



*INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE - IABA*

Twelfth Regular Meeting  
November 13, 2003

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**AUTOMATIC ROTATION MECHANISM FOR THE  
APPOINTMENT OF THE REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE IABA TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AND THE GOVERNING COUNCIL OF CATIE**

**Panama City, Panama**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

At its Twenty-second Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee recommended to the IABA, by Resolution IICA/CE/Res.380, that it adopt a new method for appointing the IABA representatives to the Governing Council and Board of Directors of CATIE. The new method is described below.

## **II. BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the Contract on the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is to appoint a representative to the CATIE Board of Directors (Clause Ten) and another to its Governing Council (Clause Sixteen).

The responsibility of these representatives is to serve as members of the respective governing body of CATIE. Appendix 1 contains a description of the functions of the Governing Council and of the Board of Directors of CATIE.

## **III. Current appointment procedure**

In accordance with the current procedure, the IABA representatives to the CATIE Board of Directors and Governing Council are appointed at the meetings of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, taking into account proposals from the Member States.

The Executive Committee, at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting, approved Resolution 330 "Election of Members of Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Training Center," by means of which it requested the IICA Director General to submit to the consideration of the next regular meeting of the IABA, the nominations received for the IABA's representative to the CATIE Board of Directors. It also recommended that the IABA adopt, for the appointment of its member to the CATIE Board of Directors, the same procedure used to elect the IICA Director General. It recommended that the IABA permanently delegate to the Executive Committee the authority to appoint the IABA member on CATIE's Board of Directors in those years in which no regular meeting of the IABA is scheduled.

The current procedure requires:

- a. conducting a consultation every two years with the 34 Member States;
- b. sufficient time for each Member State to conduct a search and select suitable candidates;
- c. nomination of candidates by interested Member States and examination of their qualifications; and
- d. consideration of the candidates by the IABA. This can only take place if the previous steps are successful.

### Considerations

Appointment of the IABA representatives to CATIE has been hindered by the difficulty of keeping new authorities informed of the role of these representatives, as well as by the complexity, time and cost involved in the procedure to request the 34 Member States to nominate candidates. As this request is frequently unheeded, it has often been necessary to take further action. Even then, there is also the risk that when further action is taken, no suitable candidates are nominated.

Moreover, there is no guarantee that IABA's Member States will express interest in representing the IABA on CATIE's Governing Council or Board of Directors within the necessary time frame.

### **IV. Proposed procedure**

Because the appointment of the IABA's representatives to CATIE's Board of Directors and Governing Council help the IABA and CATIE fulfill a prescribed obligation, it is proposed that the most appropriate way to deal with this obligation is to establish a rotation mechanism that includes the Member States of IICA that are not members of CATIE and the region they represent. This would provide all of them, in theory, with an opportunity to participate. If this new mechanism is accepted, it will simplify the appointment procedure and facilitate the final decision to be taken by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

#### Advantages of the proposed procedure:

- a. The country that is to appoint the IABA representative would be aware in advance of this responsibility.
- b. The process will be limited to seeking a suitable candidate in a single country. This responsibility will fall to the government that, according to the rotation schedule established, will appoint the candidate.
- c. Candidates will be nominated taking into account the task the person appointed as IABA representative will be expected to fulfill on CATIE's Governing Council and Board of Directors.
- d. The amount of time involved in the selection process will be significantly reduced.
- e. Administrative expenses will be reduced because the cost of correspondence, international communications, sending of curriculum vitae, study of background documentation, additional measures, etc., will be eliminated. Savings will also be realized in communicating the results of pre-selection, which should be done before IABA meeting, or before the Executive Committee meeting in years in which there are no meetings of the IABA.

It is therefore proposed that the following rotation mechanism, approved by the Executive Committee in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.380(XXII-O/02), at its Twenty-

second Regular Meeting (October 2-3, 2002), enter into effect as of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the IABA (Panama 2003).

**APPOINTMENT OF THE IABA REPRESENTATIVE TO  
CATIE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND TO ITS GOVERNING COUNCIL**

**IABA Representatives to the Board of Directors of CATIE<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Member State of IICA that is not a Member of CATIE</b>	<b>Years</b>
Northern	United States of America	2003-2004
Caribbean	Bahamas	2005-2006
Andean	Ecuador	2007-2008
Southern	Argentina	2009-2010

**IABA Representative to the Governing Council of CATIE<sup>2</sup>**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Member State of IICA that is not a Member of CATIE</b>	<b>Years</b>
Caribbean	Barbados <sup>3</sup>	2003-2004
Northern	Canada	2005-2006
Southern	Brazil	2007-2008
Andean	Peru	2009-2010

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<sup>1</sup> Article 16 of CATIE's Charter provides that the Board of Directors shall include 13 members. They are: a) the minister of agriculture of Costa Rica or his/her representative; b) IICA's Director General; c) a member appointed by CATIE's Council, under principles of rotation; d) a member designated by the IABA (or by the Executive Committee under delegation from the IABA); e) four members selected by CATIE's Council from among CATIE's Member States – Belize, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Panama; however, they cannot be selected from Member States already represented under subsections a, b, and d above; five members shall be selected by the Council from the international community.

<sup>2</sup> Article 10 of CATIE's Charter provides that the Council shall consist of one minister connected with agriculture or natural resources from each of CATIE's Member States, IICA's Director General, and a representative elected by the IABA.

<sup>3</sup> As of November 1, 2003

## APPENDIX 1

### Governing Council

**Clause Ten:** The Governing Council (hereinafter, the Council) shall consist of one Minister appointed by each of the Member Countries of CATIE<sup>4</sup>, linked to the agricultural and/or natural resources sector; the Director General of IICA; and one representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, appointed for this purpose. In the absence of the regular holder of the office, his/her replacement shall be of the highest possible level. It shall be chaired by the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Costa Rica, and the Director General of IICA shall serve as the Vice-Chair. In the case of a tie, the Chair shall have the casting vote.

**Clause Eleven:** The Council shall:

- a. Appoint the Director General, based on the candidates proposed by the Board of Directors of CATIE.
- b. Define the policies and programs of the institution in accordance with the development strategies of the member countries.
- c. Approve the institution's proposed biennial programming.
- d. Study and approve the Annual Report, the annual budget and other important reports of the Association and, in particular, external and internal evaluations of the institution.
- e. Examine the evaluations of policies and their impact on the member countries.
- f. Resolve important matters regarding the development of research, post-graduate education and training programs as well as external projection and financial sustainability of the institution referred to it by the Board of Directors.
- g. Approve, upon recommendation of the Board of Directors, the regular or special contributions of the members.
- h. On the recommendation of the Board of Directors, approve the institution's Internal Rules and Regulations, namely: the Rules of Procedure for the Election of Members of the Board of Directors; the Rules of Procedure for the Election of the Director General of the institution; the Rules of Procedure of CATIE's Principal Professional Personnel; and the Financial Rules and General Regulations of CATIE.
- i. Establish the committees or working groups it considers necessary for performing its functions.
- j. Appoint the members of the Board of Directors of CATIE.

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<sup>4</sup> *Member countries:* Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Dominican Republic, Venezuela

## **Board of Directors**

**Clause Fifteen:** The Board of Directors (hereinafter, the Board) shall be the Management Body and have the following functions, notwithstanding any others specifically defined in this Contract and all those expressly delegated by the Governing Council:

- a. Approve the annual program budget and monitor the integrity of financial and accounting practices.
- b. Raise recommendations to the Governing Council regarding policies and strategies of action in the areas of research, education, technology transfer and financial self-sustainability.
- c. Submit for ratification by the Governing Council the Annual Report, the budget and other important CATIE reports, particularly external and internal evaluations of the institution.
- d. Supervise directly and through its Committees the performance of the Institution's executives in achieving its objectives.
- e. Review and propose policies and strategies of action in the areas of research, education, technology transfer, financial self-sustainability and personnel policies of the institution.
- f. Submit to the consideration of the Governing Council a list of three to five candidates for the post of Director General.
- g. Establish working committees other than those established in this Contract to perform specific tasks, as needed.
- h. Propose, for approval by the Governing Council, the regular or special contributions of its member countries.
- i. Examine any matter submitted to it by the Governing Council or by any of its members.
- j. Perform the preparatory work of the agenda of the Governing Council.
- k. Propose, for approval by the Governing Council, CATIE's Internal Regulations, as defined in subsection h) of Clause Eleven above.
- l. Select and propose to the Governing Council lists of candidates to the Board of Directors, pursuant to the corresponding regulations.