

# **Report on IICA-FAO cooperation for institutional improvement and joint work**

## **Introduction**

In accordance with Resolution No. 506, issued at the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), we present the following report concerning the progress achieved in improving institutional efficiency and describe the joint projects undertaken by IICA and FAO.

## **Areas of cooperation**

Below is a description of the progress achieved in the different areas of joint cooperation between IICA and FAO, which demonstrates the efficient and complementary use of both organizations' resources and capabilities in pursuit of common objectives.

### **A. Improving institutional efficiency**

In this regard, the following efforts have been implemented throughout the hemisphere.

- A Regional Dialogue on policies to promote innovation in family farming in Latin America, which took place in Panama in 2018.
- Support for the organization of the technical event: "Tribute to family farms as part of the celebration of the Decade of Family Farming", in cooperation with the Embassy of Costa Rica and Green Market of Santa Cruz, in May 2019.
- Advisory role, during 2019, in the preparation of a Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Management in the Agricultural Sector, and on Food and Nutritional Security in Latin America and the Caribbean 2018-2030.
- Member of the Working Group responsible for updating the Manual on Good Emergency Management Practices (GEMP Manual).
- Created a platform of rural extension collaborators in Guatemala, in 2019.
- In 2018, IICA, FAO and the World Food Program in El Salvador prepared a proposal for joint work, in the context of the international cooperation group for agriculture.
- Facilitated spaces for discussion with academic and civil organizations regarding the positioning of family farming in Guatemala in 2019.

- Updated the Agreement on Agricultural Health between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Dominican Republic and the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development of Haiti.
- Within the framework of the International Cooperation Group for Agriculture of El Salvador, IICA and FAO organized two meetings in 2018, with shared secretariats and combined organization, in order to consider joint future actions, through the exchange of relevant information for the country.
- Defined common technical cooperation agendas in El Salvador in the context of SICA, with the aim of coordinating and linking joint cooperation actions in 2019.
- In the context of the Meeting of Andean Ministers of Agriculture and Rural Development on Family Farming, during the first semester of 2018, IICA-FAO engaged in joint efforts to position family farming as one of the public policy priorities of the agriculture ministries in the Andean region, through a continuous sub-regional dialogue with family farmers, public institutions and cooperation organizations and the design of international fundraising strategies for regional projects in the Andean countries to support family farming.
- Development of a joint work plan for the creation and technical accompaniment of the Working Group on Technical Assistance and Rural Extension of Ecuador's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG).
- Technical facilitation of the Virtual Forum on Land Governance, in 2018, addressing gender issues and agrarian policy to promote inclusion, opportunities and the autonomy of family farming.
- Coordination of agendas and exchange of relevant information in the National Cooperation and Donor Groups, both in Brazil and in Paraguay.
- Promotion of an agenda for strategic partners, together with the implementation of technical workshops on topics such as reduction of food waste and production of small ruminants in Jamaica, between 2017 and 2018.
- Processes to coordinate technical cooperation in thematic areas such as early warning systems, phytosanitary warning systems and improvement of potato crops as well as production, trade and promotion of consumption in Bolivia, between 2018 and 2019.

## **B. Projects and other areas of joint cooperation**

Several joint projects have already been executed or are currently underway in various countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition, the following activities are aimed at supporting joint technical cooperation projects:

- Climate Change, Natural Resources and Production Risks Program: joint implementation of the MEFCCA training module on climate variability and climate change in Nicaragua, in 2019. Preparation of a publication on transfers linked to the promotion of sustainable agriculture adapted to the climate.
- Agricultural Health and Food Safety Program: Participation in the “Tripartite + Group” to coordinate actions related to antimicrobial resistance (AMR). Organization and implementation of regional workshops to review the IPPC standards. A risk analysis project by the Food Safety Risk Analysis Consortium (FSRisk) is currently being implemented in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Uruguay.
- Innovation and Technology Program: Participation in the design of a methodology for the assessment of innovation systems. Letter of Understanding between FORAGRO/IICA and GFAR/FAO to transform the governance and design the strategic plan of FORAGRO. Consultations on a methodology for assessing innovation systems. Participation in the International Symposium entitled: “Agricultural innovation for family farmers: releasing the potential of agricultural innovation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”
- Bolivia: Support for national institutions and private stakeholders through the following technical cooperation actions: a) national discussion forums on topics such as rice, cacao and chocolate production, water and food sovereignty in the context of adaptation to climate change, area-based (territorial) management and common standards for production of quinoa and Andean grains, b) technical sessions and meetings of experts to assist the Ministry of Rural Development and Land and the National Codex Alimentarius Commission in the formulation of the Sector Plan for 2020 – 2025.
- Brazil: Joint participation by the Offices of IICA and FAO in Brazil in the *Feria AgroBrasilia* (an agribusiness and technology fair) exhibiting technical cooperation activities, international public goods (including publications and institutional efforts to support social technologies and practices by both organizations within their cooperation actions) to rural producers, the embassy delegations of 18 countries and to the general public. Joint implementation of a Technical Workshop in preparation

for the Brazil-Bolivia Binational Integration Meeting, with an emphasis on production of vegetables and legumes in Bolivia, production on family farms and agricultural trade between both countries. These actions have resulted in useful inputs and information for the Brazil-Bolivia Binational Integration Committee, the purpose of which is to promote cooperation on cross-border trade.

- Colombia: Joint organization of the XII International Territorial Development Forum to promote modern rural development and differentiated public policies for the Latin American countries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- Guatemala: Gastronomy Festival “*Saberes y sabores*” in 2018. FAO supported the development of the agricultural innovation platform promoted by IICA and the Social Studies Observatory of the Universidad del Valle of Guatemala. IICA-FAO jointly organized the launch of the Decade of Family Farming in Guatemala in 2019.
- Guyana: Four technical cooperation actions were implemented: a) strengthening the dairy sector’s institutional framework through the development of business plans and feasibility studies for the processing of dairy products, b) developing opportunities and livelihoods for groups of displaced workers through agricultural diversification in rural areas, c) projects to establish agricultural nurseries in schools and colleges in order to promote agriculture and consumption of healthy foods and d) risk management and adaptation to climate change, through capacity building efforts and assisting agricultural agencies with the presentation of projects to the Green Climate Fund.
- El Salvador: In the context of the technical cooperation projects of PROCAGICA–El Salvador and the Mesoamerica Hunger Free Program, a process began in 2018 to coordinate actions for early warning systems and the use of meteorological information for decision making. Technical support was provided for the “National dialogue on migration, rural development, food security and environmental vulnerability” organized by FAO in 2019.
- Nicaragua: Methodologies and tools designed for assessing rural enterprises and formulating business plans in 2018. Cooperation actions to promote Nicaragua’s Capacity Building Program in Family Farming.
- Dominican Republic: Training program for the Ministry of Agriculture’s extension workers for implementation of the National Soil Conservation Service. Cooperation Agreement between IICA-FAO and the Ministry of Women. Binational Program to strengthen agricultural health and food safety in Haiti and the Dominican Republic, in 2018.

- Trinidad and Tobago: Technical facilitation of the National Food Security Policy in 2018. Preparation of an Agricultural Risk Management Plan in Trinidad and Tobago in 2019. Facilitation of a study on the cassava value chain in Tobago in 2019, under the terms of the FAO Letter of Understanding. Presentation of IICA-FAO joint cooperation actions at the UWI AgriTechExpo in 2018.
- Uruguay: Formulation of the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Awareness for the *Uruguay Inteligente* Project: “Implementation of a common methodology for the systematic evaluation of damage and losses in agriculture due to disasters in the countries of the Southern Agricultural Council.”