



# Annual Report **2012**

## Executive Summary

**T**he year 2012 was a very important one for agriculture in the hemisphere within the framework of the Inter-American System. In the final documents of the Sixth Summit of the Americas, held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, the leaders of the countries of the Americas expressed their strong commitment to technological innovation. They recognized it as a source of progress in the rural sector and as a vital area for strengthening productivity, sustainability, and competitiveness in the agrifood sector, and thereby helping to reduce poverty levels and achieve food security.

The issue of food security was also the focus of the dialogue that took place at the Forty-second Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), held in Cochabamba, Bolivia. IICA derived great satisfaction from the fact that it was asked to prepare the document that served as the basis for lively discussions at the meeting. Even more satisfactory, however, was the fact that, despite the diverse political positions of the countries taking part in the Assembly, all the OAS Member States clearly believe that access to food is a right that everyone should be able to exercise.

Agriculture is the first link in the chain that affords people access to food, which makes it a very important social and economic sector. At IICA, we recognize the great desire of our member countries to position the agricultural sector as a key element of development, but daunting challenges must be overcome if political will is to be translated into action.

Fortunately, the hemisphere as a whole has the potential required to make agriculture a source of development. In fact, agriculture in the Americas has the capacity to feed much of the world's population.

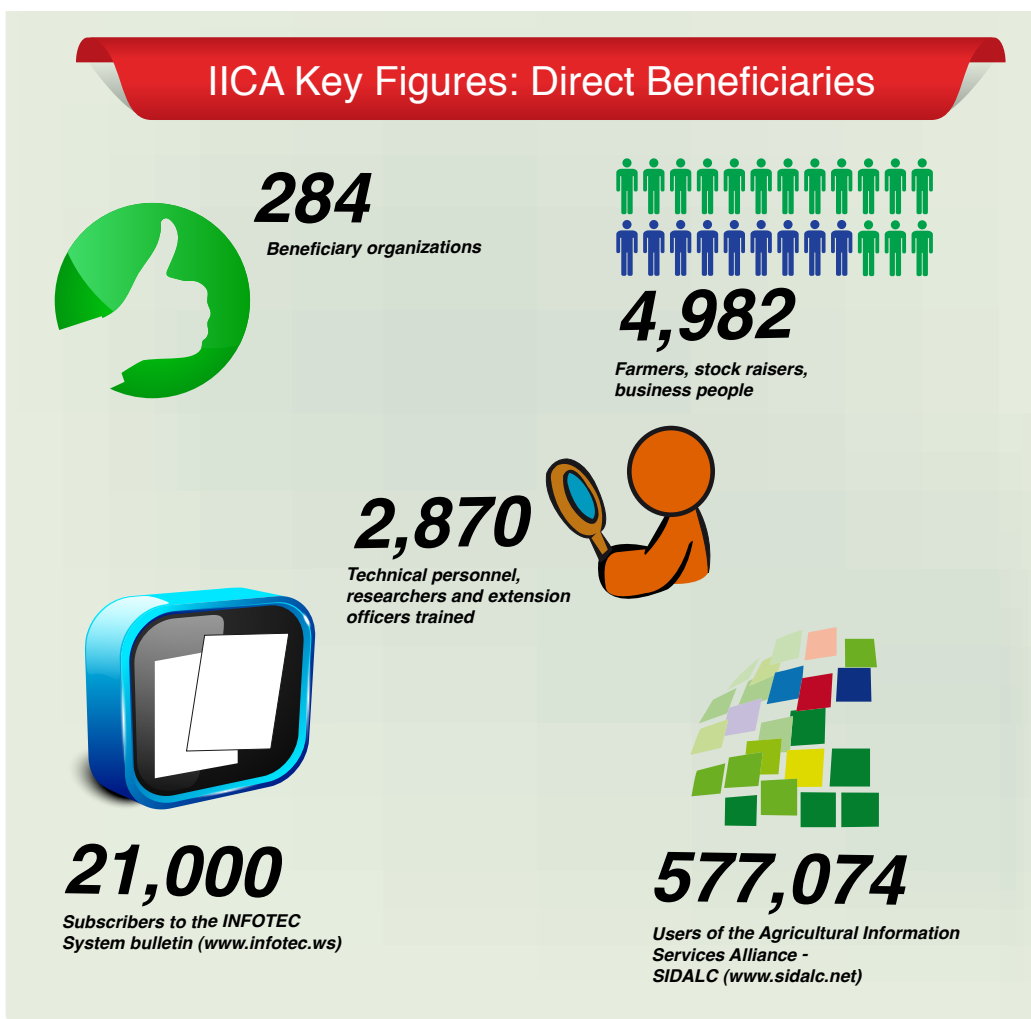
Our work, which is based on continuous dialogue and interaction with the Member States to obtain feedback, is underpinned by a dynamic hemisphere-wide agenda that we implement through our technical programs for innovation, agribusiness, agricultural health, area-based development, natural resource management, and food security. The specific activities in each Member State are linked to the respective IICA country strategy, which serves as the frame of reference not only for our work at the national level, but also for horizontal cooperation actions and the establishment of new strategic partnerships.

# Supporting Agriculture in the Americas

The mission of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to **“provide technical cooperation, innovation, and specialized knowledge to contribute to the competitive and sustainable development of agriculture in the Americas.”** Created in 1942 by the Governing Board of the Pan American Union, IICA is recognized by the Organization of American States (OAS) as the agency of the Inter-American System specializing in agriculture and the well-being of the rural population. For IICA, 2012 was a year of celebration and recognition of the work that it has performed for seven decades on behalf of agriculture in the hemisphere. Its current

Director General is Dr. Víctor Villalobos, a citizen of Mexico.

The Institute’s main activities were designed to provide the Member States with updated or new instruments for the **modernization of their national innovation systems and government plant and animal health services;** and to **strengthen the capabilities of the public and private sectors, to enable them to take advantage of the opportunities for agricultural trade and address issues such as the management of territories, biotechnology, biosafety, food security, climate change, and the mitigation of greenhouse gases.**



## Agricultural Innovation

In Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama, appraisals were carried out that led to improvements being made to the national organic production systems, while in El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Uruguay, Paraguay, Peru, Bolivia, and Mexico reviews were conducted of the capabilities for institutional development and the design of policies for agricultural innovation. In addition, through the Observatory of Institutional Innovations and the Network for the Management of Innovation in the Agrifood Sector (Red INNOVAGRO), IICA shared nearly 50 innovation experiences and systematized four institutional research models. The Institute's efforts also led to innovations in the Caribbean in the areas of agribusiness, production in greenhouses, and the breeding of small ruminants.

A good example of the institution's activities is the application of the agricultural innovation model used in the Family Agriculture Plan (PAF) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) of El Salvador, specifically under the PAF- Production Chains Program. Nearly 16,000 producers benefitted from a series of production tools and methods, and support in areas such as associativity, marketing, and institution building.



Photography: Red SICTA / Darwin Grandia

*The SICTA-COSUDE project was particularly important, given that it doubled the bean production of Nicaragua and reduced post-harvest management in Belize.*

## Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Furthermore, the Institute enhanced the expertise in pest risk analysis of over 106 professionals in Mexico, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, and a number of Central American and Caribbean countries; promoted an exhaustive discussion of international sanitary standards, and contributed to the historic vote on the acceptance of the maximum residue levels for ractopamine, a process spearheaded by the Codex Coordinating Committee for Latin America and the Caribbean (CCLAC). The foregoing demonstrates that IICA has consolidated its position in international forums as a go-to organization for plant health issues that has also increased the active participation of its Member States in the global and hemispheric bodies related to the Codex and sanitary measures.

The application of the Performance, Vision, and Strategy (PVS) instruments for food safety and inspection also led to the drafting of work plans and reports for Jamaica, Suriname, Bahamas, Guyana, Nicaragua, Ecuador, and Venezuela.



Photography: Giovanni Alcazar Carreon

*The Moscafruit program of Mexico exceeded the targets set for the production of pupae of the fly species *Anastrepha ludens* (129 million/week), *A. obliqua* (52 million/week) and *Diachasmimorpha longicaudata* (26 million/week).*

## Improved Agribusiness



Thanks to the Institute's support for agribusiness development, 31 businesses, 36 producer organizations, and more than 600 stakeholders in 20 member countries improved their export capabilities, business management, agro-tourism operations, product safety, and organization of chains. In the public institutional frameworks of 25 Member States, officials acquired new expertise in areas such as marketing, value added, associativity, insurance, and agrifood chains.

*In Costa Rica, more than 900 producers benefited from the new price information service that uses cell phone technology, known as "Agromensajes," promoted by the National Production Council, the Costa Rican Electricity Institute and the Integrated Agricultural Marketing Program.*



*The Institute helped to draft and implement plans aimed at economic inclusion, development, and land use management in the province of Chimborazo in Ecuador; in the Mancomunidad del Señor Cautivo, in the province of Ayabaca, department of Piura, Peru; and in the Rómulo Gallegos municipality of the state of Apure in Venezuela, among others.*

## Management of Rural Territories

Furthermore, 1400 persons working in the public and private sectors of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Brazil enhanced their institutional and technical capabilities for leading and implementing effective processes for area-based management.

Through the IICA-led mechanisms for collaboration and joint action, the Central American Integration System (SICA) adopted the guidelines of the Central American Strategy for Rural Area-based Development (ECADERT), which is enabling countries in the region to improve the incorporation of regulatory, technical, and institutional frameworks into their area-based development policies, programs, and projects. Another of the Institute's contributions was the multinational project "Innovative Policies for the Development of Rural Territories in Latin America (PIDERAL)," financed by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID). Under the initiative, Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Dominican Republic received assistance with the design and implementation of policies for the development of rural territories.

# Administrative Management

In 2012, the Thirty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) was held at the Institute's Headquarters in Costa Rica. A number of institutional reports and studies were approved, including one related to the methodology and policy for the Institutional Net Rate (INR) that is used in the administration of technical cooperation projects.

The Institute has implemented a financial strategy designed to bring about continuous improvements in institutional management, while at the same time lowering internal costs and making the most efficient possible use of resources. The SAP (Systems, Applications, and Products) financial administration platform has now been installed in 97% of IICA's Offices in the member countries, via which 300 technical cooperation projects are administered efficiently and transparently.

Furthermore, action was taken to address the effects of the freezing of the quota contributions of the Member States for more than 16 years, thanks to which several countries will increase their contributions or offer to make special ones. Apart from the financial benefits, such contributions and the fact that 98.7% of quotas were collected on time in 2012 are an endorsement of the Institute's work on behalf of agriculture and the well-being of rural dwellers in the Americas.









## 100 Scholarships per year

It is worth noting that, in partnership with Mexico's National Science and Technology Council (CONACYT), the Institute implemented a scholarship program to promote technical capabilities in agriculture, thanks to which 30 students began master's and doctoral degree courses in that country.

## Some Projects in Action

### NATIONAL

- 
**Mexico**  
**USD 168.5 million**  
 3 projects to prevent pests and diseases
- 
**Brazil**  
**USD 61.7 million**  
 3 sustainable development and natural resources projects
- 
**Honduras**  
**USD 33.8 million** Assistance for smallholders project
- 
**El Salvador**  
**USD 19 million**  
 Agricultural chains project of the family agriculture program
- 
**Haiti**  
**USD 19.3 million**  
 Financing and insurance project
- 
**Belize**  
**USD 3 million**  
 Project for research and institutional development in the sugar industry

### REGIONAL

- 
**Caribbean Region**  
**EUR 8.6 million**  
 Agricultural policy program
- 
**Central America**  
**USD 7.9 million**  
 Research and innovation program for agricultural value chains
- 
**Central America**  
**USD 4.2 million**  
 Agricultural innovation project (Phase III)
- 
**Andean Region**  
**USD 6 million**  
 Sustainable forest management program
- 
**Andean Region**  
**USD 4.9 million**  
 Energy and environment program
- 
**Multinational**  
**USD 0.21 millones**  
 18 projects of the technical cooperation competitive fund

# Strategic Alliances

With respect to interinstitutional relations and forms of cooperation, IICA played a key role in the meeting of the Group of 20 (G20), assisting Mexico, which chaired the event, with the implementation of forums, terms of reference for the agricultural scientific leaders, and an interagency document on productivity. Moreover, the Institute prepared a report entitled "The Food Security Situation in the Americas," which was used as the basis for the discussions during the Forty-second Regular Session of the OAS General Assembly, held in Cochabamba, Bolivia; and, in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the UN

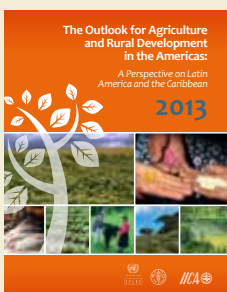
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), produced the report, *The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean*.

IICA has a wide variety of partners, including those already mentioned, the United Nations Organization, the Government of Finland, Germany's *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit* (GIZ), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the international agricultural research centers of the CGIAR System, and numerous agricultural universities, among others.

IICA's Competitive Fund for Technical Cooperation (FonCT) also approved 18 new multinational technical cooperation projects financed with the organization's own resources.

## Technical Publications

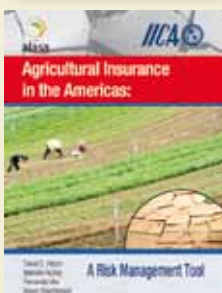
In 2012, IICA produced over 60 technical publications, all of which are available on its website ([www.iica.int](http://www.iica.int)).



*Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas (IICA FAO ECLAC)*



*Comparative study of genetically modified and conventional soybean cultivation in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay (IICA-MAGP)*



*Agricultural Insurance in the Americas: A risk management tool (IICA-ALASA)*



Fotografía: IICA / Orlando Vega

In the province of Manabí, Ecuador, IICA provided technical cooperation to farmers who have live fences of jatropa (*piñon*). This enabled them to obtain additional income from the sale of jatropa seed, which is used to produce pure jatropa vegetable oil at the extraction plant installed in the Experimental Station of the National Autonomous Institute for Agricultural Research (INIAP), located in Portoviejo and financed for the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

## Some of IICA's Innovative Projects



# Celebration of IICA's 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Photography: IICA / Juan Carlos Murillo

In 2012, IICA commemorated 70 years at the service of agriculture in the Americas. The official ceremony took place on October 8 at the National Theater of Costa Rica, in San Jose, just a few kilometers from the Institute's Headquarters. Two special guests honored IICA with their presence: the President of Costa Rica, Laura Chinchilla, and the Executive Director of the WFP, Ertharin Cousin.

In their addresses, both highlighted the Institute's virtues, especially its relevance at a time when agriculture is facing enormous global challenges:

*"This anniversary is an excellent opportunity for further reflection on the agricultural sector, where the sharpest contrasts and most urgent challenges of our societies are to be found,"* President Chinchilla remarked.

*"IICA is among the most energetic and forward-looking agriculture organizations in the world. At a time when agriculture has returned to the centre of the development agenda,*

*this institute has successfully leveraged its knowledge and rallied resources, making inclusive agriculture not just a vision for the future, but a reality that is changing the global food security agenda and transforming the lives of the hungry poor,"* Cousin pointed out.

The Institute's Director General also addressed everyone present: *"Thanks to [the daily efforts of] our international professional personnel and our local staff, both at Headquarters and in our national Offices, (...) I can affirm that IICA is an organization with technical capacity, institutional strength and with a future filled with opportunities."*

The activity held in San Jose, one of many organized to commemorate the 70th anniversary in IICA's 34 member countries, coincided with the annual meeting of the Institute's Executive Committee, during which the 16 delegations in attendance also recognized IICA's contribution to the efforts to improve the living conditions of both women and men in rural areas. ■



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