



Our
Commitment:
Results



Harvesting results

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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Message from the Director General



Dr. Victor M. Villalobos

Twelve months ago, the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) approved the organization's Medium-term Plan (MTP) for 2014-2018 and, with it, a more closely defined, integrated, and focused proposal for the evolution of the Institute's technical cooperation model.

In addition to setting out the challenges we need to tackle to promote the modernization of the Institute, the plan plotted the course, on which we have since embarked, of effective, results-based management aimed at fulfilling our mission to *"encourage, promote, and support agricultural development and rural well-being."*

The recent transformations that IICA has undergone have undoubtedly enabled us to improve the organization's performance and focus its efforts on 11 contributions keyed to the needs of the countries of the Americas. The fact that those contributions are closely related to the 17 sustainable development goals published recently by the United Nations shows that we are on the right track.

The Institute adds value to the hard work of governments, academics, the private sector, and civil society in the Americas, and, thanks to its level of commitment and the results it achieves, this makes it an important strategic partner of the agricultural sector and a go-to organization for agriculture in the region.

IICA's current medium-term work program is focused on five high-priority flagship projects designed to improve the competitiveness of agrifood chains, promote agricultural health and food safety, improve the conditions of family farming, guarantee inclusive agriculture, and make agriculture more resilient to risks, including those associated with climate change.

We have successfully activated a rapid response mechanism for dealing with urgent requests from governments, enabling us to process specific requests from the ministers for actions at both the national and regional levels in less than 72 hours. Furthermore, our portfolio of externally funded projects continues to grow: the execution of 158 instruments is ongoing, involving funding of around USD 116 million.

The evolution of IICA's cooperation model has also made it possible to highlight the potential of its member countries to promote the development of agriculture, South-South cooperation, and the generation, with the Institute's support, of international public goods for the benefit of its rural communities.

In tandem with our cooperation, we are working diligently to improve all the Institute's processes related to planning, programming, execution, monitoring, and evaluation, and thereby strengthen a culture based on continuous improvement.

The cooperation we provide is effective thanks to the permanent dialogue we maintain with our governing bodies, the strategies defined with the countries, and permanent accountability. The progress we have made has benefited agriculture in the Americas, and we are confident that the decisions that you, our constituents, take will continue to strengthen this noble organization.

This document provides a summary of IICA's main achievements over the last twelve months, which would not have been possible without your trust and our unequivocal commitment to you and the agricultural sectors of your countries, which, as we stated in our MTP, undoubtedly represent the best opportunity for achieving food security, sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and social equity in the Americas.



IICA in numbers

IICA spearheads:

158 externally funded projects involving funding of nearly **USD 116 million**

41 rapid response actions

5 hemispheric projects with IICA resources



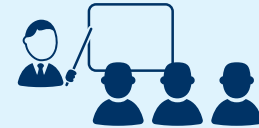
Main Sources of external funding

Mexico, United States, Argentina, Brazil, Central America, Spain, European Union, Finland, Switzerland, FAO and IDB



USD 52 million

executed by IICA in 6 Mexican programs: National Agrarian Register, INCA-Rural, MOSCAMED, MOSCAFRUT, Epidemiological Surveillance and Phytosanitary Inspection



1338 persons trained

forming part of the new generation of professionals in agriculture



USD 10 million

invested in strengthening institutional capacity building for research in Guatemala, with support from the United States



More than 2400 persons

exchange knowledge on communication and biotechnology in Central America, the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Panama, Paraguay, United States, Peru and Venezuela



34 IICA Country Strategies approved



17 innovations

in agriculture and forestry as a result of cooperation between IICA and the EU, Canada, US, Finland and IDB



3000 agricultural stakeholders

from 28 countries in the Americas are more aware of agricultural policies through the experiences of the US, Brazil, Canada, Chile and Spain



Timely solutions

The Member States have found rapid response actions (RRA), an instrument designed by IICA, to be an effective tool for supporting processes aimed at strengthening institutional capabilities and developing policies and regulatory frameworks. The Institute has served as a fulcrum, facilitating and coordinating efforts to improve the efficiency of the management, operating, and administrative processes of agriculture sector institutions in Belize, Costa Rica, Panama, El Salvador, Jamaica, Bolivia, Peru, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

Better policies and strategies

- To help make Belize's agriculture more productive and competitive, and improve rural area-based management, IICA supported the development of the National Policy for Food and Agriculture.
- The Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) of Honduras has a Strategic Plan and Investment Program for the Competitive and Sustainable Development of the Rice Chain, which includes five projects on seed production, innovation and transfer, good soil and water management practices, infrastructure and equipment, and capacity building.
- Decision-makers and stakeholders linked to the management of the National Production Board (CNP) of Costa Rica have a strategic and operating framework for guiding the redesign of their institutions, institutional food supply programs, and initiatives to promote value added in line with the priority needs of the country's agroindustry.

Institutions spearhead innovation processes

- In Haiti, with assistance from Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), agricultural innovation has been reorganized and the Research Consortium for Agricultural Development (CORDAH) strengthened.
- Following the general outline set forth in Bolivia's new Political Constitution, a proposal was drawn up for the institutional decentralization and modernization of the Agricultural Health and Food Safety System of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Service (SENASAG).
- In Peru, a proposal was drafted for an institutional model and intervention strategy for the modernization of the institutional framework in support of the coffee and cacao chains.
- The Ministry of National Integration of Brazil has a model of governance for the Latin American Network of Public Policies for Regional Development that resulted in the improvement of the agricultural and rural institutional framework of the network's member countries.



Costa Rica: The National Institute for Statistics and Census concluded the Sixth National Agricultural Census, and the results were presented to more than 500 representatives of public and private institutions working in the country's agricultural sector.

Strengthening family farming

More than 940 senior officials, technical staff of public and private institutions, and other stakeholders in family farming (FF) in Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela facilitated the incorporation of strategic issues related to FF into public agendas. Furthermore, a series of events positioned FF as a key issue for the development of those countries and gave senior officials involved in FF access to a series of instruments that will enable them devise and implement differentiated public policies.

In particular, public and private institutions in Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela, Peru, and Colombia enhanced their capacity to characterize their FF subsectors according to their territorial diversity, enabling them to differentiate proposals for action at the area level.

In addition, institutions in Argentina, Chile, and Peru boosted their capacity to respond to the needs of FF, thanks to the up-to-date studies carried out on commercial innovation and agribusiness. Some 475 people directly involved in the subsector have more information about local markets, commercial management and agroindustry adjusted to FF.

The Program for Associative Meetings Based on Training-Action made it possible for FF associations (80 members) in Ecuador, Colombia, Bolivia, Honduras, El Salvador, Chile, Venezuela, and Caribbean countries to improve their integration into commercial chains.

Uruguay strengthened the technical expertise of ministry staff and other stakeholders working in its territories in FF, technical assistance, and rural extension.

Events to commemorate the International Year of Family Farming

- Meeting on Family Farming for Central America and the Dominican Republic (San Salvador, El Salvador)
- International Conference “Public Policies and Family Farming in Latin America and the Caribbean: Current Situation and Challenges” (Santiago, Chile)
- Ninth International Forum on Territorial Development (Fortaleza, Brazil)

Family farmers in Paraguay reduced the amount of food that is lost by using bioinputs to control leafcutter ants in 100 kitchen gardens.



Central America: IICA's partnership with the Latin American and Caribbean Network of Small Fair Trade Producers (CLAC) made it possible to enhance the capabilities of eleven organizations certified for fair trade and 32 certified in associative undertakings, business management and project formulation in Nicaragua, Panama and Costa Rica.

Toward competitive agricultural chains

Seventeen agricultural chains in 25 countries enhanced their capabilities for implementing innovation processes and improving productivity and sustainability through innovative technologies and systems for production, processing, and postharvest activities.

Some examples of this are:

- 20,000 corn and bean producers in Central America implemented innovations in varieties, machinery, microorganisms, inoculants, and pre-drying techniques with financing from the European Union (EU).
- With cooperation from IICA and support from the EU, 1000 sugar producers and 12 input suppliers in Belize enhanced their expertise for increasing sugarcane productivity under a project implemented by the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI).
- 1300 producers in Jamaica and St. Kitts and Nevis (potatoes), Belize (sugarcane), and Paraguay (several chains) acquired new expertise with regard to good production practices.
- 300 producers in Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, The Bahamas, and St. Kitts and Nevis are harnessing protected agriculture technologies.
- 150 participants from 18 countries validated and took full advantage of the fourth edition of the “Adding value to agricultural products” course given by IICA.

In Haiti, 650 producers were trained to manage their agribusinesses.

IICA strengthened the support services and factors for competitiveness of agrifood chains. As many as 3800 public officials, producers, and other agents of development in 23 countries received training in business management, value added, associative enterprises, risk management, trade, and international regulations.

As a result of joint efforts with the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA), a number of agricultural market information systems have new technical instruments designed to deliver their services more efficiently, including those of The Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Costa Rica, Brazil, Mexico, and Ecuador.

As part of the efforts of Costa Rica, Peru, and Paraguay to help their agricultural sectors adjust to open markets by becoming more dynamic, modern, inclusive, and sustainable, six government agencies received support in the design of policies, proposals, and agreements for agricultural development, innovation, the *Codex Alimentarius*, sanitary measures, and competitiveness of the beef and poultry chains.

IICA managed nearly USD 227,000 with the US public and private sectors that were invested in cooperation on biotechnology and biosafety.



Ecuador: The plant producing pure *Jatropha curcas* oil for biofuel has so far extracted 29 tonnes from the 2015 harvest and has revitalized the economy of the province of Galápagos.

Central America's coffee institutes are implementing regional plans to combat rust, as well as genetic improvement projects to construct resilient, sustainable coffee chains. With IICA's support, the Regional Cooperative Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation (PROMECAFE) concluded a regional inventory of coffee varieties.

The ministers of agriculture of Ecuador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru signed a declaration to implement a multinational work program on bananas (plant health and environmental issues and productivity).

In Ecuador, an assessment was carried out of 33 chains and 42 agricultural marketing circuits with their respective technical data, which has been used as the basis for the joint drafting by various sectors of the agricultural chapter of that country's production policy. Furthermore, the local governments of Ambato, Esmeraldas, and Sucumbíos now have, respectively, the studies needed to set up the Central de Transferencia Agroindustrial (CTA-A) de Ambato; a characterization of livestock production in the province, strategies for the sustainable development of the subsector, and public-private forums for dialogue on the subject; and management models for the promotion of the province's agricultural production.

Creation of a biofuel research consortium for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) that is promoting synergies among firms, governments, and academia.

The Chamber of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture of the Province of Chiriquí in Panama has a study on the areas in which work is needed for the development of the agriculture, agroindustry, and agrotourism sectors.

The Institute promoted strengthening of the mechanisms used to access markets and for countries to do business with each other, which produced noteworthy results, such as the following:

- Adoption of best marketing practices and implementation of recommendations to prevent risks in Mexican imports of beef from Uruguay.
- Identification of opportunities for exporting cacao from San Martín, Peru, to the Canadian market.
- Sweet potato Jamaican producers explored business opportunities in Tennessee and North Carolina in the United States.

The Red-SICTA Project, which is supported by COSUDE, promoted the use of pre-drying techniques, improved varieties, machinery, microorganisms, and inoculants in corn and bean chains in Central America.



Guatemala: IICA assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food with an environmental risk assessment of genetically modified corn materials that could enter the country from Honduras following the entry into force of a bilateral customs union agreement between the two countries.

Agricultural health and food safety

In order to meet the new requirements of the United States market, IICA provided 2500 government officials in 15 countries with detailed information about the regulations governing access to that country's market. Furthermore, 38 assessments of production areas were carried out in 10 countries to ascertain companies' preparedness for meeting the requirements of the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA).

The Regional Food Inspectors School for the Central Region commenced operations, with 44 tutors from eight academic counterparts. As many as 360 inspectors from the ministries of agriculture and health of Central America and the Dominican Republic signed up for an online course on food inspection and the sharing of experiences. Half of the participants have already completed the course.

13 international courses were held with the USDA. In Panama alone, 100 agro-exporters and agrifood officials received training in the FSMA.

Thanks to LAC's broad experience in food safety and quality, the Twinning Programme was launched to build capacity for the work with *Codex Alimentarius*, and Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, The Bahamas, and Grenada are already actively involved.

At four regional colloquia, the countries of the Americas analyzed the standards discussed by nine *Codex Alimentarius* committees and endeavored to arrive at joint positions.

Under a number of externally funded projects, the national *Codex Alimentarius* committees of 15 countries acquired further technical expertise for their work with the organization. Five Central American countries also improved their negotiating positions on strategic concerns of national and regional interest.



The "Handbook of Good Practices for Participation in Meetings of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)" was updated.

With support from the Universidad Yacambú, the Universidad Centroccidental Lisandro Alvarado (UCLA), IICA, and Nestlé-Venezuela, 93 technical officers and agricultural producers were trained in the use of tools for the implementation and monitoring of food quality and

Mexico: Several projects have boosted implementation of the plans of the National Agrifood Health, Safety, and Quality Service (SENASICA) for preventing and tackling health risks, etiological diagnosis and chemical residue detection, and for dealing with plant health contingencies.

safety assurance systems, as well as good food handling, agricultural, and manufacturing practices. The Institute also worked with Nestlé in Venezuela to produce the seven teaching modules of the Milk Producers Training Program.

With the cooperation of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), a number of projects were implemented in the Central, Caribbean, Andean and Southern regions aimed at enhancing capabilities for the management of plant and animal pests and diseases, and compliance with international sanitary and phytosanitary standards. In Honduras, in coordination with the Federation of Poultry Farmers (FEDAVIH) and the National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA), a simulation exercise was conducted for emergencies related to avian diseases.

The sanitary and food safety agencies of Ecuador, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Colombia, and Peru reached agreement on strategies to prevent the entry of Tropical Race 4 of Panama disease. They also enhanced their expertise for dealing with the problem, and discussed advances in research on the diagnosing of the disease, which affects bananas and plantains.

Thanks to the support provided by the USDA, animal and plant health systems in Haiti have four quarantine posts, equipment, and 56 trained professionals.

Application of the Performance, Vision, and Strategy (PVS) instrument made it possible to formulate specific action plans for the strengthening of the plant and animal health and food safety services of Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, and Colombia.

Under the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Project implemented as part of the EU's 10th European Development Fund (EDF), extension workers and field officers in the Caribbean region were trained in animal health, plant inspection, farm audits, microbial resistance, and pesticide management.

The MOSCAMED program of Mexico's SENASICA released 12.7 million sterile flies and successfully controlled two pest outbreaks detected along the border with Guatemala.

The National Quality and Animal Health Service (SENACSA) of Paraguay has a program for demonstrating the absence of viruses and measuring immune status, with active and passive epidemiological surveillance proposals and staff trained in the control and eradication of brucellosis in cattle. Furthermore, 80 professionals in that country were trained in sanitary management and eight specialists of the Brucellosis and Tuberculosis Laboratory Network were trained to diagnose diseases using the polymerase chain reaction technique.



Paraguay: The Paraguayan Institute of Agricultural Technology (IPTA) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) produced *Trichoderma* bioinputs for disease control and *Beauveria* inputs for pest control, thereby reducing agrochemical use.

Inclusive agriculture and area-based management

In Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Suriname, Guyana, Ecuador, and Brazil, excluded groups—mainly women, young people, and indigenous peoples—were selected for involvement in rural development processes, organizations, and networks. Furthermore, strategic plans for the activation of specific territories were drawn up (the Comarca Andina de la Paralela 42 in Argentina, the Sur Alto in Costa Rica, the Valle del Intag in Ecuador, and Tenancingo in Mexico), using methodologies based on the application of the localized agrifood systems approach (SIAL).

Authorities in Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Honduras, Ecuador, Peru, Dominican Republic and Venezuela have conceptual guidelines, methodologies, and instruments that facilitate the design of policies for the development of rural territories and their coordinated application by multiple institutions.

In order to improve their productivity, competitiveness, and social inclusion, women leaders in Jamaica, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, and Guyana who are members of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP) are sharing their knowledge via the www.canrop.com platform. In

In the Pará district of Suriname, 45 people received training in community development and three pathways were established to promote eco-agrotourism.

addition, several products with potential for export were identified in Grenada, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas, St. Lucia, and Guyana.

In 11 selected rural areas of the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Brazil, more than 240 young people and 80 young adults were trained to facilitate training in social management, entrepreneurship, and organization. Fifteen exceptional young members of the Federation of Rural Associations of the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR) were trained in chain management, integration into international markets, and business management to strengthen their family undertakings.

In Peru, 300 women are familiar with the environmental advantages of using improved stoves instead of traditional ones, and know how to manage their savings more efficiently (FASERT-GIZ project).



Guatemala: The *Toto for Todos* project provides valuable information for technical assistance to smallholders producing corn, beans, coffee and cardamom, especially Q'eqchi' farmers and their families.

Entities providing for a participatory approach to the coordination of inclusive rural development policies were established in Cariri Oeste, Brazil, and the Sur Alto and Sur Bajo areas of Costa Rica.

Comparative studies conducted in Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Uruguay, Spain, France, and the Netherlands were used to redefine the concept of 'rurality' used in public policies, and to construct typologies for rural spaces in Brazil, Ecuador, Peru, Mexico, and the countries of the Central American Dry Corridor.

Implementation of the action plan of the Central American Dry Corridor will make it to focus investment and international cooperation on the innovative adaptation of FF to the impact of climate change, and facilitate the sharing of good practices with institutions working in the semiarid areas of Brazil, Mexico, and South America's Gran Chaco. Important partners have joined the effort, including Mexico's Center for Research on Geography and

Geomatics (Centro Geo), which is interested in the socioeconomic and spatial analyses that could provide solutions for the areas along the corridor.

Brazil's Ministry of Agrarian Development (MDA) consolidated the application of public policies designed to promote sustainable rural development. It also has new studies to help it flesh out the role and scope of the Observatory on Land Governance, and integrate policies into the formulation of economic and sustainable development strategies for the projects of the National Land Credit Program.

In Brazil, IICA assisted the Secretariat of Agricultural and Fisheries Development with the implementation of a sustainable development project in Cariri, Seridó, and Curimataú; promoted the use of technologies adapted to the semiarid areas of the Northeast; and collaborated with the Secretariat for Agricultural Protection in the execution of a rural development project in Ceará.

Under the aegis of the Central American Agricultural Council (CAC), the Regional Program for Capacity Development for Area-based Rural Development in Central America was strengthened and 120 people trained.

In Costa Rica, INDER was strengthened by training 100 of its staff and setting up 18 technical committees for area-based management.



Central America: IICA strengthened the institutional framework linked to ECADERT and facilitated the coordination of development strategies and policies among the members of the Central American Integration System, for which Spain and Taiwan provided financial support.

Resilient agriculture, climate change and risk management

More than 1000 representatives of the ministries of agriculture, environment, foreign affairs, and other sectors of the countries of the Central, Caribbean, Andean, and Southern regions have enhanced their knowledge and expertise through inter-ministerial dialogues, regional meetings, and technical workshops on agriculture and climate change.

Some of the most important achievements are:

- Stakeholders in Central America's agro-environmental sector have tools for developing policies for the sustainable intensification of livestock activities.
- A series of virtual forums for over 300 participants provided an opportunity to discuss integrated soil management and actions aimed at recovering degraded soils in countries of the Americas.
- 120 Paraguayan officials enhanced their expertise in the use of agroclimate alerts for the management of situations that pose a risk to livestock production, as well as efficient agricultural irrigation systems, protected environments, and sustainable production.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (MAGyP) of Argentina, 700 government officials acquired new knowledge about water, carbon footprints and climate change.
- The EUROCLIMA Project, financed by the EU, has equipped the countries with good practices for mitigating the effects of climate change on


At least 20 countries enhanced the expertise of key technical staff specializing in agriculture and climate change, resilience and water use, and family farming.

the agricultural sector, holding a number of training activities on drought, green funds, climate analogues, and water resource management.

The forum "Knowledge of Climate-smart Agriculture" enabled twelve Caribbean countries to obtain and share knowledge about sustainable agriculture and good agricultural practices for climate change adaptation. Technical personnel in Argentina, Honduras, Guyana, Uruguay, Chile, Nicaragua, and Panama also received training in climate-smart agriculture.

The Fifth Annual Symposium to Facilitate the Development of Agricultural Insurance in the Americas was used to present information about the current status of agricultural insurance and promote its use in the public and private sectors. Furthermore, IICA and Germany's international development cooperation agency (GIZ) formulated a proposal for a project on risk management and insurance that will cost USD 7 million over four years.

Dominica, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and St. Lucia have plans for disaster management and agricultural risks and insurance. Assessments of the vulnerability of the agricultural sectors of St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica were carried out.



Peru: The Fund for Sustainable Access to Renewable Thermal Energy (FASERT), implemented with support from the GIZ and made up of eight subprojects related to credit, improved stoves and biodigesters, is energizing the value chain of the renewable thermal energy technology market.

Governments and experts regard the second edition of the “State of the art on agricultural insurance,” published by IICA, as a key source of information on the subject.

In Ecuador, 23 officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries (MAGAP), the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIAP), the Ecuadorian Agency for Agricultural Quality Assurance (Agrocalidad), the AgroSeguro system and the Central Government enhanced their capabilities in communication and productive risks. In El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Uruguay, 123 individuals working in the public and private sectors received training in risk management.

With technical support from IICA and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), St. Lucia’s Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry Department have a plan for the rehabilitation of the areas affected by the trough system that hit the island over Christmas 2014. More than 9000 meters of agricultural drains, four fish reservoirs, and eight kilometers of river banks were cleaned, stabilized, and rehabilitated.

Within the framework of the Fund for Sustainable Access to Renewable Thermal Energy (FASERT), a program being carried out in Peru under an agreement with the GIZ, 7000 families in Huancavelica were familiarized with the benefits of improved stoves. Furthermore, 1500 families are already aware of the social, economic, and environmental benefits, 420 families have access to

the technology, 158 families have acquired improved stoves, and 254 promoters are monitoring their use, leading to significant improvements to health and a reduction in the consumption of firewood and manure.

IICA collaborated in the development of a conceptual framework on bioinputs and an instrument for analyzing the related institutional framework, which was validated in Argentina and Nicaragua and made it possible to draft domestic agendas for the development of the bioinput sector, with a view to contributing to environmentally friendly agriculture.

Under the Sustainable Scenarios project, an analysis of a Brazilian territory was carried out based on variables and indicators of the potential for irrigation, income levels, production, agricultural potential and the integrated conservation of the environment, taking into account the strategies, programs and actions of Brazil’s Federal Government.

With the participation of the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), a study on the bottlenecks involved in the implementation of mechanisms for the payment of hydrological ecosystem services was published that is being used to draft the implementing regulations of the Law on Mechanisms for the Payment of Ecosystem Services in Peru.



The IDB-IICA partnership was instrumental in the Regional Agricultural Technology Fund (FONTAGRO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) granting financing to eight new projects designed to promote innovations for the adaptation of FF to climate change in the Americas.

Efficient water use in agriculture

Thanks to the support of IICA and its partners, 15 LAC countries benefited from projects related to desertification, aquaponics, integrated water management, low-cost irrigation, water harvesting, drainage, and water basins.

Public and private institutions in Peru, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica are harnessing 43 technologies, identified in Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Brazil, Honduras, Mexico, the United States, and Spain, for the sustainable and efficient supply, distribution, and use of water in communities, micro-watersheds, and family farms.

In Peru, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica, advantage is being taken of 25 technologies designed to improve irrigation for family farms and water management in micro-watersheds.

IICA enhanced the expertise in integrated water management of 1256 members of the staffs of public and private institutions, users' organizations, and civil society in Peru, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay, Ecuador, Guyana, Suriname, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Lucia, Jamaica, and Haiti.

Brazil's Ministry of Integration has a study of techniques for dealing with the desertification that affects various semiarid areas of the country; and Peru's Ministry of Agriculture has a study on the state of the art of efforts to improve the use and availability of water for agriculture.

As a result of the Nestlé company's "Creation of Shared Value" program, 330 stakeholders in ten Venezuelan localities that are important for the firm's activities enhanced their expertise in local water management and drew up their action plans.

IICA-Brazil Partnership

- Brazil's Ministry of Environment (MMA) has early warning systems, good practices for combating desertification and technical studies for promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation in areas susceptible to desertification, in accordance with the general framework of the Rio conventions. The MMA also has proposals for training environmental educators and community leaders in rural areas, as a result of the programs for revitalization of the watersheds of the Sao Francisco River.
- As part of the Water Development Program (InterAguas), implemented by the Brazilian government to coordinate actions in the sector, 30 members of the MMA's staff received training in the planning and management of procurement under World Bank-funded projects.
- The National Water Agency (ANA) has proposals for improving land tenure, taking into account factors associated with the availability of water.



Ecuador: Los Rios province has set up a technical forum on irrigation and drainage as a mechanism for public-private dialogue, which will be responsible for the participatory design of the province's integrated assessment of irrigation and drainage.

Knowledge-based agriculture

Under a training program run by Mexico, 19 courses were given on a number of topics, such as water conservation, family farming, phytopathology, rural tourism, biotechnology, public policies, soils, adaptation to climate change, and sheep production, in which the participants included 522 from the Caribbean, 223 from Central America, and 593 from other regions of the Americas.

IICA also carried out 27 technical visits, provided follow-up to eleven projects, and promoted the improvement of eight projects of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member countries.

All of the above made it possible to generate a broad exchange of knowledge between Mexico, the host country of the program, and the other LAC countries.

Furthermore, effective South-South cooperation demonstrated the technical capacity of Mexican institutions such as the National Agrifood Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA), the Research and Advanced Studies Center (CINVESTAV), Chapingo Autonomous University (UACH), the Postgraduate

School (COLPOS), the Yucatán Scientific Research Center (CICY), the Regional Center for Protected Agriculture Services (CRESIAP), the Center for Regional Cooperation for Adult Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (CREFAL), the Mexican Water Technology Institute (IMTA) and the Open and Distance University of Mexico, as well as the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), located in Costa Rica.

Total number of Scholarship Holders by Country IICA-Conacyt Scholarships	
Colombia	83
Ecuador	14
Honduras	9
Costa Rica	7
Venezuela	6
Argentina	6
Nicaragua	6
Peru	5
Guatemala	4
Dominican Republic	4
El Salvador	4
Belize	3
Panama	3
Brazil	2
Chile	2
Haiti	2
Paraguay	2
Bolivia	2
Uruguay	1
Total	165

13 programs
implemented, with
1043 people from 21
countries trained.

With support from the USDA, IICA implemented the Henry Wallace Legacy Scholar Program, which awarded grants to 23 young people from Latin America for graduate studies at CATIE.

In 2012, implementation got under way of the IICA/ CONACYT-Mexico Scholarship Program. So far, 423 people have been accepted and 386 are currently studying in Mexico. Over the last twelve months, 165 professionals have been studying for specializations (1), master's degrees (120), and doctorates (44) at 36 Mexican higher education institutions.

IICA and the Open and Distance University of Mexico launched a master's program in food security, for which 125 students have matriculated since July 2015. The program is a joint effort by the Association of Universities of Latin America and the Caribbean (UDUAL), IICA, the FAO, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Autonomous University of Nicaragua, the University de Panama, the Autonomous National University of Mexico, the University of Guadalajara, and the Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic University in Paraguay.

Under the Visiting Professionals Program, 10 graduate students spent time at IICA's offices in Costa Rica, Ecuador, and Guatemala, and at Headquarters, working on projects related to rural youth, rural territories, natural resources and water, training and public policies for agriculture.

Other educational programs implemented

- Control of coffee rust, carried out in Costa Rica as part of the national campaign to combat the disease with 50 extension workers from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and the Coffee Institute (ICAFE).
- Data gathering for Costa Rica's Sixth National Agricultural Census (100 participants).
- Agrotourism, organized jointly with the Organization of American States (OAS) and involving 63 people from various countries in the Americas.
- *Codex Alimentarius*, with the participation of 50 diplomats from IICA member countries.

A mosaic of solutions



IICA

Since 1942, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture has been the agency of the Inter-American System specializing in agriculture. By means of results-based technical cooperation, it supports the efforts of the Member States to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being.

Under the Energy and Environment Partnership (EEP) in the Andean Region, a program being executed with Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, over 19 projects were implemented to provide energy solutions for the development of production and food security in rural areas.

A more effective, results-oriented IICA

Implementation of the Medium-term Plan (MTP) for the period 2014-2018 got under way on schedule, making use of the new technical cooperation tools and executing a budget adapted to the plan that is more detailed, equitable, and geared to projects and the achievement of results.

All the units have an annual action plan designed to improve their performance, linked to the eleven contributions that IICA intends to make within a framework of greater efficiency, equity, and the transparent use of its own and external resources.

Significant progress has been made toward achieving the goal set for the number of externally funded projects. At the time of writing, the Institute is providing cooperation through 158 programs and projects involving a total budget of nearly USD 116 million in external resources.

The above is the result of the criteria and mechanisms established by the General Directorate to assess and approve technical cooperation projects, and application of the policy governing the institutional net rate, which rose from an average of 5.3% in 2010 to 7.48% in 2014.

In 2014, IICA collected 86.81% of its quotas.

The Institute strengthened its management systems, making notable progress with implementation of the planning, monitoring, and reporting modules of the Unified Institutional Management System (SUGI).

The administrators of IICA's delegations in its member countries received training in the management of the SAP financial-accounting system, which is now being used by all our operating units.

The SAPIENS platform used to manage our human talent now contains digital files of all IICA staff: 436 professionals and 272 general service personnel.

The institutional framework has been improved significantly with the drafting of the Policy on the Prevention and Handling of Sexual Harassment, the updating of the Code of Ethics, the implementation of the Antifraud Policy and the preparation of the Matrix of Risks associated with IICA's activities.

Despite the financial constraints, the current administration has achieved important structural, economic and management transformations. Working via projects, networks, and rapid response actions, and supported by efficient technical and corporate services, IICA has been able to meet the challenges of a demanding MTP, and respond to the different requirements of our Member States.

The promotion of continuous improvement has produced results. IICA's corporate management is more efficient, costs have been cut, and economies have been made to improve the delivery of technical cooperation.

www.iica.int

The Institute has redesigned its website (www.iica.int) to better meet the communication needs of its target audiences, and updated its Intranet to facilitate collaboration among the staff.

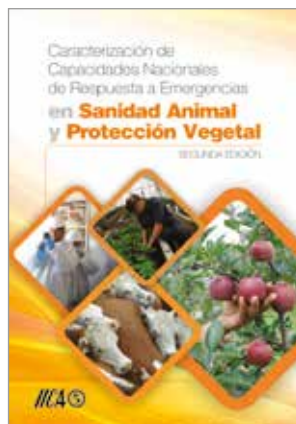
IICA's flagship initiatives

Agricultural chains	Inclusion and rural territories	Resilience and risk management	Family farming (FF)	Agricultural health and food safety
1100 agricultural officials and producers in 23 countries acquired expertise in the management of chains, businesses and risks, value added, and associative enterprises.	More than 500 members of public and private entities related to rural development and area-based planning improved their knowledge in youth, gender, leadership, and training.	1045 public and private-sector officials took part in virtual forums and courses on sustainable agriculture, climate change, soils, natural resources, and food security.	Nearly 1000 senior officials in 12 countries facilitated the inclusion of FF in their institutions' policies and better characterized the subsector with a view to designing differentiated institutional actions.	USD 2.3 million in funding from the STDF have been invested in food safety and plant health projects encompassing up to 11 countries.

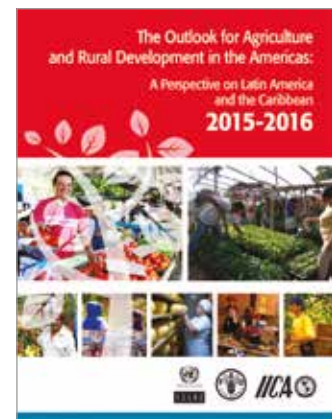
Major publications



Formación para la gestión del desarrollo de los territorios rurales
(only in Spanish)



Caracterización de capacidades nacionales de respuesta a emergencias en sanidad animal y protección vegetal
(only in Spanish)



The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean 2015-2016

Knowledge products

AgriPerfiles

agriperfiles.agri-d.net

With the support of the USDA and the University of Cornell, IICA has produced a Spanish-language version of the VIVO platform. AgriPerfiles also contains information about researchers, specialists, and other individuals, including their areas of experience and academic credentials, and the networks to which they belong. It also provides details of publications, projects, and services. The tool currently contains information about 927 specialists working in the agricultural sector in the Americas.



83 members of the INNOVAGRO Network, including research institutes, universities, civil society organizations, public institutions, donors, and business organizations involved in innovation in the agrifood sector in 16 countries in Latin America, Europe, and the Middle East, including six regional systems and networks, enhanced their capacity to strengthen the management of agricultural innovation.



This alliance, made up of 175 institutions in 22 countries, facilitates access to 2.8 million references and 246,875 full-text documents stored in 340 databases. This makes it one of the most important tools for transferring agricultural knowledge in the world, and the most important in the Americas. From August 2014 to July 2015, SIDALC received 3.3 million visits from more than 2.5 million individuals, including 853,881 recurrent users.

SiGET

Strategic Management System for
Area-based Development
and Family Farming
portalsiget.net

Eleven national and international networks, including the Network on Public Policies and Rural Development in Latin America, Brazil's Fórum DRS, Mexico's Network for the Area-based Management of Sustainable Rural Development (Red GTD) and the Central American Knowledge Management Network for Area-based Development (CODET), as well as institutional counterparts in ten Latin American countries, and area-based management and family farming organizations have access to international public goods related to knowledge management and training resources. In the SiGET's first virtual forum, "Synergies between family farming and inclusive area-based development," 65 participants from 38 institutions in 15 countries shared their experiences.

The goal for 2018: our eleven contributions



1. Strengthening the capabilities of the countries to establish public policies and institutional frameworks so as to make agriculture more productive and competitive, improve management of rural territories, adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change, and promote food and nutritional security.
2. Implementing technological, institutional and business innovations aimed at boosting the productivity and competitiveness of agriculture and the production of basic foodstuffs of high nutritional quality.
3. Increasing capabilities to ensure agricultural health and food safety.
4. Strengthening the business and associative capabilities in the agricultural production chains.
5. Increasing the capacity for area-based social management in rural areas.
6. Enhancing the capabilities of stakeholders of the agricultural chains and rural areas in integrated management of water and sustainable use of soil.
7. Increasing the capacity to implement measures for adapting agriculture to climate change and mitigating its effects, as well as promoting integrated risk management.
8. Improving the efficacy and efficiency of food and nutritional security programs.
9. Ensuring greater use of native species, promising crops and native genetic resources with food potential.
10. Improving capacity to reduce losses of food and raw materials throughout the agricultural chains.
11. Strengthening the Member States' capacity for consensus and participation in international forums for the mobilization of resources for agriculture.



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