

RESOLUTION No. 700

HEMISPHERIC INITIATIVE ON “WATER AND AGRICULTURE”

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Forty-third Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Information document No. 01 “Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture”,

CONSIDERING:

That the Americas has a wealth of water resources, whose integrated management plays a key and strategic role in improving agricultural productivity, environmental sustainability and food security;

That climate change alters general patterns in the availability and distribution of fresh water, which renders the fight against desertification and droughts more complex and difficult, directly affecting agricultural and livestock production;

That the Declaration of Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas Argentina 2013, “Water to feed the land”, established the commitment to “develop and consolidate participation by the ministries of Agriculture in defining and implementing national policies for the integrated management of water, with the aim of ensuring access to and supply of water in the quantity and quality necessary for facing the challenges of agriculture and rural development, dealing with diverse geographical conditions, different uses and various users”;

That, via Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 482 (XVII-O/13), of 26 September 2013, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) requested that the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) assist the ministers of Agriculture with the design and adoption of an inter-American agenda on water for agriculture, with integrated water resources management as its central element;

That strengthening participation by the ministries of Agriculture in designing and implementing public policies for the integrated management of water resources is a matter of strategic importance; and

That the Director General of the Institute has proposed an initiative entitled “Water and Agriculture”, whose objective is to strengthen capacities and foster strategic public-private partnerships in IICA member countries, by providing support to ministries of Agriculture and lead agencies, in a bid to improve the integrated management and efficient use of water in agriculture,

RESOLVES:

1. To support the “Water and Agriculture” initiative proposed by the Director General of the Institute, and recommend that the IABA endorse and take the necessary decisions to consolidate the initiative.
2. To recognize the strategic importance of strengthening participation by the ministries of Agriculture in designing and implementing public policies for the integrated management of water resources.
3. To request that the Director General move forward with the implementation of the initiative with IICA member countries, as well as with international agencies, financial organizations and other strategic partners, and to inform the IABA of actions in that regard.
4. To urge the governments of Member States of the Institute to strengthen actions aimed at: a) engaging in coordinated, harmonized work within the framework of existing coordination mechanisms, with a view to mitigating the water crisis; b) increasing water production and storage; c) making efficient use of water resources; d) strengthening governance for water management in agriculture; and e) fostering public-private investment for those purposes.