Argentina*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Organized, with the SAGPYA, the Third Seminar on the Outlook for Agroindustry in Argentina, the First Seminar on the Outlook for Agroindustry in the Region, and the Seventh Meeting of the CAS.



- Conducted a study on the outlook for bio-fuels in Argentina and Brazil, together with the SAGPYA.
- Participated, under the CARI, in an analysis of the agrifood sector in India.
- Participated in the Global Agribusiness Outlook 2005 event organized by the Grain Exchange in Rosario.
- Made a presentation on the emergence of China and India, as part of the panel discussion “Untying the agricultural knot,” organized within the framework of the Seventh Annual Meeting of the LATN.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Launched the electronic bulletin “CODEX-MSF – Foro de Opinion,” produced on a quarterly basis and dealing with topics related to the work of the SPS Committee of the WTO and the Committees of Codex Alimentarius.
- Provided technical advisory services to the SAGPYA in dealing with matters related to SPS and to the National Codex Committee, and in analyzing 5 ISPM projects and documents on strategic issues such as risk analysis, risk management, traceability and norms reported to the WTO.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Conducted a study on the economic importance of small-scale farmers in terms of production and employment at the sectoral, regional and national levels in coordination with PROINDER, which was presented at MERCOSUR’s Fourth Specialized Meeting on Family Agriculture.
- Collaborated in on a second course designed to prepare trainers to work with small-scale farmers in the province of Mendoza.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Provided support for meetings of the working groups of REDPA on topics related to harvest forecasts, market information systems and public policies on biotechnology, and for the GINA-SUR.

- *Developing human capital*

- Advised representatives of the public and private sectors in Bolivia on the preparation of a project to prevent transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, with a view to requesting funds from international organizations.
- Advised the SAGPYA in the use of bio-diesel as an alternative source of bio-energy, including a technical mission

to Brazil to learn about and from the Brazilian experiences in the production of bio-diesel and ethanol.

- *Environmental management*

- Launched a joint effort with the INSAE to develop a method for registering native plant species, and conduct the respective survey.

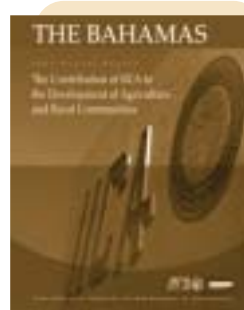
- *Institutional modernization*

- Analyzed guidelines for working and cooperating with FAO in actions with government institutions.
- Organized, with FAO and the SAGPYA, the Twenty-third Meeting of the FAO/OAS-CIE/IICA Task Force on Agricultural and Livestock Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean.

- *Bahamas*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Updated the Commodity Chain Analysis (CCA) for tomatoes.
- Reached agreement with the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corpo-



ration (BAIC) on the methodology and terms of reference for conducting an analysis of the situation of and outlook for the agribusiness sector.

- Secured the services of the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVA/CA) to participate in the development of profiles of profitable industries utilizing local raw materials.

- Co-sponsored the “Second Annual Abaco Business Outlook-2005” on the island of Abaco and the Eighth BahamArts Festival “Utilizing Our Natural Resources.”

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Prepared, with the Bahamas Cooperative League Limited (BCLL) and the Department of Cooperatives of the MAFLG, a feasibility report for the Bahamian Bottled Tomato project.
- Supported the launch of the Bahamas Agricultural Producers’ Association (BAPA).

- *Developing human capital*

- Assisted participants in the Caribbean Herbal Association meeting in St. Lucia and workshop with the use of WTO Notification Dissemination Software for Government Enquiry Points and /or Notification Authorities.

- Secured, in the Dominican Republic, training in organic farming for a member of the agribusiness community.

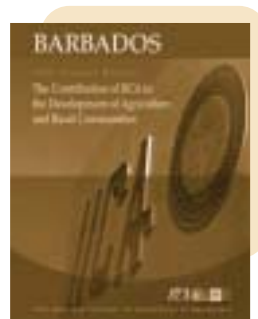
- *Environmental management*

- Prepared and presented a document entitled “A System to Minimise the Effects of Natural Disasters on the Agricultural Sector of the Caribbean.”
- Submitted a report on measures to improve arrangements for disaster management in the agricultural sector of Jamaica.
- Participated in the development of a research project sponsored by the Global Environment Change and Food Systems (GECAFS) programme.
- Monitored the implementation of and prepared the required reports for the project developed for the North Abaco Fisheries Cooperative and funded by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute.

- *Barbados*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Continued support for the strategic development of three competitive



products, namely, Barbados Blackbelly (BBB) sheep, hot peppers and herbals.

- Hosted a booth at the National Agricultural Exhibition, AgroFest, and supported a workshop for artisans on the manufacture of crafts and souvenirs based on the BBB logo, through the Agro-Tourism Committee.
- Signed an agreement on and launched the regional agrotourism project in seven countries, with the financial support received from the OAS (US\$119,000).
- Coordinated an international agrotourism workshop, funded by the CDB and CTA, in which a framework for a regional agrotourism strategy was identified.
- Participated in the Culinary Alliance of Barbados and the Board of Directors of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, and submitted proposals to the CHA for a pilot “Adopt-A-Farm” project for five Caribbean countries.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Facilitated the organization of a seminar, at the request of the Barbados Private Sector Trade Team, to discuss the impact of the BioTerrorism Act on Barbadian businesses.
- With IICA/Canada, provided two officers of the Government Analytical Laboratory of the Ministry of Agriculture (MAR) with support for training in pesticide residue analysis.

- Completed videos for the English version of the HACCP Distance Learning Course.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Provided technical assistance to farms in accessing loan financing and establishing greenhouses.
- Provided support to the Barbados Agricultural Forum for Youth (BAFY), sponsoring attendance at a workshop “Priority Setting, Organisational Development and an Introduction to Project Development and Management.”
- Conducted a workshop on strategic planning with the Association of Women in Agriculture (AWIA), and undertook a collaborative venture with UNIFEM to conclude an assessment of needs of women farmers in Barbados.
- Established a Trust Fund for Youth in Agriculture with the proceeds from a charity benefit concert, in collaboration with the Heart Foundation of Barbados.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Supported the Ministry of Agriculture in complying with its commitments vis-à-vis the updating of the

AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action and the Jagdeo Initiative.

- *Developing human capital*

- Hosted a visit from the Université des Antilles et de la Guyane (UAG) and launched the Agro-Eco Tourism Distance Learning Course (DLC).
- Made arrangements to update the BAMC Distance Learning Courses for the sugar industry.
- Delivered lectures on agro-tourism linkages were presented to hospitality students at the Pommarine Training Institute and to UWI tourism students.
- Participated in the MAR’s National AgriInfo meeting, the CSME Think Tank and the NISE (National Initiative on Service Excellence).

- *Environmental management*

- Supported the national chapter of the CHBA in the joint CARAPA/CHBA meeting in St. Lucia, and in the AgroTourism workshop.
- Participated in the development of the national biosafety strategy and in the UNDP/UNEP Land Degradation Project.

- *Institutional modernization*

- Contributed to strengthening the operations of the AWIA and the OGCA through the provision of computers and training in organizational management and development.

- *Belize*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Continued to provide technical support for the execution of a value chain analysis of the sugar industry to identify bottlenecks and recommend strategic interventions to make the industry more competitive.
- Contributed to an assessment of the need for establishment of a national export promotion center.



- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- The SPS committee, in collaboration with IICA and OIRSA, organized and executed the first in a series of

national seminars/training events entitled Trade Agreements: Opportunities for Belize with neighboring countries in Central America and Mexico, involving the private and public sectors.

- Worked with the national cacao task force with a view to eradicating monilia (frosty pod) in southern Belize.
- Continued to provide relevant information on SPS/trade related issues to the food safety network.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Provided technical support to the Toledo Cacao Growers Association in effective organic control measures for monilia and improved orchard management practices.
- Provided assistance to Xate producers through revision of a manual covering production to consumption, for small diversified producers.

- *Developing human capital*

- Supported the participation of Belizean officials at the first regional biotechnology workshop, held in Costa Rica, and at the first international cacao production and competitiveness workshop, held at CATIE.

● *Environmental management*

- Held training seminars and field days on farming techniques in organic cacao production in nurseries and in the field, for the benefit of the Toledo Cacao Growers Association (TCGA).
- Provided support to the Belize Organic Producers Association (BOPA) for revision of the final draft national organic agriculture legislation, prior to enactment.
- Provided assistance to BOPA on coordination to promote the establishment of a local system for certification and marketing of organic fruits and vegetables.

● *Institutional modernization*

- Participated in numerous committees and working groups on commodities/topics such as citrus, sugar, tropical fruits, organic agriculture, bio-safety, agricultural health issues and ecological agriculture, providing valuable technical input for the overall improvement of Belize's agriculture.
- Provided technical support through participation on the National Committee for Coordination of Agricultural Research and Development (NCCARD).
- Coordinated a national workshop on strategic planning for curriculum review and development, for the

Department of Agriculture of the Faculty of Science and Engineering of the University of Belize.

- Collaborated with the Belize Trade and Investment Development Service (BELTRAIDE) support for institutional strengthening, in order to facilitate and foster a climate of credibility in provision of services to investors, producers and exporters.

● *Bolivia*



● *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Formulated, together with public and private sectors, a strategy for exporting oil-seeds, and identified 85 potential markets.
- Participated in organizing and holding a fair dealing with sustainable agribusinesses, entitled “In Pursuit of a Denomination of Origin.”
- Trained entrepreneurs and specialists to enable them to participate more effectively in fairs and negotiations.

- Implemented the third stage of the Information System on Agricultural Production Chains (INFOAGRO-Bolivia), and initiated its transfer to the MACA.
- Provided support to the broad bean and camelidae chains.
- Concluded negotiations on funding required to operate the Technical Secretariat of Competitiveness.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Began the re-design of the organizational structure and processes of the SENASAG, and of a project to develop and implement its tariff system.
- Supported the SENASAG in formulating a program to combat fruit flies, and in holding, in Yapacani, a course on the management and control of that pest.
- Provided support for holding seminars and workshops on the implementation of the ISPM-15.
- Served as the Secretariat of the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee, and participated in the National Codex Alimentarius Committee.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Implemented a project intended to support the production and marketing of peaches in the Upper Cochabamba

Valley, and launched another on improvement of post-harvest handling practices.

- Supported the Casa de la Agricultura Foundation in the execution of a project on technological innovation in the production of cashew, and a project for the development of micro-enterprises for women who raise alpaca.
- Provided administrative support to the units implementing a project to modernize cacao production, an organic banana production project in Upper Beni, the PRODESIB and the PROSAT.
- Collaborated in the preparation of a program to improve the competitiveness of agriculture in areas under irrigation.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Collaborated with the MACA in actions carried out by the ministry within the framework of the CAS and in its working groups, especially in connection with the regular meeting of CAS ministers held in Santa Cruz.
- Facilitated Bolivia's participation in the Third Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life and the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.

- *Developing human capital*

- Sponsored the meeting of the Forum of Deans of Schools of Agronomy and Veterinary Medicine held in Potosi in September 2005.

- Held a course on curricular development, in Cochabamba, for 24 representatives of schools of agronomy and veterinary medicine.
- Held the Sixth Meeting of the Regional Andean Forum for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education, for 109 participants.
- Promoted, with PROCISUR, the First International Course-Workshop on Precision Agriculture.
- Trained 32 researchers and officials as part of meetings organized by PROCANDINO, PROCISUR AND PROCITROPICOS.
- Responded, through CIDAB, to inquiries from some 1000 professionals, consultants and students.

- *Environmental management*

- Operated, with support from GTZ, the FOMRENA, which carried out several sustainable production projects.
- Collaborated in holding several events on the importance of protected areas vis-à-vis sustainable environmental management and efforts to combat desertification and other effects of drought.
- Supported the MACA in organizing a workshop to evaluate the national soil use and management plan, held in Cochabamba.

- *Institutional modernization*

- Conducted an assessment of the situation in the centers responsible for investigating and designing the National Agricultural Research Network, to be operated by SIBTA.
- Formulated the agricultural development plan for Potosi.
- The Casa de la Agricultura Foundation prepared a project aimed at formulating a strategy for encouraging private-sector participation in technology innovation.
- Provided support for the participation of the MACA in the Andean Agricultural Policies System and in the REDPA.

- *Brazil*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Assisted the MAPA in formulating and implementing agribusiness development policies, prepared on the basis of studies and diagnostic assessments of major production chains.



- Worked with the National Agribusiness Council in formulating and contributing to the working agenda of sectoral and thematic chambers.
- Provided support in systematizing successful Brazilian experiences, with a view to creating an “agribusiness node” to disseminate knowledge and facilitate horizontal cooperation.
- Provided support for the participation of associated institutions in events aimed at promoting initiatives related to ethical and fair trade practices.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Worked with the MAPA to organize the Second International Conference on the Traceability of Food Products.
- Participated actively in organizing the Hemispheric Conference on Surveillance and Prevention of Avian Influenza, which led to the development of a plan for the surveillance and prevention of this disease in the Americas.
- Prepared a diagnostic study of the pests that pose the greatest potential threat to Brazil in terms of damage to the seeds of the most important crops.
- Conducted a study of national plant health and veterinary services and presented proposals for their modernization

to the agricultural authorities at MAPA and the secretariats of agriculture in the states of Brazil.

- Provided support for the transfer of methodologies and knowledge validated by the OIE to the countries of the region, through agricultural health officers.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Implemented rural poverty alleviation projects funded by the World Bank in the states of Ceara, Bahia, Pernambuco, Rio Grande do Norte, Piaui, Maranhao and Rio Grande do Sul.
- Provided assistance in adopting an approach that draws attention to the comparative advantages of 85 rural territories and links them to specific business opportunities, together with the Ministry of Agricultural Development and through the Territorial Credit Project.
- Cooperated with the governments of several states, especially those in northeastern Brazil, in preparing local plans for sustainable development and in systematizing rural development experiences.
- Drew up guidelines for the formulation of policies for regional development and land planning policies, together with the Ministry of National Integration.

- Supported the MAPA in designing and implementing a computerized system for managing the federal programs for subsidizing rural insurance.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Created and initiated operation of the Standing Forum on Sustainable Rural Development, a forum for the exchange and dissemination of knowledge and experiences related to sustainable rural development in Latin America.
- Organized a large amount of information on bio-fuels, which will be used as an input in the transfer of knowledge on technologies and alternative sources of energy to the countries of the hemisphere.

- *Developing human capital*

- Trained beneficiaries of IICA technical cooperation projects to prepare regional and local plans for sustainable development.
- Held nine workshops on the planning and execution of strategic actions for MAPA technical personnel, which yielded several cooperation projects with IICA.

- *Environmental management*

- Continued implementation of the Program to Combat Desertification and Mitigate the Effects of Drought in South America.

- Carried out actions aimed at promoting the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies and the sound use of water resources, together with the Ministries of the Environment and National Integration.

- *Institutional modernization*

- Contributed to improving the strategic planning, knowledge management, technology innovation, information protection, training and institutional modernization processes of the MAPA.

- *Canada*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Sponsored the 2005 North American Consulting School of the Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association.
- Continued support to the International Economic Forum of the Americas in its 11th Conference of Montreal entitled “Thriving in Turbulent Times: Challenges and Prospects”.



- Two internships/exchanges were facilitated: one on a joint proposal to promote the NACS/CCAA model; and the other involved a visit to the Argentinean SIAL Food Industry Fair, fruit and vegetable wholesale and Liniers livestock markets and Poultry Producers Association (Canadian National Farm Products Council).

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- With CPA/SAGARPA in Mexico, enhanced collaboration between the National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases in Winnipeg and the CAS Permanent Veterinary Committee, based on Canadian experience in emerging animal diseases.
- Five internships/exchanges were provided: two in harmonization and validation of Foot and Mouth Disease diagnostics (NCFAD-CPA) with IICA Mexico; one in control of varroa mites of honey bees (University of Guelph-UNAM); and two in pesticide residue analysis (Environmental Protection Laboratory-Barbados Analytical Services Laboratory).

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Three internships/exchanges were supported: one in partnership building for vulnerability analysis and mapping of food insecurity in Guatemala (Carleton Univ-FLACSO); one in sustaining rural livelihoods in

Costa Rica (Simon Fraser Univ-ICAFE); and one in assessing training needs for sustainable rural development in Peru (Univ. Saskatchewan-Univ. Mendoza de Amazonas).

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Supported the Pulse Canada/Mexican Bean Council 2nd Annual Canada-Mexico Bean Congress, in partnership with IICA Mexico.
- Four internships/exchanges were provided: two to improve pulse production in North America and two in collaborative research in the development of processes and products from pulses (beans) and investigating post-harvest seed coat darkening in Mexican bean lines and the use of winter nurseries in Mexico.

- *Environmental management*

- Sponsored survey for the Agri-Environmental Policies in Latin America (AEPLA) project in 6 IICA member countries, in partnership with AAFC and CIDA, as well as structuring of the AEPLA Steering Committee.
- Provided one internship/exchange on identifying the impacts of deforestation methods on soil quality in the Amazon basin (Univ. of Quebec-MPEG- EMBRAPA).

- *Institutional modernization*

- Two internships/exchanges were provided both of which were on technology transfer in the relevant areas of information technology in support of the PROCINORTE Taskforce on Library Sciences (Univ. de Aguascalientes, Univ. Agraria Antonio Narro-Canada Agriculture Library/AAFC).

- *Chile*



- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Supported the Ministry of Agriculture and the NARI in conducting the study: “Assessment of the contribution of research and technology transfer to Chile’s economy.”
- Collaborated with the FUCOA in promoting an understanding of the new situation in agriculture in Chile as a result of the adoption of policies and free trade agreements.
- Held refresher courses for journalists and social communicators.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Held, with the SAG and FAO, the First Hemispheric Meeting on International Border Control in Animal and Plant Health.
- Provided technical support to the Chile/Peru Bi-national Committee for the Eradication of Fruit Flies, and participated in a meeting of its co-directors.
- Signed a technical cooperation agreement with the SAG and ASOEX aimed at preventing the entry and spread of fruit flies in Chile.
- Provided assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and the SAG in developing the Information System on the Traceability of Animals and Meat Products.
- Supported the participation of Chilean institutions in the meetings of the Codex Committee (especially the Steering Committee).

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Signed an agreement with the ODEPA, the INDAP and the MUCECH to prepare an assessment of production- and trade-related and social aspects of family agriculture.

● *Hemispheric integration*

- Organized the global dialogue “Education for the rural population: organization of public-private partnerships and their contribution to the development of policies in the sector.”
- Developed a conceptual and methodological framework for the “Agribusiness Node” as a tool for horizontal cooperation.
- Facilitated the provision of support by Chilean specialists to institutions in Costa Rica, El Salvador and Paraguay.
- Facilitated horizontal cooperation between Chilean experts in Bolivia and Venezuela.

● *Development of human capital*

- Collaborated in formulating a project aimed at improving course offerings, with funds from the MECESUP program.
- Supported schools of agronomy in updating their curricula.
- Articulated profiles for graduation from secondary technical-professional institutions and post-secondary institutions in the field agriculture, within the framework of the Chile Califica program.

- Participated in workshops on rural education organized by the FIA to lay the groundwork for creating the Commission for Innovation in Agricultural Education.

- Provided assistance, with the FIA, in the training of 80 leaders of organizations of small-scale farmers.

● *Environmental management*

- Provided support to the academic and social sectors in promoting environmental policies and instruments.
- Convened a group of specialists to discuss current and future environmental issues on the national agenda.
- Sponsored and participated in the International Seminar on Environmental Services held by the University of Talca.

● *Institutional modernization*

- Signed an agreement with the Prefect of Region 7 (Maule), which includes an agenda for work to be discussed with the Agricultural Cabinet.
- Supported the AGCI in the preparation of horizontal cooperation missions sent to Haiti, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala.

■ Colombia



- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*
 - Monitored and evaluated, in coordination with the MADR, competitiveness agreements and production chains.
 - Provided updates on the negotiation of the Colombia-USA free trade agreement, through the Agribusiness Competitiveness Observatory, the monthly bulletin and the Web page of IICA/Colombia.
- Designed and applied mechanisms aimed at promoting the creation of business associations between primary producers and operators of agroindustries, within the framework of the project in support of production alliances, executed by the MADR.
- Supported the MADR in designing, launching and monitoring a system of competitive funds to be used to finance technological research and development projects for the agricultural sector.
- Provided methodological texts for the development of the business plans of associations of small- and medium-scale rural

producers, and for the execution of actions aimed at strengthening their business skills and making them more competitive.

● *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Participated in several bodies of the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures System, including the Informal SPS Committee and the National Codex Alimentarius Committee.
- Contributed, within the framework of the negotiations on the FTA between Colombia and the United States, in the formulation and consolidation of the National Internal Agenda, especially those aspects related to SPS, agricultural health and food safety.
- Developed and reached agreement on programs to increase awareness of and provide training in GAPs, GMPs and HAACP.
- Moved forward in programs aimed at enabling suppliers to implement and certify GAPs, and at establishing business partnerships intended to strengthen relations between suppliers and marketers.
 - *Strengthening rural communities*
- Developed local capabilities and strengthened the social fabric through PADEMÉR, the education program, the establishment of production alliances and the formulation of regional agendas.

- Supported the establishment of rural micro-credit funds, financed by IFAD and directed at the microenterprises covered by PADEMÉR.
- Held the Second International Meeting of Rural Microenterprises, the main results of which were dynamic growth of the rural micro-finance market and the promotion of inclusive financial systems.
- Supported INCODER in monitoring the application of the territorial approach to rural development in five pilot areas.
- Continued the process of building and implementing the Observatory for the Development of Rural Territories in Colombia, with the CAF.
- Took the lead in consolidating the GIADR-Colombia.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Held, in Cartagena, an international course on policy design and preparation of rural development programs with a territorial approach, with cooperation from the Spain's MAPA and AECl.

- *Development of human capital*

- Cooperated with the MEN in consolidating regional

strategic alliances for the development of teaching-production projects.

- Supported efforts to strengthen the curricula and management of institutions of higher learning in the agricultural sciences.

- *Environmental management*

- Provided advisory services in the area of agroecology to those involved in the production projects being carried out under the initiative "Production Alliances" (with the MADR) and the Rural Education Program (with the MEN).
- Positioned IICA in the area of environment by designing and implementing agroecological projects, holding theoretical-practical training events in organic agriculture and holding a virtual course on the development of sustainable production projects.

- *Costa Rica*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Supported implementation of the Agro 21 Strategy by applying the chains approach in the rice, oil palm and bean sectors.



- Conducted a study of the world rice market based on matrixes that will facilitate the establishment of the Rice Chain Agreement.
 - Provided support for the preparation of a strategic plan for the bean chain.
 - Cooperated with the oil palm sector in conducting prospective studies, to develop a strategic plan for its development.
 - Provided advisory services to COMEX in the area of agricultural trade, and monitored the country's participation in the WTO.
 - Collaborated with CADEXO in the preparation of prospective studies on the access of agrifood products to the European market.
 - Compiled information and prepared matrixes of agricultural policies.
 - Provided assistance, with the FAO/SEPSA project, in holding a seminar on the administration of an international trade system in Costa Rica.
 - Increased the capabilities of public- and private-sector officials on health and safety and competitiveness in times of trade opening.
- Supported the vegetable sector in marketing and securing access for perishable products, and in creating the "Subasta del Tomate, S.A."
 - *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*
 - Held intersectoral workshops to design plans for joint efforts involving the beekeeping, aquaculture and pork sectors in the areas of epidemiological surveillance, risk analysis and the application of good animal management practices.
 - Supported the CIIA in increasing awareness of the issue of food safety, improving its institutional capabilities, implementing its strategic plan and promoting its Website www.ciia.or.cr.
 - Provided support, under the IICA-ILRI agreement, for the execution of the project Improving the Productivity, Quality, Safety and Marketing of Beef in Central America.
 - *Strengthening rural communities*
 - Moved forward, within the framework of the MAG/PDR-IICA project, in the compilation of baseline information for application of the territorial approach in a pilot area comprising the cantons of northern Costa Rica.

- Created a working group involving academic institutions and the PDR, with a view to establishing a rural development observatory.

- *Development of human capital*

- Prepared proposals for upgrading the quality of agricultural education in rural areas, in Upala, Guatuso and Los Chiles.
- Prepared a document summarizing the results of the program Qualitative Improvement of Education in Professional Technical Institutes in Costa Rica.

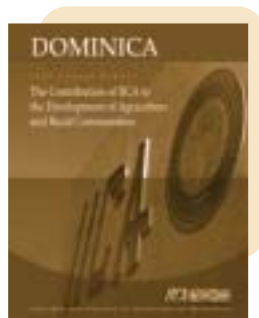
- *Institutional modernization*

- Supported the INTA in preparing a profile for an investment project aimed at fostering technology innovation applicable in achieving food security and making agriculture competitive.

- *Dominica*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Expanded trade with the provision of information to flower producers on the



requirements for cut flowers to enter the Barbados market.

- Supported the establishment of the Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA).
- Continued assistance for the development of agro-tourism with targeted national and institutional entities implementing agro-tourism activities.
- Facilitated national consultation entitled “Community Participation in Sustainable Tourism” in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Enterprise Development.
- Made a presentation to 173 stakeholders in “Targeting Key Niche Markets for Dominica in Agro-tourism/Farm Tours”.
- Hosted a seminar to improve technical capabilities of public technical extension officers in agro-tourism at La Plaine Agricultural Training Centre.
- Conducted the formal launching of the OAS/IICA project “Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean”.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Provided administrative support to the National SPS Committee (NSPSC) and selected to serve as the Secretariat for the NSPSC.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Facilitated technical support for and monitoring of three Caribbean Food & Nutrition Institute (CFNI) small grants projects in Fisheries, Organic Vegetables under Green House and Small-Scale Poultry Production.
- Improved capacity of local community leaders, public-sector institutions and international institutions working in the Carib Territory in the methodology of the territorial approach.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Promotion of the National Association for Youth in Agriculture (NAYA) and the Agro-Processors Association of Dominica (APAD) as important avenues to develop requirements for the development of sustainable agriculture.
- APAD continued to benefit from administrative support from IICA, particularly for the hosting of two seminars concerning the WTO/CSME and the impact from the introduction of VAT to replace consumption tax.
- Supported high executives of NAYA to participate in the Youth Encounter on Sustainability (YES) and CAFY workshop.

- *Developing human capital*

- Exposed, during a five-day workshop, extension officers from both public and private institutions to the latest methodologies for extension technicians, liaising with the Department of Extension - University of the West Indies.
- Submitted terms of reference for developing a landscaping plan to the Giraudel Flower Group (GFG).
- IICA appointed on a Project Steering Committee to implement the project “The Young Farmer Program” financed by the EU-Agricultural Diversification Program.

- *Environmental management*

- Promoted technologies for enhancing local production and competitiveness in the areas of organics by supporting producers’ awareness of potential trade in targeted markets.
- Conduced, in collaboration with FAO and CDB, the workshop “Soil Regeneration for Sustainable Agriculture.”

- *Institutional modernization*

- Facilitated the exchange of farmers and staff from National Properties Limited in St.Vincent to Dominica to observe the production of dasheen and hot peppers,

operational procedures of DEXIA and post-harvest handling.

■ *Dominican Republic*



- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*
 - Implemented the Export Platforms Project and the Project to Modernize and Reform the Agricultural Sector.
 - Conducted studies on commodities and agrifood chains.
 - Provided training in the establishment of strategic frameworks for the administration of free trade agreements, including the one concluded with Central America.
- Supported efforts to articulate and promote clusters and better production and trade practices, with a view to obtaining products with greater value added and increasing the efficiency of operations and production.
 - *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*
 - Supported efforts to strengthen national legislation in the area of agricultural health.

- Supported the SEA by preparing a proposal for the creation of the National Plant Health Surveillance System.
- Provided support to the SEA program to control Classic Swine Fever.
- Contributed to the creation of the mechanisms needed to comply with the SPS Agreement of the WTO.
- Assisted in planning the infrastructure and operating framework needed to apply GAPs and GMPs.
 - *Strengthening rural communities*
 - Contributed to the creation of Organic Agriculture National Program and the National Office for the Supervision of Organic Agriculture.
 - Held a national forum on extension services to promote sustainable rural development and combat rural poverty.
 - *Hemispheric integration*
 - Facilitated the Second Regional Meeting of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture of Central America and the Caribbean, with delegates from the nine countries and support from GTZ.
 - Held the Seventh Annual Assembly of CACHE and the Third Forum for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural Education in the Caribbean.

- *Developing human capital*

- Held 35 training events for 747 officials, professionals, professors, entrepreneurs and farmers.
- Provided technical assistance and training for 20 specialists and 48 farmers in the preparation and use of organic fertilizers.
- Supported a workshop on worm farming for Superior Institute of Agriculture instructors.
- Held the course “Training trainers in organic agriculture for entrepreneurs.”

- *Environmental management*

- Collaborated in the Project to Develop the National Framework for Biosafety in the Dominican Republic (SEMARENA-UNEP).
- Supported the Milk Bank Foundation in supervising the delivery of milk, the planting of trees, the development of kitchen gardens and in organizing lectures and educational activities in three border provinces.

- *Institutional modernization*

- Set up ten thematic groups and institutional commissions to identify policies, review the legal bases of each thematic and institutional area and to suggest changes in the respective laws.

- Promoted strategies that will encourage, in the Research System SINIAF, the application of the work approach based on projects and agrifood chains.

- *Ecuador*



- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Supported the MAG in formulating State policies for agriculture in 2006-2016, and in designing an inventory of agricultural policies.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Supported the special commission set up by the President of the Republic, and the Board of Directors of SESA, in drawing up a plan to strengthen this service.
- Identified priority actions for modernizing the AHFS systems.
- Signed an agreement with SESA to reinforce its physical and technological infrastructure and its human capital.
- Assisted in the execution of programs to eradicate foot and mouth disease and fruit flies.

- Carried out actions aimed at consolidating the Phytosanitary Inspection Service for Export-quality Bananas.
- Supported trade associations, including ANCUPA and FEDEXPOR, in the execution of training activities and in securing external resources for projects related to quality management systems.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Collaborated with producers in the province of Cotopaxi in improving their capabilities to manage agribusinesses that form part of the potato chain.
- Provided support for the institutional consolidation of groups of rural women entrepreneurs.
- Supported identification missions organized by the Program for Local Economic Development and the Reduction of Poverty in the Province of Los Rios, and the Program for Rural Development with Territorial Identity for the Province of Chimborazo.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Prepared, with PRODAR and PROCINADINO, a project on technological innovations and differentiated markets for producers of native potato species, which was selected in the 2005 FONTAGRO call for proposals.

- Held the First Call for Proposals on Technological Innovation in the Processing and Conservation of Potatoes, particularly Native Species.
- Coordinated the Comprehensive Social Development Plan (PIDS) – Andean Rural Development Strategy, together with the Ministry of Foreign Relations.

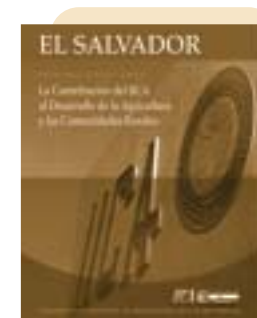
- *Developing human capital*

- Supported efforts to improve academic quality in and the accreditation processes of the schools of agricultural science.
- Helped consolidate the Andean Forum on Agricultural and Rural Education, and incorporated NGOs and mid-level agricultural education institutions into the Forum.

- *El Salvador*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Promoted fruit growing (avocado, coconut, native fruits, Persian lime and organic cashew), through the MAG-FRUTALES program.



- Systematized the experiences of five years of executing the MAG-FRUTALES program, together with FUNDE.
 - Prepared a national plan for consolidating advances in the indigo chain, and promoted the sale of products dyed with indigo.
 - Supported the implementation of the Project to Increase the Competitiveness of Rural Indigo and Cashew Businesses (CIDI/OAS), which included the promotion of efforts to incorporate technological innovations into traditional indigo production practices.
 - Signed a contract funded by the IDB intended to strengthen the ability of the MAG to analyze and advise on agricultural trade agreements.
 - Collaborated with Products Exchange BOLPROES in increasing the capabilities of exchange brokers.
 - *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*
 - Delivered two risk analysis studies on native crops.
 - Provided training for MAG officials, together with Michigan State University, related to the experiences of the Center for Phytosanitary Excellence (Colombia) and the Agricultural and Environmental Protection Program (Guatemala).
- The MAG-FRUTALES and PROSAIA/USAID projects prepared the Technical Guide to the Principal Pests and Diseases of Fruit Trees.
 - *Strengthening rural communities*
 - Provided technical, financial and administrative support to the MAG-PRODERT project, which assisted 1,200 beneficiaries.
 - Carried out, under the MAG-PAES program, ten community development programs in the Department of Chalatenango.
 - Collaborated in the execution of local development activities with the Association of Upper Chalatenango and the Association of the Friends of Lake Ilopango.
 - Provided technical assistance to 1520 small-scale producers under the MAG-FRUTALES program.
 - *Hemispheric integration*
 - Facilitated official missions from Panama and Peru to learn about El Salvador's experience.
 - Supported the participation of Central America businessmen in the BioFach organic produce fair, in coordination with GTZ, AGRONATURA, USAID

and the Austrian Cooperation Agency and other cooperating agencies.

- Provided support for high-level CAMAGRO officials to participate in an internship in Chile, to learn more about that country's experience in administering trade agreements.

- *Developing human capital*

- Supported the UES and the ENA in modernizing their curricula and, in the case of the latter, its system of government.
- Established a partnership with the JICA to train 50 makers of handicrafts in dying techniques using natural colorings, and in making handicrafts and decorative items.
- Trained 72 producers in GAPs and the processing of indigo.
- Contributed to increasing the management skills of cashew growers.
- Held, under the MAG-FRUTALES program, 24 promotion events and 59 training events in technology for fruit production and agroindustry.
- Implemented, with the University of El Salvador, a degree program in fruit growing.

- Executed, in five educational institutions, a program for the qualitative improvement of mid-level and higher agricultural education in El Salvador.
- Held 110 events (field trips, workshops, training sessions and environmental education activities) under the MAG-PAES program.
- Supported 61 training events (1,345 participants) and five educational tours (119 producers) under the MAG-PRODERT program.
- Held a training workshop on market research methodologies for 20 staff from the MAG and the MINEC.
- Provided training, in coordination with MARN and MAG-CENTA, for 40 public- and private-sector officials in conservation and the sustainable management of agricultural biodiversity.

- *Environmental management*

- Implemented, under the MAG-PRODERT project, agroforestry systems (101 has. of timber trees and 479 has. of conservation works).

- The MAG-FRUTALES program fostered the planting of 566 has. of fruit trees.
- The MAG-PAES program provided technical assistance to 550 producers in soil conservation and protection, and in the reforestation of 925 hectares.
- Concluded the inventory of national agro-environmental policies.
- Collaborated in conducting an analysis of the use of agricultural biotechnologies.
- Supported the reactivation of the CONARFIT, under the GEF-Agricultural Biodiversity project.

- *Institutional modernization*

- Provided support for El Salvador to compete for a donation from the Millennium Challenge Corporation.
- Provided support in the formulation of a plan for development in the agriculture, forestry and fisheries sectors in eastern El Salvador.
- Supported the MAG, in partnership with USDA, in updating its Agricultural Statistics and Market Information System.
- Cooperated in the modernization of the systems of agricultural libraries and documentation centers,

and in the establishment of a knowledge management program.

- *Grenada*



- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Rural women traders - members of Grenada Network of Rural Women Producers (GRENROP)- acquired greater understanding and appreciation of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) issues affecting agricultural trade.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Networking and greater lobbying power by local agri-entrepreneurs, through the national Chapter of the CABA.
- Enhanced potential for economic empowerment of GRENROP's members after acquisition and installation of cassava processing equipment from USAID/CARANA/Ministry of Agriculture funding.
- Increased income earning potential of fruit and vegetable producers, based on arrangements made with four

selected hotels and the initiative of the Grenada Agro Tourism Linkage Committee.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Enhanced agroprocessing capabilities by GRENROP-the national chapter of CNRWP, through hands-on training provided by Grenada Produce Chemist Laboratory and the Guyana Chapter of CNRWP, under an OXFAM funded project.
- Increased agriculture stakeholders' awareness of regional efforts to address constraints to the region's agricultural development, through participation in a seminar on the "Jagdeo Initiative".

- *Developing human capital*

- Improved project management skills of public and private sector personnel who participated in a Project Planning and Management workshop.
- Nursery operators' management skills enhanced through participation in a seminar/workshop, organized jointly by GRENROP, IICA and FAO.
- Improved entrepreneurship skills of GRENROP, Grenada Agricultural Forum for Youth (GAFY) and Grenada Association of Beekeepers (GAB) in an IICA workshop

facilitated by the National Development Foundation of Grenada.

- Better Information and Communication Technology skills by selected members of GRENROP, GAFY and GAB in a training course organized by IICA.

- *Environmental management*

- Increased farmers' awareness of GAPs towards better soil management practices and more appropriate uses of pesticides in crop production activities.

- *Guatemala*



- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- The MAGA implemented GUATEIN-VIERTE, a mechanism for promoting the development of agribusinesses, which includes a guarantee fund, agricultural insurance and technical assistance services.
- Implemented, together with the MAGA project known as PROFRUTA, an agenda for the provision of cooperation in the organization and operation of priority agricultural production-trade chains.

- Supported the national technical team responsible for analyzing the competitiveness of the rice chain and for drawing up a plan of action for improving it (MAGA-ARROZGUA).
- Provided MAGA with support in restructuring the legal and operating bases of CONADEA.
- Provided MAGA with support in reactivating the Milk Commission, and carried out actions aimed at improving the competitiveness and trade of the dairy products chain.
- Signed an agreement with the School of Agronomy of the University of San Carlos to develop a degree program in international agricultural trade.
- Concluded an inventory of agrifood policies in Guatemala, to serve as input for the Information System on Policies for the Central American Region.
- Concluded the mid-term evaluation of the Competitive Fund for Agrifood Technology Development (AGROCYT), which was presented to the MAGA Program in Support of the Modernization and Diversification of Agrifood Production.
 - *Strengthening rural communities*
- Designed and applied a strategy for the organizational strengthening and consolidation of six associations of

agricultural producers in the area served by the PRODERT project.

- Implemented agreements calling for the provision of technical services for managing and consolidating priority rural development programs and projects (PLAMAR, PROBOPETEN, PRODERT, PROFRUTA).
 - *Developing human capital*
- Provided support in preparing a proposal for Education National Forum for Agriculture to gain legal status.
- Concluded a proposal to design a strategic plan for improving the quality and relevance of the ENCA curriculum.
- Concluded a series of international fora on important experiences in the incorporation of equity into the planning and management of territorial development.
 - *Environmental management*
- Supported the MAGA and the PRODERT Steering Committee in conducting an identification mission into ecologically fragile zones in the Trifinio Region.

● *Institutional modernization*

- Set up and contributed to the operation of the Inter-Agency Group on Cooperation in Rural Development, which comprises representatives of 15 cooperation agencies.
- Implemented a USAID/IICA agreement aimed at strengthening technical management of the Rural Development Cabinet of the Office of the Vice President of the Republic, and at training specialists in the application of the territorial approach.
- Helped to reactivate CONARFIT, which became a part of REMERFI and was registered with the Technical Office for Biodiversity.
- Concluded a study and a proposal on the restructuring of the ICTA, both of which were presented to the MAGA.
- Established institutional alliances aimed at promoting technological innovation.
- The SICTA competitive fund approved two projects related to fumonisin in corn and the Maradol variety of Hawaiian papaya.
- Concluded the review and adjustment of the Foundation for Technological Innovation in Agriculture strategic plan.
- Supported the MAGA in conducting an identification mission for the Irrigated Production Development Program, under the PLAMAR project.

● *Guyana*



● *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Promoted the development and improvement of international and domestic markets through information and advice to farmers and agribusinesses on market requirements and preparation of exporters to meet these requirements.
- Supported the organization of a regional forum aimed at increasing the flow of finance to agriculture.
- Continued support to the Beef Export Committee.
- Trained farmers in developing export-ready products.
- Supporting effort with the Pork Association of the Caribbean to revitalize the industry – a ‘Sondeo’ was conducted, followed by a forum to chart a way forward for the Industry.
- Facilitated participation of Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) technicians in the Caribbean Bee Congress in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Supported local and overseas training in organic agriculture.
- Launched the Guyana component of the AgroTourism Linkages Project.

● *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Supported efforts aimed at ensuring compliance with WTO/SPS standards by ensuring participation of local technicians at international fora.
- Trained crop farmers in Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).
- Conducted in-service training for Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock (MFCL) staff in plant and animal disease surveillance.
- Provided assistance for the conduct of plant and animal disease surveillance at ports of entry and abattoirs.

● *Strengthening rural communities*

- Continued the process of testing the territorial approach in St. Monica's/Karawab and extended it to the Mainstay and Tapakuma Communities in preparation for Kellogg funded project.
- Supported the Rural Women's Network (RWN) in training in enterprise development.
- Implemented four small grants projects funded by the CFNI.

● *Hemispheric integration*

- Supported Guyana's participation in the process aimed at advancing the repositioning of agriculture through the 'Jagdeo Initiative.'
- Facilitated the resuscitation of the Guyana Chapter of the CABA.
- Supported Faculty-Student Exchange and other activities of CACHE.

● *Developing human capital*

- Facilitated training in pest and disease diagnosis, enterprise and organizational development, organic production and processing techniques, among others.
- Trained a women's group at Charity in fruit and vegetable processing and marketing.
- Conducted a review of the agricultural education sub-sector.

● *Environmental management*

- Taught farmers and technicians about the proper handling and use of agrochemicals and pest and disease diagnosis and response to mitigate possible threats of invasive species.

- Provided training in Hydroponics and in Vermiculture – the use of worms.
- Testing of biotic material in the management of plant pests.
- Provided support in the flood damage assessment, relief and mitigation efforts.
- Supplied veterinary products, and assisted in the treatment and rehabilitation of livestock through the regional input in the UN/ECLAC Flood Damage Assessment.

■ *Haiti*

■ *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Provided support for several technical missions sent to the Dominican Republic to explore opportunities for agricultural mechanization and to visit large-scale chicken production companies.

■ *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Provided logistic support to the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee.



- Continued execution of a project to control Classic Swine Fever, and strengthened the National Animal and Plant Health System, with funding from the USDA.
- Vaccinated some 700,000 hogs (87% of the hog population).
- Provided training for 200 veterinary agents and 70 livestock farmers.
- Established four of the five quarantine posts scheduled to be built on islands near the mainland.
- Distributed promotional materials aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of combating Classic Swine Fever.
- Installed infrastructure and organized the Vaccination and Epidemiological Surveillance Network for the Control and Monitoring of Classic Swine Fever and other Diseases.
- Introduced biological control and trapping methods as part of an EU-financed project aimed at controlling the coffee berry borer.
- Distributed banana plants resistant to Black Sigatoka as part of a project to control this disease, with support from the INIBAP.

- Organized, with the MoA, a seminar on new techniques for the mass production of Musa sp plants through the use of vegetative reproduction.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Continued execution of the Pwotokol project, financed by the Kellogg Foundation.
- Implemented a project aimed at supporting the victims of flooding in the rural zones of Gonaives, financed by USAID.
- Held courses and workshops on animal health for production agents, members of the Kredifanm committees and women's groups in the communities of Kanyet and Fort Orge.
- Reinstated a rotating credit fund to reactivate goat production.
- Introduced, in the Tapion region, the cultivation of three varieties of high-yield cassava: Tai-8, CMC-40, and Egg Yolk.
- Provided technical assistance to tomato and grain farmers in Desbarieres.
- Allocated resources to fortify Kredifanm, which offers credit to more than 700 rural women.

- Began, under Kredifanm, the process of setting up a network of rural women for the production and marketing of eggs and preparation of candies, jellies and fruit nectar.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Organized two bilateral, Haiti-Dominican Republic, meetings to address shared sanitary concerns.
- Participated in cooperation activities with Chile aimed at the production of potato seeds.
- Signed an agreement with the Embassy of Argentina to implement a project on the production of fresh foods in Gonaives.

- *Developing human capital*

- Supported ten students in their efforts to obtain scholarships (one full, and nine partial), and helped Haitian students comply with requirements for entry into the EARTH University in Costa Rica.
- Supported three students in their efforts to obtain scholarships from the United World Colleges network, to study in Norway, New Mexico and Venezuela.
- Prepared a project for the administration of courses on the academic preparation of agricultural entrepreneurs.

- *Environmental management*

- Supported the participation of Haitians in training sessions on GAPs held in the Dominican Republic.
- Implemented, with the Argentine Cooperation Agency, a project to promote the cultivation of small orchards, providing training for 105 outreach workers and distributing seeds to 630 families.

- *Honduras*



- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Formulated plans of action for the competitiveness agreements of the vegetable, beekeeping, hog, beef and African palm chains.
- Implemented the second export platform, and succeeded in getting 10 operators of agribusinesses to participate in the SIAL Fair in Canada.
- Increased the capabilities of eight operators of agribusinesses to participate in the ANUGA Fair in Germany.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Formulated a ministerial decree and prepared regulations for the operation of the National Multisectoral Group for the Application of the Agreements of the SPS Committee of the WTO.
- Provided support for the modernization of the Animal and Plant Health Law, which was harmonized with the agreements of the SPS Committee of the WTO.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Supported the PRODERT/TRIFINIO project in the application of the territorial approach to rural development and in the establishment of a knowledge management system.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Provided support for the design of a monitoring and evaluation system for the RED-SICTA project.
- Provided support for the official incorporation of Honduras into FONTAGRO, REMERFI and regional agrobiotechnology and agrobiodiversity projects.
- Cooperated with the cross-border rural development projects (Honduras/Guatemala), in the area of methodologies for systematizing experiences.

● *Developing human capital*

- Helped prepare the strategic plans of the National Agricultural University and the Agribusiness Education and Training Service.
- Assisted PRONAGRO in training 120 specialists participating in the diploma programs on agrifood chains and clusters.
- Increased the capabilities of 35 public- and private-sector specialists in the area of negotiation and administration of free trade agreements.
- Trained 60 specialists in conducting diagnostic studies of the fruit chain.
- Trained 20 specialists from PRODERT, DINADERS and several NGOs in methodologies for the application of the territorial approach to rural development.

● *Institutional modernization*

- Provided assistance to PRONADER in drafting a cooperation instrument for the medium term.
- Supported the UPEG/SAG in following up on projects being implemented by different organizations under the USDA Food for Progress Program.
- Supported the G-17 Group in establishing a technical secretariat to monitor implementation of the State Policy for the Agrifood and Rural Sector.

● *Jamaica*

● *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) in the development of the Agricultural Development Strategy, 2005-2008.
- Provided assistance to the Pig/Pork Industry Development Committee to enhance the competitiveness of the industry.
- In collaboration with Jamaica Livestock Association and the MOA, convened a Conference on Jamaica Cattle Industry where the CADIAC approach was introduced.
- Jointly with the MAG, convened a ‘Clearing House Forum’ under the theme “CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and the Jamaica Agribusiness Sector”.
- Trained farmers in Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and disaster mitigation.
- Management of an electronic Farmer Database developed for future use in disaster relief efforts by the MOA/RADA.



- Built the capacity of over 80 hot pepper, cotton and pig farmers through training under the Partners of America's/IICA Farmer-to-Farmer Programme.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Executed, in collaboration with the MOA, the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) and USAID, a Farmer Relief Programme to assist 600 vegetable farmers and fisher folks affected by Hurricane Ivan.
- Completed social and economic surveys of two rural communities, namely, Charles Town and Elim in the parishes of Portland and St. Elizabeth, respectively.
- Negotiated a grant of US\$4,816 from the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) to facilitate the establishment of a beekeeping project in Charles Town.
- Negotiated a grant of J\$600,000 from USAID under the Ridge to Reef Watershed Project to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of herbs/nutraceutical industry in Charles Town.
- In collaboration with the Social Development Commission (SDC), conducted governance training in both Charles Town and Elim.

- Launched the project “Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean”.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Strengthened collaboration with the MOA, CARICOM Secretariat and FAO through the planning for and implementation of the Forum of Ministers of Agriculture and the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu.
- Supported the Caribbean Agricultural Forum of Youth (CAFY) Workshop “Priority Setting, Organisational Development and Introduction to Project Development and Management”.
- Reviewed the systems and processes of disaster management relative to the agriculture sector of Jamaica through the study “Strategy to Improve Disaster Management in the Agricultural Sector of Jamaica”.

- *Developing human capital*

- Completed the CIDA/CPEC funded programme for “Strengthening the Competitive Advantage of Primary Producers” which focused on Rural Women.

- Facilitated training of members in the areas of Association Management for the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) and commodity associations such as the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association and the Jamaica Egg Farmers Association.

- *Institutional modernization*

- Facilitated strengthening of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) through the provision of office facilities and administrative support.
- Supported the local chapter of the CABA in the implementation of the IDB/MIF funded project.

- *Mexico*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Contributed to the Workshop on the Integration of Markets in North America, held in San Antonio, Texas.
- Joined the Coordinating Committee of the NAAMIC, and the project “The future of the



livestock sector in North America” coordinated by the Farm Foundation.

- Prepared a study on the efficiency of public spending in rural areas of Mexico.
- Provided support for the Meeting of Governmental Representative to the SELA, at which the current status of multilateral trade negotiations was discussed.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Supported the SENASICA in priority activities in the areas of plant health, animal health, food safety, plant and animal health inspection and coordination of communication with clients.
- Provided assistance in implementing verification and certification, plant health diagnostic and supervision, and pest control and eradication programs.
- Contributed to the fruit fly eradication program by producing sterile flies and parasitoids and monitoring the expansion of the plant where they are produced.
- Supported the eradication of outbreaks of the Mediterranean fruit fly in Chiapas and Baja California, under the MOSCAMED program.

- Collaborated in efforts to verify the presence of residues in samples of import-quality meat.
- Supported the Program to Strengthen Sanitary Inspections in Federal Inspection Type Plants, and the National Technical Advisory Commission on Animal Health.
- Trained technical personnel in molecular diagnostic techniques for avian influenza and foot-and-mouth disease.
- Supported efforts to prevent foot-and-mouth disease and other exotic pests and diseases, in particular, the work of 210 inspection officials stationed at points of entry into the country.
- Developed a program to monitor operation of the project Regional Monitoring and Control of Agricultural Health Inspection Offices and Federal Internal Verification Points.
- Supported the SENASICA in conducting sanitary inspections in slaughterhouses and federal inspection type establishments, in applying the Manual on Storage and Transportation of Fruit, and in providing training on food safety.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Delivered to the SAGARPA documents related to the Master's Degree Program in Territorial Rural Development and to the Management Information

System for Monitoring, Following up on and Evaluating the Municipal Rural Development Councils, within the framework of the Law on Sustainable Rural Development and the Zocalo Rural Initiative.

- Published the book "Construyendo el desarrollo rural en los territorios de Mexico," which documents the experiences of the Zocalo Rural initiative.

- *Developing human capital*

- Provided support for internships in the Secretariat of Economy and the SIAP for officials from Nicaragua, and for the participation of Peruvian producers and exporters in a seminar on sharing free trade negotiations.

- *Environmental management*

- Supported development of the Mixteca region of Oaxaca, together with the Ayu Foundation, the Institute for the Development of Mixteca, the UNEP and CIRAD.'
- Established parameters for measuring the potential of the natural resource base.
- Launched, with AID, a project aimed at the rural communities located in protected areas of Oaxaca and Chiapas, for the preparation of municipal rural development plans.

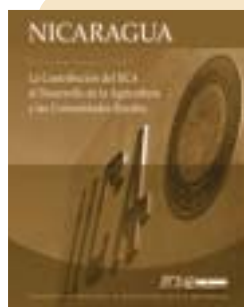
● *Institutional modernization*

- Monitored the modernization of the INIFAP and the SENASICA with a view to modernizing the institutional design of the Zocalo Rural.
- Provided technical and logistic support to the SIAP in holding the Fifth Forum on the Expectations for the Agrifood and Fisheries Sector in 2005.
- Cooperated with the SAGARPA in holding the Ninth International Expo of Nontraditional Products; the Fourth Expo of Organic Products in Mexico; and the Tenth National Meeting for the Exchange of Successful Experiences in Sustainable Rural Development.
- Provided support for the fourth annual Library Network REMBA meeting at the Antonio Narro Agricultural University.

● *Nicaragua*

● *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Concluded the design and dissemination of a general strategy and product-



specific strategies for increasing exports of agricultural products (private sector, MAGFOR and JICA).

- Supported efforts to identify market opportunities and establish trade contacts in eight countries.
- Identified key factors that contribute to success or hinder competitiveness at the macro-enterprise, territorial and micro-enterprise level.
- Conducted 16 studies on agricultural production chains.
- Supported the MAGFOR, the MIFIC and private-sector organizations in understanding and administering trade agreements.
- Promoted the cultivation of squash, poppyseed, plantain, cacao, cashew, meat and cheese, through the EPAD IICA/AID/MSU project.
- Collaborated in increasing the sale of agricultural products by US\$1.2 million by providing marketing strategies.
 - *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*
- Promoted safety and traceability by calling for the adoption of a chain approach in the production of cheese,

meat, cacao, vegetables, plantain, onion and several agroindustrial products.

● *Strengthening rural communities*

- Provided support for the rehabilitation of 106.5 kms. of rural roads in the departments of Chontales, Boaco, Matagalpa and Jinotega.
- Promoted the diversification of production and the development of the rural institutional framework, in particular, the creation of the Las Maravillas Cooperative (in Chontales) and the Pinarte Cooperative (in Cinco Pinos).
- Provided 1000 rural women in Xochilacalt, Leon, with assistance in producing sheep, goats, corn, sorghum and mungo beans.
- Supported the design of a local development strategy for four municipalities in the department of Chinandega.
- Promoted the use of a manual for women micro-enterprise operators at the National Forum on Micro-financing and the Empowerment of Women.

● *Hemispheric integration*

- Supported integration within the framework of the CAFTA.

- Contributed to technological integration by providing support to SICTA, PROMECAFE, ILRI-IICA and RED-SICTA.
- Worked with the Central American Customs Union in analyzing topics related to the Central American Common External Tariff.
- Advised representatives of the private sector and MAG-FOR negotiators in the regional harmonization of phytosanitary measures and standards for seeds.

● *Developing human capital*

- Trained 828 producers and public-sector officials in subjects important for the development of the agricultural sector in Nicaragua.
- Established a partnership with DANIDA aimed at helping to strengthen INTA's capability to play a standard-setting/regulatory role in certifying private technical assistance firms.
- Provided support for the development of Master's Degree program in Rural Development at the UCA.

● *Environmental management*

- Promoted the production, processing and marketing of medicinal plants.

- Supported efforts to reforest coffee-growing zones of Jinotega and Matagalpa with fruit and timber trees.
- Promoted the organic production of meat, honey, cacao and oranges, among other products.
- Conducted analyses of different topics related to seeds, genetically modified organisms, biosafety, biotechnology and the Cartagena Protocol, along with INTA, MAGFOR and several universities.

- *Institutional modernization*

- Coordinated, with the public agricultural sector, the design of rural and technological development policies and strategies, the continuation of conversations with donors and the formulation of an investment and budgetary support program.
- Assisted the PROVIA Foundation in the design of policies and strategies for introducing technology and innovations into beef cattle, goat and tree production, agribusiness, agro-ecotourism and organic production.
- Supported the development of CENILAC as an enterprise specializing in the export of cheese produced by the most important processing plants in the country.
- Supported the institutional and technical strengthening

of the National Seed Commission and certain areas of the MAGFOR, MIFIC, INTA and SECEP.

- Reinforced the linkage of information systems to national networks (RENIDA and SIA) and international networks (SIDALC).
- Collaborated with the Executive Secretariat of the SICTA in preparing the national component of the Regional Technology Transfer Plan, and in developing the RED-SICTA (IICA/SDC) project.

- *Panama*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Formulated the project Development of Fruit Production in the Province of Coclé, and entered into negotiations with the Federation of Citrus Growers of Coclé and MIDA on its implementation.
- Held two training workshops on organic production and on regulations, policies and markets.
- Cooperated with the regional initiative aimed at promoting fruit production in Mesoamerica, by holding three



workshops to determine the potential of pineapple, plantain and citrus.

- Helped compile information on agricultural policies as a first stage in setting up the Hemispheric Network of Information on Policies.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Supported the National Food Safety Commission in defining good agricultural and fisheries practices and in preparing manuals.
- Supported the IDIAP and the MIDA in combating the Spinky spider in rice.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Cooperated with the Ministry of Social Development and the Social Cabinet in formulating and evaluating social policies for the rural milieu.
- Supported efforts aimed at strengthening the National Directorate of Rural Development of the MIDA, in keeping with the territorial approach.
- Provided technical cooperation for the territorial development of the municipality of Anton and the citrus growing region of the Province of Coclé.

- *Developing human capital*

- Helped update the curriculum of the INA, and renewed its management personnel by advertising for candidates.
- Helped transform the course offerings of the School of Agronomy of the University of Panama.
- Facilitated the participation of representatives of the public agricultural sector in international training events.

- *Environmental management*

- Supported the ANAM in administering the resources assigned to the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor project.
- Supported the City of Knowledge in evaluating the programs and projects of CIDES.

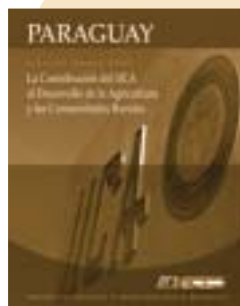
- *Institutional modernization*

- Contributed to the re-design and modernization of various institutions of the public agricultural sector (MIDA, IDIAP, IMA, INA), the social sector (MIDES, Social Cabinet) and the education sector (School of Agronomy of the University of Panama and the National Agricultural Institute).

- *Paraguay*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Provided the agricultural and agroindustrial sector with up-to-date information for decision making aimed at increasing competitiveness.
- Operated the IICA Observatory for the Agricultural and Agroindustrial Sector.
- Supported the National Directorate for Coordination and Administration of MAG projects in the execution of the Program to Modernize and Diversify Small-farm Production.
- Provided support in the preparation of a feasibility study on the creation of an agricultural commodities and inputs exchange.
- Supplied technical cooperation to the MAG and private-sector actors in preparing a plan to improve livestock production.
- Participated in the Multisectoral Technical Group responsible for discussing the entry of meat from Paraguay into international markets, especially the EU.



- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Supported the SENACSA in preparing a project for its restructuring and in developing a training program for its human resources.
- Cooperated in the preparation of proposal for establishing the Paraguayan Beef Cattle Traceability System and in implementing the Pilot Traceability Plan.
- At the urging of IICA, the government created, in Decree N°. 6,626, the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Commission.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Systematized experiences in outsourcing technical assistance, with a view to enabling the MAG to make the provision of services more efficient.
- Implemented the Program of Support for the Cotton Sector for the 2004-2005 Harvest, which led to improvements in the technical assistance services provided by the MAG.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Provided technical and logistic support for the participation of Paraguayan officials in CAS meetings and their technical

commissions, and for the adoption of measures aimed at implementing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action.

● *Developing human capital*

- Provided support in ensuring accreditation, by Mercosur Educativo, of the Veterinary Medicine program of the UNA.
- Prepared a profile of the Project to Develop Institutional Capabilities for Managing Agricultural and Rural Information and Knowledge.

● *Institutional modernization*

- Held, with PROCISUR and the MAG, a workshop on the institutional modernization of the NARIs and human resources policies, as a contribution to the development of capabilities within the National Agricultural Research and Technology System.
- Created, in support of the Office of the Vice President of the Republic, a forum to discuss sustainable rural development and promote institutional coordination in that area.
- Cooperated with DINCAP in implementing the PRODESAL program, which serves some 22,000 farmers.

- Assisted the General Directorate of Statistics and the Census in reviewing the forms and procedures to be used in conducting the 2006 National Agricultural Census.

● *Peru*

● *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Contributed to seminars, workshops and internship programs to El Salvador and Mexico on methods for monitoring and defining negotiating positions in favor of free agricultural trade.
- Applied the concept of agricultural production chains in the production of hard yellow corn, poultry farming, hog farming, and the production of cacao and its by-products, and improved the competitiveness of these commodities.
- Provided support to PROCIANDINO and INIEA in implementing a project aimed at promoting tree tomatoes as a promising fruit for the diversification of agriculture in the Andean region.



- Made available, through the Technology Research and Transfer Unit of the Jose Faustino Sanchez Carrion University, a data base on hard yellow corn and inputs for improving the technology used in its production.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Strengthened the local institutional framework (Quality Management Councils) and applied GAPs in the departments of Lima, Junin, Tacna and Ica.
- Continued the Peru-Chile National Program for the Control and Eradication of the Fruit Fly.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Supported the General Secretariat of the CAN in formulating a regional project aimed at establishing the Andean Rural Development Forum.
- Operated four local funds with resources from FOMRENA and IICA-CAF-Red de Pueblos Project.
- The CAF approved the second stage of the Red de Pueblos Project, which will last three years.
- Small-scale farmers and service providers were granted small loans.

- Provided support in calling attention to food safety and care of the environment in the province of Huaura, together with PAHO/WHO and in coordination with education and health authorities.

- *Developing human capital*

- Trained private- and public-sector actors from Huaura in the concept of rural development from a territorial approach.
- Supported and participated in the Forum on the Social Management of Water and the Environment in the Huaura Watersheds.
- Developed mechanisms for dialogue and the integration of higher agricultural education, within the framework of the second national forum on the topic and a meeting with APFA.
- Prepared syllabi, training manuals and other materials for courses on agribusiness management in rural associative enterprises and on the promotion and management of agricultural production chains, in coordination with FAO.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- The Embassy of the Netherlands approved an extension of the GSAAC program and, prepared a profile for a second stage.

- Prepared a study on agro-environmental policies in Peru, under the Program to Develop Capabilities for the Generation of Agro-environmental Policies in Latin America (CIDA/IICA/MAAC).

- *Saint Kitts and Nevis*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- 62 persons, including farmers, bee keepers, agro processors and youths, participated in a consultation related to the WTO, CSME and food security.
 - Held consultation on the Jagdeo Initiative and determined the status of the interventions to address the key constraints to agricultural development.
 - The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Trade organized two workshops for senior public-sector officers to increase the flow of information and updates on current and emerging trade issues.
 - Agri-business persons, including women and youths, benefited from local and regional training, which focused on managing small-scale enterprises.



- Promotion of agro-tourism, and establishment of an agri-tourism committee to implement a strategy to positively impact agriculture and rural development.

- 45 persons participated in an Agro-Tourism Symposium which was held to explore opportunities for forging stronger and more effective links between both sectors.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Efforts to strengthen and institutionalize a National Health and Food Safety (NHFS) System and its mode of operation.
 - Organized a GIS/GPS workshop to incorporate the application into existing pest and disease programmes.
 - Assistance for the Ministry of Agriculture Fruitfly Control Programme, which led to the provision of equipment and materials provided by the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Florida.
 - Support to the FAVA/CA to conduct an assessment of the disease status of bees.
 - 27 beekeepers benefited from training sessions focused on the control of varroa mites.
 - Participation in a “Task Force” to devise and effect measures for the control of the fire ant. Fact sheets outlining

control measures were disseminated and a survey was conducted to establish its geographical distribution.

- Approval of a FAVA/CA project to provide technical assistance in 2006.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Enhanced productivity and efficiency of farmers, beekeepers, and agro-processors through technology transfer and training.
- 73 women participated in three agro-processing workshops which were conducted in collaboration with the Republic of China (RoC) Technical Mission.
- Organized training in project development for the Fahie Women's Association.
- In collaboration with the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI), an agro-processing group and a farmers' group each received financial aid to procure processing equipment and drip irrigation material, respectively.
- 65 youths also benefited from training activities on information technology, plant propagation, basketry, irrigation, candle making and agro-processing.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Played a major role in the successful planning and coordination of the 5th Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA).
- Ensured, through national dialogue, that the consultative process, which is an essential feature of the Jagdeo's Initiative, was adhered to.

- *Saint Lucia*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Supported the dialogue for diversification and increased competitiveness within the banana industry.
- Presented a position paper on "The Expansion of St. Lucia's Regional Trade in Bananas" as part of a meeting to examine options for repositioning the industry.
- Assisted the herbal industry in its effort towards convening the Caribbean Herbal Business Association/Caribbean



Association of Researchers and Herbal Practitioners (CHBA/CARAPA) International Conference “Advancing Caribbean Herbs in the 21st Century II”.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Support the establishment of a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety and Standards (NAHFSS) Committee.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Elaboration of a comprehensive strategy for linking agriculture and tourism in Saint Lucia and the OECS.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Technical, financial and logistic support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and the OECS Secretariat to enhance their understanding of the Agro 2003-2015 Plan and the Jagdeo Initiative.

- *Developing human capital*

- Collaboration with the Executive Secretariat of the Caribbean Agriculture Forum for Youth (CAFY) to host a regional workshop on “Priority Setting, Organizational Development and Introduction to Project Development and Management”.

- *Environmental management*

- Supported the work of the national Biodiversity and Biosafety Committees and the development of the National Bio-safety Framework for Saint Lucia.
- Co-hosted a seminar on “Climate Change and Food Production”.

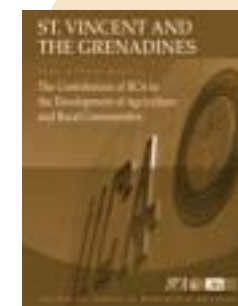
- *Institutional modernization*

- Supported the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in undertaking a diagnostic evaluation and subsequent development of a strategic plan of action for the restructuring of St. Lucia Marketing Board (SLMB).

- *Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Enhanced agro-processors’ competitiveness through improvement in the presentation of their products in a workshop convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



● *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Facilitated an assessment of the agricultural health and food safety services in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- Assisted the development of a Regional Integrated Pest Management Programme for the West Indian Fruit Fly, with the participation of a specialist in plant protection.
- Enhanced with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries and the Agricultural Input Warehouse the capacity of 25 pest control operators.

● *Strengthening rural communities*

- Supported activities in the Annual Work Plan of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers (SVGNRWP).
- Organic Agriculture received a boost when extension officers and farmers participated in a regional workshop on Organic Fertilizer Production and Composting in Dominica.

● *Developing human capital*

- With the financial support of the RADCICP Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, facilitated the training of the SVGNRWP in basic computer literacy.

● *Environmental management*

- Provided technical assistance to the beekeeping industry with the support of consultant/volunteer from FAVA/CA, who confirmed the presence of the Varroa Spp in most colonies.

● *Suriname*



● *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Established a Fruit and Vegetable Association in the village of Powakka to facilitate its access to new technology and inputs and the development of a market system.
- Helped the dairy sub-sector improve its production and productivity, providing training and contributing to the preparation of business plans for the industry.
- Assistance to the women's group in the village of Abenaston on producing cassava crackers and crystallized ginger.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Prepared proposal for the third phase of the IDB AHFS Project in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LLV).
- Supported LLV with the preparation of brochures on animal and plant health.
- Conducted monitoring activities with MAG on the Carambola Fruit Fly.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Official launching of the CNRWP local chapter.
- Prepared a concept paper with other partner institutions on the rehabilitation of the mined-out bauxite areas in Moengo.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Support on the harmonization of Suriname Agricultural Sector Plan with the Jadgeo Initiative and the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action.

- *Developing human capital*

- Organized training at different levels, mainly in the field of biotechnology, investment in the agricultural sector and agricultural health.

- Produced two CDs in collaboration with national NGO, EDUCONS and LLV to promote vegetable production among primary school students.
- Conducted training sessions for fruit and vegetable growers in Powakka.
- Provision of improved seeds and other agricultural inputs to producers.

- *Environmental management*

- Carried out maintenance activities on the validation plot of cashew established in Powakka in collaboration with the CELOS.
- Completed work on the organic production with the NGO Eco-System 2000, and promoted it.

- *Trinidad and Tobago*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Completed a draft programme on biotechnology and bio-safety (CPBB) and identified regional needs with 25 experts in biotechnology and bio-safety.



- Endorsed strategy document, agreed on the priority projects and formed the Consultative Group on Agro-bio-technology for the Caribbean (CGABC).
- Completed research on the status of agriculture and rural life and the true contribution of agriculture to the economy using social accounting matrix (SAM).
- Implemented the Agribusiness Internship Programme developed with the Faculty of Science and Agriculture, University of the West Indies.
- Developed profiles of six commodities being used by the Agricultural Development Bank and other entities for promoting investments in selected areas.
- Assisted the CHBA in strengthening administrative capacities and the initiation of a ProInvest-funded project on market and technology research.
- Sponsored the CHBA/CARAPHA 7th Caribbean Herbal Medicine Conference.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Held workshops and seminars on issues in plant and animal health in collaboration with the MALMR, FAO, USDA and FAVA/CA.
- More than 80 technicians from across the region were trained in the identification of pests and diseases and the

use of various specialized software for notification, dissemination/enquiry points and phytosanitary portals.

- Cooperated with the MALMR to develop GAP protocols for three commodities.
- Supported the National Biosafety Committee in the development of a National Biosafety Policy for Trinidad & Tobago.
- Collaborated with the School of Veterinary Medicine in the preparation of multimedia materials and a manual on Small Ruminant Herd Health.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Participation in the design and monitoring of three small-scale projects focused on poverty alleviation and funded by the CFNI.
- Provision of technical assistance to the Network of Rural Women Producers (NRWP), building its administrative capacity and facilitating its participation in a major national agriculture and food exposition.
- Evaluation of the revolving loan project operated by the NRWP and recommendations made for its improvement and growth.
- Active role in the management and implementation of a CTA-funded project to facilitate the development of information products for the CNRWP.

- Commissioned a SWOT analysis of the dairy industry, a feasibility study for a pepper sauce project, a profile on mini-set yam production and a greenhouse vegetable production venture for rural communities.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Promotion and implementation of the hemispheric and regional mandates for agriculture, viz., the Summit of the Americas and the Jagdeo Initiative.
- Hosted a regional workshop on “Benchmark Indicators for Follow-up of the Agro Plan 2003-2015 for Caribbean Countries” with OAS and ECLAC.
- Assisted the completion of matrices/information relating to the ten key binding constraints identified in the Jagdeo Initiative.

- *Developing human capital*

- Increased capabilities of THA staff in surveillance and detection using modern technology (GPS/GIS).
- Delivery of a training programme in the management of websites as it relates to the CNRWP and the CaRAPN websites.
- Hosted agribusiness seminar which targeted the youth in agriculture and exposed them to the plethora of opportunities available in the sector.

- Facilitation of members of the NRWP to attend a workshop on pepper mash production designed for cottage industry development.

- *Environmental management*

- Provided support to a regional IICA / PROINVEST / ASTT / DFL project, which conducted market surveys and developed a package of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), a video documentary, a handbook and a draft policy proposal, all for organic production.
- Assisted the MALMR with an initiative to construct model organic farms at three locations in Trinidad.
- Assisted THA with horizontal cooperation in the evaluation of an organic enterprise being developed in Tobago.

- *Institutional modernization*

- Development of a strategic framework plan for CARDI and monitoring of the implementation of projects and programmes under the IICA/CARDI agreement.
- Led the process in the reevaluation of the Agricultural Incentives Programme of the MALMR, making recommendations for a more effective regime.

- *United States of America*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Reorganized with USDA a biotechnology project to improve its implementation.
- Prepared and submitted a concept paper for developing trade capacities for CAFTA countries to improve their capacity to implement the agreement and improve their competitiveness, as requested by US Department of State.



- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Continued work with USDA in ongoing activities related to food safety, trade policy, public-private partnership and, most recently, avian influenza.
- Acquired funds from USDA to underwrite the Brasilia conference on avian influenza, the first major response to the possible pandemic in the Americas.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Led development of a strategic alliance with the Rural Policy Research Institute.

- *Hemispheric integration*

- Developed relationships with the National Federation of Women Legislators, a key public policy group with interest in strengthening hemispheric ties.
- Produced and distributed CARIB NEWS, with over 100 newsletters sent to more than 250 IICA staff throughout the hemisphere.
- Information and knowledge sharing activities including dissemination of over 300 technical articles to 2000 users on topics related to trade, agriculture and development.

- *Developing human capital*

- Explored avenues of cooperation with the CSREES, which provides liaison between the USDA and the land grant universities and colleges.
- Expanded relationship with the National Agricultural Library as an important resource for supporting training and education.

- *Environmental management*

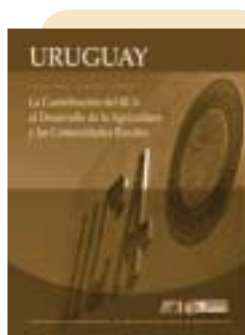
- Opened a dialogue with the US Environmental Protection Agency to promote initiatives of common interest and

continued aggressively to strengthen IICA's relations with the MCC and USAID.

■ *Uruguay*

■ *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Held the second cycle of conferences “State Policies: agriculture in the years ahead.”
- Provided support in coordinating the CAS Secretariat and the Agricultural Policies Network.
- Prepared a project aimed at validating a technology system for the agricultural sector based on ICTs.
- Formulated, under an agreement with Federated Agricultural Cooperatives, a proposal to provide support to initiatives of young cattle ranchers and link them to the rural movement.
- Signed an agreement with the Rural Association of Uruguay, and organized the cycle of conferences “Productive country – challenges and decisions.”



- Supported agricultural journalists in ExpoPrado, 2005, by installing the “House of the Journalist.”
- Organized the seminar “Integral quality in the expanded agricultural sector: challenge or utopia?” together with the MGAP, Uruguayan Institute for Standardization and Technical Laboratory of Uruguay.
- Supported the fund that provides resources for the micro-projects of small-scale cheese producers, which led to an increase in cheese exports.
- Collaborated in preparing the preliminary version of the Website elportalganadero.com, which offers information on the livestock sector.
 - *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*
- Organized training sessions on sanitary management as a production tool, together with Federated Agricultural Cooperatives and the Agricultural Plan Institute.
- Supported the General Directorate of Livestock Services of the MGAP in executing the Accreditation Program for Veterinarians.
- Strengthened the capabilities of the Standing Veterinary Committee to coordinate the treatment of animal health problems at the regional level.

● *Strengthening rural communities*

- Supported the MGAP in developing a conceptual framework and developing methodologies for addressing the topic of family agriculture.
- Systematized experiences in rural development with a territorial approach in the departments of Paysandu, Tacuarembó and Montevideo, thanks to an alliance with UDELAR and the IFAD-MERCOSUR Program.
- Held the contest “Local stories: key players in rural development speak,” within the framework of the Uruguayan Rural Development Network.
- Published the document “Producer organizations and the development of the farm,” prepared on the basis of seminar-workshops held with National Farm Board JUNAGRA.
- Held the forum “Measures in support of family agriculture, the experience of Chile,” with support from PROCISUR, INDAP of Chile, and the Chilean Embassy in Uruguay.
- Formulation of a conceptual framework on rural poverty in Uruguay and its relation to rural development with a territorial approach.
- Presented information on rural territories in the publication “Uruguay in figures.”

● *Hemispheric integration*

- Strengthened ties between the Directorate of Sustainable Rural Development and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, conducting an inventory of agro-environmental policies in Uruguay.
- Supported the IICA Office in Paraguay in matters related to the accreditation of majors within the School of Veterinary Medicine of the UNA, and in the preparation of a draft questionnaire for the National Agricultural Census of 2006.
- Strengthened the ties between PROCISUR and the National Innovation System, and relations between FONTAGRO and FORAGRO.

● *Developing human resources*

- Distributed a manual for teachers to educational authorities, under the Project to Support the Dissemination of the Strategic Importance of Agriculture in Uruguay: Planting awareness.
- Provided teachers with refresher courses on topics related to agriculture and rural life.
- Provided training in the use of the SICA.

- Organized, with FAO, UNESCO and the WB, the global dialogue “Education for the rural population: organization of alliances and networks for public-private coordination and their contribution to policy development in the sector.”

- *Environmental management*

- Supported the PROCISUR Secretariat in implementing the activities programmed in the regional technological platforms.
- Participated in the project REPAPEL (collection and recycling of paper to benefit a public school).

- *Venezuela*

- *Facilitating competitiveness and global trade*

- Prepared an inventory of agrifood policies with the MAT, and further developed a proposal on support for agrifood chains through the National Agricultural Boards.
- Drew up a proposal for developing and strengthening agricultural production circuits in the Yacambu-Quibor area.



- Participated in a regional meeting on important aspects of the multilateral trade negotiations under the WTO, organized by SELA.
- Held a workshop for agricultural commodity exchange brokers, in partnership with BOLPRIAVEN.
- Provided support for a technical mission to Spain to learn about successful experiences in infrastructure, pumps, ponds, irrigation and diversion systems, care of seeds and greenhouses, and wholesale market systems.
- Advanced in the formulation, with the NARI and the Ministries of Environment and Food, of projects for the development of capabilities in biosafety.

- *Promoting food safety and agricultural health*

- Provided technical support to the National Codex Alimentarius Committee on issues related to food safety.
- Provided technical assistance in preparing guidelines on GAPs, and support for training in GAPs, GMPs and HAACP.
- Helped to strengthen the program to control and eradicate foot and mouth disease, in coordination with APHIS and PAHO.

- Provided support for national organizations to participate in the meetings of the SPS Committee of the WTO, and to follow up on the agreements reached at same.

- *Strengthening rural communities*

- Promoted and designed the Project for the Integrated Management of Water Resources and the Territorial Development of Yacambu-Quibor, in support of the Yacambu-Quibor water system, the National Rural Development Institute, the government of the State of Lara, and the Ministry of the Environment.
 - Organized workshops on the development of the Yacambu-Quibor project.
 - Promoted inter-thematic work in the area of influence of the Yacambu-Quibor project, involving six countries and the respective IICA Offices.
 - Promoted interinstitutional coordination for rural development and the conservation and development of natural resources.
 - Provided support for the First Seminar on Planning and Endogenous Development, organized by the Ministry of Planning and Development.

- Contributed to the Program for the Rural Development of the State of Amazonas, which involves indigenous communities, the NARI, the Ministries of Food and Education, the State governments and the Municipal Councils.

- *Developing human capital*

- Supported the Ministry of Education in training teachers in rural schools in the areas of management and decision making.
 - Strengthened the three INFOAGRO agricultural information systems (Yacambu-Quibor, Zulia and Dual-purpose cattle).
 - Held workshops on information systems, the use of the Internet in agriculture, and the design and operation of Web pages.
 - Contributed to workshops on the analysis of agrifood chains, agricultural negotiations, agricultural commodity exchanges, GAPs, and food safety.
 - Promoted horizontal cooperation in the development of management and technical capabilities in the National Agricultural Research System.

- Facilitated the participation of directors and specialists from agricultural education institutions in the workshop “Management aspects of teaching in the context of agricultural education,” together with the Corporacion Educacional Sociedad Nacional de Agricultura de Chile, and SDC.
- Deans of Schools of Agriculture of several universities participated in the Andean Regional Forum for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education.
 - *Environmental management*
 - Prepared proposals on agricultural development in Quibor Valley and the Yacambu River basin, through environmentally friendly systems of production and agricultural diversification, and environmental compensation mechanisms.
 - Provided technical cooperation in promoting the use of GAPs and GMPs with a view to reducing negative environmental impacts.
 - *Institutional modernization*
 - Supported the agricultural technology program of the NARI, funded by the IDB.
- Designed and implemented a strategic plan for strengthening the areas of negotiation and trade development within the FUNDAGRI.
- Proposed new institutional arrangements base on the needs of the Yacambu-Quibor project, and associated organizations.

Relations with Strategic Partners



Relations with Strategic Partners

By continuing to strengthen its relations with strategic partners, IICA was able to leverage resources for the implementation of agricultural and rural development activities and provide information about investment portfolios and priorities. The Committee to Coordinate Work with Strategic Partners was set up and given the task of defining an institutional approach for forging effective strategic partnerships and facilitating internal coordination.

The Institute continued to strengthen its alliances and ties with organizations involved in aspects of the agricultural trade negotiations, such as the WTO, FAO, the IDB/INTAL, ECLAC, ALADI, SIECA and CARICOM.

During 2005, IICA focused on the creation of alliances with new partners, such as Croplife, Starbucks, the World Food Prize Foundation and ECOSOC. It also made preliminary

contacts with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and, working with USAID, made IICA Offices more efficient by instituting new institutional arrangements that take maximum advantage of the technical, financial and political resources available.

Efforts were made to increase the capabilities and opportunities offered by U.S. public institutions, companies and education centers involved in the improvement of agriculture and rural communities in the Americas. The Institute also continued to strengthen relations with PAHO and the OAS in complementary areas of work.

IICA stepped up its joint activities with the IDB; reached agreement on a joint work plan with the OAS Rural Development Unit; negotiated a cooperative agreement with the University of Florida and the FAVA/Central America; and established strong ties with the MIGA, a key entity of the World Bank group with which a cooperation agreement is being drawn up.

Through its Office in Spain, the Institute developed and strengthened new partnerships with the European Commission and the bilateral agencies of the EU. It prepared and negotiated several EU-sponsored programs involving small business development, education, training and rural poverty alleviation, as well as projects designed to increase the use of science and technology in agriculture. Finally, a new cooperation agreement was signed with the Government of Spain, paving the way for continued IICA operations in Europe.

In the area of hemispheric integration, the Institute stepped up its work with the Interagency Group for Rural Development and the GECAFS, and negotiated initiatives for joint work with the RUPRI (the United States) involving the comparative evaluation of rural development policies.

IICA-CATIE joint work

IICA-CATIE relations are governed by Law 8028 of 2000, under which the Government of Costa Rica

and IICA signed a contract that runs until 2020.

During 2005, the two institutions focused their joint efforts on education, technological innovation, natural resource management, research and agricultural information.

Some of the most important achievements were the reactivation of the Central American Plant Genetic Resources Network and its respective national committees; the preparation of a multimedia course on forestry programs, with assistance from the Oxford Forestry Institute; and, the permanent development of information products and services through the Orton Commemorative Library. Under the umbrella of PROMECAFE, the two institutions made progress in the areas of intellectual property, the characterization of areas and efforts to prevent and combat coffee pests and diseases.

At the request of the Forum of Ministers of Agriculture and the Environment of the Central American Region, IICA and CATIE continued to work together on the interagency

committee set up to draft a regional water resource strategy. The two institutions also continued working in the areas of agricultural health, food safety and market access. In addition, progress was made in incorporating IICA into the Master's Degree Program in International Agribusiness Management that CATIE is to develop with INCAE.

At the country level, the two institutions facilitated the participation of Belizean officials in an international workshop on cacao production and competitiveness, held at CATIE. In El Salvador, they continued to implement the PAES/Trifinio/La Palma Micro-region Project with the CRS and the UCA; and in Nicaragua, they gave a course about musaceae.

Financial Information and Human Resources



Financial information

The Institute's operations are financed with four types of resources: quota contributions, external resources, the Institutional Net Rate (INR) and miscellaneous income.

The resources were managed by means of control and monitoring mechanisms put in place by the Administration to ensure their efficient use, transparency and accountability, and the attainment of the goals and objectives set in the work plans for 2005 to meet the needs of IICA's Member States.

The quota contributions collected from the Member States in 2005 totaled US\$31.3 million, US\$2.8 million more than in 2004. This figure includes both quota contributions for 2005 and a large amount of other quotas owed to the Institute. As a result, the amount of quotas owed at the start of the year fell by 25%.

These positive results were achieved thanks both to the recognition by the Member States of the usefulness of IICA's work and the Institute's efforts to collect quotas owed to it, which were endorsed by its governing bodies.

The improvement in the financial situation enabled the Institute to carry out its technical cooperation programs

more effectively. Nevertheless, in keeping with the principle of financial prudence applied by the Administration, IICA executed its quota resources in a conservative manner. The Institute executed more external resources in 2005 than in 2004 and continued to focus on a portfolio of projects exclusively involving technical cooperation.

The six tables below contain a summary of important information regarding the financial resources executed by IICA in 2005.

Table 1. Execution of quota and external resources in 2003, 2004 and 2005 (in millions of US\$)

Resources	Year		
	2003	2004	2005 *
Quotas	26.0	26.5	26.3
External	103.4	100.8	123.4

* *Estimated data.*

Table 2. Execution of quota resources by chapter in 2005 (in millions of US\$).*

Chapters	Budget	Execution	
		Amount	%
Ch. 1: Direct technical cooperation services	24.4	23.6	90
Ch. 2: Management costs	1.7	1.7	6
Ch. 3: General costs and provisions	1.0	1.0	4
Total	27.1	26.3	100

* *Estimated data.*

Table 3. Quota resources budgeted and executed by chapter and strategic area in 2005 (in millions of US\$).*

Chapter and Strategic Area	Budget	Execution
Ch. 1: Direct technical cooperation services	24.4	23.6
Trade and agribusiness development	6.0	5.6
Technology and innovation	4.4	4.3
Agricultural health and food safety	4.4	4.3
Sustainable rural development	4.4	4.4
Information and communication	2.4	2.2
Education and training	2.8	2.8
Ch. 2: Management costs	1.7	1.7
Ch. 3: General costs and provisions	1.0	1.0
Total	27.1	26.3

* *Estimated data.*

*Table 4. Execution of resources by funding source in 2005
(in millions of US\$)*.*

Type of resource	Execution	
	Quantity	%
External	123.4	76
Quotas	26.3	18
INR	6.0	4
Miscellaneous	2.8	2
Total	158.5	100

* *Estimated data.*

*Table 5. Execution of external resources in the regions and at IICA Headquarters in 2005
(in millions of US\$)*.*

Region	Amount executed
Central	14.5
Southern	50.6
Northern	34.9
Andean	20.3
Caribbean	2.5
Headquarters	0.6
Total	123.4

* *Estimated data.*

*Table 6. Sources of external funds in 2005
(in millions of US\$)*.*

Sources	Amount
Governmental institutions of the Member States	100.1
Other institutions and governments	23.3
Total	123.4

* *Estimated data.*

6

Human resources

The following tables provide information on the distribution of the Institute's human resources for the last five years and the current situation:

Table 1. Distribution of human resources by category from 2001-2005.

Category	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
International Professional (IPP)	109	100	97	91	95
Local Professional (LPP)	183	237	217	198	219
General Services (GSP)	524	501	385	366	379
Total	816	838	699	655	693

Source: Directorate of Human Resources.

Table 2. Distribution of human resources by category and funding source in 2005.

Category	Funding source				Total	Percentage
	Regulares funds		External funds			
	Cantidad	%	Cantidad	%		
IPP	92	13.28	3	0.43	95	13.71
LPP	163	23.52	56	8.08	219	31.60
GSP	324	46.75	56	8.08	379	54.69
Total	579	83.55	115	16.59	693	100.0

Source: Directorate of Human Resources.

Table 3. Distribution of human resources by duty station and source of funding in 2005.

Duty station	IPP		LPP		GSP		Total	
	Regular funds	External funds	Regular funds	External funds	Regular funds	External funds	Regular funds	External funds
Headquarters	31	1	70	2	111	3	212	6
Andean Region	11	0	21	0	44	0	76	0
Caribbean Region	16	1	18	1	49	5	83	7
Central Region	13	0	20	8	52	7	85	15
Northern Region	12	0	4	0	20	0	36	0
Southern Region	9	1	30	45	48	40	87	86
Total	92	3	163	56	324	55	579	114

Sources: Directorate of Human Resources.

Acronyms

AAFC	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	ARC	Audit Review Committee (IICA)
ACEAS	Central American Association of Higher Agricultural Education	ASOEX	Chilean Exporters Association
AIBDA	Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians, Documentalists and Information Specialists.	AWIA	Association of Women in Agriculture (Barbados)
AECI	Spanish International Cooperation Agency	BAFY	Barbados Agricultural Forum for Youth
AGCI	Chilean International Cooperation Agency	BBB	Barbados Black belly sheep
AHFS	Agricultural health and food safety	BOLPRIAVEN	Agricultural Products and Inputs Exchange (Venezuela)
ALADI	Latin American Integration Association	BOPA	Belize Organic Producers Association
ANAM	National Environmental Authority (Panama)	BRAMCO	Brazil, Mexico, Colombia
ANCUPA	African Palm Growers Association (Ecuador)	BSE	Bovine spongiform encephalopathy
APAD	Agricultural Processors Association of Dominica	CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
APBP	Pan American Association of Agricultural Commodity Exchanges	CAC	Central American Agricultural Council
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Protection and Inspection Service (USDA)	CACHE	Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture
		CADEXCO	Costa Rican Chamber of Exporters
		CADIAC	Agri-food chains and dialogue for action
		CAF	Andean Development Corporation
		CAFY	Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth
		CAN	Andean Community
		CAPECO	Paraguayan Chamber of Grain and Oilseed Exporters
		CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute

CARI	Argentine Council on International Relations	CIRAD	International Center for Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (France)
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	COMEX	Ministry of Foreign Trade (Costa Rica)
CAS	Southern Agricultural Council	CNRWP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
CATIE	Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center	CONADEA	National Council for Agricultural Development (Guatemala)
CCAA	Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association	CONARFIT	National Plant Genetic Resources Commission (El Salvador)
CCAA	Caribbean-Central American Action	COSAVE	Plant Protection Committee for the Southern Area
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development	CPEC	Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development Program for Economic Competitiveness (CIDA)
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank	CRNM	Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery
CE	Executive Committee (IICA)	CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
CELOS	Center of Agricultural Research in Suriname	CSREES	Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service
CENILAC	Nicaraguan Dairy Export Authority	CSUCA	Central American Higher University Council
CENTA	National Agricultural and Forestry Technology Center	CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
CFNI	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute	CVP	Standing Veterinary Council (CAS)
CHA	Caribbean Hotel Association	DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
CHBA	Caribbean Herbal Business Association		
CIAT	International Center for Tropical Agriculture		
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency		
CIDAB	Agricultural Information and Documentation Center of Bolivia		
CIDES	International Center for Sustainable Development		
CIFOR	Center for International Forestry Research		
CIIA	Inter-sectoral Food Safety Commission		

DINADERS	National Directorate of Sustainable Rural Development (Honduras)	FIA	Foundation for Agricultural Innovation
DINCAP	National Office for Project Coordination and Administration (Paraguay)	FLACSO	Latin American Institution for Social Science
EC	Executive Committee (IICA)	FOMRENA	Regional Fund for Appropriate Technologies for the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (Andean Region)
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	FONTAGRO	Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council (United Nations)	FORAGRO	Regional Forum on Agricultural Research and Technology Development
EDUCONS	Education and Communication Network of Suriname	FTA	Free trade agreement
EMBRAPA	Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research	FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas
ENA	National Agricultural School (El Salvador)	FUCOA	Foundation for Communication, Training and Culture in Agriculture (Chile)
ENCA	Central National Agricultural School (Guatemala)	FUNDAGRI	Foundation for the Development of Agricultural Science and Technology (Venezuela)
EU	European Union	FUNDE	National Development Foundation (El Salvador)
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations)	GAB	Grenada Association of Beekeepers
FAVA/CA	Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action (United States)	GAFY	Grenada Agricultural Forum for Youth
FECARROZ	Central American Rice Federation	GAP	Good agricultural practices
FEDAVIDAC	Federation of Poultry Farmers of Central America and the Caribbean	GECAFS	Global Environmental Change and Food Systems
FEDEXPOR	Ecuadoran Exporter Federation	GEAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research

GIADR	Inter-Agency Group for Rural Development	IHDP	International Human Dimensions Programme on Global Environmental Change
GMP	Good manufacturing practices	IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
GINA	Informal Group of Agricultural Negotiators	ILO	International Labour Organization
GIS	Geographic information system	ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute
GPS	Global positioning system	IISD	International Institute for Sustainable Development (Canada)
GREPRO	Grenada Network of Rural Women Producers	IMA	Agricultural Marketing Institute (Panama)
GRICA	Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process	INA	National Agriculture Institute (Panama)
GTZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit	INASE	National Seed Institute (Argentina)
GTAF	Technical Group in Support of FORAGRO	INCAE	INCAE Business School
HACCP	Hazard analysis and critical control points	INCODER	Colombian Institute of Rural Development
IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture	INDAP	Agricultural Development Institute (Chile)
ICT	Information and communication technologies	INFOAGRO	Agricultural Information System (Bolivia, Costa Rica, Venezuela)
ICTA	Agricultural Science and Technology Institute	INIA	National Agricultural Research Institute (Venezuela, Uruguay)
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank	INIAP	Autonomous National Agricultural Research Institute (Ecuador)
IDIAP	Agricultural Research Institute of Panama	INIBAP	International Network for the Improvement of Banana and Plantain
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development		

INIEA	National Institute for Agrarian Research and Extension (Peru)	ISSN	International Standard Series Number
INIFAP	National Institute for Forestry, Agricultural and Livestock Research (Mexico)	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
INPPAZ	Pan American Institute for Food Protection and Zoonoses	JNRWP	Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers
INR	Institutional net rate (IICA)	LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
INTA	National Agricultural Technology Institute (Argentina), Nicaraguan Agricultural Technology Institute	LATN	Latin American Trade Network
INTAL	Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean	LLV	Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (Suriname)
IOM	International Organization for Migration	LMO	Living modified organism
IPGRI	International Plant Genetic Resources Institute	MACA	Ministry of Small-farm and Agricultural Affairs (Bolivia)
IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention	MADR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Colombia)
IRDC	International Development Research Centre (Canada)	MAFLG	Ministry of Agriculture, Fishing and Local Government (Bahamas)
ISBN	International Standard Book Number	MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay)
ISNAR	International Service for National Agricultural Research	MAGA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (Guatemala)
ISPMs	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures	MAGFOR	Ministry of Agricultural and Forest Resources (Nicaragua)
		MALMR	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (Trinidad & Tobago)
		MAPA	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Supply (Brazil), Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (Spain)

MARNDR	Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (Haiti)	MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
MAT	Ministry of Agriculture and Lands (Venezuela)	MTP	Medium term plan (IICA)
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation	MUCECH	Movimiento Unitario Campesino y de Etnias de Chile
MECESUP	Program to Improve Quality and Equity in Higher Education (Chile)	NAAMIC	North American Agrifood Market Integration Consortium
MEN	Ministry of Education (Colombia)	NABI	North American Biotechnology Initiative
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market	NAFTA	North American Free Trade Agreement
MFCL	Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock (Guyana)	NAHFSC	National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Committee (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
MGAP	Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (Uruguay)	NARI	National Agriculture Research Institute
MIDA	Ministry of Agricultural Development (Panama)	NAYA	National Association of Youth in Agriculture (Dominica)
MIDES	Ministry of Social Development (Panama)	NCCARD	National Committee for Coordination of Agricultural Research (Belize)
MIFIC	Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce (Nicaragua)	NCFAD	National Centre for Foreign Animal Disease (Canada)
MIGA	Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency	NRWP	Network of Rural Women Producers
MINAG	Ministry of Agriculture (Peru)	OAS	Organization of American States
MINAGRI	Ministry of Agriculture (Chile)	ODEPA	Office of Agricultural Studies and Policies (Chile)
MINEC	Ministry of Economy (El Salvador)	OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
MIOA	Market Information Organization of the Americas	OFI	Oxford Forestry Institute
		OGCA	Organic Growers and Consumers Association (Bardados)

OIE	World Organization for Animal Health	PROCISUR	Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone
OIRSA	International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health	PROCITROPICOS	Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics
PADEMER	Rural Microenterprise Development Project (Colombia)	PRODAR	Rural Agroindustry Development Program for Latin America and the Caribbean
PAES	Environmental Program of El Salvador	PRODERT	Project for Sustainable Rural Development in Ecologically Fragile Areas of the Trifinio Region (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras)
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization	PRODESAL	Small-scale Cotton Farm Development and Diversification Program (Paraguay)
PANAFTOSA	Pan American Center for Foot and Mouth Disease	PRODESIB	Project for the Sustainable Development of Indigenous Peoples in Beni (Bolivia)
PCB	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety	PROINDER	Small Farmer Development Project
PDR	Rural Development Program (Costa Rica)	PROMECAFE	Regional Cooperative Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation
PLAMAR	Master Plan for Irrigation (Guatemala)	PROSAT	Technical Assistance Services Project (Bolivia)
PRISMA	Salvadoran Program for Research on the Environment and Development	PVS	Performance, Vision, Strategy
PROCI	Cooperative agricultural research and technology transfer program	RADA	Rural Agricultural Development Agency (Jamaica)
PROCIANDINO	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion	RADCICP	Rural Agricultural Development Coordination and Irrigation Consolidation Programme (St. Vincent)
PROCICARIBE	Caribbean Agricultural Science and Technology Network System		
PROCINORTE	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Northern Region		

RED-SICTA	Agricultural Innovation Network Project SICTA	SEMARENA	Secretariat of State for the Environment and Natural Resources (Dominican Republic)
REDPA	Coordination Network for Agricultural Policies in the Southern Region	SENACSA	National Animal Health and Quality Service (Paraguay)
REMERFI	Mesoamerican Network for Plant Genetic Resources	SENARA	National Groundwater, Irrigation, and Drainage Service (Costa Rica)
RENDRUS	National Network of Sustainable Rural Development (Mexico)	SENASAG	National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service (Bolivia)
RUPRI	Rural Policy Research Institute	SENASICA	National Service for Agri-food Health, Safety and Quality (Mexico)
RUTA	Regional Unit for Technical Assistance	SEPSA	Executive Secretariat for Agricultural Sectoral Planning (Costa Rica)
SACMI	Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (IICA)	SESA	Ecuadoran Agricultural Health Service
SAG	Agricultural and Livestock Service (Chile), Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (Honduras)	SG-CAN	General Secretariat of the Andean Community
SAGARPA	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (Mexico)	SHYQ	Yacambu Quibor Water System (Venezuela)
SAGPYA	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (Argentina)	SIBTA	Bolivian Agricultural Technology System
SDC	Swiss Cooperation Agency for Development	SICTA	Central American System for Agricultural Technology Integration
SEA	Secretariat of State for Agriculture (Dominican Republic)	SIDALC	Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas
SECEP	Secretariat for Coordination and Strategy, Office of the President (Nicaragua)	SIECA	Central American Economic System
SELA	Latin American Economic System (Venezuela)	SIHCA	Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development

SIRENARE	Superintendency of the Renewable Natural Resources Regulation System (Bolivia)	UNA	National University (Paraguay)
SIRG	Summit Implementation Review Group	UNAM	National Autonomous University of Mexico
SPS	Agreement Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (WTO)	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
SPS	Committee Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee (WT)	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
SRD	Sustainable rural development	UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
SVGNRWP	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Network of Rural Women Producers	UPEG	Management Planning and Evaluation Unit (SAG/Honduras)
TCGA	Toledo Cacao Growers Association (Belize)	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
THA	Tobago House of Assembly (Trinidad and Tobago)	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UCA	Central American University (Nicaragua)	UWI	University of the West Indies
UDELAR	University of the Republic (Uruguay)	WB	World Bank
UES	University of El Salvador	WHO	World Health Organization
UICN	World Conservation Union	WTO	World Trade Organization
		YES	Youth Encounter on Sustainability