



United States of America

Significant achievements in 2010

- PROCINORTE developed a new strategic plan and continued supporting technical collaboration among Canada, Mexico and the United States in the research and technology areas defined in said plan. Major achievements are:
 - For the first time, researchers and officials from the regulatory authorities of the three countries shared experiences in monitoring the H1N1 virus and Animal Influenza pandemic. As a result, tri-lateral working groups were formed to share protocols and establish a common platform to address future pandemics.
 - The quality and shelf life of mangos and avocados are being improved in three projects sponsored by PROCINORTE. At the same time, links among research institutions of the three countries have been improved in relation to the quality, safety and traceability of fruits. Training and advisory services have also been provided to producers in Mexico.
 - Information specialists from Canadian and U.S. agricultural libraries have contributed to strengthening the *Red Mexicana de Bibliotecas Agropecuarias* (REMBA), through knowledge sharing and capacity building activities.
- FONTAGRO Fund, an initiative comprising 15 member countries of the Western Hemisphere and Spain and sponsored by IICA and the IDB, received increased technical assistance and support from IICA. The following was achieved with contributions from the Institute:
 - A new focus on promoting innovations in family agriculture as related to food security, climate change, and sustainable use of natural resources has been defined in FONTAGRO's 2010-2015 Medium-Term Plan and approved by the FONTAGRO Board.
 - The use of consortia as an effective mechanism for cooperation among institutions in the region to solve common problems has been endorsed by

an external evaluation of FONTAGRO mechanisms. The evaluation also acknowledged the important roles played by IICA as the Technical and Administrative Secretariat.

- Increases in agricultural productivity and in knowledge of ways to improve the sustainable use of natural resources have resulted from 29 FONTAGRO-supported projects that were presented at its Annual Technical Meeting in Cali, Colombia. Evidence of spillover effects to other regions of the world was also reported, showing the importance of investing in agricultural innovation in LAC.
 - A renewed agenda for agricultural innovation for the region and a strategy to obtain additional support for the Fund were endorsed at the XII Meeting of the FONTAGRO Board, held in the Dominican Republic.
 - The Fund is becoming more visible thanks to presentations made in Canada, Costa Rica, Peru, Uruguay, the United States, and other countries. This is part of a concerted strategy to attract additional resources for the Fund.
 - IICA provided the countries of LAC with support to better prepare them to face the natural disasters that occur frequently and have an impact on their food security, through seminars, training events and discussions held in Antigua and Barbuda, Guyana, Ecuador, Mexico, Spain, the United States and other countries.
 - IICA formed partnerships with the Latin American Association for the Development of Agriculture Insurance (ALASA) and the Inter-American Federation of Insurance Companies (FIDES) to promote agricultural insurance in the region.
 - IICA is on the Board of Directors of the FIDES/World Bank Program, which enabled it to approve funding for four important projects, including a distance learning course organized by IICA.
 - The Institute played an important role in developing a regional risk management framework for the ministers of agriculture of the Caribbean, which could serve as a model for the Central American and the Andean regions
- IICA and the USDA signed a cooperation agreement to promote sustainable agriculture in Haiti. Important support was also provided to reconstruction efforts in Haiti, including resources obtained to plant basic staple crops and emergency funding provided by Brazil and the United States to meet the cultivation and planting needs of the Haitian critical spring growing season.