

OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SERIES No. 103

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

San Jose, Costa Rica

16-17 July 2019



What is IICA?

More than 75 years ago, a group of visionaries recognized the need to create an agency specializing in agriculture for the American continent, with a purpose that still remains valid today: to promote agricultural development and rural well-being in this region.

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

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

Our **vision** is *to be a modern and efficient institution supported by a platform of human resources and processes that are capable of mobilizing the knowledge available in the region and around the world, with the aim of achieving a competitive, inclusive and sustainable agriculture that takes advantage of opportunities to contribute to economic growth and development as well as to foster greater rural well-being and sustainable management of its natural capital.*

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

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

We are also committed to achieving results. Our 2018-2022 Medium Term Plan enables us to develop our technical cooperation model with the aim of consolidating IICA as an organization geared towards accomplishing concrete and visible results through our area of expertise, which is to facilitate positive changes in the agricultural and rural sectors of our Member States.



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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) 2019



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

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

The Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions contained in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee.

The 2019 Executive Committee comprised the following Member States: Bahamas, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Uruguay and Venezuela.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 08:35 hours on 16 July 2019, in the Sala Magna (United States and Canada rooms) at IICA Headquarters, and was chaired by Mauricio Guevara, Secretary of State of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) of Honduras, given that Honduras was the country presiding over the Executive Committee.

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

0.2 Agreements

0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the meeting

0.2.1.1 The representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. Michael Pintard, Minister of Agriculture and Marine Resources of the Bahamas, as Chair of the meeting, following a proposal by the Representative of Honduras. Next, the Representative of Chile proposed that Costa Rica, represented by Mr. Edgar Mata, should serve as Rapporteur. This proposal was welcomed unanimously.

0.2.1.2 The Officers of the Meeting were elected as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chair: | Michael Pintard |
| Rapporteur: | Edgar Mata |
| <i>Ex officio</i> Secretary: | Manuel Otero |

0.2.2 Agenda of the meeting

0.2.2.1 The Chair submitted for consideration by the representatives the provisional work agenda of the meeting, included in document No. 688 (19). The provisional work agenda was approved without changes.

0.2.2.2 The Chair then informed the meeting that on 14 June 2019 the working and information documents of the meeting had been made available to the Executive Committee in electronic format, in Spanish and English, via the online information system.

0.2.3 Working committees

0.2.3.1 It was agreed that no working committees would be established and that all matters would be dealt with in the plenary sessions.

0.2.4 Duration of the meeting

0.2.4.1 It was agreed that the Closing Session of the meeting would take place on Wednesday, 17 July 2019 at 15:30 hours.

0.2.5 Deadline for submitting proposals

0.2.5.1 Tuesday, 16 July at 15:00 hours, was set as the deadline for the submission of new draft resolutions.

0.2.6 Countries' right to vote

0.2.6.1 The Director General of IICA sought the opinion of the legal adviser with respect to the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the Executive Committee, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure and other provisions relating to their application.

0.2.6.2 The legal adviser explained the provisions of Chapter IX of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and of Article 24 of the IICA Convention, regarding the right to vote. He informed the meeting that the duly accredited Member States of the Executive Committee would enjoy full voting rights at its Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting.

0.2.7 Credentials

0.2.7.1 The Technical Secretary reported that all delegations of Member States present that were part of the Executive Committee had been supported and accredited with the corresponding credentials issued by the responsible authorities in each country.

0.2.7.2 He also indicated that the Committee had received the credentials of four IICA Member States—Argentina, Mexico, Nicaragua and the United States of America—that would participate on that occasion as observers. He added that Colombia and the Dominican Republic were also attending the meeting, as was Spain—an associate country of IICA—and three permanent observer countries: Germany, the People's Republic of China and Turkey.

0.3 Close of the session

0.3.1 The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 09:03 hours on 16 July 2019.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 *Opening of the session*

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 09:15 hours on 16 July 2019, and was chaired by the Representative of the Bahamas.

1.2 *Remarks by the Director General of IICA*

1.2.1 The Director General welcomed the representatives of the Member States, observer countries and international organizations, as well as special guests, Institute personnel and other participants in the Executive Committee meeting, to the Home of Agriculture in the Americas.

1.2.2 He began his remarks by indicating that, over the course of almost eight decades, IICA had spearheaded valuable cooperation efforts involving nations with shared interests and a common will in support of the agriculture sector and rural areas. In this regard, the Institute had equipped agricultural and rural institutions and producers in the Americas with knowledge and technology to improve their working conditions.

1.2.3 He indicated that many producers were facing situations that were having a negative impact, such as unfavorable prices, growing indebtedness, abandonment of farms, mass migration, little use of technology and inputs, and insufficient application of good agricultural practices.

1.2.4 In this regard, he called on the meeting participants to work together to identify short and long-term solutions to the issues facing the region, through the development of better agricultural policies as well as the signing and implementation of agreements between stakeholders of agroindustrial chains, the private sector and governments.

1.2.5 He recalled the Institute's mandate, as the specialized agency of the Inter-American System for agricultural and rural development, to work for

the benefit of and improve the quality of life of all families in rural areas of the Americas. He mentioned that the region was home to 60 million people involved in small and medium-scale production, towards whom the Institute channeled a large part of its efforts.

- 1.2.6 He reasserted his commitment to ensuring that the Institute remained a relevant organization with a leading role in the current context, characterized by a reduction in the amount of resources for technical cooperation as well as increased competition for those resources. He underscored the need for a more flexible organization that had a closer relationship with the countries as well as the capacity to provide technical cooperation of excellence that removed obstacles that were hindering the transformation of agriculture and the rural environment.
- 1.2.7 The Director General highlighted the fact that the priority of his administration had been to project a renewed vision for agriculture, positioning rural areas as generators of progress, opportunities and quality employment.
- 1.2.8 He underscored IICA's interest in becoming more modern, agile, flexible and integrated; less bureaucratic; more decentralized; and capable of executing actions specific to each region, by delegating authority and responsibilities to its 34 offices. To this end, he noted, the Administration had applied measures to rationalize expenditure and structures and to reallocate resources to allow IICA to focus on direct technical cooperation actions.
- 1.2.9 He added that, within the framework of the institutional transformation process, continuous efforts had been undertaken to establish a process culture; this had generated more than USD 2 million in savings, which had been reassigned to the implementation of technical cooperation actions.
- 1.2.10 Next, he explained the profound transformation of the Institute's technical cooperation model, as described in the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP). He remarked that the Institute's technical areas had been re-conceptualized, in order to address the countries' actual priorities by means of five hemispheric action programs: 1) Bioeconomy and Production Development;

2) Territorial Development and Family Farming; 3) International Trade and Regional Integration; 4) Climate change, Natural Resources, and Management of Production Risks; and 5) Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality. He also mentioned that, in addition to these programs, the MTP established two fundamental cross-cutting issues: Gender and youth and Innovation and technology.

- 1.2.11 He stated that IICA should position itself as a guarantor of the planet's food and nutritional security and its environmental sustainability, through highly productive, profitable agriculture. To this end, he noted, it would be necessary to transform the countries into major producers of safe and healthy food, as well as suppliers of bioenergy and biomaterials for the industry, which would enable them to tap into previously unexplored value chains.
- 1.2.12 The Director General explained that a smart industrialization of agriculture, fueled by biological resources, should be grounded in science and technology, in order to promote greater production diversity, competitiveness and the generation of quality employment.
- 1.2.13 He added that the Institute was being transformed into a hemispheric knowledge management platform, which had enabled it to increase linkages with the main centers of excellence in the hemisphere and the world. He mentioned that IICA's Center for Knowledge Management and Horizontal Cooperation Services was one of the Institute's primary mechanisms to support and strengthen technical cooperation, as demonstrated by the provision of certified courses to thousands of producers and professionals from different areas of agriculture and rural territories.
- 1.2.14 He highlighted a few of the actions that had been carried out through this platform: a) in 2018, more than 1000 stakeholders from 140 institutions and 34 countries had strengthened their risk management capacities in agricultural health and food safety; b) 500 agro-exporters, businesspeople, and other stakeholders from 11 countries had expanded their knowledge of trade promotion; c) 300 agents from 18 agricultural chains and 100 institutions had received training in value-adding and business, associative and commercial management; d) more than 150 government institutions had received support in devising frameworks, policies and mechanisms to foster

inclusion in family farming; and e) 260 technical specialists from 20 countries had been trained in the design, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and differentiated instruments for family farming.

- 1.2.15 Next, he reported that the Institute had redefined its relationship with the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), with the aim of creating smart and socially responsible agriculture, and, in turn, delivering more results and value to the member countries of both organizations. This had been achieved by bolstering the IICA-CATIE synergy, thus taking advantage of each organization's area of specialization: technical cooperation (in the case of IICA) and research and education (in the case of CATIE).
- 1.2.16 He stated that the Institute had been driving joint work with the private sector, in order to foster more and better opportunities, based on the intensive use of knowledge and technology. As an example, he cited the joint action plan that IICA was implementing with Microsoft, through which the entities were generating innovative solutions to be disseminated among producers. He also highlighted the recent launch of the IICA Play streaming platform, which focused on agricultural topics and whose content was of great value to the member countries.
- 1.2.17 He considered that this partnership would accelerate the digital transformation of agriculture in the American hemisphere through the sharing of knowledge regarding Internet of Things, big data and artificial intelligence. This would benefit rural youth and women in particular, by providing them with tools to collect and disseminate data related to harvests, production, the use and availability of water resources, as well as weather conditions, for improved decision-making.
- 1.2.18 Next, he listed a series of initiatives that were being carried out in addition to the process of transforming the Institute's administrative structure and modernizing its technical cooperation model. Private-sector institutions, multilateral development banks, and civil society organizations were providing financial support for these initiatives, which conveyed the idea of an "IICA with open doors:" a) the Plaza of Agriculture in the Americas,

which the Government of Costa Rica had declared to be of public interest; b) the construction of a typical Costa Rican house within the Institute's facilities; c) the Museum of Tomorrow's Agriculture, a virtual and interactive museum whose wealth of knowledge and information would be made available to all of the member countries and would enable visitors to experience different types of agriculture (both current and future) in our hemisphere; and d) the Fab Lab Digital Agriculture Center.

- 1.2.19 The Director General concluded his remarks by reminding the delegates that this year, the regular meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) would be held at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, and that it would include a Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas. He highlighted the fact that this meeting would provide a valuable opportunity to reflect on key issues for leveraging sustainable growth, such as agriculture 4.0, the balance between sustainability and productivity, as well as the importance of health and market access.
- 1.3 *Progress in the organization of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – 2019 Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA): proposed draft agenda*
- 1.3.1 The Director of Technical Cooperation presented the progress achieved in the organization of the 2019 Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, which would be held in October.
- 1.3.2 He began by stating that agriculture and the rural environment were undergoing a rapid transformation process, due to agriculture's growing involvement in the economic system. He argued that agriculture and rurality should take advantage of the unprecedented progress that was taking place in the field of communication. Digital connectivity, he explained, could help to dissipate many of the "disadvantages" of rural areas with respect to opportunities for economic, social, and cultural realization. He added that, going forward, it would be necessary to increase agricultural productivity through digital agriculture, access to technical assistance, and the achievement of improvements in trade and logistics for supplies and products.

- 1.3.3 He indicated that science and innovation had accelerated agriculture's industrialization process. He added that the bioeconomy, whose application was becoming increasingly consolidated, had great potential for sustainable development, given that it afforded new possibilities that transcended traditional farming approaches in the Americas. The bioeconomy would also allow for better capitalizing on the region's wealth of natural resources and biodiversity.
- 1.3.4 He commented that the private sector had been assuming an increasingly relevant role in the aforementioned transformation process; therefore, it would be necessary to foster a rapprochement with Member States to discuss public policies; investments in research, development and innovation (R+D+I); technological transformations; and association strategies that would enable them to capitalize on the private sector's potential.
- 1.3.5 He underscored the fact that, within this general context, the 2018-2022 MTP acknowledged the heterogeneity that characterized countries and regions; it also outlined present and future issues facing agriculture and rurality.
- 1.3.6 He then explained that, within this framework, the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas would be divided into three panels: the first panel would focus on rurality in the digital age, given the fact that the agriculture sector was becoming increasingly connected to the world thanks to technology; the second panel would focus on the opportunity to achieve profitable production systems, as a result of the new balance between productivity and sustainability; the third panel, for its part, would address international trade promotion for development based on agricultural health, safety, and food quality.
- 1.3.7 He added that each panel would be comprised of ministers and a private-sector leader, who would jointly address the topics from a technical standpoint. He informed the Committee that two documents would be sent out to the Member States shortly: one containing guiding questions and another with technical and reference information on the topic of each panel. Lastly, he announced the slogan for the conference: "*Cultivating Tomorrow's Agriculture Today.*"

1.4 *Analysis and comments*

- 1.4.1 The Representative of Brazil congratulated the Director of Technical Cooperation on his presentation regarding the topics that would be addressed during the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas. He indicated that Brazil was in the process of developing a policy on those issues; he also considered that the conference would prove very useful in driving and complementing his country's efforts in this regard. He felt that agriculture should be based on fair trade, science and innovation.
- 1.4.2 The Representative of Canada congratulated IICA on the progress achieved in the organization of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, and considered that its agenda was very relevant to the region. She added that natural resources and innovation were topics of great importance to her country.
- 1.4.3 The Observer Representative of the United States of America remarked that the conference within the framework of the IABA meeting would be very productive, given that it would provide an opportunity to share ideas with a view to advancing towards sustainable agriculture. She requested that the Institute consider the possibility of issuing a declaration on behalf of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, describing concrete actions.
- 1.4.4 In response to the initial comments, the Director General indicated that the ministers would be the protagonists of the IABA meeting. He also noted that a final document would be prepared in order to outline the conclusions and lines of action regarding the three general topics of the conference; the document would serve as a roadmap to guide the Institute's work in those areas.
- 1.4.5 The Representative of Costa Rica noted that the agriculture sector required changes, from various perspectives. He explained that climate change had a significant impact on small and medium-scale agricultural producers; therefore, he considered that the conference should drive discussions regarding agricultural resilience. He mentioned that it was also necessary to improve access to technology, which was quite costly for many producers.

He added that it was important to consider the topic of markets, which were undergoing a transformation process, given the fact that consumers were becoming more demanding and requesting more information regarding how and where production is carried out. He indicated that agriculture represented a livelihood for many human beings, and that the ministers were responsible for providing clear responses to their needs.

- 1.4.6 The Representative of Honduras echoed the ideas expressed by the Representative of Costa Rica, and noted that innovation, quality, safety and markets were topics of great importance to his country. He felt that it would be appropriate to add the topic of climate change to the agenda of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, and to integrate it with the other topics mentioned by the Director of Technical Cooperation, given the need to assist producers in overcoming this issue in the best possible manner.
- 1.4.7 The Representative of Mexico congratulated the Director General on his presentation about the institutional modernization actions that were being carried out through the five strategic programs and the two cross-cutting issues. She indicated that her country supported the proposal to include the topic of climate change in the agenda of the conference. She proposed that the topic of rural migration, which was of crucial importance to the region, be addressed as well.
- 1.4.8 The Representative of Peru joined the other representatives in congratulating the Director General and expressed her agreement with the three topics that would be addressed at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas. She agreed with the representatives who had requested that the topic of climate change be included in the agenda of the conference. She also requested the inclusion of the topic of gender and youth, and explained that, given the crucial role played by women and youth in rural areas, it was necessary to create differentiated policies to foster their retention in those territories.
- 1.4.9 The Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also congratulated the Director General and the Director of Technical Cooperation for their

presentations. He expressed his support for the three topics that had been proposed for the conference, and also requested that climate change be included in the agenda. He underscored his interest in technological adaptation, which was important to achieving a balance between agricultural productivity and sustainability as well as overcoming the impact of significant climate events, particularly in the Caribbean region, where recovery costs were prohibitive.

- 1.4.10 The Observer Representative of Nicaragua expressed appreciation for the work that had been carried out by the Director General of IICA and his team. He considered that the discussion topics selected for the conference were of great relevance, and emphasized the topic of trade, which he believed was crucial to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly the goal aimed at combating hunger and poverty. He added that the best type of technology is that which is accessible; consequently, efforts aimed at bolstering training and technology transfer should be undertaken through South-South cooperation. He felt that the document resulting from the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas should describe an achievable action plan with measurable results.
- 1.4.11 The Observer Representative of the United States of America added that the topics to be addressed at the conference were relevant; therefore, the ministers should capitalize on the event to generate more impactful results in the region.
- 1.5 *Presentation of the report on Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 506 (XIX-O/17): Strategic analysis of IICA*
- 1.5.1 The Chief of Staff presented the progress achieved in strengthening the Institute, in fulfillment of Resolution No. 506 of the 2017 IABA. He began his presentation by describing the Institute's progress in strengthening the capabilities of staff members, fostering collaborative work, driving a results-based management model, and conducting integrated institutional planning. This progress had been accomplished through the implementation of a process culture; within this framework, the Institute had developed a value chain consisting of approximately 13 macro-processes aimed at

increasing institutional efficiency, reducing management costs and laying the foundation for increased automation.

- 1.5.2 He added that the Institute’s voluntary separation program and rationalization of resources had generated USD 1.6 million in savings, which would be utilized, in part, to strengthen the Pre-investment Fund (FONPRI). Through FONPRI, up to June, new projects had been developed and promoted at a cost of USD 141,646, resulting in the securing of USD 24,740,450. He also mentioned that the Institute was implementing 13 rapid-response actions (RRAs), an instrument with which Member States were familiar and which also contributed to leveraging resources.
- 1.5.3 With respect to knowledge management processes, progress had been achieved in integrating the various institutional systems and platforms, and, most importantly, in developing the platforms required for Agriculture 4.0; to this end, the Institute had received support from strategic partners. He also noted that the Institute had been promoting its vision of an “IICA with open doors,” through which it was fostering linkages with communities at the hemispheric level.
- 1.5.4 He explained that another important mechanism for institutional strengthening had been the implementation of a strategy for partnerships with public and private-sector institutions, in order to provide the agriculture sector with guidance and innovative solutions. For instance, the Institute had established noteworthy partnerships with Microsoft, Bayer, the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) and Global Hitts, among other entities; he pointed out that additional partnerships would be formalized during the present Executive Committee meeting.
- 1.5.5 He stated that the Institute had assumed a genuine commitment with respect to sustainable development. To this end, it had implemented a technical cooperation model characterized by greater efficiency, flexibility and decentralization; it had also fostered collaborative work and the incorporation of specialists into networks, within the framework of the aforementioned processes.

1.5.6 He mentioned that IICA had carried out a series of joint actions with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) that capitalized on complementarities between the two institutions in order to conduct work in four regions and sixteen countries in matters related to family farming, climate change, agricultural health, innovation and technology, food security and risk management, among other areas.

1.5.7 Analysis and comments

1.5.7.1 In his capacity as Representative of the Bahamas, the Chair commented that one of the challenges that governments face is the large number of multilateral agencies that compete with one another, and even with the States themselves, for financial resources. Therefore, he inquired whether the Institute had considered alternatives for connecting to funding sources in order to carry out its duty for the benefit of Member States.

1.5.7.2 The Director General of IICA described the relationships that the Institute sought to establish with other organizations. The purpose of the Institute's relationships with FAO had been to develop agendas to collaborate with and support the Member States. He explained that the savings allocated to the strengthening of FONPRI had enabled the Institute to identify opportunities for and engage in substantiated discussions regarding concrete project proposals with a number of financial agencies, such as the IDB, the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF), the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

1.5.7.3 He informed the delegates that, as a result of these efforts, the Institute hoped to secure USD 200 million in external resources by the end of the year, in order to fund projects in the countries, in matters related to the five hemispheric action programs. He noted that IICA utilized resources from quota payments as seed capital in order to leverage external resources and allocate them to technical cooperation.

1.5.7.4 The Observer Representative of the United States of America referred to the need to achieve greater synergies between international organizations, with the aim of mobilizing resources for the benefit of the Member States. He

inquired whether IICA had considered delivering services that complemented those provided by other agencies like CATIE, FAO, CABEL, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and other organizations that could support joint efforts.

1.5.7.5 The Director General underscored the importance of forging strategic partnerships based on each organization's unique characteristics and capabilities. To this end, IICA had developed differentiated strategies for the establishment of partnerships, either with research and education institutions, such as CATIE and CARDI, or with financial agencies such as the IDB and CAF.

1.5.7.6 Regarding the relationship with FAO, he felt it was important that the Institute continue to engage in and strengthen continuous dialogue with the organization. He explained that the organizations had very similar objectives and focused on different yet complementary topics: IICA's work focused on productivity, competitiveness, value-adding and territorial development, while FAO focused on food security, the blue economy and forests, among other topics. He concluded his remarks by reiterating the Institute's readiness to establish joint agendas and actions with FAO based on each institution's areas of expertise.

1.6 *Presentation by the International Trade and Regional Integration Hemispheric Program*

1.6.1 The Manager of the International Trade and Regional Integration Hemispheric Program mentioned five key aspects of the regional and global context that explained IICA's interest in driving this program: a) weakening observance of multilateral trade regulations, b) the need to reorganize international trade by means of a new institutional architecture, c) the definition of new strategies to become incorporated into international markets, d) the growing importance of regional agreements for greater intraregional trade, and e) the need for clearer, more predictable policies to reduce transaction costs.

1.6.2 She highlighted the important role played by Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in global food security, and explained that the region accounted for 14% of global agricultural exports. She noted that several LAC

countries were leading producers, at the global level, of fruits, coffee, oilseeds and chicken, among other products. She reported that there were 140 preferential trade agreements, four customs units, and several regional integration processes in the Americas.

- 1.6.3 She noted that the program sought to foster agrifood trade, support regional integration processes and trade policy coordination, as well as serve as a reference center for information on international trade agreements.
- 1.6.4 She mentioned that, to this end, the program conducted work at the national, regional and hemispheric levels in three topics: trade policy, regional integration, as well as trade promotion and internationalization. She explained that the program supported countries by creating an inventory of their current trade agreements, assessing the use of and ways to better capitalize on these agreements, and implementing improvement plans. Lastly, she underscored the importance of the strategic partnerships that the program had established with several organizations, particularly Canada's Forum for International Trade Training (FITT).
- 1.6.5 Analysis and comments
 - 1.6.5.1 The Representative of Brazil stated that the manner in which international trade had evolved, in terms of the weakening of multilateral organizations, had eroded regulatory frameworks. He indicated that a third generation of trade restrictions currently existed in the form of socio-environmental barriers. He also considered that the closing of borders for reasons that had not been previously defined, as well as a region's creation of its own food import regulations, as was the case with the European Union, hindered the development of and opportunities for agricultural producers; therefore, he believed that it was crucial for IICA to address these restrictions.
 - 1.6.5.2 The Representative of Uruguay agreed with the statement made by the Representative of Brazil regarding third-generation barriers. He commented that the program seemed to place particular emphasis on regional agreements, and cautioned that it should not disregard markets outside of the region, such as Asian and European markets, which were important destinations for the export of surplus products from Latin America and the Caribbean.

- 1.6.5.3 The Observer Representative of Argentina considered that extra-tariff barriers should be reduced and that only science-based commercial restrictions should be permitted. He indicated that extra-regional agreements were relevant and that it was necessary to encourage the simplification of customs procedures, with the aim of boosting trade facilitation. He also underscored the crucial importance of taking advantage of intraregional trade opportunities, and called upon IICA to pay greater attention to this type of trade within the region.
- 1.6.5.4 The Representative of Honduras expressed his gratitude for the support his country had received from the Institute, which had been a strategic partner in commercial matters. As an example, he cited the assistance that IICA had provided in creating a committee to oversee certifications of origin for coffee. He stated that the impending elimination of tariffs for yellow corn, pursuant to the Free Trade Agreement between the United States, Central America, and the Dominican Republic, was a pressing matter that should be addressed.
- 1.6.5.5 The Representative of Canada underscored the importance of the topic of trade to her country, and mentioned some key aspects that should be dealt with, such as value chain incorporation, multilateral trade promotion, and the integration of women and youth into activities.
- 1.6.5.6 The Observer Representative of Mexico expressed her appreciation for the presentation delivered and underscored the importance of international trade to her country, particularly within the framework of a new government policy that sought to incorporate small and medium-scale rural producers of native products into foreign trade. She highlighted the value of science-based trade, specifically the role played by food safety in ensuring that safe food is consumed. She suggested that IICA support its Member States in strengthening national food regulation systems, by assisting authorities in developing policies based on data; reviewing and updating laws; developing institutional and individual capabilities; as well as conducting risk-based food inspections, sampling and analyses. She reiterated Mexico's support to the Institute and all other Member States in these areas.
- 1.6.5.7 The Observer Representative of the United States of America highlighted the value of the work carried out by IICA in the field of international trade and regional integration. He commented on the importance of economic indicators in fostering the agricultural development of countries, and noted

that the issue of tariff barriers should be addressed in greater detail. He urged the Member States to strengthen regional cooperation through actions that facilitated trade and fostered food security.

- 1.6.5.8 The Deputy Director General of IICA underscored the need for countries to view one another as partners rather than competitors, given that this would enable them to bolster joint work within the framework of multilateral forums on international trade.
- 1.6.5.9 The Director General thanked the countries for their comments regarding the presentation by the International Trade and Regional Integration Program.
- 1.7 *Presentation by the Center for Knowledge Management and Horizontal Cooperation Services*
 - 1.7.1 The Coordinator of the Center for Knowledge Management and Horizontal Cooperation Services explained that the purpose of the center was to foster and coordinate knowledge management and horizontal cooperation processes.
 - 1.7.2 He presented the information management platforms that fostered e-learning, which included physical and virtual libraries, information resource centers, networks of specialists and online seminars, among other tools.
 - 1.7.3 He listed the main results achieved in the previous year: a) six new resource centers specializing in gender, youth, and good agricultural practices, among other topics, were created; b) the IICA-Play free streaming platform on agriculture was launched; c) more than 100 virtual courses were made available; d) 260 scholarships were granted together with Mexico, representing USD 16,000,000; e) new strategic partnerships were established with the Ibero-American University Foundation (FUNIBER) and Fundación Carolina; and f) 26 internships were arranged with different countries, such as Mexico and Spain.
 - 1.7.4 Next, he referred to a few areas in which the Center had provided support to Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, Canada and Brazil. He concluded his remarks by indicating that the Institute continued to work on implementing new platforms that fostered access to information, to contribute to transform IICA into a bridge between its Member States and strategic partners.

1.8 *Formalization of general cooperation agreements*

1.8.1 The Director General reported that, with a view to increasing the Institute's support for capacity-building efforts, partnerships had been established with Fundación Carolina and the Ibero-American University Foundation (FUNIBER). Consequently, during the present Executive Committee meeting, a framework agreement would be signed with Fundación Carolina, and the Institute would report on the agreement signed with FUNIBER on 4 June 2019.

1.8.2 Framework agreement between Fundación Carolina and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

1.8.2.1 The Director General informed the Committee that the objective of this agreement was to carry out activities in matters that the parties considered to be of mutual interest.

1.8.2.2 His remarks were followed by the transmission of a video message from Mr. José Antonio Sanahuja Perales, Director of Fundación Carolina, who expressed his satisfaction with the signing of the agreement. He asserted that this joint effort, undertaken within the framework of the 2030 Agenda goals, would allow for conducting research on agricultural matters, which would in turn foster linkages between the universities and beneficiary companies with which the foundation worked. He concluded his remarks by indicating that this agreement would also foster research visits and internships, the creation of postgraduate programs, the sharing of good practices and the generation of knowledge.

1.8.2.3 The framework agreement between Fundación Carolina and IICA was signed.

1.8.3 Framework agreement for the establishment of linkages and interinstitutional cooperation between the Ibero-American University Foundation (FUNIBER) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

1.8.3.1 The Director General indicated that the purpose of this agreement was to build the foundation for a cooperation framework aimed at contributing to continuous capacity building as well as improving the potential of academics

and professionals through the distance learning modality on a virtual platform.

1.8.3.2 Mrs. Claribet Morera, director of FUNIBER in Costa Rica, informed the representatives that the foundation was Headquartered in Barcelona, Spain and had offices in 32 countries. She thanked IICA for this partnership, given that it would enable the foundation to continue to achieve its objective of providing accessible education from anywhere in the world.

1.8.4 Analysis and comments

1.8.4.1 The Observer Representative of Argentina listed several concrete cooperation actions that his country had carried out: a) efforts to combat the locust infestation; b) actions aimed at controlling *huanglongbing* (HLB); c) the organization of a conference on carbon sequestration, which included more than 600 participants; and d) actions related to beekeeping, together with certain Caribbean countries.

1.9 Close of the session

1.9.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA ended at 12:50 hours on 16 July 2019.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the session

2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) began at 14:30 hours on 16 July 2019, under the chairmanship of the Representative of the Bahamas.

2.2 Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation of IICA

2.2.1 2020-2021 Program Budget

2.2.1.1 The Director of Corporate Services explained the main criteria used to prepare the Program Budget for the 2020-2021 biennium: a) it was aligned with the Institute's planning and programming strategy and with the 2018-2022 MTP; b) funding was provided to the hemispheric programs, cross-cutting issues and technical cooperation and support instruments; c) the Regular Fund was financed by Member States quotas and miscellaneous income generated; d) IICA's quota scale was based on the percentages approved by the Organization of American States (OAS); and e) there had been a 28.57% (USD 1,000,000) reduction in the Miscellaneous Income Fund compared to the amount in 2019, which was USD 3,500,000.

2.2.1.2 He indicated that the income budget for the 2020-2021 biennium was USD 32,074,100 made up of USD 29,574,100 from quotas and USD 2,500,000 from miscellaneous income. He reported that the percentages of resources from the Regular Fund allocated to each of the budget chapters were as follows: a) Direct technical cooperation services: 90.2% in 2020 and 90.0% in 2021; b) Management costs: 5.5% in 2020 and 5.7% in 2021; c) General costs and provisions: 3.7% for the biennium; and d) Renovation of infrastructure and equipment: 0.6% for the biennium. Finally, he outlined the Institute's detailed budget allocation, by programming center and major object of expenditure.

2.2.2 Report on the collection of quotas

2.2.2.1 The Manager of the Financial Management Division commented on the status of quota collections from the Member States, both at the close of 2018, as well as for the current year, updated to 15 July 2019. She referred to Article 23 of the IICA Convention and Resolution No. 414 of the IABA, “Revised Measures for the Collection of Quotas Owed to the Institute”, which state that Member States must contribute to the financial support of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), in accordance with the calculation system for OAS quotas.

2.2.2.2 She reported that as at 31 December 2018, USD 27.6 million had been received, which was equivalent to 93.81 of the annual quota budget. As at July 15, 2019, 12 countries were up to date, 17 were in regular status (owing payments for two years or less) and 5 in arrears (owing payments for more than two years). She indicated that the amount to be collected for the year 2019 was USD 29.6 million, of which USD 19.4 million had been received to date.

2.2.2.3 She stressed that Resolution No. 414 of the IABA establishes that quotas for a specified year are considered past due if not paid before June 30 of that year, having determined this as a reasonable date for paying the annual fees that are due as of the first of January of each year. Finally, she requested the support of the Member States, asking that they make an effort to pay the quotas, which are essential for IICA to undertake its technical cooperation activities and to complete its work plan, for the benefit of the Member States.

2.2.3 Financial statements of the Institute for 2018 and Report of the external auditors

2.2.3.1 The Manager of the Financial Management Division reported that the financial statements had been prepared, audited and approved in strict compliance with generally accepted accounting principles in the United States (US GAAP). She presented the results of the external audit for 2018 that was undertaken by the company, Deloitte, which concluded that “(...) the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of IICA as of December 31, 2018 and 2017”.

- 2.2.3.2 She commented that the auditors had issued a qualified opinion on the financial statements for 2017, based on the following: a) some of the provisions for termination benefits required actuarial studies, and b) the valuation of quotas outstanding for more than one year.
- 2.2.4 Final Report of the Director General on Management Actions in Relation to the External Auditors' Qualified Opinion
- 2.2.4.1 The Manager of the Financial Management Division presented the Final Report of the Director General on Management Actions in Relation to the External Auditors' Qualified Opinion. She indicated that the auditors had acknowledged in their 2018 report that the Institute had corrected both situations during the year and that the financial statements for 2017 had been adjusted. Thus, IICA had received a clean opinion for its financial statements for the years ended 31 December of 2018 and 2017.
- 2.2.5 Twenty-fifth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)
- 2.2.5.1 The Chair offered apologies for the absence of Mr. Steve Rickrode and submitted for consideration of the meeting, the Twenty-fifth report of the ARC, which was available in electronic format, via the online information system of the Executive Committee. The report was accepted by the Executive Committee Members, who made no observations.
- 2.2.6 Election of a member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)
- 2.2.6.1 The Chair of the Executive Committee asked the Technical Secretary to explain the procedure for electing a member of the ARC.
- 2.2.6.2 The Technical Secretary explained that the Executive Committee must appoint a member of the ARC, given the fact that Mr. Steve Rickrode, of the United States of America, will end his duties as a member of the ARC on 31 December 2019. He advised that the candidates nominated for the position were Mr. Gustavo Pereira da Silva Filho of Brazil and Mrs. Kathy Buller of the United States of America.
- 2.2.6.3 The Legal Advisor explained the procedures established in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and of the ARC to elect members of the Committee. The member must be elected by secret ballot and must

receive a majority of the votes of the members of the Executive Committee. The representatives of Peru and St. Kitts and Nevis were appointed as tellers to oversee the voting process.

2.2.6.4 The Representative of Brazil mentioned that the curricula vitae of the candidates attested to the fact that they both had the necessary competence to serve as a member of the ARC. He stressed the importance of countries rotating membership on the ARC.

2.2.6.5 The Observer Representative of the United States of America and the Representative of Brazil both made presentations outlining the professional and technical experience of their candidates to the ARC, to provide the Executive Committee members with information in support of the election.

2.2.6.6 The secret ballot vote was held. At the end of the first round of voting, the Chair announced that Mr. Gustavo Pereira da Silva Filho of Brazil had been elected as a member of the ARC, having received eight votes.

2.2.6.7 The Chair thanked Mr. Steve Rickrode for his excellent work as a member of the ARC and congratulated Mr. Gustavo Pereira da Silva Filho on his election.

2.2.7 Analysis and comments

2.2.7.1 The Representative of Brazil and the Observer Representatives of Argentina and the United States of America commended the Institute for its efforts to bring about greater efficiency, rationality and austerity in the management of its financial resources. Moreover, the Representative of Brazil and the Observer Representative of Argentina indicated that their countries would make every effort to pay their quotas and to be up to date with their commitments to IICA.

2.3 Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies of IICA

2.3.1 2018 Annual Report

2.3.1.1 The Technical Secretary indicated that in May 2019 the Director General had sent to the Office of the Secretary General of the OAS the report outlining cooperation activities undertaken by the Institute in 2018, which had been

made available to the participants in the Executive Committee Meeting via the online information system.

- 2.3.1.2 He opened the floor to the representatives to make observations or to request clarification on the content of the report.
- 2.3.1.3 The Representative of Canada congratulated IICA for the prominence given to gender issues reflected in the report, recognizing that its acknowledgement of women's contribution to agriculture should be considered a milestone. She encouraged the Institute to continue to undertake actions to enable women to increase their participation in agroproduction chains. Moreover, she highlighted IICA's efforts to promote the adoption of science-based technical rules, such as Codex Alimentarius, as well as the leading role that IICA is seeking to play in driving innovation and technology in production, in collaboration with the private sector and the governments of Member States.
- 2.3.2 2018-2019 Report of the IABA Representative on CATIE's Governing Council and Board of Directors
- 2.3.2.1 The Technical Secretary indicated that participants at the 2013 IABA meeting had appointed Ecuador as the Board's representative on CATIE's Governing Council and Board of Directors for 2018-2020. However, the individual who was to have carried out this role had subsequently left her position at Ecuador's Ministry of Agriculture, and therefore had not attended the meetings of these CATIE bodies. Thus, the corresponding report was not presented. He added that the Government of Ecuador would appoint another person during the year, in order to fulfil the commitment that the country had made to IABA and to CATIE.
- 2.3.3 Report of the 2019 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)
- 2.3.3.1 The Technical Secretary explained that the report was sent to the Member States sitting on the SACMI on 29 May 2019, and that the information had been made available to the Executive Committee members via the online information system. He gave the representatives the opportunity to comment or to seek clarification on the content of the report.

- 2.3.3.2 The Observer Representative of the United States of America remarked that the SACMI meeting should facilitate greater participation by Member States. Both herself and the Representative of Mexico felt that although there was some progress made during the extensive online discussions this year, issues related to transmission and simultaneous interpretation had limited the success of the discussions. Thus, they urged the Director General to organize an in-person meeting of the Commission in 2020.
- 2.3.3.3 The Director General, while acknowledging the validity of the request, asked that he be allowed to assess the cost of holding an in-person meeting. He made an initial suggestion that in-person meetings could be held in years in which an IABA meeting was also scheduled to take place, given the importance of SACMI's input in preparing for meetings of the Institute's governing body.
- 2.3.3.4 The Technical Secretary pointed out that SACMI is an advisory body to the Director General, which according to its rules of procedure must meet at least once per year. He reminded participants that it was IICA's governing bodies that had taken the decision to conduct SACMI meetings online. He felt that, other than costs, other factors should be taken into account, given SACMI's role as an advisory body.
- 2.3.3.5 The Observer Representative of the United States of America indicated that she would convey this information to the relevant authorities in her country.
- 2.3.3.6 The Observer Representative of Mexico urged SACMI to keep in close dialogue with IICA and to make recommendations and observations. She asked that the transmission system used for the meetings be reviewed.
- 2.3.4 Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee and the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)
- 2.3.4.1 The Technical Secretary remarked that the reports on the status of the resolutions of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in 2017 and 2018 respectively, had been made available via the online information system, and he invited the representatives to ask questions or make observations.

- 2.3.4.2 He then referred specifically to Resolution No. 506 of the Executive Committee, related to the Statute of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA); to Resolution No. 572 of the Executive Committee, on IICA Cooperation with the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA); to Resolution No. 606 of the Executive Committee, which refers to the report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE); and to Resolution No. 624 of the Executive Committee, related to the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).
- 2.3.4.3 He explained that in these four cases it was stipulated that the organizations must prepare annual reports. In the case of CATIE, specifically, the organization is also required to submit annual financial reports to the Executive Committee and to the IABA. In all cases, the corresponding information had been uploaded to the online information system of the Executive Committee.
- 2.3.5 Incorporation of Countries that are not OAS Permanent Observers as IICA Permanent Observers
- 2.3.5.1 The Director General remarked that in its search for partnerships, IICA had approached the Ministry of Agriculture of New Zealand, which given its affinities and common interests, had expressed the country's desire to become a Permanent Observer of the Institute. However, there was no established precedent of a country that was not an OAS Permanent Observer becoming an IICA Permanent Observer, and thus he had decided to present the Executive Committee with a proposed regulation, prepared with the assistance of the Legal Advisor, to govern the incorporation of countries like New Zealand, that are not OAS Permanent Observers, as IICA Permanent Observers. He felt that countries like these offer tremendous investment possibilities for the Institute.
- 2.3.5.2 The Legal Advisor gave a thorough explanation of the regulations regarding IICA Permanent Observers. He referred to Working Document No. 698, "Incorporation of Countries that are not OAS Permanent Observers as IICA Permanent Observers". He then provided details on the proposed regulation, and on the required provisions and amendments that would have to be made to the Rules of Procedure of the IABA and of the Executive Committee.

- 2.3.5.3 The Representatives of Canada and St. Kitts and Nevis, as well as the Observer Representative of the United States of America, indicated that although they were supportive of the proposed regulation governing the incorporation of countries that are not OAS Permanent Observers as IICA Permanent Observers, they would require additional time to review the proposal.
- 2.3.5.4 The Director General agreed that more time would be needed to analyse the regulation. He then asked the Representatives what a reasonable time frame would be to respond to the proposal and in what manner it would be done.
- 2.3.5.5 The Technical Secretary explained that the deadline to present the document for consideration by the IABA is 30 days prior to the start of its meeting.
- 2.3.5.6 The Legal Advisor proposed August 31 as the deadline for representatives to send their comments via email, to allow time for the observations of the Member States to be incorporated into the proposal, and to enable it to be submitted at least 30 days prior to the Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – Inter-American Board of Agriculture 2019 (IABA).
- 2.3.5.7 The Chair asked the representatives to consider the motion of the Legal Advisor; the motion was then approved.
- 2.4 *Close of the session*
- 2.4.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA was adjourned at 16:10 hours on 16 July 2019.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 Opening of the session

3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 08:35 hours on 17 July 2019. It was chaired by the Representative of The Bahamas.

3.2 Inauguration of the Innovation Lab for Agriculture – Fab Lab

3.2.1 The Chair of the Executive Committee, accompanied by the Director General, invited Mr. Luis Adrián Salazar Solís, Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, and Mr. André Garnier Kruse, Minister for Coordination with the Private Sector of Costa Rica, to join them at the head table for the ceremony to inaugurate the Innovation Lab for Agriculture (*Fab Lab*).

3.2.2 The Director General said he was delighted to see the implementation of an innovation lab specializing in technology management. It marked a step toward the transformation of digital agriculture, as well as a means of delivering innovation services to the agriculture and rural sectors. He acknowledged and thanked the following Costa Rican institutions, whose efforts and collaboration had resulted in the successful creation of the lab: the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications (MICITT), the Telecommunications Authority (SUTEL), the National Telecommunications Fund (FONATEL) and the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICIT). He also thanked the IICA units that had been involved in the project.

3.2.3 He then noted that the strategy for achieving a digital Costa Rica was consistent with the Institute's own mission and strategic objectives aimed at assisting its Member States to make the transition toward Agriculture 4.0. In other words, to achieve smart, socially responsible agriculture that respects the environment, creates the conditions required for innovation, training and co-creation, and results in higher productivity and more jobs. Finally, he remarked that he was keen to see the initiative replicated in other regions of Costa Rica, and hopefully in other countries.

- 3.2.4 The Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica expressed his satisfaction at the joint effort of creating the *Fab Lab for Agriculture*. Concrete actions of this kind would permit Costa Rica to achieve an outcome that would benefit the country's agriculture sector, and motivate the countries to be creative in seeking solutions to the challenges faced by the most vulnerable rural populations in today's adverse conditions. He commented that the latest industrial revolution was geared to transforming people's cognitive capabilities, and Costa Rica could be a development hub for the fourth industrial revolution. To that end, he added, the Costa Rican Government was working to achieve the Costa Rica that would be celebrating its Bicentennial: a country with no military for seven decades, it would be carbon neutral, digitized and focused on people, transparency, and the improvement of competitiveness. He concluded his remarks by pointing out that joint efforts would boost the progress made and achieve more results.
- 3.2.5 The Chair of the Executive Committee, the Director General of IICA, and the Minister of Science, Technology and Telecommunications of Costa Rica, accompanied by the delegations participating in the Executive Committee, then inaugurated the *Fab Lab for Agriculture*, located on IICA's premises.
- 3.3 *Formalization of general cooperation agreements*
- 3.3.1 General agreement between the International Federation of Landscape Architects - Americas Region (IFLA-Americas) and IICA
- 3.3.1.1 Both IFLA President Mr. Ricardo Riveros and IFLA Commissioner for Central America and the Caribbean, Mr. Carlos Jankilevich, said they were delighted to be signing the agreement with the Institute. They explained that the objectives of the agreement were to strengthen dialogue, facilitate the planning of priority initiatives and generate areas of intervention that would help mitigate the impact of climate change, particularly in relation to issues such as landscape, sustainable communities, the halting of biodiversity loss, the promotion of regeneration, eco-environmental and social resilience, water and soils.
- 3.3.1.2 The Director General pointed out that the agreement would contribute to the ongoing process of renewal within IICA, since it would broaden the organization's vision to include work on the issue of productive landscapes, promote awareness of the benefits of balancing production with conservation

and conservation with production, in addition to coordinating actions on issues that were important for the region, such as resilience and biodiversity.

3.3.1.3 The representatives of the two organizations then proceeded to sign the general cooperation agreement between IFLA-Americas and the Institute.

3.3.2 Partnership agreement to promote controlled environment agriculture in the Americas and the use of blockchains for trade in food and raw materials under inclusive models, between Food Chain S. A. and IICA

3.3.2.1 Mr. David Proenza, the CEO of Food Chain S. A., thanked the Director General and the IICA Representative in Panama for the signing of the partnership agreement. The aim was to collaborate in the development and application of innovative technologies in the agrifood sector designed to help boost innovation in agriculture and trade. They included blockchain, vertical farm technology, and other types of controlled environment agriculture that contribute to agricultural development and rural well-being in IICA member countries.

3.3.2.2 Speaking via teleconference, scientist Gary Stutte of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) of the United States of America emphasized the importance of the agreement and gave an overview of his 25 years of experience in developing technologies and conducting experiments in sustainable space agriculture, applicable to vertical farming and controlled environment agriculture. He informed the meeting that NASA wished to expand its work in Latin America and the Caribbean to include other types of crops besides vegetables.

3.3.2.3 The Director General underscored the importance of controlled environment agriculture, which was a method of migrating agriculture from the countryside to the city, and promoting social responsibility in the process.

3.3.2.4 The partnership agreement between Food Chain S. A. and IICA was signed.

3.4 Reading and approval of draft resolutions

3.4.1 The Rapporteur proceeded to read out the draft resolution “Provisional Agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) 2019.”

- 3.4.2 The Representative of the United States of America acknowledged the effort that IICA was making to organize the next Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – Inter-American Board of Agriculture 2019. She suggested including in a third operative paragraph a reference to the drafting of a document setting out the results of the conference. She proposed the following wording: “To encourage the Director General to draft an outcome that contains concrete, actionable steps and results-based outcomes to promote sustainable, inclusive agriculture in the hemisphere.”
- 3.4.3 The Representative of Brazil seconded the proposal of the Observer Representative of the United States of America. He then suggested that IICA adopt document distribution systems similar to those used by the Group of 20 (G-20) or the BRICS group of countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), whereby the countries receive documents prior to meetings, so as to make maximum use of the time available.
- 3.4.4 The meeting agreed to make the change to the draft resolution “Provisional Agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) 2019”, for approval when the next set of draft resolutions was presented.
- 3.4.5 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Strategic Analysis of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”, which was approved as read.
- 3.4.6 The Rapporteur then read out the draft resolution, “2020-2021 Program Budget.”
- 3.4.7 The Observer Representative of Mexico suggested deleting the word “significantly” from operative paragraph No. 3., so that the text would read “Authorize the Director General to make transfers among chapters of the Program Budget, provided that the total transfers do not affect the priorities approved.”
- 3.4.8 The Representative of Brazil requested information about the mechanism used to establish the quota scale in effect for the Member States, and asked whether in future it could be made more proportional.

- 3.4.9 The Chair asked the meeting to approve the amendment proposed by the Observer Representative of Mexico, which it did. He also gave the floor to the Legal Adviser, asking him to respond to the comment made by the Representative of Brazil.
- 3.4.10 The Legal Adviser explained that, since the Institute was created in 1942, the quotas of the Member States had been determined based on the scale approved by the Organization of American States (OAS). At times there had been disparities in the amounts, which the Member States had accepted. He concluded his remarks by reminding the meeting that one of purposes of the draft resolution under discussion was to recommend that the IABA approve the quotas assigned for the 2020-2021 biennium, as the final decision rested with that governing body.
- 3.4.11 The draft resolution, “2020-2021 Program Budget” was approved with the change suggested by the Observer Representative of Mexico.
- 3.4.12 The Rapporteur then read out the following draft resolutions: “Report on the collection of quotas,” “2018 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Report of the External Auditors, and Twenty-fifth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),” “Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),” “Recognition of the contribution made by Mr. Steve Rickrode as a member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),” and “2018 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”. All were approved as read.
- 3.4.13 The Rapporteur proceeded to read out the draft resolution “Report of the 2019 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI).”
- 3.4.14 The observer representatives of the United States of America and Mexico proposed holding an on-site meeting of the SACMI in 2020, for which they requested that a second operative paragraph be included in the resolution, worded as follows: “Urge the Director General to consider convening a face to face meeting of the SACMI in 2020, taking into account the benefits and costs of this important member engagement.”

- 3.4.15 The meeting agreed to amend the draft resolution “Report of the 2019 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)” and present it for approval with the next set of draft resolutions.
- 3.4.16 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Status of the Resolutions of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”, which was approved as read.
- 3.5 *Relations between IICA and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)*
- 3.5.1 Biennial report of CATIE for 2017-2018
- 3.5.1.1 The Director General of CATIE began his report by highlighting the pillars of the Center’s work: education, research, and external projection. He informed the meeting that 66 students from 20 countries had graduated in 2018, with 50% of them being women. He noted that in the period 2017-2018, the total amount contributed in the form of scholarships was USD 1,206,937.
- 3.5.1.2 He then referred to the results for the biennium in each of the strategic areas of research. He mentioned that in the area of economic development and environment, the work had focused on resilient livelihoods and inclusive, green value chains, particularly in relation to cacao, coffee, fruit and vegetable chains.
- 3.5.1.3 He highlighted the use of information technology tools to facilitate climate change adaptation by local water management institutions in areas of Central America where water supplies were inadequate. He pointed out that in the area of agriculture, stock farming and agroforestry, actions had focused on the coffee and cacao chains and sustainable livestock production.
- 3.5.1.4 He detailed CATIE’s ongoing projects, which included the following: Adaptation of Agriculture to Climate Change through Water Collection; Expansion of Ecosystem-based Adaptation Measures in the Rural Areas of Latin America; Intensification of Sustainability: Advantages and Disadvantages in Coffee in Central America; Chocolate4All; and

Ecologization of the Cattle Value Chain in Belize, in the amount of USD 700,000 financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

3.5.1.5 The Director General of CATIE then turned to financial matters. With a current budget of USD 23 million, the Center needed to consider implementing a new business model that would enable CATIE to maintain its financial sustainability.

3.5.1.6 He pointed out that IICA had contributed USD 938,100 to the Center in 2018, funds that had been used to cover the costs of technical, administrative and operating personnel for research and development. He then mentioned the most important actions carried out jointly with the Institute, which included the following: a work plan on administrative cooperation issues, focused on cacao, coffee, forests, climate change, water, and the rural economy; the Central American Program for the Comprehensive Management of Coffee Rust (PROCAGICA); the establishment of plots for the integrated management of coffee and new varieties; the training of technical personnel in practices for the improvement of coffee systems; the implementation of the INNOVA project; participation in the DESIRA project on innovative agroforestry systems to be used by small farmers in communities along the Central American Dry Corridor; and the training of suppliers of agricultural goods and services.

3.5.2 Analysis and comments

3.5.2.1 The Chair of the Executive Committee asked if there were any comments or questions from the floor concerning the presentation of CATIE's biennial report for 2017-2018. As there were none, the Chair moved on to the next item on the agenda.

3.6 Strategic proposal for the future of CATIE

3.6.1 Mr. Martín Piñero, Special Adviser to the Director General and Coordinator of the *Ad Hoc* Working Group, presented the proposal prepared jointly by IICA, CATIE and the Government of Costa Rica in response to IABA Resolution No. 507, in which the directors general of the Institute and the Center were tasked with "preparing a "strategic proposal" for the future of CATIE that details scenarios and alternatives for restructuring and strengthening the Center's organizational, scientific, academic and financial

frameworks, as well as its legal basis.” He explained that the proposal included an assessment of the situation and a work plan covering four areas: institutional, technical, financial and governance issues.

- 3.6.2 First, Piñeiro mentioned that the assessment described how the two institutions, which had been created together and had different yet complementary mandates, had gradually lost their synergy and complementarity.
- 3.6.3 He remarked that it had been confirmed that, despite CATIE’s efforts to resolve its financial difficulties, the changes in international funding meant that its sustainability was potentially not viable in the long run. He then suggested that the solution for the Center was to operate at the inter-American level, an approach that would allow it to forge a new partnership with IICA and implement a strategy aimed at strengthening both institutions, for the benefit of the member countries.
- 3.6.4 Turning to institutional considerations, he explained that recommendations 1 and 2 made in the proposal contained in working document No. 697 reaffirmed the original mandates of both institutions and identified ways of increasing the collaboration and synergy between them. He added that the purpose of recommendations 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 in the document in question was, on the one hand, to boost the research work in order to provide the knowledge and technologies needed to promote the technological and productive development of the tropical regions of the Americas and, on the other, to simplify and program educational activities on a reasonable scale, in terms of the Center’s capabilities and specialization.
- 3.6.5 With respect to CATIE’s financial strategy, the Special Adviser to the Director General pointed out that in recommendations 11 and 12 of the working document, it was proposed that a strategy be adopted to make better use of the resources available, including the sale of land not being used for research and training that was very valuable because of its proximity to the town and hospital of Turrialba, but which could be at risk from squatters. He added that the resources obtained from such a sale would be deposited in an IICA trust fund that would generate annual dividends to be used to fund research agreed upon by the two institutions, thus cementing the partnership.

- 3.6.6 With respect to the simplification and improvement of the Center’s governance, he commented that recommendations 13 and 14 of the working document proposed, in the first instance, that CATIE’s Governing Council be abolished, since the Center currently has three governing bodies (the Board of Directors, the Governing Council and the IABA). Given that, as far as governance was concerned, this was unsuitable for an institution the size of CATIE. In the second instance, the Board of Directors of the Center, whose chair would be appointed by the IABA, would be strengthened. He added that the number of Board members would be reduced from 13 to 10, and that the body would assume some of the responsibilities of the Governing Council, including the appointment of the Director General of CATIE by means of a simplified election mechanism. He explained that, in order to implement the proposed strategy, it was also recommended in the working document (Recommendation 15) that the Director General of IICA, in consultation with the Director General of CATIE, prepare and present to the next meeting of the IABA a comprehensive proposal for the development of the concept of the “IABA Group.”
- 3.6.7 Finally, he noted that it was also recommended in the working document (Recommendation 16) that the two directors general, in consultation with the Government of Costa Rica, create a commission for the institutional development of CATIE and task it with devising and implementing a plan of action for the strengthening of CATIE and its relationship with IICA.
- 3.6.8 Analysis and comments
- 3.6.8.1 The Observer Representative of Mexico expressed her appreciation for the report that had been presented and her satisfaction with the recommendations made in it. She asked for further clarification of recommendations 12 and 13 in the working document.
- 3.6.8.2 The Representative of Canada acknowledged the technical and scientific value of IICA and CATIE. She asked whether the Executive Committee was expected to approve the inclusion of the matter on the agenda of the next meeting of the IABA, or the recommendations presented in the proposal. She was interested in analyzing in depth the financial implications for both institutions, if the recommendations presented to the plenary were to be approved.

- 3.6.8.3 The Representative of Brazil felt that the recommendations presented would help rationalize and maximize the resources of the two institutions. He added that the proposed changes to the governance of CATIE would make for greater administrative transparency and facilitate accountability processes. He asked for further explanation of what was being suggested in Recommendation 13 of the working document with respect to the election of the members of the Board of Directors, specifically as regards their being members of the international scientific community and citizens of countries beyond the Americas.
- 3.6.8.4 The Observer Representative of the United States of America asked about the implications of the approval of the recommendations for Law 8028 of the Republic of Costa Rica, which currently provided the framework for the contract on CATIE signed between the government of that country and IICA. He added that, in addition to the financial benefits for the Center, the benefits for the Institute should be specified. Finally, he recommended that the implications of the new proposed system of governance for CATIE be made clearer.
- 3.6.8.5 The Chair of the meeting asked the Technical Secretary to provide more information. The latter explained that in October 2017 the IABA had adopted Resolution No. 507. in which it requested that the directors general of IICA and CATIE, with the participation of the Government of Costa Rica, set up an *ad hoc* working group tasked with “preparing a strategic proposal for the future of CATIE that details scenarios and alternatives for restructuring and strengthening the Center’s organizational, scientific, academic and financial frameworks, as well as its legal basis.” He explained that the Executive Committee had a number of alternatives. It could: a) approve the recommendations presented; b) include new recommendations and/or amend the current ones; and c) ask the institutions to prepare a plan that included the changes requested and submit a final proposal to the next meeting of the IABA. He added that the contract on CATIE would be renewed in 2020, but that did not rule out the parties proposing changes to Law 8028 of the Republic of Costa Rica on which there was agreement.
- 3.6.8.6 The IICA Director General emphasized that the current scenario, in which the two directors had been working together closely, was the best way to set about a thorough restructuring of CATIE and promote greater synergy between the Institute and the Center. Since there were unlikely to be such

favorable conditions for creating a partnership involving research, education and technical cooperation in the future, it was important to take advantage of those conditions.

- 3.6.8.7 The Special Adviser to the Director General explained that the proposal involved no financial implications for IICA and the monies obtained from the sale of the land would be used to set up a trust fund for financing research on subjects agreed by the two institutions. He pointed out that the plan was to include representatives of the Institute's five regions on CATIE's Board of Directors, making it a hemispheric organization once again, and to contribute to the tropical regions of all the countries. He added that the Governing Council's responsibilities with respect to the provision of guidelines for the Center's technical work would be transferred to the Board of Directors, while policymaking decisions would rest with the IABA.
- 3.6.8.8 The Deputy Director General of IICA explained that the international experts whom it was proposed become members of the Board of Directors could be from countries in the Americas, and not necessarily from other continents. He noted that the objective was to have high-level experts on technical and corporate matters.
- 3.6.8.9 The Chair of the Executive Committee suggested reading aloud each of the recommendations presented by the Special Adviser to the Director General of the Institute, in order to approve them one by one.
- 3.6.8.10 The Observer Representative of Argentina congratulated the *Ad Hoc* Working Group that had prepared the proposal, which would break the vicious cycle of relations between the two institutions. He seconded the Chair's suggestion that each recommendation be reviewed separately.
- 3.6.8.11 The Technical Secretary read out Recommendation 1 of working document No. 697 containing the strategic proposal for the future of CATIE: "That each institution focus its activities on the substantive core elements of its respective institutional mandate. In this way, CATIE, as an institution that generates knowledge, technologies, and innovations, could, as part of its work, contribute to and provide input for IICA's programs. For its part, IICA, in carrying out its institutional mandate of providing technical cooperation to the countries, could integrate CATIE into its work as an important source of

knowledge, technologies, and innovations for processes aimed at establishing public policies and the institutional framework required for development.”

3.6.8.12 The Observer Representative of the United States of America commented that the recommendation reflected the opinion of his country’s Department of Agriculture with regard to the matter, but the difficulty lay in implementing it in such a way as to separate the application of knowhow in the field from the delivery of technical cooperation.

3.6.8.13 The Technical Secretary then read out recommendations 2 through 7 of the working document, which were approved by the delegations sitting on the Executive Committee:

“That CATIE sign an agreement with IICA to use the latter’s offices as a focal point and center of operations for carrying out its activities and programs. The two institutions could integrate, coordinate and implement many of these actions together.

“Reaffirm that CATIE’s mission is to contribute, through research and education, to the sustainable development of agricultural production and natural resource conservation in the tropical agriculture regions of the continent.”

“That CATIE, as part of the preparation of its new strategic plan, evaluate its research program and, in the immediate future, consider giving the following two overarching areas of research a high priority: a) Development of the production and sustainability of the main agricultural activities in the tropical regions in which CATIE has developed capabilities and has demonstrated experience: cacao and coffee cultivation, silvopasture systems for livestock, and cultivated forests. The work in these areas should maintain a systemic vision and seek to make further progress with the links of scale-up and value-added. b) Protection and sustainable management of natural forests, soils, and water resources in tropical agriculture regions.”

“CATIE’s educational activities are an essential, core element of its institutional projection at the international level. The Working Group therefore recommends that CATIE be strengthened as an international educational center specializing in sustainable production and natural resource conservation in tropical agriculture regions, and that it promote itself as an

important provider of these educational services among other regions of the world.”

“The Doctoral Program should be viewed as an objective that needs to be developed and consolidated in the medium term, based on the lessons learned and experience acquired thus far. The Working Group considers that the human resources currently available at CATIE to assume this responsibility, especially full-time staff with doctorates, are limited and insufficient. Therefore, CATIE should immediately focus efforts on maintaining and expanding its agreements with eligible public and private universities and international research centers, in which it should be stipulated that dissertations will be prepared at CATIE.”

“The academically oriented Master’s Degree Program should be reviewed, modified where necessary, strengthened, and serve as the main focal point of CATIE’s educational activities. It is felt there are too many master’s degrees courses with different orientations, which is bound to affect their depth and originality, and the dedication of professors to their teaching activities. Institutional efforts could be focused on a smaller number of master’s degrees, drawing and building on the strengths of CATIE’s research programs, to achieve the greatest possible synergy between research, technology, and education.”

- 3.6.8.14 The Technical Secretary then read out Recommendation 8 of the working document: “CATIE should not offer new graduate education and training opportunities without first ascertaining, based on substantive evidence, that there is interest in, and demand for, such opportunities. This would avoid short-lived programs being created that only weaken the institution and contribute little to its academic image and positioning.”
- 3.6.8.15 The Chair of the Executive Committee, in his capacity as the Representative of Bahamas, proposed deleting Recommendation 8, as it was implicit in Recommendation 7. His proposal was accepted and the amendment would be reflected in the Annex of the draft resolution on the subject that was to be discussed.
- 3.6.8.16 The Technical Secretary proceeded to read out Recommendation 9 of the working document: “Virtual education activities should aim to achieve an educational objective based on clear, verifiable evidence of the need,

relevance, and real demand for support for human resources training in the region. In some instances, CATIE could collaborate with IICA in order to use its operating platform.”

- 3.6.8.17 The Observer Representative of the United States of America proposed replacing “human resources training in the region” with “technical training in agriculture in the region,” and his proposal was accepted.
- 3.6.8.18 The representatives of Costa Rica and Honduras and the Observer Representative of Mexico suggested focusing on the discussion of the specific aspects about which the representatives wished to comment, instead of reading out the entire text of each recommendation.
- 3.6.8.19 The Representative of Costa Rica pointed out that the recommendations were to be implemented under CATIE’s strategic plan, which was in preparation.
- 3.6.8.20 The Observer Representative of Mexico emphasized that the proposal was extremely useful and felt that the question of the selling-off of land and the governance of CATIE should be reviewed.
- 3.6.8.21 The Representative of Honduras urged the Executive Committee to approve as many recommendations as possible, and submit to the consideration of the IABA only those aspects about which it had doubts or that required changes.
- 3.6.8.22 The Chair opened the floor for comments on the question of the sale of land and, in his capacity as the Representative of The Bahamas, asked whether alternatives to the sale of land had been considered, such as the development of the land under a public-private partnership. He also proposed amending Recommendation 11, replacing the word “sale” with “sale and lease.”
- 3.6.8.23 The Special Adviser to the Director General clarified that, once IICA’s governing bodies had given their approval, the different options for making the best use of the land would be analyzed.
- 3.6.8.24 The Representative of Brazil expressed his support for the approval procedure proposed by the Chair in order to do as much work on the subject as possible before referring it to the IABA. He asked about Recommendation 13 of the working document, specifically point b, which dealt with the representative distribution of the members of the Board of Directors.

- 3.6.8.25 The Observer Representative of the United States of America requested clarification about ownership of the land mentioned in Recommendation 11 of the working document.
- 3.6.8.26 The Representative of Costa Rica replied that CATIE had purchased other land in addition to the land held in usufruct, and it was to that land to which the fifth action in Recommendation 11 referred.
- 3.6.8.27 The Legal Adviser gave a historical overview of the land owned by IICA that CATIE held in usufruct. He stressed the importance of the Executive Committee giving the Director General of the Institute the go-ahead to begin the process of analyzing what could be done with the land under Costa Rican legislation. He clarified that it would be up to the IABA to make the final decision.
- 3.6.8.28 The Director General of CATIE informed the meeting that an external evaluation of the Center had been carried out a year earlier, and the recommendations made in the proposal were based on that evaluation. He emphasized that the proposal under discussion would make it possible to improve the joint work of the Institute and CATIE, thus fostering the long-term development of the region without efforts being dependent on the goodwill of the directors general. He suggested embarking on the process, making gradual progress and reporting back regularly on the advances achieved.
- 3.6.8.29 The Representative of Canada insisted on the need for more information about the proposal's possible financial impact on IICA. She said she endorsed the recommendations, but not the possible financial consequences.
- 3.6.8.30 The Observer Representative of the United States of America requested further information about the structure of the proposed trust fund. He also suggested that CATIE and IICA analyze the current responsibilities of the Governing Council and indicate which ones would rest with the Institute's governing bodies. It would be useful to make that information available to the countries before the meeting of the IABA. Finally, with regard to the leasing of land, he suggested harnessing it for agricultural development and thus retain ownership of it.

- 3.6.8.31 Finally, the Representative of Brazil stated that he would be submitting a suggested alternative wording of point b of Recommendation 13 in the working document, to ensure that the CATIE Board of Directors included members from IICA's five regions.
- 3.6.8.32 The Special Adviser to the Director General pointed out that the sale or leasing of the land was a matter that the Executive Committee could approve in principle, and the Director General would continue to work on the proposal before presenting it to the next meeting of the IABA. He stressed, however, that the IABA would have the final word.
- 3.6.8.33 The Chair stated that all the proposed amendments to the recommendations had been noted, and appropriate action would be taken.
- 3.7 *Relations between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)*
- 3.7.1 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for 2018-2019
- 3.7.1.1 Mr. Gregory Robin, Manager of Science, Technology and Innovation at the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), remarked that the links between IICA and CARDI dated back more than 20 years, throughout which time interinstitutional ties had been strengthened and technical cooperation actions in the Caribbean had become more strategic and broader in scope. During the period 2015-2018, CARDI had implemented 16 projects in priority areas, focused on herbs and spices, small ruminants, climate change, institution building, germplasm management, and rehabilitation and resilience in response to the impact of hurricanes, among other subjects.
- 3.7.1.2 Robin commented that the partnership with IICA was among those that had yielded the best results for CARDI, since it had enabled it to enhance the implementation of its technical actions and increase its number of partners through new partnerships established in collaboration with IICA. He cited as examples the partnerships with the Cooperative Program for Research and Technology in the Northern Region (PROCINORTE), the International Potato Center (CIP), as well as CARDI's participation, in coordination with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), in various technical groups,

including the Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Cluster (AFNC), the commodity working groups and the Regional Coconut Commodity Innovation Platform.

- 3.7.1.3 He proposed that CARDI continue to work closely with IICA in addressing the challenges currently facing the agriculture sector in the Caribbean region. Finally, he mentioned the priority topics for joint work: development of the roots and tubers value chain, coconut growing, genetic resource management for crops and small ruminants, the use of big data in agriculture, food security, nutrition, competitiveness, youth and gender, climate change, resource mobilization, inclusion and equity, information and communication technologies (ICT) and financial sustainability.
- 3.7.2 Report on joint collaboration activities between IICA and CARDI
- 3.7.2.1 The Technical Adviser to IICA's Directorate of Technical Cooperation pointed out that the collaboration between IICA and CARDI was framed within a general agreement that would expire in 2021.
- 3.7.2.2 He mentioned that the main areas of work of this partnership were the strengthening of governance mechanisms and project management; collaboration and joint action between IICA and CARDI professionals and units in the implementation of projects, improved procedures and systems to strengthen the monitoring of actions and accountability regarding the resources used; and the adoption of the results-based management framework for the planning and implementation of projects, through direct technical cooperation, institutional capacity building and the mobilization of external resources.
- 3.7.2.3 He remarked that IICA would continue to build bridges between CARDI and specialized research centers in the Americas, to facilitate the implementation of horizontal cooperation initiatives that would enable CARDI to acquire and adopt knowledge generated by research centers, universities and other institutions, and transfer it to the Caribbean countries.
- 3.7.2.4 The Chair of the Executive Committee asked whether the representatives had any observations regarding the presentation on the biennial report of CARDI for 2018-2019, which was approved without comments.

3.8 *Date and venue of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee*

3.8.1 The Technical Secretary explained that, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, it was necessary to establish the date and venue of the Committee's next regular meeting. Since no member country had made a written offer to host the meeting, it would be held at IICA Headquarters during the second half of 2020.

3.9 *Reading and approval of draft resolutions*

3.9.1 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions pending approval: "Provisional Agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas - Inter-American Board of Agriculture 2019 (IABA)" and the "Report of the 2019 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)," incorporating the amendments suggested by the observer representatives of the United States of America and Mexico. The two draft resolutions were approved with the changes that had been suggested.

3.9.2 The Rapporteur proceeded to read out four more draft resolutions: "Strengthening of the Strategic Alliances of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)", "Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2017-2018", "Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for 2018-2019" and "Date and Venue of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee." All were approved as read.

3.9.3 The Rapporteur then read out the draft resolution, "Strategy for the Future of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)."

3.9.4 In his capacity as the Representative of The Bahamas, the Chair proposed amending the fifth complementary action of Recommendation 11 of the Annex to the draft resolution to read: "draw up a plan for dealing with land owned by CATIE, that includes, among other possibilities, sale or lease (...)"

3.9.5 The Representative of Brazil requested that the wording of point b. of Recommendation 12 of the Annex to the draft resolution be amended, so as

to read: “Five members would be selected from among IICA’s member countries.”

- 3.9.6 The Representative of Canada proposed amending operative paragraph 2, so that it read: “(...) and to task the directors general of IICA and CATIE with developing an implementation plan (...)”
- 3.9.7 The Observer Representative of Mexico referred to Brazil’s proposal, noting that the five members of the Board of Directors alluded to in the original proposal would be selected from among CATIE’s member countries, since they contributed a second quota, in addition to the one they paid to IICA. In this regard, she asked for clarification from the Special Adviser to the Director General.
- 3.9.8 The Special Adviser to the Director General explained that what the Observer Representative of Mexico had said was correct, since it was a recommendation made by the *ad hoc* group, but that what the Representative of Brazil had proposed was reasonable, since the idea was that the Center should have a hemispheric vision.
- 3.9.9 The Observer Representative of Mexico, speaking from her country’s standpoint as a member of CATIE, asked about the additional benefit of being a member of the Center, since her country would no longer be represented on the Board of Directors or the Governing Council, and thus would cease to have a direct relationship with CATIE, which she felt was a disadvantage. She added that the countries that were members of IICA alone would enjoy the same benefits. In this regard, she urged the other members of the Center to study the proposal.
- 3.9.10 The Chair wondered whether the proposal could be broadened to allow countries in the hemisphere that were not members of CATIE to sit on its Board of Directors.
- 3.9.11 The Legal Adviser submitted to the meeting’s consideration the proposal that the number of members of the Center’s Board of Directors be increased to twelve, adding two positions for IICA member countries that were not currently members of the Board. He added that those two positions would be rotated among the Institute’s five regions. That would ensure greater IICA representation on CATIE’s Board of Directors.

- 3.9.12 The Observer Representative of Nicaragua underscored the importance of strengthening the relationship between the Institute and CATIE, based on greater collaboration and complementarity in the execution of joint plans involving the two organizations and the support of the countries. He argued that the seven members from Central America should continue to sit on the Board of Directors.
- 3.9.13 The Observer Representative of the United States of America suggested including a seat on the Board for a country serving in an observer capacity, and highlighted the participation of experts in the field. He asked whether the rotation criteria were consistent with those established in the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, and reminded the meeting that the IABA had the power to approve changes in the structures of the governing bodies of IICA and CATIE.
- 3.9.14 The Legal Adviser summed up the proposals as follows: a) increase the number of members of the Board of Directors to twelve (an additional two members would be elected to serve for a period of two years on a rotating basis, chosen from among four IICA regions, as the rotation would not apply to the Central Region); b) create a further two seats on the Board of Directors, maintaining two positions for the current members and leaving four posts free for the countries that wished to participate; c) select five members from among the Institute's member countries; and d) maintain the current number of members of the Board of Directors, i.e., make no change. He added that option a) was the one recommended, as it reflected the comments of most of the Member States sitting on the Executive Committee.
- 3.9.15 With regard to the comments of the Observer Representative of the United States of America, he explained that any country granted a seat in an observer capacity would have the right to speak, but not to vote. He clarified that the new Board of Directors would have its own rules, which would have to be approved by the IABA, and explained the process of institutional approval that would have to be followed to set up the Board of Directors.
- 3.9.16 Based on the Member States' comments, IICA's Deputy Director General proposed the following: a) the *ex officio* members would be one representative of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, one representative of the IICA Director General and one representative of the IABA, designated by the IABA itself from among the non-CATIE member

countries; and b) the other seven members, designated in a personal capacity, would be members of the scientific community specializing in agriculture and natural resources. Five of the seven would be chosen from among CATIE member countries, while the other two would be members of the international scientific community who were citizens of countries beyond the Americas. The Board of Directors' duties and responsibilities would be those of the present Board, plus those of the current Governing Council.

3.9.17 The Chair submitted the Deputy Director General's suggestion to the consideration of the members of the Committee, and it was duly accepted. Once the changes had been made to the draft resolution "Strategy for the future of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)," it was approved.

3.10 Close of the session

3.10.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of IICA's Executive Committee was adjourned at 15:15 hours on 17 July 2019.

CLOSING SESSION

4.1 Opening of the session

4.1.1 The closing session of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 15:15 hours on 17 July 2019, with the Representative of The Bahamas in the chair.

4.2 Final comments

4.2.1 The Chair opened the floor for final comments. He thanked IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica for their hospitality during the meeting.

4.2.2 The representatives of Panama, Uruguay, Canada, Chile, Honduras, Nicaragua and Argentina expressed their appreciation to the Director General and the staff of the Institute for their excellent work during the meeting.

4.2.3 The Representative of Saint Kitts and Nevis congratulated the Director General on his efforts to reduce costs by making greater use of technology, mobilize resources for the Caribbean countries and forge new strategic alliances.

4.2.4 The Representative of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines underscored the expeditious management of the meeting and expressed hope that IICA's relations with CATIE and CARDI would continue to be strengthened.

4.2.5 The Representative of Brazil congratulated the Chair on his efficient running of the meeting; thanked Institute's staff for their helpfulness during both the sessions of the Executive Committee and the parallel meetings; and announced that Brazil had recently taken over the Chair of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR).

4.2.6 The Representative of Mexico congratulated IICA on the successful organization of the meeting and underscored the importance of implementing new initiatives, such as *Fab Lab*, and signing new agreements that benefited the Institute.

- 4.2.7 The Observer Representative of the United States of America congratulated the Director General and the staff of IICA for their work during the meeting. She underlined the importance of the results achieved at the meeting being placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the IABA, and reiterated her country's readiness to support sustainable initiatives.
- 4.2.8 Finally, the Rapporteur, in his capacity as the Representative of Costa Rica, thanked the countries for their comments and congratulated the Director General and the staff of the Institute for their efforts. He also acknowledged IICA's ongoing efforts to promote austerity and strengthen the joint work with other organizations.
- 4.3 Remarks by the Director General of IICA
- 4.3.1 The Director General thanked the representatives of the member countries for taking part in the discussions on the business on the agenda. They had taken the lead and been the protagonists of the meeting, which demonstrated their support for IICA. He said that it was up to the Institute to carry out the decisions of its decision-making bodies and continue to strengthen the joint work with CATIE, to build a more synergistic relationship.
- 4.3.2 He invited all the representatives to participate in the next meeting of the IABA, scheduled to begin on 29 October next. He thanked the Government of Costa Rica and congratulated the Chair for his successful handling of the meeting, and the IICA support team for its efforts.
- 4.3.3 Finally, he thanked the participants in the meeting, the member countries and non-member countries, permanent observers and other guests, as well as the Institute's support team and officials, whose dedication had ensured the success of the meeting.
- 4.4 Close of the meeting
- 4.4.1 The closing session of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 16:15 hours on 17 July 2019.

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IICA/CE/Res. 643 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 643

**2018 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 699 (19), “2018 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”;

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.f of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of IICA is to receive, analyze and approve the annual report on the activities of the General Directorate and take appropriate action;

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2018 Annual Report of the Institute, which was presented to the General Secretariat of the Organization of American States (OAS) in due time and form;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by IICA in 2018 for the purpose of implementing the cooperation agendas of the Institute at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, within the framework of IICA’s 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP);

That the Representative of the Institute in each of its 34 member countries presented to the national authorities the respective report on the cooperation that IICA provided to the country in 2018; and

That the Annual Report for 2018 is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute's website (www.iica.int),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2018 Annual Report of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 644 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 644

**STRATEGIC ANALYSIS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation of the “Report on Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 506 (XIX-O/17): Strategic Analysis of IICA”, and

Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 506 (XIX-O/17), “Strategic Analysis of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)”,

CONSIDERING:

The Institute’s need to identify new financial and administrative modalities that would enable it to effectively address the challenges facing the agri-food sector and the cooperation needs of its Member States;

That, pursuant to its 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP), IICA will continue to develop and optimize processes focusing on continuous improvement, rationality, accountability and transparency in order to facilitate the provision of technical cooperation of excellence with measurable and verifiable results;

That the experience gained throughout the years and important advances in information and communication technologies and in management will allow for strengthening the Institute and streamlining its internal processes; and

That the Director General has presented a report on the measures adopted by his Administration to enhance IICA’s effectiveness in the delivery of technical cooperation results as well as its operational efficiency, through the implementation of a process culture and the administrative restructuring of its units,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the “Report on Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 506 (XIX-O/17): Strategic Analysis of IICA”.
2. To urge the Member States to support the efforts undertaken by the Director General to improve strategic processes geared toward institutional modernization, thereby enabling the Institute to provide the countries with technical cooperation of excellence that contributes to the achievement of competitive, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development in the Americas.

IICA/CE/Res. 645 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 645

**STRENGTHENING OF THE STRATEGIC ALLIANCES
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON
AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The formalization, within the framework of the Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, of general cooperation agreements between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and Fundación Carolina, the Iberoamerican University Foundation (FUNIBER), the International Federation of Landscape Architects – Americas Region (IFLA Americas) and Food Chain S. A. for the benefit of the countries of the Americas,

CONSIDERING:

That the Institute's 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) includes strategies to strengthen the Institute's capacities through the development of strategic alliances with similar institutions; and

That strategic alliances with organizations with similar functions and objectives to IICA are extremely valuable, as a means of a) conducting complementary activities with institutions that specialize in research and knowledge-creation; b) driving thematic complementarity with organizations that specialize in a variety of issues related to agriculture and rural life; c) carrying out joint activities; and d) promoting the management of externally-funded cooperation projects,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Director General and the different strategic partners for their efforts in formalizing cooperation agreements with the Institute, in order

to strengthen and bolster international technical cooperation for the benefit of agriculture and the rural territories of the Americas.

2. To urge the Member States to support and promote joint actions that result in new strategic alliances for IICA, in their respective countries and with regional integration mechanisms.

IICA/CE/Res. 646 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 646**REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 692 (19), “Status of the Collection of Quota Contributions”,

CONSIDERING:

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

That, thanks to the measures adopted, the goodwill of the ministers of agriculture and other authorities in the Member States, as well as the efforts of the General Directorate, it has been possible to reduce considerably the total amount of quotas owed to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and

That the above has facilitated the implementation of the programs and projects included in the cooperation strategies established in the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) of IICA at the national, regional and hemispheric levels,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the ministers of agriculture and foreign affairs, as well as other high-level government officials in IICA’s Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.
2. To acknowledge the importance of maintaining in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage

IICA's Member States to make their annual quota payments in a timely fashion and to pay arrears for previous years.

3. To instruct the Director General to: a) continue efforts to collect the quotas for 2019 and those owed for previous years; and b) keep IICA's Member States informed of progress in this area.
4. To urge the Member States to remain current with the payment of their quotas to IICA, and those that are in arrears, to follow through with the plans agreed upon to meet their financial obligations to the Institute.

IICA/CE/Res. 647 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 647

**2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL
AUDITORS AND TWENTY-FIFTH REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW
COMMITTEE (ARC)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Documents IICA/CE/Doc. 693 (19), “2018 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors”; IICA/CE/Doc. 694 (19), “Twenty-fifth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”; and IICA/CE/Doc. 695 (19), “Final Report of the Director General on Management Actions in Relation to the External Auditors’ Qualified Opinion”,

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.d of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that it is the responsibility of this governing body of IICA to “examine the financial status of the Institute, and upon the Board’s request or when a decision by the Board is required under the Convention, to send the corresponding report and recommendations to the Board”;

That, at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 231 (VII-O/93), created the ARC and approved its Statute;

That, pursuant to Article 3.k of its Rules of Procedure, the Executive Committee is responsible for receiving and approving the ARC’s reports and making a determination on their recommendations;

That, in its Twenty-fifth Report, the ARC states that it examined the report of the external auditors on IICA’s financial statements for the 2018 fiscal year and found

the work performed to be satisfactory and in accordance with the rules of the Institute and international auditing standards;

That, at its Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 634 (XXXVIII-O/18), instructed the Director General of IICA to present a written report on the efforts undertaken by the Administration to address the basis for the qualified opinion of the external auditors; and

That, as a follow-up to Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 634 (XXXVIII-O/18), the Director General presented to the Executive Committee a report on actions carried out by the Administration in relation to the qualified opinion of the external auditors,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2018 financial statements of the Institute and the report of the external auditors, and to instruct the Director General of IICA to submit them to the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
2. To approve the report of the Director General on management actions in relation to the external auditors' qualified opinion for the 2018 fiscal year.
3. To approve the Twenty-fifth Report of the ARC and instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations contained therein.
4. To thank the members of the ARC for the work accomplished.

IICA/CE/Res. 648 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 648

ELECTION OF A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 696 (19), “Election of a Member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)”,

CONSIDERING:

That it is a function of the Executive Committee to elect the members of the ARC, pursuant to Article 3.k of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Article III of the Statute of the ARC;

That the ARC Statute stipulates that at least one of the three members of the ARC shall be elected from among the candidates proposed by the Member States that are the six largest contributors to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); another member shall be elected from among the candidates nominated by all the other Member States; and the third shall be elected from among the candidates nominated by all the Member States;

That the term of the member of the ARC elected by all the Member States that are the six largest contributors to IICA expires on December 31, 2019;

That pursuant to the provisions of the ARC Statute, the Director General asked the aforementioned Member States to nominate candidates to fill the post occupied by the member of the ARC whose term expires this year;

That, in response to that request, the Governments of Brazil and the United States of America submitted nominations for the post; and

That the candidates nominated meet the requirements to become a member of the Committee,

RESOLVES:

To elect Mr. Gustavo Pereira da Silva Filho of Brazil, to occupy the position of the member of the ARC reserved for a candidate nominated by the six largest contributors to IICA, for a six-year term commencing on January 1, 2020 and concluding on December 31, 2025.

IICA/CE/Res. 649 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 649

**RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTION MADE BY MR. STEVE RICKRODE
AS A MEMBER OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

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

CONSIDERING:

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

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

That the term of Mr. Steve Rickrode of the United States of America, who became a member of the ARC on January 1, 2014, and since then, has discharged that responsibility with great responsibility, dedication and competence on behalf of IICA, will end on December 31, 2019,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Government of the United States of America for the support provided by Mr. Rickrode, in his capacity as a member of the ARC.
2. To recognize the excellent, dedicated and professional work of Mr. Rickrode and express its deep gratitude to him for his contributions to the ARC and to the administrative and financial management of the Institute.

IICA/CE/Res. 650 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 650**2020-2021 PROGRAM BUDGET**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 691 (19), “2020-2021 Program Budget”,

CONSIDERING:

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

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

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2020-2021 Program Budget for consideration by the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) at its Regular Meeting in May 2019; and

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2020-2021 Program Budget for consideration by the Executive Committee at its Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting, in a format that is consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect, and that incorporates the recommendations made by the SACMI,

RESOLVES:

To recommend that the IABA adopt a resolution to:

1. Approve the amount of USD 32,074,100 per year from the Regular Fund of IICA as the overall allocation for the 2020-2021 biennium, financed with quota contributions from the Member States in the amount of USD 29,574,100 per year, including the quotas allocated and over-quota contributions, according to the amounts indicated in the Quota Scale attached hereto as “Annex A”, and miscellaneous income in the amount of USD 2,500,000 per year, consisting of income estimated to be generated.
2. Approve the expenditure budget for the 2020-2021 biennium, in keeping with the allocations for each of the chapters, budget items and strategic priorities established in the document IICA/CE/Doc. 691 (19), “2020-2021 Program Budget”. The summary of allocations by chapter is attached as “Annex B” to this resolution.
3. Authorize the Director General to make transfers among chapters of the Program Budget, provided that the total transfers do not affect the priorities approved.
4. To authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for each of the fiscal years 2020 and 2021 fall below estimated levels for the biennium in question, and inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.

ANNEX A
Quota Scales of Member States, Over-Quota Contributions,
and Miscellaneous Income - 2020-2021 (in USD)

| MEMBER STATES | 2020 | | | | 2021 | | | |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | IICA | | | | IICA | | | |
| | OAS ¹ % | ASSESSED QUOTA | OVER- QUOTA | TOTAL QUOTAS | OAS ¹ % | ASSESSED QUOTA | OVER- QUOTA | TOTAL QUOTAS |
| | | USD ² | USD ² | USD ² | | USD ² | USD ² | USD ² |
| Antigua and Barbuda | 0.022 | 6,500 | 1,100 | 7,600 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 1,100 | 9,600 |
| Argentina | 3.000 | 879,500 | 247,000 | 1,126,500 | 3.229 | 947,000 | 247,000 | 1,194,000 |
| Bahamas | 0.047 | 13,800 | 7,000 | 20,800 | 0.051 | 15,000 | 7,000 | 22,000 |
| Barbados | 0.026 | 7,600 | 5,500 | 13,100 | 0.032 | 9,400 | 5,500 | 14,900 |
| Belize | 0.022 | 6,500 | 1,100 | 7,600 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 1,100 | 9,600 |
| Bolivia | 0.070 | 20,500 | 600 | 21,100 | 0.075 | 22,000 | 600 | 22,600 |
| Brazil | 12.457 | 3,652,000 | 0 | 3,652,000 | 13.408 | 3,932,400 | 0 | 3,932,400 |
| Canada | 9.801 | 2,873,400 | 0 | 2,873,400 | 10.549 | 3,093,900 | 0 | 3,093,900 |
| Chile | 1.415 | 414,800 | 14,600 | 429,400 | 1.523 | 446,700 | 14,600 | 461,300 |
| Colombia | 1.638 | 480,200 | 0 | 480,200 | 1.763 | 517,100 | 0 | 517,100 |
| Costa Rica | 0.256 | 75,100 | 2,500 | 77,600 | 0.276 | 80,900 | 2,500 | 83,400 |
| Dominica | 0.022 | 6,500 | 1,100 | 7,600 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 1,100 | 9,600 |
| Dominican Republic | 0.268 | 78,600 | 3,500 | 82,100 | 0.288 | 84,500 | 3,500 | 88,000 |
| Ecuador | 0.402 | 117,900 | 3,500 | 121,400 | 0.433 | 127,000 | 3,500 | 130,500 |
| El Salvador | 0.076 | 22,300 | 12,500 | 34,800 | 0.082 | 24,000 | 12,500 | 36,500 |
| Grenada | 0.022 | 6,500 | 1,100 | 7,600 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 1,100 | 9,600 |
| Guatemala | 0.171 | 50,100 | 13,800 | 63,900 | 0.184 | 54,000 | 13,800 | 67,800 |
| Guyana | 0.022 | 6,500 | 1,700 | 8,200 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 1,700 | 10,200 |
| Haiti | 0.022 | 6,500 | 4,200 | 10,700 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 4,200 | 12,700 |
| Honduras | 0.043 | 12,600 | 3,200 | 15,800 | 0.046 | 13,500 | 3,200 | 16,700 |
| Jamaica | 0.053 | 15,500 | 5,100 | 20,600 | 0.057 | 16,700 | 5,100 | 21,800 |
| Mexico | 6.470 | 1,896,800 | 0 | 1,896,800 | 6.964 | 2,042,400 | 0 | 2,042,400 |
| Nicaragua | 0.022 | 6,500 | 2,800 | 9,300 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 2,800 | 11,300 |
| Panama | 0.191 | 56,000 | 6,000 | 62,000 | 0.206 | 60,400 | 6,000 | 66,400 |
| Paraguay | 0.087 | 25,500 | 8,800 | 34,300 | 0.094 | 27,600 | 8,800 | 36,400 |
| Peru | 1.005 | 294,600 | 9,400 | 304,000 | 1.082 | 317,300 | 9,400 | 326,700 |
| Saint Kitts and Nevis | 0.022 | 6,500 | 1,100 | 7,600 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 1,100 | 9,600 |
| Saint Lucia | 0.022 | 6,500 | 1,100 | 7,600 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 1,100 | 9,600 |
| Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 0.022 | 6,500 | 1,100 | 7,600 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 1,100 | 9,600 |
| Suriname | 0.022 | 6,500 | 4,200 | 10,700 | 0.029 | 8,500 | 4,200 | 12,700 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 0.129 | 37,800 | 15,000 | 52,800 | 0.139 | 40,800 | 15,000 | 55,800 |
| United States of America | 59.470 | 17,435,300 | 0 | 17,435,300 | 56.310 | 16,515,000 | 0 | 16,515,000 |
| Uruguay | 0.298 | 87,400 | 7,900 | 95,300 | 0.321 | 94,100 | 7,900 | 102,000 |
| Venezuela | 1.940 | 568,800 | 0 | 568,800 | 2.088 | 612,400 | 0 | 612,400 |
| SUB TOTAL | 99.555 | 29,187,600 | 386,500 | 29,574,100 | 99.519 | 29,187,600 | 386,500 | 29,574,100 |
| Cuba | 0.446 | 130,800 | 0 | 130,800 | 0.480 | 140,800 | 0 | 140,800 |
| TOTAL QUOTAS | 100.001 | 29,318,400 | 386,500 | 29,704,900 | 99.999 | 29,328,400 | 386,500 | 29,714,900 |
| MISCELLANEOUS INCOME² | | 2,500,000 | | 2,500,000 | | 2,500,000 | | 2,500,000 |
| TOTAL REGULAR FUND³ | | 31,687,600 | | 32,074,100 | | 31,687,600 | | 32,074,100 |

Note: 1) The Kingdom of Spain contributes an annual quota of USD 60,000 as an Associate Member, pursuant to the agreement adopted in the First Plenary Session of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, held on November 26, 2001, in Bávaro, Dominican Republic.

1/ As per Resolution CP/RES. 1103 (2168/18), adopted by means of AG/RES. 1 (LIII-E/18) of the Organization of American States General Assembly.

2/ In USD rounded to the nearest hundred.

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

ANNEX B**Allocation of the Regular Fund by Chapter - 2020 and 2021 (in USD)**

| CHAPTER | 2020 | | 2021 | |
|---|-------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | REGULAR FUND | | REGULAR FUND | |
| | USD | % | USD | % |
| CHAPTER I: Direct Technical Cooperation Services | 28,926,876 | 90.2% | 28,868,310 | 90.0% |
| CHAPTER II: Management Costs | 1,766,619 | 5.5% | 1,830,360 | 5.7% |
| CHAPTER III: General Costs and Provisions | 1,186,000 | 3.7% | 1,186,000 | 3.7% |
| CHAPTER IV: Renewal of Infrastructure and Equipment | 194,605 | 0.6% | 189,430 | 0.6% |
| TOTAL | 32,074,100 | 100.0% | 32,074,100 | 100.0% |

IICA/CE/Res. 651 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 651**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) FOR 2017-2018**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation on the “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2017-2018”,

CONSIDERING:

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

RESOLVES:

1. To accept CATIE’s biennial report for 2017-2018 and to thank the Director General of the Center for his presentation.
2. To urge IICA and CATIE to continue to strengthen their links and mechanisms for implementing joint activities in support of the efforts of the Member States to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.
3. To urge the Director General of CATIE to make all reports provided to CATIE’s governing council, including financial reports, also available to the Executive Committee and the IABA.

IICA/CE/Res. 652 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 652

**STRATEGY FOR THE FUTURE OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation of the “2017-2018 Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”, and

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 697 (19), “Strategic Proposal for the Future of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”, jointly developed by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA or the Institute), CATIE (or the Center) and the Government of Costa Rica,

CONSIDERING:

That, at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 507 (XIX-O/17), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) requested that the directors general of IICA and CATIE prepare, with participation from the Government of Costa Rica, a “strategic proposal” for the future of CATIE that details scenarios and alternatives for restructuring and strengthening the Center’s organizational, scientific, academic and financial frameworks, as well as its legal basis; and instructed them to present this strategic proposal, including its conclusions and scenarios, to the Executive Committee, so that it may issue recommendations and report on this topic at the next meeting of the IABA;

That, in accordance with this resolution, the directors general of the Center and of the Institute established, together with the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, an *ad hoc* working group to prepare the strategic proposal; and

That the strategic proposal for the future of CATIE prepared by the *ad hoc* working group includes five main proposals: determine the principal mandates and

responsibilities of each of the two organizations as the key to achieving an institutional partnership based on greater collaboration and complementarity; define, specify, and strengthen the institutional mandate of CATIE and, accordingly, its priority areas of action; devise and implement a strategy to strengthen the financing of CATIE; redefine and simplify certain aspects of the governance of CATIE; and implement an institutional process designed to ensure and consolidate the creation of the institutional partnership proposed; and that, based on these five proposals, the *ad hoc* working group issued a set of recommendations,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the proposal for the future of CATIE and the strengthening of a synergistic relationship between IICA and the Center, prepared by the *ad hoc* working group and approved by the Director General of IICA, the Director General of CATIE, and the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of the Republic of Costa Rica.
2. To support and endorse the recommendations included in the annex to this resolution and to task the directors general of IICA and CATIE with developing an implementation plan, based on the understanding that some aspects of the recommendations require further development and eventual consideration by the IABA.
3. To request that the Director General of IICA inform the IABA, at its Twentieth Regular Meeting, of the resolutions adopted by the Executive Committee, in fulfillment of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 507 (XIX-O/17).
4. To request that the Director General of CATIE inform his Board of Directors of progress made in the implementation of the recommendations and urge that governing body of the Center to provide timely follow-up on these recommendations.
5. To request that the Director General of IICA inform the Executive Committee, at its next regular meeting, of progress made in the implementation of this resolution.

ANNEX

Recommendations of the *ad hoc* group for the future of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)

The fifteen recommendations are presented below, grouped under the five ideas/proposals made by the *ad hoc* group:

- 1. Establish the principal mandates and responsibilities for each of the two organizations as the key to achieving an institutional partnership based on greater collaboration and complementarity. These mandates and responsibilities are clearly identified and established in the legal frameworks of both institutions.**

Recommendation 1: That each institution focus its activities on the substantive core elements of its respective institutional mandate. In this way, CATIE, as an institution that generates knowledge, technologies, and innovations, could, as part of its work, contribute to and provide input for IICA's programs. For its part, IICA, in carrying out its institutional mandate of providing technical cooperation to the countries, could integrate CATIE into its work as an important source of knowledge, technologies, and innovations for processes aimed at establishing public policies and the institutional framework required for development.

Recommendation 2: That CATIE sign an agreement with IICA to use the latter's offices as a focal point and center of operations for carrying out its activities and programs. The two institutions could integrate, coordinate and implement many of these actions together.

- 2. Define, specify, and strengthen the institutional mandate of CATIE and, accordingly, its priority areas of action.**

Recommendation 3: Reaffirm that CATIE's mission is to contribute, through research and education, to the sustainable development of agricultural production and natural resource conservation in the tropical agriculture regions of the continent.

Recommendation 4: That CATIE, as part of the preparation of its new strategic plan, evaluate its research program and, in the immediate future, consider giving the following two overarching areas of research a high priority:

- Development of the production and sustainability of the main agricultural activities in the tropical regions in which CATIE has developed capabilities and has demonstrated experience: cacao and coffee cultivation, silvopasture systems for livestock, and cultivated forests. The work in these areas should maintain a systemic vision and seek to make further progress with the links of scale-up and value-added.
- Protection and sustainable management of natural forests, soils, and water resources in tropical agriculture regions.

Recommendation 5: CATIE's educational activities are an essential core element of its institutional projection at the international level. The Working Group therefore recommends that CATIE be strengthened as an international educational center specializing in sustainable production and natural resource conservation in tropical agriculture regions, and that it promote itself as an important provider of these educational services among other regions of the world.

Recommendation 6: The Doctoral Program should be viewed as an objective that needs to be developed and consolidated in the medium term, based on the lessons learned and experience acquired thus far. The Working Group considers that the human resources currently available at CATIE to assume this responsibility, especially full-time staff with doctorates, are limited and insufficient. Therefore, CATIE should immediately focus efforts on maintaining and expanding its agreements with eligible public and private universities and international research centers, in which it should be stipulated that dissertations will be prepared at CATIE.

Recommendation 7: The academically oriented Master's Degree Program should be reviewed, modified where necessary, strengthened, and serve as the main focal point of CATIE's educational activities. It is felt there are too many master's degrees courses

with different orientations, which is bound to affect their depth and originality, and the dedication of professors to their teaching activities. Institutional efforts could be focused on a smaller number of master's degrees, drawing and building on the strengths of CATIE's research programs, to achieve the greatest possible synergy between research, technology, and education.

Recommendation 8: Virtual education activities should aim to achieve an educational objective based on clear, verifiable evidence of the need, relevance, and real demand for support for technical training in agriculture in the region. In some instances, CATIE could collaborate with IICA in order to use its operating platform.

Recommendation 9: That the two institutions consider developing the institutional mechanisms required to use and take full advantage of IICA's extensive network of offices in its member countries and its network of institutional contacts to attract graduate studies candidates and secure grants and other types of financing for dissertation work. This would strengthen both CATIE's graduate studies, and the technical underpinnings of IICA's technical cooperation activities.

- 3. Devise and implement a strategy to strengthen the financing of CATIE that includes ways to make better use of the material resources and property owned by CATIE and IICA, held in usufruct by CATIE and not required for research activities.**

Recommendation 10: That CATIE focus on designing a bold, creative and comprehensive strategy for securing external resources. The strategy should take into account the difficulty of securing more IDA funding and, therefore, the need to broaden the financial base so as to not have to depend exclusively on those funds. The strategy should consider ways of securing other sources of funding and the development of strategic partnerships, in particular with IICA. Both institutions would benefit from the creation of an explicit institutional and programming partnership for their efforts to secure resources, under which they would present bids together and carry out joint missions to donors. In preparing this strategy, CATIE should carefully consider all the elements mentioned in this chapter.

Recommendation 11: That CATIE carry out the following six complementary actions to generate more income from the assets it owns or holds in usufruct:

First, conduct an exhaustive analysis of the real net income obtained from CATIE's different commercial activities. Such an analysis could demonstrate the need for the institution to halt, at the very least, all activities that do not produce a profit, which could be obtained by leasing the land used in such activities to third parties.

Second, conduct an exhaustive analysis of the expenditure that CATIE incurs to ensure a high level of efficiency in maintaining the land it owns and uses for commercial production.

Third, evaluate the commercial use given to the germplasm banks that are an important source of resources for agricultural innovation, mainly in the cases of coffee and cacao. However, as maintenance, updating, and renewal costs are considerable, they should be covered with the income derived from CATIE's commercial activities based on coffee and cacao. To achieve this objective, it is important that CATIE explore the possibility of producing certified seed of the most sought-after varieties of coffee in the region. It should also operate the sale of cacao seeds and cacao buds for grafting.

Fourth, evaluate current leases and develop a proposal for long-term leases, endeavoring to identify and select lessees who maximize monetary income or make a significant contribution to the development of CATIE and/or the local community.

Fifth, draw up a plan for dealing with land owned by CATIE, that includes, among other possibilities, sale and lease, and which meets the following three criteria:

1. It is not being used and is not needed now, nor will be in the foreseeable future, for CATIE's research and education activities.
2. It is not subject to restriction of ownership.

3. The land is primarily located in sensitive areas and has building potential, which could lead to a conflict with neighboring communities in the future.

The resources obtained from these sales could be used to set up a trust fund, with the resources preferably to be used to help finance the renovation of CATIE's physical infrastructure, which has deteriorated over the years.

Sixth, in the case of land owned by IICA that CATIE holds in usufruct, reach agreement with IICA, in consultation with the Government of Costa Rica, on a plan for the transfer of title of two pieces of land (50 or 100 ha. each in size) adjacent to the city of Turrialba and the local hospital. This land is not suitable for conducting research, and is very vulnerable from the security standpoint. On the other hand, its high commercial value could produce a large sum that could be placed in a trust fund managed by IICA and used to fund CATIE research activities, agreed and coordinated with IICA's Directorate of Technical Cooperation.

4. **Redefine and simplify certain aspects of the governance of CATIE, to enable the institution to manage its operations more efficiently, and make the IABA the highest-level governing body of the IICA-CATIE partnership.**

Recommendation 12: That CATIE and IICA together devise a proposal for the governance of CATIE that simplifies and strengthens decision-making processes based on a governance structure that assigns greater responsibilities and authority to CATIE's Board of Directors. This governance structure would have two levels: the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) as the political body, and a Board of Directors whose role would be basically scientific and managerial.

The proposed new Board of Directors would have ten members. Three of them would be *ex officio* and seven would be selected and designated by the Board of Directors itself.

- a. The *ex officio* members would be a representative of the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, a representative of the Director General of IICA, and a representative of the IABA designated by that body itself, who shall not be a representative of a member country of CATIE.
- b. The other seven members would be designated in a personal capacity and would be members of the scientific community specializing in agriculture and natural resources. Five members would be selected from among CATIE's member countries. The other two would be members of the international scientific community and citizens of countries beyond the Americas. The duties and responsibilities of the Board of Directors would combine those of the current Board and the current Governing Council of Ministers.
- c. The Chair of the Board of Directors would be chosen by the IABA from a shortlist of three candidates presented by the Board of Directors itself. The Chair would hold the position for two years and could be reelected one time only.

Recommendation 13: That CATIE, in consultation with IICA, submit for consideration by the IABA a simplified mechanism for the selection and appointment of the Director General of CATIE, pursuant to the following guidelines:

- a. When the position of the Director General of CATIE becomes vacant, either because the Director General concludes his/her term of office or resigns, the CATIE Board of Directors, following the first three steps in the process established in the current regulations, will draw up a shortlist of three candidates.
- b. The Board of Directors will hold a special session to elect the new Director General of CATIE by a two-thirds majority of the votes of its members.

5. Implement an institutional process for the design of a road map and the actions needed to ensure the creation of the proposed institutional partnership.

Recommendation 14: That the Director General of IICA, in consultation with the Director General of CATIE, prepare and present to the next IABA:

- a. A comprehensive proposal outlining the concept of the “IABA Group,” comprised of IICA as the core entity, CATIE, the existing trust funds, any other trust fund(s) that may be set up, and any other organization(s) that the IABA considers should be incorporated into the Group.
- b. A proposed road map for the implementation of the “IABA Group.”

Recommendation 15: That the directors general of IICA and CATIE, in consultation with the Government of Costa Rica, create a commission for the institutional development of CATIE, tasked with proposing and implementing a plan of action for the orientation and strengthening of CATIE and its relationship with IICA, pursuant to the resolutions of the Executive Committee.

The commission could have three subgroups with responsibility for technical, legal, and organizational matters, respectively. Each subgroup could be made up of:

- a. IICA’s Director of Technical Cooperation and three technical specialists, plus CATIE’s three research directors and the Director of Education and Training, for the implementation of technical recommendations.
- b. IICA’s legal adviser and regional coordinator, plus CATIE’s head of administration and legal adviser, to address legal and asset-related matters.

IICA/CE/Res. 653 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 653**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) FOR 2018-2019**

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

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation made by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) on the report of its activities during the 2018-2019 biennium,

CONSIDERING:

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

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

RESOLVES:

1. To accept and express appreciation to CARDI for the presentation of the report on activities implemented during the 2018-2019 biennium.
2. To urge IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their technical links and mechanisms for executing joint activities in support of efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being in the Caribbean countries.

IICA/CE/Res. 654 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 654

**REPORT OF THE 2019 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 700 (19), “Report of the 2019 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)”,

CONSIDERING:

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

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

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

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the Report of the 2019 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

2. To urge the Director General to consider convening a face to face meeting of the SACMI in 2020, taking into account the benefits and costs of this important member engagement.

IICA/CE/Res. 655 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 655

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

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 702 (19) “Status of the Resolutions of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)” and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 701 (19), “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”,

CONSIDERING:

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and with the resolutions adopted at the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

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

IICA/CE/Res. 656 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 656**PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF
AGRICULTURE OF THE AMERICAS – 2019 INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 703 (19), “Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – 2019 Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA): Draft Provisional Agenda”,

CONSIDERING:

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

That, the Executive Committee, at its Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting, analyzed the provisional agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – 2019 Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA),

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the provisional agenda for the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – 2019 Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).
2. To urge the members of the Executive Committee to share with the ministers of agriculture of their respective countries the importance of their presence at this event.

3. To encourage the Director General to draft a document for ministerial consideration that contains concrete, actionable steps and results-based outcomes to promote sustainable, inclusive agriculture in the hemisphere.

IICA/CE/Res. 657 (XXXIX-O/19)

17 July 2019

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 657**DATE AND VENUE OF THE FORTIETH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 704 (19), “Date and Venue of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee”,

CONSIDERING:

That, pursuant to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, that governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is required to hold one regular meeting each year. Therefore, a date and venue for the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2020 must be set;

That, in accordance with Article 25 of said Rules of Procedure, in the event that no Member State of the Institute offers to host the regular meeting of the Executive Committee in that country, the meeting will be held at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica; and

That the Director General of IICA reports that he has received no formal offer from a Member State to host the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To hold the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the second half of 2020.

2. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation, in due course, to the Member States to participate in said meeting, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

**SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRTY-NINTH
REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 16:30 hours on the seventeenth day of July of the year two thousand and nineteen, in San José, Costa Rica.


This report will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes approved during the Closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

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

San José, Costa Rica.



Manuel Otero
Director General of IICA
Ex officio Secretary of the
2019 Executive Committee



Michael Pintard
Minister of Agriculture
and Marine Resources
President of the 2019 Executive Committee

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA

IICA/CE/Doc. 689 (19)

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1. Provisional Schedule | IICA/CE/Doc. 688 (19) |
| 2. Message from the Director General of IICA | No document |
| 3. IICA technical cooperation | |
| 3.1. Hemispheric Program on International Trade and Regional Integration | IICA/CE/Doc. 690 (19) |
| 4. Financial and programmatic-budgetary situation | |
| 4.1. 2020-2021 Program Budget | IICA/CE/Doc. 691 (19) |
| 4.2. Status of the collection of quota contributions | IICA/CE/Doc. 692 (19) |
| 4.3. 2018 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors | IICA/CE/Doc. 693 (19) |
| 4.4. Twenty-fifth Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) | IICA/CE/Doc. 694 (19) |
| 4.5. Final report of the Director General on management actions in relation to the external auditors' qualified opinion | IICA/CE/Doc. 695 (19) |
| 4.6. Election of a Member of the ARC | IICA/CE/Doc. 696 (19) |
| 5. Strengthening of strategic partnerships | |
| 5.1. Strategic proposal for the future of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) | IICA/CE/Doc. 697 (19) |
| 5.2. 2017-2018 Report of CATIE | Unnumbered |

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 5.3. Report of joint collaboration activities between IICA and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) | No document |
| 5.4. 2018-2019 Report of CARDI | Unnumbered |
| 5.5. Report on resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 506 (XIX-O/17): Strategic Analysis of IICA | No document |

6. Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 6.1. Incorporation of countries that are not OAS Permanent Observers as IICA Permanent Observers | IICA/CE/Doc. 698 (19) |
| 6.2. Report of the Representative of the IABA to the Governing Council of CATIE for the period 2018-2019 | Unnumbered |
| 6.3. 2018 IICA Annual Report | IICA/CE/Doc. 699 (19) |
| 6.4. Report of the 2019 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) | IICA/CE/Doc. 700 (19) |
| 6.5. Status of the resolutions of the Thirty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee | IICA/CE/Doc. 701 (19) |
| 6.6. Status of the resolutions of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) | IICA/CE/Doc. 702 (19) |
| 6.7. Progress in the organization of the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas – Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) 2019: proposed draft agenda | IICA/CE/Doc. 703 (19) |

- 6.8. Date and Venue of the Fortieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 704 (19)

7. Other matters

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| Karen Kleinheinz | Manager of the Financial Management Division |
| María Teresa Maldonado | Manager of the Programming and Budgeting Division |
| Franklin Marín | IICA Representative in Honduras |
| Francisco Mello | Coordinator of the Center for Knowledge Management and Horizontal Cooperation Services |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Manuel Messina | Technical Advisor to the Directorate of Technical Cooperation |
| Karen Montiel | Manager of the Climate Change, Natural Resources and Management of Production Risks Program |
| Laura Mora | Manager of the Administrative Services Division |
| Viviana Palmieri | Technical Specialist in Agricultural Innovation and Technology |
| Emmanuel Picado | Manager of the Information and Communication Technologies and Digital Agriculture Division |
| Martín Piñeiro | Advisor to the Director General |
| Doreen Preston | Coordinator of the Language Unit |
| Graciela Quesada | Manager of the Organizational Design Division |
| Erick Quirós | Project Specialist |
| Pedro Rocha | International Biotechnology and Biosecurity Specialist |
| Gabriel Rodríguez | Manager of the Project Management Unit |
| Patricia Ross | Coordinator of the Official Events Unit |
| Federico Sancho | Manager of the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division |
| Ericka Soto | Specialist in Strategic Management and Monitoring |
| Breno Tiburcio | Principal Advisor to the Directorate of Technical Cooperation |
| Federico Villarreal | Director of Technical Cooperation |
| Jorge Werthein | Advisor to the Director General |

ANNEX 3: MEETING STAFF

Secretariat of the meeting

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Ex officio</i> Secretary and Director General del IICA | Manuel Otero |
| Technical Secretariat | Héctor Iturbe Silvia Gutiérrez |
| Logistics | Patricia Ross |
| Legal advisor | William Berenson |

Communications

Randall Cordero
Rafael Cartín
José Carlos García
Sergio Navarro
Carlos Umaña
Isaac Zúñiga

Diplomatic and protocol services

Miguel Herrera

Services for delegates

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Registration and secretariat | Mariela Zúñiga |
| Assistance at hotel | Sonia González |
| Assistance at the airport | Ronald Hidalgo Randy Alexander Marlon Rodríguez |
| Conference room | Marlen Montoya Adriana Araya Lidy Astorga Sonia González |

Eduardo Lovell
 Lorena Mata
 Melania Rodríguez

Documents and report

Classification and distribution

Laura Gutiérrez
 Gina Rodríguez

Précis writers

Pedro Avendaño
 Ronald Aragón
 Nathalia Coto
 Julio Mora
 Katia Núñez
 Ana Lucía Obregón
 Viviana Palmieri
 Ericka Soto

Editing

Máximo Araya

Coordination of interpretation and translation

Doreen Preston

Simultaneous interpretation

Spanish

Luis Delgadillo
 Ilse Salazar

English

Elizabeth Lewis
 Thais Pardo

Portuguese

Natalia Ferreira
 Sharona Wolkowicz

Translation

Spanish Olga Vargas

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--|
| | English | Bertha McLaren Laura Moya |
| | Portuguese | Henrique de Lima |
| Control and follow-up of translations | | Priscilla Segura |
| Word processing | | |
| | Spanish / English | Marielos Salazar |
| Audio and video recording | | David Álvarez |
| IT and telepresence services | | Emmanuel Picado Adriana Alpízar Gian Carlo Corrales José Ricardo Fallas Ricardo Montero Julio Solís Randall Vargas Luis Diego Wattson |
| Support services | | |
| Coordination | | Laura Mora José Francisco Brenes |
| Cleaning | | Marcela Castro Lidieth Quesada |
| Local transportation | | Javier Barboza Carlos Umaña Harold Zumbado |
| Maintenance and meeting room setup | | Ronald Meneses Minor Carvajal Eduardo Castillo Rafael Flores Álvaro González |

Medical services

Annia Madelin Wong
Yeimy Rodríguez

Procurement

German Arroyo
Eva López
Rebeca Martínez

Security

Esteban García
Mario Vega

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