

RESOLUTION No. 545

**STRENGTHENING THE HEMISPHERIC PARTNERSHIP FOR FOOD SECURITY
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Twenty-second Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The information document IICA/JIA/DI-02 (23) “Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development”,

CONSIDERING:

That, in recent years, the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have been building a solid consensus with respect to major challenges on the global agenda that agriculture in the hemisphere can play a strategic role in tackling, particularly in guaranteeing global food security and achieving sustainable development;

That the consensus reached allowed the countries of the Americas to present a joint position, from their perspective, at the United Nations Food Systems Summit in New York in 2021, in the form of sixteen messages approved via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 531 (XXI-O/21);

That, addressing the IX Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles in 2022, the Director General of the Institute presented “Proposals on Strengthening Collective Action in the Americas to Tackle Food Insecurity and Ensure Sustainable Development”, which were well received by the Heads of State and Government at that summit;

That, in the same spirit, the message of the ministries and secretariats of Agriculture and Livestock of the Americas, was then presented at the Twenty-seventh United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) in Sharm-El-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2021, where IICA installed the “Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas” pavilion;

That the General Directorate of the Institute has hosted a series of technical events involving various stakeholders from the public, private, academic and scientific sectors, addressing strategic issues such as biofuels, digital agriculture, science, technology and innovation, applied bioeconomy, family farming, and trade and integration, among others of great importance for tomorrow’s agriculture;

That collective action will allow the countries to work together to devise solutions to common problems, complementing each other's national capacities, strengthening the region's standing, scaling up available resources and coordinating efforts among public, private and civil society entities, and international organizations; and

That, at the Conference of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2023 (the Conference), IICA Member States agreed on the need to continue strengthening the hemispheric partnership, with a view to consolidating and systematizing the collective efforts of the governments and civil societies of the countries of the Americas to achieve food security and sustainable development,

RESOLVES:

1. To wholeheartedly endorse the building of a Hemispheric Partnership for Food Security and Sustainable Development and instruct the Director General of the Institute to expand and intensify any actions needed for its consolidation, in consultation and coordination with the Member States, and including the widest possible cross-section of stakeholders in the agrifood sector.
2. To establish that this collective action be guided by the following strategic principles:
 - a) Agrifood systems can and should be improved. In recent decades, their performance has demonstrated their capacity to rise to the challenges of each era. Therefore, we categorically state that they are not failed systems;
 - b) Agriculture must be considered as part of the solution, given its importance to national economies, its significant contribution to global food security, through trade, and its endogenous capacity to mitigate climate change;
 - c) Science and technology are the great transformational tools of our age and will provide the basis for possible solutions; and
 - d) Farmers will be key players in the transformations to be implemented, given that they are the ones most able to contribute to more sustainable and resilient resource management.
3. To instruct IICA to strengthen its technical cooperation services in the specific areas and actions identified at the Conference, and within the framework of its 2022-2026 Medium-term Plan, as set out in the Annex to this resolution.
4. To urge the governments of IICA Member States to pursue and strengthen actions in the areas identified at the Conference, in accordance with their regulatory frameworks, institutional structures and the national public policies currently in force in each of the States.

ANNEX IICA/IABA/Res. 545 (XXII-O/23)

1. The bioeconomy as a strategy that coincides with the 2030 Agenda

- a) Launch of the **Latin American Bioeconomy Network**, as a mechanism for knowledge exchange and the creation of partnerships to promote capacity building, technological innovation, public policies, support services and biobusinesses in the region.
- b) Establishment of the **Pan-American Liquid Biofuels Coalition (CPBIO)**, which seeks to promote sustainable production and consumption of liquid biofuels, coordinate effective communication on this issue and ensure adequate representation of the sector in relevant international forums.
- c) Introduction of a **Hemispheric Platform** to promote and foster the adoption and use of **Bioinputs** in the region, through innovation and knowledge management, South-South cooperation, and the promotion of more efficient regulatory systems with greater convergence among countries.

2. Science, technology and innovation, including digital agriculture.

- a) Revision of research priorities, **by identifying new technological public goods** and jointly developing prospective and strategic work and research agendas for national agricultural research institutes (NARIs) and international organizations (such as the CGIAR), as well as global forums.
- b) **Modernization and strengthening of the STI institutional framework**, focusing on operational agility and coordination with the private sector and funding mechanisms, in order to address the magnitude of the challenges.
- c) **The design of effective public policy frameworks** that create an ecosystem that is favorable to the private sector and conducive to the modernization that the agrifood systems of the region requires.
- d) Strengthening of existing collaborative mechanisms (such as PROCISUR and PROCINORTE) and implementation of **new reciprocal cooperation platforms** to access cutting-edge technology, drive technology development in the Amazon region and spur innovation in the smaller countries in the tropical region and the Caribbean.

2.1. Digitalization of agrifood systems

- a) Establishment of an **AgTech Network** among key digitalization stakeholders. The Network began to propose actions for countries to promote the development of digital innovation ecosystems.
 - b) Creation of a **Digital Agricultural Policy Platform** to survey and analyze policies to promote the development and adoption of digital technologies, as well as to create opportunities for dialogue and collaboration among countries to implement a new generation of public policies for that purpose.
 - c) Development and continuous updating of a **Repository of Digital Solutions and Best Practices for Agrifood Digitalization** to facilitate the identification and adoption of options that are more appropriate for the challenges of farmers in the Americas.
- ### 3. International and regional trade as a means of bolstering sustainable development and food security.

- a) Establishing a **network of agrifood negotiators to the WTO**, spear headed by IICA and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), to strengthen the multilateral trade system in the face of the new agrifood trade challenges, while fostering greater participation by countries in the region in WTO multilateral forums and promoting common regional negotiating positions that facilitate open, transparent and predictable international trade.
- b) Undertaking **joint efforts among countries** to address the introduction of rules, regulations and actions with the **potential to restrict the agrifood trade** of countries in the region, through coordination with strategic partners to generate evidence, strengthen the capacities of relevant stakeholders and create networks and forums for dialogue.
- c) Contributing to increased **intraregional trade, by making better use of existing trade agreements** and coordinating with mechanisms and other institutions that promote regional integration, such as the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI), to make headway in removing non-tariff barriers, increasing regulatory convergence and facilitating trade. The region must also pursue actions that promote linkages between companies and producer organizations, with special emphasis on small and medium-scale enterprises.

4. Climate action and financing that focuses on agriculture's capacity to overcome challenges.

- a) Facilitating **more active and informed participation of the agriculture sector in climate planning and action**. Starting from: i) by supporting and coordinating with climate negotiators focusing on agricultural issues within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and strengthening agriculture's role in achieving the NDCs and the national adaptation plans (NAPs).
- b) Promoting actions to **increase the agriculture sector's access to different types of climate financing**, including private financing, and options such as voluntary carbon markets, green funds, and guarantees, among others, involving capacity building and the development of institutional frameworks with high integrity, transparency, and inclusivity.
- c) **Promoting a greater visibility and participation of agri-food sector of the Americas in the COPs of the UNFCCC** by way of the Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas pavilion.
- d) To promote the **Living Soils of the Americas Program** and the **Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture** to improve soil health and the integrated management of water.

5. One Health as an agricultural health strategy in agrifood systems

- a) Creation of a **Permanent One Health Working Group in Agrifood Systems**, consisting of representatives of countries in the hemisphere and of the relevant agencies to enable continuous and coordinated collaboration in **operationalization of the "One Health" approach in the Region**.
- b) Promote the systematization of successful experiences, , best practices and lessons learned in the operationalization of the "One Health" approach in the Americas, that serve as models and guidelines for the determinants of success and challenges. At the same time, formulate indicators that allow us to know and quantify aspects related to the implementation of the one-health approach in agri-food systems.
- c) **Focus the work agenda**, joining efforts with other specialized institutions, with special emphasis on **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), food safety, zoonotic diseases and the environment**.

6. Family farming and inclusive rural development.

- a) **Institutionalization of an exchange mechanism**, with representation from key FF stakeholders, aiming to **design and evaluate a new generation of public policies**, as well as the investments and financing needed for their implementation.
- b) Support for the design of **regional initiatives that link the policies and climate actions** of the countries, thereby contributing to the viability of production units in the face of climate-related challenges.
- c) Promotion of FF modernization in the production, management, trading and marketing of its products through a **“Cooperative Skills Center for Digital Transformation”**. This Center will assist associative enterprises and cooperatives to collect strategic information, as well as transmit, systematize and analyze it, as a means of improving the efficiency of services to members.

7. Equity and equality.

- a) **Consolidation of the Permanent Forum of Female Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Senior Officials⁷ of Agriculture of the Americas** to promote policies and actions that reduce gender gaps and inequalities and facilitate the inclusion of rural women, on an equal footing. The Secretariat of this permanent forum falls under IICA’s Gender Equality and Youth Hemispheric Program.
- b) **Promotion of rural women’s participation in hemispheric and regional conferences to ensure that their rights are taken into account in international agendas**. Possible examples include the Ibero-American Roundtable of the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM), within the framework of the Declaration for the Rights of All Women, Adolescents and Girls in Rural Settings of the Americas; the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC and UN Women) and the follow-up to the World Conferences on Women (United Nations), among others.
- c) **Strengthening of rural women’s hemispheric platforms and the hemispheric community of rural youth**, in order to generate concrete opportunities for these two groups in agrifood systems, through experience sharing, training and the creation of regional networks.
- d) **The continued strengthening and promotion of actions involving rural youth in the Americas** to enhance their leadership in agricultural initiatives, such as those undertaken as part of IICA of Open Doors (FabLab and CIMAG), as well as other actions with strategic partners that affect agrifood systems, such as the Next Gen Ag Impact Network (NGIN), Young Americas Business Trust (YABT), I4Nature and 4H, among others.

Moreover, IICA will need to strengthen its support mechanisms, such as the **Public Policy Observatory for Agrifood Systems (OPSAA)**, the **Leadership School for the Transformation of Agrifood Systems of the Americas (ELTSA)**, as well as create a **Hemispheric Fund for Agricultural Resilience and Sustainability in the Americas**, which will seek to facilitate the participation of smaller countries with less economic clout in collective actions.

To be successful, the afore mentioned strategies and actions will require coordination among the public and private sectors, civil society organizations and other international organizations.