



INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Eleventh Regular Meeting
Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
26-29 November 2001

The Third Summit of Heads of State and Government assumed the commitment to the development of agriculture and rural life, the reduction and integral development of the importance of agriculture in the Hemisphere as well as the role of agriculture in our socio-economic system.

The same political level at which the Summit's process is being conducted is the highest political level in the Hemisphere, as reflected in the presidential mandates. In the coming years, during the next meeting, it is expected to take action among all the stakeholders to reach a common consensus on strategies and rural life in the Hemisphere.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Accordingly, at its Eleventh Regular Meeting (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic), the LABA will address the role of agriculture and rural life in the Hemisphere as a condition for the survival and development of existence.

As indicated by the High Level Group, the exercise of this leadership by Heads of State and Government in reaching agreements on agriculture and rural life should take into account the diversity and complexity of the situation in Latin America, a wide spectrum of agricultural systems. All countries in the Hemisphere have been invited to participate in the meeting. In addition, they can be in a position to contribute to the development of agriculture and rural life in the Hemisphere.

In addition to fulfilling its mandate, the Board will address matters of its internal organization. The agenda has therefore been developed.

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INTRODUCTION

The Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec, April 2001) was an event of great importance for agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere. The Heads of State and of Government assumed the commitment "*... to promote programs for the improvement of agriculture and rural life and agro-business as an essential contribution to poverty reduction and integral development.*" They also recognized "*...the fundamental importance of agriculture as a way of life for millions of rural families of the Hemisphere as well as the role it plays in the creation of prosperity as a strategic sector in our socio-economic system.*"

The same political leaders stated that the ministerial meetings are the pillars on which the Summits process is built, inasmuch as they generate sectoral proposals at the highest political level in the hemisphere and are responsible for implementation of the presidential mandates. In this regard, they instructed their Ministers of Agriculture to promote, during the next meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture(IABA), *joint action among all the stakeholders of the agricultural sector, highlighting its role in building consensus on strategic policies and priorities for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere.*

Accordingly, at its forthcoming meeting (November 26-29, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic), the IABA will assume its leadership role as the foremost ministerial meeting on agriculture and rural life in the Americas, at the same time that it celebrates its twenty years of existence.

As indicated by the Heads of State and Government, the IABA is called upon to exercise this leadership by promoting the active participation of all the stakeholders in agriculture in reaching agreement and assuming commitments on the direction agriculture and rural life should take in the hemisphere. Therefore, in addition to the ministers of agriculture, a wide spectrum of other leaders of agriculture and the rural community of the Americas have been invited to the coming IABA meeting so that, through dialogue and reflection, they can begin working together to construct a new way for improving agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere.

In addition to fulfilling the functions inherent to its new dimension, the IABA will also address matters of its competence as the governing body of IICA. The provisional agenda has therefore been divided into two sections, as follows:

SECTION A - EXTERNAL DIMENSION OF THE IABA

MINISTERIAL FORUM ON THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE SUMMITS OF THE AMERICAS PROCESS

This forum will be the key event of the ministerial meeting. During the forum, the ministers of agriculture will continue and deepen the dialogue that was begun in most of our countries by their delegates with other leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life, with the purpose of drafting the Ministerial Declaration and its Plan of Action for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

In promoting and conducting this event, the IABA will be assuming the new role assigned to it by the OAS General Assembly, at its thirtieth regular meeting "...as the primary ministerial forum within the OAS for analyzing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Hemisphere" (Resolution OAS/Serv.PAG/RES.1728 of June 5, 2000), as well as the mandates issued at the aforementioned Third Summit Meeting of the Americas.

To this end, the forum will consist of the following:

1. Presentations by special guests on topics of strategic importance to agriculture and rural life.
2. Remarks by the ministers and dialogue between the ministers and other leaders of the community of agriculture and rural life.
3. Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration and its Plan of Action for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Americas, with the relevant resolutions and decisions.

1. Presentations by special guests

The special guests invited to speak at the ministerial forum will be other authorities from the countries of the inter-American system, and/or renowned individuals involved in agriculture and the rural milieu who hold or have held important positions in the public, private, academic, scientific or agribusiness sectors and in international organizations, who will comment on key issues related to the implementation of the mandates of the Quebec summit and, thus, the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

2. Remarks by the ministers and dialogue with other leaders of the community of agriculture and the rural milieu

The basis of the dialogue will be remarks and considerations on the challenges, opportunities and outlook for agriculture and the rural milieu, in the present context of globalization and trade liberalization, taking into account the need for contributions for reducing rural poverty. Participants will also address topics of particular relevance for the formulation of strategies and policies to modernize agriculture, improve rural life and build the new institutional framework required for supporting and ensuring the effectiveness of these policies and strategies.

3. Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration and its Plan of Action; relevant resolutions and decisions

The process of preparing these documents started with an effort carried out in many of the countries, led by delegates appointed by the respective ministers. These delegates comprise what is known as the Summit Implementation Review Group for the Third Summit mandates on agriculture and rural life (SIRG-Agriculture). The delegates worked with agricultural leaders in their countries to develop proposals on commitments and strategic actions to be included in the documents.

Pursuant to a mandate issued by IICA's Executive Committee, at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting, the SIRG-Agriculture will hold its first meeting during the second half of October with the purpose of working on the first version of the Ministerial Declaration and its Plan of Action. Discussion on the version that emerges from that meeting will continue by means of an electronic forum, the goal being to arrive at a consensus version of the documents to be adopted by the IABA at its meeting in the Dominican Republic.

B. INSTITUTIONAL ISSUES - INTERNAL DIMENSION OF THE IABA

1. ELECTION OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR THE 2002-2006 TERM
IICA/JIA/Doc.251(01)

To date, six Member States of the Institute have presented candidates for the post of Director General for the 2002-2006 term (Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Uruguay). The corresponding documentation was immediately forwarded to the governments of the member countries, in the four official languages of the Institute.

In compliance with Resolution 341 "Protocol Governing the Election of the General Director of the Institute," the Director General invited the candidates to make presentations during the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, held at IICA Headquarters in July of this year. Attending candidates made their presentations in the following order, which was established by lot: Honduras, Brazil, Uruguay, Barbados and Colombia.

2. Reports of the Director General

2.1 Current Situation in Agriculture and Rural Development
IICA/JIA/Doc.252(01)

2.2 Message from the Director General
(unnumbered)

3. Institutional Policy

3.1 Report of the Chair of the Executive Committee on the Meetings of the 2000-2001 Biennium
(IICA/JIA/Doc.253(01))

3.2 General Power of Attorney of the Director General elected for the 2002-2006 term
IICA/JIA/Doc.254(01)

3.3 Appointment of Dr. Carlos E. Aquino G. as Director Emeritus of the Institute
IICA/JIA/Doc.255(01)

3.4 Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues
IICA/JIA/Doc.256(01)

4. Budgetary and Programming Issues

4.1 Financing of the Regular Fund and Distribution of Resources for the 2002-2003 Biennium
IICA/JIA/Doc.257(01)

4.2 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan and 2003 Program Budget
IICA/JIA/Doc.258(01)

5. Financial Issues

5.1 Financial Statements of the Institute for 1999 and 2000 and Reports of the External Auditors
IICA/JIA/Doc.259(01)

- 5.2 Sixth and Seventh Reports of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)
IICA/JIA/Doc.260(01)

6. Inter-Institutional Relations

- 6.1 Appointment of the Representative of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to the Governing Council of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)
IICA/JIA/Doc.261(01)
- 6.2 Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)
IICA/JIA/Doc.262(01)
- 6.3 Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)
IICA/JIA/Doc.263(01)
- 6.4 IICA/FAO Relations
(IICA/JIA/Doc.264(01))
- 6.5 Associate Status
IICA/JIA/Doc.265(01)

7. Other Institutional Issues

- 7.1 Report on the Status of the Resolutions of the Tenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)
IICA/JIA/Doc.266(01)
- 7.2 Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector
- Report of the Awards Selection Committee
 - Inter-American Agricultural Medal
 - Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development
 - Inter-American Agricultural Award for Young Professionals
IICA/JIA/Doc.267(01)
- 7.3 Date and Site of the Twelfth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture(IABA)
IICA/JIA/Doc.268(01)

8. Provisional Schedule
IICA/JIA/Doc.269(01)

9. Other Business