



INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

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

**INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

IICA/JIA/Doc.267(01)  
10 October 2001  
Original: Spanish

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE  
Headquarters P.O. Box 55-2200 Coronado, Costa Rica / Tel.: (506) 216-02-22 /  
Fax (506) 216-02-33 / Electronic address (Internet): [iicahq@iica.ac.cr](mailto:iicahq@iica.ac.cr)

The Awards Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector for the 1999-2001 period meeting during the Twenty-first Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, considered it pertinent to postpone the selection of candidates for the reasons set out in the Minutes and the Report it submitted to the Executive Committee, copies of which are attached.

In that connection, the Executive Committee approved Resolution No. 356 "Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector," a copy of which is also attached.

Pursuant to the instructions of the Executive Committee, the Director General is convening the members of the Awards Selection Committee to meet during the Eleventh Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

Through IICA's Cooperation Agencies, the Director General informed the Member States of the Committee's decision to extend until 31 October 2001 the deadline for the presentation of candidates for these awards.

**MINUTES OF THE SELECTION COMMITTEE OF THE 1999-2001  
INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

On July 24, 2001, the Awards Selection Committee met in compliance with the provisions of Articles 9 to 15 of the Regulations governing the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.

The Committee was made up of Vere C. Bird Jr. (Antigua and Barbuda), Arturo Vierheller (Argentina), Walter Nuñez Rodriguez (Bolivia), Salvador Monge Fallas (Costa Rica) and John Patrick Passino (United States of America).

The meeting, which was called to order at 9:30 a.m., was also attended by Mr. Roberto Martinez Villanueva and Mr. Rodolfo Martinez Ferrate of IICA, the former in his capacity as Secretary of the Awards Selection Committee.

Mr. Vere C. Bird Jr., delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, was elected as Chairperson, and Mr. Walter Nuñez Rodriguez, delegate of Bolivia, was elected Rapporteur.

Following a presentation by the Chairperson, the Committee examined the nominations for two of the three awards. The discussion then led to the review of Article 8 of the Regulations and to a wide-ranging exchange of opinions. A conclusion was reached that, after a strict interpretation of said Article, one candidate had not met the deadline for accepting nominations, while another nomination had not been submitted by a Member State, as stipulated in the Regulations.

The discussion gave rise to several alternatives. One was based on a rather rigid interpretation that could have meant declaring one of the awards void. Others adopted a more flexible approach with a view to solving the aforementioned problems.

At 11:30 a.m., the Chairperson, Mr. Bird, proposed that the meeting be adjourned for half an hour in order to seek the opinion of the Director General and review all available information on nominations.

The meeting reopened at 12:20 p.m. with the additional participation of the Director General of IICA, Dr. Carlos E. Aquino G., and the Institute's legal adviser, Mr. William Berenson.

After a presentation by the Chairperson on the interpretation of Articles 6, 8, 9 and 20, both the Director General and the legal adviser made several comments, which were followed by an in-depth discussion that led to the preparation, with the support of the legal adviser, of a draft resolution to be submitted for consideration by the Executive Committee. The draft resolution contains the following unanimously adopted recommendations of the Committee:

1. To extend the deadline for submitting nominations to 31 October, which is considered the fairest solution and which could also generate more interest on the part of the countries over the awards, raise the number of candidates and serve to motivate talented individuals in the Member States.
2. To instruct the Director General to prepare an adjusted, reviewed and updated set of draft regulations, to make the latter clearer and more specific while reflecting a wider-ranging, more participatory approach, designed to deal with the aforementioned issues through a bottom-up process.
3. If this draft resolution is adopted by the Executive Committee, the Director General should be requested to convene a meeting of the Awards Selection Committee prior to the forthcoming meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture.

---

Vere C. Bird Jr.  
Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda

---

Arturo Vierheller  
Delegate of Argentina

---

Walter Nuñez Rodriguez  
Delegate of Bolivia

---

Salvador Monge Fallas  
Delegate of Costa Rica

---

John Patrick Passino  
Delegate of the United States of America

---

Roberto Martinez Villanueva  
Secretary of the Committee

---

Rodolfo Martinez Ferrate  
Foreign Relations Coordinator

---

William M. Berenson  
Legal Adviser

## REPORT OF THE 1999-2001 AWARDS SELECTION COMMITTEE, SUBMITTED TO THE TWENTY-FIRST REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The 1999-2001 Awards Selection Committee, made up of representatives from Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bolivia, Costa Rica and the United States, met at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 24 July, 2001, with the participation of the Technical Secretariat of the Committee. The Committee examined the documentation submitted for its consideration in support of the candidates for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.

The first point on the agenda was the election of the Chairperson of the Committee. Mr. Vere C. Bird Jr., the Representative of Antigua and Barbuda, was elected to chair the Committee. The Committee then proceeded to elect the Rapporteur. Mr. Walter Nuñez, the delegate of Bolivia, was elected to perform this function.

Having complied with this requirement of the Regulations, the Committee proceeded to conduct a careful analysis of the background documentation on 7 candidates nominated.

Nominations were submitted as follows:

- Inter-American Agricultural Medal 3 candidates (El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru)
- Inter-American Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development 4 candidates (Brazil, El Salvador, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic)

After the above-mentioned analysis, the Awards Selection Committee found that one nomination had been submitted one day after the closing date and another had not been submitted by a Member State, as stipulated by Article 8 of the Regulations of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.

In light of the above, it was agreed that a Draft Resolution be presented to the Executive Committee allowing for an amendment to the existing regulations. The content of this draft resolution includes the proposals of the Awards Selection Committee of the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector.

---

Vere C. Bird Jr.  
Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda  
Chairman

---

Walter Nuñez Rodriguez  
Delegate of Bolivia  
Rapporteur

---

Arturo Vierheller  
Delegate of Argentina

---

Salvador Monge Fallas  
Delegate of Costa Rica

---

John Patrick Passino  
Delegate of the United States of America

---

Roberto Martinez Villanueva  
Secretary of the Committee

IICA/CE/Res.356(XXI-O/01)  
25 July 2001  
Original: English

**RESOLUTION No. 356**

**INTER-AMERICAN AWARDS IN THE RURAL SECTOR**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Twenty-first Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That the recognition of superior achievement in the agricultural sector is vital for motivating talented individuals in the Member States to devote their lives to improving agriculture through scientific inquiry, government service, political action, and other professional activities;

That although there are a number of individuals in the Americas who satisfy the requirements for IICA's Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector, the present regulations for those Awards ("Awards Regulations") have failed to generate widespread interest in nominating candidates for them;

That the Executive Committee, at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting, based on the Report of the Selection Committee for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector ("the Awards Selection Committee"), recommended in Resolution CE/Res.328(XIX-99) revision of the regulations to include greater incentives and mechanisms for generating nominations and stimulating interest in the awards;

That the current Awards Selection Committee has reaffirmed the recommendation made by its predecessor for the proposal and adoption of improvements in the Awards Regulations and nomination process; has recommended the elimination of restrictions barring former awards recipients from competing for awards in other categories and barring candidates rejected in one biennium from being nominated for another; and has noted the need to make a number of technical corrections in those Regulations to provide for greater clarity and insure more uniform application;

That the Awards Selection Committee has concluded that strict enforcement of current regulations would result in a recommendation to make no awards in several categories for the 2000-2001 biennium;

That Article 19 of the Awards Regulations and Article 3(h) of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee permit the Executive Committee to modify, revoke, and thus make exceptions to the Awards Regulations;

That in accordance with the Institute's compelling interest in assuring that awards in all categories will be made for the 2000-2001 biennium from a broader pool of deserving candidates, the Awards Selection Committee has recommended that the Executive Committee make a one-time exception to Article 8 of the Awards Regulations so as to extend the date for member governments to make nominations to the Director General (directly or through his duly appointed representative in each Member State) through October 31, 2001;

That the proposed extension of that date would provide an opportunity for Member States to conform nominations already made to those regulations, would allow other countries that have not done so to make nominations prior to the new date, consistent with the requirements of due process, and would require the Executive Committee, as another exception to the Awards Regulations, to request the Inter-American Board of Agriculture to make the awards for the 2000-2001 biennium in its stead, based on the recommendation of the Awards Selection Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To approve the recommendation of the Awards Selection Committee to change the date for the presentation of nominations for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector to October 31, 2001, as a one-time exception to Article 8 of the Regulations for Conferring the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector and for the purpose of permitting the Institute to confer awards in all categories for the 2000-2001 biennium consistent with legal requirements, due process considerations, and the best interests of the Institute.
2. To instruct the Director General to convene the Awards Selection Committee at the next Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture and to request the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, based on the recommendations of that Committee, to select the recipients of Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector in all categories for the 2000-2001 biennium.
3. To request the Director General to present for consideration of the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee draft modifications to the Awards Regulations which: (1) provide mechanisms for prior screening of candidates for Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector at the national and regional level with the active participation of IICA's cooperation agencies in the Member States and its Regional Directorates; (2) eliminate restrictions against worthy candidates who have received awards in one category from being nominated for an award in another and restrictions against worthy candidates who have been rejected in one biennium from being nominated again in another; and (3) introduce technical corrections in those Regulations to provide for greater clarity and insure more uniform application.