

A large, stylized map of the Americas is the central focus of the page. The map is rendered in a dark blue color and is set against a background of a grid of squares in various shades of blue and brown. The map shows the outlines of North and South America, with the Caribbean islands visible between them. The map is positioned in the upper half of the page, with the title 'Annual Report 2008' overlaid on it.

■ IICA's Contribution to the
Development of Agriculture and
Rural Communities in the Americas



2008 Annual Report

IICA's Contribution to the Development of Agriculture
and Rural Communities in the Americas

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■ About IICA

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was created by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union in 1942. In 1949, it was recognized by the OAS as the agency of the Inter-American System specializing in agriculture and the well-being of the rural population.

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

In 2000, the OAS, by means of General Assembly Resolution 1728, recognized the IABA as the primary ministerial forum for analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere.

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

The Institute has a network of Offices in its 34 Member States and a Permanent Office for Europe, located in Madrid, Spain, which promotes relations with strategic partners. It also has an office in Miami, Florida, United States, which directs the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety.

IICA's mission is to provide innovative technical cooperation to its Member States with a view to achieving their sustainable development in aid of the peoples of the Americas. The Institute is seeking to assume a leadership role in the Americas in the areas of agriculture and rural development, and to become a partner of choice by virtue of the quality of the technical cooperation it provides to its Member States, and its contributions to sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity.



■ Foreword

In 2008, agriculture worldwide witnessed two important developments that reinforced IICA's commitment to promoting food security in the hemisphere and its insistence on the importance of the sector for the development of our nations.

The first development was the publication, during the first quarter of the year, of the World Bank's World Development Report 2008, "Agriculture for Development." Among other things, the report demonstrates that agriculture has a strategically important role to play in reducing poverty at the global level, and that public and private actors need to take urgent, practical steps to ensure that our peoples enjoy greater prosperity. The second development, which occurred from mid-year onward, concerned the highly volatile prices of some agricultural commodities. Many international agencies and governments warned of the problems that could ensue, responded rapidly to calls for action from agricultural producers and revised their medium-term plans to ensure that people had enough to eat.

Against this backdrop, IICA continued to carry out its activities in line with the institutional priorities and overarching objectives established in its 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan, which include the promotion of food security, agricultural development and environmental sustainability. As this latest annual report shows, the Institute intensified its efforts in the area of food security, especially by galvanizing support from

other stakeholders and through its activities under programs and projects of strategic importance to its Member States.

IICA's technical cooperation model - based on work programs agreed with the different public and private actors in the countries and the Institute's close working relationship with government agencies, academia, producers' organizations, chambers of commerce and cooperation agencies - is reflected in this wide-ranging report containing details of the most significant results achieved at the hemispheric, regional and national levels.

This report also includes information about the Institute's role as a partner in the Summit of the Americas process, the decisions taken by our governing bodies in 2008, the actions implemented to carry out the mandate of promoting women's rights and gender equality, and our human and financial capital.

We feel honored to pay tribute in this report to Dr. Emilio Araujo, a citizen of Brazil of great human stature. As Director General of IICA between 1970 and 1982, he took important decisions that reshaped IICA and had an impact on the societies we serve.

The Institute, still imbued with Dr. Araujo's values and teachings, continues to implement the modernization process that got under way in 2002. Once it is completed, IICA will

be better equipped to deal with the increasingly complex problems of agriculture and offer innovative solutions.

An example of such solutions is the recently inaugurated Center for Leadership in Agriculture. It has been one of our greatest accomplishments in 2008 and has made it possible to bring together, in the course of the year, dozens of young people, decision-makers and senior officials from our Member States to discuss and reflect on the situation and outlook for agriculture and rural life.

Other technical cooperation actions carried out by IICA in hundreds of rural territories, in fields such as agribusiness, health, agro-tourism, organic agriculture, agro-industry and agro-energy, are clear examples of the desire for change, the search for excellence and the promotion of new leadership in agriculture in our countries.

At the broader level, we will continue to promote the need to adopt a new development model that recognizes agriculture as the linchpin of national development agendas, as a sector of strategic importance for reducing poverty and as a means of livelihood for thousands of farmers and agricultural entrepreneurs in the Americas.

IICA's personnel are committed to finding and implementing innovative solutions to achieve development that is more equitable by tapping opportunities and implementing measures to offset the now acknowledged limitations of the global market. Given the abundance of information available, we need to be able to recognize and generate the knowledge required to modernize the institutional framework of agriculture, make agriculture competitive, promote food security and guarantee sustainable development in harmony with the environment.

To this end, we shall exploit to the fullest our collective skills. This, added to the team effort in which we have been engaged with other international organizations and the permanent dialogue with our Member States, will continue to be a source of inspiration and will be a positive step for those who foresee difficult times ahead.

In the respective 2008 report on each IICA region and member country, and on our website (www.iica.int), additional, more detailed information is available on the state of agriculture, the Institute's response to the commitments assumed under our cooperation agendas and the opportunities for future collaboration.



Chelston W.D. Brathwaite
Director General



The Legacy of an Agricultural Leader

*Tribute to Jose Emilio Araujo,
Director General of IICA from 1970 to 1982*

A few short months have elapsed since the passing of Dr. Jose Emilio Araujo, Director Emeritus of IICA, and it is only fitting that we pay tribute to his long legacy of accomplishments in the field of agriculture throughout the hemisphere and his endearing qualities as a humanist leader.

Our Director General, Chelston Brathwaite, had something to say at a recent Cabinet meeting, which encapsulates our esteem and appreciation for Dr. Araujo: “there are no words or writings to aptly describe the magnitude of Dr. Araujo’s contributions to agriculture in the Americas and to IICA.”

The General Directorate of IICA wishes to extend this recognition and appreciation to the international and national partner institutions of IICA which, like this humanist leader, have struggled to forge a new destiny for those who live in the rural areas of the Americas and depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

Below is a brief summary of Jose Emilio’s contributions to the Institute:

Jose Emilio Araujo, who was born in Brazil in 1922, envisioned a model of agriculture which, at the time, was a mere dream –agriculture that factored in the perspective of the farmer and that took into account the social circumstances of the rural areas.

His career had a promising start. After receiving a doctorate in agronomy, with a specialty in soils, from Cornell University in New York, he became a professor in soils at the School of Agriculture of the Federal University of Pelotas in the south of Brazil, where he went on to become head of the School and the research institute.

In 1965, he entered IICA as a specialist at the Inter-American Agrarian Reform Center, in Colombia. He was appointed head of that center a few years later and was subsequently appointed to the position of IICA Representative in that country.



◀ *José Emilio Araujo was passionate about agriculture and a pioneer in ensuring that small-scale farmers were taken into consideration in international cooperation models.*

In 1970, the Government of Brazil nominated him as a candidate for the post of Director General of IICA and he was elected to that office that same year. This ushered in a new phase of sweeping institutional reform and his administration, which went on for a second six-year term, until 1982, is recognized as a period of “hemispheric and humanistic projection”. During those years, Canada and many Caribbean countries joined the Institute.

It was also during his administration that Member States adopted a new Convention which changed the physiognomy and the name of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences to Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture.

The Convention, which entered into force on December 8, 1980, marked the genesis of an Institute that would support agricultural development and rural well-being in the countries of the Americas through the delivery of technical cooperation services.

A Humanistic Leader

Jose Emilio Araujo’s thinking may be summed up in the concept of the hemispheric and humanistic projection that conceives the overall improvement of the human being as an end in itself, where science and technology and

the application of the findings of both should be used to serve mankind.

He promoted IICA as being a flexible organization that was receptive to the expressed needs of its Member States, one that was conceptually sound and that had as its underpinning the technical expertise of its staff. The basis of that approach was established in the General Plan approved in Mar del Plata, Argentina, in 1970.

Many consider his most important accomplishment to be the adoption of the IICA Convention which paved the way for the Institute's transformation from an organization specialized in agricultural sciences and higher education into a technical cooperation agency.

That Convention also changed the management structure of the Institute. The responsibilities that heretofore rested with the ambassadors of the Member States of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) were transferred to the Ministers of Agriculture of the countries.

His vision of "people who work the land" and small-scale farmers fueled his interest in implementing a humanistic policy that focused on the human being as the *raison d'être* of our organization, a vision that has endured until now.

Araujo introduced to the Institute certain activities that

had been the purview of other institutions or of the OAS General Secretariat and, thanks to him, the Institute became an organization of the Inter-American System specialized in agriculture and rural development.

It was during his Administration that the Offices in Member States were created and, with the support of the then President of Costa Rica, Jose Figures Ferrer, the Headquarters Building was erected.

Thirty-five years ago, when he held the reins of our Institute, the Brazilian Enterprise for Research on Farming and Cattle Raising (EMBRAPA) was created with decisive support from IICA. Today, EMBRAPA is the pride of Brazil and the Americas. The Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) was also created at that time.

His idea was to make the Institute a cohesive instrument for development to serve the countries, one that would have a hemispheric projection and a humanistic vision. This ideal of his has served as an inspiration for the nations of the hemisphere as they seek to build agriculture that is modern, competitive and equitable in terms of the distribution of wealth.

José Emilio Araujo is an example for coming generations that wish to build a brighter future, marked by more freedom and unity for the men and women of the rural areas of the hemisphere.



Summit of the Americas Process

*Promoting ministerial dialogue
on agriculture and rural life*

The Ministerial Meetings on Agriculture and Rural Life held in the context of the Summit of the Americas Process serve as a hemispheric forum where the ministers of agriculture discuss and define priorities and strategic actions for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

The adoption of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Guatemala 2007 signified the renewal of the countries' commitment to the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan of Action and to the strengthening of the Ministerial Process through the two strategic guidelines that inspired that agreement: "(...) to promote with the agricultural stakeholders a broad-based approach to thinking and acting in agriculture and the rural milieu and, "working together" to improve agriculture and rural life in the Americas."

Further to the agreement in question, IICA, as an institutional partner in the Summit Process, has supported the authorities of Trinidad and Tobago (country that holds the Chairmanship), the member countries and the OAS Summits of the Americas Secretariat with the preparations



The Week of Agriculture and Rural Life was held in Antigua, Guatemala, in July of 2007.

for this meeting. Specifically, IICA addressed enquiries from the countries in the Summit Implementation and Review Group (SIRG) and the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG), bodies in charge of following up on the Summit process.

Likewise, IICA, as Secretariat for the Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, extended the necessary support to the countries in publicizing and implementing the mandates of the Heads of State and Government and in publicizing and implementing the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan of Action.

As part of the process, and in response to the concerns expressed throughout the hemisphere, as mentioned above, the Institute presented its response to the food situation in the hemisphere to the Foreign Ministers of the Americas at the OAS session of the General Assembly, held in Medellin, Colombia. IICA has also participated in all of the meetings of the SIRG, to which it has lent technical support.

Within the framework of this process, the Institute provided technical support to the Government of Jamaica with preparations for the Fifth Ministerial Meeting, to be held in Montego Bay in October of 2009. The theme of that meeting, “*Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas*” reflects the concern that has surfaced as a result of the current situation and the commitment to seek sustainable medium- and long-term solutions that are consonant with the purposes expressed in the logo for the Fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Americas, to be held in Port of Spain.

Fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Americas:

“Securing our citizens’ future by promoting human prosperity, energy security and environmental sustainability”.

That Summit will take place in Trinidad and Tobago in April of 2009. During 2008, the countries went a long way towards reaching agreement on the draft Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain which, in specific regard to agriculture and rural life, reflects the spirit and guidelines of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Guatemala 2007.





Agro-Matrix

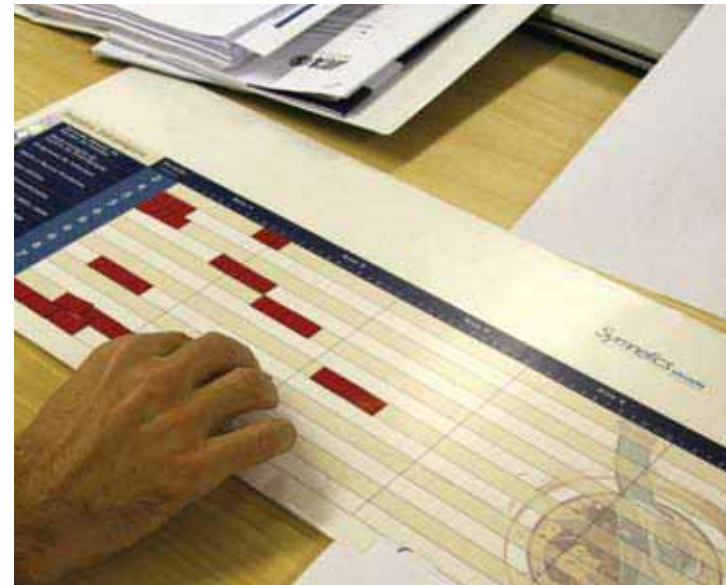
Tool for a comprehensive understanding of agriculture

IICA worked actively to promote and position the Agro-Matrix as a theoretically sound and practical tool to guide the process of repositioning the sustainable development of agriculture and rural life in the Caribbean. Key stakeholders in Member States were exposed to the Agro-Matrix as the basis of the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan at the regional and national seminars held in 2007.

At a St. Lucia meeting of an ECS consortium led by IICA and CIRAD, the principles of the Agro-Matrix as the basis for a more comprehensive information system were incorporated into a subregional project aimed at developing observatories in the OECS. "Agro-Matrix, more than a concept" was drafted as work-in-progress to document all of the Caribbean's experiences to date in promoting and applying the principles of the Agro-Matrix.

In Central America, IICA was instrumental in helping 60 technicians not only from IICA Offices in four countries, but also from the public and private sectors in the region, to familiarize themselves with the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan, the ministerial mandates and use of the Agro-Matrix as a follow-up and planning tool to facilitate achievement of

the objectives of the Plan. It also provided support to those technicians to enable them to assist the Ministerial Delegates with circulating that Plan, the mandates and tool.





Knowledge Management

*Giving new value
to technical cooperation*

IICA continued to give utmost priority to efforts to shift the focus of approaches to cooperation and cooperation actions towards knowledge management, which has become the core concept around which technical cooperation revolves.

Another achievement was the launching of a new institutional Web portal, designed as a tool for the decentralized management of the information and knowledge resources of the Institute's Offices in its 34 member countries.

The existing communication, information and knowledge systems: Infoagro/Agribusiness, Infoagro/Trade, PRODARNET, SIALNET, AGROTUR, INFOTEC, among others, were also expanded and strengthened, and the number of active communities of practice increased.

In the area of institutional publications, IICA incorporated into its collection 200 new documents, including the new Agribusiness Series Export Handbooks, the COMUNIICA magazine and publications on biotechnology and rural development, among others.

Thanks to the strategic partnership established with Google, 9,000 documents located in the IICA Headquarters Library were digitized and are now part of the institutional repository that stores IICA's institutional memory. They may be easily accessed on the IICA Home Page.

IICA's Distance Training Center at Headquarters has also been renovated. As a result, new training programs using virtual training environments and information and communication technologies have been put in place. For example, some of the courses have related to the issue of leadership in





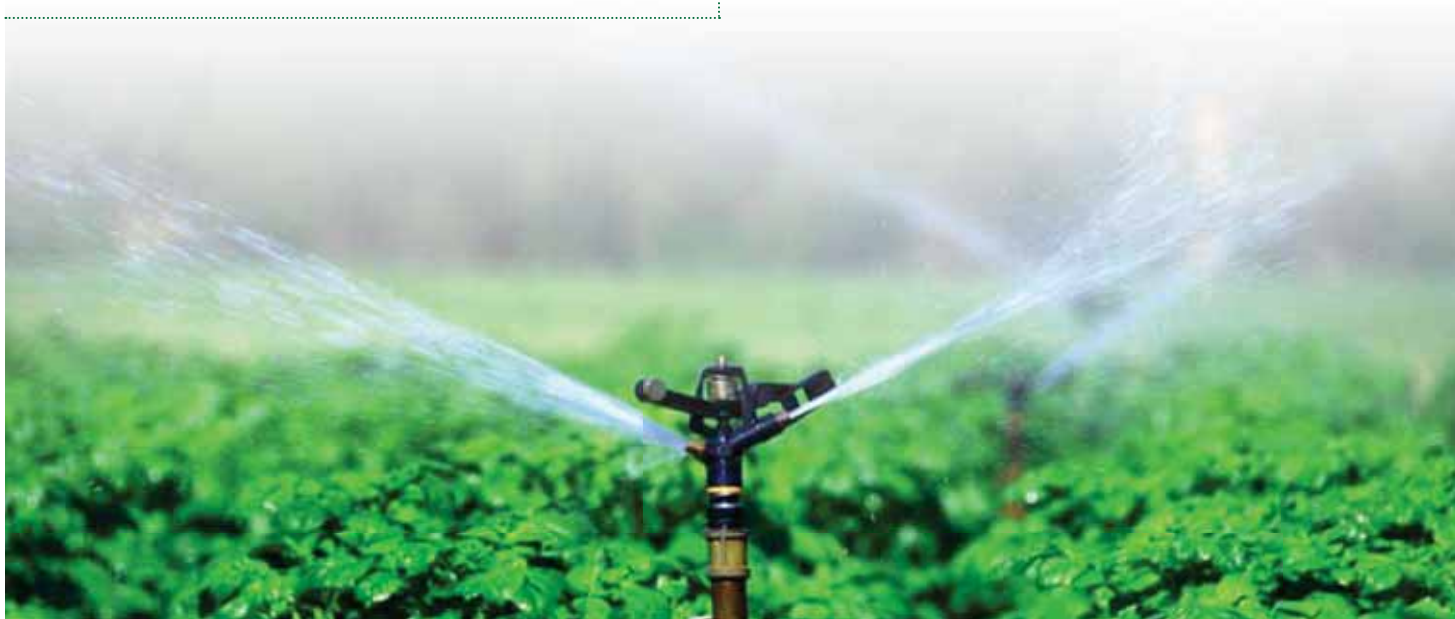
Peruvian Observatory of Agricultural Production Chains and Rural Territories

This observatory has more tools at its disposal for analyzing markets, competitors and the performance of agricultural producers, and the conditions that territories provide for the competitiveness of chains and the development of the capabilities of rural families. The Web portal on agricultural production chains and rural territories was visited over half a million times and currently has a tutor to facilitate queries.

agricultural information management and benefited from financial support from the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA). The courses were based on available components of the IMARK tools developed in conjunction with the FAO.

Insofar as the individual countries are concerned, IICA helped consolidate the SRD Forum in **Brazil** by contributing content for three activities on technical matters. It also prepared a case study on the experience of the SISAL territory, in the State of Bahia, Brazil, which was presented at the International Congress on Clusters, held in Chihuahua, **Mexico**.

All of this has resulted in a healthy institutional environment that allows the participants to exchange and share ideas, information, knowledge and good practices.





Food Security

Monitoring the crisis of food prices

As stated in the 2006-2010 MTP, food security is one of the components of IICA's vision.

With this in mind, during 2008, the Institute placed special emphasis on the situation created by volatile prices and unstable supplies of the main agricultural products, and the implications for food security. IICA studied the countries' responses to the situation and the policies they have adopted for dealing with it, and constantly monitored the trends in prices and markets. The institution's response was based on the use of differentiated approaches at the hemispheric, regional and national levels and emphasized the need to adopt medium- and long-term approaches to food insecurity rather than stop-gap measures.

To support decision-making with respect to agricultural and rural policies, IICA developed methodologies designed to gauge the impact of volatile international commodity prices on food security in the countries, and to analyze the effects of international prices on rural incomes. The latter called for case studies to be carried out in five countries of the Americas.

As follow-up to the volatile prices of agricultural products and their bearing on food security, IICA published a document entitled "Trend in the prices of agricultural products: possible impact on Latin American and Caribbean agriculture," which was the theme of the first issue of the COMUNICA magazine in 2008. The Institute also prepared two impact assessments, the first of which gauged the effects on the dairy sector in the Americas of factors such as climate change and higher grain prices. The second study analyzed the trade liberalization strategy implemented by Peru and Colombia.

In the Andean Region, a study was conducted to gauge the impact in territories of the increase in international prices on agriculture-related activities, natural resources and food consumption. The study of factors that affected production, costs, the profit margin and food consumption is now available, as is the analysis of measures adopted by producers to face and/or take advantage of the change in prices that impacted agriculture worldwide in 2008.

In the Southern Region, the Institute provided technical and editorial support for the preparation of various publications,

including: a) Rising Food Prices – the situation of the CAS countries (REDPA); b) Contributing to a regional agricultural policy on agro-energy (GT6); c) The soy market in the countries of the CAS (GT2); d) Regulatory frameworks and status of the commercial approval of GMOs in the countries of the Southern Agricultural Council (GT5); e) Rising food prices and their implications (ST CAS); and f) Electronic bulletins of the SPS Codex Forum.

Regional Workshop “Sweet Potato - A Cornerstone for Food Security in the Caribbean.”

As a result of the workshop convened by IICA in Trinidad and Tobago, three regional projects were proposed to enhance the productivity, production and market development of sweet potato, as well as institutional development and capacity building for knowledge management. Over 20 participants from public-sector institutions in Guyana, Jamaica, Haiti, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), CARICOM Secretariat and FAO, attended the workshop.



▲ *ProHuerta improves the quality and diversity of the diet and increases food security for poor and vulnerable populations of Haiti.*

At the national level, in conjunction with the National Assembly’s Directorate of Legislative Research and Development, the Ministries of People’s Power for Agriculture and Lands (MPPAT), Science and Technology (MPPCT) and Development Planning and other entities of the Executive Branch, in **Venezuela**, IICA analyzed and responded to the problems caused by rising food prices and their effects. Various meetings were organized in collaboration with FAO, PAHO and the Latin American Economic System (SELA).

In **Honduras**, in conjunction with the SAG and with financial support from the USDA, the “Food for Progress Program for financial year 2005-2006” was implemented in an effort to develop the technical and business skills that producers need to take full advantage of the benefits offered by the DR-CAFTA.

In the **United States**, on the other hand, IICA facilitated linkages among U.S. institutional, financial, professional and technical resources, the donor community, the public and private sectors, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the USDA to raise awareness of the growing concern regarding food security and the effects of climate change on agriculture in the region.

National Food and Agro-industry Programs of Nicaragua

The Institute provided advisory services for the design of two of the three programs established in the Government’s sectoral policy: a) the National Food Program, which makes provision for the negotiation of US\$750 million for the next five years; and b) the National Agroindustry Program, for which an initial strategic proposal was prepared.



◀ *The world food crisis is the topic that the Deputy Director General, Christopher Hansen, tabled for discussion, on behalf of IICA, during a special meeting of the Permanent Council of the OAS in Washington in 2008.*



Leadership in Agriculture

Building a new generation of stakeholders in agriculture and rural life

“Forming leaders means that those people who are in a position to exert an active influence over the processes of change, not only within the member countries, but also at the regional level, must acquire the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes.” (MTP 2006-2010, IICA, page 66)

The Institute inaugurated the Center for Leadership in Agriculture. The purpose of the Center is to support the development of leaders in the Americas who have a global vision and who can spearhead the creation of modern agriculture that contributes to sustainable development, food security and rural prosperity at the hemispheric, regional and national levels.

Through the Center, IICA implemented special programs for five new ministers of agriculture (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Dominica and Jamaica) and forums for decision-makers. The participants were briefed about, and discussed in-depth, the current situation, the trends, and the main challenges facing agriculture at the global and hemispheric levels, as well as sustainable agriculture, agro-energy, biotechnology and leadership in agriculture.



▲ *The Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica, Christopher Tufton, visited IICA Headquarters to take part in the Forum for Leaders of Agriculture and learn about successful agriculture projects being implemented in Costa Rica. During his visit, he signed a Memorandum of Understanding which paves the way for the Institute to provide technical assistance in priority areas of interest for the Ministry.*

The Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture, held in Costa Rica, was a resounding success. Eighty-one young people from IICA's 34 member countries took part in the event. The forum focused on topics related to leadership and values, rural development based on a territorial approach, competitive agribusinesses and efficient methods for searching for agricultural information. One of the results of the hemispheric forum was the creation of an internship program, thanks to which young leaders in the Americas have the opportunity to increase their knowledge and experience in a country other than their own.

At the regional level, the First Forum for Young Leaders in the Andean Region took place in Quito, Ecuador. Some 25 young people from Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela took part. At the national level, initial steps were taken to hold territorial fora. This was the case of the state of Portuguesa in Venezuela and in the department of Guajira, in Colombia. Young leaders from the Wayuu ethnic group participated in this latter forum. Other similar events were organized in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica.

Rural Leaders "Unleashing Local Energies"

In Costa Rica, IICA completed the design of the Action Training Program for Rural Leaders "Unleashing Local Energies," which includes 12 modules applied over a two-year period in three stages: Talent Management, Innovative Solutions and Transforming Joint Action.



▲
The preparation of young leaders in agriculture will contribute to achieving the Millennium Goal of cutting poverty in half by 2015.

Finally, it is worth noting that IICA, University of California, Ecoagriculture Partners and CATIE provided assistance in the organization of the Second International Course "Leadership for the Development of Eco-agriculture: Integrated management of rural territories in Central America".



CATIE
Solutions for environment and development
Soluciones para el ambiente y desarrollo



Horizontal Cooperation

A highly valuable tool in the hemisphere



▲
As a result of coordinated action among officials of the government of Costa Rica, the Chilean embassy in Costa Rica and IICA, the President of the Republic of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, visited IICA Headquarters during an official visit to Costa Rica.

The Institute's performance in the area of technical cooperation has been enhanced as a result of its efforts to promote exchanges of knowledge and know-how developed by Latin America and the Caribbean which, when shared, are useful strategies in terms of the hemisphere's and regional objectives as they relate to agriculture and rural life.

Noteworthy among the results of this promotional effort in horizontal cooperation are the following:

- a. The organization, systematization and dissemination of a series of documents on successful experiences in Chile for the purpose of producing a publication entitled "Strategies and instruments for strengthening agricultural development: the case of Chile", as well as a host of achievements with regard to the application of "Significant experiences in state policy in countries of the hemisphere".
- b. Publication of the document entitled "Agricultural insurance in the countries of the Andean Region: An approximation to the state of the art of agricultural insurance".

- c. Support to SICTA in the formulation and presentation of the project “Central America-Chile Nucleus of Knowledge for Agricultural Innovation and Food Security”, for financing of the Chile-Central America Innovation Fund. This project seeks to put into operation a knowledge center between Chilean and Central American research institutions.
- d. Creation of the Node on Agricultural Insurance in Uruguay.
- e. In conjunction with the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of Central America, the cooperation given in preparing the agreements for Chile’s status as an observer country of SICA and the CAC.
- f. Cooperation between Costa Rica and Chile was strengthened as a result of the promotion of exports between the two countries, which involved small-scale Chilean and Costa Rican producers and assistance from PROCHILE. Agreements were also concluded among the National Irrigation Commission of Chile, IICA and SENARA of Costa Rica.





New and Stronger Partnerships

Taking advantage of regional integration

Because of the regional scope of the results, the regional agendas of IICA add value to the national agendas. Dialogue and a regional construct are essential for the achievement of common objectives.

In the Southern Region, IICA continued to function as Technical-Administrative Secretariat (TAS) of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS) in the framework of which it facilitated the organization and holding of special and regular meetings of that Council. At those meetings, the ministers and representatives of the member countries of the CAS reviewed the situation of rising food prices and the impact in the region, as well as worldwide projections and trends.

In addition, the TAS-CAS organized meetings held by the Agricultural Policy Coordination Network of the Southern Region (REDPA) and its technical working groups, as well as the Meeting of the Ad hoc Group on Fertilizers, held in Montevideo, Uruguay. Its support was crucial in gathering, compiling, analyzing and circulating essential information for designing agricultural policy.

The Institute reinforced the technical-institutional and regional coordination capacity of the countries of the Southern Region to analyze agricultural and trade policies and international negotiations. This was the result of actions such as the following: (i) comparative analysis of MERCOSUR and the European Union in the framework of the cooperative EuMercopol project, and in conjunction with ECLAC and CIRAD/France; (ii) operation of the regional policy information system; (iii) various courses and seminars on the state of and prospects for multilateral agricultural trade negotiations and the rules and regulations in WTO agreements. In this, IICA worked in partnership with the WTO, ALADI, the IDB/INTAL, the Government of Spain and the Uruguayan Group of the Inter-parliamentary Union, depending on the case.

In the Andean Region, IICA was instrumental in creating and launching the “Andean Alliance for Dialogue on and Reassessment of Agriculture and Rural Life”. Leaders from the following, among other, sectors were involved: technological research and innovation, agricultural health, food safety,

financing, integration, rural development, university education, biotechnology and biosafety, agro-production chains, sectoral policies, rural women's affairs, agribusiness, rural youth, producers and indigenous women.

With regard to institutional coordination, ties with universities in the region offering majors in agriculture, livestock or forestry were revamped; also, fora promoted in each of the countries provided the basis for a proposal known as "Universities and territories", which was presented to the Annual Meeting of FRADIEAR, held in Caracas in 2008, to validate it and initiate contact for financing it.

In the Central Region, on the other hand, as a result of technical cooperation activities there, various stakeholders were able to coordinate the implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary policy measures, within the framework of the 2008-2017 Central American Agricultural Policy. Among the main results of the Joint Program among the Secretariats of the Central American Economic Integration Subsystem, IICA and other cooperation agencies are the following: (i) progress by the countries in preparing harmonized quarantine procedures manuals; (ii) preparation of a regional project for modernizing peripheral quarantine posts of the Central American Customs Union; (iii) the training program to support the modernization of quarantine posts; (iv) the proposal for creating a regional risk analysis unit; and (v) the contribution to implementation of the Work Program of the subgroup on sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Pursuant to the Cooperation Agreement signed between IICA and the Central American Agriculture Council (CAC),



the Executive Secretariat of the CAC provided support to the ministries of agriculture in the Central Region in carrying out the following priority actions: (i) formulating and implementing the "Emergency Plan to Increase the Production of Basic Grains in Central America for the 2008-2009 Agricultural Cycle"; (ii) implementing, at regional and national level, the 2008-2017 Central American Agricultural Policy; (iii) preparing and approving, at the highest political level, the Regional Agro-environmental and Health Strategy; (iv) advancing the process for establishment of the Central American Customs Union, in specific regard to the agricultural sector; and (v) defining guidelines for formulating a Central American territorial rural development strategy to promote the diversification of sources of employment and income in the rural milieu, based on productive activities, in addition to agricultural activities, such as rural tourism, handicrafts, agro-industry and environmental services in the various territories.



Agriculture and Rural Life

A look at what the future holds

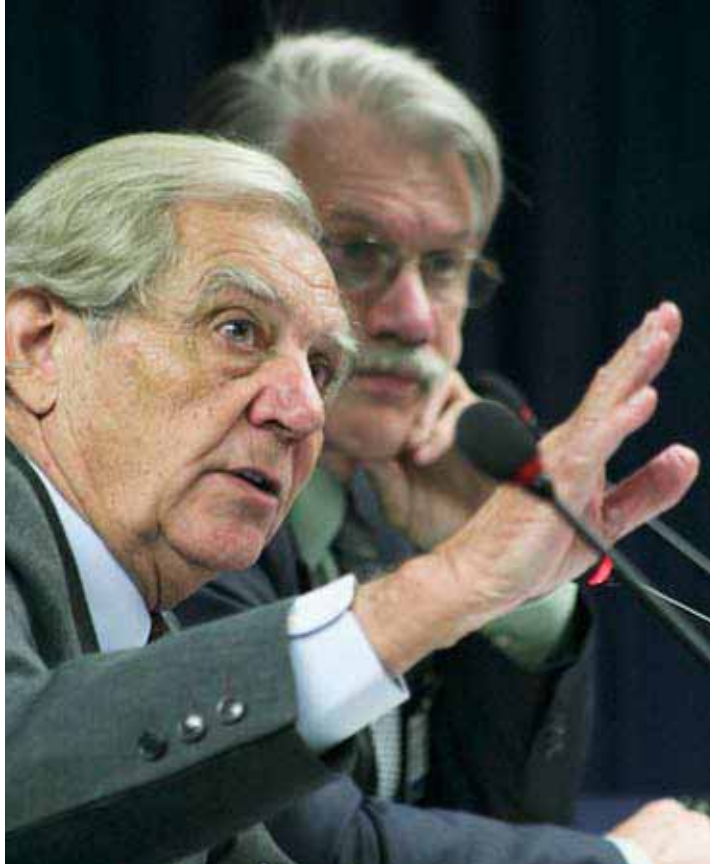
One of the responsibilities that the Institute takes very seriously is its role as a forum for an exchange of ideas and thoughts about agriculture and its potential for modern societies.

Hence, one of the most important events was the organization of the international workshop of experts entitled “Contribution of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu to Sustainable Development and Food Security in the New International Context.” A number of international agencies and academic institutions discussed in-depth the different definitions of the term “rural” and the role of agriculture in helping to reduce poverty and promote rural prosperity. A document was presented at the workshop on the new international scenario for agriculture created by the volatile prices of commodities; and six critical issues related to the agricultural sector were defined that will form part of a wide-ranging study that IICA intends to carry out in 2009. Furthermore, a clear institutional position was established with regard to the question of agriculture’s contribution to food security and development in Latin America and the Caribbean with a view to presenting a document on the subject at the Fifth Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Americas.

Over the course of the year, five technical forums were held on critical and emerging issues in agriculture and rural life:

- “The World Bank’s World Development Report 2008: Agriculture for Development,” which focused on an analysis of the implications of that report for agriculture in the hemisphere;
- “Management of intellectual property rights: the case of regional public goods resulting from agricultural technology development;”
- “A new vision for dealing with zoonotic diseases;”
- “Agriculture and food security in the new international context,” which coincided with the aforementioned international workshop of experts; and
- “Direct foreign investment in Latin America and the Caribbean and its impact on agriculture and rural development.”

At the national level, IICA supported the MIDA of **Panama** and the Rice Corporation of **Costa Rica** at various national



▲ *Drawing on the results of the Workshop of Experts, which involved renowned international consultants of the stature of Martin Piñeiro, IICA drew up a document which was presented to the Heads of State and Government during the Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Trinidad and Tobago in April.*

Caribbean Week of Agriculture in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

As a member of the Alliance, IICA, in support of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, hosted the Eighth Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) and the National Agricultural and Agro-based Industrial Exhibition (NAIE), which gave a significant boost to agriculture and rural life.

sectoral workshops, presenting an analysis of the international trade conditions facing the rice sector. In **Saint Lucia**, through a national agriculture symposium with the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries (MALFF), stakeholders in the agriculture and related sectors gained a better understanding of the challenges facing the Ministry of Agriculture and its capacity to advance development of the sector, including the constraints it faces in doing so. And in **Uruguay**, IICA helped enhance the country's capacity for prospective analysis and strategic thinking by holding the fourth series of lectures entitled "State policies: what lies ahead for the agricultural sector."





Policies and Trade

Topics of growing strategic interest

In the face of intense ongoing negotiations on the matter of multilateral trade agreements and regional integration processes, IICA established a training program on trade policy and integration for officials from the public and private sectors in the Central Region. Under this program, the expertise of 45 Central American professionals was enhanced by means of two meetings - one in Costa Rica and one in Honduras.

The Second International Forum on the Outlook for the Agricultural Trade Negotiations provided an opportunity to give a presentation on sensitive issues involved in the negotiation of the association agreement between the Andean Community (CAN) and the European Union (EU), establish a plan for joint work with the CAN and deliver the following documents to support the CAN negotiators: a) Comparison of the prices of sensitive CAN and EU products; b) Estimate of the level of concessions made by the European Union in the agreements negotiated with Chile and Mexico; c) System for the continuous evaluation of offers and demands in the CAN-EU negotiations; and, d) Strategy for negotiating an agreement on bananas with the EU.

In support of the Aid for Trade (A4T) initiative, IICA took part in the workshop “Strengthening agricultural trade



strategies: towards a Caribbean agenda,” held in Belize. At the workshop, the Institute presented projects to be financed by the European Union that were designed to mitigate the negative effects of trade liberalization on the Caribbean countries.



Institutional Modernization

A must for development

The delivery of cooperation to member countries as they seek to modernize their institutional framework in the area of agriculture and rural development is an important component of the national agendas agreed upon between Member States and IICA.

Some experiences in this area are presented below:

- In **Chile**, the Institute supported efforts to modernize the institutional framework of the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) by carrying out the following studies: a) Proposed institutional framework for food quality; b) Proposed implementation of a consumer unit within the ministry; and, c) Technical bases for the institutional design of the national research system.
- In **Colombia**, IICA supported the efforts of national institutions to execute strategically important programs and projects, including the call for bids for the irrigation and drainage component of the Secure Agricultural Income Program (AIS), the Rural Opportunities Program, the Agricultural Production Chains Program and the Agricultural Development Fund, working with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR). Other

Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA)

The Institute was proactive in helping the new CABA Executive to begin improving its governance, operating and reporting systems to connect with stakeholders, including the Alliance of Ministers. The Institute also assisted CABA with the preparation of the organization's 2009 Work Plan, as well as the implementation of the CABA/MIF project funded by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

important activities to which the Institute contributed included the Income Generation and Women Savers with Social Action Program and the Seed Capital for Displaced Populations Project, both in collaboration with the Colombian Rural Development Institute (INCODER); and the calls for bids of the Agroindustry Program, working with the National Learning Service (SENA).

- In **Paraguay**, the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) has a proposed 2008-2013 State Policy for the Agricultural and Rural Sector. IICA provided technical cooperation for the preparation of the policy and representatives of producers' organizations and family agriculture took part.
- In **Dominica**, IICA worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (MAFF) to place the endorsement of the draft policy framework entitled "Invest in Dominica - Secure Agriculture - National Policy for the Agriculture Environment (Agri-Eco) System, 2007-2025" on the agenda of the Cabinet of Ministers.





Agricultural Competitiveness

Strengthening business capabilities

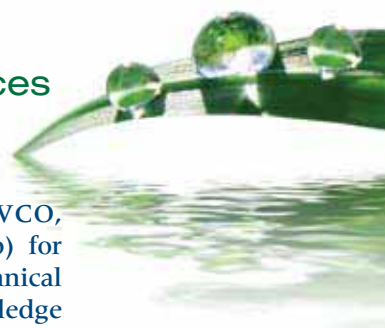
With regard to the strengthening of business capabilities in the area of agriculture, IICA continued to implement activities, such as the Export Platforms Program, the Program to Strengthen the Business Capabilities of Small- and Medium-scale Producers and Strengthening Businesses to Export.

Along these same lines, the Institute also disseminated at least three editions of the “Agroenlace” radio program, presented a project to strengthen the business and export capabilities of small- and medium-sized enterprises in Haiti and assisted the Dominican Republic in analyzing development opportunities along the border with Haiti.

To support the strengthening of the institutional framework for the development of agribusinesses, IICA was instrumental in eight Caribbean countries joining the *Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA)* and took part in the organization’s seventh regular meeting in Panama City. The assessment of the agricultural information systems of the same eight countries also got under way and will conclude in the first quarter of 2009.

NAMDEVCO-Effective Information Marketing Services in Trinidad and Tobago

IICA in collaboration with NAMDEVCO, hosted a mission (including a workshop) for the design of a US\$230,000, three-year technical cooperation program to build the knowledge base of small- and medium-sized agricultural entrepreneurs. This will link them properly to domestic and export markets and build the capacity of NAMDEVCO to provide market information and other technical services.





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Central American bean producers, who were promoted under the SICTA Network project and IICA, visited farms, processing industries and marketing firms in Costa Rica for training in new production processes.

In Central America, the Institute supported the implementation of the Central American Agricultural Policy (PACA) by presenting the profile of a project for the execution of agreements on competitiveness and the development of a strategy for the region's poultry sector, in coordination with the Federation of Poultry Farmers of Central America and the Caribbean (FEDAVICAC). In support of the Secretariat of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), IICA prepared a proposed regional strategy for improving corn

production and productivity, which also provided input for the Emergency Plan to increase staple grain production in Central America.

Also in the Central Region, in an effort to promote the competitiveness of agribusiness, the Institute trained 30 basic grain producers who are leaders and beneficiaries of the SICTA Network from Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Training was provided in conceptual and practical topics related to agribusiness, marketing and market access and their business capabilities were thereby strengthened.

In addition, an international project entitled Global Linking Farmers to Markets was designed and presented to the GFAR and approved at that organization's most recent meeting, held in Maputo, Mozambique. In support of the countries of the Central Region, IICA submitted a proposal to the IDB for the Program to Improve the Competitiveness of Fruit-growing in Central America.

Frutales Program in El Salvador

The fourth stage of the Program for the Development of Fruit Products of El Salvador (FRUTALES) was completed. A total of 370 ha. of fruit trees were planted and technical assistance was provided to 1,322 producers who work 3,497 ha. of fruit trees.

At the level of the individual countries:

- In **Panama** the Institute helped to improve competitiveness and promote trade in agricultural products by providing support to the Committee of the Dairy Products Chain aimed at the establishment of a milk purchasing system based on quality. IICA also supported the implementation of a program to improve the competitiveness of rice chains.
- In **Honduras**, at the request of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG), IICA prepared the 2008-2012 medium-term investment strategy for the agricultural sector, which incorporated the chains approach and cooperated in the formulation of the National Plan for the Dissemination and Communication of the 2008-2009 PACA, which was also delivered to the SAG. It also contributed to developing an agricultural investment strategy and consolidating agrifood chains.
- In an effort to support policy formulation and agribusiness planning at the enterprise level in **Trinidad and Tobago**, IICA supported the Division of Agriculture, Marine Affairs, Marketing and the Environment of the Tobago House of Assembly in developing production cost models for a range of root crops, vegetables and livestock.
- And in the **Dominican Republic**, the Institute carried out the third export platform, focusing on New York as a market. In Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Paraguay and Ecuador, workshops and seminars were held to enhance business capabilities and export prospects.

Bono Tecnológico Program in Honduras

By implementing cooperation agreements, including one related to the Bono Tecnológico (a program involving subsidized fertilizers and seeds), IICA helped the SAG to restore the productive capacity of the country's small-scale basic grain producers.





Rural Agroindustry

Linking farmers with markets

IICA recommended hemispheric, regional and local actions to improve linkages between small-scale producers and markets; to promote recognition of the importance of origin and traditions as part of the value and quality of foodstuffs; to activate localized agri-food systems; and to consolidate economic undertakings based on the territorial approach to development.

As a result of IICA cooperation, methodologies and tools were developed and validated for activating clusters of rural agro-industries or localized agri-food systems, preparing agro-tourism development plans and identifying opportunities for economic enterprises based on the comparative advantages of territories. The instruments were validated and applied, in Chiapas (Mexico), the northern region of Costa Rica and provinces in the departments of Lima and Junin (Peru), respectively.

Agro-industry in Antigua and Barbuda

Agro-processors increased their market share and networked with potential clients and partners through the Third IICA Most Outstanding Agro-processors Award Competition, held during the Christian Valley Mango Festival. Agro-processors improved their capacity to increase their income stream through technical assistance provided to the agro-processors group.

Ecuador, Nicaragua, Colombia, Panama and the Central American countries as a whole all made progress with their efforts to formulate and implement policy tools in support of development and strengthen agroindustry and microenterprises. IICA also presented a proposal to the Undersecretary for the Sierra of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador for implementing a capacity-building program for small rural entrepreneurs, to improve their chances of accessing national and international markets.

Some 150 organizations representing small businesses and 25 national and local organizations in production and trade chains (which represent more than 3,000 rural families

in Colombia, Peru and Mexico) improved their capacity to gain access to, and maintain a presence in, markets by participating in projects supported by the IICA Office in the countries mentioned (PADEMER in Colombia, the Red de Pueblos in Peru and PRODESIS in Mexico).

Working with universities and NGOs in Mexico and Peru, IICA increased and improved the supply of formal and informal training programs in the fields of rural agroindustry, localized agri-food systems and agro-tourism.



Photo CENTA - El Salvador



Agro-tourism

New exercises, new opportunities

Initiatives that combine tourism and agriculture have proven to be highly effective in terms of increasing income and opportunities in the rural milieu.

In **Grenada**, through the development and initiation of a relevant Action Plan, IICA helped facilitate a more coordinated and focused approach towards increased participation of all stakeholders in the strengthening of links between the agriculture and tourism sectors. A re-vitalized Agro-tourism Linkage Committee, co-chaired by the Grenada Board of Tourism and IICA, made this possible.

workshops with producers and hoteliers.

In **Guyana**, the implementation of an agro-tourism component in the Tri Lakes Communities under the W. K. Kellogg Foundation Project resulted in IICA receiving the Agro-Tourism Development Initiative Award from MoTIC/ Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA).

In the **Dominican Republic**, an agro-tourism project was executed with support from the Travel Foundation. The work included support for more than ten rural communities with the design and manufacture of the first mill for processing manioc flour with local technology (for use by producers in Moncion); an analysis of the demand for and supply of agricultural products in areas popular with tourists; and the building of a greenhouse, a reservoir for breeding fish and a spice garden.

And in **Suriname** the second phase of the IICA/OAS Agro-Tourism Linkages Project was completed with a workshop aimed at strengthening links between farmers and hotels, and phase three got under way with a survey and workshop in Commewijne District.



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Agrotourism project in Dominica.



Agricultural Insurance

Safeguards in the face of adversity

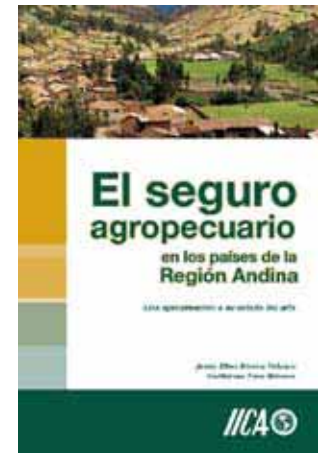
Pursuant to the provisions of Resolution n°. 411 of the Executive Committee, the Institute maintains an active agenda for the promotion and exchange of experiences with regard to agricultural insurance.

IICA secured support from the Vice President and Minister of Agriculture of Uruguay for a conference on agriculture insurance in Montevideo, which will be held in 2009. To strengthen this effort, the Institute also developed a relationship with the new head of ALASA, the hemispheric insurance organization.

Thanks to the Institute's efforts, a number of Spanish insurance companies (ENESA, Agroseguros and POLITECNICA) agreed to provide advisory or consulting services in developing agricultural insurance programs for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Also noteworthy is the success achieved in linking and identifying stakeholders in the areas of micro-insurance and micro-credit and the review of background information on the subject of agricultural insurance.

Lastly, the document "Agriculture Insurance in Latin America - Observations and Critical Success Factors," was presented to over 200 small producers, government officials and members of the private sector at the Eighth Annual Meeting of Chile's Agricultural Development Institute (INDAP). The theme of the event was "Managing Risk for Small Producers in Chile."



ComunIICA

An article published recently in ComunIICA magazine analyzed agricultural insurance throughout the hemisphere and how it helps reduce poverty by enabling farmers to recover more quickly from economic losses in the event of natural disasters and other phenomena.





Agricultural Health and Food Safety

*Institutional strengthening,
modernization and leadership*

In the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), IICA continued to implement the Initiative for the Americas, which began in 2002 and concluded with the October 2008 meeting of the WTO's SPS Committee. The 34 member countries took part in the last meeting. Six make up a support group, while the other 28 benefited from the program. The Initiative led to the structuring of institutional and informal SPS coordination mechanisms in most countries of the Americas. It also raised awareness of the importance of this forum and the need to address SPS issues to protect human, animal and plant health and ensure uninterrupted access to world markets for agricultural products. The international community praised the Initiative and 21 member countries and the Secretary of the WTO's SPS Committee congratulated IICA publicly for its work.

The Institute began to implement an institution-building project related to SPS, financed by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF). As part of the project, the new IICA tool Performance, Vision and Strategy in Sanitary and

Phytosanitary Measures (PVS/SPS) was applied in 24 member countries. Reports were produced on each country, in which the Institute identified SPS needs and provided information for the preparation of 24 national and four regional SPS project profiles.

As part of a wide-ranging project financed by the USDA, designed to encourage the countries of the Americas to participate in the international standard-setting processes related to animal health (World Organization for Animal Health - OIE), plant health (International Plant Protection Convention - IPPC) and food safety (Codex Alimentarius), IICA offered courses in collaboration with the OIE, FAO and the Plant Health Committee of the Southern Cone (COSAVE). Between 500 and 600 participants were trained at each course in the 32 countries.

With regard to institutional modernization, the PVS tools were applied in the veterinary services of Jamaica and several Brazilian states, plant health services in Costa Rica



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Thanks to the SPS Initiative for the Americas, 34 member countries were able to participate actively in the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures of the World Trade Organization.

and food safety services in Bolivia. IICA also published the new PVS tool on sanitary and phytosanitary measures and a manual on the use of the PVS tools. In addition, the scope of the PVS tool was expanded to include the design and implementation of projects to modernize the veterinary and plant health services of Paraguay and the veterinary services of Jamaica and Costa Rica.

With regard to leadership in food safety, under the agreement signed in 2007 with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (USA), IICA enhanced the expertise of all its AHFS, food safety and risk assessment specialists, thereby enabling them to provide more effective technical cooperation in this area.

Additionally, IICA assisted the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC) in pinpointing opportunities to increase the participation of the countries of the Americas in the Codex Alimentarius standard-setting process. As a result, the countries' participation is expected to increase in 2009.

In collaboration with Michigan State University and Earth University, IICA held a workshop in Costa Rica entitled "Thinking globally and acting locally." This paved the way for a line of hemispheric thinking aimed at promoting agricultural health measures in the communities to increase surveillance and early warnings when outbreaks of pests and diseases occur. Five projects were also financed to promote work at the community level in Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico.

Finally, IICA started to distribute educational material for primary schools donated by the USDA, thereby expanding the scope of its food safety work to include education with a view to raising consumers' awareness of the importance of good practices in the hygienic handling of foodstuffs.



Plant and Animal Health Surveillance

Better prepared for emergencies

In an attempt to improve the ability to handle emerging issues and emergencies, IICA has promoted a series of tools and projects in the hemisphere, regions and individual countries.

One of these is the Observatory of Emerging Issues and Emergencies in AHFS, which already has the capacity to alert member countries to officially confirmed outbreaks of pests and diseases, incidents of food-borne diseases and news about trends that could affect trade, such as possible regulatory changes in importing countries.

The implementation of an extensive project designed to reinforce the epidemiological surveillance of animal diseases also got under way in the Caribbean, in collaboration with the USDA/APHIS, CIRAD (France) and the Caribbean Animal Health Network (CaribVet). As a result, a network of ten epidemiologists and para-epidemiologists was established in nine Caribbean countries.

The Institute also implemented the Regional Strategy for Control of Cotton Boll Weevil in the Southern Cone, which was financed with an IDB contribution (Non-reimbursable Technical Cooperation Agreement No. ATN/SF-9746-RG). The

Regional Project on Avian Influenza and other Transboundary Animal Diseases (TAD) (CAS/CVP – BM-IICA TF 077819) were also prepared and carried out as a result of coordinated effort with the authorities of the Official Veterinary Systems (OVS) and the Permanent Veterinary Committees (PVC).

Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF-IICA) Project

Thirteen countries in the Caribbean Region participated in this project, which entailed using the Performance, Vision, Strategy (PVS) tool to assess each country's SPS system.



Noteworthy are the following results in the individual countries:

IICA conducted an assessment of the food safety system of **Trinidad and Tobago** at the request of the Cabinet-appointed Committee entrusted with developing a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System for Trinidad and Tobago.

Assistance was provided to **Jamaica** in drafting guidelines for updated plant quarantine legislation. Similar assistance was provided in reviewing and commenting on a manual of good agricultural practices in Jamaica; training in GAPs for farmers and processors in the Bahamas; and training for plant quarantine inspectors in Dominica.

In the **Bahamas**, the Agro-Tourism Linkage Project, which is being implemented by the Bahamas Agricultural Producers Association (BAPA) with technical support from IICA, completed an assessment of the state of the art of farming practices in the country and provided training in good agricultural practices for New Providence and Family Island Farmers.

In **Bolivia**, IICA helped strengthen the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service (SENASAG) by promoting the creation of the FAO/PAHO/IICA Inter-agency Group that supported the process of developing a US\$10 million funding proposal for SENASAG for the period 2009-2014, aimed at improving its services and institutionalizing it as a decentralized public agency.

In **Ecuador** over 700 producers and 100 veterinary students received training under the Program to Implement a Pilot Plan of Good Poultry Practices (GPP) in six areas that run

the risk of an outbreak of avian influenza virus. GPP were implemented on 23 farms; the poultry census was carried out in the Galapagos Islands; and a kit for implementing GPP was developed and a computerized system prepared to automate the issuing of permits for moving birds and pigs.

In addition, in **Saint Kitts and Nevis**, the Institute enhanced the management program for the Ministry of Agriculture's Coconut Lethal Yellowing Disease Rehabilitation Project by providing technical input to the task force that was set up and planting materials valued at EC\$5,000.00.





Technology and Innovation

Strengthening the hemispheric system

Over the last 60 years, science and technology system has been successful in generating knowledge and technological innovations, but greater efforts are needed to tap the potential of agricultural knowledge, science and technology for improving local living standards and reducing hunger and poverty. The latter could be achieved by designing and implementing an economically sustainable environmental and social development model.

With regard to the strengthening of the hemispheric system of cooperation among countries for technological innovation in agriculture and its links with the international research system, IICA's efforts focused on strengthening hemispheric dialogue for the design of policies and the development of a regional technological innovation agenda under the aegis of FORAGRO, whose Technical Secretariat is operated by the Institute. With Uruguay's NARI and other partners, IICA held the Fifth International Meeting of FORAGRO, Montevideo 2008, whose theme was "Institutional innovations for agriculture with knowledge in the Americas for the 21st century." The principal agreements reached were set out in the Declaration of Montevideo 2008.

As the Technical Secretariat of FORAGRO, IICA facilitated dialogue aimed at securing a renewed presence in LAC of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR). The Institute also spearheaded the preparation of a document on the CGIAR's vision in LAC and proposals for achieving a more active presence of the organization in the region.

IICA strengthened the mechanism for funding agricultural research and innovation, known as FONTAGRO, by signing a new agreement with the IDB for the period 2008-2009.

One of the most significant contributions of the Northern Region was the support provided to the Technical and Administrative Secretariat (STA) of FONTAGRO. During 2008, IICA continued to participate actively and to give technical support to the STA in at least three actions.

First, IICA provided strategic direction to FONTAGRO through various interventions, such as the development of prospective studies of the agricultural production systems of the Americas, the present agendas on research and innovation in agriculture, the analysis and monitoring of

the rapidly evolving institutional architecture in the areas of research, development, innovation and financial support to agricultural innovations. Also, IICA supported FONTAGRO with a specific study on the area of protection of regional public goods and prepared strategic documents for submission to its Board of Directors.

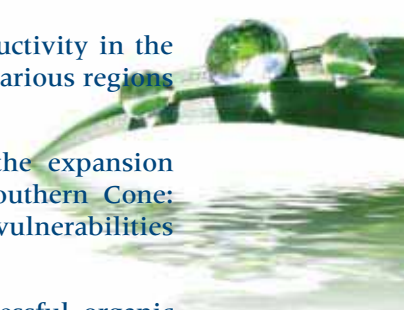
Secondly, the Institute participated in a training workshop entitled “Enhancing Capabilities for the Design of Projects for FONTAGRO’s Calls for Proposals” aimed at enhancing the capabilities of 30 professionals to formulate projects. It also took part in the Fund’s regional technical workshop on projects, which enabled 15 countries to have access to up-to-date information about the status of 23 projects financed by FONTAGRO and shared information about the findings of the research and innovations of the projects supported by the Fund.

And thirdly, by sharing the FONTAGRO STA office space, it actively participated in the daily operational activities of the Fund, from the development of TOR for the annual call for proposals, training and follow-up workshops, etc.

With a view to developing a prospective vision of technology and innovation in agriculture, IICA and the IFPRI updated information related to the indicators for science and technology (ASTI) in Central America and other LAC countries. These indicators include information about the institutional actors of technology research and development and the funds and human resources invested in such activities.

Three results stand out in the area of institutional modernization for agricultural technology and innovation.

FONTAGRO Projects-Southern Region

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- a. Evaluation of changes in water productivity in the face of different climate scenarios in various regions of the Southern Cone (2009-2012).
 - b. Climate variability and change in the expansion of the agricultural frontier in the Southern Cone: technological strategies to reduce vulnerabilities (2009- 2012).
 - c. Identification and validation of successful organic production systems that could potentially be adopted in family agriculture in Southern Cone countries (2008-2011).
 - d. Expansion of the genetic base of naturalized forage legumes for sustainable grazing systems (2006-2009).

Firstly, IICA helped complete the International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development (IAASTD) for LAC. According to the assessment, IICA also used various means to disseminate the results, including a videoconference in which six authors of the assessment interacted with over 100 participants in five countries.

Secondly, with regard to the management of intellectual property, the Institute conducted a study that describes the different mechanisms for protecting the regional public goods produced by the research and innovation processes carried out under the aegis of the PROCIs and FONTAGRO. The study recommends that the countries develop strategies for sensitizing and training researchers and innovators, and promote a policy for managing goods that can be protected, including controls to ensure compliance. The study was enhanced through dialogue at an international workshop and a technical forum on the management of intellectual property with respect to regional public goods.

2008 Report on the State and Performance of Agriculture in LAC from the Technological Perspective

The report highlights the challenges facing technological innovation and institutional innovation in the current environment, characterized by volatile food prices and growing demand for technologies for dealing with climate change. The report also underlines the need to take advantage of the increasing readiness of governments to promote technological services for agriculture, in relation to both technology development and the reorganization of agricultural extension.



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In the Third Seminar for Technical Follow-up of Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO) Projects, 23 of the projects financed by the Fund were presented.

Finally, with support from the GFAR, IICA conducted a study entitled “Technological innovations for production systems based on family agriculture.” The findings were discussed at a workshop held during the meeting of FORAGRO. The participants underscored the need to prepare methodologies for gauging the impact of family agriculture programs and provide more information about the institutional efforts of the countries in aid of that agriculture subsector.



Regional Research and Reciprocal Cooperation

The active role of the PROCIs

Reciprocal cooperation between and among countries was strengthened within the framework of cooperative agricultural research and technology transfer programs.

Within the framework of PROCITROPICOS, the possibility of cultivating *Jatropha curcas* in North, Central and South America was explored and a proposal for launching a project to promote cultivation of it was prepared. Support was also provided to identify and evaluate the main collections of existing genetic resources in the eight countries and the corresponding document was presented to Global Trust.

IICA has played a fundamental role in strengthening the Central American Integration System for Agricultural Technology (SICTA), to which five new virtual knowledge networks have been added.

Thanks to PROMECAFE and the Project entitled Coffee Quality based on Place of Origin being executed by IICA with funding from the AECID, the coffee institutes of the Central Region received support from public institutions

Red SICTA Project

As a result of the former project, six countries in the region have benefited from the financing of 14 innovation projects. As executing agency for the SICTA Network Project, to which SDC contributes resources, IICA supported associations of producers in the execution of the projects. This included the identification of national priorities and stakeholders in each of the countries. The SICTA Network has co-financed a total of US\$1,407,900 for the execution of these projects. It bears noting that 41 events were held as part of this project, in which 963 people participated, mainly producers and technicians from the projects that the SICTA Network is co-financing in the Region.



involved in the legal process of registering protected geographic indications and denominations of origin. They also had access to specially trained personnel, information and technological know-how for designing instruments and to mechanisms for coordinating the assessment of coffees from the region and improving competitiveness and access to the quality coffee market.

In addition, IICA and the Andean countries signed a new agreement for the continuation of PROCIANDINO and the program's MTP was drawn up. The latter includes regional cooperation actions on food security, climate change, institution building, agricultural biotechnologies and agro-energy.

During the Ninth Meeting of the Board of Directors of PROCINORTE, a resolution was adopted requesting IICA to help its Executive Secretariat to develop a strategic plan. In response to that request, the Institute convened a workshop

in Mexico. The product of it was a blueprint and guidelines for the development of the PEP that included a consultation process in each country and a process for pooling and analyzing the information to be submitted to the Board of Directors. The information collected by the countries is now available to be presented to the Board of Directors at its upcoming meeting for it to decide on future strategic directions for the PROCI. Additionally, IICA has supported the outreach and the establishment of relationships between PROCINORTE and other PROCIs as a means of increasing inter-regional collaboration.

Finally, PROCISUR continued with its core undertaking of linking the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs) with other players in the science, technology and innovation communities to leverage resources for research. During 2008, the member institutions of PROCISUR, the NARIs and IICA were able to participate in ten projects and thereby became associated with 51 R&D institutions and participated in projects involving more than US\$9 million.

Furthermore, PROCISUR generated "seed capital" for the following initiatives:

- TIPIFICAR: Technologies for the classification and grading of beef carcasses and meat for the expanded MERCOSUR (2004-2008).
- Regional Cooperative Project on Wheat Genetic Resources in the Southern Cone (2007-2009).
- SOUTHNOMICS: Genetic resistance to Asian rust in soybean (2006-2012).



Biotechnology and Biosafety

Partnerships and exchanges of experiences

In recent years, IICA has endeavored to support the efforts of member countries to develop and incorporate agro-biotechnologies as instruments for improving the competitiveness of the sector.

Food security became a major concern during 2008, so special emphasis was placed on the needs identification exercise carried out in 2007. This led to the conceptualization and discussion of a project aimed at diversifying the supply of food for vulnerable populations in the Andean Region through the application of widely used biotechnological tools in culturally important foods.

In the Andean, Central and Southern regions, the Institute made progress in formulating regional strategies and regional projects for the development and appropriate use of biotechnology and biosafety techniques. This made it possible to share experiences and information related to the adoption of biotechnology and biosafety components among Member States. In Paraguay, for example, IICA provided technical cooperation to build capacity in intellectual property in cutting-edge biotechnologies and supported the

development of the academic profile needed for a university course offering a specialization in biotechnology.

IICA also organized a preparatory hemispheric technical meeting prior to the negotiations on the Cartagena Protocol (CPB) at COP-MOP 4, which took place in Bonn, Germany. The aim was to share final information, with the forum set to discuss articles 15, 16, 18, 23, 26, 27, 30, 33 and 35. The meeting was held with financial support from AG Canada, the USDA and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO). As a result, delegates from 15 countries in the hemisphere were able to take part.

Working with the abovementioned collaborators, the Institute also continued to prepare the countries for the negotiations of the working group on liability and redress. To that end, IICA organized a hemispheric meeting in Costa Rica to prepare for the global meeting convened by the Secretariat of the CPB for February 2009, in Mexico City. The objective of this series of international meetings was to involve the countries more closely in the process of negotiating the articles of the CPB.



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In April, IICA organized a hemispheric technical meeting in advance of the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP/MOP 4).

In partnership with the International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-Biotech Applications (ISAAA), and with collaboration from the World Bank's Global Development Learning Network (GDLN), a videoconference was held to disseminate up-to-date information about the development and adoption of agricultural biotechnology.

Finally, with the same objective in mind, the Institute produced a series of technical publications on the state of biotechnology in different parts of the hemisphere. These documents also gave details of its impact, the policies implemented, the opportunities available, the risks faced, the challenges posed and the level of adoption. Furthermore, the publications analyze the implications for the countries of the agreements adopted in international forums, such as those related to the Cartagena Protocol and Codex Alimentarius.



Agro-energy and Biofuels

Developing institutional proposals

Given the opportunities that exist for the production of alternative sources of energy, IICA set up a technical team to implement the Hemispheric Agro-energy and Biofuels Program.

This led, among other things, to the establishment of biofuels projects in Jamaica, training in the construction and maintenance of bio-digesters for producers in Belize and Saint Lucia and, jointly with the OLADE and the FAO, the holding of the Third Latin American and Caribbean Seminar on Biofuels, in the Dominican Republic. During the meeting, IICA signed a letter of understanding with OLADE that establishes mechanisms for technical cooperation between the two organizations and proposes the design and execution of a joint regional biofuels program.

The Institute also participated in the International Conference on Biofuels, held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and discussed the possibility of carrying out joint agro-energy activities with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency. In Colombia, following a presentation on the subject during the event “Agroenergy in the Andean Region: Current Situation and Sharing Experiences in Science and Technology,” progress was made



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IICA participated in the Third Latin American and Caribbean Seminar on Biofuels, held in the Dominican Republic.

in defining the terms for providing technical training jointly with Colombia's CORPOICA.

IICA also gave a presentation at the Canadian Young Farmers Forum on how to ensure that agro-energy

production does not undermine food production. This led to the signing of a collaboration agreement with the colleges for the dissemination of experiences related to the use of waste to generate energy and the production of biodiesel from algae.





Organic Agriculture

Strengthening a new hemispheric institutional framework

Organic agriculture is not only a way of life for hundreds of agricultural producers. It was also recently recognized as one of the most dynamic productive activities in international trade. Aware of this situation, IICA established the Hemispheric Organic Agriculture Program.

Through this program, IICA held the “First Meeting of the Network of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture in the Americas” in that country, with support from the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru and SENASA. IICA operates the Executive Secretariat of the Network, which the Executive Committee strengthened by means of its Resolution No. 484, in which it created the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture as a mechanism for coordinating development of the activity in the hemisphere. The Institute drafted the first version of the Commission’s statutes and created a private portal to enable the Network to disseminate information and experiences and discuss topics of interest. The countries also used the portal to reach a consensus on the development of organic agriculture in LAC and harmonized the proposed Central American and Dominican regulations for organic agriculture.



The Institute prepared the project profile “Reinforcing the institutional framework of organic agriculture in the Central American region,” which was presented to the Austrian Development Cooperation Agency.



At the country level, the following results were especially noteworthy:

- In **Peru**, an agreement was signed with the Ministry of Agriculture to support the preparation of a plan for the development of the Pachacamac district of Lima, which the local authorities declared an Organic District;
- In **Paraguay**, the Institute secured the endorsement of the sector authorities for a proposal to implement the National Strategy for the Development of Organic and Agro-ecological Agriculture, for which IICA will be providing advisory assistance;
- In **Chile**, IICA and the authorities of the ODEPA agreed to support the preparation and execution of a strategic plan for developing organic agriculture in that country;
- In **Honduras**, the Institute trained personnel to conduct assessments and devise national and political strategies for the development of organic agriculture; and,
- In **Argentina**, IICA and the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (SAGPyA) agreed to base the Southern Node of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture in that country and give priority to the implementation of the Node's Information Resource Center.



Sustainable Rural Development

Strengthening Rural Communities

Achieving sustainable development is a common goal of the member countries of IICA and an essential component on their development agendas.

With regard to the formulation and management of policies and policy instruments and tools for strengthening the institutional framework of the Member States, IICA therefore helped formulate the Agro-environmental Regional Strategy (ERAS) in Central America and the Rural Development Strategy of Ecuador's Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES). The Institute presented the evaluation of the PRODERT program to the institutional partners in Honduras, and provided technical guidelines to the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) in Venezuela for institutional reform and technological innovation policies for small-scale agriculture. IICA was also involved in reformulating the logical framework of the CAN's Andean Rural Development Forum Project.

In the area of capacity building for public and private actors, in Ecuador, the Institute formulated a proposal for training in sustainable rural development (SRD) based on a territorial approach for the teams of technicians and professionals of the Directorate of Rural Development of the MIES. In Peru,

IICA trained the entire technical staff of the Ministry for Women and Social Development (MIMDES) and sensitized the Association of Peruvian Entrepreneurs to the importance of sustainable rural development.

In 2008, IICA published and distributed in 16 Member States a series of methodologies and tools for implementing the SRD territorial approach. Three of these were especially important, namely: a) an updated version of the methodology for planning SRD in rural territories; b) an updated version of the methodology for estimating the level of sustainable development in rural territories, including applications in Brazil, Colombia and Peru; and c) a methodology for systematizing SRD experiences and tools using the territorial approach as input for the establishment of a knowledge management system in rural development. The Institute also prepared a tool for identifying and selecting SRD experiences at the hemispheric level.

Noteworthy in the individual countries is the following:

- In **Bolivia**, the Institute sponsored and participated in the International Seminar on Approaches to Rural and Territorial Development, held at the Universidad Mayor



Family Agriculture in Argentina


IICA helped generate more knowledge about family agriculture in Argentina by expanding the scope of studies conducted in previous years. The Institute drew on information in national censuses and analyses of new groups of producers, and took into account new dimensions and variables, such as farm size, the system of land ownership, cultural practices, the type of livestock activity, the population, the labor force and the handling of the marketing of products.

de San Andres, in collaboration with Ayuda en Accion, the Embassy of Denmark and the Latin American Center for Rural Development. IICA presented and validated the module on agro-environmental public policies at the Second Course on Agro-environmental Policy, held in Costa Rica with participants from three rural territories.

- In **Venezuela**, the Institute implemented two training workshops on concepts and tools for territorial rural development, targeting the technical teams of partner institutions that work in the semi-arid territory of Lara State. IICA also supported the launch of the Permanent Forum on Rural Development and Food Security in Honduras, organized by the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock in collaboration with the UNDP, the Network of Universities, and the Food Security and Rural Development Network.



Province of El Oro-Ecuador



In the province of El Oro, initial steps were taken to institute provincial planning processes through the identification, formulation, prioritization and management of an investment program and the respective projects portfolio, which incorporate the territorial approach into the province's development strategy.



Reference Territories in the South

In the area of rural development, the definition of two territories was concretized (Paraguari in Paraguay and Corral in Chile) with the formulation of rural development plans based on a participatory and territorial approach. Various activities related to the formulation of rural development plans (Argentina, Paraguay) and human resource training in the countries, to be carried out in 2009, were also defined and negotiated.



- In **Chile**, the Institute supported the implementation of the Chilean Rural Development Congress, in collaboration with the Regional Government of the Metropolitan Region, which led to a national network of social and institutional rural development actors being organized.
- In **Barbados**, IICA designed a model urban/peri-urban system for small-scale producers. The model was established at the St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MAR), church parishioners and Hydro Grow Farms.



III International Forum on Territorial Development: Models and Instruments for the Social Management of Territories - Fortaleza, Brazil

This Forum, attended by over 500 national and international participants, was held with the support of the Government of the State of Ceara, the Ministry of Agrarian Development, the Bank of Brazil and the Bank of the Northeast. There, participants discussed and exchanged experiences with regard to good social management practices in the territories in Brazil, France, Spain and Ecuador.



Environment and Natural Resources

Linking sectors, reconciling interests

The need to reconcile food production and environmental protection features prominently among the Institute's priorities to promote the sustainable development of agriculture.

Against this backdrop, at the 25th meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission (COFLAC), which took place in Quito, Ecuador, IICA worked with delegates from 28 countries on the regional agenda for natural resources, ecosystems and climate change. The issues of food security and poverty reduction were incorporated. During the meeting, IICA and CATIE met with the Forestry Directors of Central America to determine areas for joint collaboration at the regional and national levels.

The Institute carried out an extensive sensitization campaign on natural resources and environmental management via missions to Mexico, El Salvador, Panama, Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil, Ecuador and Venezuela. The missions helped promote the alignment of public policies for technical cooperation and develop indicators of sustainability. IICA also entered into strategic partnerships, and bolstered existing ones, in the area of natural resources

and environmental management with CATIE, the University of Nebraska, the EARTH University and Chapingo Graduate School. It defined new and complementary topics for joint work with all of them.

“Alliance against Climate Change” Project

In conjunction with institutional partners, the project document “Alliance against Climate Change” was prepared and working opportunities were identified with CATIE and other members such as *The Tropic Foundation, the American Forum on Climate Change and Capacity Building International*. The latter is made up of GTZ, KFW, CIM and INVENT.



In the countries:

The natural resource management component of an IICA project for **Haiti** was prepared, entitled “Restoration of natural resources of ecosystems as a means of adapting to and mitigating climate change.” Funding of US\$100 million was secured for the work.

In **Venezuela**, the Institute identified areas for joint action with *Petroleos de Venezuela Sociedad Anonima (PDVSA)* and is negotiating a technical collaboration agreement that includes environmental topics and the restoration of ecosystems. In the state of Trujillo, IICA worked with the Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in the West-Central Region of Venezuela (FUNDACITE) on the incorporation of an environmental and natural resource conservation component into project proposals involving alternative tourism, potato production, micro-watershed restoration, community nurseries and the strengthening of production chains.

In **Ecuador**, the Institute and the Ministry of Agriculture drew up a proposal for technical cooperation on commercial forestry plantations and reforestation to restore ecosystems. IICA consolidated the program “Diversification of the food supply for vulnerable populations,” which aims to take advantage of technological tools for native crops in the Andean Region. The Institute also identified areas for technical cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture of Ecuador through PROFORESTAL, and laid the groundwork for a cooperation agreement to be funded with resources from the Ecuadorian Government.



In **Bolivia**, IICA revised the proposal concerning the Norte Paceño reference territory; provided input for natural resource issues and the diversification of production in the territory's ecosystems; and transferred information from FAO about applied examples of fire management systems in Peru and Guatemala.

In **Colombia**, the Institute helped strengthen the areas of natural resources and environmental management for the Tequendama territory. In the Bahamas, it began identifying proposed productive projects for the restoration, conservation, protection and production of natural resources of the country's ecosystems to combat climate change.

Finally, in **Costa Rica**, IICA provided logistical support for the initiative of the Technical Office of the National Commission for Biodiversity Management of the Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (MINAET), specifically for the implementation of the workshop "Benefits derived from the use of natural, genetic and biochemical resources." IICA gave the keynote address and took advantage of the event to disseminate the results of the research and bio-prospection projects, as well as information about the benefits derived from the use of the resources in question. During the workshop, the participants assessed a representative sample of research and bio-prospection projects. Other important presentations made included "Food insecurity and the risks posed by climate change," at Chapingo Graduate School (Montecillos, Mexico), and "Management tools and tools for implementing actions aimed at the conservation, restoration, protection and production of the natural resources of forest ecosystems in the territories of Forest Management Units," at the Third National Meeting on Regional Planning, in Guadalajara, Mexico.





Gender Equality

Promoting women's rights

As part of the implementation of the Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality, AG/Res.2124 (XXXV-O/05), in Central America, the Institute joined the Project on the Harmonization of Initiatives to Support Economic Progress for Rural Women in the Framework of the Value Chains in the Central American Region, working with the Council of Ministers of Women's Affairs in Central America (COMMCA), RUTA, GTZ, UNIFEM, UNDP, the Arias Foundation, CATIE, Women National Institute (INAMU), FODEMIPYME and the Project to Promote Sustainable Markets of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for Development and EARTH University. As a result, it was possible to reach agreement on strategic actions and expected outcomes in major areas and thereby move ahead with applying the gender approach in value chains for the period 2008-2009, in projects promoted by partner institutions.

Noteworthy in the individual countries is the following:

- In **Mexico**, the Institute promoted the consolidation of rural women producers' organizations and networks. In conjunction with the National Rural Women's Network

(*Red Nacional de Mujeres Rurales -RENAMUR*), it organized the international seminar entitled: "The role of rural women in reappraising the rural milieu". The event was attended by 400 women participants from production organizations and 12 international lecturers. In addition, IICA signed a general technical cooperation agreement with the Foundation 10,000 Women for Morelos to hold training activities.

- In **Brazil**, in January of 2008, the Institute was involved in the organization of the National Sectoral Women's Seminar. At that seminar, a document was prepared as part of the campaign for the equality of women and was presented to the National Conference on Sustainable and Integral Rural Development -CNDRSS.
- In **Colombia**, arrangements were made for executing the project, "Mujeres Ahorradoras en Acción" (a project to promote savings among women), in its first year (2007-2008). The project has adapted successful experiences from countries, such as Peru and Bolivia. Led by the Presidential Agency for Social Action and International Cooperation, this project is one of the components of the government's Program for Generating Revenue which,

in the framework of a technical cooperation agreement signed with IICA, operates in 11 municipalities, targeting 6,000 women beneficiaries. In this first year, major results were achieved in terms of generating income, providing training in social business praxis and developing programs aimed at elevating the dignity of women and ensuring that their communities and families recognize their true worth, thanks to a cross-cutting gender approach.

- In **Peru**, technical and managerial expertise was upgraded for 100 women in the province of Huaura. As a result, they were able to improve the quality of the handicrafts they make with reeds, introduce innovations in their designs and increase their income levels. Participation by women who are part of the networks in the Technical and Surveillance Committees in the preparation of budgets for their districts was promoted as was reflection on the role of women in local development, with the participation of local authorities, NGOs and grassroots and production organizations.





External Financing

Broad regional projects portfolio

One of the chief results of IICA action has translated into programs and projects that are aimed at achieving development ensued. The following tables summarize, by region, various initiatives that have

either been led by IICA or in which it has played a major role in 2008. The following tables contain a summary, by region, of the most important investment programs and projects that IICA spearheaded during 2008.

Table 1. Programs and projects with IICA participation in the Andean Region

Name of program or project	Result of IICA's cooperation
ACCESO Program, Phase II (2008-2011): Andean Countries Cocoa Export Support Opportunities	The terms of reference were prepared and resources contributed for the consultancy that formulated the profile of the program presented to the IDB/MIF to continue the process of negotiating non-reimbursable funds for the implementation of the project. Participants: Andean DORI, ACCESO Program, External Financing and Investment Project Directorate (DFEPI)
Diversification of the Supply of Food for Vulnerable Groups by using Technological Tools in Crops Native to the Andean Region	A concept paper was prepared in order to continue the participatory process of formulating the project with key actors in the Andean Region. Participants: Andean Directorate of Operations (DORI), IICA/Technology and Innovation, DFEPI
Investment for the Integrated Management of Water Resources and Modernization of Production of the Puerto Cura Project in Peru	A proposal was prepared to support the Regional Government of Tumbes with the arrangements for, and organization of, an identification mission to initiate the process of formulating the program. Participants: IICA/Peru, Government of Tumbes, DFEPI
Sustainable Rural Development in Venezuela	IICA supported the process of preparing a general agreement and a technical cooperation project to assist the Social Development Management Unit of the PDVSA with sustainable rural development in selected social districts. Participants: IICA/Venezuela, PDVSA, MPPP, IICA/Natural Resources and Environment, DFEPI
Universities, Rural Development and Territories: Bases for Promoting a Sustainable Rural Development Strategy in the Countries of the Andean Region	A profile was prepared in order to continue the participatory process of formulating the project and for presentation to donors, with a view to obtaining pre-investment and/or investment resources. Participants: Andean DORI, universities, DFEPI
Food Security in El Oro Province, Ecuador	A food security project was prepared under the investment program for El Oro province. Participants: IICA/Ecuador, Prefecture of El Oro and <i>Universidad Técnica de Machala</i> , DFEPI
Institution Building of the National Agricultural Health Service (SENASAG) of Bolivia	IICA prepared a project document for the MDRAyMA to use in its negotiations with the IDB aimed at securing resources for the execution of the activity; and reviewed and adjusted the SENASAG's portfolio of projects, together with the PL480 and VIPFE. Participants: IICA/Bolivia, SENASAG, MDRAyMA, SAIA, DFEPI
MAGAP projects in the Sierra Region of Ecuador	Support for the Office's technical team in preparing: a) an Export Platform for Small-scale Producers; and, b) Implementation of the Livestock Program (dairy and dual-purpose farming) to be presented for financing to SENPLADES. Participants: IICA/Ecuador, MAGAP, DFEPI

Source: The Directorate of External Financing and Investment Projects (DFEPI)

Table 2. Programs and projects with IICA participation in the Caribbean Region

Name of program or project	Result of IICA's cooperation
Extension and Technological Adaptation in Agriculture in the OECS Countries	The Institute began formulating the project with a view to presenting it to the INTAREG donation fund (European Union/France). Participants: IICA/OECS, MAG/OECS, CIRAD, DFEPI
Modernization of the Veterinary Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands of Jamaica	The project was prepared and delivered to the MAG to support the negotiations aimed at securing resources from the Government. Participants: MAG, IICA/Jamaica, Caribbean DORI, SAIA, DFEPI

Source: The Directorate of External Financing and Investment Projects (DFEPI)

In the Caribbean Region, IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture of Haiti formulated an extensive portfolio of projects entitled “Investing for the future of food security in Haiti.” Eighteen projects included in the portfolio were presented at the meeting of the Friends of Haiti in Washington D.C., organized by the OAS, and to the World Bank, the IDB, the European Union, CIDA, OXFAM and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

The projects include: (i) the re-launching of agriculture, (ii) Pro-Huerta, (iii) food security, (iv) development and planting of 500 hectares of mango trees, (v) agricultural vocational training, (vi) reforestation with timber-yielding species and timber production, (vii) development of fruit growing and fruit plantations (1200 hectares) and, (viii) rehabilitation of irrigation for small-scale producers.



Table 3. Programs and projects with IICA participation in the Central Region

Name of program or project	Result of IICA's cooperation
Modernization and Competitive Diversification of Coffee Growing and Food Security in Nicaragua	A proposal was prepared containing a profile of the program, organizational arrangements and a budget, in order to formulate the feasibility study that the MAGFOR presented to CABEL to support the request for pre-investment resources. Participants: IICA/Nicaragua, MAGFOR, CONACAFE, DFPEI
Establishment of a System for the Purchase of Milk based on Quality in Panama	A draft version of the program profile was prepared. It will be used to formulate an investment proposal to help producers improve their production and productivity and milk quality. Participants: IICA/Panama, MIDA, IICA/Agribusiness, DFPEI
Investment for the Comprehensive Development of Powdered Milk Production in Nicaragua (Regional Program)	A proposal was prepared containing a profile of the program, organizational arrangements and a budget, in order to formulate the feasibility study that the MAGFOR presented to CABEL to support the request for pre-investment resources. Participants: IICA/Nicaragua, MAGFOR, DFPEI
Program to enable small-scale producers to supply basic grains to the World Food Programme (WFP)	The technical and economic proposal requested by WFP was prepared for direct purchases from organizations of small-scale basic grain producers in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua. Participants: Central DORI, IICA Offices in participating countries, regional specialists and DFPEI
Modernization of Quarantine Control Posts in the Peripheral Customs Houses of the Central American Customs Union (UAC)	Advanced profile prepared so the CAC can support the negotiations to secure resources to enhance the design and/or execution of project components. Participants: CAC Secretariat, OIRSA, AHFS, DFPEI
Reinforcing the Institutional Framework of Organic Agriculture in the Central American Region	A project was prepared that was presented to Austria's cooperation agency (ADA) to secure a donation. Participants: Central DORI, IICA Hemispheric Organic Agriculture Program and DFPEI
Central American Traceability Project	An advanced profile was prepared that is being used to continue the participatory process of formulating the project with officials from institutions in the countries. Participants: AHFS, IICA Offices, AHFS institutions of the countries, CAC Secretariat, DFPEI
Territorial Development in the Belen-Gualcho Municipal District, in Honduras	Identification mission carried out and proposal prepared for the design of the investment program for the territorial development of the municipality. Participants: IICA/Honduras, Belén-Gualcho Municipal District, DFPEI
Strengthening the National Animal Health Service (SENASA) of Costa Rica	Advanced profile prepared to enable the SENASA to support the negotiations aimed at securing resources to enhance the design and/or execution of project components. Participants: IICA/Costa Rica, SENASA, AHFS, DFPEI

Source: The Directorate of External Financing and Investment Projects (DFEPI)

In addition to these programs and projects, IICA designed technical and economic bids with the German consortium GOPA Consultants that were sent to ACICAFOC/CICA for analysis, with a view to conducting a feasibility study on the investment program to complement the Integrated

Management of Ecosystems among Indigenous Peoples and Communities (PMIIE) in Central America. The Institute also prepared the 2008-2012 Public Investment Strategy for the Agri-food Sector with a Production Chains Approach, for the SAG of Honduras.

Table 4. Programs and projects with IICA participation in the Southern Region

Name of program or project	Result of IICA's cooperation
Prevention of Avian Influenza	A proposal was prepared concerning the strategy for implementing and organizing the project. Participants: Southern DORI, IICA/AHFS, CAS, FAO, OIE, CVP, World Bank, PANAFTOSA, DFPEI
Strengthening the Institutional Framework of the Federation of Rural Associations of MERCOSUR (FARM)	A proposal and work plan were prepared to improve the performance of agri-food chains and agribusinesses in the MERCOSUR member countries. Participants: FARM, Southern DORI, DFPEI
Strengthening the Plant Health Service (SENAVE) of Paraguay	An advanced profile was prepared to enable the SENAVE to support the negotiations aimed at securing resources to enhance the design and/or execution of the project's components. Participants: IICA/Paraguay, SENAVE, AHFS, DFPEI

Source: *The Directorate of External Financing and Investment Projects (DFEPI)*

Finally, it is worth noting that in the Southern Region, IICA and the Government of Canelones in Uruguay prepared a proposal for the implementation of a new stage of the

Sustainable Development Plan for Northeast Canelones, and training and modernization actions in the area of food quality and safety.



Relations with Strategic Partners

Expanding the horizons of cooperation

During 2008, IICA strengthened its ties with new partners and the existing ones, advancing on a series of ongoing actions. It enhanced relationships with existing as well as with new partners by means of comprehensive dialogues on critical issues such as food security, climate change, poverty reduction, Agro-tourism, agricultural insurance and risk management, technology transfer and knowledge management.

Among the new partnerships implementing actions, IICA facilitated the signing of an Agreement between IDB and CACHE. The US\$400,000 grant from the IDB's Regional PGP aims to enhance the capacity of the Caribbean labor force to improve competitiveness of the agriculture sector. As a result, Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago have joined forces to collectively develop a regional strategic plan that will include a tool box with public policy guidelines, an information sharing system and a set of pilot training events.

IICA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of California in June and has delegated a number of intentions with the College of Natural Resources to promote two-way learning, scientific exchange and innovation in

the field of Sustainable Agriculture, Rural development, Environmental Management and collaborative leadership. IICA will also be collaborating with Cornell University and the University of California, Berkeley in the preparation of case studies in agriculture as part of the Agriculture Bridge Program financed by the USDA.

The Institute led the development of a promising partnership with the WFP. The Directorate of Strategic Partnerships met with WFP senior officials in Rome and Panama City which resulted in the preparation of a MOU that identifies IICA as the technical advisor on agriculture in the Western Hemisphere.

Canada and IICA

IICA/Canada developed a new partnership proposal called *Canada and IICA: Partnering for Agriculture Development in the Americas*. The proposal is designed to present Canada with a new engagement model for the Americas, focusing on three main areas: rural development, leadership and trade.

European Union and IICA

The following projects have been put into operation with the European Union:

- LOTASSA: LOTus Adaptation and Sustainability in South America (2006-2009).
- OTAG: Operational Management and Geodecisional Prototype to Track and Trace Agricultural Production (2007-2008).
- BABETHANOL: New Feedstocks and Innovative Transformation Process for a More Sustainable Development and Production of Lignocellulosic Ethanol (2009-2012).

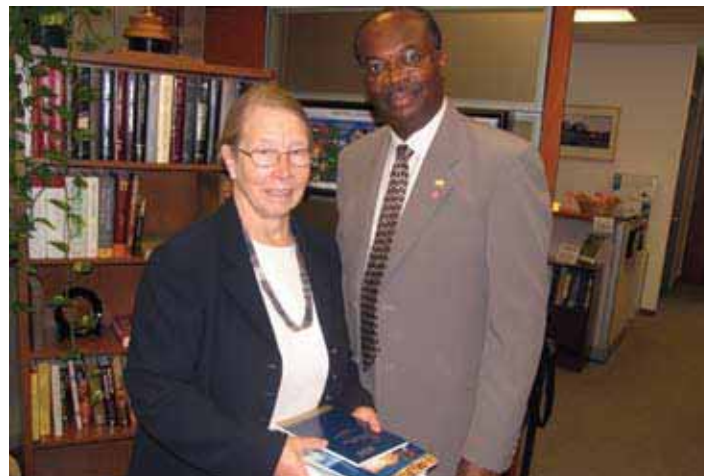
The first major project under this MOU is the execution of the Purchase for Progress (P4P) program in four Central American countries that is funded by the Howard Buffet Foundation.

Also, IICA succeeded in the development of a joint collaboration role with senior World Bank officials from the Agriculture and Rural Development unit for Latin America and the Caribbean to move forward on agriculture insurance initiative for the Latin America and Caribbean region.

IICA and the Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institute Institutes agreed on several initiatives for 2009. These discussions took place after IICA participation in a conference organized by the Canadian Young Farmers Forum.

IICA signed an Agreement with the governments of Brazil and Argentina and with Oxfam Quebec to develop and execute projects in Haiti where strategic partnership is welcomed for food security advancement.

Finally, IICA held substantive high level discussions with FAO officials in Rome, Chile and the United States to develop a more constructive model of collaboration. These meetings resulted in a series of proposed actions for 2009 that were approved by IICA's Director General, and then presented to FAO for their approval.



▲
Susan Henry, Dean of the School of Agriculture and Life Sciences of Cornell University, and Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, Director General of IICA.



CATIE and IICA Renewing Joint Action

*A strategic partnership
for building a better future*

The Directors General of IICA and CATIE established clear guidelines to continue strengthening the working relationship between the two institutions. To that end, a technical group comprising representatives of the two organizations was set up in 2008 to define and provide follow-up to inter-institutional actions under a new cooperation agreement. The following fields of action were established: i) territorial rural development, natural resource management, the environment and climate change; ii) technological innovation, value chains and competitiveness; and, iii) information and knowledge management.

In the first field, IICA and CATIE made a major contribution to the formulation of the Regional Agro-environmental and Health Strategy (ERAS) for Central America and to the definition of areas of joint interest with directors of forestry in the same region. Both organizations played a key role in the implementation, in partnership with University of California at Berkeley and Ecoagriculture Partners (EP), of the second

international course “Leadership for the development of ecoagriculture: integrated management of rural territories in Central America,” which took place in Turrialba, Costa Rica.

In the field of value chains and competitiveness, IICA and CATIE joined the project “Harmonization of initiatives to support the economic progress of rural women in value chains in the Central American Region.” They also concluded their joint management of the project “Development of sustainable production systems, microenterprises and financing systems,” in partnership with the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) and with financial support from the Government of the State of Chiapas, Mexico, and the European Union.

In the same field, the “First International Meeting on the Integrated Management of Moniliasis in Cacao” took place in Mexico. Other training events related to cacao were held in El Salvador and Belize, while in Paraguay the work focused on watershed management.



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The second international course “Leadership for the development of ecoagriculture: integrated management of rural territories in Central America,” was held at CATIE, in Turrialba, Costa Rica.

With regard to the management of technical information, the two institutions continued to run the Orton Commemorative Library (BCO), which celebrated the 65th anniversary of its founding and has a new 2008-2010 work plan. Over the course of 2008, more than 10,631 people visited the library’s premises, while the website received over 167,000 visitors. The number of bibliographic entries contained in the catalogue of monographs increased by more than 85,110, including full-text versions of 4400 of the documents concerned. The library collection was kept up to date by acquiring 36,026 scientific and technical documents

in printed and electronic formats, subscribing to 90 scientific journals, exchanging a further 200 titles and acquiring two international databases (CABI and TEEAL). There are also agreements in place with prestigious universities that complement the supply of information services available to users in the Member States.

Agricultural Information and Documentation Service of the Americas (SIDALC)

The BCO is spearheading the SIDALC initiative, under which 94 databases were updated and 48 new ones incorporated. Altogether, this service has 265 databases, 2,155,266 entries and over 88,000 full-text electronic resources. The number of visitors to the SIDALC increased dramatically in 2008 following the indexing exercise with Google. From a few thousand visits per year, the number rose to nearly seven million, with over 14 million pages accessed during the same period. As many as 158 Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) institutions are now sharing their information through Agri2000, making it one of the largest agricultural information networks in the world.



The digitization projects carried out with the USDA/NAL and Harvard University made it possible to incorporate 37,755 scanned pages into the collection. The virtual bookstore sold 1756 publications produced by IICA, CATIE and other institutions.

The BCO completed its first phase of modernization with the implementation of the CATIE ARS project of USDA/NAL, designed to preserve the Orton inter-American collection and improve its infrastructure. IICA and CATIE also played an active part in: a) the “Leadership in agricultural information management” program financed by the CTA, which permitted over 40 professionals from 12 Caribbean countries to take part in three specialized courses; b) the identification and promotion of the Global Forest Information Service (GFIS); and, c) the development of the Information Resource Center on Cacao, Trees, Forests and the Environment. The two institutions also contributed important information for the world report on plant genetic resources.

Working with CATIE’s Graduate School, important project proposals were formulated aimed at improving the BCO’s services. The proposals were presented to possible donors, such as the Elsevier Foundation and USAID-ASHA.

CATIE’s Training Area and IICA’s Distance Training Center collaborated in the preparation of virtual courses, including the “Course on Agroforestry with Annual and Perennial Crops” and “Introduction to Agroforestry Systems.

Furthermore, institutional interaction increased considerably with actions such as the meeting of IICA’s Executive Committee held at CATIE’s headquarters in Turrialba. The



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organizations also carried out a high-level joint mission to Paraguay and Bolivia to present a different interagency cooperation strategy.

Finally as part of the joint work, IICA’s General Directorate supported CATIE’s efforts to amend the first clause of the law under which it was created in Costa Rica.

■ Acronyms

ACICAFOC-CICA	<i>Asociación Coordinadora Indígena y Campesina de Agroforestería Comunitaria de Centro América</i> - Central American Indigenous Council	CATIE	Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center
ACCESO	Andean Countries Cocoa Export Support Opportunity Program	CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
AECID	Spanish International Cooperation Agency for Development	CICAD	Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission
AGROTUR	Social Network of Agro Tourism and Rural Tourism	CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety	CIRAD	International Center for Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (France)
ALASA	Latin American Association for the Development of Agricultural Insurance	CNDRSS	National Conference on Sustainable and Integral Rural Development
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Protection and Inspection Service (USDA)	COMMCA	Council of Ministers of Women's Affairs in Central America
BAPA	Bahamas Agricultural Producers Association	COSAVE	Plant Health Committee of the Southern Cone (COSAVE)
CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association	CORPOICA	Agricultural Corporation of Research (Colombia)
CABEI	Central American Bank for Economic Integration	CPB	Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety
CAC	Central American Agricultural Council	CVP	Permanent Veterinary Committee
CACHE	Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture	CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute	DFEPI	External Financing and Investment Projects Directorate (IICA)
CARICOM	Caribbean Community	DORI	Directorate of Operations and Integration (IICA)
CAS	Southern Agricultural Council	DR-CAFTA	Dominican Republic, United States and Central America Free Trade Agreement

EC	Executive Committee (IICA)	GFAR	Global Forum on Agricultural Research
EMBRAPA	Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation	GTZ	<i>Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit</i> (Germany)
ENESA	State Agricultural Insurance Institute (Spain)	IAASTD	International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development
EP	Ecoagriculture Partners	IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture
ERAS	Agro-environmental Regional Strategy	IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
EU	European Union	IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization (United Nations)	IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
FARM	Federation of Rural Associations of MERCOSUR	IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
FEDAVICAC	Federation of Poultry Farmers of Central America and the Caribbean	INAMU	Women National Institute (Costa Rica)
FODEMIPYME	Special Fund for the Development of MSM enterprises (Costa Rica)	INFOTEC	Scientific and Technological Information System
FONTAGRO	Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology	IPPC	International Plant Protection Convention
FORAGRO	Regional Forum on Agricultural Research and Technology Development	JSWG	Joint Summit Working Group
FRADIEAR	Andean Regional Forum for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education	KFW	<i>Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau</i>
FRUTALES	National Fruit Program of El Salvador	LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
FUNDACITE	Foundation for the Development of Science and Technology in the West-Central Region of Venezuela	MADR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Colombia)
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices	MAG	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Ecuador, Paraguay)
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research	MAGAP	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries (Ecuador)
		MAGFOR	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry (Nicaragua)

MALFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries (St. Lucia)	OLADE	Latin American Energy Association
MAR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (Barbados)	PACA	Central American Common Agricultural Policy
MDRAyMA	Ministry of Agricultural Rural Development and Environment (Bolivia)	PADEMER	Rural Microenterprise Development Programme (Colombia)
MERCOSUR	Southern Common Market	PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
MIDA	Ministry of Agricultural Development (Panama)	PDVSA	Petroleos de Venezuela Sociedad Anonima
MIES	Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion	PMIIE	Program to complement the Integrated Management of Ecosystems among Indigenous Peoples and Communities
MIMDES	Ministry for Women and Social Development (Peru)	PROCI	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program
MINAET	Ministry of Environment, Energy and Telecommunications (Costa Rica)	PROCIANDINO	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion
MIOA	Market Information Organization of the Americas	PROCINORTE	Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Northern Region
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding	PROCISUR	Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone
MTP	Medium Term Plan (IICA)	PROCITROPICOS	Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics
NAMDEVCO	National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (Trinidad and Tobago)	PRODARNET	Electronic Network of Information from PRODAR (IICA)
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute (Uruguay, Venezuela)	PRODERT	Project for Sustainable Rural Development in Ecologically Fragile Areas of the Trifinio Region (El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras)
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization	PRODESIS	Integrated and Sustainable Social Development Project (Mexico)
OAS	Organization of American States		
ODEPA	Office of Agrarian Policies and Studies (Chile)		
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States		
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health		
OIRSA	International Regional Organization for Plant and Animal Health		

PROMECAFE	Regional Cooperative Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation	SENPLADES	Secretary of National Planning and Development (Ecuador)
PVS	Performance, Vision, Strategy	SIALNET	Special network on Agro food systems
REDPA	Agricultural Policy Coordination Network of the Southern Region	SICTA	Central American System for Agricultural Technology Integration
RED-SICTA	Agricultural Innovation Network Project SICTA	SIDALC	Agricultural Information and Documentation Service for the Americas
RENAMUR	National Rural Women's Network (Mexico)	SIRG	Summit Implementation and Review Group
RPG	Regional Public Goods	SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
RUTA	Regional Unit for Technical Assistance	SRD	Sustainable Rural Development
SAG	Secretary of Agriculture and Livestock (Honduras)	STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facility
SAGPYA	Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (Argentina)	TF	Territorial Focus
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
SELA	Latin American Economic System	UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
SENASA	National Animal Health Service (Costa Rica)	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
SENASAG	National Agricultural Health Service of Bolivia	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
SENAVE	Quality, Plant Health and Seed National Service (Paraguay)	WFP	World Food Programme
		WTO	World Trade Organization

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