



Forty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

**Report on resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 521 Strengthening on  
the Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality  
Program**

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## **Report on resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 521 Strengthening on the Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality Program**

By way of resolution 521, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) requested that the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) present a proposal for strengthening cooperation activities related to agricultural health within the framework of the Agricultural Health, Safety and Food Quality program. In order to comply with that resolution, the Institute has been working to identify external resources and strategic partnerships that will facilitate the implementation of these activities.

Approximately USD 1,500,000 in resources have been mobilized to support activities in: a) food safety capacity building, b) maximum residue levels (MRLs), c) plant and animal health, and d) pest and disease management and control. Moreover, in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, IICA has promoted decision-making, based on scientific evidence and risk analysis. To this end, it has supported the participation of official delegates in Codex Alimentarius meetings; collaborated in the review of draft standards proposed by international reference organizations in the fields of food safety, as well as animal and plant health; and in the Caribbean Region has implemented a European Union project related to this issue, valuing 1.25 million euros.

The crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic has created major challenges for the effective operation of official agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) services. To address this, the Program has been working to identify options and alternatives that will facilitate the incorporation of the use of new technologies into the actions and activities of these services, as well as offering support to address emerging issues.

In 2021, IICA has been implementing technical cooperation actions designed to serve as a platform to attract external resources for issues that could contribute to strengthening AHFS services and the health status of countries, including the following:

- Strengthening of AHFS services in the Andean Region, incorporating the practical application of the One Health concept in the efficient health management of zoonoses.
- Enhancing the food safety capacity of micro and small enterprises, through the use of information and communication technology in select Caribbean countries.
- Strengthening the resilience and sustainability of the Central American milk and dairy products food system in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Prospective Phytosanitary Intelligence (PPI): strengthening capacities and bridging gaps in the Southern Region.
- Defense against future zoonotic outbreaks in the Americas: Assessing and reducing zoonotic risks in wet markets.

- Capacity strengthening of North American veterinary services in the prevention of African Swine Fever (ASF).

In keeping with the thrust of the new business model, actions have been aimed at developing initiatives involving the sale of services, strategic partnerships with the private sector and technical implementation agreements to support official services in areas such as inspection and certification. These initiatives are reflected in actions, such as the creation of the Global Alliance for Cooperation in the Fight against Fusarium TR4, through which IICA has pulled together a wide group of private sector representatives to create a donor fund to help support countries' efforts to tackle this disease. Similarly, initiatives such as those that are being implemented in Brazil, Mexico and Ecuador to support official AHFS services in areas such as health protection, inspection and certification, are yet another example of efforts that the Institute is promoting to strengthen the actions of its AHFS Program.