



Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas 2015 and
Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA

**Report on joint actions carried out by the Inter-American
Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
during the period 2013-2015**

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IICA-FAO: World-class Technical Cooperation

Report on Joint Work

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations have an agenda for joint work aimed at building international public goods and responding to emergencies caused by natural disasters, policymaking, and capacity building at the national, multinational and regional levels.

This report outlines the actions of both institutions between 2013 and 2015.

IICA, FAO and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) prepared the 2014 report “The Outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean”¹, which included a special focus on family farming.

IICA and FAO published 10 case studies on public and private institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean that are promoting the development of agribusiness. These studies have helped identify innovative policy instruments that were then shared in various workshops. Meanwhile, the collaboration undertaken in Belize resulted in consultation with more than 250 key industry players and the preparation of the draft of the country’s National Agriculture and Food Policy, which will guide national action over the next 15 years.

Experts from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), the Institute of Food and Agricultural Research and Technology (IRTA) in Catalonia, the National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA) in Argentina and the FAO participated in the technical forum “Water to feed the land” which served as a basis for discussions at the 2013 Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture.

IICA also continued to support the work of the Inter-American Coordinating Group in Plant Protection in the Caribbean; and, for the fourth time, with the University of the West Indies, the FAO, USDA, and the Ministries of Agriculture in Jamaica and Barbados, improved the plant quarantine capabilities of 17 countries.

In the Bahamas, IICA developed an agricultural health and food safety action plan by applying the “Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS)” tool jointly with the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and the Environment, and with assistance from FAO, the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). At the same time, five demonstration greenhouses for vegetable production were set up using the climate-smart agriculture model. This resulted from a partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture, Partners of the Americas, and the FAO, that helped persuade eight producer organizations to set

¹ This document may be viewed at:

<http://www.iica.int/Esp/Programas/AnalisisEstrategico/Publicaciones%20de%20Modernizacin%20Institucional/b3249e.pdf>

up different types of greenhouses and train more than 200 agricultural workers in new production methods.

Furthermore, IICA played its part in the efforts to commemorate the International Year of Family Farming across the globe. It spearheaded the organization of events for the analysis of the status and positioning of family agriculture in the Americas, including: a) the Central American Meeting of Agriculture 2014 (200 participants), held in San Salvador in partnership with the SECAC, the FAO, the Rural Regional Dialogue Programme, the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), and CIRAD, among other institutions; b) the “International Seminar: Family Farming in Latin America and the Caribbean: Historical Assessment, Current Situation, and Challenges for the Medium and Long Term” (120 participants), held in Santiago, Chile in partnership with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), CIRAD, and the FAO; c) The Institute held a forum entitled “*The role of family farms in food security*” in Belize, in coordination with the FAO and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture, to discuss the capabilities of family agriculture in that country.

Networks, Knowledge Management and Food Security

IICA spearheaded the joint effort with FAO, ECLAC and ten universities in the hemisphere that are members of the Union of Latin American Universities to complete the design of the study program for the First International Masters Degree in Food Security. The course will get under way in August 2015 with 50 students and sponsorship from Mexico’s Universidad Abierta y a Distancia.

The FAO, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), and IICA conducted the course “Communication and knowledge for decision-making in food and nutrition security (FNS) in Latin America,” which comprised seven weeks of work via the Internet and an onsite session held in October in Antigua, Guatemala. More than 30 professionals took part from the Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Rural Development, and Economic Affairs, as well as the FNS and social development secretariats of Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Peru, Ecuador, Brazil, Colombia, Uruguay, Venezuela, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and Panama.

The FAO and other international agencies jointly developed 11 courses on knowledge and information management and boosted the global information and knowledge resource platform known as IMARK. The courses, available in French, Spanish and English on the www.imarkgroup.org146 website, received registrations from 146, 428 people. Five new self-study courses were generated as part of this initiative: Scientific Writing, Creation of Electronic Communities and Networks, Information Strategies, Social Media for Development and Exchange of Knowledge for Development.

The Institute spearheaded the adaptation and operation of the VIVO LAC system, developed by Cornell University, which manages technical and professional profiles in

agriculture. This initiative, referred to as Agriperfiles, and available online at <http://agriperfiles.agri-d.net/>, is a joint undertaking with Cornell University, USDA, FAO, the CGIAR Consortium and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (TCA) of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group and the European Union (EU).

Response to Natural Disasters

St Lucia: In collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), assistance was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Cooperatives and Rural Development with five linear kilometers of agricultural drainage and eight linear kilometers of rivers through the planting of trees and engineering works following the destruction caused by the tropical storm in December 2013.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines: IICA and the FAO joined forces to recover, clean and rehabilitate three watersheds, including eliminating 18 530 m³ of wood and 121 m³ of debris, producing 610 bags of charcoal and stabilizing around 12 km of riverbanks by planting trees and palms.

Analysis of the information

Below is the analysis done on the basis of inputs received up to May 2015 when 33 of the 35 IICA offices requested submitted their data. Of these 33 offices, 24 have carried out activities, projects or actions with the FAO. The other nine were Argentina, whose government has not signed an agreement with FAO, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Venezuela.

Actions have been conducted with the FAO in the 5 geographical regions where IICA carries out its work. Table 1 shows the number of activities, projects or actions developed in the countries and the amount of resources in USD.

The Caribbean region is the one that presents the greatest number of activities (17), followed by the Central (15), Southern (9), Andean (6) and Northern (5) regions.

Table 1. Number of joint IICA-FAO activities and projects carried out in the Institute's member countries and amount of resources.

| Region | Country | Number of activities and projects | Amount of resources in USD |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Andean | Colombia | 3 | 518 000 |
| | Ecuador | 1 | 45 000 |
| | Peru | 2 | 0 |
| Total for the región | | 6 | 563 000 |

| Region | Country | Number of activities and projects | Amount of resources in USD |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Caribbean | Antigua and Barbuda | 1 | 500 000 |
| | Bahamas | 3 | 4 000 |
| | Barbados | 3 | 0 |
| | Guyana | 1 | 12 206 ⁽¹⁾ |
| | Haiti | 4 | 18 200 |
| | Saint Lucia | 2 | 104 135 |
| | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines | 2 | 81 839 |
| | Suriname | 1 | 10 000 |
| Total for the region | | 17 | 730 380 |

⁽¹⁾ The amount of USD 12 206 is divided into USD 7531 contributed by FAO and USD 4675 by IICA.

| Region | Country | Number of activities and projects | Amount of resources in USD |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Central | Belize | 1 | 37 000 |
| | El Salvador | 1 | 0 |
| | Guatemala | 3 | 0 |
| | Honduras | 6 | 800 |
| | Nicaragua | 1 | 303 000 ⁽²⁾ |
| | Panama | 3 | 0 |
| Total for the region | | 15 | 340 800 |

⁽²⁾ The amount of USD 303 000 corresponds to USD 225 000 contributed by COSUDE and USD 78 000 by IICA.

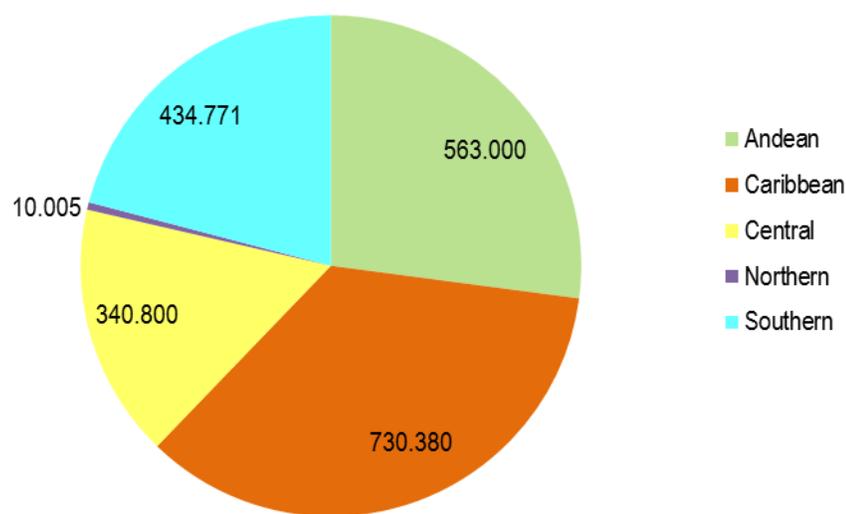
| Region | Country | Number of activities and projects | Amount of resources in USD |
|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Northern | Spain | 3 | 10 005 ⁽³⁾ |
| | United States | 1 | 0 |
| | Mexico | 1 | 0 |
| Total de la region | | 5 | 10 005 |

⁽³⁾ At a rate of exchange of EUR 1 = USD 1.1118, established by the European Central Bank at May 30 2015. <https://www.ecb.europa.eu/stats/exchange/eurofxref/html/eurofxref-graph-usd.en.html>. The USD 10 005 is made up of USD 3669 from IICA and the remainder from other counterparts.

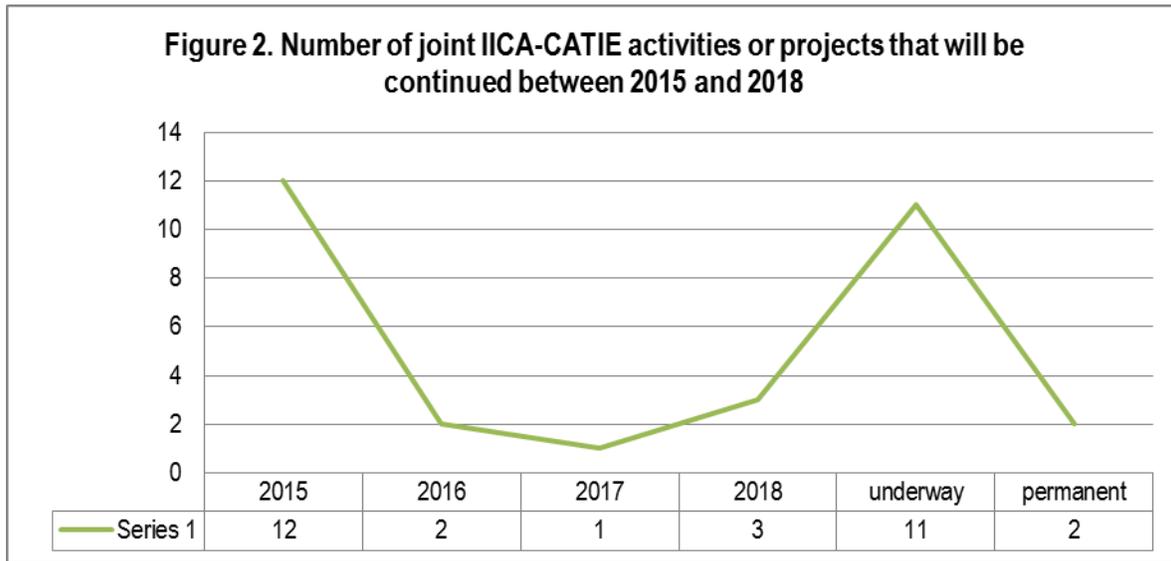
| Region | Country | Number of activities and projects | Amount of resources in USD |
|-----------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Southern | Brazil | 2 | 434 771 |
| | Chile | 5 | 0 |
| | Uruguay | 1 | 0 |
| | Paraguay | 1 | 0 |
| Total for the region | | 9 | 434 771 |

The greatest amount of resources executed for carrying out joint actions has gone to the Caribbean region (USD 730 380), followed by the Andean, Southern, Central and Northern regions. Figure 1 outlines this data.

Figure1. Amount of resources per region for carrying out IICA-FAO activities or projects during the period 2013 to April 2015 (in USD)



Of the 52 activities and projects carried out by IICA with FAO, 31 are currently being executed or are valid for a few years more. The following figure shows that, in 2015, twelve activities or projects will come to an end, that eleven are currently being executed and that two, both in Honduras, are permanent projects: support for implementation of the Central American Strategy for Rural Area-based Development (ECADERT) and execution of the annual operational plan of the National *Codex Alimentarius* Committee.



Moreover, the 52 activities and projects carried out with the FAO were aligned with the eleven contributions defined in the 2014-2018 Medium Term Plan, as detailed in the following table:

| IICA Contributions ² | Number of IICA-FAO activities and projects |
|--|--|
| Strengthen the capabilities of the Member States at the national, regional, multinational and hemispheric levels to establish public policies and institutional frameworks in order to make agriculture more productive and competitive, improve the management of rural territories, adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change, and promote food and nutritional security. | 21 |
| Implement, through public and private institutions, technological, institutional and business innovation processes aimed at boosting the productivity and competitiveness of agriculture and the production of basic foodstuffs of high nutritional quality. | 3 |

² IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, CR). 2014. 2014-2018 Medium-Term Plan. San Jose, Costa Rica. p. 31.

| IICA Contributions ² | Number of IICA-FAO activities and projects |
|---|--|
| Increase the capabilities of the public and private sectors to ensure agricultural health and food safety and thereby improve productivity, competitiveness and food security. | 4 |
| Strengthen the business and associative capacities of the different stakeholders in the agricultural production chains. | 3 |
| Increase the capacity for area-based social management among stakeholders in rural areas, especially those involved in family agriculture, in order to improve food security and rural well-being. | 5 |
| Enhance the capabilities of different stakeholders of the agricultural chains and rural areas in the integrated management of water and sustainable use of soil for agriculture. | 3 |
| Increase the capacity of public and private institutions to promote and implement measures for adapting agriculture to climate change and mitigating its effects, as well as promoting integrated risk management in agriculture. | 4 |
| Improve the efficacy and efficiency of the food and nutritional security programs in the Member States. | 3 |
| Ensure that producers and consumers benefit from greater use of native species, promising crops and genetic resources with food potential. | 0 |
| Improve institutional capacity to reduce losses of food and raw materials throughout the agricultural chains. | 0 |
| Strengthen the Member States' capacity for consensus and participation in international forums and other mechanisms for the exchange of knowledge and mobilization of relevant resources for inter-American agriculture. | 6 |