

RESOLUTION No. 659

**IICA'S ACTIONS, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ITS 2018-2022 MEDIUM-TERM
PLAN, TO SUPPORT ITS MEMBER STATES IN OVERCOMING THE CRISIS
TRIGGERED BY THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Fortieth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 707 (20), "IICA strategy in light of the COVID-19 emergency", and the report presented by the Director General,

CONSIDERING:

That on 18 July 2018, in fulfillment of the mandate of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), and by means of resolution IICA/CE/Res. 629 (XXXVIII-O/18), the Executive Committee analyzed and approved the 2018-2022 Medium-term Plan (MTP) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) as the guiding framework for its actions during that period;

That the 2018-2022 MTP outlines a new cooperation paradigm that is geared towards achieving an efficient and flexible IICA that prioritizes knowledge management and the development of public-private partnerships;

That the global health emergency triggered by the COVID-19 disease has profoundly altered social and economic relations in countries throughout the Americas, which has affected the lives and health of millions of people;

That in light of the ever-growing number of people infected and the unfortunate loss of thousands of human lives, governments and citizens have adopted restriction and containment measures to tackle the emergency, which, however, have paralyzed important economic activities;

That, despite the negative impact of the health emergency on some chains of the agrifood sector, agriculture has been key to overcoming the crisis, given that it has maintained production and demonstrated its leading role in guaranteeing food security for the population; and will be one of the decisive sectors for economic recovery post-COVID-19;

That there is an urgent need to bolster, by means of innovative mechanisms, the resilience of the agriculture and rural sectors to natural or economic external shocks, particularly with the aim of addressing the profound current crisis and its effects, as well as to involve all relevant stakeholders in this fundamental task;

That it has become evident that solidarity and international cooperation, particularly the work carried out by multilateral technical cooperation organizations like IICA, are tremendously valuable in overcoming the pandemic; and

That, despite the challenging circumstances, the General Directorate of the Institute has strengthened its support to the Member States by developing innovative mechanisms aimed at fostering dialogue, providing information and improving capacities,

RESOLVES:

1. To acknowledge the efforts undertaken by IICA's Member States during the current emergency to maintain and improve the performance of the agriculture sector at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, as well as to guarantee food security and protect the well-being of rural workers.
2. To acknowledge and endorse the work that the Institute and its Director General have carried out to support the countries, particularly the ministries of agriculture, which has enabled IICA to consolidate its standing as an institution that listens to its member countries and proposes solutions to address their demands and needs.
3. To urge the Member States to reinforce their support to the Institute, making the greatest possible efforts to bolster its technical and financial capacity, so that it may continue to provide technical cooperation of excellence for agricultural and rural development.
4. To request that the Director General continue to explore innovative solutions to strengthen IICA's technical cooperation services, especially through activities that allow for bringing together all sector stakeholders to create a sustainable and resilient agriculture sector.