



**Thirty- Eighth Regular Meeting of
The Executive Committee**

**REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION
ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
2014 - 2018**

July 2018

San José, Costa Rica

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1. Background.

In 2007, the "First Meeting of Competent Authorities of Organic Agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean" was held in Managua, Nicaragua. The Competent Control Authorities (CCA)¹ of 16 Countries in the region came together in this meeting to create the Network of Competent Authorities for Organic Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. This Network constituted the first immediate antecedent of the Inter-American Commission of Organic Agriculture (ICOA).

As such, the ICOA was established by the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas through a Resolution IICA / CE / Res. 484 on "Coordination mechanisms for the development of organic agriculture in the Americas", approved by the Twenty-eight Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), held in 2008. At this meeting, the Ministers of Agriculture charged IICA with the responsibility and management of the Executive Secretariat (ES) of ICOA, and the task of preparing a proposed Statute jointly with the CCAs of the Member States of the Commission. In keeping with this mandate in 2009, the ES of the ICOA presented a proposed statute to the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, which was approved by Resolution IICA / CE / Res. 506, and subsequently ratified by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) through Resolution IICA / JIA / Res. 455 at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting. In this way, the first official regional body operating in the area of organic agriculture was created.

At its first Regular Meeting held in San José, Costa Rica in November 2009, and in keeping the mandates established by the ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, the ICOA set out its policy guidelines, which served as the basis for preparing its Annual Work Plans.

On the basis of Article 29, paragraph 1 of the Statute of the ICOA, and through Agreement No. 2 of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the ICOA held in Santiago, Chile (May 2013), the Commission approved its Operating Rules which establish in Article 7 that all Member States of the ICOA shall contribute the sum of six thousand American dollars (USD 6,000.00) annually to finance the annual work plan and its administrative activities.

In order to establish a legal framework that would ensure the means for promoting cooperation between IICA and the ICOA for implementation of the actions established in the agenda and work plans, a cooperation agreement was signed between the two institutions in March 2014. The conditions established in said agreement are currently in force until March 2019, through the corresponding addendum signed in March 2018.

¹ The Competent Control Authorities (CCA) for organic agriculture are entities in the countries responsible for ensuring application of and compliance with the technical regulations of the activity and to guarantee the organic status of products from the country. Its functions include registering the producers, processors, marketers, input processors, inspectors and certifying organic production agencies, auditing them and keeping records of their operation.

As a follow-up to the Mandate of the IABA, and based on the efforts of IICA and the ICOA in previous years, it was possible to convene the VII Assembly of the ICOA of the Competent Authorities for Promotion (CAP) of Organic Agriculture in 2015. This initial CAP group signed its constitutive act as Agreement No. 2 of the General Act, by providing inputs to determine the strategic focus for promoting organic agriculture within the hemisphere.

Throughout the 4 years in which the ICOA has been functioning with support from IICA, the Commission has been successful, through its actions, in facilitating trade in organic products and the market development, in strengthening the national control systems for organic production, improving information and knowledge management, as well as promoting activities and developing policies for the advancement of organic production.

Currently, the ICOA is made up of 19 countries in the Americas who are Full Members, and who have control bodies for organic production and requirements for regulation of the activity: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela. Canada has participated in Meetings as an Observer Member. During 2017, Spain joined the Commission as a permanent Observer and in 2018, authorities from Portugal expressed interest in adopting this model.

At present, the Board of Directors (BD) of the ICOA is made up of Ecuador as Chair, the Dominican Republic, Mexico and Peru. Peru will host the X Meeting of the ICOA, which will be held during the first week of August this year.

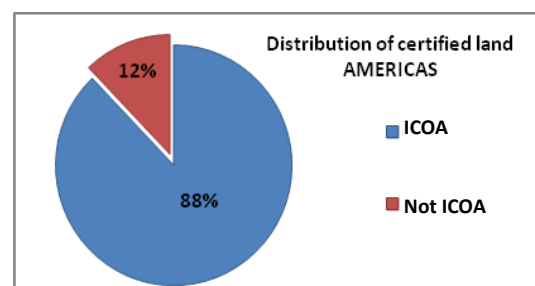
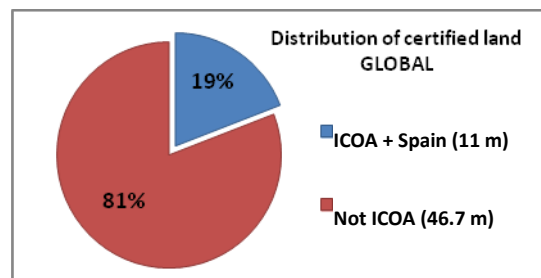
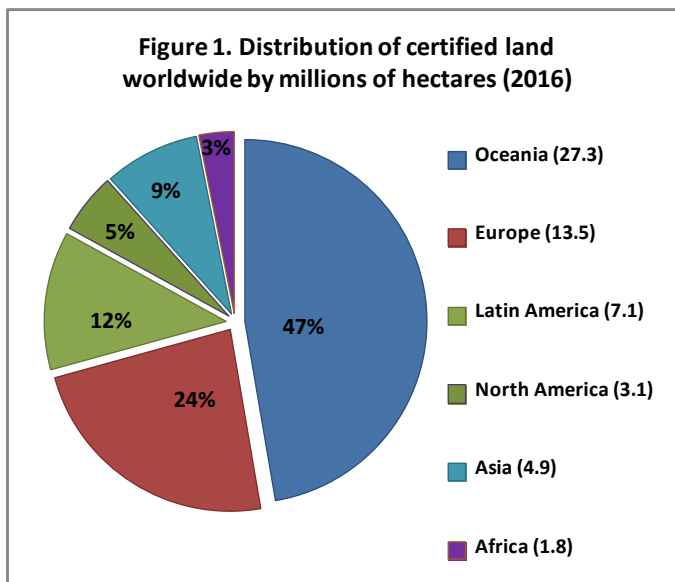
The ICOA, in compliance with the provisions of Article 3, paragraph m of its Statute, is submitting this report to the Executive Committee of IICA, convened at its Thirty-Seventh Regular Meeting in San José, Costa Rica.

2. Organic Agriculture in the Americas and the Global Context.

In most countries of the region, the contributions of organic agriculture to the development of the agriculture sectors are associated with sustainable food production, income generation and, to a large extent, food security and improvement in the quality of life of the producers who engage in this activity, who are, generally speaking, linked to family farming. It is also recognized for its undeniable contribution to the conservation of natural resources, biodiversity and the mitigation of climate change, etc., which are an integral part of type of production.

Of the 178 countries with records on certified organic production, it appears that the land area devoted to this type of production in the world is around 57.8 million hectares, including lands in transition in 2016 (latest data updated globally, FiBL-IFOAM² report³, 2018). This represents nearly 7 million hectares more compared to the previous year, reaching 1.2% of the total productive land. It is estimated that 2.7 million producers are involved in this activity, of which around 80% are in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Meanwhile, the largest domestic markets are in the United States and Europe, surpassing between them 90% of global sales, which generated a turnover of almost 90 billion dollars in 2016.

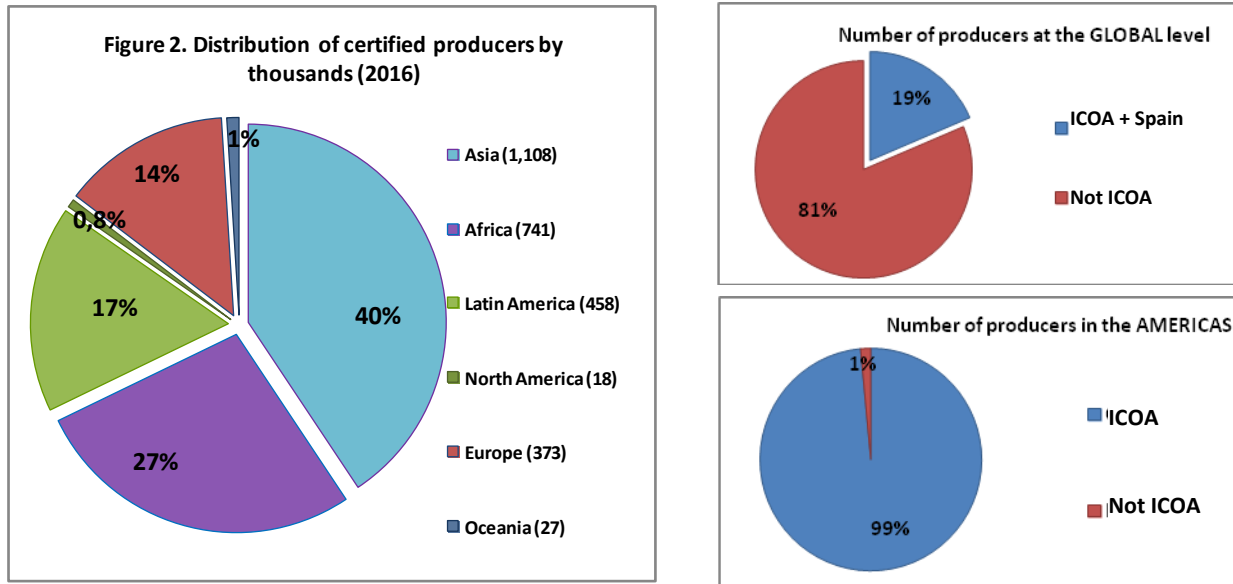
The countries of the Americas have 10.2 million hectares under organic production, which represents 17.7% of the total area devoted to this type of production worldwide. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) account for 7.1 million hectares, while the United States and Canada have 3.1 million hectares (figure 1). The countries affiliated with the ICOA represent 90% organic land area in the Americas, amounting to more than 20% of this land worldwide.



² FiBL: *Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau* (Instituto para Investigación de la Agricultura Ecológica, Suiza). IFOAM: *International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements* (Federación Internacional de los Movimientos de Agricultura Orgánica).

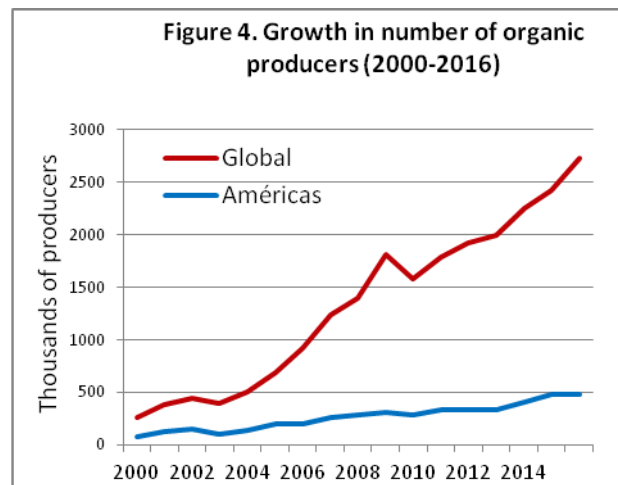
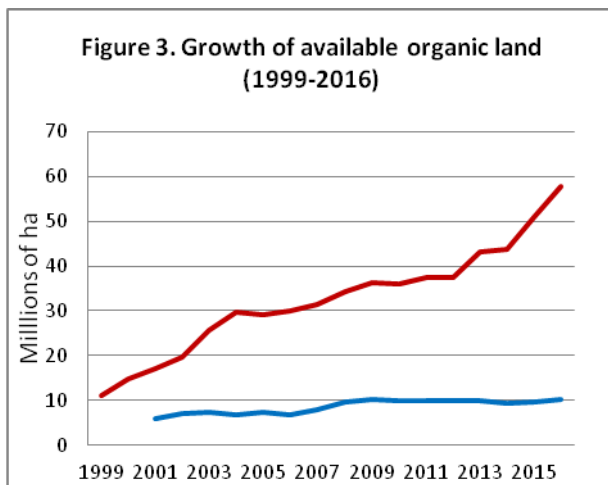
³ Fuente: “*The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics & Emerging Trends 2018*”; FiBL and IFOAM, 2018.

On the other hand, it is estimated that there are some 476,000 organic producers in the American hemisphere, representing 18% of total producers worldwide. Of this amount, 17% are in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the remaining 0.8% in the United States and Canada (figure 2).



The upward trend in available organic land worldwide has been constant since the end of the nineties, with this area quadrupling between 1999 and 2016, as can be seen in Figure 3. Even more remarkable was the increase in the number of producers, which rose from approximately 200 thousand to 2.7 million (figure 4).

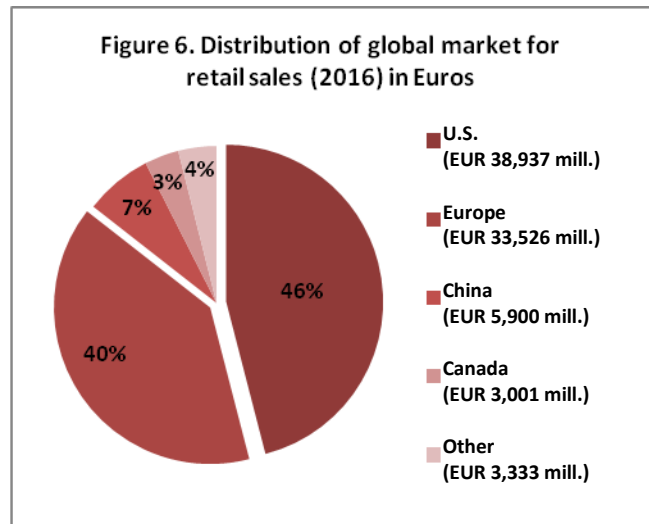
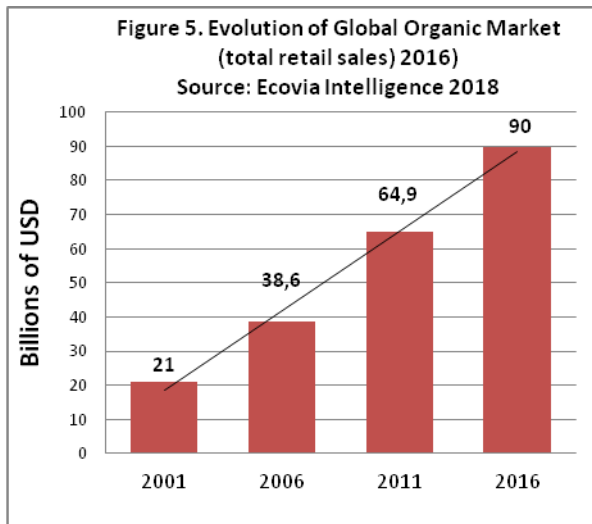
Although this is a positive trend for the Americas, the increase is proportionately smaller than what obtains worldwide. In comparison with global land area, the increase from 2001 to 2016 was 76%. In 2001, the Americas represented 34% of the global certified land area, falling in 2016 to 18%. With respect to the number of producers, the increase in the Americas was six-fold between 2000 and 2016. In 2000, the Americas represented 31% of the total number of certified producers worldwide, falling in 2016 to 17%.



It is estimated that during 2016, 90 billion dollars were generated in terms of domestic sales⁴(or 84.6 billion Euros according to the FiBI-IFOAM report) with a steady year-on-year increase of over 10%.

The United States market has the largest volume, with almost 39 billion Euros (or 43 billion dollars according to Organic Monitor), representing 48% of the total worldwide. It is followed by the European market with 33.5 billion Euros (39.7%). The ranking is completed by China with 7%, Canada with 3%, followed by Japan with 1.3% (Figures 5 and 6).

The domestic market is still burgeoning, and although there is currently greater awareness for sustainable and healthy production, the region retains a strong profile as a provider to the most developed markets. The exception in the region is Brazil, which has a marked development profile in its domestic market as a contributor to food security and family farming.



● **Outlook and challenges**

Strengthening policies and strategies that underpin the promotion and development of organic production and its control systems continues to be the backbone of the ICOA. It is necessary to continue working on the crucial public institutions to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the local, regional and global context, with emphasis on directing these efforts toward linking producers with markets, both regional, local and international, where it is increasingly important to comply with the requirements and demands that are governed by the norms and standards of organic production and trade.

The harmonization of national standards for organic production among the countries of the region, as well as the strengthening of the national control systems for organic production, are two priority tasks

⁴ Ecovia Intelligence (Organic Monitor) is a company specialized in research, consulting and training that focuses on sustainable markets

within the ICOA for achieving equivalence among the main partners, for providing guarantees and for having confidence in the products of the region, thus facilitating trade and access to global markets.

Generally speaking, the countries of the region have developed organic production in response to commercial opportunities in the international market. However, efforts aimed at promoting and developing domestic markets are more recent, so the results are still emerging. This requires active policies that include enhancing awareness, training producers and consumers, as well as the promotion of new market strategies for organic products at the domestic level.

3. Achievements of the ICOA and actions in progress

The following results and actions in progress are highlighted in relation to the five objectives that were set for the ICOA by the ministers of Agriculture at the time of its creation—Article N ° 3 of the ICOA Statute: IICA / CE / Res.506 (XXIX-O / 09)⁵:

1) Trade facilitation in organic products and development of their markets⁶

- **Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA)**

The ICOA countries collaborated in the process under the auspices of the Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration (SIECA), where the Competent Authorities for Agriculture of the States Parties discussed the Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) "Organic Farming Products, Requirements for Production, Process, Marketing, Export, Import and Labeling", in a total of five face-to-face rounds of negotiation and six videoconferences (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama). The final RTCA document⁷ was agreed upon and submitted for public consultation in each country.

- **Andean Technical Regulation**

The ICOA countries collaborated with the Andean Community Secretariat, which convened the organic production authorities of the Andean Community (CAN) countries to review the draft Andean Technical Regulations for organic production, including aspects of international norms and regulations of the Codex Alimentarius.

- **Equivalences, Harmonization and Bilateral Agreements**

The ICOA has supported the processes of equivalence, harmonization and bilateral agreements, among which the following are noteworthy:

- 1.- Mexico/US Equivalence
- 2.- Recognition of Equivalence and Reciprocity in Organic Regulations - Chile/European Union.
- 3.- Recognition in Participatory Guarantee Systems (SPG) - Chile/Brazil.
- 4.- Request for Equivalence - Argentina/USA.

⁵ Objectives: 1) Act as a mechanism for consultation, liaison and reciprocal cooperation between the competent government agencies that promote and regulate the development and control of organic agriculture in each country within the Americas; 2) Coordinate and promote the development and harmonization of norms and procedures to promote and regulate the production, control and trade of organic foods in the countries of the Americas; 3) Contribute to the strengthening of the institutional structures of the Competent Authorities for organic agriculture in the countries of America; 4) Within the framework of other functions that contribute to the development of organic agriculture, to the extent possible, drive the promotion of the activity and its institutional framework; 5) Contribute to the development of organic activity in the countries of the Americas and their trade, acting as a technical body for knowledge management and dissemination of pertinent and timely information.

⁶ Harmonization of regulations between the countries. Preparation of regulations on unregulated organic production issues. Support to countries in the processes of recognition and equivalence. Support to the countries in the definition of strategies for the development of organic markets.

⁷ The document in question has been harmonized with the most up-to-date versions of the Codex Alimentarius standards CAC / GL 32-1999; European Union (EC) No. 889/2008; European Union (EC) No. 834/2007; USDA-AMS National Organic Program; USDA Organic Standards 7 CFR 205; International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, ISPM 5; Glossary of phytosanitary terms and based on the Organic Agriculture Regulations of the member countries.

- **Working Group on Inputs Suitable for Organic Production.**

The ICOA countries formed a special Working Group, whose mandate to have harmonized procedures to evaluate and authorize the use of commercial inputs allowed in organic production.

It seeks to produce:

1. A harmonized Manual for the evaluation of inputs for organic production.
2. A Manual for evaluation of inputs for post-harvest and processing of organic products.

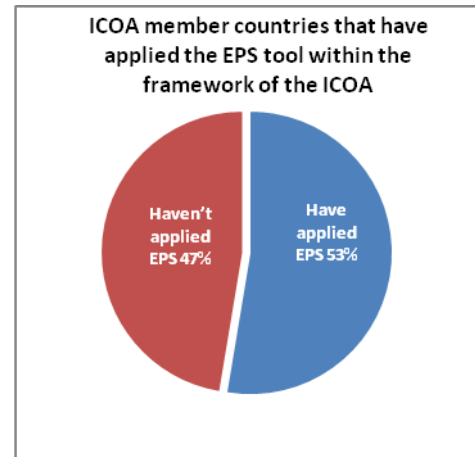
1) Creation and strengthening of the National Control Systems (NCS) for Organic Production⁸

- **Development and application of the EPS Tool: Evaluation and Planning for Strengthening the National Control Systems for Organic Production⁸**

The EPS is an instrument that was developed by the ICOA and IICA, which facilitates participatory evaluation of the National Control System.

This tool was validated and already successfully applied in: Guatemala, Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Mexico, Bolivia and Ecuador.

The EPS Tool enabled the actors in organic production to assess the state of their NCS for organic production and to develop, in a participatory manner and with support from IICA and the Executive Secretariat of the ICOA, action plans that strengthen the institutions and bodies linked to organic production at the national level.



- **IICA-ICOA-USDA Agreement “Regional Organic Standard & Equivalency Program” (agreement number 58-3148-6-217)**

The agreement facilitated the development and execution of the following workshops:

- “Workshop for the Strengthening of Capacities in the National Control Systems (NCS) for Organic Production in the Americas” (Santiago, Chile, April 2017) where IICA, in collaboration with the Agricultural and Livestock Service (SAG) and under the auspices of the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) trained 17 member countries of the ICOA in specific areas of the NCS, including accreditation and/or approval of the certifying bodies, certification of organic operations, and compliance and application of control in the organic sector (ISO Standards / IEC 17.021, 17.065 y 17.011). Training was provided for 44 delegates from 19 countries.
- “Workshop for strengthening of Certifying Bodies in Organic Agriculture in Mexico” (Taller para el fortalecimiento de los Organismos de Certificación de la agricultura orgánica en México)

⁸ Development of methodological instruments for strengthening NCS. Development of proposals for strengthening NCS in the countries. Support for the establishment of the required institutional framework for control.

(Oaxaca, Mexico, June 2017) where the General Directorate of Agricultural, Aquacultural and Fisheries Health (SENASICA), the ICOA, with collaboration from IICA and under the auspices of the USDA, developed the capacities of certifying bodies in Mexico in key areas identified through negotiations for equivalency between SENASICA and the *National Organic Program* of the USDA. Fourteen (14) Certifying Bodies in Mexico as well as the staff of the Public Certification Entity in Panama were trained.

- “Workshop for Strengthening the Capacities of the Competent Control Authorities for Organic Agriculture under the NOP Standard” (Taller para el fortalecimiento de las capacidades de las Autoridades Competentes de Control de la agricultura orgánica bajo la Norma NOP) (Costa Rica, October 2017), in which IICA, the *International Organic Inspectors’ Association* (IOIA), under the auspices of the USDA, trained ICOA countries in specific areas of the NCS under the NOP Standard. More than 30 technical personnel of the NCS under the NOP Standard. More than 30 technicians from 17 countries were trained.

- **ICOA-INTERECO⁹ Technical Cooperation Agreement**

Agreement signed in 2017 with the following objectives:

1. Development of joint projects related to the harmonization of legislation on organic/ecological production: joint work on bioinputs used in organic agriculture and development of a matrix of main inputs and raw materials that are authorized in each one of the countries.
2. Training. Specialized continuing education in topics of control and certification of organic production in: inspection in keeping with European standards for organic production, participatory guarantee systems and INTERECO Input Certification System and other experiments undertaken by the ICOA.
3. Increase knowledge of public certification systems as well as other guarantee systems of organic products, and support their implementation, as appropriate, through:
 - Information and analysis of the possibility of introducing public certification
 - Identification of the interest of the countries in receiving information and analysis of the possibility of public certification and SPG.

- **ICOA – CIRSA/OIRSA Alliance:**

This consolidated the interest of CIRSA of the International Regional Body for Agricultural Health (OIRSA) in designing an ICOA-OIRSA agreement for mutual cooperation and to include organic agriculture in the regional technical agendas, as well as ICOA expertise in issues of organic agricultural health.

The Ministers committed to facilitating the participation of their representatives (although some spoke of budget cuts).

The interest in including organic agricultural producers in considerations relating to sanitary emergencies in the region was contemplated.

⁹ Governing Authorities for Autonomous Communities in Spain

• **ICOA-ECOVALIA¹⁰ Technical Cooperation Agreement**

Request for development of an **ICOA-Ecovalia agreement** and to work on issues such as training of the member countries in these standards, keeping the countries informed and updated on the latest progress and modifications that take place on issues related to inputs for organic production. Find consensus with ICOA on decisions to be taken with respect to the European Union.

Within the framework of this proposed **ICOA-Ecovalia** agreement, the **immediate action** to be taken would be:

- ✓ Participation by Ecovalia in the X Meeting of the ICOA in Peru and as a presenter at the International Seminar to be held within the framework of the X Meeting of the ICOA.
- ✓ Online training in standards and other topics on bioinputs for the ICOA countries, as well as some face-to-face workshops (for which transportation costs would be covered by the countries themselves).
- ✓ **Ecovalia** presented itself as a **partner** of MAPAMA and the ICOA for the XII Assembly of the ICOA to be held in Spain in 2020.

Summary of Agreements and Alliances			
	2016	2017	2018
INTERECO		FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR ICOA – INTERECO COLLABORATION. Development of joint projects on inputs suitable for organic farming and technical training in topics related to Certification Systems (SPG) and public certification). Resources: Cash and in-kind contributions	
USDA	<u>“Regional Organic Standard & Equivalency Program” (agreement number 58-3148-6-217)</u> Execution of three workshops for the Strengthening of NCS Certification Bodies in ISO Standards/ IEC 17.021, 17.065 and 17.011, as well as NOP Regulations. Resources: USD 204,611.00- and cash and in-kind support from the parties		
OIRSA			Technical cooperation agreement (proposal to be defined at the X Meeting of ICAO) Technical cooperation on topics related to AHFS in organic agriculture and inclusion of the member countries of ICAO in training and sanitary emergency campaigns, etc. Resources: Cash and in-kind support to be determined
Ecovalia			Technical and financial cooperation agreement (to be signed at the X Meeting of ICAO) Training in EU standards and inputs for organic production. Technical institutional cooperation for the creation of an Ibero-American network of chambers of producers of inputs for organic production. Resources: Cash, in-kind and miscellaneous support to be determined

¹⁰ Ecovalia is a Spanish association that promotes ecological production and responsible consumption. It has more than 15,000 active members.

- **Training in the TRACES system:**

INTERECO and ICOA have organized training in the new procedure, through the information platform, for the issue of certificates for control of organic products that are exported to the EU: TRACES: monographic webinar for partners of INTERECO and members of the ICOA.

- **Horizontal training**

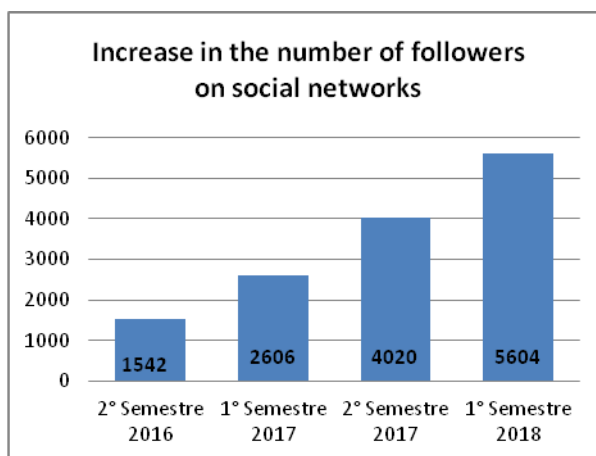
Within the scope of ICOA, and with support from IICA, horizontal **country-to-country** training was conducted for personnel in the area of control in the member countries.

2) Information and knowledge management¹¹

- **ICOA web portal and social networks**

The website of the ICOA was completely redesigned (<http://ICOArqanico.net/>) as well as the monthly newsletter of the ICOA *Inforganica*, in order to meet the communication needs of the players in organic production in the Americas.

Within the framework of the communication strategy, which includes the website and *Inforganica*, the communication plan of the ICOA for social media (*Community Managment Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube*) was designed, validated and is being implemented.



To date, more there are more than 5000 followers on the ICOA social media, and it is expected that by August, there will be 6000, which represents a 6-month increase of 40% .

- **Guides for good practices in organic production**

Guides relating to good practices in organic products were prepared for:

1. Horticultural production. Written, being reviewed for approval.
2. Production of tropical fruits. Written. Consultation with the countries for approval and publishing later.
3. Production of temperate climate fruit (citrus, Stone and seed fruit). Writing underway.

3) Promotion of Organic Agriculture¹²

¹¹ Access to information to support and improve the decision-making processes. Sharing of relevant information among the players in organic production.

- **ICOA Group for the Promotion of Organic Production**

A group of competent authorities for promotion was created as indicated in the Minutes in Annex II during the VII Regular Assembly of the ICOA. The principal foci of work around which a common agenda would be established were defined. The “Regional Promotion Plan” was designed and validated.

- **Public certification**

With the support of IICA and INTERECO¹³, processes for supporting the establishment of Public Certification Systems in Panama and the Dominican Republic were conducted.

At the request of other countries, and within the framework of the partnership with INTERECO, other members of the ICOA were supported in the establishment of public certification systems.

- **Technical visit in the Central Region and videoconferences in the Southern Region and Central Region.**

In keeping with the mandate issued at the VIII Assembly in Argentina, and based on the commitments undertaken by the President of the Board of Directors (Pres.-BD) and the Executive Secretary (EC) of the ICOA, a technical tour was undertaken throughout Central America, the Dominican Republic and Mexico, with the following results (1) strengthening of the links between the ICOA the Representatives of IICA and the Competent Authorities for control and promotion of organic agriculture, and the government institutions to which they belong; (2) presenting the Board of Directors, the President and the Executive Secretariat to the Member Countries of the Commission, and share the most noteworthy progress as well as the challenges and commitments undertaken at the VIII Regular Meeting of the ICOA; and (3) endorsing IICA’s commitment to the ICOA.

- **Differentiated public policies for the ICOA in Panama**

Within the framework of horizontal cooperation between IICA Panama-IICA Argentina-ICOA-MIDA and AECID, workshops were held leading to the implementation of the methodology for the design of “Differentiated Public Policies for OA in Panama”. This resulted in installed capacity in Panama, leading to in the country designing its Differentiated Public Policy for organic agriculture. This serves as a basic tool for the promotion of organic agriculture in the country.

It is expected that this methodology will be replicated as an IICA-ICOA tool in the countries that wish to have a strategic plan.

¹² Development of instruments for the promotion of organic production. Design of policy proposals and agendas for promotion. Support for the establishment of an institutional framework for organic production.

¹³ Chamber of Authorities for the Control of Autonomous Communities in Spain.

4. Financial situation of the ICOA

The ICOA has an annual Budget to finance the activities that have been approved by its Meeting and detailed in its annual work plan; this budget is provided by the member countries.

At the V Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the ICOA, the representatives of the member countries of the ICOA approved the Operating Rules of the Commission, the articles of which outline the following details of the commitments relating to payment of the annual quota contribution:

- Pursuant to Article 6, the main resources of the ICOA to finance its annual work plan shall come mainly from Member States quota contributions.
- Article 7 states that all Member States of the ICOA shall contribute annually the sum of six thousand dollars (USD 6000) to finance the annual work plan and its administrative activities.
- Article 10 states that said quota shall be paid during the first quarter of each calendar year, thus financing the Annual Work Plan established for each calendar year. Any delay in payment of the quota will affect the execution of the annual work plan, and will result in the Board having to review the plan.

Moreover, in order to provide details on certain administrative matters, as well as on the management of the regular annual quota contributions paid by the Member States of the ICOA, the BD-ICOA approved the Procedures Manual, via the Minutes of Virtual Meeting No.02 of 2014, to support the administration of the resources contributed within the framework of the agreement signed with IICA to this end.

As of June 2018, the status of quota pledges by the Member States to the ICOA as outlined below in Table 1:

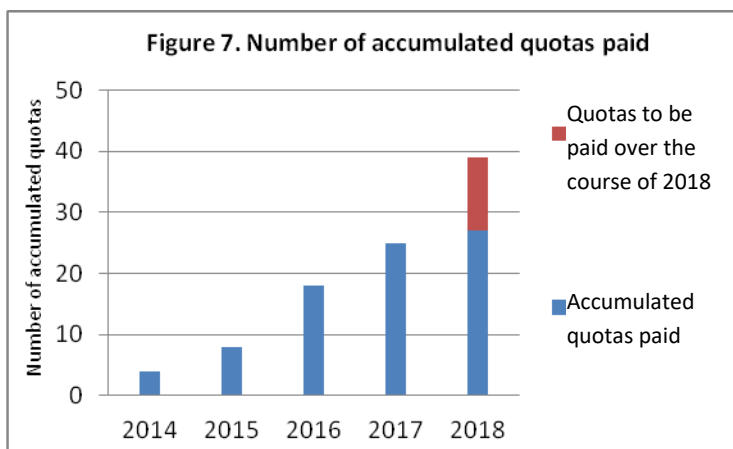
Table 1. Status of quotas owed to the ICOA up to June 2018 (in USD)						
COUNTRY	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	TOTAL owed
UNITED STATES	n/a ¹⁴	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEXICO	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
PARAGUAY	0.00	0.00	0.00	-31.97	6,000.00	5,968.03
PANAMA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
ECUADOR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
NICARAGUA	0.00	0.00	0.00	249.20	6,000.00	6,249.20
ARGENTINA	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	18,000.00
CHILE	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	18,000.00
BOLIVIA	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
BRAZIL	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
COLOMBIA	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
COSTA RICA	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
EL SALVADOR	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
GUATEMALA	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
HONDURAS	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
PERU	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
URUGUAY	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
VENEZUELA	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	30,000.00
TOTAL owed	66,000.00	66,000.00	78,000.00	78,217.23	108,000.00	396,217.23

¹⁴ The US has been a member of the ICOA since 2015; its quotas are calculated as of that calendar year.

It is important to point out that since the signing of the agreement with IICA, and following discussions between the Executive Secretariat and the parties involved, there has been a trend among the members that is positive and growing, as shown in Figure 7. During 2014, 4 quota payments were made and in 2015 four more were made amounting to 8, and so on, as shown in Table 2.

It is expected that in 2018, 7 countries among those that make regular payments (Mexico, Paraguay, Panama, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Argentina and Chile) will pay at least one more quota.

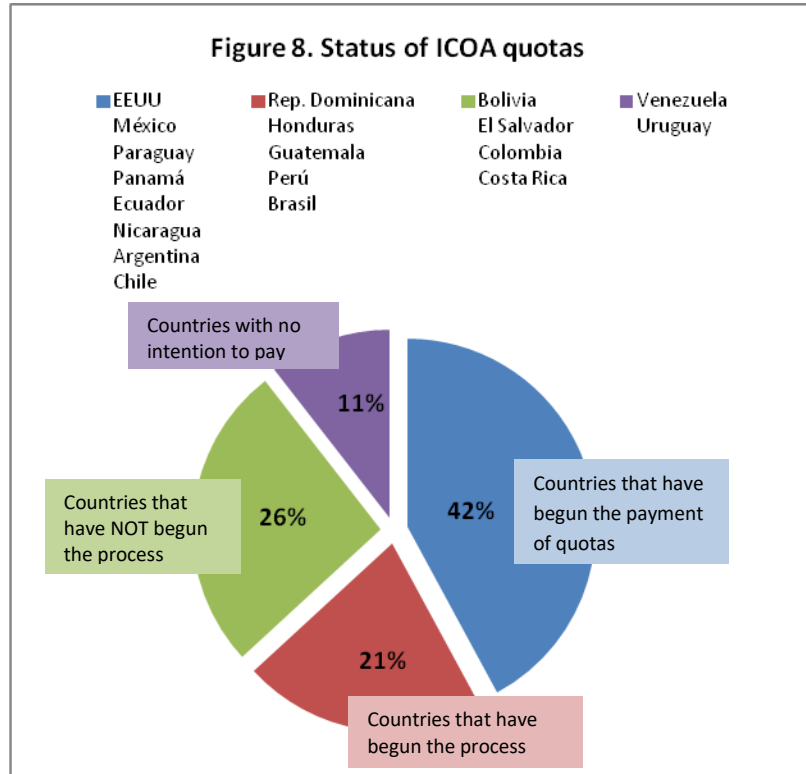
Furthermore, it is hoped that the Dominican Republic, Peru, Guatemala, Brazil and Honduras will make at least a first quota payment.



Date of payment	Country	Quotas corresponding to year:					Income per year
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
		<i>(quota amount in USD)</i>					
2014							
16/05/2014	Paraguay	6,000.00					24,000.00 <i>(4 quotas collected)</i>
06/08/2014	Argentina	6,000.00					
23/10/2014	Ecuador	6,000.00					
17/12/2014	Nicaragua	6,000.00					
2015							
23/01/2015	Mexico	6,000.00					24,000.00 <i>(4 quotas collected)</i>
08/04/2015	Paraguay		6,000.00				
30/04/2015	US		6,000.00				
12/06/2015	Mexico		6,000.00				
2016							
08/04/2016	US			6,000.00			59,750.80 <i>(10 quotas collected)</i>
17/05/2016	Argentina		6,000.00				
08/06/2016	Paraguay			6,000.00			
30/08/2016	Mexico			6,000.00			
26/10/2016	Ecuador		6,000.00	6,000.00			
15/11/2016	Panama	6,000.00					
27/12/2016	Nicaragua		6,000.00	6,000.00	5,750.80		
2017							
06/04/2017	Paraguay				6,031.97		42,031.97 <i>(7 quotas collected)</i>
09/05/2017	Ecuador				6,000.00		
27/06/2017	US				6,000.00		
28/07/2017	Panamá		6,000.00	6,000.00			
14/09/2017	Mexico				6,000.00		
19/10/2017	Chile	6,000.00					
2018							
29/03/2018	EEUU					6,000.00	12,000.00 <i>(2 quotas collected)</i>
29/05/2018	Chile		6,000.00				
Quota income/Year		42,000.00	48,000.00	36,000.00	29,782.77	6,000.00	167,782.77

As shown in Figure 8, to date 8 member countries of the ICOA have made quota payments, while 5 countries are in the process of executing at least a first payment.

In Bolivia, El Salvador, Colombia and Costa Rica, no solutions have yet been found to urge the countries to commit to paying the annual quota. In the case of Uruguay and Venezuela, the obligation of paying quotas is not recognized.



5. Acknowledgements

The Board of Directors of the ICOA, through its President, wishes to express its appreciation to IICA for the support it receives from the Executive Secretariat, from the offices in the Member States and from other bodies within the Institute, without which it would not have been possible to showcase the achievements of this Commission.

The ICOA also wishes to thank the Ministers for their intervention, the Member States for the support provided by each one of them in the 2014-2018 period during which the IICA/ICOA Convention was developed.

We are confident that this support will continue to be returned by the ICOA to the benefit of the countries in the Americas, as well as the organic farmers and their families.