



REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE INTER- AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

**La Antigua Guatemala,
Republic of Guatemala**

26-27 July 2007

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REPORT OF THE MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE FOURTEENTH REGULAR MEETING OF
THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON
AGRICULTURE**

The Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions of its Rules of Procedure.

Thirty-four countries of the Americas sit on the IABA: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the Session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) was called to order at 15:30 hours on July 26, 2007, in the Sala Mayor of the Casa Santo Domingo Hotel in Antigua, Guatemala.

0.1.2 Mr. Carlos Vallejo Lopez, Representative of Ecuador, the country that chaired the Third Ministerial Meeting in the context of the Summit of the Americas process and the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from August 31 to September 1, 2005, chaired the session.

0.2 Agreements

0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting

0.2.1.1 The Representative of Mexico proposed Mr. Bernardo Lopez Figueroa, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala, as Chair of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. The proposal, seconded by the Representative of Panama, was approved unanimously.

0.2.1.2 The Representative of Honduras then proposed Mrs. Lorena Garnica de la Espriella, Advisor in the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Colombia, as Rapporteur. The proposal was approved unanimously.

0.2.1.3 The officers of the meeting were elected as follows:

Chair:	Bernardo López Figueroa
Rapporteur:	Lorena Garnica de la Espriella
<i>Ex officio</i> Secretary:	Chelston W. D. Brathwaite

0.2.2 Agenda of the Meeting

0.2.2.1 The agenda for the meeting, contained in document IICA/JIA/Doc.307(07), was approved without amendment.

0.2.3 Working Committees

0.2.3.1 The Chair explained that in accordance with Article 52 of its Rules of Procedure, the IABA was empowered to set up temporary or special committees to examine matters related to the nature and purposes of the Institute. Inasmuch as no proposals had been received for the establishment of committees, the Chair announced that they could be created during the course of the meeting.

0.2.4 Deadline for Submitting Proposals

0.2.4.1 12:00 hours on Friday, July 27 was set as the deadline for the submission of new proposals and draft resolutions.

0.2.5 Duration of the Meeting

0.2.5.1 The plenary agreed to hold the closing session on Friday, July 27, at 14:45 hours.

0.2.6 Order of precedence of Member States

0.2.6.1 In the event of the temporary or permanent absence of the Chair, he/she will be replaced by the Regular Representatives of the Member States serving as *ex officio* Vice Chairs of the meeting. In accordance with Article 34 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the order of precedence to be followed in this case would begin with Guatemala, the country elected to chair the meeting. Thereafter, the alphabetical order in Spanish would follow.

0.2.7 Countries' Right to Vote

0.2.7.1 The Director General asked the Legal Advisor to explain the scope of the rules governing the right of Member States to vote at the IABA meetings and how they should be applied in this meeting.

0.2.7.2 The Legal Advisor explained the rules, referring to the provisions of Article 24 of the IABA's Rules of Procedure and other provisions governing the right to vote of Member States. He added that according to information received from the Administration of the Institute, three countries, one of which was not represented at the meeting, were currently in arrears. The Representatives of the Member States in arrears explained the reasons why they were late with their quota payments to the Institute. They added that their governments were committed to paying their quota arrearages. In light of the explanations offered by the Representatives and for purposes of this meeting of the IBA, the Chair asked that the countries in arrears be allowed to exercise their right to vote. The proposal was accepted.

0.3 Close of the Session

0.3.1 The Preparatory Session was adjourned at 16:25 hours.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 *Opening of the Session*

1.1.1 The Inaugural Session of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA was called to order at 16:25 hours on July 26, 2007, with Mr. Bernardo Lopez Figueroa, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala, presiding.

1.2 *Progress in Implementing the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan (unnumbered)*

1.2.1 Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director General of IICA, asked those present to observe a moment of silence in memory of Pedro Pablo Rizzo, former Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador and Chair of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA; Manuel Rodriguez Zapata, former Deputy Director General of IICA; and Satydeow Sawh, former Minister of Agriculture of Guyana.

1.2.2 The Director General noted that in 2006, and to date in 2007, further progress had been made in modernizing and transforming the Institute, to enable it to better provide the services demanded by the Member States. He then explained the most important advances made in implementing the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan.¹

1.3 *Current status of quota payments and progress in collecting quotas owed to the Institute - IICA/JIA/Doc.312(07) and Report of the External Auditors on the 2005-2006 Financial Statements*

1.3.1 The Chair gave the floor to Mrs. Karen Kleinheinz, Director of Finance, to present the report on the status of payment of Member State quotas and progress in collecting quotas owed to the Institute, asking that she also refer to the report of the External Auditors on the 2005-2006 financial statements.

1.3.2 The Director of Finance explained that, under the rules currently in effect, a country was in up-to-date status when it had paid all its quotas; in regular

¹ A transcription of the Director General's presentation can be seen in the section on Speeches of this report.

status when it owed no more than two quotas; in arrears when it owed more than two quotas; and in special status when it was in compliance with a payment plan agreed upon with the Institute. She noted that as of the date of the IABA meeting, 17 countries were in up-to-date status; 13 in regular status (seven owed one quota or a portion thereof and six owed their 2007 quota and their 2006 quota or a portion thereof); one in special status; and three in arrears status.

- 1.3.3 As regards the reduction of quota arrearages, she stated that at the close of 2003 IICA was owed US\$17.5 million, an amount that had fallen to US\$12.3 million by the end of 2006. She added that, thanks to this healthier financial situation, it had been possible to pay off a line of credit, carry out actions in fields such as agricultural health, food safety, biotechnology and biosafety, to continue the modernization of the Institute, and to cover the costs of maintaining the physical plant.
- 1.3.4 She reported that, in the opinion of the external auditors, IICA's financial statements presented fairly the financial position of the Institute as of 31 December 2005 and 2006, and had been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, adding that same had been approved by the Executive Committee in Resolution No 465.
- 1.3.5 She concluded her presentation by mentioning that if IICA was to have a sound financial base, it was necessary for the countries and the Administration to continue efforts intended to ensure the payment of quotas, which made it possible to finance priority programs, comply with the mandates from the governing bodies and address high-priority demands from the Member States.
- 1.3.6 The Delegates of the United States and Canada thanked IICA for the report and acknowledged the great effort being made by the Member States to bring themselves up to date in the payment of their quotas. They underscored the importance of providing the Institute with enough resources to execute the plans of action in all the countries, and encouraged the Member States to continue to pay their quotas on time.
- 1.3.7 The Director General thanked the Member States for their financial support of the Institute, and reiterated IICA's commitment to use those funds in a prudent and transparent manner in carrying out the plans of action.

- 1.4 *Proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget– IICA/JIADoc.313(07) and Proposed Special 2008-2009 Budget financed with resources of the General Subfund – IICA/JIADoc.314(07)*
- 1.4.1 The Chair reminded the participants that the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget had been discussed at the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from May 15-17, but not the proposed Special 2008-2009 Budget.
- 1.4.2 The Director of Administration and Finance, Mr. Francisco Barea, introduced the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget, adding that it had been thoroughly discussed by the Member States. Indeed, it had been reviewed at the regular meeting of the SACMI held from March 13-14, 2007, at which time the SACMI had proposed a number of adjustments in terms of expected results, IICA's role in the actions programmed, and the allocation of funds.
- 1.4.3 Subsequently, in May 2007, the Director General had presented to the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee an adjusted version of the proposal reflecting the recommendations of the SACMI. This proposal had been endorsed by the Executive Committee, which, in Resolution No. 471, recommended that the IABA approve the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget in the amount of US\$ 31.3 million.
- 1.4.4 The proposal adjusted to reflect the priorities established in the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan was financed with US\$27.2 million which came from the Member State quotas, whose nominal value had remained constant since 1995, and US\$4.1 million in miscellaneous income. This implied an increase in miscellaneous income over the budget of the preceding biennium. Those additional resources would be used to fund actions in high priority areas, cover the increase in the salaries of the International Professional Personnel, cover increases in the salaries of local personnel due to changes in the labor market and differences generated in the exchange rate of the currencies of the Member States vis-à-vis the US dollar, and make urgent repairs to Institute buildings.
- 1.4.5 The Director of Administration and Finance explained that the proposed 2008-2009 Special Budget had not been presented to the Executive Committee earlier because it had been prepared in response to recommendations put forth by several Member States at the last EC meeting, calling for the use of part of any overdue quotas collected. These resources would be used to fund priority technical cooperation actions above and

beyond those contained in the Regular Program Budget, and to upgrade the expertise of the technical personnel of the Institute.

- 1.4.6 The amount the IABA was being asked to approve was US\$1 million, as detailed in Document No. 314, which had been sent to the Member States in due course for study. In that document, a justification, priority actions, expected results, achievement indicators, and the corresponding budget had been included for each priority area.
- 1.4.7 Accordingly, and based on Articles 89 and 90 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate, he proposed that the IABA allocate part of the amount retrieved from overdue quotas to finance the proposed 2008-2009 Special Budget. He concluded by stating that, should the Special Budget be approved, its execution in 2008-2009 would be subject to the actual availability of funds from the collection of overdue quotas, and only after the funding of the 2008-2009 Regular Program Budget had been assured.
- 1.4.8 The Delegate of the United States thanked the Administration of the Institute for the work done in preparing the 2008-2009 Program Budget. She expressed satisfaction with the fact that activities in agricultural health, food safety, trade, biotechnology and biosafety were being financed with resources from the Regular Fund. She underscored the importance of providing the Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program with human and financial resources, and of allocating resources to finance the activities of the Tri-national Council of the Northern Region.
- 1.4.9 Regarding the 2008-2009 Special Budget, she supported the allocation of funds to facilitate the participation of Member States in the WTO Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures. She requested additional information on the activities and expected results of the actions to be carried out with those funds in the area of horizontal cooperation and in connection with the Forum for Leaders of Agriculture. She also requested further information on the resources of the Special Budget that would be earmarked for strengthening technical expertise at the Institute.
- 1.4.10 The Delegate of Argentina explained that his country had gone through a serious crisis that had led his Government to request a reduction in the quota payments pledged to international organizations. He added that, in the case of IICA, the quota had not been reduced and that its financial commitment to IICA had not changed. He indicated that the justification was that the Institute must use the percentage quota structure of the OAS, which had reviewed its quota scale, and that, in keeping with Article 23 of the

Convention on the Institute, it was clear that IICA had to adjust its quota scale as had been done at the OAS.

- 1.4.11 Next, he inquired as to the allocation of resources for strengthening the IICA Office in Spain, which he considered a matter of great importance, given the strategic role the Office could play in promoting linkage between the markets of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union Market. Lastly, he requested more detailed information on the 2008-2009 Special Budget, especially as regards cooperation actions for the Southern Region.
- 1.4.12 The Delegate of Canada stated his agreement with the allocation of resources for strategic priorities in the Regular Budget. He recalled the recommendation of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) and the 2007 Executive Committee to include in the Regular Budget resources derived from the Miscellaneous Income Fund. As for the Special Budget, he felt it would have been preferable to discuss it at both the SACMI and EC meetings. He requested a more detailed explanation of the actions and expected results in the areas of Horizontal Cooperation, the Forum for Leaders and the Agro-tourism Program, included in the Special Budget.
- 1.4.13 The Delegate of Honduras expressed concern over the steps the Institute had found it necessary to take to meet its financial needs. He felt it would be preferable to review the amount of the quotas paid by the Member States rather than continue to finance Institute operations with INR² resources, since part of those funds were not reinvested in the countries that generate them.
- 1.4.14 The Director of Administration and Finance explained to the Delegate of Honduras that the centralization of the administration of INR resources, beginning in 2003, did not preclude pre-investment in the countries. He noted that the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate stated that INR funds that the Institute generated by administering external resources were used to strengthen the Offices and for the Pre-investment Fund. Lastly, he noted that resources had been earmarked recently for strengthening technical capacities in the IICA Office in Honduras, improving its basic infrastructure and upgrading equipment.
- 1.4.15 The Director General indicated that, despite the fact that quotas had been frozen since 1995, every effort had been made to use any additional

² Internal Net Rate

contribution of funds to strengthen the Institute's technical cooperation program, with a view to meeting new demands. He explained that the proposed Special Budget for 2008-2009 would use resources from the recovery of quota arrearages to finance activities in priority areas such as agricultural health, biotechnology and biosafety, the forum for leaders, agrotourism, etc. Regarding the requests for further information on the proposed Special Budget, he offered to provide further information on both the areas whose budgets would be increased and the results expected from the actions programmed. Next, he withdrew the proposed distribution of the funds of the Special Budget for 2008-2009 from the discussion, suggesting instead that the details of same be discussed at the next SACMI meeting and at the Twenty-eighth Meeting of the Executive Committee.

- 1.4.16 He reported that the additional resources allocated to the IICA Office in Spain, derived from the INR, were being used as pre-investment funds. He then explained that the centralization of the resources generated through the application of the INR had improved the cash flow situation and, rather than leading to a reduction in the allocation of resources to the Offices that generate them, had made it easier to manage them throughout the Institute. He added that the above was confirmed in the report of the External Auditors, and that a report should be presented to the next SACMI meeting on how this change has been beneficial for the Institute.
- 1.4.17 The Delegate of Mexico thanked the Director General for his comments and proposed that a special meeting of the SACMI be held before the end of the year.
- 1.4.18 The Chair proposed that the detailed Special Budget be analyzed by the SACMI, and that, based on its recommendations, the proposal be forwarded to the corresponding Institute authorities. To this end, he asked the Technical Secretary to prepare the respective draft resolution. The Chair's proposal was accepted by the Delegates.
- 1.4.19 The Delegate of Honduras noted that, at its last meeting (May 15-17, 2007), the Executive Committee had agreed to recommend that the IABA approve the 2008-2009 biennial budget and, in order to reach agreement on the quota scale IICA would apply to finance that budget, that it await the OAS resolution on the distribution of the quotas of the Member States.
- 1.4.20 The Director General explained that Resolution No. 436 of the Executive Committee called for the IABA to approve the 2008-2009 biennial budget and stated that in the first of those two years the scale currently in force on

the distribution of quotas in the OAS would apply; and in the second, the scale adopted by the OAS in that year would apply. He asked the Legal Advisor to comment on the current status of this issue in the OAS.

- 1.4.21 The Legal Advisor gave an overview of the treatment of the issue at the OAS and summed up the two options presented by the Delegates prior to his intervention: i) to adopt the percentage structure currently applied by the OAS to establish IICA Member State quotas for 2008, and to use the new scale adopted by the OAS for 2009 in that year; and ii) to use the current (2007) IICA scale to establish the quotas of the Member States in 2008-2009. He explained that the second option was not consistent with the terms of Article 23 of the Convention on IICA, which states that the Member States will contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas, using the system for calculating the quotas of the OAS. As a result of the OAS changing its quotas, IICA must do the same.
- 1.4.22 The Director General thanked the Legal Advisor for his explanation and underscored the need to establish the quotas so that the countries could know far enough in advance the amount of their financial obligations to the Institute. He underscored the importance of the IABA's carrying through with the recommendation issued by the Executive Committee in this regard.
- 1.4.23 The Delegate of Argentina, backed by the Delegates of Panama, Mexico, Ecuador, United States and Costa Rica, suggested accepting the proposed biennial budget for 2008-2009 as presented, and using the scale currently in force in the OAS to establish Member State quotas, which was approved.
- 1.5 *Analysis of Technical Expertise at IICA: Progress Report (IICA/CE/Res.462 (XXVII-O/07))*
- 1.5.1 Mr. Paul Murphy, in his capacity as Chair of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, and in compliance with Resolution 462 of the Executive Committee, referred to the report of the consultants on the assessment of technical expertise at IICA.
- 1.5.2 He offered the following comments: i) The report prepared by the firm "*Servicios Internacionales para el Desarrollo Empresarial SIDE S.A.*" was received by the members of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee one day before it was presented and, as a result, the countries did not have an opportunity to analyze it, and ii) at that meeting the decision was made to send a letter to all the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States, along with the report and an executive summary prepared by

the consulting firm, asking them to submit their comments and observations on the report before August 31, 2007. Because the letter was not sent to the Member States as scheduled and the countries had yet to receive the report, they had not submitted their comments.

- 1.5.3 Following a discussion of the topic, the IABA resolved: (i) to hold a special meeting of the SACMI during the last quarter of 2007, (ii) to extend the term of the Steering Committee until the next meeting of the SACMI; (iii) to set up a working group comprising IICA staff members and the Steering Committee to draw up an analysis of the report.
- 1.5.4 He then said that the process agreed upon would allow for more time to analyze the report and present a proposal to the Executive Committee in 2008 and to the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, in 2009.
- 1.5.5 Referring to the recommendation in the report calling for a reduction in the number of IICA Offices in the island countries of the hemisphere, the Delegation of Canada felt this was not related to technical expertise in IICA and, therefore, should not be an item for analysis by the SACMI or the Executive Committee.
- 1.5.6 The Chair, pursuant to Resolution No. 462 of the Executive Committee, urged the Member States to send their comments on the consultants' report to Headquarters before August 31, 2007.
- 1.5.7 The Director General noted that, in order to comply with operative paragraph No. 5 of Resolution No. 462 of the Twenty-seventh Meeting of the Executive Committee, a working group had been set up and was preparing an analysis of the report. He also pointed out that the Executive Committee, in said resolution, had stated that the comments of the countries on the consultants' report would be available by the established deadline. Consequently, based on that provision, he felt it advisable that the IABA consider extending the deadline for the reception of comments and observations from the Member States on said report.
- 1.5.8 The Delegate of Canada proposed to the plenary that the Delegate of Mexico, who was serving as Coordinator of the Steering Committee, explain the procedure that could be followed.
- 1.5.9 The Delegate of Mexico thanked Canada, Paraguay, Ecuador, Argentina, Costa Rica, Belize and Panama for their contributions to the work of the Steering Committee, and expressed satisfaction with the report presented by

the Delegate of Canada. He proposed, for purposes of complying with Executive Committee Resolution No. 462, that the procedure to be followed include the following actions: i) to design a plan of action for addressing the recommendations of the assessment, and to ask the Director General to implement same, ii) to extend the term of the Steering Committee until the 15th Regular Meeting of the IABA, to be held in 2009, iii) to ask the Director General to present, in all meetings prior to the IABA meeting in 2009, progress reports on compliance with the plan of action and, iv) that the Steering Committee report the 2009 IABA meeting on the actions taken and the results obtained.

1.5.10 The Delegate of the United States stated her support for the proposals presented and recommended that same be analyzed carefully by the Member States. She agreed with the Delegate of Canada that the reduction of IICA Offices in the island countries was not related to the assessment of technical expertise.

1.5.11 The Chair proposed that the Steering Committee, with support from the Technical Secretariat of the IABA, submit a draft resolution for the consideration of the IABA containing the most important aspects of the discussions held in connection with this agenda item.

1.6 Draft resolutions

1.6.1 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: “*Progress in Implementing the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan*” and “*Progress in Collecting Quotas owed to the Institute as of Jun 30, 2007,*” which were approved as read.

1.7 Close of the Session

1.7.1 The First Plenary Session was adjourned at 19:40 hours.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

- 2.1 *Opening of the Session*
- 2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session was called to order at 08:40 on July 27, 2007, under the chairmanship of Mr. Bernardo Lopez, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala.
- 2.2 *2005-2006 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)*
- 2.2.1 Mr. Bruce Lauckner, Acting Executive Director of CARDI, presented to the plenary the 2005-2006 Biennial Report of CARDI. In his introduction, he explained CARDI's organizational structure and how it meets the needs of its Member States. He also referred to the constraints the organization faces in trying to meet the demand for its services in the Member States and its financial limitations, due to the insufficient resources assigned to it in the countries for technological innovation for agriculture. He then presented the most important actions and the results achieved by CARDI during the 2005-2006 biennium, both at the regional level and in the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.
- 2.2.2 The Chairman thanked Dr. Lauckner for his presentation and suggested that, in future, the reports on the work of partner institutions be presented to the Executive Committee, to enable the IABA to focus more on plans for the future.
- 2.3 *2005-2006 Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)*
- 2.3.1 Dr. Pedro Ferreira Rossi, the Director General of CATIE, presented the report on the institution's activities during 2005 and 2006 and began by explaining the makeup of CATIE's governing bodies and the Center's organizational chart. He said that CATIE was in the process of choosing a new Director General, who would take up his post in March 2007. He mentioned the names of the four candidates and said that a final decision was

expected by the end of the year. CATIE offered five Master's Degrees in the sciences and recently began an agribusiness program, in conjunction with INCAE. It also offered joint diplomas with North American universities. He noted that the number of students enrolled in Master's Degree programs and the number of graduate exchange students had increased. Over 20,000 people had been trained in the two years covered by the report. Progress was being made with distance learning with IICA.

- 2.3.2 The areas of research on which CATIE was focusing included the work: (i) with the USDA on cacao; (ii) on environmental services (with Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua); (iii) on banana production with the Central American countries, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela; (iv) on insect control in ornamental plants with Purdue University; (v) on the production of new coffee hybrids in Central America; (vi) climate change in Latin America; and, (vii) watershed management in Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras. CATIE also managed the Network for Environmental Economic Studies (with support from Sweden and Canada) and the Ibero-American Model Forest Network.
- 2.3.3 After showing the Center's current financial situation, the speaker presented CATIE's Prospective Plan, approved by its Board of Directors and the Council of Ministers. It focuses on the following lines of action: agro-ecology, genetic resources and biotechnology, environmental stock raising, degraded pastureland, agro-forestry systems and environmental services, the chain approach in cacao, coffee and small industries, forests, biodiversity and protected areas, water and watershed management, and climate change. He said CATIE would continue to provide technical support to the countries and promote the agribusiness subsector, the master's and doctoral programs, and training (especially distance training).
- 2.4 *Amendment to the first clause of the law establishing CATIE*
- 2.4.1 Mr. Pedro Emilio Ferreira Rossi, Director General of CATIE, explained that the core objective of the proposed amendment to the law establishing CATIE was to give the Center the power to grant professional credentials and academic degrees, like other public and private universities in Costa Rica, and other centers such as the EARTH University and INCAE. He also cited the example of El Zamorano, in Honduras, an organization that awards degrees. He pointed out that, while being able to grant degrees was very important for CATIE, it would also be a first step in its efforts to obtain international accreditation.

2.4.2 He mentioned that the proposed amendment required approval from the following bodies: the Higher Council of Ministers of CATIE (which had already given its permission); the IABA, by a majority vote of at least two-thirds of the members present; and the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica. The proposed amendment to the first clause of the law establishing CATIE is as follows:

Current Text	Proposed amendment of text
<p>FIRST CLAUSE.- The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects, for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under the agreements and programs established for those purposes.</p>	<p>FIRST CLAUSE.- The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects, for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). As such, CATIE is empowered to grant academic degrees and professional credentials in its areas of competence, which will enable its graduates to exercise their respective professions.</p>

2.4.3 The representatives of Costa Rica and Mexico endorsed CATIE’s proposal and recognized the institution’s important work in training first-rate professionals for the benefit of the Member States. The Representative of Costa Rica also reported that his country’s Legislative Assembly had

programmed two periods of special sessions, one in August and the other in December 2007. He promised to support CATIE's efforts to have the matter placed on the agenda of the second special period of sessions. Finally the Representative of Mexico moved that the IABA approve CATIE's request unanimously, to which the plenary assented.

2.5 *Proposal to strengthen IICA's role as the executing technical arm of agricultural and rural development projects and programs as part of the new IDB policy*

2.5.1 Mr. Christopher Hansen, Assistant Deputy Director General, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Director of Regional Operations and Integration for the Northern Region, presented the report to the plenary. He said that recent decades had seen a major reduction in the financing that international organizations (including the IDB) provided for agriculture and rural development. In June 2006, IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno had announced the launching of the Bank's "Opportunities for the Majority" program, which would be implemented with partner institutions and provided an opportunity to make financing for rural areas a priority once again. The Director General of IICA had offered to assist the IDB in implementing the initiative in the rural sector by means of a partnership whose objectives would be to: (i) support the IDB in strategic matters and policies related to issues of key importance for agriculture and rural development; and, (ii) position IICA as the technical partner of choice for the identification, preparation and execution of agricultural and rural development projects.

2.5.2 He then mentioned that IICA and the IDB had executed more than 140 joint projects and activities over the course of the previous nine years at the country level. He added that the following activities were ongoing at the hemispheric level: (i) the implementation, with PAHO, of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) tool developed by the Institute for national food safety services; (ii) the joint work with PAHO and other institutions on avian influenza; (iii) regional actions in the area of biofuels, since IICA had assumed responsibility for the Secretariat of the Inter-American Ethanol Commission; (iv) the co-administration of FONTAGRO, a fund tasked with promoting technology research and development; and, (v) the Hemispheric Agricultural Insurance Program.

2.5.3 Mr. Hansen mentioned that, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting, IICA's Executive Committee: (i) had recommended that IICA develop the mechanisms needed for it to become a strategic technical partner of the IDB,

(ii) had asked the Governments to support IICA's efforts to create and strengthen the alliance; and, (iii) had stipulated that IICA keep the countries informed of the progress made in strengthening the alliance, the aim of which was to make agriculture more competitive, expand trade and encourage rural development.

- 2.5.4 He concluded his presentation by recommending that the IABA adopt and promote the following four actions to create new opportunities for agriculture and the rural sector in the Americas: (i) urge the member countries to support the efforts of the President of the IDB and the Director General of IICA to strengthen IICA's technical role in IDB-funded projects; (ii) conduct studies in priority areas; (iii) encourage the Chairman of the IABA, on behalf of the 34 Member States, to contact the IDB President and Board of Governors directly to bring about greater IICA participation in IDB projects; and, (iv) secure the support of the ministers of agriculture so that, in their dealings with the ministers of economic affairs and finance, they promote a growing role for IICA in IDB-funded projects in their countries.
- 2.5.5 The Director General stressed that strengthening ties with the IDB was a strategic opportunity for the Member States and for the Institute, which would help increase the flow of financial resources for agriculture and rural development as a means of creating opportunities and actions aimed at reducing poverty in the rural milieu.
- 2.5.6 The Director General pointed out that the partnership between the two institutions would channel more investment into the rural sector at a time when financial institutions were cutting back their investments in rural areas. Only with the support of the President of the IDB would it be possible to make a significant contribution to the economic development of the rural communities of the Americas. The Director General explained that the IDB worked mainly through the ministries of finance. Therefore, he urged the delegates to promote closer ties with those ministries in their respective countries in order to obtain the financial support required to develop agriculture and improve living conditions in rural communities.
- 2.5.7 The delegates of Colombia, the United States of America, Brazil, Jamaica, Belize and Ecuador endorsed the initiative. The Representative of Ecuador recommended using the installed capacity in each country, with support from IICA, to manage the resources of the IDB and other banks, so as to avoid having to create executing units for each investment project. Finally, the Representative of Jamaica asked that the agenda of cooperation with the IDB

include the topic of the vulnerability of the agricultural sectors of the Caribbean countries resulting from climate change and other natural hazards.

2.6 *State of and Outlook for Agriculture (IICA/JIA/Doc.308(07))*

2.6.1 Dr. James French presented a report on the state of and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the Americas in 2007. He described briefly the main trends in agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere and the challenges that lay ahead for the countries in both areas (see Annex 1).

2.6.2 Mr. French then said the hemisphere had achieved its best economic and social indicators for the last 25 years. He mentioned specifically: (i) the strong growth of agricultural production; (ii) the progress made in reducing poverty; (iii) the improvements in income distribution in some countries; and, (iv) the fall in unemployment. The main trends in, and outlook for, agriculture and rural life included: (i) the evolution of consumer preferences and the latter's impact on production and trade; (ii) the effects of climate change; (iii) the efforts to reduce rural poverty and inequality; (iv) the impact of agro-energy and bio-fuels on food production and consumption; and, (v) the growing importance of technology and innovation for competitiveness.

2.6.3 Dr. French concluded his remarks by thanking everyone who had been involved in preparing the report. The Institutional Modernization Unit of IICA's Directorate of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management had spearheaded the effort, with the collaboration of other institutions such as FAO, ECLAC and CATIE.

2.7 *Progress in Strengthening Ties between FAO and IICA*

2.7.1 In his presentation, Mr. Graziano Da Silva focused on the joint IICA-FAO activities under way in the areas of international trade, agricultural information management, rural development, agricultural health and food safety, and food security. He said that IICA had prepared a report on the joint activities and achievements at the national level.

2.7.2 With regard to the main actions at the subregional level he mentioned: in South America, the joint effort in support of the ministers of the Southern Agricultural Council in the field of agricultural health. In Central America, food security was the priority, since that region had not made enough progress to meet the Millennium Goal of halving extreme poverty in rural areas. In regard to the Caribbean, he mentioned the collaboration on agricultural health and food safety, support for CARICOM and the actions in the fields of rural development and food security.

- 2.7.3 Turning to the hemispheric level, he stressed the importance of FAO's Latin America without Hunger Initiative. Launched in Guatemala in September 2005 by Presidents Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Oscar Berger, the initiative reaffirmed the goal of eradicating hunger (instead of just halving it) in a region that has the resources and the material possibilities for doing so.
- 2.7.4 The main joint actions at the hemispheric level included efforts to eradicate foot-and-mouth disease. Nations in the hemisphere that export meat and other livestock products ran the risk of being barred from exporting if foot-and-mouth disease were not eradicated. Accordingly, FAO, IICA, the Standing Veterinary Committee and other institutions were involved in a program to eradicate the disease. Efforts to prevent avian flu in the hemisphere had been very successful, thanks, in part, to the joint work and technical and financial resources contributed by FAO and IICA. He then said that to meet the needs of the different countries, FAO was preparing a world summit on agro-energy and food security, which would be held June 3-4, 2008, in Rome. With input from IICA, the issue of agro-energy would also be discussed at the Thirtieth Regional Conference of FAO, scheduled to take place April 14-18, 2008, in Brasilia, Brazil. He invited all the countries present to take part in the events. With regard to rural development, as well as making progress in coordinating actions the Inter-agency Group on Rural Development had been set up. It comprised ECLAC, the IDB, the World Bank, IFAD, the GTZ, USAID, Italy's cooperation agency and other donors. Turning to the Information System for Monitoring and Evaluating Strategies and Policies for Agriculture and Rural Life, he said it was the result of a joint effort that had made it possible to use the same data, indicators and variables to analyze the performance of agriculture and trends in rural life in the Americas. Finally, he explained that whenever there was a change of government or a major policy shift in a given country, IICA and FAO would be offer their services together to support the efforts to establish and implement a new national agenda.
- 2.7.5 The Director General thanked Mr. Graciano da Silva for his presentation and said his Administration had made great efforts to promote the Institute's relations with FAO, mindful of the fact that the links between the two organizations made it possible to improve the technical cooperation provided to the Member States. The relationship was being strengthened at the express request of the Member States, which had asked all international cooperation agencies to coordinate the response to the demand for their services. He stressed that the joint work of IICA and FAO was geared to the objective of achieving a true inter-agency agenda.

- 2.7.6 The Representatives of Colombia and Brazil agreed that strengthening IICA-FAO collaboration was the right strategy, because it increased synergy, reduced competition and complemented the individual efforts of each organization. They expressed interest in the topic of agricultural health and food safety. The Representative of Colombia felt that merging the statistical databases of the two institutions would be a useful step and strengthening the cooperation with the countries on agro-energy would also be very helpful.
- 2.8 *Draft resolution: “2006 Report “State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”*
- 2.8.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “2006 Report, State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.”
- 2.8.2 The Representative of Honduras suggested that an additional operative paragraph be included, urging the Director General to disseminate the report widely among the Member States.
- 2.8.3 The draft resolution was approved with the proposed modification.
- 2.9 *Draft resolution: “2008-2009 Program Budget”*
- 2.9.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution entitled “2008-2009 Program Budget.”
- 2.9.2 The Representatives of Mexico and Chile said they could not approve the quota scale mentioned in the second operative paragraph and detailed in Annex A. They were under the impression that what had been approved the day before was IICA’s current quota scale, not the scale in effect at the OAS. The Representative of Mexico asked that it be noted explicitly that Mexico did not approve the resolution. The Representative of Chile pointed out that the new scale doubled his country’s quota contribution.
- 2.9.3 The Legal Adviser reminded the meeting that the proposal to adopt the scale currently in effect at the OAS had been approved during the first plenary session. The representatives of Panama, Ecuador and the United States of America had endorsed the scale.
- 2.9.4 The Representative of Ecuador agreed with the Legal Adviser’s clarification. According to Article 23 of the Convention on IICA, the Institute was required to adopt the scale in effect at the OAS.

- 2.9.5 The Representative of Panama reported that the issue had been discussed in depth at the meeting of the Executive Committee. The change in the distribution of quota contributions by the OAS was in line with changes in the economic situation of the Member States. He thought it would be very complicated to try to establish other criteria for a different quota scale. He realized there were Member States whose contribution to IICA would increase substantially with the adoption of the new scale, which reflected improvements in the socioeconomic situation of the countries concerned. He reiterated that, according to the Convention on IICA, the quota scale currently in force at the OAS was to be used to establish the Institute's quota scale.
- 2.9.6 The Representative of Ecuador endorsed the comments of the Representative of Panama, since the OAS quota scale was transitory but in effect, which meant that IICA was bound to adopt it. He warned that it was not advisable that the approval of the budget be made subject to the approval of a definitive quota scale by the OAS.
- 2.9.7 The Rapporteur pointed out that during the first plenary session she had asked for clarification of whether the term "in effect" referred to the quota scale in effect at IICA or the transitory scale in effect at the OAS. It was stated clearly that the reference was to the OAS scale and no delegate had objected.
- 2.9.8 The Representative of Panama noted that in the past, Member States that experienced difficulties in paying their quota contributions to IICA had been accorded special treatment. He proposed that the meeting approve the 2008-2009 Program Budget referred to in the draft resolution and then consider any Member States that were in a special situation.
- 2.9.9 The Chairman said that to do so would be to return to the original proposal that the budget and the quota scale be discussed separately, effectively canceling out what had been achieved in the previous session.
- 2.9.10 The Representative of Honduras suggested that, since no political consensus was expected at the OAS, the representatives of the Member States approve the resolution with any pertinent observations.
- 2.9.11 The Representative of Argentina said that, while she understood the points made by the representatives of Chile and Mexico, legally speaking the countries were obliged to distribute the contributions to the 2008-2009 budget based on the scale currently used by the OAS. Despite the economic

hardships it had faced recently, her country had honored its financial commitments to international organizations and, in particular, to IICA.

- 2.9.12 The Legal Adviser said that the scale in effect at the OAS had been approved by consensus and without objection in January 2006. It was based on two factors: a) the Member States' ability to pay and b) the desire of the countries to contribute equitably to the maintenance of the organization.
- 2.9.13 The Representative of Mexico insisted that his country could not accept the new quota scale included in the draft resolution and explained the reasons for its stance. His country had analyzed the situation at the domestic level and concluded that its contributions to international organizations were having a big impact on internal budgets. Traditionally, Mexico had fulfilled its commitments to international organizations and was one of the biggest contributors to the United Nations and Inter-American systems. He asked that the draft resolution include a note to the effect that Mexico had not approved it.
- 2.9.14 The Representative of Chile thanked the Rapporteur clarifying the situation. He said his country had lodged an appeal against the transitory quota scale applied by the OAS, as it did not agree with it. As a result, his delegation could not accept the second point in the resolution that had been presented, because it was based on the same relative structure of quota contributions used by the OAS. He asked that it be stated expressly in the resolution that Chile did not support the proposal and did not agree with the quota scale attached to the resolution.
- 2.9.15 The Chairman put the draft resolution to a vote. It was approved, with the Representatives of Mexico and Chile dissenting from the majority opinion.
- 2.10 *Draft resolution: "2005-2006 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)"*
- 2.10.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "2005-2006 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)."
- 2.10.2 The Representative of Saint Lucia asked that it be specified in operative paragraph 3 that the reference was to the Executive Committee of IICA, as CARDI had a Board of Governors. He also asked whether the Executive Committee was authorized to approve CARDI's biennial report.

- 2.10.3 The Chairman clarified that the paragraph referred to the Executive Committee of IICA, not CARDI, and recommended that this be made clear in the final version of the resolution.
- 2.10.4 The Director General said that operative paragraph 3 read “To delegate to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing the biennial report of CARDI.” IICA had no legal responsibility to approve the reports submitted by organizations like CATIE and CARDI, to which it provided financial support.
- 2.10.5 The Representative of Saint Lucia thanked the meeting for the clarifications made.
- 2.10.6 The Chairman submitted the draft resolution to the consideration of the plenary. It was approved with the modifications proposed.
- 2.11 *Draft resolution: “2005-2006 Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)”*
- 2.11.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “2005-2006 Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE),” which was approved without modifications.
- 2.12 *Draft resolution: “Proposed addition to Law 8028 of Costa Rica empowering CATIE to grant professional credentials and academic degrees”*
- 2.12.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Proposed addition to Law 8028 of Costa Rica empowering CATIE to grant professional credentials and academic degrees.”
- 2.12.2 The Representative of Mexico proposed that the draft resolution be approved unanimously.
- 2.12.3 The representatives of Honduras and Costa Rica asked for the operative paragraphs to be reworded to make it clear that the purpose of the draft resolution was to request that the Government of Costa Rica amend Law No. 8028 to empower CATIE to grant professional and academic degrees.
- 2.12.4 The draft resolution was approved unanimously, with the modification requested.

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2.9 *Close of the Session*

2.9.1 The Second Plenary Session was adjourned at 13:00.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 Opening of the Session

3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session was called to order at 15:00 on July 27, 2007, with Mr. Bernardo Lopez Figueroa, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala, in the chair.

3.2 Status of the analysis of the system used to determine the remuneration of the Director General

3.2.1 The IABA decided to deal with this matter in a closed session.

3.3 Ratification of amendments to the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture

3.3.1 The Legal Adviser explained that the purpose of the proposed amendments to articles 73, 96 and 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, and to articles 65, 87 and 88 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA was to bring them into line with current practices with regard to the processing of the working documents, background documents, visual aids and final reports of the meetings of the Institute's governing bodies. He said that by using new information and communication technologies, IICA had streamlined the distribution of documents among the Institute's 34 Member States and significantly reduced the cost of doing so.

3.4 Status of the resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA

3.4.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)," which was adopted without modifications.

3.5 Date and Site of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA

3.5.1 The Technical Secretary read out a letter that the Director General of IICA had received from the Government of Jamaica, in which that country had offered to host the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. The Technical Secretary reported that it was the only formal offer that had been submitted to the

Technical Secretariat in writing. The plenary unanimously accepted the Government of Jamaica's proposal and thanked the country for its generous offer.

- 3.5.2 The Representative of Jamaica thanked the representatives of the Member States for their support for his country's offer. He said it was a great honor for Jamaica to host the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and to have the opportunity to receive and be of service to such distinguished representatives.
- 3.6 *Draft resolution: "Amendments to articles 65, 87 and 88 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and ratification of the amendments to articles 73, 96 and 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee"*
- 3.6.1 The Rapporteur readout the draft resolution: "Amendments to articles 65, 87 and 88 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and ratification of the amendments to articles 73, 96 and 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee."
- 3.6.2 The Representative of Jamaica asked that the phrase "may only be distributed in one of those languages in exceptional cases" be deleted from article 73 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and article 65 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA.
- 3.6.3 The Representative of Ecuador said that the word "modify" was used in operative paragraphs 1 and 2, when, legally speaking, the paragraphs should begin: "Replace the texts of articles ... with the following:"
- 3.6.4 The Chairman submitted the draft resolution to a vote. It was approved with the modifications proposed by the representatives of Jamaica and Ecuador.
- 3.7 *Draft resolution: "Progress in the assessment of technical expertise at IICA"*
- 3.7.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "Progress in the assessment of technical expertise at IICA."
- 3.7.2 The Representative of the United States of America asked that it be specified in operative paragraph 2 that the SACMI would be meeting in the last quarter of 2007.

- 3.7.3 The Chairman submitted the draft resolution to a vote. The resolution was approved with the modification proposed by the Representative of the United States of America.
- 3.8 *Draft resolutions: Status of the resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), "IICA's participation as the executing arm for programs and projects of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)" and "Date and site of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)."*
- 3.8.1 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: "Status of the resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)", "IICA's participation as the executing arm for programs and projects of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)" and "Date and site of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)", which were adopted without modifications.
- 3.9 *Draft resolution: "Vote of thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Guatemala and to the authorities of the city of Antigua Guatemala"*
- 3.9.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution: "Vote of thanks to the Government and people of the Republic of Guatemala and to the authorities of the city of Antigua Guatemala," for all the support provided for the organization and implementation of the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life - Guatemala 2007 and, in particular, the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. The resolution was approved unanimously. The plenary gave a round of applause.
- 3.10 *Draft resolution on the status of the analysis of the system used to determine the remuneration of the Director General*
- 3.10.1 The Chairman announced that the matter had been discussed in a closed session and the resolution would not be read aloud. Finally, he said that representatives could obtain a copy of the resolution in Spanish or English from the Technical Secretariat.
- 3.11 *Presentation "From agriculture and rural life to nutritional security: the Regional Strategy on Nutrition in Health and Development"*
- 3.11.1 Mr. Hernan Delgado, Director General of INCAP, talked about the vicious cycle of environmental insecurity and human insecurity, and how it impacted

food insecurity. He said the health sector had to deal with the population's health problems caused by nutritional deficiencies and excesses and an unbalanced diet that contributed to obesity, overweight and chronic non-communicable diseases.

- 3.11.2 He reported that the Directing Council of PAHO had been promoting an initiative known as the "Regional Strategy on Nutrition in Health and Development," which PAHO hoped to implement with international agencies, organizations of the Inter-American System and all the countries of the Americas. The proposal was based on the experience acquired in Central America, where the countries had been promoting a nutritional security strategy for the last 15 years, trying to generate synergies that made it possible to tackle the problems that link nutrition with poverty.
- 3.11.3 INCAP, through its research and various studies, had demonstrated the effects of better nutrition, based on the provision of better food for the development of human capital and, as a result, for development in general. He said that a virtuous circle of agricultural production, nutrition, health and education were the motors of human development. Given the close interaction between the health and agriculture sectors, it was hoped that the ministers of agriculture would support the strengthening of ties between PAHO and IICA, an inter-American partnership that would benefit everyone in the Americas.
- 3.11.4 He said that the lessons learned in the region had led to the development of a Pan American alliance aimed at tackling the problems of malnutrition that involved the agencies of the United Nations system, the organizations of the Inter-American System and governments.
- 3.12 *Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between IICA and the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)*
- 3.12.1 The Director General of IICA and the Administrative Director of the Common Fund for Commodities signed a memorandum of understanding between the two organizations. The main objective of the memorandum was to step up cooperation activities and maximize the benefits of the cooperation between IICA and CFC for agricultural producers in the developing countries.
- 3.13 *Close of the Session*
- 3.13.1 The Third Plenary Session was adjourned at 17: 25.

CLOSING SESSION

4.1 *Opening of the Session*

4.1.1 The Closing Session was called to order at 17:30 on July 27, 2007, under the chairmanship of Mr. Bernardo Lopez Figueroa, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala.

4.2 *Remarks by Mr. Carlos E. Aquino*

4.2.1 Mr. Carlos E. Aquino thanked the Board for inviting him to take part and said he was sure that, as former Directors General of IICA, Armando Samper, Francisco Morillo, Jose Emilio Araujo and Martin Piñero would have been as delighted to attend the meeting as he was.

4.2.2 He said: “Happy are those who dream dreams but happier still are those willing to pay the price to make them come true. Sixty-five years ago some visionaries, led by the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America and leaders from other countries in the Americas took the decision to create IICA. Today, 65 years later, we meet together at a different stage in the process. Assembled here today is another set of visionaries, who have the opportunity to celebrate together the progress that the Institute has made in modernizing and repositioning itself, and who have the responsibility of deciding the direction that this organization should take.”

4.2.3 He mentioned the mark that IICA had made in the Americas in areas such as research, education and rural development, thanks to the vision, enthusiasm, commitment and dedication of many men and women who had worked for the Institute. Consequently, he was delighted to see that the IABA was paying tribute to a group of distinguished professionals from Guatemala who, at different times, had contributed to IICA’s work in various countries of the hemisphere. He urged the Member States not to begrudge a single cent for strengthening the institution and to lend it every possible support, because today more than ever IICA was extremely important to tackle the challenges and address the issues of great importance for agricultural development and for rural wellbeing and prosperity. He said the Institute was a notable example of an organization that acknowledged the importance of, but did not live in, the

past. It had learned to tackle today's challenges and prepare for those of the future.

- 4.2.4 The Representative of Guatemala said the participants had been given copies of a CD containing photographs and videos of the Week of Agriculture and Life Rural Guatemala 2007.
- 4.2.5 The Director General thanked Mr. Carlos E. Aquino, Director General Emeritus, for his presence and support.
- 4.3 *Posthumous Tribute to Mr. Pedro Pablo Rizzo Pastor, former Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador and former Chairman of the IABA*
- 4.3.1 The Director General expressed his sincere condolences to the wife and children of Mr. Pedro Pablo Rizzo Pastor, former Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador and former Chairman of the IABA. He asked the meeting to observe a moment of silence and then presented the IICA medal to Mr. Rizzo Pastor's family. He said that Mr. Rizzo Pastor would be remembered for his achievements as Minister of Agriculture of his country and for his contributions to the management of the Institute as Chairman of the IABA.
- 4.4 *Tribute to former Guatemalan officials of IICA*
- 4.4.1 On behalf of the General Directorate, the Director General paid tribute to IICA's distinguished former international personnel of Guatemalan nationality, who had made a professional contribution to the development of agriculture and the wellbeing of rural communities in the Americas, and had helped make IICA an institution of excellence. The individuals honored for their distinguished work in countries of the hemisphere as international professionals of the Institute were Dora Beckley Del Cid, Gladys Gil Barrios, Ana Maria Paz de Ericsson, Carlos Enrique Fernandez Jonama, Luis Arturo del Valle Garcia, Edgar Lionel Ibarra Arriola, Rodolfo Martinez Ferrate, Julio Anibal Palencia Ortiz, Carlos Enrique Reiche Caal, Ariel Rivera Irias, Julio Hernandez Estrada, Sergio Rolando Ruano Andrade, Leopoldo Sandoval Villena, Romeo Solano Aviles, Leonel Gonzalez Bolaños, Arturo Padilla Lira, Lars Pira Perez, René Castañeda Paz, Benjamin Gallegos Jauregui and Marco Tulio Urizar Montúfar.
- 4.4.2 The Chairman of the IABA and the Director General of IICA presented the Guatemalan honorees with the IICA medal and the Institute's diploma of

gratitude for their contribution they had made as professionals to agricultural and rural development in the Americas.

4.5 Inter-American Awards

4.5.1 The Technical Secretary explained that the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector were the most important public and international recognition that IICA granted to people and institutions that had dedicated their efforts and life to the development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life in the Americas.

4.5.2 Based on Resolution IICA/CE/Res.475 (XXVII-O/07), adopted at the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held May 15-17, 2007 in San Jose, Costa Rica, the awards were presented by the Chairman of the IABA and the Director General of IICA on behalf of the 34 Member States.

4.5.3 The recipients of the Inter-American Awards were: i) Mr. Jorge Leon Arguedas, of Costa Rica, who received the 2006 Inter-American Agricultural Medal; (ii) Mr. Egbert Miller, of Jamaica, who was awarded the 2007 Inter-American Agricultural Medal; (iii) Ms. Mayra Roxana Falck Reyes, of Honduras, who won the 2006-2007 Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development; and, (iv) the Honduran Agricultural Research Foundation (FHIA), which received the 2006-2007 Inter-American Award for the Institutional Contribution to Agricultural and Rural Development.

4.5.4 The award recipients, in turn, thanked the Member States for the great honor bestowed upon them and reiterated their commitment to the modernization of agriculture and greater wellbeing for the rural communities of the Americas.

4.5.5 Pursuant to Resolution 475 of the Executive Committee, at the earliest opportunity the General Directorate will also formally present honorable mentions to Mr. Luke Lee, of Jamaica, and Mr. Carlos Maria Arrechea Ortiz, of Paraguay (candidates for the 2006-2007 Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals); and Ms. Rosita Benitez Portillo, of Paraguay (candidate for the 2006-2007 Inter-American Award for the Contribution of Women to Rural Development).

4.6 Tribute to Mr. Raymond Poland, member of the ARC

4.6.1 The Director General, pursuant to Resolution IICA/CE/Res.468 (XXVII-O/07), adopted at the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive

Committee, held May 15-17, 2007 in San Jose, Costa Rica, presented a medal to Mr. Raymond Poland, a member of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) between 2003 and 2007, for his professional contribution to the management of IICA.

4.7 *Tribute to IICA officials who will shortly be retiring from the Institute*

- 4.7.1 The Director General paid special tribute to Lizardo de las Casas Moya, Director of the Office for Follow up to the Summit of the Americas Process, and Arlington Chesney, Director of Operations and Integration for the Caribbean Region and Advisor to the Director General for Caribbean Affairs, who were due to retire shortly following a long and distinguished career with the Institute.
- 4.7.2 The Director General then thanked Mr. James Butler, Deputy Director General of IICA, for the valuable contribution he had made to the Institute. In January 2008, Mr. Butler would be taking up the post of Deputy Director General of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), based in Rome.

4.8 *Remarks by the Director General*

- 4.8.1 The Director General said the Fourth Ministerial Meeting and the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA had ended and he thanked the Government of Guatemala for its support. He highlighted, in particular, the participation in the meeting of the President of Guatemala, Mr. Oscar Berger Perdomo, and other senior government officials. He also singled out the Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, Mr. Bernardo Lopez Figueroa, for his leadership and contribution to the success of the event, and the team that had assisted him in the arduous process of organizing and implementing the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life Guatemala 2007.
- 4.8.2 He congratulated the Chairman and the Rapporteur for their work and skillful handling of the meeting, as a result of which the IABA had achieved the objectives set and taken important decisions with a renewed vision so the Institute could continue to implement a hemispheric agenda based on the promotion of competitiveness, sustainability, equity and governance.
- 4.8.3 He said the week's activities had made it possible to strengthen dialogue, cooperation and the commitment to continue working together to meet the challenges posed by the problems that existed today, such as transboundary diseases, poverty, climate change, energy difficulties and terrorism, which demanded multinational and global solutions.

- 4.8.4 He mentioned some of the actions that the Institute needed to continue to implement: i) promote hemispheric dialogue and build consensus on agricultural issues, ii) promote trade, agribusiness, competitiveness and food safety, iii) combat hunger and poverty in rural communities, iv) support regional integration, and, v) encourage effective and sustainable natural resource management. It also had to assist the countries in implementing the mandates of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, the national and regional agendas and a hemispheric agenda agreed through real dialogue and interaction among the agricultural communities of each of IICA's 34 Member States.
- 4.8.5 He reiterated his thanks to the Government of Guatemala and, in particular, to Mr. Bernardo Lopez Figueroa, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, for their support, assistance and cooperation for the organization and implementation of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. He also acknowledged the invaluable contribution made by the representatives of the Member States and the staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala and IICA for contributing to the success of the event with a spirit of service and teamwork.
- 4.9 Remarks by the Chairman
- 4.9.1 On his country's behalf, the Chairman of the IABA thanked those present for the honor of hosting the Fourth Ministerial Meeting and the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA. He thanked the staff of MAG and IICA for their dedication and hard work.
- 4.9.2 He expressed admiration for all the representatives of the countries who, possessed of a clear vision, had discussed and exchanged opinions about vitally important issues and taken decisions that would undoubtedly help strengthen IICA.
- 4.9.3 Close of the meeting and signing of the Final Report
- 4.9.4 The Chairman and the Director General of IICA signed the report on the meeting.
- 4.9.5 Close of the Meeting
- 4.9.6 The meeting was adjourned at 19:25 on July 27, 2007.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS

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IICA/JIA/Res.428(XIV-O/07)

26 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 428**STATUS OF THE 2006-2010 MEDIUM-TERM PLAN**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation by the Director General of IICA on progress with the implementation of the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan (MTP) and document IICA/JIA/Doc. 324(07), "2006 IICA Annual Report",

CONSIDERING:

That in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.444(XXVI-O/06), adopted on September 28, 2006, the Executive Committee approved the 2006-2010 MTP, by express delegation from the IABA;

That the 2006-2010 MTP is the frame of reference for both the cooperation actions of the Institute and the transformation and modernization process under way; and

That the Executive Committee took note of the report of the Director General on progress with and the results of implementation of the 2006-2010 MTP and, in resolution IICA/CE/Res.460(XXVII-O/07), acknowledged the positive results of the cooperative efforts in which the Institute has been engaged in behalf of the modernization of agriculture and the promotion of prosperity for the rural communities of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

To welcome the progress report on implementation of the 2006-2010 MTP.

IICA/JIA/Res.429(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No 429

**2006 REPORT “STATE OF AND OUTLOOK FOR
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS”**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.308(07), “State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, 2006”,

CONSIDERING:

That in the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan, endorsed by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, the Ministers of Agriculture pledged to modernize agriculture and promote rural prosperity and food security;

That Article 3.a of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA states that the Board shall take note of the report of the Director General of IICA on the status of the development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the Americas; and

That the General Directorate of IICA has presented to the Member States of the Institute a report on the state of and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the Americas in 2006, which highlights the role of agriculture in contributing to job creation and the alleviation of rural poverty,

RESOLVES:

1. To welcome the 2006 report on the “State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas”, presented by the General Directorate of IICA,

and to highlight the importance of that report to the governments of the region as an instrument for analyzing and formulating policy.

2. To urge the Director General to circulate that report widely in an effort to contribute to the agricultural production sector in the hemisphere and to highlight the growing importance of agriculture in the region's socioeconomic development.

IICA/JIA/Res.430(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 430

PROGRESS IN THE ASSESSMENT OF TECHICAL EXPERTISE AT IICA

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The report presented at the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA by Mr. Paul Murphy, in his capacity as Chairman of the Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

CONSIDERING:

That by Resolution IICA/CE/RES.447(XXVI-O/06), the Executive Committee established the procedure for conducting the assessment of technical expertise at IICA;

That in order to implement said resolution a Steering Committee, chaired by Dr. Victor Villalobos of Mexico, and comprising members from Costa Rica, Panama, Paraguay, Argentina, Canada, Belize and Mexico, was set up and charged with giving direction to the work of the consulting firm retained to conduct the assessment;

That after receiving the progress report of the consulting firm (the Report), the Executive Committee, by Resolution IICA/CE RES. 462 (XXVII-O/07), established a process for following up on the report, which included consultations on same with all the Member States of the Institute;

That the Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States did not have sufficient time to review the Report and prepare and submit their observations and comments to the Director General; and

That the recommendations contained in the Report, once favorably evaluated by the Director General and the member countries, may be implemented, provided they do not require the adoption of decisions by the governing bodies of the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To instruct the Director General to draw up and execute a Plan of Action for the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report on the Assessment of Technical Expertise at IICA, based on the observations and comments received from all the Member States.
2. To instruct the Director General to present to the meeting of the Special Advisory Commission for Management Issues, in the last quarter of 2007, and the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee a report on progress in the implementation of said Plan of Action.
3. To extend the term of the Steering Committee until the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, to be held in 2009.
4. To entrust the Steering Committee with preparing and presenting, with support from the team of professionals appointed by the Director General, to the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, to take place in 2009, a report on actions and results of the implementation of the recommendations for strengthening technical expertise at IICA.

IICA/JIA/Res.431(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 431

**IICA'S PARTICIPATION AS THE EXECUTING ARM FOR PROGRAMS
AND PROJECTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (IDB)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.317(07), "Proposal for strengthening IICA's participation as the executing technical arm for agricultural and rural development programs and projects within the framework of the new IDB policy: Opportunities for the Majority",

CONSIDERING:

That the new IDB policy "Opportunities for the majority" is aimed at promoting innovative options to ensure that the benefits of economic growth effectively reach the majority of the population in the countries of the Americas;

That in the framework of that policy, the IDB has been promoting initiatives aimed at creating those new economic opportunities and improved access to goods and services for the majority by seeking to develop a broad base of entrepreneurship, improving basic services, extending the use of information and communication technologies to the masses, *inter alia*;

That the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan of IICA establishes that the Institute is to provide cooperation to its Member States, especially in areas such as: (i) the promotion of trade and business competitiveness in the rural area; (ii) the development of rural communities based on a territorial approach, (iii) the promotion of agricultural health and food safety, (iv) the promotion of the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment; and (v) the promotion of the introduction of technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural development;

That IICA is prepared to work with the IDB in the framework of its new policy to generate opportunities for the majority in the rural area through a broad variety of modalities of technical cooperation, especially in the identification, preparation and execution of technical cooperation and investment projects and in the conduct of technical studies in their recognized spheres of experience, focusing those efforts on strategic activities that generate new opportunities for investment, employment and income generation; and

That any joint action undertaken by the IDB and IICA in the rural area in the framework of the institutional policy "Opportunities for the majority" will contribute to consolidating the Inter-American System and to providing increased technical support for the conduct of studies and the identification, preparation and execution of any projects financed by the Bank to promote agricultural and rural development in aid of the countries of the Americas,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the joint efforts in which the President of the IDB and the Director General of IICA have been engaged to increase the Institute's role as a technical agency in conducting studies and identifying, preparing and executing technical cooperation and investment programs and projects in the area of agriculture and rural development, with financing from the Bank, especially those that correspond to the priority areas of IICA and that benefit small- and medium-scale producers and rural communities.
2. To charge the Chair of the IABA with approaching the President of the IDB and the members of the Board of Governors of the IDB directly, on behalf of the 34 Ministers of Agriculture of the Member States, to enlist support for the important work that IICA is called upon to accomplish in the agricultural and rural areas in support of implementation of that Bank's institutional policy "Opportunities for the majority".
3. To urge the Ministers of Agriculture to promote IICA in their respective countries as the partner of choice for the conduct of studies and for the identification, preparation and execution of any technical cooperation and investment programs and projects financed by the IDB in the priority areas of the Member States and, accordingly, to urge the Bank to consider the advisability of entrusting to IICA the execution of these tasks before having recourse to competitive bidding processes.

4. To instruct the Director General to submit to the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee a progress report on furthering ties and joint work between IICA and the IDB in the framework of the provisions of this resolution.

IICA/JIA/Res.432(XIV-O/07)

26 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 432**PROGRESS IN COLLECTING QUOTAS
OWED TO THE INSTITUTE AS OF JUNE 30, 2007**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.312(07), "Report from the Director General on the Current Status of Quota Payments and Progress in Collecting Quotas owed to the Institute",

CONSIDERING:

That the financial strengthening of the Institute and the normal execution of the programs and projects included in the national, regional and hemispheric cooperation agendas can only be possible if Member States pay their quota arrearages and keep up to date with payments of their annual quotas;

That by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res.414(XIII-O/05), the IABA adopted the document "Revised Measures for Collecting Quotas owed to the Institute";

That the aforementioned document draws and improves on the provisions of Resolutions IICA/CE/Res.417(XXIV-O/04) of the Executive Committee, and IICA/JIA/Res.392 (XII-O/03) of the IABA for the purpose of establishing a set of measures intended to encourage Member States to make current their financial obligations to the Institute;

That thanks to the effectiveness of the measures adopted, the goodwill and support of the Ministers of Agriculture and other authorities in the Member States, and the efforts of the General Directorate of IICA, it has been possible to decrease considerably the total amount of quotas owed to the Institute; and

That the above has enabled the Administration to fund the current 2006-2007 Program Budget and to fund the special budget approved by the governing bodies of the Institute for the execution of high-priority programs in the aforementioned biennium,

RESOLVES

1. To thank the Ministers of Agriculture, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, other high-level officials, and the governments of the Member States of IICA for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.
2. To acknowledge the importance of maintaining in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage Member States to make their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion and to pay quota arrearages for previous years.
3. To instruct the Director General to: a) continue efforts to collect quotas for the current year and those in arrears for previous years, and b) to keep the Member States informed of progress in this area.
4. To urge Member States to keep up to date with their quota payments to the Institute and to fulfill the terms of the payment plans agreed to with the General Directorate for the payment of quotas for previous years.

IICA/JIA/Res.433(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 433**2008-2009 PROGRAM BUDGET**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.313(07), "Proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget",

CONSIDERING:

That the Convention on the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) establishes:

- In Article 8(b) that a function of the IABA is "to approve the biennial Program Budget and to determine the annual quotas of the Member States";
- In Article 23 that "[T]he Member States shall contribute to the maintenance of the Institute through annual quotas established by the Board, in accordance with the system for calculating quotas of the Organization of American States";
- In Article 14(b) that a function of the Executive Committee is "[T]o examine the proposed biennial program budget that the Director General submits to the Board and to make such observations and recommendations as it deems appropriate";

That the Director General submitted the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget to the Executive Committee for consideration at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting in a format consistent with the structure and content established in the rules currently in effect; and

That, at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee reviewed the proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget and in Resolution IICA/CE/Res.471(XXVII-O/07) recommended that the IABA approve it,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amount of US\$31,327,816 annually from the Regular Fund as the overall allocation for the 2008-2009 Program Budget of the Institute, financed with quota contributions from the Member States in the amount of US\$27,227,816 per year and with miscellaneous income in the amount of US\$4,100,000 per year consisting of US\$3,600,000 in expected income per year and up to US\$1,000,000 from the Miscellaneous Income Fund, US\$500,000 for each year of the biennium, as specified in Appendix A.
2. To approve the quota scale in effect for 2008 and 2009 indicated in Appendix A, which corresponds to the scale approved by the General Assembly of the OAS in its Resolution AG/RES. 1(XXXI-E/06)³.
3. To approve the use of resources from the 2008-2009 Program Budget in accordance with the allocations for each of the chapters, strategic priorities, scopes of action and major objects of expenditure detailed in document IICA/CE/Doc.313(07), "Proposed 2008-2009 Program Budget". The summary of allocations by chapter is attached as Appendix B to this resolution.
4. To authorize the Director General to make transfers among chapters of the 2008-2009 Program Budget, provided that the total transfers do not increase or reduce the chapters by more than 10 percent and do not significantly affect the priorities approved.
5. To authorize the Director General to make the necessary adjustments in the allocation of resources approved in this resolution, should the combined income for each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009 fall below estimated levels for the biennium in question, and inform the Executive Committee and the IABA of this situation.

³ The Delegates of Chile and Mexico said that they did not support this operative paragraph because they did not agree with the increase in quotas for their respective countries which that scale implied.

APPENDIX A
2008-2009 PROGRAM BUDGET

Quota Scale of the Member States and Miscellaneous Income

MEMBER STATES	2008			2009	
	OAS ¹	IICA		IICA	
	%	%	AMOUNT	%	AMOUNT
Antigua and Barbuda	0.024	0.024	6,602	0.024	6,602
Argentina	4.282	4.282	1,177,922	4.282	1,177,922
Bahamas	0.084	0.084	23,107	0.084	23,107
Barbados	0.080	0.080	22,007	0.080	22,007
Belize	0.026	0.026	7,152	0.026	7,152
Bolivia	0.060	0.060	16,505	0.060	16,505
Brazil	7.626	7.626	2,097,812	7.626	2,097,812
Canada	13.761	13.761	3,785,469	13.761	3,785,469
Chile	1.112	1.112	305,897	1.112	305,897
Colombia	0.807	0.807	221,995	0.807	221,995
Costa Rica	0.150	0.150	41,263	0.150	41,263
Dominica	0.017	0.017	4,676	0.017	4,676
Dominican Republic	0.165	0.165	45,389	0.165	45,389
Ecuador	0.165	0.165	45,389	0.165	45,389
El Salvador	0.084	0.084	23,107	0.084	23,107
Grenada	0.022	0.022	6,052	0.022	6,052
Guatemala	0.150	0.150	41,263	0.150	41,263
Guyana	0.022	0.022	6,052	0.022	6,052
Haiti	0.060	0.060	16,505	0.060	16,505
Honduras	0.060	0.060	16,505	0.060	16,505
Jamaica	0.163	0.163	44,839	0.163	44,839
Mexico	6.513	6.513	1,791,640	6.513	1,791,640
Nicaragua	0.060	0.060	16,505	0.060	16,505
Panama	0.130	0.130	35,761	0.130	35,761
Paraguay	0.165	0.165	45,389	0.165	45,389
Peru	0.443	0.443	121,863	0.443	121,863
Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.022	0.022	6,052	0.022	6,052
Saint Lucia	0.024	0.024	6,602	0.024	6,602
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	0.022	0.022	6,052	0.022	6,052
Suriname	0.060	0.060	16,505	0.060	16,505
Trinidad and Tobago	0.180	0.180	49,516	0.180	49,516
United States of America	59.470	59.470	16,359,412	59.470	16,359,412
Uruguay	0.223	0.223	61,344	0.223	61,344
Venezuela	2.747	2.747	755,663	2.747	755,663
SUB TOTAL	98.979	98.979	27,227,816	98.979	27,227,816
Cuba	1.021	1.021		1.021	
TOTAL QUOTAS	100.000	100.000	27,227,816	100.000	27,227,816
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME ²			4,100,000		4,100,000
TOTAL REGULAR FUND			31,327,816		31,327,816

1/ In accordance with OAS General Assembly Resolution AG/RES. 1 (XXXI-E/06).

2/ Miscellaneous income in 2008 and 2009 consists of US\$3,600,000 in estimated income and US\$500,000 from the Miscellaneous Income Fund.

APPENDIX B
2008-2009 PROGRAM BUDGET
SUMMARY BY CHAPTER
(US\$ x 000)

CHAPTER	2008			2009		
	QUOTAS	MISCELLANEOUS	TOTAL	QUOTAS	MISCELLANEOUS	TOTAL
I: DIRECT TECHNICAL COOPERATION SERVICES	24.350,6	3.587,9	27.938,4	24.350,6	3.587,9	27.938,4
Strategic Priority						
1. Trade and Competitiveness of Agribusiness	6.092,7	922,0	7.014,7	6.092,7	922,0	7.014,7
2. Technology and Innovation	5.462,4	574,4	6.036,8	5.462,4	574,4	6.036,8
3. Agricultural Health and Food Safety	5.094,6	935,6	6.030,2	5.094,6	935,6	6.030,2
4. Development of Rural Communities	3.687,3	710,2	4.397,5	3.687,3	710,2	4.397,5
5. Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	1.792,8	206,0	1.998,9	1.792,8	206,0	1.998,9
6. Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life and Renewal of their Institutional Framework	2.220,8	239,6	2.460,4	2.220,8	239,6	2.460,4
II: MANAGEMENT COSTS	1.292,5	82,8	1.375,3	1.292,5	82,8	1.375,3
Office of the Director General	629,0	20,0	649,0	629,0	20,0	649,0
Directorate of Administration and Finance	663,5	62,8	726,3	663,5	62,8	726,3
III: GENERAL COSTS AND PROVISIONS ¹	1.103,2	0,0	1.103,2	1.103,2	0,0	1.103,2
Governing Bodies	400,0	0,0	400,0	400,0	0,0	400,0
Insurance	320,0	0,0	320,0	320,0	0,0	320,0
Pensions	262,7	0,0	262,7	262,7	0,0	262,7
OAS Administrative Tribunal	25,0	0,0	25,0	25,0	0,0	25,0
External Audit	95,5	0,0	95,5	95,5	0,0	95,5
IV: RENEWAL OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT	481,6	429,4	911,0	481,6	429,4	911,0
TOTAL	27.227,8	4.100,0	31.327,8	27.227,8	4.100,0	31.327,8

^{1/} Does not include Cuba's quota.

IICA/JIA/Res.434(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 434**2008-2009 SPECIAL BUDGET FINANCED WITH
RESOURCES FROM THE GENERAL SUBFUND**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.314(07), "Proposed 2008-2009 Special Budget Financed with Resources from the General Subfund",

CONSIDERING:

That at their meetings held in 2007, the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) and the Executive Committee endorsed several proposals from the Director General to expand and strengthen the technical cooperation services provided by the Institute to the member countries in various high-priority fields;

That during the next biennium, the Institute expects to receive payments for quota arrearages from Member States;

That the Director General has proposed that a part of these resources be earmarked for financing the expansion and strengthening of those priority technical cooperation services,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve an overall allocation of US\$1,000,000 as the 2008-2009 special budget to be financed with resources received by IICA for quota arrearages.

2. To authorize the Executive Committee to approve, at its Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting, to be held in 2008, the distribution of the 2008-2009 Special Budget in the amount of US\$1,000,000, in accordance with the analysis and recommendations of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues regarding the proposal submitted to it for consideration by the Director General.

IICA/JIA/Res.435(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 435**REMUNERATION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution IICA/CE/Res.478(XXVII-O/07), System for Determining and Reviewing the Compensation of the Director General,

CONSIDERING:

That, Article 8.f. of the IICA Convention assigns to the IABA the function of establishing the Director General's salary;

That since the entry into force of the IICA Convention in 1981, the IABA has followed the practice, except in the year 1986, of approving increases in the salary of the Director General by the same percentage as the increases approved in the budget for international professional personnel of the Institute, or as an alternative, by the same percentage increase in the Program Budget for the corresponding biennium;

That the Program Budget approved for the 2008-2009 biennium includes a three percent increase in the basic salaries of international professional personnel of the Institute as part of a total budgetary increase of three percent;

That in its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee adopted Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 478 (XXVII-O/07), which establishes a methodology and assigns responsibility for the implementation of the mandate of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA to analyze and establish a system for determining the remuneration of the Director General,

RESOLVES:

1. To increase the Director General's basic salary by three per cent for the 2008 fiscal year.
2. To adopt as its own Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 478 (XXVII-O/07) with the following modification to operative paragraph no. 4: [I]n considering the SACMI's recommendation, the Executive Committee shall give strong consideration to making any adjustment to the Director General's compensation retroactive to January 1, 2009."

IICA/JIA/Res.436(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 436**AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 65, 87 AND 88 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE INTER/AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) AND
RATIFICATION OF THE AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLES 73, 96 AND 97 OF
THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.320 (07), "Proposed amendments to articles 73, 96 and 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and articles 65, 87 and 88 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA" concerning the minutes of the meetings of the Governing Bodies of the Institute, and Resolution IICA/CE/Res.455(XXVI-O/06), adopted by the Executive Committee at its Twenty-sixth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the General Directorate of the Institute has invested effort and made strides in modernizing support services involved in preparing for and holding the meetings of the Executive Committee and the IABA;

That the adoption of new information and communication technologies has been crucial in this modernization process and has made it possible to introduce major improvements in the procedures for sending documents in electronic format rather than as printed copies, and to expedite the process for responding to enquiries, for participants to register on line and for making changes in documents;

That the procedures established in the rules of the Institute regarding working documents, the preparation of minutes and the final reports of meetings must be reviewed and updated to reflect the improvements made in such procedures; and

That, accordingly, and pursuant to the recommendation of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, the Executive Committee, through resolution IICA/CE/Res.455(XXVI-O/06), adopted, *ad referendum* of the IABA, amendments to articles 73, 96 and 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee and recommended to the IABA that it adopt the parallel amendments in articles 65, 87 and 88 of its Rules of Procedure,

RESOLVES:

1. To replace the texts of articles 73, 96 and 97 of the Rules of Procedures of the Executive Committee with the following texts:

Article 73. The working documents, informational documents and visual aids for presentations for meetings of the Committee shall be prepared in Spanish and English. Draft resolutions, recommendations, agreements and other documents shall be distributed in the official languages of the Member States sitting on the Committee. The Final Report of the Committee shall be prepared in the four official languages.

Article 96. The Technical Secretary shall record each session and prepare the draft summary minutes based on the respective recordings. The summary minutes shall include only the main items discussed, as well as the resolutions and other decisions adopted. After the meeting, the Technical Secretary shall review in detail the contents of the summary minutes, based on the recordings and the observations received in due course from the members of the Committee. The Technical Secretary shall deliver to the Delegates of the Member States of the Institute a compact disc with the recordings in standard digital format.

Article 97. The Final Report shall contain all the resolutions, recommendations and agreements adopted by the Committee, the summary minutes, speeches and annexes. Prior to its publication, the document shall be edited and translated into the other official languages of the Institute. The Technical Secretariat shall ensure that the text of the Final Report is stylistically correct, is consistent in the four official languages of the Institute and is delivered to the Member States of the Institute. The Chairperson of the Committee and the *ex-officio* Secretary shall sign the approved Final Report.

2. To replace the texts of articles 65, 87 and 88 of the Rules of Procedures of the IABA with the following texts:

Article 65. The working documents, informational documents and visual aids for presentations for meetings of the Board shall be prepared in Spanish and English. Draft resolutions, recommendations, agreements and other documents shall be distributed in the four official languages. The Final Report of the IABA shall be prepared in the four official languages.

Article 87. The Technical Secretary, designated by the Director General, shall record each session and shall deliver to the Delegates of the Member States the recordings in standard digital format. The summary minutes of the plenary sessions and the sessions of the committees shall be prepared by the Director General in his capacity as *ex-officio* Secretary of the Board, or by the Technical Secretary, and shall include the main items discussed in each session, for incorporation into the Final Report of the meeting.

Article 88. The Final Report shall contain all the resolutions, recommendations and agreements adopted by the Board, the summary minutes, the speeches and annexes. Prior to its publication, the document shall be edited and translated into the other official languages of the Institute. The Technical Secretariat shall ensure that the text of the Final Report is stylistically correct, is consistent in the four official languages of the Institute, and is delivered to the Member States of the Institute. The Chairperson of the Board and the *ex-officio* Secretary shall sign the approved Final Report.

IICA/JIA/Res.437(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 437

**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE THIRTEENTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE INTER/AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.318(07), “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture”,

CONSIDERING:

That the report demonstrates that the General Directorate has satisfactorily complied with the resolutions adopted at the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from August 30-September 1, 2005,

RESOLVES:

To approve the Report “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture” and to express its satisfaction with the implementation of those resolutions.

IICA/JIA/Res.438(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 438**DATE AND SITE OF THE FIFTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That, in accordance with Article 16 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), regular meetings of the IABA shall be held every two years, preferably during the second half of the second year of the Institute's biennium, and that at each meeting, the Board shall decide on the site and provisional date of the subsequent regular meeting, in accordance with written offers submitted by the governments of the Member States to the Director General of IICA;

That, in accordance with Article 17 of the Rules of Procedure of the IABA, the Board shall select a site for its regular meetings from among the offers received, and in accordance with the principle of rotation and geographic distribution; and

That at the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, the Government of Jamaica offered that country as the site of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept and thank the Government of Jamaica for its generous offer to serve as host for the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
2. To provide that the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA shall be held in Jamaica in the second half of 2009.

IICA/JIA/Res.439(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 439

**VOTE OF THANKS TO THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA TO THE AUTHORITIES OF
THE CITY OF ANTIGUA, GUATEMALA**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That, thanks to the hospitality of the people and government of Guatemala, the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas, in the framework of which the 2007 Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates (GRICA), the Fora of key stakeholders in agriculture and rural life and the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural life in the Context of the Summit of the Americas Process and the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA were also held, took place from July 23 through 27,

RESOLVES:

1. To extend gracious thanks to His Excellency Mr. Oscar Berger Perdomo, Constitutional President of the Republic of Guatemala, for his distinguished and enlightened participation in this Week of such great importance for agriculture and rural life in the Americas.
2. To express appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Bernardo Lopez Figueroa, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Food of Guatemala, for his utmost willingness to engage in constructive dialogue with his colleagues and for the very efficient and evenhanded manner in which he chaired the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
3. To thank the industrious staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food, of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of other public and private

institutions in the Republic of Guatemala for their cordial welcome and generous support, which were determining factors in the success of the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas.

IICA/JIA/Res.440(XIV-O/07)
27 July 2007
Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 440

**2005-2006 BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc. 315(07), “2005-2006 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)”,

CONSIDERING:

That under the terms of the current agreement between IICA and CARDI, the latter organization is to submit a biennial report to the IABA covering technical, financial and administrative matters; and

That the Executive Director of CARDI submitted the 2005-2006 biennial report of that Center to the IABA at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the authorities and personnel of CARDI for presenting the 2005-2006 biennial report of that Center.
2. To congratulate the Executive Director of CARDI on the contents and presentation of that Report.
3. To delegate to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing the biennial report of CARDI.

IICA/JIA/Res.441(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 441**2005-2006 BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH AND HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)**

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/JIA/Doc.316(07), "2005-2006 Biennial Report of the Tropical Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)",

CONSIDERING:

That in accordance with Clause Nine of the CATIE Contract, signed between the government of the Republic of Costa Rica and IICA, the Center is to submit a biennial report to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) covering technical, financial, and administrative matters; and

That the Director General of CATIE presented to the IABA at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting the 2005-2006 biennial report,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the authorities and personnel of CATIE for presenting the 2005-2006 Biennial Report.
2. To congratulate the Director General of CATIE on the contents and presentation of that report.
3. To delegate to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing the reports and plans of CATIE and to request its Director General,

in future, to forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the version of the biennial report and plans of that Center accepted by the Executive Committee.

IICA/JIA/Res.442(XIV-O/07)

27 July 2007

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 442**PROPOSED ADDITION TO LAW No. 8028 OF COSTA RICA**
EMPOWERING CATIE TO GRANT PROFESSIONAL
CREDENTIALS AND ACADEMIC DEGREES

The INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA), at its Fourteenth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Resolution CS-Extraordinaria No.1-2007 of the Governing Council of Ministers of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and Resolution IICA/CE/Res.479(XXVII-O/07), adopted by the Executive Committee of IICA at its Twenty-seventh Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That CATIE, created in 1973 by means of a contract between IICA and the Government of Costa Rica, is an entity dedicated to research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects and also to post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, for the benefit of the Member States of IICA;

That Law No. 8028, of the Republic of Costa Rica, of September 12, 2000, establishes that CATIE's participation in post-graduate programs must be based on "such agreements and programs as may be agreed upon for this purpose;"

That under such law, CATIE does not have the legal authority to grant on its own academic degrees or professional credentials, a situation that is not consistent with its caliber as the oldest post-graduate school that is one of the most prestigious in Latin America;

That clause 34 of the aforementioned Law No. 8028 stipulates that amendments to that law require the approval of the Governing Council of CATIE and the IABA prior to being submitted to the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica for consideration;

That, by virtue of the above, the Board of Directors of CATIE, through ratification of resolution 14-07/XXVIII ROCEF, requested the Director General of CATIE to negotiate with CATIE's Governing Council authorization to propose an addition to Law No. 8028 of the Republic of Costa Rica in order to give the Center authority to grant academic degrees and professional credentials;

That the Governing Council of Ministers of CATIE approved said modification in Resolution CS/Extraordinaria No. 1-2007 of May 2007, and requested that same be submitted for approval to the IABA;

That the IICA Executive Committee, by Resolution No. 479 of May 17, 2007, recommended that the IABA view said modification favorably; and

That, as a precedent, by means of an amendment to Law No. 7044 creating EARTH University (*Escuela de Agricultura de la Región del Trópico Húmedo-EARTH*), Law No. 7357 of the Republic of Costa Rica, that institution was granted the right to offer academic degrees and professional credentials, which give authority to exercise the respective professions,

RESOLVES:

To unanimously approve the proposal to request the amendment to Law No. 8028 of the Republic of Costa Rica, as approved by the Governing Council of Ministers of CATIE and contained in Annex 1 of this resolution, so as to give CATIE the power to grant professional credentials and academic degrees.

ANNEX 1

Current Text	Proposed amendment of text (The text underlined in bold is the proposed amendment)
<p>FIRST CLAUSE.- The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects, for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under the agreements and programs established for those purposes.</p>	<p>FIRST CLAUSE.- The objective of the present Contract is to establish a scientific and educational civil association, with full legal standing, whose purposes shall be research in the agricultural sciences and on natural resources and related subjects, for the tropical regions of the Americas, especially in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean, and post-graduate training and other courses of study in the agricultural sciences and on renewable natural resources and related subjects, offered for the benefit of the Member States of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). <u>As such, CATIE is empowered to grant academia degrees and professional credentials in its areas of competence, which will enable its graduates to exercise their respective professions.</u></p>

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

**SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE FOURTEENTH REGULAR
MEETING OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF
AGRICULTURE**

Pursuant to Article 85 of the Rules of Procedure of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, the Report of the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture is hereby signed in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese, the official languages of that meeting, at 18:00 on the twenty-seventh day of the year two thousand and seven.

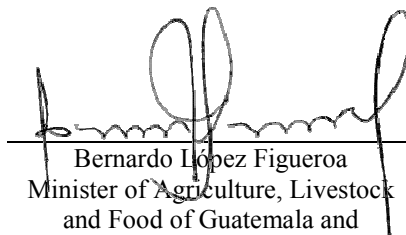
These reports will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes adopted during the Closing Session will also be included before its publication in the four official languages in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretary shall file the original texts in the archives of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and the General Directorate shall send copies of the official version of this report to the Governments of the Member States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

La Antigua Guatemala, Guatemala.



Chelston W.D. Brathwaite
Director General of IICA and
Ex officio Secretary of the IABA



Bernardo López Figueroa
Minister of Agriculture, Livestock
and Food of Guatemala and
Chairman of the IABA

SPEECHES

ADDRESS BY MR. CARLOS DANILO VALLEJO LÓPEZ, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK, AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES OF ECUADOR ON HANDING OVER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE IABA

Two days ago, the Minister of Agriculture of Guatemala, Bernardo López, recounted an exchange between himself and the Vice President of Guatemala whom he asked: “Will we be able to do everything we want?” To which the Vice President replied: “If not now, when?” And the Minister said in reply: “Yes, it’s now or never”. I relate this exchange because it seems to me that Latin America and the Caribbean, and for that matter, all of the Americas, are at a point in their history when it is incumbent upon us to take decisions and act “now”. If we don’t now, we never will.

For Latin America, the nineties were a lost decade. During this period, the region was, so to speak, absent from the world stage, under the effects of the free trade model, which hardly seems to work in a region like ours where the countries are plagued by monopolies and oligopolies and where political control is fierce. Today, all countries of the Americas need to redefine the objectives of the development models they have been promoting since that time. What we need are new models with new differentiated strategies for tackling the specific social, economic and political problems in each country. However, we need to set common policies and objectives. And once these policies and objectives have been set, the international organizations, like IICA, need to support the countries’ efforts to define strategies and programs.

Ecuador has moved farther along in mapping out a different path for its development without deviating from the mandates of the IABA. Over the last four years, we have worked on defining policies and, in this process, have engaged the participation of all the various stakeholders in the agricultural sector of Ecuador, including entrepreneurs, public institutions, rural organizations, etc. We now have State policies that will be in effect until 2017. These policies seek to restructure the public and private institutional framework tailored to the interests of all social players, entrepreneurs, rural organizations, small-, medium- and large-scale producers, etc.

Allow me to read a paragraph: *Rural poverty, in which lie the seeds of all poverty, needs to be combated urgently, effectively and efficiently. This scourge, which triggers unplanned rural-urban migration to the peripheries of urban conglomerates, poses a serious threat to the stability we seek for our societies in general. The social and rural organizations, which are increasingly more organized in Latin America, are sending us signals about their patience wearing thin, about decades and decades of neglect, the*

effects of which resonate in urban society and in the numbers of migrants who leave our national soil, mainly because of lack of job and employment opportunities.

In Latin America, we must continue to fight for poverty alleviation. It is said that poverty has declined, but the problems associated with it continue. For example, millions of people migrate because of the lack of job prospects and because of hunger and work a double working day in and day out to be able to pay their “*coyotes*” and send home remittances to their families.

In Latin America, we need to make a clear differentiation between what we are to produce and who is to produce. Many times, the situation is polarized in that the poor produce cheap food which is sold at prices that barely keep them at the subsistence level, whereas the rich produce export products. No! Let us change the model! Can't we? Couldn't small-scale farmers with farms of 10 to 20 hectares produce ethanol, biodiesel and other export products so that bio-energy production would no longer be concentrated in the hands of the big companies? Yes, we can! We have done it in Ecuador and we are willing to share our experience with other countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. This is why technical cooperation from the multilateral organizations is of the essence. But so is bilateral technical cooperation between the various countries. We all have to learn from one another and we should all ask for international cooperation from everybody.

Let me tell you another story. In the Amazon forest of Ecuador there is a national park, known as *Bosque Protector Yasuni*. This is home to the richest biodiversity of Amazonia and we wish to conserve it. But in the subsoil are Ecuador's richest sources of oil, exploitation of which could generate US\$15 billion a year for 30 years. This would help us alleviate poverty and hunger in our population, 64% of whom live in poverty and get by on less than US\$2 a day. Let me be clear. We are aware of the importance of environmental conservation and if we finally exploit the oil in the Yasuni subsoil, we will do so in such a way that we ensure the protection and conservation of the natural resources of that area.

What is worrying is that when the news spread about us considering the possibility of exploiting the Yasuni, the whole world exclaimed: “Don't touch the Yasuni”. We said that we would not but that to conserve it we needed help from everybody. We proposed that the developed countries help us –not with the US\$15 billion that the exploitation of the Yasuni subsoil would generate each year- but with US\$350 million. Everyone agreed, everyone applauded our decision and everyone sent congratulatory letters because our country was doing something that would benefit the entire world. But look, in one month, we will have reached the deadline for receiving the contributions and we have not even received US\$50,000.

Many thanks for your attention, many thanks for understanding the direction we need to take, and thanks to IICA for its new concept of technical cooperation from the multilateral organizations. Thanks, because this means that all those who are building the new Latin American world has faith in the future.

Thank you all very much.

**ADDRESS BY. CHELSTON W. D. BRATHWAITE, DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF IICA, AT THE INAUGURAL SESSION**

During the period 2005 to 2006, the Institute finalized the 2002-2006 Medium-Term Plan (MTP) and initiated the implementation of the 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan.

The Annual Report for 2005 and 2006 has been presented to the Meeting. This presentation today basically focuses on the achievements of the Institute during 2006.

In its 2006-2010 Medium-Term Plan, the Institute redefined its mission, placing greater emphasis on the provision of innovative technical cooperation in an effort to make IICA the leading agricultural institute in the Americas.

The Medium-Term Plan of the Institute for 2006-2010 has as its global objective to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by promoting prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas. It defines the strategic orientation for the work of the Institute during the next four years and proposes mechanisms to help our countries create greater opportunities in the rural economy. The Medium-Term Plan was prepared in consultation with the officials of all Member States and comments received have been incorporated into the text.

The Plan will assist our Member States in developing a new institutional framework for agriculture and rural life and in the implementation of a number of strategic technical priorities. These actions will assist in the promotion of sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity, which, in turn, will contribute to the eradication of poverty and hunger, environmental sustainability and the functioning of a global partnership for development.

In keeping with the dynamic changes under way throughout the hemisphere as a result of the Summit of the Americas process, and in agreement with the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan of Action, IICA provided its member countries with ongoing support, helping them to comply with commitments assumed in the Summits process and the ministerial agreements.

The Administration made changes in the organizational structure which facilitated greater integration of the Institute's units, the consolidation of the IICA model for technical cooperation, and joint efforts involving the Directorate of Regional Operations and Integration, the Directorate of Technical Leadership and Knowledge

Management, the Directorate of Administration and Finance, and the Offices in the member countries.

The Institute continued to focus its technical cooperation on the achievement of concrete results and inter-agency cooperation. Examples of this include:

- inter-agency cooperation in the preparation of the 2007 Report on the State of and Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Life, which has been circulated;
- the widespread application of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) instrument in efforts to modernize agricultural health and food safety services;
- the establishment of “reference territories” in which to apply the territorial approach to rural development; and
- the implementation of the Inter-American Biotechnology and Biosafety Program (IBBP). All of these initiatives were promoted by the new Directorate of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management, which gives direction to and monitors IICA’s cooperation from a hemispheric perspective.

Our Directorate of Regional Operations and Integration and the 34 Offices in the countries worked closely together to develop and strengthen national capabilities in the areas of policy formulation, agricultural health and food safety, technology innovation, territorial development, competitiveness of agribusiness, and to promote the linkage of farmers to markets.

IICA is on sound financial footing thanks to both the application of measures designed to ensure financial prudence, and the delivery of results that are in line with the needs identified in the technical cooperation agendas. For the third consecutive year, the collection of quotas has improved and external funding has increased, which clearly reflects the satisfaction of our Member States and our strategic partners with our work.

Aware of the fact that the development of agriculture and the improvement of rural life is a very complex task and that it requires the efforts of all actors (public sector, private sector and cooperation agencies), we encouraged inter-agency dialogue, opened our doors to new partners interested in the development of the hemisphere, and worked to strengthen existing agreements with organizations such as OAS, FAO, IDB, World Bank, PAHO, ECLAC, CATIE, the AECI and many others, which have produced positive results in different fields.

A RENEWED IICA TO FACE THE NEW HEMISPHERIC DYNAMIC OF THE XXIst CENTURY

Since the start of the reform process in 2002, IICA has played a dual and complementary role to support the countries with the fulfillment of their commitments relating to the mandates of the Summits and the ministerial agreements. It has continued to play its conventional role of an international cooperation organization in keeping with the new hemispheric dynamic that has emerged from the Summit of the Americas Process.

Accordingly, during 2006, the Institute:

- publicized the mandates of the Summits of the Americas and the ministerial agreements on agriculture and rural life;
- supported the chairmanship of the ministerial process 2006-2007 in which capacity Guatemala served;
- provided cooperation for the regional processes to implement the ministerial agreements; and
- coordinated actions to support implementation of the mandates with other international organizations. With regard to the latter, IICA, ECLAC (Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean) and FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization) have worked together to develop indicators for the system for monitoring and evaluating the AGRO Plan, in fulfillment of mandate 43 of the 2005 Plan of Action of Mar del Plata.

To facilitate the coordination of the ministerial process and that of the Americas Summit Process, IICA has participated in the review and follow-up mechanisms led by the OAS with a view to renewing and consolidating the positioning of agriculture and rural life in subsequent meetings of Heads of State and Government. To this end, the Institute has kept the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), made up of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the hemisphere and their National Coordinators, informed continually about preparations for the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, progress with the 2006-2007 ministerial process, and the contributions of IICA and other international organizations to the implementation of the 2005 Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil.

REGIONAL INTEGRATION

Regarding regional integration within the framework of the hemispheric ministerial process, IICA has focused on the implementation and follow-up of the 2005 Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil. Accordingly, it has served as Secretariat of CAC (Central American Agricultural Council), the Caribbean Alliance for the Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu (the Alliance) and, more recently, the CAS (Southern Agricultural Council).

In this capacity, the Institute supported the political decisions taken during the regional meetings of Ministers of Agriculture. In the Caribbean, within the framework of the Jagdeo Initiative, support was provided to the Alliance to develop a system to follow up on and evaluate this Initiative and the AGRO Plan.

In Central America, in response to a decision taken by CAC in June 2006, support was provided for the organization of the First Central American Workshop for Ministerial Delegates, which defined a strategy to guide each country's work.

IICA continued to support the work of the CAS and its advisory bodies, such as the Agricultural Policies Coordination Network of the Southern Region, the Informal Group of Southern Agricultural Negotiators, PROCISUR and the Secretariats of the Permanent Veterinary Committee and the Plant Health Council (COSAVE). In this region, IICA worked with the Faculties of Agronomy in redesigning the academic programs in higher education centers, evaluating training courses, and in strategic planning and curriculum design.

In the Northern Region, we supported the meeting of the Trinational Council, consisting of representatives of the United States of America, Mexico and Canada, and supported agreed actions in this region in the areas of biotechnology and biosafety, the strengthening of agricultural health and food safety and the promotion of agribusiness and trade. The Institute supported the Mexico-Canada Bean Congress and working with Agriculture and Agrifood Canada sponsored the 2006 Forum on Agriculture within the framework of the Conference of Montreal.

In its desire to cooperate with other regions and countries, the Northern Region publicized Mexico's experience in trade negotiations, coordinated actions to combat fruit fly pest and reduce the risk of foot and mouth and mad cow disease and, as in other regions, addressed the threat of avian influenza as a priority.

IMPROVING COMMUNICATION

As part of the efforts to modernize the technological infrastructure and thereby improve communication and information sharing among the Institute's Offices, Headquarters, staff and partners, the Virtual Private Network is now in operation in almost all of IICA's Offices.

Technological tools, such as the Intranet, the system for preparing and recording reports and monitoring institutional agreements, were also designed and revised.

The Institute Web portal was also redesigned. The focus is on the management of technical knowledge and information resources in each country. This, in turn, facilitates the publication and decentralized management of information, the creation of virtual communities and the implementation of Internet-based forums and videoconferences, among other benefits.

THE TRUE CONTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The findings of the studies on the true contribution of agriculture to economic development are a key argument for defending the strategic role of the agricultural sector and repositioning it in State policies. Consequently, IICA played an active part in assessing and updating these studies in Mexico, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States.

IICA DAY AT THE OAS

Another result related to IICA's efforts to reposition agriculture was the establishment of IICA Day at the OAS. During the first activity of this kind, the Permanent Council of the OAS recognized the Institute's work on agricultural and rural development, and underscored the importance of its actions in the fields of agricultural health and food safety, biotechnology and agro-tourism. In other events held in the member countries, IICA also presented arguments supporting the important role that agriculture and rural life play in socioeconomic development.

TECHNICAL FORUMS

The hemispheric dialogue on critical issues that impact the agricultural sector or determine its development was promoted through hemispheric technical forums

involving pertinent experts and representatives of specialized centers. The topics addressed in 2006 included:

- The Doha Round of Agricultural Negotiations: the results of the Hong Kong Meeting;
- Policies for the development of rural territories in Brazil;
- State policies for agriculture and rural life, and
- Climate change and the vulnerability of agriculture and the rural milieu.

IMPLEMENTING THE NEW MEDIUM-TERM PLAN

Time will not permit me to enter into a detailed treatment of all our technical actions in the implementation of the new Medium-Term Plan. I would, however, like to present some of our results in the following areas.

1. Trade and Agribusiness Competitiveness
2. Agricultural Health and Food Safety
3. Technology and Innovation
4. Agroenergy and biofuels
5. Biotechnology and Biosafety
6. Agricultural Insurance
7. Agro-tourism

TRADE AND THE COMPETITIVENESS OF AGRIBUSINESS

With regard to promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness, it is important to emphasize IICA's efforts to improve the business skills of small- and medium-scale producers in Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Haiti, Guatemala, Panama and Barbados. This was possible thanks to the leadership of the Inter-American Program for the Promotion of Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety, based in our Miami Office, which is responsible for:

- coordinating export platforms;
- promoting business missions;
- supporting marketing studies;
- producing specialized trade information, and
- producing publications for the productive sectors.

We also wish to thank the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for providing financial support to the agricultural market information systems coordinated

by the Market Information Organization of the Americas, and the documentary information services provided in the context of the hemispheric system, SIDALC.

In order to improve capabilities in the administration of free trade agreements, IICA executed the horizontal technical cooperation program entitled “Policy and Trade Node: Focal Point Mexico”. It also continued to monitor the multilateral and bilateral negotiations of the countries of the hemisphere.

AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

With regard to agricultural health and food safety, the Member States have been able to defend their interests more effectively in the World Trade Organization’s Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures in Geneva by supporting the “IICA Initiative of the Americas on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures”. A major step forward is that more of the countries participating in this initiative have now included this issue as a priority in their regular work agendas.

Another important outcome has to do with IICA’s support for the modernization of agricultural health services through the application of the “Performance, Vision and Strategy” (PVS) instrument, which promotes strategic planning in the different agricultural health and food safety services in the countries.

The application of this instrument has facilitated a coordinated response by countries to the management of emergency situations related to transboundary diseases and has helped to improve national capabilities in the areas of animal health, food safety and plant protection. The PVS instrument has been validated by the World Organization for Animal Health, the World Bank, IDB and PAHO and is an input for the national programs.

The greatest concern during 2006 was the latent threat of avian influenza, which required all the regions of the hemisphere to tackle this issue. In response, IICA, together with its strategic partners designed an information campaign to warn of the risks and provide training to producers and opinion leaders at the hemispheric level.

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

We recognize the importance of technology and innovation in agricultural development and, for this reason, in partnership with the World Bank and other international organizations, IICA has contributed to the implementation of the global project “International Assessment of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development”.

The Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology-FONTAGRO, a \$37 million-dollar initiative to which member countries contribute and which is co-sponsored by IICA and the IDB, has promoted the execution of multinational research projects and the exchange of experiences between countries and regions with participation from the Regional Research Programs, PROCIs.

ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

We supported the development of new programs in organic agriculture, especially in Central America, thanks to the interest of the Central American Commission of Competent Authorities in Organic Agriculture, comprising the Directors of the offices in charge of overseeing this activity in the region and the Dominican Republic. This experience has enabled us to strengthen our links with the Austrian Development Cooperation Agency and the Government of Spain, with which IICA is already formulating national and regional proposals in this thematic area. The Institute has made Organic Agriculture a part of its work program, under the aegis of the Directorate of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management.

IICA's actions focus on three principal lines of action:

1. Support for the design of national strategies and policies for the development of organic agriculture;
2. Cooperation to establish and strengthen the institutional framework required for the development of the activity; and
3. Knowledge management in organic agriculture.

NEW PROGRAMS-RESPONSES TO THE IABA

Three new Inter-American programs went into operation in 2006 in response to resolutions adopted by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and the Executive Committee.

- The first is a platform for horizontal cooperation on agro-energy and bio-fuels.
- The second is the biotechnology and biosafety program, which has designed regional initiatives and coordinated networks and alliances with strategic partners at the global level.
- And the third is a program in agricultural insurance, where the Institute is working with specialized organizations to promote agricultural insurance in the agricultural sector.

AGROENERGY

The Platform for horizontal cooperation in agro-energy and bio-fuels is designed to assist our Member States to explore alternative sources of energy, given the high price of petroleum today.

The program seeks:

- a. to create a platform for the dissemination of knowledge, information and experiences in agro-energy and bio-fuel production;
- b. to create a specialized forum for discussions on agro-energy and bio-fuels where countries' concerns can be openly analyzed and discussed;
- c. to facilitate horizontal technical cooperation between and among the member countries, helping them to better understand the complexities of the production of agro-energy and bio-fuels.

The core of the IICA strategy is to assist the member countries in developing the institutional capacity required to support agro-energy entrepreneurial activities that will lead to sustainable livelihoods and a healthy environment, particularly for rural populations. Development of small- and medium-sized bio-fuel enterprises provides an excellent opportunity for generating employment and revitalizing rural economies, as well as for improving the dissemination of new technologies.

In December 2006, for example, the State of Florida, the Federation of Industry of the State of São Paulo and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) established the Inter-American Ethanol Commission for the purpose of promoting the production and consumption of ethanol throughout the hemisphere. IICA was invited to be the Chair of its Research Committee and for compiling information on the situation and outlook pertaining to agro-energy and bio-fuels in Latin America and the Caribbean.

BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY

The Hemispheric Biotechnology and Biosafety Program will assist our Member States in three specific areas:

1. Development of information systems on biotechnology and biosafety.
2. Assessment of needs for the development and appropriate use of biotechnology and biosafety.

3. Studies, discussion and analyses of the implications of regulations and treaties related to biotechnology and biosafety.

AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE

The Agricultural Insurance Program will assist our Member States in the management of risks inherent in the agricultural production process. It will also help them to mitigate the adverse effects of natural events such as hurricanes and floods.

AGRO-TOURISM LINKAGES

Given the importance of tourism in the Caribbean region, IICA worked with the Agro-Tourism Linkages Center in Barbados to consolidate its activities with the Caribbean Hotel Association and the Caribbean Tourism Association, particularly the Project financed by the OAS "*Strengthening the tourism sector through the development of linkages with the agricultural sector in the Caribbean*". Under that project, studies have been carried out, videos have been produced and workshops have been organized in Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and St. Kitts and Nevis.

INFORMATION SERVICES

Two important information systems continue to provide our Member States with relevant contents for their agricultural activities. INFOAGRO.NET has now implemented modules on trade, agribusiness, technology, biotechnology, health, rural development and agroindustry, and serves approximately 17,000 users, while the Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas–SIDALC–contains data collections from more than 140 institutions in 21 countries in the hemisphere with an estimated 300,000 users.

Recognizing knowledge management as a new tool for cooperation, and intellectual capital as one of the region's greatest resources for meeting the challenges of promoting agriculture and rural prosperity, IICA has not only taken the opportunity to promote the effective use and application of information, but also to intensify its capacity building efforts and improve the technical quality of our services throughout the hemisphere.

Accordingly, the Institute has reorganized its technical services, establishing a new Directorate of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management, which is responsible for monitoring the "state of the art" in agricultural issues, in order to guide

its technical cooperation actions. It is our responsibility to facilitate that cooperation between units at the hemispheric level, develop strong links with the other efforts at the regional and national levels and align the agendas with the 2006-2010 MTP.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

I should point out that much of this work is the result not only of the efforts with our strategic partners in the Member States, but also of a large number of international partners such as the OAS, FAO, IDB, PAHO, ECLAC, the Swiss Agency for International Development, the Biotechnology Industry Organization, the International Executive Service Corps, the US Grain Council, Harvard University, Florida International University, the Rural Policy Research Institute and American Agri Women, among others. Without them and other endeavors led by regional operations and Headquarters, it would not have been possible to implement the 534 cooperation actions reported by our Offices.

I must also mention the joint efforts undertaken by IICA and CATIE in 2006, in which both our institutions concentrated on the work of capacity building in biotechnology and agroforestry; the management of agricultural information at the hemispheric level through the Orton Memorial Library; technological innovation for the production and marketing of Central American coffee and the design of projects for joint implementation, presented to the Global and Environmental Facility (GEF), IDB and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

As a result of this relationship, IICA has forged links with other organizations such as the French International Center for Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), the Spanish International Cooperation Agency, the United States Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC) and Catholic Relief Services, among others.

CATIE and IICA, together with CIRAD, were selected to implement the integrated sustainable development project in the *Selva Lacandona* (PRODESIS) in Mexico.

The results of the new strategic partnership between IICA and FAO are an item on our agenda and so details will not be presented in this report.

All these actions and many others that I have not mentioned here are reflected in the reports of each of our 34 Member States – reference to each one of these would have taken too much of your time.

SUMMARY

Our work has assisted our Member States in improving the living conditions of millions of people who still depend on agriculture as their only source of income; in strengthening the national institutional framework for agricultural development; supporting the design of national policies and applying rules and standards in compliance with international regulations and systems to facilitate trade, investment and development; and promoting opportunities based on fair trade to increase the incomes of small- and medium-scale farmers and entrepreneurs.

As noted in the 2006 Annual Report, we cooperated with more than 18,000 stakeholders, organized 170 events, including meetings, workshops and seminars, produced some 239 documents on a wide range of national and regional issues, and implemented more than 500 cooperation activities.

Before concluding, it is fair to recall that what has characterized IICA in the last five years has been its model of technical cooperation and administrative management. This has been based on: the “bottom-up” construction of the technical cooperation agendas, which are developed in cooperation with the public sector, the private sector, academia and strategic partners etc. in each country, and in the regions. Our staff, comprising 95 international professionals and 225 local professionals; strive for technical excellence and financial prudence; seek to provide concrete results and solutions to problems and to take advantage of opportunities identified jointly with our Member States.

Thanks to this effort, the countries have also responded very positively with regard to our budget. In 2006, all the countries, with the exception of four, contributed their quota payments. This means that there is no Member State with more than two quotas pending, which has not already made payment arrangements, and this keeps the Institute’s financial situation in good order.

In 2006, Governments, financial institutions and other development agencies have invested their resources in IICA’s work, mobilizing a total of US\$134 million. The administration of these funds has generated US\$7 million, which has been used to cover the costs generated by the administration of external resources.

The financial situation that I have outlined has allowed us to carry out important activities that had been postponed for many years, including:

- Renewal of the infrastructure at Headquarters, built in 1976

- Purchase of the New Accounting-Financial System (SAP)
- Investment in training, attending to emergencies and horizontal cooperation
- Allocation of resources for new actions such as agro-tourism, agroindustry and organic agriculture, and
- Implementation of the new programs mentioned previously in biotechnology, agricultural insurance and agro-energy, and continuation of the program on trade, agribusiness and food safety led by the IICA Office in Miami.

For the fourth consecutive year, the external auditors have given IICA's finances a "clean bill of health", in accordance with institutional regulations and international auditing standards. I should also mention the fact that 91% of the quota resources - a total of 26.7 million dollars- was invested in the execution of the technical cooperation plans and agendas agreed on with the Member States.

In 2007, in addition to putting IICA's new financial system into operation, we will be:

- a. Supporting our Member States with evaluating IICA's technical capacity;
- b. implementing a professional in-service training program;
- c. strengthening our performance management and evaluation systems;
- d. promoting horizontal technical cooperation and the exchange of experiences, and
- e. designing the Forum for Leaders in Agriculture- a program for new Ministers of Agriculture and senior executives in the hemisphere's agricultural sector, which will enable us to develop joint and updated visions of the agricultural sector and our role as promoters of development.

We must invest in bright young minds in order to develop the leadership of the future. We are conscious that the development of young leaders in the agricultural sector should be an important part of the future agenda of the institute as we seek to create a new vision for agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

We are therefore proposing a new initiative that will promote young leaders with a global vision and provide a unique opportunity for those associated with agricultural

development in the Americas to expand their understanding of global development issues and to assist in the development of an inter-American network of young leaders who can effectively transform the agricultural sector of the Americas.

INSTITUTIONAL MODERNIZATION

The Institute is a knowledge-based organization for which the key factor is its own human resources. Based on the ongoing increase in demands from Member States for the Institute's expertise and the acceleration of the pace of change in the field of agriculture, it is critical for the Institute to invest in the development of its people. We are proposing in our special budget for 2008 funds for the upgrading and enhancement of the technical and leadership skills of professional staff, using both short-term professional development activities and sabbatical leave. We look forward to your support for this initiative.

There can be no doubt today that the modernization of public institutions is a critical need for development. The effort that we have made in the last five years to modernize IICA is the most important contribution that this administration will make to the institutional framework for agriculture in the hemisphere.

Honourable Ministers, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to end by renewing our commitment, to the hemisphere's rural and agricultural development, especially in 2007, the year in which IICA celebrates its 65th anniversary.

Thank you very much for your attention.

**ADDRESS BY DR. CHELSTON W. D. BRATHWAITE, DIRECTOR
GENERAL OF IICA, AT THE CLOSING SESSION**

We have come to the end of the Fourth Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas and the Fourteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board, and I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support, cooperation in making the meeting a success.

We leave Guatemala with a renewed vision and a strong resolve to continue to create a shared hemispheric agenda for the promotion of agriculture and rural life in the Americas. An agenda based on the promotion of competitiveness, sustainability, equity and good governance.

That vision has been strengthened during this week by dialogue, cooperation and a commitment to continue to work together towards the ultimate goal of a prosperous rural sector in the Americas where the benefits of democracy are manifest.

Our world today continues its advance towards one global world and as globalization proceeds, so do the challenges of cooperation and integration.

Many of today's problems, for example, transboundary diseases, poverty, climate change, energy, terrorism are not national problems but international problems that call for multinational global solutions.

In this regard, multinational organizations, such as ours that bridges the gaps of diversity, power, wealth and race between countries, have a key role to play in promoting joint solutions to our complex problems.

Today, the world continues to advance the global agenda for international cooperation to achieve the millennium development goals and an agreement on global trade.

The concept of a new global economy in which no country is constrained by its geographic size but has the potential to create enterprises that can operate in the new regional, hemispheric and global environment is an exciting reality for development in our countries.

However, the potential of a global economy will only become a reality if globalization and trade liberalization are controlled and regulated by transparent, science-based rules, with instruments and institutions that provide for an equitable

distribution of the benefits of the new global economy. In this connection, the concerns expressed regarding the treatment of small economies, environmental considerations and the fate of those who may be marginalized by the process are relevant.

In my view, our Institute must continue to:

- foster hemispheric dialogue and consensus building on agricultural issues;
- promote hemispheric trade, agribusiness and food safety in agricultural products;
- fight hunger and poverty in rural communities;
- promote horizontal cooperation and the sharing of experiences;
- develop competitiveness in the agricultural sector;
- support regional integration;
- encourage the effective management of natural resources;
- assist the Member States in adjusting their agricultural sectors to the realities of free trade;
- focus on the promotion of science-based trade and the removal of non-tariff barriers to trade; and
- facilitate harmonization of trade rules and regulations.

We must also:

- support the countries in the implementation of the mandates related to agriculture and rural life in the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, through the implementation of national and regional agendas, and a hemispheric agenda that is a product of true dialogue and consultation with the community of agriculture in each of the 34 Member States.
- continue the process of strategic institutional alignment to ensure that IICA's institutional structure and processes are adequate and consistent with the new demands for a modern, proactive institution.
- continue to coordinate our actions with other international organizations involved in agriculture and rural life in the Americas, to ensure a holistic approach to problem solving and promote coordination and complementarity of our efforts in the initiatives for "working together."
- participate actively as a partner institution of the Summit process in building the new architecture for agriculture and rural life in the Americas. We must continue, therefore, as part of the SIRG (Summit Implementation and Review

Group), and must prepare the agricultural sector to participate in the Presidential Summit in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago in 2009.

I said last year that the decisions of the Presidents and Heads of State, which are amply presented in the Summit Declaration and its Plan of Action, have changed the role of our Institute forever. The Institute not only provides technical cooperation for agriculture in the hemisphere, but also assumes a broader mandate related to the leadership of agriculture and rural life. That mandate, in my view, means that our Institute must continue to undergo a process of strategic global repositioning and adopt a development agenda.

The actions we have taken during the past five years of internal reorganization and projection of a new external dimension are the initial steps in this process. This process is characterized by a response to 15 mandates I accepted when I became Director General.

The demands of our societies today and the changing global scenario demand a new level of maturity of our Institute. This year we celebrate 65 years of institutional life; but anniversaries are not just for celebration, they also mark defining moments in looking towards the future.

The new global scenario of a world of international trade negotiations, communication and information technologies, biotechnology and inter-connected economies suggests that countries must be more committed than ever to strengthening and deepening the integration process in the Americas.

The emerging scenario suggests that the years 2007-2015 will be critical to the future of the countries of our region. Countries are beginning to adjust to the certainty of change in the rules regulating international trade and the inevitable exposure to greater global competition.”

We must refocus our initiatives and redouble our efforts to embrace a rural development agenda, while respecting our core business of promoting an agricultural sector that is competitive, technologically prepared, environmentally managed and socially equitable for the peoples of the Americas. This will ensure that we provide the new level of maturity of our Institute which our Member States demand and deserve.

We are indeed pleased to know that the world development report of the World Bank for 2008 will focus on agriculture for development. We believe that this is a timely report as countries of the Americas rediscover the true contribution of agriculture to economic development.

I wish all of you a safe trip back to your homes and I look forward to your continued support in our joint efforts to build a better world.

I thank you.

**CLOSING REMARKS BY MR. BERNARDO LÓPEZ FIGUEROA,
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND FOOD OF
GUATEMALA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE IABA**

Initially we felt that organizing four events of the magnitude of those we have held here this week in Guatemala could only be possible if the group of “dreamers” from the Ministry of Agriculture had the support of another group of “dreamers”. So, please, let us give a hearty round of applause for IICA, because it is thanks to Dr. Brathwaite’s team that we were able to orchestrate successfully all of the events of this Week of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas – Guatemala 2007.

I should like to express my deepest admiration for all of the delegations that accompanied us. Firstly, I pay tribute to their skillful handling of the discussions and exchange of views on the weighty topics that overshadow the new world context in agriculture as well as those pertaining to agriculture and rural life in the Americas. Secondly, I salute them because of the courage they have displayed in bringing to the table the problems that slow the pace of rural development in our hemisphere and in seeking solutions. Thirdly, I acknowledge their clarity of vision in articulating the need to strengthen the institutional framework and build values without which the serious problems besetting humankind, such as climate change and terrorism, cannot be solved.

What has also been in evidence at this meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture has been the vitality that the partnerships have generated. As Mr. Graciano Dasilva said in his intervention, in today’s world, even to compete, joining forces is a must. It is therefore vital that the international cooperation organizations understand that partnerships will enhance the support they are able to provide.

I wish to greet the family of Mr. Pablo Rizzo Pastor, ex-Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Ecuador and ex-Chairman of the IABA, who are joining us here today. We regret the passing of this figure of a man who had such energy and whom we shall always remember. For us, it has been a gift to have his family here with us.

I also wish to tell the Guatemalan professionals who are former employees of IICA and who accompany us today that you are a source of pride for us. Indeed, through you, Guatemala has contributed to the agricultural development of the Americas. We are also proud to have with us at this closing ceremony for the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas the recipients of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.

I wish our brothers from Jamaica every success in the organization of the next meeting of the IABA. I have every assurance that the outcome of that meeting will contribute to boosting the development of agriculture, fighting poverty and improving the quality of life in the rural areas of our hemisphere.

I thank you all very much. I now declare the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life closed.

ANNEXES

***ANNEX 1: SUMMARY OF THE STATUS OF AND
OUTLOOK FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN
THE AMERICAS IN 2006***

Mr. James French, Director of Technical Leadership and Knowledge Management of IICA, acknowledged the effort of those who participated in preparing the aforementioned report. That report was prepared by the Unit of Institutional Modernization, under his Directorate, in partnership with various institutions such as the FAO, ECLAC, and CATIE.

Mr. French gave a presentation on the report, highlighting salient trends in agriculture and rural life in the Americas and the challenges that the nations of the hemisphere face in both areas.

1. Agricultural output grows steadily

With a steady average 2.2 per cent growth rate for agricultural output, socioeconomic performance in the Americas has been at its best over the last 25 years. However, even though most of the countries of the Americas have recorded significant growth in output, there are noticeable differences among the countries, with the Caribbean showing less favorable results (Cuba, Haiti and nine of the 13 countries of CARICOM). It is anticipated that the developing countries will take the lead in terms of the increase in world output, but in the developing region, LAC will have the lowest growth rate. Nonetheless, there is reason to hope that macroeconomic stability and lower inflation will stimulate more investment in production.

2. Agricultural exports are on the rise

The increase in world trade in specific regard to agricultural products is conducive to regional growth. The American region is the principal net exporter of agricultural products, even though their share in world agricultural trade has been declining since 2000 as a result of less dynamic growth in agricultural exports (7.1% annual growth rate from 2000-2005). Our agricultural exports are, for the most part, commodities at a time when the trend is to import processed agricultural products. The international prices of agricultural products show a tendency towards a recovery and, on average, increased by 6.5% between 2002 and 2007, with coffee and sugar prices increasing by

more than 13%. The prospect for agricultural international trade for the Americas is highly positive, since an expansion in the world demand for food and for agricultural products for the production of ethanol and biodiesel is anticipated.

3. Markets are increasingly more demanding and discriminating

Tastes and preferences are constantly evolving and producers and agribusiness operators must adapt to this situation. The demand for wholesome foods that are good for health (low in fat and calories) are on the rise and the denomination of origin and distinctive quality attributes are increasingly more appreciated. Migration to developed countries drives the growth of markets for ethnic products. Another factor is the increased interest in and demand for prepared or convenience products, not only in the markets of developed countries, but also in most of the countries of the region.

Various trends warrant special mention: The first is the increasing requirement to ensure the quality and safety of foods, since the implications of the consumption of unhealthy foods for public health are so considerable and costly that countries and consumers are not prepared to run any risks. In 2005 alone, close to US\$190 billion in agricultural exports and US\$130 billion in agricultural imports had to comply with some sanitary or phytosanitary measures or the other.

There are also better opportunities for differentiated products, especially those that come from the farms of small- and medium-scale farmers and their business organizations. This is in part because consumers show an increasing interest in social and environmental factors related to the production process. Thus, the consumer prefers to buy products that have had positive impacts on the environment or that have aided the economy of small- and medium-scale producers. Hence, quality certification and denomination of origin become very important in addressing these consumer concerns.

Another tendency is the dynamic expansion of world trade in organic products where sales are already in the region of US\$30 billion, involving more than 1,500 articles and the annual average growth rate of which is 9%. This is a market where demand is critically unmet and therefore offers great trade opportunity, particularly for small- and medium-scale producers that have access to the latest technologies. In addition, organic production contributes to the sustainable management of natural resources.

In short, these trends have increased requirements with regard to food quality and safety and the importance of certifications that make it possible to offer differentiated products, not only for export, but also for domestic consumption. The advantage is that the production processes favors small- and medium-scale producers by far.

4. The participation of supermarket chains in the retail trade of food products increases

Big retail chains that purchase directly from producers and agro-industrialists dominate the scene today. Hence a new type of trade relations is established in the framework of social contracts that involve technical and sanitary aspects, the social aspects of production and technical assistance.

Supermarkets offer producers technical assistance to help them meet growing demand and quality requirements on the markets. In turn, supermarkets impose new and more demands in terms of minimum volumes, delivery times, deferred payments, price determination, labeling, packaging and canning. This reduces the negotiating power and profit margins of traditional producers, who face the challenge of complying with the new rules of the game if they wish to participate in these marketing channels and, at the same time, develop and consolidate new market instruments, such as contracts, supply networks and distribution centers. Nonetheless, the intervention of supermarkets influences innovative production and trade methods and practices.

5. The importance of technology and innovation increases

In the region, agricultural growth outranks the rest of the world because of the increase in the amount of land under cultivation. In other regions of the world, on the other hand, growth is related rather to the increase in productivity. LAC invests more than US\$10 billion per annum in science and technology, but Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Chile, Venezuela and Cuba account for 96%. Latin American investments in technology are far below the world average and barely higher than investments by Africa and South Asia. Given this scenario, there is an increasing difference in capabilities in the area of technology and innovation, which has an effect on the competitiveness of countries and the agricultural sector.

It should be noted that in the field of biotechnology, much progress has been made, as reflected, for example, in the emergence and use of genetically modified organism (GMO) as well as in the rapid worldwide and hemispheric expansion of some of these types of main agricultural commodities, including grains and oil and protein products. Biotechnology has led to increased yields and lower costs, but we need to ensure that these benefits extend to the producer and the consumer so that they are not just limited to those generating and owning the technology. However, one of the main obstacles to the expansion of GMOs is the public perception regarding their safe use. We need to address the concerns of certain groups about the possible impact of GMOs on the environment and the rural way of life by providing them with reliable science-based information and develop and put in place the appropriate regulatory frameworks and safe risk management.

There is an urgent need to increase public and private investment in agricultural research and development and expedite the introduction of modern technologies in agriculture and agribusiness. The agricultural sector's challenge in many countries is to produce more foods and raw materials and, at the same time, preserve forests and ecosystems.

6. Climate change impacts agricultural activity

Climate change will have a strong impact on agriculture, biodiversity, human health, greenhouse gas emissions and water pollution. The manifestations of climate change (fluctuations in temperature, precipitation, the water level and the increase in extreme natural phenomena such as hurricanes, droughts and flooding) will affect the competitiveness of agriculture considerably. Forest fires and soil erosion will increase and the availability of fresh water will decline, due to the increase in desertification. Agriculture, however, can mitigate the effects of climate change. All countries will be affected, it is the rural sector of tropical countries that will be most vulnerable and an increase in loss of human life and capital losses can therefore be predicted. Agricultural producers will have to adapt to climate change conditions and national authorities will have to take the necessary measures for the region to effectively face the challenges involved in this change.

7. Poverty persists and is greater in rural areas

Although rural income distribution improved in 11 of the 13 countries about which information is available, LAC continues to be the most unequal region in the world in terms of income distribution. In 2005, the incidence of poverty and rural poverty was below 1980 levels. Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico y Panama have alleviated poverty significantly. One can therefore anticipate that they will meet the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty, which has already been achieved in Chile. The gaps between rural and urban areas in terms of poverty and indigence have also been narrowed.

Although the trend in poverty reduction is positive, in the rural areas, the poor account for 58% of the population, and of these, 38% are in a situation of extreme poverty. By 2015, LAC will have reduced the number of people living in extreme poverty by barely six million. Poverty and inequality will therefore remain problems to be solved and strategies for reducing them will therefore have to factor in the competitive, inclusive and sustainable modernization of expanded agriculture.

8. The natural resource base is deteriorating

LAC has 915 million hectares in forests (23.2% of the world total). However, it loses 4.3 million hectares per year. Only the United States, Chile, Uruguay, Costa Rica and Cuba have managed to increase their forest coverage. There is enormous biodiversity and genetic wealth, but the destruction of habitats results in the increasing extinction of animal and plant species. America has 45% of the world's total amount of fresh water, and despite its relative abundance, water is a highly threatened resource (agriculture uses nearly 69% of the total). Marine resources are overexploited and desertification and soil loss continue apace because of improper practices, deforestation and climate change. In general, economic development has had a high environmental cost. If all of these issues are not addressed as a matter of urgency, in the near future, the natural resource base will be in great peril. It is therefore essential that we move agricultural development in the direction of the paradigm of environmental sustainability, which will make it possible to conserve the natural resource base.

9. The importance of agro-energy and bio-fuels increases

The steady increase in oil prices and the scarcity of new oilfields have prompted the development of agro-energy and boosted agriculture. Today, agro-energy is already having a considerable impact on the energy sector because of the increased use of bio-fuels: for example, between 2000 and 2006, world ethanol production increased by more than 100% and world production of bio-diesel increased by almost 400%.

The use of agriculture as an alternative source of energy has led to reduced dependence on oil, less pollution, crop substitution, new agro-industries, more rural jobs and more income generation. But agro-energy is the subject of controversy: the increase in the prices of agricultural products, the impact on food security, the displacement of crops traditionally used for food purposes, increased competition for the use of agricultural soil and increasing pressure on forests and protected environment. Countries must find a balance that makes it possible to face the need for both food crops and agro-energy crops.

The main challenges of the region in terms of increasing the competitiveness of the agricultural sector relate to better education, and to research on and the generation and transfer of technologies, especially biotechnologies.

ANNEX 2: AGENDA
(IICA/CE/Doc.495(07))

1. Schedule of the Meeting

1.1 Provisional Schedule *IICA/JIA/Doc.307(07)*

2. Institutional Policy and Technical Cooperation Services

2.1 Message from the Director General *unnumbered)*

2.2 2006 Report on the status of agriculture and rural life in the Americas *IICA/JIA/Doc.308(07)*

2.3 Progress with the assessment of technical expertise at IICA (Resolution IICA/CE/Res.462(XXVII-O/07)) *IICA/JIA/Doc.309(07)*

3. Budgetary and Financial Matters

3.1 2005 and 2006 financial statements of IICA and reports of the external auditors *IICA/JIA/Doc.310(07)*

3.2 Twelfth and thirteenth reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) *IICA/JIA/Doc.311(07)*

3.3 Current status of the payment of quotas and progress with the collection of quotas owed to the Institute *IICA/JIA/Doc.312(07)*

3.4 2008-2009 Proposed Program Budget *IICA/JIA/Doc.313(07)*
IICA/JIA/Doc.313(07)

3.5 2008-2009 Special Budget financed with resources from the General Subfund *IICA/JIA/Doc.314(07)*

4. Inter-institutional Relations

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|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| 4.1 | Progress with the strengthening of relations between the FAO and IICA | <i>(No document)</i> |
| 4.2 | Contribution of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) to the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements and 2005-2006 Report | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.315(07)</i> |
| 4.3 | Contribution of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) to the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements and 2005-2006 Report | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.316(07)</i> |
| 4.4 | Proposal for strengthening IICA's role as the executing technical arm of agricultural and rural development projects and programs within the framework of the new IDB policy (IICA/CE/Res.480(XXVII-O/07)) | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.317(07)</i> |

5. Matters Pertaining to the Governing Bodies of IICA

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|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| 5.1 | Status of the Resolutions of the Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.318(07)</i> |
| 5.2 | Status of the Resolutions of the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh Regular Meetings of the Executive Committee | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.319(07)</i> |
| 5.3 | Ratification of the amendments of the Rules of Procedure of the EC and the IABA | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.320(07)</i> |
| 5.4 | Date and site of the Fifteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.321(07)</i> |

6. Other Institutional Business

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| 6.1 | Recommendation of the Executive Committee with respect to the System for Determining the | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.322(07)</i> |
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salary of the Director General of IICA
(IICA/CE/Res.478(XXVII-O/07))

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|
| 6.2 | Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector,
2006-2007 | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.323(07)</i> |
| 6.3 | 2006 Annual Report of IICA | <i>IICA/JIA/Doc.324(07)</i> |

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