

Water and Agriculture Initiative

Agriculture's contribution to resolve the water crisis

Objective: To consolidate capacities and promote strategic public-private partnerships in the member countries, to improve the integrated and efficient management of water usage in agriculture, with the support of the ministries of Agriculture and lead agencies.

Strategic Pillars



1. Production and Water Storage

To strengthen countries' capacities to design and implement **production and water storage plans, programs and projects** for agriculture, through the integrated management of water resources in watersheds, reforestation, water funds, nature-based solutions and good agricultural practices.



2. Efficient Water Use



To increase water-use efficiency, through technology innovation, with an emphasis on the **dissemination and application of innovation in on-farm water collection, storage, distribution and use of mechanized irrigation** and the intensified use of water-stress resistant crops. Advances have been achieved in this area, through the webpage. You may access this pillar by selecting the icon below.

[Technology Atlas](#)

3. Governance

To strengthen the water governance in agriculture mechanisms, tools and capacities of water ministries and lead agencies, as well as their regulatory frameworks, public policies and water funds, among others.

Work on this pillar has already begun with the establishment of a space on the website for public policies, focusing on the following 12 IICA member countries: **Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Uruguay**. You may consult this section of the webpage by selecting this icon.

[Public policies](#)



4. Investment Promotion



To improve the planning, allocation and pooling of public-private pre-investment and investment resources in the countries, as a means of contributing to increasing initiatives, programs and projects on the integrated management and efficient use of water in agriculture.

To browse the official webpage of the Water and Agriculture

Initiative, scan the following QR code.



Water & Agriculture

Support services for Member States

1. Creation and expansion of information systems, based on technical, institutional, financial, economic and environmental aspects, while improving processes for the integrated management of water resources in agriculture.
2. Strengthening of the capacities of technical officers in the public and private sectors, agricultural producers and producer organizations to design and implement plans, programs and projects for production and water storage in agriculture.
3. Promotion, sharing and dissemination of technological innovations for water collection, storage, distribution and use.
4. Forging of key strategic partnerships (universities, research institutes, cooperation and funding agencies and private companies), using digital platforms and direct technical assistance.
5. Active participation of ministries of Agriculture and national lead agencies in the design and execution of plans and programs for integrated water management in agriculture.
6. Development and updating of regulatory frameworks, innovative policies and national plans for water use in agriculture.
7. Creation of project portfolios that structure and prioritize the allocation of pre-investment and investment resources for water in agriculture, to facilitate negotiations with bilateral and multilateral development funding agencies.

Launch of the Water and Agriculture Initiative! September 27



"Water knows no borders. This effort requires a multi-institutional and multi-country approach, with the commitment and participation of all stakeholders" Manuel Otero.

The event was attended by the leading water and agricultural authorities of IICA member countries, as well as representatives of strategic partners in the initiative, including the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF) and the University of Nebraska.



International Participation:

Mr. Fernando Schwanke, IICA Director of Projects, participated in the 2023 Borlaug International Dialogue.

Every year the Borlaug International Dialogue takes place in Iowa, bringing together global leaders, farmers, academics, scientists, educators and students from various countries to discuss ideas and projects to build more sustainable, equitable and inclusive agrifood systems. The event is organized by the World Food Prize Foundation (WFP), the organization that bestows the World Food Prize, which is considered to be the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in this field.

In his presentation, the Director of Projects gave an overview of the basic elements of the Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture – an initiative that will enable the agriculture sector to contribute to efforts to resolve the water crisis affecting a significant part of the Americas today. This stems from the recognition that without water there can be no agriculture and without agriculture there can be no food security.



The participants in the dialogue included Alvaro Lario, President of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD); Zulfikar Mustapha, Minister of Agriculture of Guyana;



Invitation to participate in the Water and Agriculture Initiative during COP28 UAE.

COP28 is the United Nations Climate Change Conference, which will take place this year from 30 November to 12 December in Dubai, United Arab Emirates

If you have any doubts, queries, comments or recommendations, please contact us at direccion.proyectos@iica.int

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