



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Twentieth Regular Meeting
San Jose, Costa Rica
1-3 November 2000

**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE TENTH
REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE**

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**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE TENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

NUMBER AND TITLE OF THE RESOLUTION	OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH	ACTION TAKEN
Resolution No 336, "Financing of the Regular Fund and Distribution of Resources for the Years 2000 and 2001"	<p>1. To approve the 2000-2001 Program Budget, in the amount of US\$30,000,000 annually for the Regular Fund, in accordance with the allocations for each of the Chapters and items detailed in Document IICA/IJA/Doc.241(99), "Financing of the Regular Fund and Distribution of Resources for the Years 2000 and 2001," a chapter-by-chapter summary of which is attached to this Resolution as "Appendix A".</p>	<p>The 2000 Plan of Operations was prepared, and preparation of the 2001 Plan of Operations is under way, based on the allocation of resources established in the 2000-2001 Program Budget, approved by the IABA.</p>
	<p>2. To establish that for 2000 and 2001, to finance the Regular Fund, the Member States shall contribute quota funds in the amount of US\$27,508,680 in each year, as per the amounts indicated on the Quota Scale attached to this Resolution as "Appendix B", and the US\$2,491,320 in miscellaneous income which the Institute expects to receive annually.</p>	<p>-----</p>
	<p>3. To authorize the Director General to make transfers between the chapters of the Program Budget, provided total transfers neither increase nor reduce the amount allocated to the affected chapters by more than 10% and do not substantially affect the strategic areas approved.</p>	<p>-----</p>
	<p>4. To authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the distribution of resources recommended in this Resolution should income from each of the years fall below programmed levels. The Director General shall inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.</p>	<p>To date, no such adjustments have been made.</p>

	<p>5. To instruct the Director General that any contribution of resources from the Regular Fund received that exceeds the total amount approved for the biennium and the balance of uncommitted, unspent appropriations shall be deposited in the Working Subfund of the Regular Fund.</p>	<p>This will be done when and if the contributions of resources of the Regular Fund exceed the amount executed during the 2000-2001 biennium.</p>
<p>Resolution N° 337. 1997 and 1998 Financial Statements of the Institute</p>	<p>1. To approve Document IICA/JIA/Doc.242(99), "1997 and 1998 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors".</p>	<p>.....</p>
	<p>2. To congratulate the firm KPMG Peat Marwick for its Report.</p>	<p>The congratulations were extended to the firm KPMG Peat Marwick.</p>
	<p>3. To thank the Member States that have responded to the Director General's request concerning the payment of quotas, and to urge the others to follow their example.</p>	<p>The General Directorate sent letters to the Member States, thanking them for supporting the Institute by paying their quotas.</p>
<p>Resolution N° 338. Fourth and Fifth Reports of the Audit Review Committee</p>	<p>1. To accept the Fourth and Fifth Annual Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) contained in document IICA/JIA/Doc.243(99).</p>	<p>.....</p>
	<p>2. To congratulate and thank the members of the Audit Review Committee for their work.</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>Resolution N° 339. Appointment of External Auditors for the 2000-2001 biennium</p>	<p>1. To appoint Deloitte & Touche as the firm of External Auditors of the Institute and the CATIE for the 2000-2001 period, which may be extended by the Director General for up to two additional years in accordance with the amendment to article 2(h) of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, adopted by the IABA at its Ninth Regular Meeting.</p>	<p>A contract was signed with the firm Deloitte & Touche, which will take over as Internal Auditor for IICA and CATIE in September 2000.</p>
	<p>2. To charge the General Directorate with emphasizing in the contract signed with Deloitte & Touche the importance of ensuring that its reports are in compliance with the provisions of Articles 102 and 104 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate.</p>	<p>This provision was included in the contract signed with Deloitte & Touche.</p>

<p>Resolution N° 340. Remuneration of the Director General for the 2000-2001 biennium</p>	<p>1. To delegate to the Executive Committee, at its Twentieth Regular Meeting, the authorization to set the remuneration of the Director General for the 2000-2001 biennium.</p> <p>2. To set the base salary of the Director General at the 1999 level for 2000 until the Executive Committee has made the corresponding decision.</p>	<p>Should the Executive Committee decide to modify the remuneration of the Director General for the 2000-2001 biennium, the Institute will make the necessary budgetary adjustments.</p>
<p>Resolution N° 341. The new institutional dimension</p>	<p>1. To adopt the following proposed legal instruments set out in Document IICA/JIA/Doc.240(99)rev., "The New Institutional Dimension", which is attached as Annex A of this Resolution: (a) Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture; (b) Proposed Amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee; (c) Proposed Modifications to the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate; and (d) Modifications of Other Rules of the Institute; and (e) the Statute of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues.</p>	<p>The regulations were amended and published.</p>
	<p>2. To recommend that the OAS General Assembly adopt the draft resolution entitled "Strengthening and Revitalizing the Linkages Between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture and Other Organs of the OAS for Addressing Issues of Hemispheric Concern Involving Agriculture", which is set out in Document IICA/JIA Doc.240 (99) rev., and attached as part of Annex A hereto.</p>	<p>The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS), meeting on May 26, 2000, approved Draft Resolution OEA/Ser.P AG/doc.3894/00. Later, this draft resolution was submitted for consideration to the General Assembly meeting held in Windsor, Canada in June 2000.</p>
	<p>3. To instruct the Director General: (a) to include that recommended draft OAS General Assembly resolution in the Institute's Annual Report to the OAS General Assembly; (b) to take such other measures as may be appropriate to assure that the draft resolution is considered by the General Assembly at its next Regular Session, and (c) to report on the outcome to the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.</p>	

<p>Resolution No. 342. Incorporation of the Gender Perspective into Institutional Policies.</p>	<p>1. To incorporate the gender perspective into IICA's institutional system and request the Director General to make the legal, regulatory and operational changes needed to comply with this mandate.</p> <p>2. To request the Director General of IICA to ensure that the Institute's gender policy is also expressed in the institution's action and instruments for technical cooperation.</p>	<p>The gender perspective has been incorporated into the Institute's human resources regulations, which will be submitted for consideration at the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.</p> <p>The gender perspective is being incorporated into the Institute's technical cooperation instruments.</p>
<p>Resolution No. 343. Date and site of the eleventh regular meeting of the inter-american board of agriculture</p>	<p>1. To thank the Government of the Dominican Republic and accept its generous offer to serve as the site of the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).</p> <p>2. To hold the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in the Dominican Republic in October 2001.</p>	<p>Conversations are under way with authorities in the Dominican Republic regarding actions required to organize and hold the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the IABA.</p>
<p>Resolution No. 344. 1997 and 1998 Annual Reports</p>	<p>1. To approve the 1997 and 1998 Annual Reports presented by the Director General and contained in document IICA/JIA/Doc.237(99).</p> <p>2. To congratulate the Director General for the contents and presentation of the Annual Reports.</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>Resolution No. 345. Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture</p>	<p>To accept with satisfaction Document IICA/JIA/Doc.245(99), "Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)."</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>Resolution No. 346. 1998-1999 Inter-American Agricultural Medal</p>	<p>To grant the 1998-1999 Inter-American Agricultural Medal to Mr. José Domingo Molina, in public international recognition of his outstanding contributions to agricultural development and the betterment of rural life.</p>	<p>In letter SC/DG-656, dated November 12, 1999, the Director General informed Mr. José Domingo Molina of the IABA's decision. In letter SC/DG-655, the appropriate authorities in Mexico were informed of same.</p>

<p>Resolution No. 347. 1998-1999 Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development</p>	<p>To grant the 1998-1999 Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development to Mrs. Roberta Marie Davidson Williams, as public international recognition of her outstanding contributions to agricultural development and the betterment of rural life.</p>	<p>In letter SC/DG-658, dated November 12, 1999, the Director General informed Mrs Davidson of the IABA's decision. In letter SC/DG-657, the appropriate authorities in Antigua and Barbuda were informed of same.</p>
<p>Resolution No. 348. Third Ministerial Forum</p>	<p>To take note of the conclusions of the Third Ministerial Forum and entrust IICA, within the framework of the current Medium Term Plan and in accordance with the availability of the resources allocated, to follow up on the issues addressed at the Forum and keep both the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) informed of developments.</p>	<p>See Appendix I</p>
<p>Resolution No. 349. Agenda and Plan of Action for Financing the Rural Economy and the Struggle Against Poverty</p>	<p>1. To accept and thank the Inter-American Development Bank for its invitation to participate in the aforementioned Conference and to discuss, within that framework, an inter-American agenda for the development of the rural economy and the struggle against poverty, and to reach agreement regarding a plan of action.</p>	<p>The Institute conveyed the IDB's invitation to the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States, many of whom participated in the event.</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>To charge IICA, and request support from the IDB, IFAD, ECLAC, GTZ, FAO and the World Bank, with preparing, together and in consultation with the governments, a proposal for an inter-American agenda for financing the rural economy and combating rural poverty, that establishes priority areas for expenditures and investments, and a plan of action involving joint action among the cooperation agencies for complying with that agenda.</p>	<p>Within the framework of the Conference, representatives of the International Fund for Agricultural Development; the German Technical Cooperation Agency; the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; the Inter-American Development Bank, and IICA, signed the agreement creating the Inter-Agency Group on Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>The Work Plan between the Sustainable Development Department of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was also signed within the framework of the Conference.</p>

	<p>3. To call on the governments of the Member States to strengthen dialogue among the ministers of agriculture, the economy and/or finance, with a view to giving priority in decisions on expenditures and investment to the issues of agriculture, rural development and the struggle against poverty.</p>	<p>.....</p>
	<p>4. To acknowledge the important work by the IDB and IICA to achieve an inter-agency effort for developing a new approach to agriculture, rural development and the struggle against poverty.</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>Resolution No. 350. Strengthening IICA Programs that Address the Development of the Processes of Dialogue, Modernization, and Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education and Training</p>	<p>1. To underscore the strategic importance of increasing the cooperation efforts the Institute is undertaking at the national, regional, and hemispheric levels, and of strengthening the strategic alliances and joint projects on this subject that are being undertaken in partnership with the Organization of American States (OAS), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).</p>	<p>Cooperation has been promoted by providing support for the creation of the Inter-American System of Discussion Fora on the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education. Eight national fora have been created: Peru, Mexico, Paraguay, Argentina, Dominican Republic, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador and there are plans to create five more this year: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Brazil. At the regional level, the Andean Forum was created, bringing the total of regional fora in operation to four: Caribbean, Central America, Mercosur and Andean. At the hemispheric level, the Forum of the Americas is in operation. Also, the bi-regional "North-Caribbean" forum is in the development stage. These are expanded fora which include persons, associations and public and private entities linked to the education and training of human resources for the agricultural sector and the development of the rural milieu. The objectives of the fora are: to contribute to positioning agriculture, especially agricultural and rural education and training, on the agenda of political-financial entities and events; to facilitate the integration of agricultural and rural education among countries and institutions; and to support initiatives aimed at modernizing education, via exchanges and reciprocal cooperation among their members. This has involved</p>

		<p>strengthening conceptual and operating ties with the OAS, the World Bank, the FAO and the IDB. Also, under the System of Fora, numerous academic centers have received further support through programs aimed at their modernization, helping them to update their curricula, train educators, evaluate their programs, engage in strategic planning, and enhance their capacity to change.</p>
	<p>2. To instruct the Director General to strengthen institutional training activities for human resources on competitive agriculture and a developed rural milieu through a training program on strategic subjects that are in great demand in the countries, that coordinates technical resources with regular and the external financial resources obtained, in order to optimize their use and impact.</p>	
	<p>3. To establish mechanisms for conducting ongoing consultations and dialogue with Governments in order to evaluate progress and direct the programs towards real local, regional, and hemispheric needs.</p>	
<p>Resolution No. 351. Adaptation of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu to Climatic Change</p>	<p>To charge the Institute and through it, the Research Institutes, whether or not they address the Region's agriculture, with channeling efforts to develop mechanisms that will furnish the technologies required for the necessary adaptation, both proactive and preventive, by the agricultural sector and the rural milieu to events characterizing climatic change.</p>	<p>IICA's actions in this area have focused on: a) providing responses commensurate with the priority and importance the countries attach to this topic, and b) executing actions to promote natural resource conservation, via pilot projects in four countries of the region.</p> <p>The countries were consulted via a survey conducted through the IICA office in all member countries. This survey, the first results of which are already coming in, focuses on gathering and analyzing information on research activities under way in the countries in connection with this topic, with a view to assessing the impact of climatic change on agriculture, and then</p>

		<p>doing whatever possible to lessen this impact. There is consensus that the El Niño and La Niña phenomena have been aggravated by global warming. Also, these phenomena are closely linked with the increased frequency of extreme events such as droughts and floods.</p> <p>As regards actions being promoted by IICA (with limited resources), our goal is to launch a multinational action based on the experience gained in the promotion of natural resource conservation activities in countries such as the Dominican Republic, Honduras, El Salvador and Peru. The emphasis will be on prevention, on how to prepare the land so as to slow water build-up. In addition to preventing deterioration, making resources more productive and increasing the profits of producers, this will reduce the vulnerability of the land and the risk of catastrophic disasters. These topics are addressed in the document "Impact of Hurricane Georges on Soil and Water in the Dominican Republic: Recommendations and Proposals for a National Natural Resources Conservation Program." Also, PROCIANDINO, in its new strategic plan for multinational research, introduced the topic of water and soil conservation for the first time. Also, the Central Regional Center has drawn up funding proposals for projects aimed at livestock research and the recovery of land affected by Hurricane Mitch.</p>
<p>Resolution No. 352. Support to the Government of Panama for the Maintenance of Water Sources Flowing into the Panama Canal</p>	<p>1. To acknowledge and support the interest of the Government of Panama in undertaking activities relating to maintaining the water sources that supply the Panama Canal and that will enable sustainable human development in the Canal's watershed.</p>	<p>In 1999, three CODES/CEPPI missions supported the IICA Office in Panama in formulating a multidisciplinary technical cooperation project aimed at drawing up a plan for the integrated and sustainable development of the Canal's watershed. A document was prepared that included a diagnostic study which identified the key factors that should be considered in the plan, including: the deterioration of watersheds,</p>

		<p>agricultural activities, levels of poverty, the demand for and supply of water, the expansion of urban areas and security problems in the Canal Zone.</p> <p>This is considered an important, high priority program, given the complexity of the problem and the imminent impact in the near future on the population and the economy of the country.</p> <p>During the final mission, CODES/CEPPI participated in a joint mission with the World Bank/IDB to discuss the possibility of executing the project in the area of the Canal. Even though a final decision has not yet been reached on the project, the IICA Office in Panama still has it on its agenda, in the hopes that the proposal can be brought up again as part of the negotiations currently under way with the new authorities in Panama regarding IICA's technical cooperation program in that country.</p>
	<p>2. To instruct the Director General to support the efforts that the Government of Panama will make at an international level to obtain external resources that will enable it to prepare and implement programs and projects for the management and sustainable development of the Panama Canal watershed.</p>	<p>During the final mission, CODES/CEPPI participated in a joint mission with the World Bank/IDB to discuss the possibility of executing the project in the area of the Canal. Even though a final decision has not yet been reached on the project, the IICA Office in Panama still has it on its agenda, in the hopes that the proposal can be brought up again as part of the negotiations currently under way with the new authorities in Panama regarding IICA's technical cooperation program in that country.</p>
	<p>3. To recommend to the Director General that the subject of watershed management, as an essential element of sustainable agricultural and rural development, be included on the agenda of the Twentieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, within the framework of the current Medium Term Plan, acknowledging the strategic nature of the water resource</p>	

<p>Resolution No. 353. Biennial Report on the Activities of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)</p>	<p>and the importance of preventing and attenuating the impact of climatic change and variability in the countries of the region.</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>Resolution No. 354. Biennial Report of the Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI)</p>	<p>1. To receive Document IICA/JIA/Doc.248(99), "Biennial Report on the Activities of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)."</p> <p>2. To congratulate the Director General of CATIE on the contents and presentation of the Biennial Report.</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>Resolution No. 355. Election of Members of the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)</p>	<p>1. To elect Jamaica, a member country of the Institute that is not a member of CATIE, as the representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), until October 2001.</p> <p>2. To congratulate the Executive Director of CARDI on the contents and presentation of the Biennial Report.</p>	<p>In letter SC/DG-674, dated November 18, the Director General informed the Government of Jamaica of the IABA's decision.</p>
<p>Resolution No. 356. Election of Members of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to the Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)</p>	<p>To designate Richard Rovtvedt, from the United States of America, as Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) to the Board of Directors of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), until October 2001.</p>	<p>In a letter dated November 30, the Government of the United States of America was informed of the IABA's decision.</p>
<p>Resolution No. 357. Vote of Thanks to the Government And people of Brazil</p>	<p>1. To express its deep appreciation to the Government and People of Brazil, especially to His Excellency Vice President Marco Maciel for his distinguished and enlightened contributions to the Inaugural Session, and to His Excellency César Augusto Robello Borges, Governor of the State of Bahia.</p>	<p>.....</p>

	<p>2. To express its deep appreciation to Minister of Agriculture Marcus Vinicius Pratini de Moraes for his willingness to enter into constructive dialogue with the ministers of the hemisphere, as well as to the authorities of the State of Bahia and the diligent personnel of the Ministries of Foreign Relations and Agriculture and Supply for the warm hospitality and generous support they provided during the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.</p>	
<p>Resolution No. 358. Vote of Thanks to Dr. Ruben Guevara</p>	<p>To thank Dr. Guevara for his excellent and dedicated work at the head of CATIE and wish him the greatest success in the future during his illustrious professional career.</p>	<p>.....</p>
<p>Resolution No. 359. Tribute to Dr Oscar Héctor Gherzi</p>	<p>1. To thank the Government of Argentina for the support provided by Dr. Oscar Héctor Gherzi, the Internal Auditor of the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA), who sat on the Audit Review Committee from 1995 through 1999.</p>	<p>.....</p>
	<p>2. To acknowledge the excellent and dedicated efforts of Dr. Gherzi and offer very sincere thanks for his contributions to the consolidation of the Audit Review Committee and his input furthering the administrative and financial management of the Institute.</p>	<p>.....</p>

"THIRD MINISTERIAL FORUM"

Following are the most important actions taken and being taken by IICA to comply with the requests expressed at the conclusion of the Third Ministerial Forum.

To facilitate understanding of the text, a brief summary is given of the topics of each panel directly related to IICA's action and that are included in the conclusions.

Panel 1 "Agribusiness: Critical Factors in the Sustainable Development of Agriculture"

It was recommended that IICA support the countries in:

transition and transformation, new institutional framework,
public-private sector relations,
ministerial dialogue with other portfolios, and
dialogue among countries.

Noteworthy among the actions being implemented by IICA are the following:

1. Establishing training programs for agri-business operators (Platforms for Exportation: Creating Exporters to Canada), to diversify both the number of producers and products involved in exports to new markets. Fifteen businesses in Costa Rica participate.
2. Training programs for instructors, to strengthen and upgrade the capabilities of IICA specialists (training was provided to ten IICA specialists from the Central and Andean Regions)
3. Strengthening the technical cooperation instruments used by the agri-food sector to access new business technologies, information and organization for the purpose of increasing the sector's profitability. Under the IICA/AECI project, the main actions were: development of DIGA, training courses, participation of agri-business operators in the Barcelona Food Fair, publication of materials summarizing the results of the training workshops and specific research results.
4. Fostering inter-institutional relations with representatives of the private and public sectors to serve the interests of both producers and consumers. The following organizations participated in the first training module for business operators in Costa Rica: AC/CR, CACIA, CADEXCO, CENECOOP, CNP and PROCOMER.
5. Technical cooperation agreements that, as in the case of Canada's Forum for International Trade Training (FITT), provide training materials for entrepreneurs from the agri-food and beverage sectors. The training materials involve the

exchange of experiences and methodologies that have been successfully used to develop new markets.

Panel II "Agrifood Development and Rural Poverty: The Market and the Roles of the State and Civil Society"

IICA was requested to provide support in the following areas:

- successful experiences, agri-food development and rural development (identification and systematization)
- results of the decentralization process
- impact of macro-economic policy on the sector
- new approaches to rural development
- options for technical and financial cooperation and multilateral and inter-agency cooperation

One of the most important actions undertaken by IICA in this connection was the creation of the International Center for Rural Development (CIDER), which is headquartered in Panama.

The terms of reference for establishing CIDER included basing its programs on an analysis of experiences in the Region, and conducting an exhaustive analysis of current thought on the new rurality and of the role the sector and its populations should play in development models of the region in the near future, a process that has been led by IICA, in association with multilateral agencies that work with rural development in the region.

The basic objective of CIDER is contribute to building capabilities and opportunities in rural communities and among entrepreneurs of our hemisphere, by creating new visions and structures for economic and social development, designing innovative management instruments, and supporting the implementation of actions, such as formulating a contemporary definition of rural welfare, and joint efforts with the states, organizations of civil society in our countries, and international cooperation organizations.

As part of IICA, CIDER will support technical cooperation actions being implemented by the Institute in its 34 member countries, where more than 90 rural development projects are under way.

CIDER's field of action includes the following priority topics:

- rural economics
- attention to rural poverty
- gender equity
- attention to rural youth
- sustainable development of natural resources
- development of human and social capital in the rural milieu
- construction of networks and alliances

In this framework, it is of key importance to build and strengthen new ways of working with international organizations with a view to adding value and combining efforts. An

example of this is the inter-agency group on rural development, recently created in New Orleans during the Meeting of IDB Governors, and which brings together the efforts of the IDB, ECLAC, GTZ, FAO, IFAD and IICA.

Panel 3 "Technology: Change and its Impact on Competitiveness, Productivity and Health and Food Safety"

Under this panel, IICA was entrusted with supporting the following:

- strengthening cooperation mechanisms, cooperative research programs (PROCI), networks, FORAGRO, FONTAGRO
- developing actions in the area of information and education in connection with biotechnology
- modernizing services and implementing agreements on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, and technical barriers to trade
- formulating a strategy for closing the gap between developed and developing countries as pertains to scientific and technology development and matters of funding

In these fields, the principal actions have been to support the organization and implementation of FORAGRO, and promote and orient reciprocal cooperation through participation in cooperative research programs (PROCI) and develop specialized networks, in coordination with the Regional Centers and the CAs.

In this connection, two meetings of FORAGRO's Executive Committee were organized, a working plan was developed for the Forum and a web site (www.iicanet.org/foragro) was created. IICA has worked to organize and develop the Forum's first international meeting, the theme of which is "Agriculture with Knowledge." It has also participated in working meetings of the PROCI and some specialized networks.

In developing these actions, documents on the following topics, among others, were written: a) shared vision, challenges and opportunities of agriculture in the future; b) premises for analyzing the role of agriculture and technical change; c) agricultural scenarios from the technological perspective; d) the status of the biotechnologies in LAC, with emphasis on transgenic plants; e) funding of regional agricultural research; and f) analysis of capabilities in LAC in science and technology for addressing future challenges in agriculture.

In this area, support was provided through technical cooperation missions to address organizational structures for research (El Salvador and Dominican Republic) and methods for calculating the economic impact of research (Costa Rica, Brazil, Ecuador and Guatemala).

A network was set up for technical-thematic articulation of Area II specialists, which resulted from a meeting with specialists from other organizations. IICA's strategy for technical cooperation in technology innovation and natural resources, with emphasis on soils and water, was formulated. In technology innovation, a first analysis was made on the financing of technology innovation in agri-food chains for citrus (Brazil), potatoes (Colombia) and milk (Costa Rica). In addition, actions and studies on the subject of

intellectual property were addressed in workshops held in South America, the Caribbean and the Central Region.

Work continued to organize the Central American Research System (SICTA), design the cooperative research program for the countries of the Northern Region (PROCINORTE) and to reorient PROCIANDINO.

In addition, IICA participated in hemispheric deliberations, co-sponsored by IICA and other institutions, on soil and water resources (in Peru and Brazil).

- b) Support to the countries for promoting new means of funding research projects on critical technologies (PROFIN)

In this connection, IICA supports FONTAGRO in executing multinational research projects for the first stage of the Fund: a central coordinating unit was established at Institute Headquarters for this purpose.

- c) Support to the member countries' processes to modernize technology management systems (PROGETEC)

Activities in this priority area provide technical support to the project on research and policies on processes of change for rural extension and technical assistance models in LAC, which is led by Argentina's INTA; Colombia's Federation of Coffee Growers and National Technology Transfer Program; and Costa Rica's National Directorate for Extension.

- d) In the area of agricultural health:

Considerable efforts have been made to define a "modernization model" for national agricultural health systems. Prospective models applied to agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) were prepared for designing a practical model that enables countries to identify their AHFS status (21-25/02/00).

A methodological instrument was designed for evaluating AHFS systems, trends and prospects, making it possible to conduct a preliminary assessment thereof in the hemisphere and to publish a document on the results.

An alliance was established with USDA and AIEA to initiate a program to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly in Central America, through the modernization of the agricultural health systems. The AIEA will second a specialist to work at IICA Headquarters to work with the IICA regional specialist, who will be transferred to San Jose, Costa Rica.

Some nine documents were written, on the following topics:

- IICA's technical cooperation strategy as an observer on the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- Prospective document of the WTO Agreement on the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
- IICA/CSPM informational bulletin

Special and differential treatment: Is a re-evaluation of its origin and purposes needed (two versions)

ACCESO: second IICA/CSPM informational bulletin

Status of FTAA members in complying with WTO's Agreement on SPM

A document is being prepared for presentation at the CSPM meeting in November on technical cooperation vis-a-vis the modernization of agricultural health and food safety systems

Establishment of an informal IICA discussion forum with member countries

Articulation of SPM topics among the different actors in the agri-food chain, with a view to encouraging analysis and discussion of the information distributed.

Panel 4 The Importance of the Forthcoming Multilateral Negotiations on Agriculture in the WTO

Participants in the forum requested priority attention from IICA in the following areas:

Play a leading role in technical cooperation in this subject area, especially as regards monitoring the negotiations and publicizing their results.

Support the ministries of agriculture in improving notification processes and dissemination of WTO documentation

Actions taken by IICA:

In regard to point 1 of the resolution, IICA carried out a series of efforts that provide it with a team highly trained to address topics related to foreign trade of agricultural products. Point 2 of the resolution has been addressed as part of the technical cooperation package provided to the countries. Noteworthy among IICA's actions to fulfill these tasks are:

Establishing a cooperation agreement between IICA and the Regional Negotiating Machinery for addressing the topic of trade negotiations in the Caribbean

Strengthening the network of IICA trade specialists by coordinating the Institute's technical cooperation activities at the regional and hemispheric levels; training for the specialists at the VI Meeting of the GINA¹. *Miami, USA, January 2000.*

Serving as Technical Secretariat of the Informal Consultative Group of Agricultural Negotiators of the Countries of the Americas (GINA), which meets periodically to analyze topics on the FTAA and WTO agendas of agriculture negotiations. *Miami, USA, 2000.*

Establishing an electronic forum as a mechanism for articulating and fostering the exchange of opinions and information among agricultural negotiators and IICA specialists (<http://Infoagro.net/Comercio>); strengthening the

¹ Group consisting of the agricultural negotiators of the countries of America that belong to the WTO Committee on Agriculture and the FTAA Negotiating Group on Agriculture.

electronic information system that monitors multilateral (WTO) and regional (FTAA) agricultural negotiations (negociadores@infoagro.net).

IICA's technical personnel have participated in numerous seminars, workshops and courses on subjects including:

Multilateral agricultural trade negotiations; large trends in agri-food trade; large trends in international agri-food industry and trade; the WTO and ASA - The case of Costa Rica; Institutional modernization in the agricultural sector; institutional organization; the relationship between FTAA and WTO.

Support missions were sent to various countries in the area: Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Peru, among others.

Some 12 publications were prepared, the most noteworthy of which address:

Agriculture under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and under the World Trade Organization (WTO): a historical overview
Multilateral agricultural negotiations: statistics on agricultural trade and negotiating positions in agriculture and related areas, for the Ministerial Meeting in Seattle.

Report on compliance with resolution No. 333 of the Ninth IABA

Negotiating scenarios for the principal import and export products of ALADI member countries

Institutional models for trade negotiations

Trade and integration in the Americas: Proceedings of the first academic colloquium of the Americas

Effects of the change in the common external tariff on CARICOM countries

Administration of tariff quotas in agricultural commodity exchanges

Evolution and performance of agri-food trade in the Americas, 1960-1997

Direction and dynamism of international agri-food trade in the Americas (1994-1998)

Costa Rica: Variation of the CPI, with emphasis on the food, beverage and tobacco group (updated monthly)

The WTO and the ASA: The Case of Costa Rica

Numerous strategic alliances have been promoted and formalized for engaging in joint technical cooperation activities:

WTO Secretariat

IDB-Intal

Tripartite FTAA Commission (OAS, ECLAC, IDB)

CORECA

CARICOM

Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM)

ALADI Secretariat