



**Forty-second Regular Meeting of the Executive
Committee**

**REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN
COMMISSION FOR ORGANIC
AGRICULTURE**

2021- 2022

July 2022

San Jose, Costa Rica



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1. BACKGROUND

In 2007, the “First Meeting of Competent Authorities on Organic Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean” was held in the city of Managua, Nicaragua. The meeting was attended by the Competent Control Authorities (CCAs)¹ of sixteen countries in the region that resolved to create the Network of Competent Authorities on Organic Agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean. This network was the direct forerunner to the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA).

ICOA was established as a Special Commission by the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas, via Resolution IICA/CE/Res.484 (XXVIII-O08), entitled “Coordination Mechanisms for the Development of Organic Agriculture in the Americas”, issued by the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in 2008. At that same meeting, the ministers of Agriculture entrusted IICA with the responsibility and management of ICOA’s Executive Secretariat (ES) and tasked it with drafting a bylaws proposal, in collaboration with the Competent Control Authorities (CCAs) of the Commission’s Member States. In 2009, in fulfillment of this mandate, the ES/ICOA presented the bylaws proposal to the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the IICA EC, which was approved via Resolution IICA/CE/Res.506 (XXIX-O09) and later ratified by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 455 (XV-O09). This marked the establishment of the first official regional organization dedicated to organic agriculture.

In keeping with Article 29, paragraph 1, of the Bylaws of ICOA, and by means of Agreement No. 2 of the Fifth Regular General Assembly of ICOA, in Santiago, Chile (May 2013), the Commission approved its Operating Regulations. Article 7 of the Regulations establishes that all ICOA Member States will contribute an annual sum of six thousand US dollars (USD 6,000.00) to finance the annual work plan and administrative activities.

Pursuant to the 2015 mandate of the IABA and building on the efforts of IICA and ICOA in previous years, the Competent Development Authorities (CDAs)² on Organic Agriculture were invited to take part in the Seventh General Assembly of ICOA. This initial group of CDAs signed a founding charter, by means of Agreement No. 2 in the General Minutes, which provided input for the formulation of strategic pillars to support the development of organic agriculture in the hemisphere.

With a view to establishing a legal framework to promote cooperation between IICA and ICOA to implement the actions established in the agenda and work plans, in March of 2014, the two institutions signed the 1st Cooperation Agreement. A second agreement was signed for the October 2019 to October 2021 period, in which IICA and ICOA established new guidelines for cooperation. Over the seven years of its existence, ICOA, with the support of IICA, has furthered the development of organic markets and national control systems for organic production; improved the management of information and know-how; and promoted actions and policies to develop and promote organic production.

¹ The Competent Control Authorities (CCAs) on organic agriculture are the individual agencies responsible for ensuring the application of and compliance with technical standards regulating the activity and for guaranteeing the organic status of the products of their respective countries. Their duties include registering producers, processors, vendors, input producers, inspectors, and agencies that certify organic production, auditing these agencies, and maintaining records on the activity.

² The Competent Development Authorities (CDAs) on organic production are the agencies dedicated to the development, promotion and advancement of the organic sector.

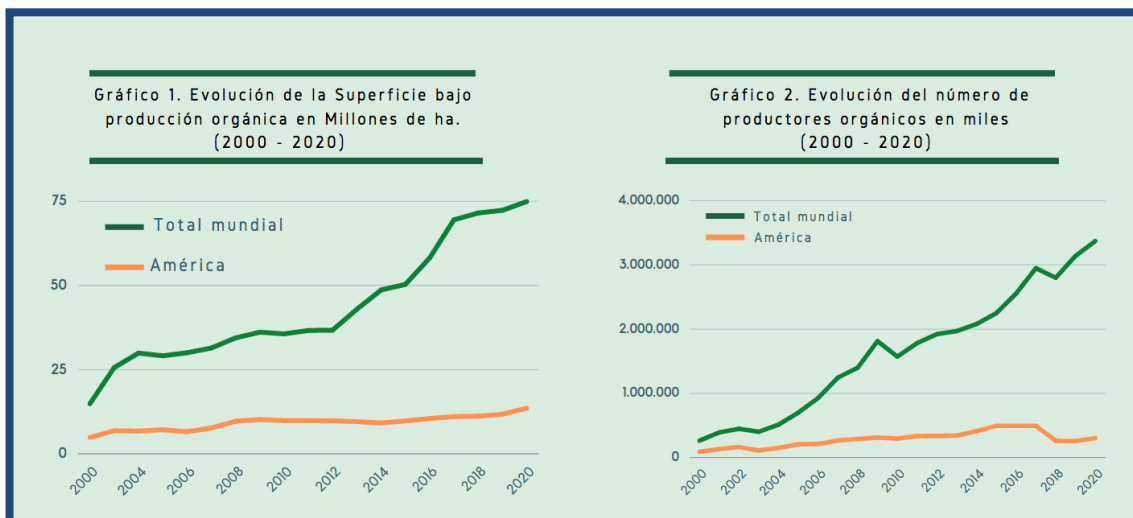
Today, nineteen countries in the Americas are Full Members of ICOA, all of which have organic production control agencies and standards regulating the activity. These include Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Canada has participated in the General Assemblies as an Observer. Currently, Ecuador (Chair), Bolivia, Mexico, Brazil, and the Directorate of Technical Cooperation of IICA (DTC/IICA) sit on ICOA's Board of Directors (BD). In 2017 and 2018, Spain and Portugal, respectively, were incorporated into the Commission as Permanent Observers. Today, ICOA has agreements with key international players in the sector, including OIRSA, FiBL, IFOAM, and the private sector entities, INTERECO and Ecovalia (Spain).

The new cooperation agreement signed with IICA, as well as the new needs of ICOA, required the Institute to serve as a permanent member of the Commission's Board of Directors. This change was approved at a Special Assembly of ICOA, held in July of 2019. This, along with the need to introduce new institutional and organizational changes within ICOA, necessitated a modification of the Bylaws. Thus, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting, the Executive Committee of IICA was asked to task its Director General with arranging the necessary procedures. The request was accepted, by means of Resolution No. IICA/CE/Res. 668 (XL-O/20), and in 2020, the Member States of ICOA, with the support of IICA's Office of the Chief of Staff, General Directorate (GD) and Legal, International Affairs and Protocol Unit, worked to draft the new Bylaws. The new Bylaws were approved by the countries on 1 February 2021, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 540 (XXI-O/21).

Pursuant to Article 3, paragraph k, of its Bylaws, ICOA hereby submits this report to the Executive Committee of IICA at its Forty-second Regular Meeting.

2. ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT

According to the annual report, *The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics & Emerging Trends 2022* (FiBL-IFOAM3, 2022), the area of certified organic land and number of producers worldwide has continued to trend upward, as it has since records were first kept in the late 90s, as shown in Figures 1 and 2.



In 2020 (most recent data), close to 75 million hectares were registered as certified organic land and land in conversion, for the first-time accounting for more than 1.5% of the total production land area. It is estimated that 3.37 million producers are involved in this activity, of which approximately 80% are from developing countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

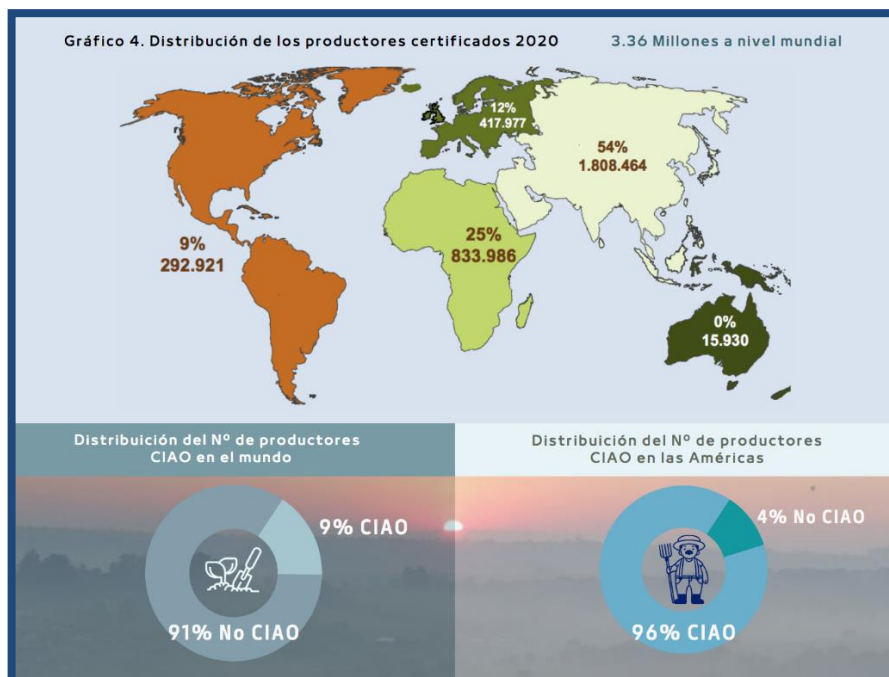
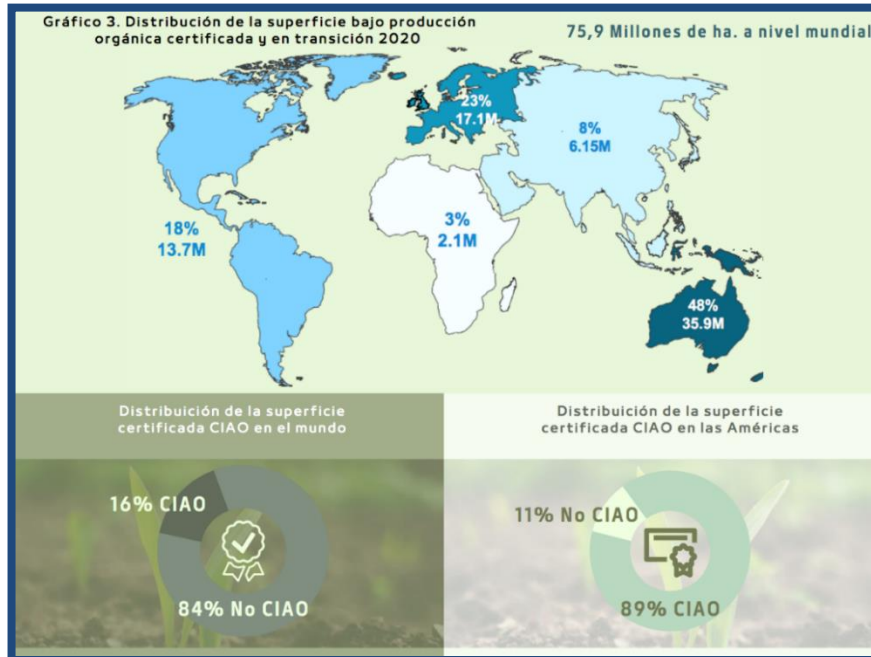
The countries of the Americas possess 13.69 million hectares of land under organic management, representing 18% of the total land area dedicated to this type of production worldwide. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) has 9.9 million hectares, whereas the United States and Canada have 3.74 million.

ICOA Member States account for 89% of the land area dedicated to organic production in the Americas and 16% of the organic land area worldwide (Figure 3).

Additionally, there are almost 293,000 organic producers⁴ in the Americas, representing 9% of total producers worldwide. Approximately 96% of the producers in the Americas are from ICOA Member States (Figure 4).

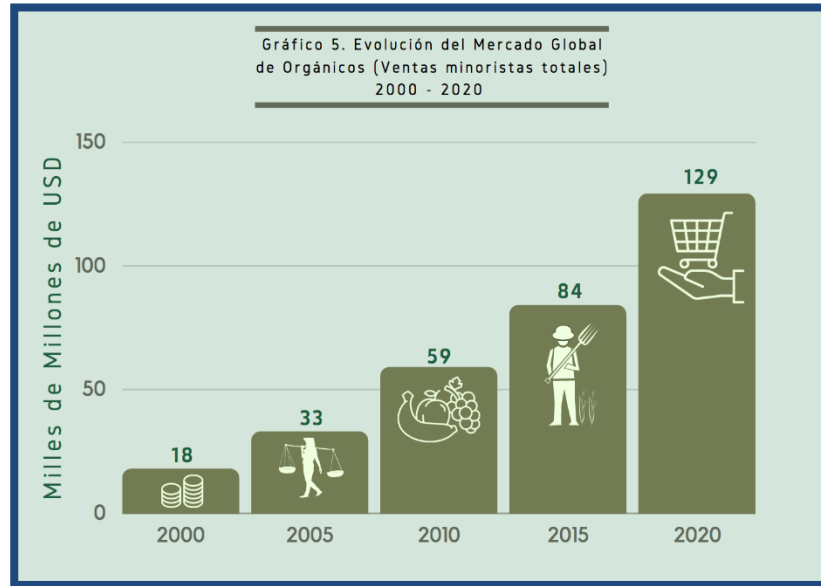
³ FiBL: Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau (The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland). IFOAM: International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements.

⁴ There is a challenge in terms of the number of producers in some countries, given that some sources provide information on all producers, including the individual members of producer groups, while others provide information only on certified groups as a whole. The case of Mexico was particularly challenging, where prior to 2020, the data was provided by unofficial sources (certifiers and other organizations), whose criteria differed from the country's Competent Authority. Starting in 2020, the country now reports the number of operators (including individual producers and groups of small producers). This resulted in a significant drop in the number of organic producers in Mexico and Latin America in general. This change in criteria also affected the global number of organic producers. As such, there are almost 150,000 registered producers, that is, 5 percent fewer than in 2017. However, on the remaining continents, with the exception of Africa, the number of producers has increased.



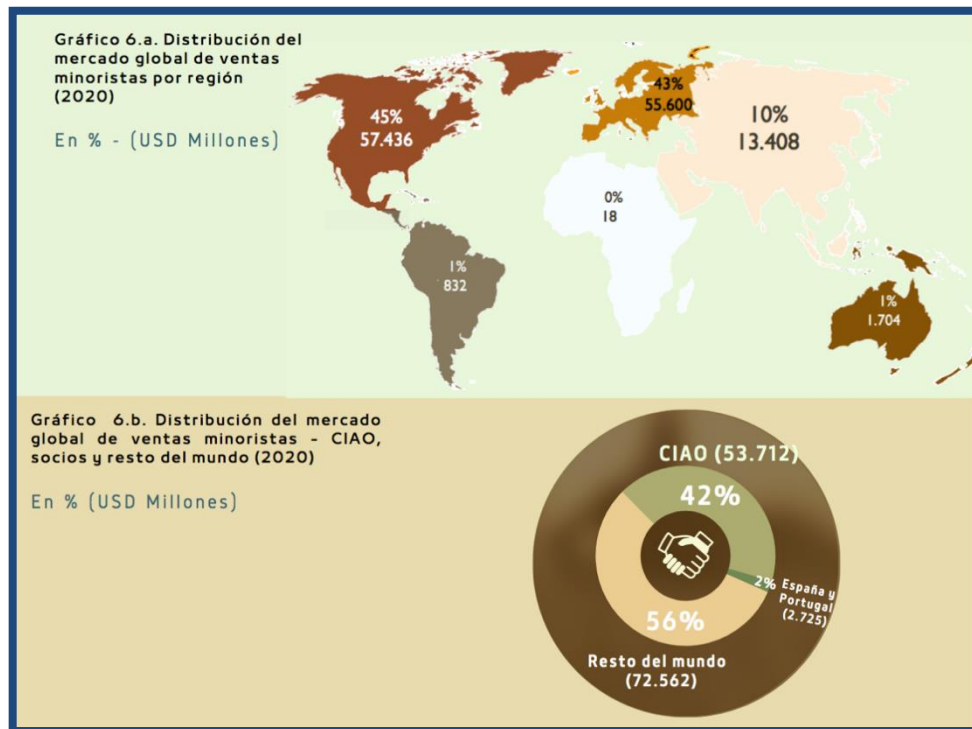
It is estimated that in 2020, over USD 129 billion was generated in domestic sales⁵, representing a solid year-over-year growth of over 10% (Figure 5).

⁵ Ecovia Intelligence



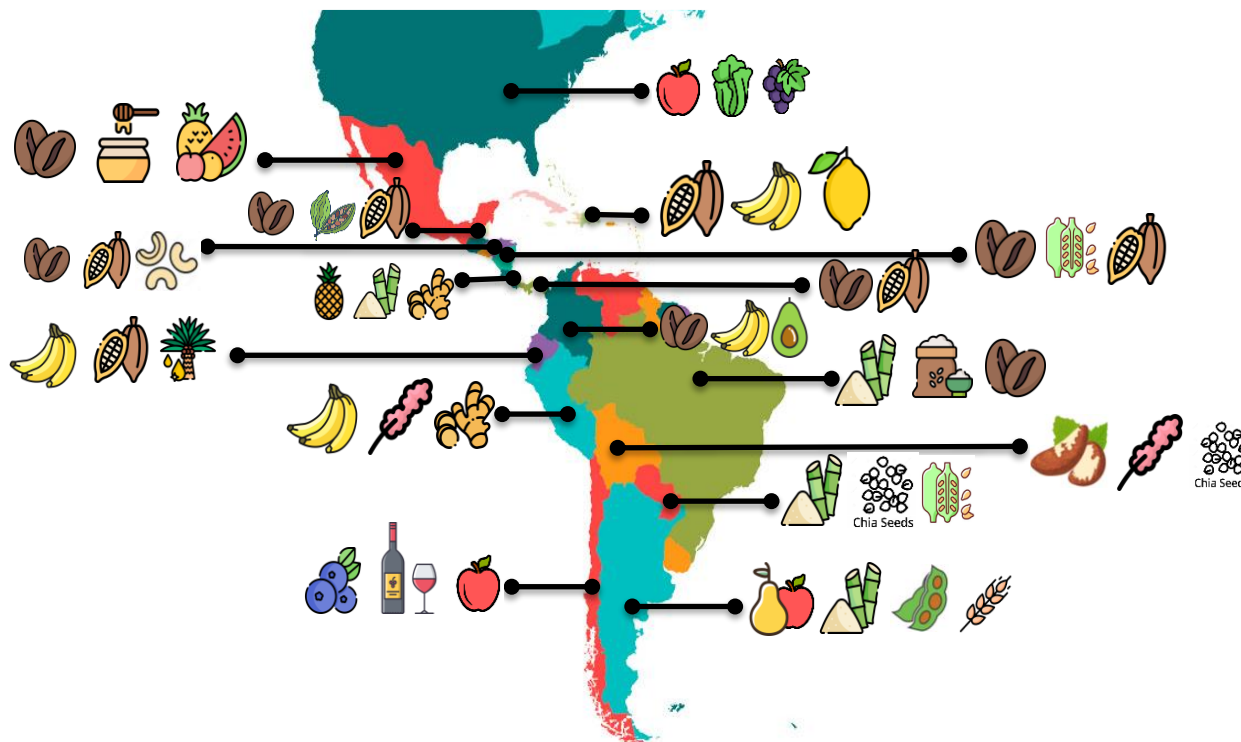
As at 2020, the United States has the highest volume of sales, with approximately USD 50 billion, representing, together with Canada, 45% of the global total. They are followed by the European market with 43% (Figure 6.a.)

Figure 6.b. shows that ICOA Member States and their partners account for 42% of the global market, primarily due to the size of the United States retail market. LAC's domestic market is still emerging, representing close to 1% of the global total. While there is greater awareness today of sustainable and healthy production, the region maintains a strong profile as a supplier of raw materials to more developed markets. The exception in the region is Brazil, where the domestic organic market has developed significantly, as a contributor to food security and family farming.



ICOA countries and their main export products:

Recently, the ES/ICOA conducted a short survey among the countries to identify the main export products and the regulatory milestones in each country. The results are illustrated below:



References:

Argentina: apples and pears, sugar cane and grains (cereals and oilseeds) | **Bolivia:** chestnuts, quinoa and chia seeds | **Brazil:** sugar, rice and coffee | **Chile:** blueberries, wine and apples | **Colombia:** coffee, bananas and avocados | **Costa Rica:** fresh pineapple, processed pineapple, sugar and ginger | **Dom. Republic:** cocoa, bananas and limes | **Ecuador:** bananas, cocoa and palm | **Guatemala:** coffee, cardamom and cocoa | **Honduras:** coffee, cocoa and cashew nuts | **Mexico:** coffee, honey and fresh fruits | **Nicaragua:** coffee, sesame seeds and cocoa | **Panama:** coffee and cocoa | **Paraguay:** Sugar cane, chia seeds and sesame seeds | **Peru:** bananas, quinoa and ginger | **U.S.A.:** apples, lettuce and grapes|

ICOA countries - regulatory timeline:



Argentina	1992	Resolution 423/92 (SAGyP) Organic law for plant-based products	2016	SENASA Resolution No. 374/2016 Organic production, marketing, oversight and certification system.
Colombia	1995	Resolution 0544/1995 Regulation governing ecological production activities	2016	Resolution No.199 A partial modification of the regulation on primary production, (...) Ecological Agricultural Products - version1 (Resolution 187/2006)
Costa Rica	1997	Decree No. 25,834 (MAG) Regulation on organic agriculture	2000	Regulation No. 590 Regulation on importation from third-party countries into the European Union.
Brazil	2003	Law No. 10,831/2003 Law governing organic agriculture	2021	ORDINANCE No. 52 Organic Animal and Plant Production Systems
Panama	2002	National Law No.8 National regulations for the development of organic agricultural activities	2019	Resolution No. 411-2019 COMIECO-LXXXVI Central American Technical Regulation RTCA 67.06.74:16
Honduras	2003	Agreement No. 146-03 (SAG) Regulation on organic agriculture in Honduras	2019	Resolution No 411-2019 COMIECO-LXXXVI Central American Technical Regulation RTCA 67.06.74:16
Guatemala	2002	Ministerial Agreement No. 1317 Legal provisions on organic agriculture	2019	Resolution No. 411-2019 COMIECO-LXXXVI Central American Technical Regulation RTCA 67.06.74:16:
Peru	2003	Ministerial Resolution No. 0076-2003-AG Technical regulations on organic agriculture	2020	Supreme Decree No. 002-2020-MINAGRI Regulation on the certification and oversight of organic Production
Ecuador	2003	Executive Decree No. 3609 Consolidated Secondary Legislative Text of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.	2013	Ministerial Agreement No. 299 General regulations for the promotion and regularization of Organic, Ecological and Biological Production in Ecuador
Dominican Rep.	2003	Decree No. 820-03 Approving the Regulations on Organic Agriculture	2008	Decree No. 223-08 and Resolution No.15/2008 On Organic Agriculture in the Dominican Republic and its Regulation
El Salvador	2004	Executive Decree 52	2019	Resolution No. 411-2019 COMIECO-LXXXVI Central American Technical Regulation RTCA 67.06.74:16:
Bolivia	2006	National Law 3,525		
Chile	2006	National Law No. 20,089 Establishing the National Certification System for Organic Agricultural Products	2016	Decree No. 3 Approves Law No. 20,089, which establishes the National Certification System for Organic Agricultural Products
Mexico	2006	Law on Organic Products	2020	DOF Agreement: 08/06/2020 Modification of the 2013 Agreement on Operational Guidelines for Organic Production
Paraguay	2008	National Law 3,481/2008 Promotion and Oversight of Organic Production	2014	Resolution No. 665/2014 Updating of regulations on organic production
Nicaragua	2009	NTON 11 010-07 Nicaraguan Compulsory Technical Standard on organic agriculture	2019	Resolution No. 411-2019 COMIECO-LXXXVI Central American Technical Regulation RTCA 67.06.74:16:

3. ICOA RESULTS AND ONGOING ACTIONS FOR 2021/22

1. INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING OF ICOA

1.1 XII Regular Annual Assembly (virtual):

In October of 2021, the XII Regular Annual Assembly of ICOA was conducted virtually, given the inability to hold in-person meetings, due to the restrictions that countries imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sixteen Member States (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the United States and Uruguay) and two Permanent Observers (Spain and Portugal) were present. Along with members of IICA's Directorate of Technical Cooperation (DTC), there was also special participation by the ECOVALIA Association, INTERECO, Organic Food Iberia, the Spanish Society of Organic Agriculture and Agroecology, FAO and OIRSA. Also in attendance was Juan Pablo Sciurano, a biodistrict specialist.

1.2 Amendments to the ICOA Bylaws:

The IABA, by way of IICA/JIA/Res. 540 (XXI-O/21), approved the proposed amendments to the Bylaws that were presented by the ICOA Assembly.

1.3 New Agreements with strategic partners:

In addition to Agreements with key players in the organic sector, including FiBL, IFOAM, Ecovalia, INTERECO, and other organizations, such as OIRSA, the following cooperation instruments were signed during the reporting period:

1.3.1 Framework Agreement for Interinstitutional Cooperation between the Regional Government of Huancavelica, Peru; and IICA

The Agreement aims to implement actions to facilitate joint projects to assist in strengthening the parties and positioning them as models for organic production development; in increasing the number of regions involved in organic production, as models of sustainable social, productive, commercial and environmental production; and in positioning organic agriculture as an innovative production system that contributes to gender and youth inclusion.

The Agreement speaks to a continuation of actions carried out under the previous Framework Agreement for Interinstitutional Cooperation between the Municipal Government of Santa Clara do Sul, Brazil, the Regional Government of Huancavelica, Peru and IICA, which came to an end in 2022.

1.3.2 Framework Agreement for Interinstitutional Cooperation between the Decentralized Autonomous Government of the Province of Santa Elena, the Provincial Government of Catamarca, the Gravataí Municipality and IICA

The Agreement seeks to assist in strengthening the parties and positioning them as models for organic production development, as well as to contribute to the development of local, regional and/or international markets for small- and medium-scale producers, through a production approach focusing on agroecology and organic farming. It is intended to foster collaboration with educational organizations and to increase the number of regions involved in the organic production system, as examples of sustainable social, productive, commercial and environmental production, through the formation of a

network of Biodistricts/ Ecoregions in the Americas. Finally, it strives to position organic production or farming as an innovative production system that fosters the inclusion of women and youth.

1.4 IICA – ICOA Agreement:

IICA will continue to work to strengthen organic agriculture, a sector that has enjoyed increased visibility in the Americas during the COVID-19 pandemic, because of the growing interest of producers and consumers. As such, the Institute signed a new Agreement with ICOA, which will facilitate the continuation of joint actions and will provide a legal framework to achieve its objectives during the 2021-2025 period. The two institutions will continue to carry out technical cooperation activities to foster the development and regulation of organic farming in the various countries.

2. STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITIES OF ICOA COUNTRIES

2.1. ICOA Work Groups

The ICOA work groups for 2021 and 2022 were as follows:

2.1.1. Inputs suitable for organic production:

- Based on the terms of reference defined by Chile, Argentina, and Mexico for the establishment of a consultancy to standardize procedures for evaluating and authorizing organic production inputs, the BD/ICOA, along with IICA, and within the framework of South-South Cooperation (G-77, UN), presented a project to the Pérez-Guerrero Trust Fund to fund a consultancy to draft a document on “Recommendations for Standardizing the Evaluation of Inputs Permitted in Organic Agriculture, Livestock Production, Aquaculture, and Processing for ICOA Countries” (April 2021).

To date, there have been five group meetings held to redefine the terms of reference (TOR) and to adjust them, in keeping with the needs of the Countries.

2.1.2. Biodistricts: presentation of a solution for the Development of Biodistricts

- The ICOA Assembly was given a presentation on a solution that provides clear, accessible and available mechanisms to guide the establishment of Biodistricts and Ecoregions. The intention is to create an integrated and interrelated system throughout Latin America, using the same principles and methods to generate experiences appropriate to the region, in discussion with other territories. This will result in the development of a practical manual covering three phases (diagnosis, creation and activation), on the basis of methodologies and specific cases in the international setting, in the identified countries and in IICA-ICOA activities. The manual will be applicable to the entire region and to different public/ private spheres.

The aim is also to establish a pioneer group with linkages to the ICOA and a regional network of Biodistricts that are in direct contact with international bodies, such as the Global Alliance for Organic Districts (GAOD).

2.2. Cooperation actions with other institutions:

2.2.1. Ecovalia:

- Webinar Series. **International Refresher Seminars on “Animal Welfare and Phytotherapy in Organic Livestock Production”**, including the following four webinars:

- Seminar on “Animal Welfare and Phytotherapy in Organic Dairy Ruminants” SESSION I: Dairy Goats. (23 June 2021).
- Seminar on "Animal Welfare and Phytotherapy in Organic Dairy Ruminants” SESSION II: Dairy Sheep (19 October 2021)
- Seminar on "Animal Welfare and Phytotherapy in Organic Livestock Production” SESSION III: Dairy Cows (23 November 2021)
- International Refresher Seminar “Animal Welfare and Phytotherapy in Organic Livestock Production” SESSION IV: Poultry Farming I: Broiler Chickens. (17 March 2022)

The webinar series sought to explain the role of the zootechnician in animal welfare and the role of veterinary phytotherapy in ecological/ organic production; to offer some tips on efficiently transitioning to ecological /organic production; to discuss case studies, both the results and the challenges; as well as to create a forum for information exchange and reflection, thereby enriching knowledge on animal welfare, phytotherapy and ecological/organic animal production.

2.2.2. International Organic Inspectors Association (IOIA):

- **Spanish-language remote inspection website:** IOIA and ICOA carried out reciprocal cooperation activities to launch the Spanish-language remote inspection website for organic agriculture. This enabled two public servants from the CCAs of each ICOA Member State to have exclusive access. IOIA will offer another training session on the subject.

2.2.3. FiBL

- **Statistical data collection:** Within the framework of the current Agreement, ICOA collaborated with FiBL to collect statistical data on organic production in ICOA countries. The countries that responded to the request for information were Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic.

2.2.4. European Commission

- **Seminar on “The Ecological Public Procurement System of the European Union *EU – GPP / Green Public Procurement*”, 2 September 2021.**

Seminar targeting authorities and officials involved in Organic Control and Development in the ICOA countries. Presented by officials from the Directorate-General for Environment of the European Commission.

2.2.5. Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA):

- With the support of the IICA Canada delegation, a technical seminar was organized, which targeted officials and managers working in organic control in the ICOA countries. The seminar was presented by Lead Auditors in Canada’s organic system.

2.3. Horizontal Cooperation:

2.3.1. ICOA – Guatemala:

- **II Webinar on Ecological Agriculture: “Livestock Production”, 20 – 23 September 2021.**

At Guatemala's request, an important regional series of four sessions on organic agriculture was organized, focusing on livestock production. The event was organized by Guatemala's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAGA), with the support of the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA), the Embassy of the Republic of China (Taiwan), IICA Guatemala, Ecovalia, the National Commission for Ecological Agriculture (CNAE), the Polytechnic University of Seville and the German Agency for International Cooperation, among others.

2.3.2. ICOA – Ecuador:

- **IV International Conference on Organic Production, Ecuador, 14 -16 October 2021.**

The Phyto and Zoosanitary Regulation and Control Agency (Agrocalidad) organized the IV International Conference on Organic Production, with the support of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA). The three-day meeting was intended to provide a forum for knowledge and experience sharing.

Some of the key topics covered in the Conference were “European Union Antifraud Policies and Agreements on Organic Products”, “A Private Sector Perspective on the Integrity of Organic Products and Organic Certification Agencies”, “Phytosanitary Management of Organic Bananas”, “Innovative Technologies in Bioinput Development and their Impact on Sustainable Systems”, “The Importance of the Soil and Biogenesis”, “The European Green Deal”, as well as “Organic Certification and Sustainability in International Markets – the Dominican Republic and Guatemala”.

Over the course of the three sessions, which Agrocalidad streamed via Facebook Live, participation was in the region of 12,000 participants.

- **Regional experience-sharing workshop on regulating organic farming, by way of participatory guarantee systems (PGSs), 7 April 2022**

The purpose of workshop was to learn about experiences with participatory guarantee systems at the regional level and to find out to what extent they have contributed to the marketing, management and coordination of organic activity, thereby enabling Ecuadorian producers and consumers to recognize the benefits of this type of guarantee. Experiences were shared, bearing in mind advances in agroecological regulations in countries such as Brazil, Chile, Bolivia, Mexico and Peru, with a view to adapting the agroecological PGS regulations in Ecuador.

Additionally, the aim of the experience-sharing exercise was to provide feedback for the proposal on National Guidelines for Agroecological Production, since this is currently in the process of being shared.

2.3.3. ICOA/IICA Argentina – Peru (Huancavelica) – Brazil (Santa Clara do Sul):

- **South-South cooperation** in projects to strengthen and position the regions as models for organic production, under an agreement signed between the three parties, which recognizes the role of subnational governments in promoting this type of agriculture. The following activities were carried out within the framework of the Interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement:
 - Forum on cooperativism in organic production: success stories in Latin America and Spain (30 June 2021).
 - Workshop of organic agriculture certification systems (3 August 2021).

- Forum on local and international market development of small farmers: success stories in Argentina and Mexico (8 September 2021)
- Forum on the development of domestic and international markets for fresh organic products: success stories in Guatemala and Spain (21 October 2021)

2.3.4. ICOA/IICA – Argentina:

- **Federal Penitentiary Services organic production projects (Colonia Penal de Ezeiza (U.19))**

Certificates were awarded to participants who successfully completed the 2nd Edition of the Organic Farming Course that was conducted at the Colonia Penal de Ezeiza prison. The project sought to provide training for the inmates and officers at the prison. Some of the objectives of the training were to generate healthy habits and to provide training that would equip the inmates to use and take advantage of the knowledge acquired as a means of skills development for the future.

The intention is to develop a new project to complete and diversify production, based on the Organic Farm project (that took place in early 2019). This new project, entitled *Gírgolas Orgánicas y Gusano de Seda (Sericulture)*, was also approved as a training and skill development initiative for the prison population, through activities and training material. The participating institutions—the Federal Penitentiary Service, the Agency for Cooperation with the Penitentiary Service (ENCOPE), the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of the Nation, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA), and the National Industrial Technology Institute (INTI)—signed an interinstitutional Cooperation Agreement.

2.3.5. Brazil – Chile (with technical support from ICOA):

Under the existing equivalency agreement between Brazil and Chile, ICOA was asked to assist in organizing the following thematic seminars:

- **Seminar on Organic Beekeeping**, 7 December 2021.
Seminar presented to Brazil by the Competent Authority of Chile on production requirements for the organic certification of beekeeping products in Chile and the traceability system to guarantee the safety of beekeeping products for export.
- **Seminar on Organic Poultry Farming**, 9 December 2021
Seminar presented to Chile by the Competent Authority of Brazil on production processes, health-related aspects and control procedures in organic poultry farming.

2.4. ICOA website and social networks:

- ICOA promoted the Commission and its actions to a wide network of global contacts; increased traffic to its website; contributed to knowledge among consumers, the press, and producers, among others, about the characteristics of organic products; and collaborated in managing knowledge on organic agriculture.
- Currently, ICOA has a presence on four social media platforms, with:
 - A total of 12,158 followers, representing a 30% increase as compared to the last reporting period
 - A total of 1,389 posts across the platforms
 - Live transmission of eight virtual events with a total of 150,115 participants
 - The publication of 12 ICOA “Inforgánica” bulletins (June 2021-June 2022); and

- The periodic publication of 45 pieces of information on organic food production on the website, social media and in a Newsletter.
- Reach of the events streamed by ICOA between 1 June 2021 to 1 June 2022:

Alcance de eventos CIAO					
22 de junio 2021			23 de junio 2021		
CONTRIBUCIÓN DE LA PRODUCCIÓN ORGÁNICA A LA TRANSFORMACIÓN DE SISTEMAS AGROALIMENTARIOS			BIENESTAR ANIMAL Y FITOTERAPIA EN RUMIANTES DE LECHE ORGÁNICOS™ SESIÓN I: CAPRINO DE LECHE		
Facebook	9.513	Seminario Internacional	Facebook	5.258	Seminario
Twitter	5.123		Twitter	4.253	
Youtube	762		Youtube	409	
TOTAL GENERAL	15.398		TOTAL GENERAL	9.920	
30 de julio 2021			16 de julio 2021		
COOPERATIVISMO EN LA PRODUCCIÓN ORGÁNICA: CASOS EXITOSOS EN AMÉRICA LATINA Y ESPAÑA			VENEZUELA: BUENAS PRÁCTICAS AGRÍCOLAS EN AGRICULTURA ORGÁNICA		
Facebook	5.543	Foro Internacional	Facebook	5.317	Capacitación IICA - CIAO
Twitter	4.347		Twitter	4.512	
Youtube	428		Youtube	437	
TOTAL GENERAL	10.318		TOTAL GENERAL	10.266	
3 de agosto 2021			8 de septiembre 2021		
TALLER SISTEMAS DE CERTIFICACIÓN EN AGRICULTURA ORGÁNICA			DESARROLLO DE MERCADOS LOCALES E INTERNACIONALES DE PEQUEÑOS PRODUCTORES: CASOS EXITOSOS EN ARGENTINA Y MÉXICO		
Facebook	6.664	Taller Internacional	Facebook	3.447	Foro Internacional
Twitter	4.871		Twitter	2.465	
Youtube	756		Youtube	302	
TOTAL GENERAL	12.231		TOTAL GENERAL	6.214	
20 al 23 de septiembre 2021					
II SEMINARIO VIRTUAL DE AGRICULTURA ECOLÓGICA "PRODUCCIÓN PECUARIA",					
Alcance de contenido relacionado en vistas por Red Social	TOTAL en Cada Jornada	Facebook	Twitter	Youtube	
1era Jornada.	5.154	3.138	1.257	759	Seminario
2da Jornada.	5.145	3.391	1.147	607	
3era Jornada.	4.492	3.032	1.008	452	
4ta. Jornada.	7.384	3.814	2.545	1025	
TOTAL GENERAL	22.175	13.375	5.957	2.843	

19 de octubre 2021

**BIENESTAR ANIMAL Y FITOTERAPIA
EN RUMIANTES DE LECHE ORGÁNICOS"
SESIÓN II: OVINOS DE LECHE**

Facebook	3.552
Twitter	2.564
Youtube	355
TOTAL GENERAL	6.471

Seminario

21 de octubre de 2021

**DESARROLLO DE MERCADOS DOMÉSTICOS
E INTERNACIONAL DE PRODUCTOS
ORGÁNICOS FRESCOS: CASOS EXITOSOS
DE GUATEMALA Y ESPAÑA**

Facebook	3.014
Twitter	1.995
Youtube	198
TOTAL GENERAL	5.207

**Foro
Internacional**

26 y 27 de octubre

XII ASAMBLEA ORDINARIA ANUAL (VIRTUAL) DE LA CIAO

Alcance de contenido relacionado en vistas por Red Social	TOTAL en Cada Jornada	Facebook	Twitter	Youtube
1era Jornada.	4.533	2.653	1.521	359
2da Jornada.	5.010	2.848	1.787	375
TOTAL GENERAL	9.543	5.501	3.308	734

**Asamblea
Ordinaria**

23 de noviembre 2021

**BIENESTAR ANIMAL Y FITOTERAPIA
EN GANADERÍA ORGÁNICA" SESIÓN
III: BOVINOS DE LECHE**

Facebook	3.020
Twitter	1.347
Youtube	349
TOTAL GENERAL	4.716

Seminario

6 de diciembre 2021

**BIOINSUMOS APTOS PARA LA
PRODUCCIÓN ORGÁNICA**

Facebook	3.245
Twitter	1.615
Youtube	430
TOTAL GENERAL	5.290

**Foro
Internacional**

7 de diciembre de 2021

**SEMINARIO DE APICULTURA
ORGÁNICA ORGANIZADO POR CHILE Y
BRASIL.**

Facebook	5.621
Twitter	2.148
Youtube	360
TOTAL GENERAL	8.129

**Seminario
Internacional**

17 de marzo 2022

**BIENESTAR ANIMAL Y FITOTERAPIA
EN GANADERÍA ORGÁNICA"
AVICULTURA I: POLLO DE CARNE**

Facebook	6.084
Twitter	3.482
Youtube	352
TOTAL GENERAL	8.918

**Seminario
Internacional**



3. STRATEGIC ACTIVITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL POSITIONING

3.1. International Seminar on “The Contribution of Organic Production to Agrifood System Transformation”, 22 June 2022.

Representing the agriculture and rural sector of the hemisphere, IICA worked with the ICOA to organize an International Seminar on the Contribution of Organic/ Ecological/ Biological Production to Agrifood System Transformation for the UN Food Systems Summit 2021, which took place in October 2021.

The Seminar attracted participants from the European Commission, IFOAM, FAO, INTERECO, Ecovalia, SEAE, as well as IICA authorities and representatives from ICOA Member Countries.

The Seminar addressed issues such as: The European Plan for the development of ecological agriculture in the EU; contributions of IICA and ICOA member countries to the preservation and sustainability of agrifood systems; a Declaration by CAS; multi-disciplinary and multi-agent strategies to promote the production and consumption of ecological food; ecological production, public certification and greenwashing; the SDGs: the perspective of Ecovalia as a professional association in the organic sector; and the creation of and support for equitable food systems.

3.2. International Seminar “Antifraud Policies for the Preservation of Organic Integrity” 28 April 2022.

Event objective: To share experiences and actions undertaken by each government to protect the status of the sector. To join forces and to increase awareness about the importance of developing anti-fraud policies that provide producers and consumers with a guarantee on organic products.

Important technical seminar for Competent Control Authorities, organized by ICOA, with the participation of the USDA/NOP (U.S), CFIA (Canada) and DG-AGRI (EC/EU).

3.3. ICOA technical, institutional, political and trade mission to Europe, 28 May to 10 June.

Background: Within the framework of technical cooperation initiatives to develop biodistricts in ICOA countries, a technical mission to Europe was organized to build the integration capacities of “Organic Regions (Biodistricts or Ecoregions)”, by sharing experiences with organic regions in Italy. Moreover, given the fact the ICOA was scheduled to participate in the 2022 Organic Food Iberia (OFI) trade fair, the Executive Secretariat decided to integrate activities and training with meetings with strategic and potential partners to increase the political and institutional influence of ICOA and IICA.

Results:

- Improved the technical, institutional and trade capacities, as well as political influence of ICOA and IICA, by sharing technical experiences with organic sector stakeholders from Europe and by undertaking cooperation actions with partner and potential partner institutions.
- Improved the technical, trade and organizational capacities of officials, decision-makers and leading organic producers in ICOA member countries, through the generation of qualified information and the sharing of experiences on innovation and on value addition.

Activities carried out:

The ten-member delegation had representatives from Brazil, Argentina, Peru and Ecuador.

- Participation in OFI 2022 with an ICOA exhibit, to support delegates and trade missions of member countries. The participation of ICOA in Organic Food Iberia—the largest professional trade exhibit of the largest growing organic sector in Spain—was successful and enabled the organization to highlight its institutional management and the national organic control systems of its Member Countries, in a bid to demonstrate the high quality of organic products from the Americas to importers, consumers and institutions in Spain and to provide a guarantee with regards to this important production system.
- Throughout the mission, meetings and training were undertaken with leading institutions, strategic and potential partners to increase the political and institutional influence of ICOA in the organic sector in Spain, Portugal and Italy, including with Ecovalia, Agrobio, INTERECO, IFOAM, Podere Stuard Parma, the University of Parma, as well as with producers and companies involved in organic food research, development, production, provision of inputs and organic food, such as Crisara, Trichodex, Biocampo, Huerta Orgánica de La Alhambra, Almazaras de la Subbética (in the Sierras Subbeticas National Park), Corte D’ Aibo and Finca La Biolca.
- Meeting and engagement with Representatives from the Directorate General of Agriculture and Rural Development of the European Commission.
- Strengthening of partnerships with the management of IFOAM and FiBL Europe.
- Experience sharing on organic production-related issues in Spain and Italy in relation to cooperative management, specific products of interest, bioinputs and biodistricts. A visit was made to the Valle del Panaro, Parma and Alte Valli biodistricts, with a view to sharing experiences and possibly developing tools for the creation of Biodistricts/Ecoregions in the countries of the Americas.
- Capacity building of ICOA countries in strategies and policies to foster organic agriculture development.
- ICOA institutional strengthening with current and/or future strategic partners and new observer members.
- The meetings throughout the tour assisted in identifying topics for training to be undertaken with ICOA strategic partners, such as Ecovalia, Agrobio and DG Agri, to enhance technical capacities and to facilitate experience sharing among Member States.

- Ecuador will host the XIII Regular Assembly of the ICOA on 26 – 30 September 2022. During the tour, ICOA received commitments from several of the organizations that were visited, such as DG Agri, Ecovalia, Agrobio and INTERECO, undertaking to send delegations to participate in the Assembly and in the V International Congress on Organic Production. This will increase the visibility of these events, strengthen interinstitutional relations and highlight organic production in the Americas.
- All of these actions strengthened the technical, institutional and political advocacy capacities of ICOA, through the exchange of technical experiences with European organic sector stakeholders and the undertaking of actions to enhance relations with partner and potential partner institutions of ICOA in Europe, while opening the door for future participation by our countries in Organic Food Iberia.

4. ICOA FINANCIAL REPORT

ICOA has an annual budget to finance the activities approved by its Assembly and outlined in its annual work plan. These resources are contributed by the Member States. At the Fifth Regular Assembly of ICOA, the representatives of the Member States approved the Commission's Operating Regulations, which establish the following commitments regarding payment of the annual quota:

- Art. 6: ICOA's main resources will come from the fees contributed by the Member States.
- Art. 7: ICOA Member States will contribute USD 6,000.00 annually to finance the annual work plan and administrative activities.
- Art. 10: The quota must be paid within the first quarter of each calendar year and will finance the annual work plan for that calendar year. Implementation of the annual work plan is conditional on the timely payment of this fee and any delay would compel the Board of Directors to rethink the work plan.

In order to define certain matters with respect to administration and to the handling of the annual quotas contributed by ICOA Member States, ICOA's BD, by way of the Minutes of Virtual Meeting No. 2 in 2014, approved the Procedures Handbook to support administration of the resources contributed under the agreement signed with IICA for that purpose.

ICOA's financial balance as at 19 May is shown in **Table 1** below. **Table 2** details the quotas contributed by the Member States.

Table 1. REF: T-003719-01-USD / FUND: T3D01 FINANCIAL BALANCE in USD			As at 17 June 2022
ICOA	(+)REGULAR INCOME CONTRIBUTED BY THE COUNTRIES (USD)	(-) PROJECT EXPENSES (USD)	ANNUAL BALANCE
2014	24,000	7,381.57	16,618.43
2015	24,000	6,087.03	17,912.97
2016	65,750.80	23,262.67	42,488.13
2017	42,031.97	23,621.15	18,410.82
2018	66,000	25,949.26	40,050.74
2019	41,515.32	26,622.41	14,892.91
2020	53,944.66	11,730.58	42,214.08
2021	33,489.51	6,375.26	27,114.25
2022	33,431.19	61,011.38	-27,580.19
TOTAL (USD)	384,163.45	192,041.31	
BALANCE	192,122.14		

INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR ORGANIC AGRICULTURE (ICOA)
MEMBER STATES IN ARREARS
AS AT 17/06/2022
(IN USD)

COUNTRY	QUOTAS (1)	FUNDS RECEIVED										BALANCE	Years in arrears (2)	
		2014-2022	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022			Total
ARGENTINA	54,000		6,000		6,000							12,000	42,000	2016-22
BOLIVIA	54,000											-	54,000	2014-22
BRAZIL	54,000											-	54,000	2014-22
CHILE (4)	54,000					6,000	6,000	6,000	5,945	3,490	3,214	30,648	23,352	2014-16, partial, 2022
COLOMBIA (6)	54,000											-	54,000	2014-22
COSTA RICA (5)	54,000											-	54,000	2014-22
ECUADOR	54,000	6,000		12,000	6,000		6,000	6,000	6,000			42,000	12,000	2021-22
EL SALVADOR	54,000											-	54,000	2014-22
UNITED STATES (3)	48,000	n/a	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	48,000	-	-
GUATEMALA	54,000					30,000		12,000	6,000			48,000	6,000	2022
HONDURAS	54,000											-	54,000	2014-22
MEXICO	54,000		12,000	6,000	6,000	6,000						30,000	24,000	2019-22
NICARAGUA	54,000	6,000		17,751		6,000		12,000		12,249		54,000	-	-
PANAMA	54,000			12,000	12,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000		54,000	-	-
PARAGUAY	54,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,032	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	5,968		54,000	0	Balance 2022
PERU	54,000											-	54,000	2014-22
DOMINICAN REP.	54,000							11,515				11,515	42,485	Balance 2015- 2022
URUGUAY	54,000											-	54,000	2014-22
VENEZUELA	54,000											-	54,000	2014-22
TOTAL	1,020,000	24,000	24,000	65,751	42,032	66,000	41,515	53,945	33,490	33,431	384,163	635,837		

(1) Annual fee of USD 6000

(2) The contributions received are applied retroactively, starting with the first year in which quotas are owing.

(3) The United States was incorporated into ICOA in 2015.

(4) At the X General Assembly, Chile indicated that its quotas are calculated as of 2017, making it clear that the country cannot pay retroactive quotas. The issue is being reviewed by the BD/ICOA.

(5) By way of Letter DSFE-0479-2019, dated 13 June 2019, Costa Rica asked to be excluded from the list of debtors, given that it has signed no agreement with with ICOA that supports payment of the quota. The issue is being reviewed by the BD/ICOA.

(6) By means of Letter 20201700178971, dated 14 September 2020, Colombia stated that there were no legal grounds nor consent regarding payment of a quota to ICOA.

5. PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES

Since the end of the 20th century, greater awareness about the environmental impact of conventional production patterns and consumers' concerns about their own health has caused a shift in consumption habits towards healthier and safer food, produced in a more environmentally manner. This trend accelerated during the crisis triggered by the SAR-COV2 pandemic, when consumers even began to seek information about the origin of products. The recent war between the Russian Federation and the Ukraine had also caused a reduction in the supply of agricultural products and production inputs (mineral fertilizers). Thus, organic production will not only have to respond to greater demand for its products, but will also need to compete for inputs, amidst the extra pressure caused by greater demand for bio-based fertilizers, as an alternative to conventional fertilizers. This will call for strategies to curb this upward trend and to strengthen domestic trade and increase international trade, for the benefit of producers and consumers in the Americas and throughout the world.

- **Challenges facing organic production in the Americas:**

- ✓ To leverage the upward trend in the consumption of organic products worldwide to capture a greater share of the international market.
- ✓ To strengthen policies and strategies that support the promotion and development of organic production and its control and development systems, primarily in countries that lack these mechanisms.
- ✓ To increase the number of certified organic hectares and producers in the Americas, while increasing the local and regional market for these products.
- ✓ To expand the array of inputs that are suitable for organic production.

- **Challenges facing ICOA**

- ✓ To support consolidation of the public institutional framework necessary to leverage the opportunities afforded by the local, regional, and global contexts.
- ✓ To promote linkages between producers and local, regional, and international markets, where meeting the requirements and demands of regulations and standards on organic production and trade has become increasingly important.
- ✓ To support and encourage the standardization of national regulations on organic production among the countries in the region and the strengthening of national organic production control systems. These are key to ensuring recognition by leading trade partners and building assurance and trust in the region's products, thereby facilitating trade and access to global markets.
- ✓ To promote the creation and/or development of active public policies that include awareness raising, producer and consumer training, and the promotion of new domestic market strategies for organic products.
- ✓ To promote initiatives to improve recordkeeping on statistics related to organic production and the price of organic products.
- ✓ To encourage payment of quota contributions by Member States and to foster the mobilization of external resources.

6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Board of Directors of ICOA, through its Chairman, wishes to express its gratitude to IICA, its Director General, and its Director of Technical Cooperation for the support provided by way of the Executive Secretariat, the offices in the Member States, and other entities in the Institute. Without your support, it would not have been possible to demonstrate the Commission's achievements.

Similarly, ICOA wishes to thank the distinguished Ministers and, through them, the Member States, for the support provided in each country during the 2021-2022 reporting period.

We trust that, as a result of this support, the work of ICOA will continue to inure to the benefit of the countries of the Americas and of organic producers and their families.

Prepared by:

Juan Manuel Gámez

Technical Assistant

ICOA Executive Secretariat

Revised by:

Graciela Lacaze

ICOA Executive Secretariat

Approved by:

Rommel Betancourt

Chairman of the ICOA Board of Directors