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REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

San Jose, Costa Rica

23-24 August 2016



What is IICA?

More than 70 years ago, a group of visionaries recognized the need to create an agency specializing in agriculture for the American continent, with a purpose that still remains valid today: to promote agricultural development and rural well-being in this region.

As a result, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was born. Throughout this time, the Institute has succeeded in identifying challenges and opportunities and, most importantly, evolving into an international technical cooperation organization that permanently responds to the new demands of the agricultural sector.

Our **mission** is to *encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence.*

In partnership with our Member States, our **vision** is *to create a competitive, inclusive and sustainable inter-American agriculture that feeds the hemisphere and the world, while at the same time generating opportunities to reduce hunger and poverty among farmers and rural dwellers.*

We provide cooperation by working closely and continuously with our 34 Member States, addressing their needs in a timely manner. Our most valuable asset is undoubtedly the close relationship we nurture with the beneficiaries of our work.

We have a wealth of experience in areas such as technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development, natural resource management and training.

We are also committed to achieving results. Our 2014-2018 Medium Term Plan contributes to the evolution of our technical cooperation model with the aim of consolidating IICA as an organization geared toward accomplishing concrete and visible results. We work to facilitate the positive changes that our Member States wish to achieve in their agricultural and rural sectors.



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Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), 2016



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MINUTES OF THE MEETING

**MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was held in accordance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee and Resolution No. 605 of said governing body of the Institute.

The 2016 Executive Committee was made up of the following Member States: Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Paraguay, Saint Lucia, United States of America and Venezuela.

PREPARATORY SESSION

0.1 *Opening of the session*

0.1.1 The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was called to order at 08:34 hours on August 23, 2016, in the Sala Magna (United States/Canada Rooms) at IICA Headquarters. It was chaired by Mr. José Alpuche, Executive Director of Agriculture of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture of Belize, the country that currently chairs the Executive Committee.

0.1.2 In attendance were representatives of the Member States comprising the 2016 Executive Committee, with the exception of the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.

0.2 Agreements

0.2.1 Election of the Chair and Rapporteur of the Meeting

0.2.1.1 The representatives of the Member States on the Executive Committee unanimously elected Mr. Juan Carlos Baruja, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay, to serve as Chair of the Meeting, as proposed by the Representative of Costa Rica. Mr. Wendell Dennis, Deputy Director General of the Multilateral Affairs Division of the Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), was proposed as Rapporteur. The motion was approved unanimously.

0.2.1.2 The Officers of the Meeting were elected as follows:

Chair:	Juan Carlos Baruja
Rapporteur:	Wendell Dennis
<i>Ex officio</i> Secretary:	Victor M. Villalobos

0.2.2 Agenda for the Meeting

0.2.2.1 The Chair submitted the provisional agenda of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee, contained in document No. 649 (16), to the consideration of the representatives. The agenda was approved without changes.

0.2.2.2 The Chair informed the representatives of the Member States of the Executive Committee that their folders contained the working and background documents for the meeting, digital versions of which had been made available online on July 22, 2016, in Spanish and English.

0.2.3 Working Committees

0.2.3.1 It was agreed that no working committees would be established and that all topics would be discussed in the plenary sessions.

0.2.4 Duration of the Meeting

0.2.4.1 The Plenary agreed that the Closing Session of the Meeting would take place on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at 13:00 hours.

0.2.5 Deadline for submitting proposals

0.2.5.1 Tuesday, August 23, at 15:00 hours was set as the deadline for submitting new draft resolutions.

0.2.6 Countries' right to vote

0.2.6.1 The Director General asked the Legal Adviser of IICA for an opinion regarding the scope and application of the rules governing the right to vote in meetings of the Executive Committee, in accordance with its Rules of Procedure and other relevant provisions.

0.2.6.2 The Legal Adviser explained the provisions of Chapter IX of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee regarding the right to vote in meetings. He then confirmed that all the delegations of the Member States sitting on the Executive Committee could participate in the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting with full rights.

0.2.7 Credentials

0.2.7.1 The Technical Secretary announced that all the delegations of the Member States sitting on the Executive Committee had been duly accredited through appropriate letters of accreditation issued by the competent authorities of each country. He added that the credentials of the delegations of Brazil, Canada, Chile, Mexico and Uruguay, the member countries of IICA which would be participating as observers on this occasion, had also been received.

0.3 Close of the session

0.3.1 The Preparatory Session of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 09:00 hours on August 23, 2016.

FIRST PLENARY SESSION

1.1 Opening of the session

1.1.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 09:00 hours on August 23, 2016 and was chaired by the Representative of Paraguay.

1.2 Welcome address by the Director General of IICA

1.2.1 The Director General extended a warm welcome to the representatives of the Member States, observer countries and international organizations attending the meeting. He declared that the agricultural sector was suffering from the impact of economic and climate-related externalities and that it had been relegated vis à vis other sectors. This, he said, was having a negative effect on millions of poor people whose incomes came exclusively from agriculture. He added that, despite facing an adverse situation, agriculture remained a focal point for development and social cohesion.

1.2.2 He considered that increasing productivity and competitiveness, adapting to the effects of climate change, eliminating poverty and guaranteeing food security were the main challenges facing agriculture. He stressed that IICA had continued to support its Member States in their efforts to effectively meet those challenges, by promoting innovation, productivity, sustainability and the effective inclusion of all the sector's stakeholders, especially those belonging to the subsector of family agriculture.

1.2.3 He explained that these efforts had focused on achieving results through IICA's four institutional instruments of action: a) the five flagship projects of hemispheric scope, covering the topics of agricultural chains, agricultural health and food safety, inclusion in agriculture and rural territories, resilience in the agricultural sector and family agriculture; b) rapid response actions; c) projects financed with external resources; and d) the Technical Cooperation Fund (FonTC).

1.2.4 The Director General then delivered a brief report on IICA's main achievements in the member countries and regions, including information on the amounts invested and administered. He placed special emphasis on

the Institute's efforts in the area of capacity building and updating the knowledge of its human resources. In this regard, he highlighted the support received from Mexico.

- 1.2.5 He then reiterated his Administration's commitment to efficacy and efficiency in the use of resources and thanked the Member States for having increased the Regular Fund by 8.1%, thereby demonstrating their confidence in the Institute. He urged them to continue paying their quotas in a timely manner and invited them to analyze the updating of IICA's regulatory context, its strategic restructuring and its financial strengthening, in respect of which two proposals would soon be presented to them for analysis.
- 1.2.6 He emphasized that the Convention on the Institute had been in force for 35 years, and suggested that this might be the right moment for Member States to update IICA's mandates and modes of operation, in order to adapt them to the current needs of agriculture in the Americas.
- 1.2.7 He recalled that the IABA, at its last regular meeting, had issued a mandate to undertake a process of strategic restructuring of the Institute. In consideration of this, he said, a document had been prepared, containing two options for that process, which should be analyzed in depth, in order to submit detailed proposals at the next regular meeting of the Executive Committee.
- 1.2.8 The Director General concluded his remarks by stressing that IICA had demonstrated that cooperation between peoples is possible, despite political or ideological differences. He added that if the existing cooperation model should succeed, it would be very useful in enabling subsequent administrations to maintain the Institute's effectiveness and relevance.
- 1.3 *Technical cooperation at the hemispheric level*
 - 1.3.1 Integrated risk management in agriculture
 - 1.3.1.1 The Director of Technical Cooperation explained that the Institute's agenda in this area of work had focused on four types of risk: production, financial, market and institutional. He stated that the agenda was based on four strategies aimed at encouraging competitiveness, resilience and inclusion in

agriculture: a) risk analysis, evaluation and prioritization; b) prevention, mitigation and adaptation; c) transfer of risks; and d) response to assist the recovery of member countries facing critical situations associated with risks.

- 1.3.1.2 He then mentioned the main actions implemented within each of the strategies. In the context of the risk analysis, evaluation and prioritization strategy, he reported that 28 cooperation actions had been implemented, mainly associated with production risks, including the following: a) strengthening the risk management capabilities of institutions in various Latin American countries, b) design and implementation of an early warning system for coffee leaf rust in Central America, c) analysis of the impact of huanglongbing disease (HLB) and strengthening capabilities in phytosanitary risk management in Argentina and d) support for the establishment of a risk management department in Chile.
- 1.3.1.3 In the context of the prevention, mitigation and adaptation strategy, he explained that IICA had implemented 32 training actions, including efforts to address financial risks in the Caribbean; control snail pests in the Andean region, the United States, Argentina and Antigua; and produce resilient rice in Colombia, Dominican Republic and Venezuela.
- 1.3.1.4 He added that, in the context of the risk transfer strategy, the Institute had implemented cooperation actions in three thematic areas: a) analysis of the current status of agricultural insurance, b) price stabilization instruments and c) microfinancing and agricultural insurance, for which it had received support from Canada.
- 1.3.1.5 He mentioned that as part of the response strategy to assist in the recovery of member countries facing critical situations, IICA had implemented ten cooperation actions, including the following: a) support for the reconstruction of the regions in Ecuador affected by the earthquake in 2016; b) support for the recovery of the Belizean agricultural sector after the damage caused by Hurricane Earl; c) strengthening the quarantine systems of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, with the support of the United States of America; and d) various actions to combat avian flu in three Andean countries.
- 1.3.1.6 The Director of Technical Cooperation warned that exposure to risks would increase progressively, and therefore it would be essential to strengthen our

capacity to manage and address risks through an integrated approach. He considered it essential to place greater emphasis on developing risk management policies and tools and on promoting the implementation of response, adaptation and mitigation plans. He added that we should take advantage of various cutting-edge technologies applicable to risk management, especially those for anticipating risks and preventing the degradation of natural resources. We should make better use of these tools and promote the diversification and modernization of production.

1.3.2 Agricultural health and food safety

1.3.2.1 The leader of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) of IICA reported on the Institute's technical cooperation in that area, which was aimed at ensuring a productive, profitable and competitive agricultural sector, capable of providing safe foods through the application of appropriate sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

1.3.2.2 He explained that the Institute's work in AHFS covered four areas: a) effective implementation of the Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS Agreement) of the World Trade Organization (WTO), b) modernization of national AHFS services, c) addressing emerging issues and emergencies and d) application of good scientific practices and technologies to improve agricultural productivity and food safety. He added that IICA was implementing AHFS actions at the global, hemispheric, regional and national levels, with the support of 28 specialists and experts in different aspects of that thematic area.

1.3.2.3 He then described the results obtained by IICA in AHFS since 2014, emphasizing the following: a) strengthening the capacity of public institutions in 25 countries to participate effectively in meetings of the *Codex Alimentarius*; b) support to 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries in the review of standards, with the backing of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and of the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC); c) strengthening national AHFS services through the application of the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) tool in St. Kitts and Nevis, El Salvador, Argentina, Paraguay, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela and Chile; d) training officials in nine countries to facilitate compliance with the requirements of the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), with the collaboration of the United States

Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); e) support provided to 12 countries to improve the timeliness and efficacy of their emergency response actions; and f) technical cooperation provided to 15 Caribbean countries through the SPS project implemented with the European Union (EU).

1.3.2.4 With regard to the future of IICA's technical cooperation in AHFS, he stated that the Institute would continue to respond to the emerging needs in the Member States, but it would also address the following priorities: a) the modernization of food safety systems, b) the participation of the private sector, c) prevention and management of antimicrobial resistance and d) regulation and appropriate use of veterinary drugs, agrochemicals and biotechnology.

1.3.3 Technical capabilities and leadership

1.3.3.1 The coordinator of IICA's Center for the Promotion of Technical Capabilities and Leadership (CTL) gave a brief report on the four tools used by the Institute to promote technical and leadership capabilities in the agriculture of the Americas:

- a) The IICA-CONACYT scholarship program, which promotes youth training in order to contribute to the development of sustainable agriculture in the Americas. This program, launched in 2012 and renewed in 2015, is sponsored by the Mexican Government through the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT). Currently there are 612 active students, 109 have already graduated and 67% of the beneficiaries are women.
- b) Professional internships program, aimed at facilitating knowledge transfer between IICA specialists/experts and researchers in the member countries. The program is financed with the Institute's own funds together with donations from the participating institutions. Since 2012 there have been 35 professional and research internships.
- c) Education and training program through face-to-face and online sessions, aimed at promoting a culture of quality in professional training, the creation of educational public goods and the establishment of

partnerships to meet the demands of member countries in those areas. Since 2015 over 27,000 people have participated.

- d) Telepresence and multimedia program, which has served to improve communications and online training, reduce the costs of organizing official meetings and managing technical cooperation processes and increase the number of technical meetings and training events related to the use of technological tools, etc.

1.3.3.2 The coordinator of the CTL announced that IICA would continue its efforts to strengthen the technical and leadership capabilities of young people and major stakeholders of the agricultural sector, create solid professional cadres with up-to-date knowledge and develop open educational resources as public goods in order to transmit knowledge to all its member countries.

1.4 *Analysis and comments*

1.4.1 The Representative of Saint Lucia acknowledged the efforts made by IICA's current Administration to benefit agriculture in the Americas and thanked it for its contributions to the agricultural sector of the Caribbean region. However, he mentioned that, since returning to his country's Ministry of Agriculture, he had noticed that for some time this region, limited in terms of resources, continued to act in the same way. Consequently, he agreed that significant changes were needed, but felt that these should be made bearing in mind the technical and financial constraints of some Member States. He added that it was necessary to rethink IICA's mandate and that the Executive Committee should contribute ideas to enable the Institute to continue with its work. As to risk management, he stressed that conditions were not the same for all countries, since smaller countries faced greater challenges, given their high degree of vulnerability.

1.4.2 The Representative of Argentina said his government was committed to promoting the agroindustrial sector, considered an engine of development in that country, and to increasing Argentina's integration in the international arena. He said his country was interested in working more closely with the Institute, and thanked it for its support in controlling HLB disease, which was of major importance for its citrus exports. He agreed that, although more tools were available nowadays to counter such risks, these increasingly manifested themselves with greater intensity, and therefore it

was essential to tackle climate change. He mentioned that Argentina had recently suffered many losses and damage associated with climate-related phenomena, and therefore it would be useful for IICA to strengthen its capacity in the area of risk management.

- 1.4.3 He went on to discuss the importance of coverage mechanisms and future options for traditional markets, which he suggested should be promoted as a line of work in non-traditional markets. With respect to AHFS, he thanked IICA for the cooperation provided to his country in the use of the PVS tool. He added that the Institute's member countries could become the supermarkets of developing countries, not only as suppliers of commodities, but increasingly of more processed products. He expressed interest in the *Codex Alimentarius* negotiations and the sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) negotiations in the context of the WTO. He suggested that private standards should be considered as a potential line of work, but taking care not to create unjustified barriers to trade. He expressed his strong support for the Institute's work in biotechnology and biosafety, and offered the cooperation of the National Advisory Commission on Agricultural Biotechnology (CONABIA). He added that distance communication would be important for strengthening capabilities, particularly in family agriculture.
- 1.4.4 The Representative of the United States of America welcomed the information provided in the presentations. He considered that the ideas outlined by the Director General would set the correct path for the strategic restructuring of the Institute. He said IICA should continue with its efforts to ensure the timely payment of Member States' quotas and to recover the indirect administration costs of externally funded projects. He then endorsed the proposal by Saint Lucia regarding the institution's future. He added that IICA had proven to be important for its member countries and acknowledged the efforts made by its authorities to work with other hemispheric organizations.
- 1.4.5 The Representative of Jamaica thanked the Institute for the support provided to his country, which had resulted in advances in the agricultural and agroindustrial sectors. He felt that IICA now had an excellent opportunity to build on its successes, but warned of the risks that could weaken it, and called for swift progress in making the necessary changes. He endorsed the comments made in that regard by the Representatives of Saint Lucia and of

United States of America. Finally, he warned of the risks facing Jamaica related to climate change, biosafety and food security.

- 1.4.6 The Observer Representative of Canada considered that IICA's efforts in the area of AHFS were of the utmost importance, and that it should therefore invest in strengthening technical capabilities in that area. She also considered it important to invest in reinforcing countries' capacity to achieve food security. Finally, she expressed her willingness to support the Institute's restructuring process.
- 1.4.7 The Representative of Paraguay thanked the Director General and other IICA officials for their reports. He expressed satisfaction with the technical cooperation provided to his country. He considered that an organization like IICA should not expose itself to the risk of being weakened, and offered his country's support in implementing the reform proposed by the Director General.
- 1.4.8 The Observer Representative of Mexico considered that all the topics covered in the reports were important for the development of agriculture and reiterated her Government's support to the Director General.
- 1.4.9 The Representative of Dominica thanked IICA for supporting his country's agricultural sector, which was still recovering from the damage caused by Tropical Storm Erika. He also acknowledged the support offered by various Member States to Dominica, especially Mexico, whose scholarship program had enabled many Caribbean citizens to expand their knowledge and use of new technologies. He concluded by stressing the importance of preventing malnutrition and hunger in the region.
- 1.4.10 The Representative of Ecuador thanked IICA for the assistance provided to his country following the earthquakes in April and May of this year. He then thanked the Director General for his assessment of the problems facing the agricultural sector in several countries of the continent and at the global level. He reported that Ecuador was working on the three topics addressed in the reports. On the issue of risks, he said it was necessary to strengthen the Ecuadorean agricultural sector's capacity for immediate response. With regard to AHFS, he said his country was keen to increase the use of bio-inputs, in order to replace a large proportion of the agrochemicals used. He added that Ecuador was committed to strengthening its technical

capabilities, particularly those of young people, in order to facilitate generational change. He concluded by reaffirming his country's willingness to continue working closely and in a coordinated manner with IICA.

- 1.4.11 The Representative of Costa Rica considered that steps should be taken to restructure and strengthen the Institute, so that it could effectively meet the medium and long-term challenges. He referred to the current relationship existing between the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) and suggested that a similar one might eventually be developed between IICA and the FAO. He added that Costa Rica had established a four-year plan for its agricultural sector with the support of the Institute, which he thanked for all the cooperation provided to his country. He stressed that climate change was a crucial issue in Central America and must be addressed using an integrated and coordinated approach. He offered his support to IICA's process of improvement. He added that it would be important to analyze the matters discussed so far in conjunction with financial aspects of the Institute, particularly its dependence on Member States' quotas.
- 1.4.12 The Representative of Bolivia welcomed the presentations and mentioned that his country had developed Agenda 2025, with one of its fundamental elements being sovereignty and food security. He mentioned that Bolivia was implementing actions in the three topics addressed. He considered that risk management strategies should not be limited to short-term measures, because some countries faced recurring climate threats, such as severe drought in Bolivia. He agreed with the Representative of Saint Lucia that IICA should have the capacity to offer its member countries timely responses to climate-related events.
- 1.4.13 The Director General thanked the representatives for their comments and recalled that various strategic reforms had been implemented since the beginning of his Administration, as reflected in the medium-term plans (MTP). He stressed that every effort had been made to ensure that the resources of the Member States were assigned mainly to technical cooperation. He mentioned that IICA had improved its efficiency and transparency in the provision of cooperation to its member countries. He added that the Institute would continue working to increase the efficiency and relevance of its actions, thereby improving the competitiveness, sustainability and inclusiveness of agriculture.

- 1.4.14 He then referred to Resolution No. 501 issued by the IABA, at its Eighteenth Regular Meeting, concerning the formulation and presentation of proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute. He recalled that this resolution instructed the Director General to provide the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) and the Executive Committee with the technical and administrative support required for this task, which would allow for implementation of the request made by the Representative of Saint Lucia. He explained that, as follow-up to this resolution, an *ad hoc* group had been established to prepare a document on the topic. This would be distributed to the representatives, along with a draft resolution prepared in collaboration with the delegation of the United States of America. He submitted both documents to the consideration of the representatives, in order to hear their comments and opinions.
- 1.4.15 The Representative of the United States of America suggested forming a small working group, comprised of representatives of the delegations, to review both documents and offer their comments.
- 1.4.16 The Observer Representative of Canada asked whether this working group would only include members of the Executive Committee, or whether the Observer Representatives could also participate.
- 1.4.17 The Chair replied that both types of representatives could join the group. He then took note of those interested and reported that the group would consist of the Representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Canada, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay and the United States of America.
- 1.5 *Close of the session*
- 1.5.1 The First Plenary Session of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 11:57 hours on August 23, 2016.

SECOND PLENARY SESSION

2.1 Opening of the session

2.1.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 14:40 hours on August 23, 2016. It was chaired by the Representative of Paraguay.

2.2 Relations between IICA and the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE)

2.2.1 The Director General of CATIE presented the Center's report for the 2014-2015 biennium and a proposal for an institutional re-engineering plan to 2020.

2.2.2 He recalled that CATIE was a regional research platform that had been strengthened thanks to its relations with regional and global research institutions. He added that his institution had made significant contributions through its scientific publications and five programs: a) Forest Production and Conservation, b) Livestock and Environmental Management, c) Climate Change and Watershed Management, d) Agroforestry and Sustainable Agriculture and e) the Mesoamerican Agro-environmental Program. He also emphasized CATIE's achievements in improving its education programs and in establishing cooperative partnerships with universities.

2.2.3 He explained that it was necessary to undertake a re-engineering of CATIE for the following reasons: a) the new challenges posed to agriculture by the Sustainable Development Goals and their targets, b) the need to adapt the institution to changes in donors and priorities and c) the financial situation currently facing it. He proposed that the Board of Directors conduct a comprehensive review of the existing Strategic Plan and formulate a plan for the 2017-2018 biennium, focused on generating applied research of major importance to the region, in partnership with the National Agricultural Research Institutes (NARIs), the Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Programs (PROCI), universities, the CGIAR Centers, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and other organizations.

- 2.2.4 Among other goals, he proposed modernizing the postgraduate program (with greater emphasis on professional master's programs), raising academic standards, strengthening the doctorate program, establishing a scholarship program and academic departments, strengthening research and addressing cross-cutting issues, such as water and sustainable production. He acknowledged that CATIE's current funding model was unsustainable and that there had been a deficit of USD 500,000 in 2015, which made it necessary to revise that model and take steps to improve the center's financial and administrative management.
- 2.2.5 The Director General of CATIE requested support in implementing the re-engineering plan, including the identification of funding and cooperation opportunities, support in negotiating the payment of pending quotas and the implementation of a plan aimed at strengthening cooperation between IICA and CATIE.
- 2.3 *Report on the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action*
- 2.3.1 The Deputy Director General of IICA explained that the actions implemented in the context of the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action for the period January 2015-June 2016 had been divided into three lines of action:
- a) Technical Cooperation: the most significant joint actions focused on the modernization of coffee production, promotion of resilient agro-silvopastoral systems and integrated water resource management, and implementation of the Regional Platform for Technical Support to Area-based Rural Development in the Trifinio Region and the Institutional Network for the Development of the Central American Dry Corridor. In addition, the IICA-CATIE cooperation strategy was revised and updated in 2016 with the new authorities of CATIE.
 - b) Development of Technical Capabilities and Leadership: a joint program was established for the development and strengthening of education services and virtual (online) education programs. Other actions included strengthening the management of existing educational courses, the institutionalization of the Henry A. Wallace Legacy Scholar (HWLS) Program and reinforcing the areas of management and leadership.

- c) Corporate Management: The institution's cadastral plans were updated, CATIE's land records were legalized and related legal problems were resolved. In addition, management agreements were established to strengthen joint action on operational aspects, the rules governing CATIE's international professional personnel (IPP) were aligned with those of IICA, and steps were taken to strengthen the operational structure and services of the Orton Memorial Library.

2.3.2 The Deputy Director General of IICA then discussed the joint actions to be undertaken by both institutions during the period 2016-2018, specifically the following: a) establishment of a formal mechanism to analyze opportunities for working together and the formulation of a technical cooperation strategy to enhance joint work, based on countries' demands; b) participation in the PROCIs and in the Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO); c) increased cooperation with CARDI; d) definition of cooperation in the areas of integrated soil and water resource management, resilient agrosilvopastoral systems, adaptation of agriculture to climate change, development of the Central American Dry Corridor, reactivation and strengthening of sustainable cocoa production, and adaptation of coffee production to climate change; e) strengthening the management of educational courses; f) establishment of a framework for joint action to enhance the technical, administrative, financial and human capabilities of both institutions; g) letters of understanding for the formalization of CATIE's actions in those Member States where IICA's support is required; h) modernization of the Orton Memorial Library to transform it into an agricultural and environmental knowledge center with digital services; and i) joint operation of the Alliance of Agricultural Information and Documentation Services of the Americas (SIDALC).

2.4 Biennial Report of CARDI for 2014-2015

2.4.1 The Technical Services Manager of CARDI emphasized that his institution shared IICA's goals in relation to promoting agricultural development in order to ensure the food and nutritional security of Caribbean nations. He recalled that the relationship between IICA and CARDI dated back to 1989. Since then, he said, both institutions had signed several cooperation agreements.

- 2.4.2 He referred to the new General Technical Cooperation Agreement (GTCA) signed in November 2015, and valid until the end of 2017, which defines three areas of cooperation: a) direct technical cooperation to promote the use of technologies and innovation systems; b) strengthening CARDI's institutional capacity; and c) mobilization of resources through joint projects aimed at securing additional funding.
- 2.4.3 He then highlighted some of the results achieved through joint cooperation in various Caribbean countries. In the area of direct technical cooperation, he mentioned the following: improvements in hot pepper and ginger production; the preparation of a technical manual on agronomic and post-harvest practices for the cultivation of five aromatic herbs; construction of protected agriculture structures; and the construction of model bio-digesters on small ruminant farms. In the area of institutional strengthening, he mentioned the technical training provided to six CARDI scientists through a joint program implemented with Mexico's Secretariat for Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA).
- 2.4.4 With regard to the mobilization of resources from various sources, he mentioned the following results: a) purchase of equipment for hot pepper seed production in Barbados; b) training for 29 technicians in Jamaica in the production of hot pepper seed; c) improvement of germplasm propagation units, capacity-building in the development of tissue culture protocols and harmonization of standards for the movement of germplasm of seven crops across the region; d) training for over 165 small-scale producers in the management of cassava and sweet potato planting material; e) production of bread and other baked goods from cassava, sweet potato, taro and plantain; f) improvement of forage systems and breeding stock on small ruminant farms; and g) promotion of resilience to climate change.
- 2.4.5 He then referred to other actions that CARDI would be implementing with IICA's support, such as the production of first generation seed of local hot yellow pepper varieties, training modules for small ruminant production, a community training program on climate change, an institutional analysis and training for CARDI personnel in public relations, communications and project management. Finally, he emphasized that future work programs carried out in the context of the IICA-CARDI joint agreement should be more closely linked with the Agricultural Agenda of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and CARDI, entitled "The Future We Want."

2.5 Relations between IICA and CARDI

2.5.1 IICA's Director of Technical Cooperation referred to the new cooperation agreement between CARDI and IICA signed in November 2015 and valid until December 31, 2017. He said its main objectives were: a) to implement projects aimed at improving resilience and productivity and promoting the sustainable development of agricultural production systems in the Caribbean region; b) to define cooperative actions aimed at strengthening the response capacity of member countries and to address emerging issues through joint cooperation; and c) to implement work plans and follow-up and monitoring of results.

2.5.2 He reported on the joint research and innovation activities carried out in 2016, specifically the implementation of a community training program on climate change, training modules on small ruminant production, the development of first generation seed of local yellow hot pepper land races and the development of seed lines for the stabilization of local elite seed lines of pimento (seasoning peppers) in Trinidad and Tobago. He added that CARDI was implementing Component 2 of the Agricultural Policy Program (APP), financed by the European Union (EU), aimed at improving the transfer and adoption of research results in agricultural production, processing and new technologies.

2.5.3 Finally, he stated that IICA would support CARDI in the following areas: a) external and independent evaluation of the Center, the results of which could provide inputs for decision-making on its restructuring; b) institutional capacity-building in project management and strategic social communication; c) promotion of CARDI's links with international institutions through FORAGRO and the PROCIs; d) promotion of cooperation between CARDI and CATIE on topics of common interest; and e) implementation of the SAGARPA training program on small ruminant production, water resource management, protected agriculture, plant pathology and rural tourism.

2.6 Progress report on the activities of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA)

2.6.1 The President of the MIOA explained that his organization was a cooperation network comprised of government institutions and institutions

associated with governments. Its purpose was to facilitate the timely and continuous exchange of market information on agricultural products among its members. He added that the MIOA's strategic objectives were the following: a) to promote and position agricultural market information systems (AMIS) and the MIOA at the national and regional levels, b) to strengthen the institutional capacity of the AMIS in member countries, c) to improve the quality of AMIS services and d) to ensure the sustainability of the MIOA.

2.6.2 He then described the MIOA's main activities and projects: a) development of a dynamic information system to integrate, manage and organize information on agricultural products of regional importance (online catalogue of agricultural products-Wiki); b) knowledge management on the AMIS; c) strengthening links between the private sector and the AMIS and evaluation of short message services (SMS); d) strengthening the AMIS' technical capacity for data management (database in the cloud); and e) strengthening the capabilities of human resources in the member countries of the MIOA in market information and intelligence.

2.6.3 He concluded by stating that in future the MIOA's actions would focus on renewing its membership, implementing a new strategic plan and supporting the development of technological tools for the collection, analysis and dissemination of information on agricultural markets.

2.7 Activities of the General Directorate and of the governing bodies of IICA

2.7.1 Report of the IABA Representative on the Governing Council of CATIE for the period 2015-2017

2.7.1.1 The Technical Secretary announced that this report had been circulated to members of the Executive Committee via its online information system. He then offered representatives an opportunity to make comments or ask questions about the contents of this report.

2.7.2 2015 Annual Report of IICA

2.7.2.1 The Technical Secretary stated that the 2015 Annual Report of IICA had been shared with members of the Executive Committee via the online

information system. He then gave the representatives an opportunity to make comments or ask questions about the contents of said report.

2.7.3 Report of the 2016 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI)

2.7.3.1 The Technical Secretary mentioned that this report had been shared with the members of the Executive Committee via the online information system. He then gave representatives an opportunity to make comments or ask questions about the contents of said report.

2.7.4 Status of the Resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee

2.7.4.1 The Technical Secretary gave the representatives an opportunity to comment or ask questions regarding the status of the resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee held in 2015, which had been made available in a timely manner via its online information system.

2.7.4.2 The Observer Representative of Canada asked for further details on Resolutions No. 500, second paragraph, and No. 502 of the IABA, the latter concerning the results of the working group created to improve the sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessment capabilities of the countries of the Americas.

2.7.4.3 With respect to Resolution No. 500 of the IABA, the Technical Secretary informed her that the Directors General of IICA and CATIE had set up a working group with officers of both organizations. This group had updated the IICA-CATIE Program of Joint Action and had also prepared a report on the joint actions carried out in 2015 in the context of that program. He added that, in fulfilment of Clause Five on joint responsibilities, items 5.8 and 5.9 of the Bilateral General Agreement for Inter-institutional Cooperation, a Coordination and Follow-up Committee had been formed to follow up on technical, administrative, regulatory and financial aspects of both institutions.

- 2.7.4.4 The Technical Secretary then referred to the actions carried out by IICA in compliance with Resolution No. 502 of the IABA. He specified that in 2016, in the area of sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessment, the Institute had undertaken joint actions with the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the University of Minnesota and other partners. He said this had laid the foundations for a coordinated effort to develop capacity for risk analysis in food safety in Latin America and the Caribbean. He added that a regional workshop had taken place on evaluation and risk management, directed at officials of plant protection organizations in the Spanish-speaking South American countries. Similarly, a capacity-building project had been implemented in the area of risk analysis in the public and private sectors of the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) countries. He added that a working group had been set up with representatives of relevant regional organizations, with the task of preparing a document on the current status of sanitary and phytosanitary risk assessment, in order to identify areas for improvement and propose solutions to address any weaknesses detected.

2.8 *Close of the session*

- 2.8.1 The Second Plenary Session of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA was adjourned at 17:25 hours on August 23, 2016.

THIRD PLENARY SESSION

3.1 *Opening of the session*

3.1.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 09:10 hours on August 24, 2016. It was chaired by the Representative of Paraguay.

3.2 *Reading and Approval of Draft Resolutions*

3.2.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2014-2015.”

3.2.2 The Observer Representative of Canada proposed the addition of an operative paragraph calling on the Director General of CATIE to submit to the Executive Committee of IICA and to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) all the reports presented to the Governing Council of CATIE, including financial statements.

3.2.3 The Representative of the United States of America endorsed the aforementioned proposal, arguing that this would increase transparency and would help the IABA to take decisions.

3.2.4 The Representative of Saint Lucia considered that IICA had the authority to request CATIE’s financial reports. He asked why, then, these should be submitted to the Institute’s governing bodies.

3.2.5 The Deputy Director General of IICA recalled that the Director General of the Institute also acted as vice-president of CATIE’s Governing Council and confirmed that IICA had received the center’s financial reports. He noted that the Director General of CATIE had submitted the center’s financial information at this meeting. He said the Institute’s administration agreed with the suggestion of the Observer Representative of Canada.

3.2.6 The Representative of Saint Lucia said he could see no reason to amend the resolution, since according to the Deputy Director General’s explanation, in the past IICA’s Administration had received CATIE’s financial reports.

- 3.2.7 The Deputy Director General explained that in the past the IABA *per se* had not received CATIE's financial information, but rather its Representative on CATIE's Governing Council. He added that the suggestion by the Observer Representative of Canada was intended to ensure that all members of the IABA and of the Executive Committee received that information.
- 3.2.8 The Representative of the United States of America said his country endorsed the proposal of the Observer Representative of Canada, because it was concerned over the discrepancies in CATIE's financial report for this year, in relation to the preceding year. He considered that the center's current financial situation could imply risks for IICA, and therefore it would be desirable for its governing bodies to have as much information as possible. He considered that having more information on this matter would also benefit the Administration of the current Director General of CATIE.
- 3.2.9 The Representative of Jamaica agreed that the proposal of the Observer Representative of Canada was intended to promote transparency and obtain more information on CATIE's financial situation, allowing for a better understanding of it.
- 3.2.10 The Chair asked the Representative of Jamaica whether he agreed with the proposal of the Observer Representative of Canada, to which he replied affirmatively.
- 3.2.11 The Representatives of Dominica and of Costa Rica also expressed their support for the proposal of the Observer Representative of Canada. The Representative of Costa Rica agreed with the Representative of the United States of America that having more information creates greater transparency.
- 3.2.12 The Chair declared the draft resolution approved, with the requested changes.
- 3.2.13 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution "Biennial Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) for 2014-2015."
- 3.2.14 The Director General noted that in the English version, operative paragraph 1 refers to the Director General of CARDI, whereas in the Spanish version

of the resolution it does not. He therefore requested that the pertinent correction be made in the English version. The resolution was approved with the proposed correction.

- 3.2.15 The Rapporteur read out the following draft resolutions: “2015 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA);” “Report of the 2016 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI);” “Status of the resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) and the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.” The Chair submitted each of these draft resolutions to a vote. All the resolutions were approved as read.
- 3.2.16 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Progress made in drafting proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute.”
- 3.2.17 The Representative of Costa Rica requested clarification of this draft resolution, bearing in mind that paragraph 3 of the progress report on the implementation of Resolution No. 501 of the IABA states the following: *“To that end, the Director General has set up an ad hoc team within the Institute to draft and submit proposals to the next meeting of the SACMI, as requested in the resolution (...).”* He noted that operative paragraph 3 stated that the Director General would conduct a study, but did not mention the *ad hoc* group, which should be cited in that operative paragraph. He also suggested that the number of said resolution (501) be added to the third preambular paragraph.
- 3.2.18 The Director General explained that the wording of the draft resolution was correct since, according to the mandates of the Institute’s authorities, he was the person responsible for establishing groups which could be dissolved once they had fulfilled the purpose for which they were created, and he was accountable to IICA’s governing bodies.
- 3.2.19 The Representative of Costa Rica accepted the explanation given by the Director General.
- 3.2.20 The Representative of Argentina noted that the recommendations made by the Member States of the Executive Committee had been incorporated into

the third operative paragraph, and therefore he agreed with the content of the resolution.

- 3.2.21 The Representative of Saint Lucia said he agreed with the comments made by the Representative of Argentina and considered that the Director General was responsible for implementing the provisions of Resolution No. 501 of the IABA.
- 3.2.22 The Observer Representative of Mexico referred to the sixth preambular paragraph, which states: “(...) *make better use of the limited resources allocated by the Member States to these two international organizations* (...)” and suggested eliminating the word “limited,” since it could not be affirmed that the situation of both institutions was the same. He also suggested eliminating the phrase “favorable tentative” in the penultimate preambular paragraph.
- 3.2.23 The Technical Secretary indicated that the same correction requested by the Observer Representative of Mexico in the preambular paragraphs should be made in operative paragraph 3, to which he suggested adding “both organizations.”
- 3.2.24 The Chair submitted the Technical Secretary’s proposal to the consideration of the members of the Executive Committee.
- 3.2.25 The draft resolution “Progress made in drafting proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute” was approved with the requested changes contained in the proposal of the Technical Secretary.
- 3.2.26 The Representative of the United States of America proposed a draft resolution on the progress report on the activities of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA).
- 3.2.27 The proposal of the Representative of the United States of America was approved. The Technical Secretary said that the proposed draft resolution would be prepared for inclusion in the next round of reading and approval of draft resolutions.

3.3 Financial and programming-budgetary situation

3.3.1 Results of corporate management

3.3.1.1 The Director of Financial Management referred to the results of the Institute's corporate management, emphasizing the following points: a) renewed recognition of the "5 pillars" of the European Commission, given IICA's compliance with international quality standards (internal control system, accounting, external audit, grants and procurement); b) implementation of the SAP in all IICA offices in the member countries; c) application of antifraud policies, prevention and treatment of sexual harassment, gender and calls for projects; d) improvements in the staff insurance plan; e) campaigns for the prevention of health problems; f) simplification and improvement of processes and procedures; g) strengthening the corporate infrastructure, in alignment with the strategic objectives; h) increased level of authorization of IICA Representatives, in order to facilitate delivery of technical cooperation services; and i) implementation of the SAPIENS platform, a tool for managing human talent.

3.3.2 2016-2017 Program Budget

3.3.2.1 The Director of Financial Management explained that the current programming- budgetary model was aligned with IICA's Strategic Plan (SP) and Medium-term Plan (MTP). She explained that the Regular Fund budget for each year of the 2016-2017 biennium would be USD 34.4 million. These amounts came from quota contributions, which had been increased by 6.57% to deal with the decline in resources of the Miscellaneous Income Fund, and from the over-quota contributions agreed with various member countries, which meant an overall increase of 8.1% in the Regular Fund. She explained that this had enabled the Institute to maintain the level and quality of its services. She emphasized that IICA's Regular Fund resources were used primarily to finance technical cooperation actions, implemented in the context of the instruments established in the MTP: flagship projects, rapid response actions and the Technical Cooperation Fund (FonTC).

3.3.3 Report on the collection of quotas of Member States

3.3.3.1 The Director of Financial Management reported on the status of the Member States' quota contributions as of August 22, 2016. She noted that 11 countries were in "up-to-date status," 20 countries were in "regular status," three were in arrears and no country was in "special status."

3.3.4 Recovery of indirect costs

3.3.4.1 The Director of Financial Management referred to the recovery of indirect costs incurred in the administration of externally funded projects. She explained that these costs were calculated using the methodology approved by the Executive Committee, which calculated a rate of 9.5% using audited figures for 2015. She indicated that a study conducted in 2012 had determined that the rate for projects financed with external resources should be 8.1% on average. She added that IICA was aiming to achieve that figure, since the previous year the rate had reached 7.5% and was expected to continue increasing. She noted that in 2015 the average rate approved in the new agreements signed was 8%. She then referred to the increase achieved in the implementation of regional projects with actions in various member countries, taking advantage of the capacities of the Institute's hemispheric network of offices. She reported that IICA had implemented 33 regional projects and 249 national projects in 2010, whereas in 2015 it had implemented 124 and 159, respectively.

3.3.5 2014 and 2015 Financial Statements and Report of the External Auditors

3.3.5.1 The Director of Financial Management presented the 2015 external audit report, carried out by the firm Deloitte, which concluded that "the financial statements of IICA present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of IICA as of December 31, 2015."

3.3.5.2 She reported that the audit evidence obtained was considered sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for its qualified audit opinion. She added that this opinion was based on two factors: a) some of the provisions for employee termination benefits required actuarial studies that used generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America and b) IICA did not have sufficient information to assess the value of the quotas owed for more than one year. She explained that this year actuarial studies were

conducted for 82% of the amounts recorded, but added that it was difficult for IICA to comply with this in all 34 member countries.

3.3.5.3 She reported that, in accordance with Resolution No. 590 approved by the Executive Committee in 2014, which had selected the firm Deloitte as the external auditors of IICA and CATIE, that designation could be extended for the 2016-2017 biennium. She added that the Institute would exercise this option and that the Audit Review Committee (ARC) had raised no objection. Therefore, the appointment of Deloitte as external auditors would be extended for the next two years.

3.3.6 Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC)

3.3.6.1 Mr. Steve Rickrode, a member of the ARC, presented the Committee's report on the review of IICA's financial statements and external audit in 2015. He reported that the ARC had held a meeting in June, with all its members present and had reviewed the comments made by the external auditors regarding the valuation of employee termination benefits, the status of pending quota payments, the AIS program in Colombia and the Institute's information technology (IT) infrastructure. He concluded by saying that the ARC recognized that Institute's Administration had appropriately addressed each of the points made by the external auditors.

3.3.7 Updating of the Financial Rules

3.3.7.1 The Director of Financial Management explained that IICA's Financial Rules were being updated to ensure that institutional regulations were in line with its current operational situation and the resolutions of its governing bodies. She explained that the updating of 13 of the 134 articles of those Rules did not imply fundamental changes; instead, the idea was to adapt these to the present situation, thereby increasing the efficiency of institutional management.

3.3.8 Analysis and comments

3.3.8.1 The Director General thanked the Director of Financial Management and the ARC member for their presentations. He also thanked all the countries that had paid their quotas for previous years and for the current year. He stressed the importance of the Member States' quota contributions and of

the increase approved at the last IABA meeting. He said this showed that they recognized the Institute's contributions to their countries.

3.3.8.2 He then urged countries to pay their quotas promptly for the current year and for any other years owed, so that those resources could be used to provide technical cooperation of quality. He pointed out that 90% of the financial contributions received by the Institute from its member countries was invested in technical cooperation. He added that IICA had made efforts to improve its operational efficiency, without diminishing the quality of its technical cooperation, and he hoped that this would be rewarded with the timely payment of quotas.

3.3.8.3 The Observer Representative of Brazil stressed the importance of IICA's activities for his country, and reaffirmed his government's willingness to continue supporting it with financial resources, so long as it was able to fulfil that obligation. He pointed out that despite its difficult economic situation, Brazil continued to make the effort to pay its quotas, and had already partially honored that obligation.

3.3.8.4 The Observer Representative of Canada congratulated the Director General of IICA for increasing the Institute's quota budget, reducing its operating costs and improving its technical cooperation services. She also praised his efforts to ensure efficiency and maintain the relevance of the Institute's actions.

3.4 *Date and venue of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee*

3.4.1 The Technical Secretary recalled that the Executive Committee's Rules of Procedure require it to set the date and the venue of its next Regular Meeting. He added that no offers in writing had been received from member countries to host said meeting, and therefore it would take place at IICA Headquarters, during the first semester of 2017.

3.4.2 He announced that there would be a special calendar of activities in 2017, due to the holding of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA and the process to elect the Director General for the period 2018-2022, which included periods for receiving nominations for candidates to that position and the election of the new Director General at the IABA meeting. He

suggested that representatives of the Member States remain mindful of this special calendar. He also noted that so far none of the Member States had offered to host the IABA meeting which, in principle, would be held at IICA Headquarters.

3.5 Reading and Approval of Draft Resolutions

3.5.1 The Rapporteur read out the draft resolution “Report on the collection of quotas.”

3.5.2 The Director General thanked the Observer Representative of Brazil for his comments and for his Government’s commitment to honor a significant part of its debt to IICA, despite the economic difficulties facing it. He reiterated the Institute’s commitment to continue providing technical cooperation to the country’s institutions.

3.5.3 The draft resolution “Report on the collection of quotas” was approved without changes.

3.5.4 The Rapporteur then read out the following draft resolutions: “2015 Financial Statements of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA),” “Report of the External Auditors and Twenty-second Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),” “Updating of the Financial Rules,” “Date and Venue of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee” and “Cooperation between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA).” The draft resolutions were approved as read.

3.6 Other business

3.6.1 The Deputy Director General proposed a discussion on the benefits of the market information systems, especially with respect to perishable products. He referred to the importance of these products, the marketing procedures that should be followed and the importance of the state of California as a supplier of those products. He also mentioned the significant developments in market information systems that had taken place in various countries and cited some examples of successful cases of innovation, such as the use of mobile telephone systems in Costa Rica to communicate information on

prices, the implementation of a market information system in Trinidad and Tobago which had benefited producers and consumers and the use of those systems in the Ecuadorean terminal markets. He invited the representatives to share information on any successful experiences they may have had in that regard. He concluded by emphasizing the success of the MIOA, which now has 33 member countries.

- 3.6.2 The Director General remarked that a large proportion of perishable products (especially roots, tubers and fruits) was not consumed, which contrasted with the major efforts being made to improve productivity and availability. He felt it was important to provide technical accompaniment throughout all links of the agrifood chains - from genetics (seed) to consumers - and to make efforts to reduce losses in those chains through effective post-harvest management.

3.7 *Close of the session*

- 3.7.1 The Third Plenary Session of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 11:33 hours on August 24, 2016.

CLOSING SESSION

4.1 Opening of the session

4.1.1 The Closing Session of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was called to order at 11:35 hours on August 24, 2016. It was chaired by the Representative of Paraguay.

4.2 Remarks by the Director General of IICA

4.2.1 The Director General expressed his satisfaction with the achievements of the Meeting, and particularly with the approval of the resolution “Progress made in drafting proposals for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute.” He considered that this would enable IICA to identify opportunities for establishing and strengthening partnerships, in order to guarantee its future, in fulfilment of Resolution No. 501 approved by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). He added that this resolution was an expression of the member countries’ confidence in his Administration and that the proposals presented reflected the diligence and interest with which they had assumed the issue of IICA’s sustainability.

4.2.2 He stressed that this was a crucial moment for the Institute, given the challenges facing the agriculture of the Americas in achieving environmental sustainability and food security, which must be addressed in the context of a more inclusive model that considers small-scale producers.

4.2.3 He emphasized that neither the countries nor IICA could meet future demands and challenges by using the tools of the past, and called for greater political, financial and technical support from the Member States toward the Institute. He announced that in its future negotiations with other organizations, IICA would pursue objectives, mechanisms and tools to enable it to better serve agriculture and humanity. He acknowledged the support offered by the member countries for the strengthening and modernization of IICA, and expressed his confidence that they would visualize it as “their” institution, which shared the same objectives.

4.2.4 The Director General noted that the current Convention had been in effect for 35 years, though the Institute had been created in 1942. He anticipated

that the celebration of IICA's 75th anniversary next year would reflect its contributions to the continent's agriculture.

4.3 Remarks by the Chair and the Representatives of the Member States

4.3.1 The Chair of the Executive Committee, the Representatives of Costa Rica, Bolivia and the United States of America and the Observer Representative of Mexico expressed their support for the Administration of the Director General and thanked him for the hospitality received. They expressed their commitment to support the implementation of the agreements reached at the meeting and to carry out the tasks established for the restructuring and strengthening of IICA.

4.4 Close of the Meeting

4.4.1 The Closing Session of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee was adjourned at 11:50 hours on August 24, 2016.

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IICA/CE/Res. 606 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 606

**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND
HIGHER EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE) FOR 2014-2015**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation on the “Biennial Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) for 2014-2015”,

CONSIDERING:

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 441 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing the reports and plans of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) and requested that, in future, the Director General of this Center forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the version of the biennial report and plans of CATIE for acceptance by the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept CATIE’s biennial report for 2014-2015 and thank the Director General of the Center for his presentation.
2. To urge IICA and CATIE to continue to strengthen their links and mechanisms for implementing the activities of the Program for Joint Action, with a view to enhancing the contribution of the two institutions in support of the efforts of the Member States to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agricultural development.
3. To urge the Director General of CATIE to make all reports provided to CATIE’s governing council, including financial reports, also available to the Executive Committee and the IABA.

IICA/CE/Res. 607 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 607**BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE CARIBBEAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CARDI) FOR 2014-2015**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The presentation made by the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) on the report of its activities during the 2014-2015 biennium,

CONSIDERING:

That, under the terms of the agreement currently in force between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and CARDI, the latter organization must submit an annual report on its activities; and,

That, by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 440 (XIV-O/07), the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) delegated to the Executive Committee responsibility for receiving and analyzing CARDI's reports and plans and requested that, in future, the Executive Director of that Institute forward directly to the General Directorate of IICA the biennial report and plans of CARDI for acceptance by the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept and express appreciation to CARDI for the presentation of the report on activities implemented during the 2014-2015 biennium.
2. To urge IICA and CARDI to continue to strengthen their links and mechanisms for executing joint activities, with a view to enhancing the contribution of both institutions in support of the Member States' efforts to achieve competitive, sustainable and inclusive agriculture.

IICA/CE/Res. 608 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 608

**2015 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 655 (16), “2015 Annual Report of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA),”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.f of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that this governing body of IICA is to receive, analyze and approve the annual report on the activities of the General Directorate and take appropriate action;

That the General Directorate prepared and published the 2015 Annual Report of the Institute, which the Director General of the Institute presented to the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) on April 20, 2016;

That the report describes the cooperation activities carried out by IICA in 2015 for the purpose of implementing the cooperation agendas of the Institute at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, within the framework of IICA’s 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan;

That the Representative of the Institute in each of its 34 Member States presented to the national authorities the respective report on the cooperation that IICA provided to the country in 2015; and,

That the Annual Report for 2015 is available for consultation in digital format on the Institute’s website (www.iica.int),

RESOLVES:

To approve the 2015 Annual Report of IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 609 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 609**REPORT OF THE 2016 REGULAR MEETING OF THE SPECIAL ADVISORY
COMMISSION ON MANAGEMENT ISSUES (SACMI)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 656 (16), “Report of the 2016 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI),”

CONSIDERING:

That the purpose of the SACMI, as a standing commission of the Executive Committee, is to advise the Director General and to facilitate more regular discussion with the Member States on administrative, financial and strategic issues, in order to enhance the process of reaching consensus in the Executive Committee and in the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That, by means of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 580 (XXXIII-O/13), the Executive Committee established that the meetings of the SACMI should preferably be held on line, so that sessions may be held as frequently as necessary and to realize savings for the Institute; and,

That the above-referenced report of the SACMI contains recommendations for consideration by the Director General and the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the Report of the 2016 Regular Meeting of the SACMI.

IICA/CE/Res. 610 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 610

**STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE EIGHTEENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE INTER-AMERICAN BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (IABA) AND THE
THIRTY-FIFTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 658 (16) “Status of the Resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)” and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 657 (16), “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,”

CONSIDERING:

That the abovementioned status reports demonstrate that the General Directorate of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has complied with the resolutions adopted at the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA, and with the resolutions adopted at the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

To accept the reports: (a) “Status of the Resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)”;

and (b) “Status of the Resolutions of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee.”

IICA/CE/Res. 611 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 611**REPORT ON THE COLLECTION OF QUOTAS**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 651 (16), “Report on the collection of quotas,”

CONSIDERING:

That, at its Thirteenth Regular Meeting, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 414 (XIII-O/05), adopted the document “Revised measures for collecting quotas owed to the Institute”;

That, thanks to the effectiveness of the measures adopted, the goodwill and support of the ministers of agriculture and other authorities in the Member States, as well as the efforts of the General Directorate, it has been possible to reduce considerably the total amount of quotas owed to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA); and,

That the above has facilitated the implementation of the programs and projects included in the cooperation strategies established in the 2014-2018 Medium-term Plan of the Institute at the national, regional and hemispheric levels,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the ministers of agriculture and foreign affairs, as well as other high-level government officials in IICA’s Member States, for the efforts they have been making to honor their annual quota payments to the Institute.
2. To acknowledge the importance of maintaining in effect the measures established by the Executive Committee and the IABA to encourage

IICA's Member States to make their annual quota payments to the Institute in a timely fashion and to pay arrears for previous years.

3. To instruct the Director General to: (a) continue efforts to collect the quotas for 2016 and those owed for previous years; and, (b) keep IICA's Member States informed of progress in this area.
4. To urge the Member States to remain current with the payment of their quotas to the Institute, and those that are in arrears, to follow through with the plans agreed to meet their financial obligations to IICA.

IICA/CE/Res. 612 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 612**2015 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA), REPORT OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITORS AND TWENTY-SECOND REPORT OF THE AUDIT REVIEW COMMITTEE (ARC)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 652 (16), “2015 Financial Statements of IICA and Report of the External Auditors,” and Document IICA/CE/Doc. 653 (16), “Twenty-second Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC),”

CONSIDERING:

That Article 4.d of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee establishes that the mandate of this governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is to study the Institute’s financial statements and, when a decision is required, forward the corresponding report and recommendations to the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA);

That, at its Seventh Regular Meeting, the IABA, by Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 231 (VII-O/93), created the Audit Review Committee (ARC) and approved its Statute;

That, pursuant to Article 3.k of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the mandate of this governing body of IICA is to receive and approve the ARC’s reports and make a determination on its recommendations; and,

That, in its Twenty-second Report, the ARC states that it examined the report of the external auditors on IICA’s 2015 financial statements and found the work performed to be thorough and in accordance with the rules of the Institute and international auditing standards,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept the 2015 financial statements of the Institute and the report of the external auditors, and to instruct the Director General to submit them to the consideration of the Nineteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA.
2. To approve the Twenty-second Report of the ARC and instruct the Director General to implement the recommendations contained therein.
3. To thank the members of the ARC for the work accomplished.

IICA/CE/Res. 613 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 613**UPDATING OF THE FINANCIAL RULES**

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

CONSIDERING:

That a review of the Financial Rules of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was conducted in order to harmonize its content with recent resolutions of the governing bodies of the Institute and with generally accepted accounting principles, and it was determined that the rules require greater precision;

That the adjustment of some of the provisions based on current circumstances will contribute to more efficient management of the Institute;

That this topic was addressed at the Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) on 22 April 2016; and

That, pursuant to paragraph h of Article 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Executive Committee has the authority to approve or modify the Financial Rules,

RESOLVES:

To amend rules 2.1, 2.3, 2.13, 3.1, 3.5, 4.5, 4.10, 4.16 and 4.17, as well as the Introduction and Appendix A of the Financial Rules, as established in Annex A.

ANNEX A

FINANCIAL RULES

Introduction

Current Text

Proposed Text

This revised version of the Financial Rules incorporates all the amendments approved between 1986 and 2003 and goes into effect on the date of its publication.

This revised version of the Financial Rules incorporates all the amendments approved between ~~1986~~**2003** and ~~2003~~**2015** and goes into effect on the date of its publication.

Analysis Section

This update of the Financial Rules incorporates changes contained in resolutions of the Governing Bodies to 2015.

FINANCIAL RULES

Chapter II – The Program Budget

Current Text

Proposed Text

Rule 2.1 Structure of the Program Budget

Rule 2.1 Structure of the Program Budget

2.1.3 Article 74 of the RPGD states:

The proposed Program Budget, as submitted, shall be broken down into the following objects of expenditure: international professional personnel, local professional personnel, and general services personnel; scholarships; official IICA staff member travel; documents and supplies; plant, equipment and furniture; general services; performance contracts; and other costs.

These categories are further defined as follows:

- 1) **International Professional Personnel:** Expenditures for staff members with either regular, trust, or temporary international professional appointments.
- 2) **Local Professional Personnel and General Services Personnel:** Expenditures for those employees who occupy local professional and general services positions.
- 3) **Scholarships:** All costs of fellowship students and research assistants, including travel.

2.1.3 Article 74 of the RPGD states:

The proposed Program Budget, as submitted, shall be broken down into the following objects of expenditure: International Professional Personnel, Local Professional Personnel, and General Services Personnel; scholarships; official IICA staff member travel; documents and supplies; plant, equipment and furniture, general services, performance contracts and other costs.

These categories are further defined as follows:

- 1) **International Professional Personnel:** Expenditures for staff members with either regular, trust, or temporary international professional appointments.
- 2) **Local Professional Personnel and General Services Personnel:** Expenditures for those employees who occupy local professional and general services positions.
- 3) **Training and Technical Events Scholarships:** *All costs of training and technical events for staff, the beneficiaries of cooperation,* fellowship

students and research assistants, including travel, *participation and organization*.

- 4) **Official Travel for IICA Personnel:** All expenses for official travel for attending meetings, exercising supervision and coordination, recruiting, performing technical assistance missions, training and others.
- 4) **Travel for the Conduct of Official Business ~~Official Travel for IICA Personnel:~~** All *travel* expenses for *the conduct of IICA's Official Business, including* attending meetings, exercising supervision and coordination, recruiting, performing technical assistance missions, training and others.
- 5) **Documents and Materials:** Includes costs related to publication and printing of publications and other internal IICA documents. Also includes costs of acquiring literature required to develop activities.
- 5) **Documents and Materials *and Inputs:*** Includes costs related to ~~publication and printing~~ *the production* of publications and other ~~internal~~ IICA documents. Also includes costs of acquiring literature *and access to databases* required to develop activities.
- 6) **Building, Equipment and Furniture:** All costs for purchase of fixed assets which can be included in inventory and/or rental of buildings, equipment and furniture for activities.
- 6) **~~Building,~~ Plant, Equipment and Furniture:** All costs for purchase of fixed assets which can be included in inventory and/or rental of buildings, equipment and furniture for activities.
- 7) **General Services:** The necessary costs for operating offices and equipment and maintaining effective communication in the implementation of activities. This includes the leasing and maintenance of offices, including installations outside of Headquarters, communications, public services, security, repairs, maintenance and supplies for the operation of buildings, lands, and equipment.
- 7) **General Services:** The necessary costs for operating offices and equipment and maintaining effective communication in the implementation of activities. This includes the leasing and maintenance of offices, including installations outside of Headquarters, communications, public services, security, repairs, maintenance and supplies for the operation of buildings, lands, and equipment.
- 8) **Performance Contracts:** All costs involved in contracting the services of technicians or specialists outside of
- 8) **Performance Contracts *and Transfers:*** All costs involved in contracting the services of technicians or specialists

IICA to carry out a specific task within an approved Plan of Operation.

outside of IICA to carry out a specific task within an approved Plan of Operation, and *transfers to organizations included in the approved Program Budget.*

- 9) **Other Operating Costs:** All costs which are not identified in the above-mentioned categories or line items.
- 9) **Other Operating Costs:** All costs which are not identified in the above-mentioned categories or line items.

Analysis Section

Based on the questions raised by the Member States during presentations of the Program Budget and the financial statements, the categories are described more precisely in the Financial Rules for the purposes of greater clarity on the objects of expenditures. The terminology included is the one currently in use and approved in the Program Budget resolutions.

FINANCIAL RULES

Chapter II – Program Budget

Current Text

Proposed Text

Rule 2.3 Procedures for Preparing the Program Budget

Rule 2.3 Procedures for Preparing the Program Budget

2.3.4 The operating units of the Institute shall prepare their respective proposals within the limitations of the quota resources allocated to them. In doing so, consideration shall be given to the following:

2.3.4 The operating units of the Institute shall prepare their respective proposals within the limitations of the quota resources allocated to them. In doing so, consideration shall be given to the following:

- d. In preparing the Program Budget, income from the sale of goods and services shall be programmed as a contribution to the funding of the operating unit responsible for generating such income.

- d. In preparing the Program Budget, income from the sale of goods and services shall be programmed as a contribution to the ***Institute's financing.*** ~~funding of the operating unit responsible for generating such income.~~

Analysis Section

According to Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 400(XII-O/03), “Modifications of the Financial Rules and the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate on Miscellaneous Income,” adopted in 2003, the Miscellaneous Income Fund was created with the objective of covering the Institute’s financial needs.

FINANCIAL RULES

Chapter II – Program Budget

Current Text

Proposed Text

Rule 2.13 Register and Control of Obligations

Rule 2.13 Register and Control of Obligations

The Directorate of Administration and Finance will record and control obligations in accordance with the following provisions:

The Directorate of ~~Administration and~~ Finance will record and control obligations in accordance with the following provisions:

- a. Obligations to purchase goods and services which are pending at the end of each fiscal year shall form part of total expenditures for the fiscal year and shall be recorded as accounts payable at the end of the year.

- a. Obligations to purchase goods and services which are pending at the end of each fiscal year shall form part of total expenditures for the fiscal year and shall be recorded as accounts payable at the end of the year, ***when the good or service has been received satisfactorily.***

Analysis Section

The additional phrase allows for complying with generally accepted accounting principles, which require that the good or service be received before the account payable and the expenditure are recognized.

FINANCIAL RULES

Chapter III – Financial Resources

Current Text

Proposed Text

Rule 3.1 Classification of Funds

Rule 3.1 Classification of Funds

As described in Article 88 of the RPGD, the resources administered by the Institute are classified according to their source and purpose as follows:

As described in Article 88 of the RPGD, the resources administered by the Institute are classified according to their source and purpose as follows:

f. **Institutional Net Rate (INR) Fund.** Consisting of reimbursements from the administration of contracts with other institutions. The purpose of this fund is to finance the additional costs incurred by the Institute in the execution of these contracts and to contribute to institutional pre-investment activities.

f. ~~**Institutional Net Rate (INR)**~~ **Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) Fund.** Consisting of reimbursements from the administration of contracts with other institutions. The purpose of this fund is to finance the additional costs incurred by the Institute in the execution of these contracts and to contribute to institutional pre-investment activities.

Analysis Section

It is proposed that the use of the term “Institutional Net Rate (INR)” be replaced with “Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR)” utilized by other organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS).

FINANCIAL RULES

Chapter III - Financial Resources

Current Text

Proposed Text

Rule 3.5 Institutional Net Rate (INR)

Rule 3.5 ~~Institutional Net Rate (INR)~~ *Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR)*

3.5.1 The Institute shall charge an Institutional Net Rate (INR) to cover the Institute's costs of participation in externally funded projects. For each project, the Director General shall negotiate a rate that: a) does not fall below the minimum rate recommended in the study referred to in Rule 3.5.2, and b) is sufficient, in light of estimates of other INR to be negotiated during the corresponding time period, to assure that the average INR charged for all projects during the given period cover the Institute's additional administrative and technical management costs resulting from its participation in externally funded projects.

3.5.1 The Institute shall charge *a rate for Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) in order* to cover the Institute's costs of participation in externally funded projects. For each project, the Director General shall negotiate a rate that is: a) ~~does not fall below the minimum rate recommended in the study referred to in Rule 3.5.2~~ *fair and representative of the real costs*, and b) is sufficient, in light of estimates of other ~~INR rates~~ to be negotiated during the corresponding time period, to assure that the average ~~INR percentages~~ charged for all projects during the given period cover the Institute's additional administrative and technical management costs resulting from its participation in externally funded projects.

Analysis Section

The update seeks to make the text consistent with Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 556 (XXXII-O/12) "Recovery of the Indirect Costs of Externally Funded Projects - Institutional Net Rate (INR)."

FINANCIAL RULES

Chapter III - Financial Resources

Current Text

Proposed Text

Rule 3.5 Institutional Net Rate (INR)

Rule 3.5 ~~Institutional Net Rate (INR)~~ *Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR)*

3.5.2 An annual study shall be done to ensure that the Institute's INR is commensurate with the actual costs of administering external resources. This study shall be reviewed by the external auditors.

3.5.2 An annual study shall be done to ensure that the Institute's ~~INR~~-*ICR* is commensurate with the actual costs of administering external resources, ~~This study shall be reviewed by the external auditors.~~ *in accordance with the methodology and criteria adopted in Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 556 (XXXII-O/12), to establish the minimum ICR applicable to projects and other externally funded cooperation activities, with due regard for the exceptions established in the aforementioned document. The study shall take into account the criteria of competitiveness, proportionality and the net neutral approach established in the methodology, in order to fix a rate that is fair and representative of actual cost.*

Analysis Section

The resolution on the recovery of indirect costs, based on an external study carried out as stipulated by the Executive Committee and the IABA, establishes the methodology approved for the annual study. Therefore, the rule is updated to reflect the fact that the methodology established is applied, instead of an analysis performed by the external auditors. The audited figures will continue to be used.

FINANCIAL RULES

Chapter III - Financial Resources

Current Text

Proposed Text

Rule 3.5 Institutional Net Rate (INR)

Rule 3.5 ~~Institutional Net Rate (INR)~~ *Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR)*

3.5.4 The Director General shall be authorized to receive contributions and donations and to sign agreements for external resources, provided the corresponding activities are consistent with IICA's objectives and programs. The Director General shall report all such agreements to the Executive Committee or the Board. Whenever such agreements exceed US\$500,000 annually, the Director General will notify members of the Executive Committee and provide a thirty-day comment period for their observations, beginning on the date of the letter of notification. These contracts must contain provisions for the estimated amounts necessary to cover IICA's Institutional Net Rate.

3.5.4 The Director General shall be authorized to receive contributions and donations and to sign agreements *to obtain and use* for external resources, provided the corresponding activities are consistent with ~~HCA's~~ *the* objectives ~~and programs~~ *of IICA's Medium-term Plan*. ~~The Director General shall report all such agreements to the Executive Committee or the Board. Whenever such agreements exceed US\$500,000 annually, the Director General will notify members of the Executive Committee and provide a thirty-day comment period for their observations, beginning on the date of the letter of notification.~~ These contracts must contain provisions for the estimated amounts necessary to cover *an ICR sufficient to comply with Rule 3.5.1. Institutional Net Rate. The Director General shall present details of all the legal instruments signed during the year at the meetings of the Governing Bodies.*

Analysis Section

The section is updated using the term “ICR,” linking the provisions regarding the ICR with the updated requirements set out in Rule 3.5.1., and eliminating the amount of funds involved in agreements regarding which the Director General is required to report. The current practice is for the Director General to present details of all the legal instruments signed during the year to the Governing Bodies at their meetings.

FINANCIAL RULES

Chapter IV – Accounting and Financial Control

Current Text

Proposed Text

Rule 4.5 Rates of Exchange

Rule 4.5 Rates of Exchange

4.5.1 Cash on hand, income and expenses in currencies other than dollars shall be translated into United States dollars in order to facilitate reconciliation at Headquarters and preparation of financial statements.

4.5.1 ~~Cash on hand, income and expenses~~ *Monetary assets and liabilities* in currencies other than dollars shall be translated into United States dollars in order to facilitate reconciliation at Headquarters and preparation of financial statements.

4.5.2 For accounting purposes, income and expense transactions shall be converted at the legal market rate of exchange most favorable to the Institute on the date that the transaction occurs. Cash on hand at the end of each month shall be converted at the rate of exchange offered on the legal market.

4.5.2 For accounting purposes, income and expense transactions shall be converted at the legal market rate of exchange most favorable to the Institute on the date that the transaction occurs. ~~Cash on hand at the end of each month shall be converted at the rate of exchange offered on the legal market.~~

4.5.3 Exchange gains and losses will be recorded monthly and accumulated for the fiscal year. If the net result is a gain, it shall be considered miscellaneous income. If a loss results, it shall be charged to the current fiscal year's appropriations.

4.5.3 Exchange gains and losses will be recorded monthly and accumulated for the fiscal year. *The* ~~If the~~ net result ~~is a gain, it~~ shall be considered miscellaneous income. ~~If a loss results, it shall be charged to the current fiscal year's appropriations.~~

Analysis Section

The purpose of the changes made to Rules 4.5.1 and 4.5.2 is to expand the group of items whose value in United States dollars must be updated, including (in addition to cash on hand) others such as investments, accounts receivable, and accounts payable. The updating of the value of assets and liabilities is contained in Rule 4.5.1 and the conversion of income and expense transactions in Rule 4.5.2. In Rule 4.5.3, the net result of the institutional exchange differential, whether a gain or a loss, is reflected in the Miscellaneous Income Fund.

FINANCIAL RULES

Chapter IV - Accounting and Financial Control

Current Text

Proposed Text

Rule 4.10 Methods for Acquiring Goods and Services

Except as provided in Article 98¹⁴ of the RPGD, the Institute shall issue requests to the public for three or more written offers for any type of contract with a value of more than US\$30,000. The Director of Administration and two other designated officials shall serve on a Contract Review Board to open bids, review proposals, and determine the successful bidder. The Director General or his designee shall approve and sign for the Institute all contracts which result from the process. In order to comply with Article 92 of the RPGD, the Director General shall establish a procedure for the application of

Rule 4.10 Methods for Acquiring Goods and Services

Except as provided in Article 98¹⁴ of the RPGD, the Institute shall ~~issue requests to the public for three or more written offers~~ **use competitive methods** for any type of contract with a value of more than US\$30,000. ***In order to comply with Article 98 of the RPGD, the Director General shall establish a procedure for the application of competitive purchasing methods with the objective of obtaining fair prices. In the case of public bidding processes, the office responsible for administration*** ~~The Director of Administration~~ and other designated officials shall serve on a

¹⁴Article 98 of the RPGD states:

The purchase of equipment, office furniture and materials, general supplies, and service jobs shall be conducted by competitive methods.

The Director General may authorize exceptions for purchases of materials valued at less than US\$30,000 when he/she considers that the bidding method does not serve the interest of the Institute.

When the value of the purchases is US\$30,000 or more, the Director General may make exceptions to the use of the bidding method only under the following circumstances:

a. Emergencies, such as disaster aid, repairs, and other actions that are urgently needed to protect lives or property; or

b. Purchase of technical and scientific material to be used for projects approved by the Board and that are to be carried out in the Member States. In these cases, and according to the wishes of the Member States or the institutions, the purchases may be made by the General Directorate or, if the purchase will not be more expensive, by the national institution participating in the project.

The Director General shall inform the Committee of all purchases totaling US\$30,000 or more, for which the bidding method has not been used.

All purchases shall later be checked by the Office of Internal Auditing. (October 1997)

the bidding process and for the conduct of competitive methods of purchasing with the objective of attaining fair prices.

~~Contract—Review—Board~~ **Corporate Purchasing Committee** to open bids, review proposals, and determine the successful bidder. The Director General or his designee shall approve and sign for the Institute all contracts which result from the process. ~~In order to comply with Article 98 of the RPGD the Director General shall establish a procedure for the application of the bidding process and for the conduct of competitive methods of purchasing with the objective of attaining fair prices.~~

Analysis Section

In order to meet the requirement concerning competitive methods established in Article 98 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorate (RPGD), and also achieve the efficiency needed for current market prices and practices, the modification proposes that the Director General determine the competitive methods to be used for purchases and contracts involving a cost of more than USD30,000.

FINANCIAL RULES**Chapter IV - Accounting and Financial Control****Current Text****Proposed Text****Rule 4.16 Withdrawal and Transfer****Rule 4.16 Withdrawal and Transfer**

The net book value of assets withdrawn from service shall be removed from the accounting records. Amounts realized from the sale of assets shall be recorded as miscellaneous income.

The net book value of assets withdrawn from service shall be removed from the accounting records. Amounts realized from the sale of assets shall be recorded as miscellaneous income.

Analysis Section

There is no change to the English. However, the Spanish version of the rule contains text that should have been eliminated in the last update. This is now being corrected for the purposes of consistency.

FINANCIAL RULES

Chapter IV - Accounting and Financial Control

Current Text

Rule 4.17 Procedure for Disposing of Assets

4.17.1 The operating units shall determine which assets are obsolete and of no further use, and shall submit a request for their disposal to the Office of the Deputy Director General, through the established channels.

Proposed Text

Rule 4.17 Procedure for Disposing of Assets

4.17.1 The operating units shall determine which assets are obsolete and of no further use, and shall submit a request for their disposal to the ~~Office of the Deputy Director General~~ **office designated by the Director General**, through the established channels.

Analysis Section

The proposal is designed to streamline IICA's operations, reducing unnecessary procedures.

FINANCIAL RULES

Appendix A - Terminology Used in these Rules

Current Text

Disbursement: A payment of funds to satisfy a prior or current obligation and which depletes cash resources. An obligation and a disbursement may occur simultaneously. Synonymous with the terms "expenditure" and "payment."

Proposed Text

Disbursement: A payment of funds to satisfy a prior or current obligation and which depletes cash resources. An obligation and a disbursement may occur simultaneously. ~~Synonymous with the terms "expenditure" and "payment."~~

Analysis Section

This change is suggested because the term 'disbursement' is understood in the regulations as a cash outlay or payment. According to accounting principles, it should not be thought of as a synonym of 'expenditure,' however.

IICA/CE/Res. 614 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: Spanish

RESOLUTION No. 614

**DATE AND VENUE OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING
OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/Doc. 659 (16), “Date and Venue of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,”

CONSIDERING:

That, pursuant to Article 22 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, that governing body of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is required to hold one regular meeting each year. Therefore, the date and venue of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in 2017 must be set;

That, in accordance with Article 25 of said Rules of Procedure, if no venue is offered by one of the Member States of the Institute to hold the regular meeting of the Executive Committee in another country, the meeting will be held at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica; and,

That the Director General reports that he has received no formal offer from a Member State to host the next Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee,

RESOLVES:

1. To hold the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, during the first half of 2017.
2. To instruct the Director General to issue the convocation, in due course, to the Member States to participate in said meeting of the Executive Committee, in accordance with the procedures outlined in the rules currently in effect.

IICA/CE/Res. 615 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 615**PROGRESS MADE IN DRAFTING PROPOSALS FOR THE FINANCIAL STRENGTHENING AND STRATEGIC RESTRUCTURING OF THE INSTITUTE**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

Document IICA/CE/DI-05 “Report on the Status of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 501 (XVIII-O/15),”

CONSIDERING:

That Resolutions IICA/JIA/Res. 447 (XV-O/09), IICA/CE/Res. 531 (XXX-O/10), IICA/JIA/Res. 477 (XVI-O/11) instructed the Director General to develop options for closer IICA-FAO integration and to strengthen the joint efforts between IICA and the FAO; and encouraged Member States to promote in the FAO’s governance process similar instructions to the Director General of the FAO;

That the Director General in 2009 commissioned a study by Carlos Perez del Castillo to provide context and detailed options for strengthening partnership and coordination between IICA and FAO to the benefit of agriculture in the Americas;

That, in order to enhance the efficiency of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and its capacity to respond to present and future challenges, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), by means of Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 501 (XVIII-O/15), requested that the Director General of the Institute lend technical and administrative support to the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) and the Executive Committee, with a view to their submitting recommendations for the strategic restructuring and financial strengthening of IICA, together with any draft amendments to the rules required, to the next regular meeting of the Board;

That, in accordance with that resolution, the Director General has submitted a report for consideration by the Executive Committee and other member states;

That said report presents a summary of the current and future challenges faced by IICA; the structural, administrative, financial, and strategic actions taken by the Institute since 2010 to respond to those challenges; and preliminary ideas for structural and strategic reforms that warrant further examination, analysis, consultation and follow-up;

That those ideas include, among other things: (i) a study on the strengthening of a strategic and structural partnership with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), based on the model used by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), in order to eliminate overlapping areas of work, promote savings in the implementation of activities, and make better use of the resources allocated by the Member States to these two international organizations, which have the same objectives and clients in the region; (ii) the creation of a mechanism to channel the involvement of the private sector into the Institute's technical activities; (iii) the generation of mechanisms to promote the mobilization and securing of resources from foundations, other international organizations, and donors; (iv) greater efforts to ensure that the Indirect Cost Recovery (ICR) under externally funded projects prevents further depletion of IICA's Regular Fund; and, (v) arrangements with other international organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS), aimed at sharing the costs of the administrative operations of the Institute's offices in the Member States;

That the collaboration model adopted for the partnership between the WHO, of the United Nations System, and the PAHO, of the Inter-American System, should be analyzed in detail;

That if the findings of the study are positive, a model similar to that used by the WHO and the PAHO could be established with a view to IICA achieving an agreement for a strategic partnership with an international organization such as the FAO, under which IICA could manage an integrated work program in Latin America and the Caribbean; and,

That Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 501 (XVIII-O/15) extended an invitation to all Member States that do not form part of the SACMI to participate in the Commission's meetings on the subject of the strategic, structural, and financial strengthening of the Institute,

RESOLVES:

1. To thank the Director General for his report and note the strategic, administrative, structural, and financial reforms implemented during his administration.
2. To request that the Director General continue the process of internal restructuring aimed at institutional modernization and strengthening, giving due consideration to the corresponding priorities, and suggest new actions aimed at strengthening the Institute's technical cooperation model and boosting its financial capacity.
3. To request that the Director General undertake a study, which may include the necessary consultations, to analyze: the legal framework of the WHO-PAHO model that could serve as the basis for a strengthened alliance between IICA and FAO in order to eliminate duplication, promote savings in the implementation of activities, and make better use of the resources allocated by the Member States to both organizations; how the model benefits member countries; advantages and areas of opportunities; potential disadvantages to IICA's current effectiveness in technical cooperation; and to submit a report to the next regular meeting of the SACMI which should include recommendations that the Office of the Director General supports for implementation.
4. To invite all Member States to send to the Director General, by December 31, 2016, their proposals and recommendations for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute, and to participate in the work of the SACMI on these matters, in accordance with the invitation extended to them by the IABA through Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 501, and ask the Director General to give due follow-up to this invitation.
5. To request that, at its next meeting, the SACMI consider and comment on the recommendations made by the Director General and Member States for the financial strengthening and strategic restructuring of the Institute; and that the Director General, in his capacity as Chair of the SACMI, submit the corresponding recommendations to the following regular meetings of the Executive Committee and the IABA.

IICA/CE/Res. 616 (XXXVI-O/16)

24 August 2016

Original: English

RESOLUTION No. 616

**COOPERATION BETWEEN THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA) AND THE MARKET
INFORMATION ORGANIZATION OF THE AMERICAS (MIOA)**

The EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, at its Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting,

HAVING SEEN:

The “MIOA Progress Report to the XXXVI Meeting of the Executive Committee” (August 23, 2016), and the presentation of MIOA’s President on MIOA’s work and accomplishments achieved with the support of the IICA,

CONSIDERING:

That information on prices and markets is a strategic element in the efforts of the IICA Member States to achieve competitive, sustainable, and inclusive agriculture;

That market information is important to decision makers in entities responsible for formulating agricultural policies that have an impact on the economic livelihoods of small to large-scale growers, as well as on rural and agricultural development;

That IICA and MIOA have maintained a Letter of Understanding since 2004 for the purpose of implementing joint cooperation activities aimed at strengthening agricultural market information systems in the Member States; and

That by way of Resolution IICA/CE/Res. 572 (XXXIII O/13), the Executive Committee requested that the President of MIOA and the Director General of IICA present progress reports to the Executive Committee on the work being done in the field of agricultural market information and the process of institutional strengthening of Market Information Systems and the MIOA, and instructed the Director General to strengthen the Institute’s collaboration with MIOA,

RESOLVES:

1. To accept MIOA's report, and thank its President for his presentation.
2. To urge MIOA and IICA to continue to strengthen their mechanisms for collaboration and joint activities, with a view to making vital and timely marketing information easily available to producers and decision makers alike for the purpose of fostering development and greater transparency and efficiencies within the agricultural sector.

SIGNING OF THE REPORT

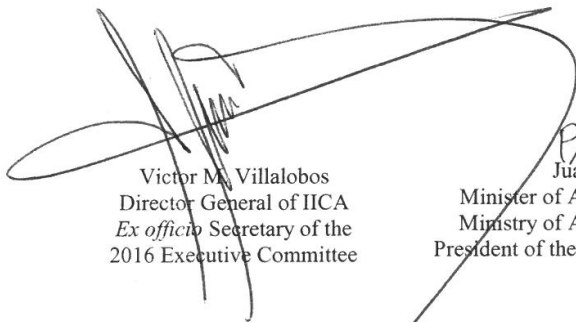
SIGNING OF THE REPORT OF THE THIRTY-SIXTH REGULAR MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Pursuant to the provisions of Article 97 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Committee, the Report of the Thirty-sixth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee is hereby signed at 13:00 hours on the twenty-fourth day of August of the year two thousand and sixteen, in San José, Costa Rica.

This report will be edited by the Secretariat and the changes approved during the Closing Session will be included before it is published in the four official languages of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in the Official Documents Series, all versions being equally authentic and valid.

The Secretariat shall file the original texts in the archives of the Institute, post the electronic files on the Institute's Web page and send the final version of this report to the governments of the Member States, the Associate States, the Permanent Observers of the Institute and other participants in the meeting.

San José, Costa Rica.



Victor M. Villalobos
Director General of IICA
Ex officio Secretary of the
2016 Executive Committee



Juan Carlos Baruja
Minister of Agriculture and Livestock
Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock
President of the 2016 Executive Committee

ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: PROVISIONAL AGENDA

IICA/CE/Doc. 650 (16)

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Provisional Schedule | IICA/CE/Doc. 649 (16) |
| 2. Message from the Director General | No document |
| 3. Strengthening of technical capabilities throughout the hemisphere | |
| 3.1. Agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) | Information Document no. 02 (16) |
| 3.2. Integrated risk management in agriculture | Information Document no. 03 (16) |
| 3.3. Achievements in the development of technical capabilities and leadership | Information Document no. 04 (16) |
| 4. Financial strengthening of the Institute | |
| 4.1. Report on the collection of quotas | IICA/CE/Doc. 651 (16) |
| 4.2. 2015 Financial Statements of the Institute and Report of the External Auditors | IICA/CE/Doc. 652 (16) |
| 4.3. Twenty-second Report of the Audit Review Committee (ARC) | IICA/CE/Doc. 653 (16) |
| 4.4. Updating of the Financial Rules | IICA/CE/Doc. 654 (16) |
| 5. Strengthening of Partnerships with other Institutions | |
| 5.1. 2014-2015 Report of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE) | (Unnumbered) |

- 5.2. Report on IICA-CATIE relations (Unnumbered)
- 5.3. 2014-2015 Report of the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) (Unnumbered)
- 5.4. Report on status of activities of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (MIOA) (Unnumbered)

6. Activities of the General Directorate and the Governing Bodies

- 6.1. 2015 IICA Annual Report IICA/CE/Doc. 655 (16)
- 6.2. Report of the 2016 Regular Meeting of the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues (SACMI) IICA/CE/Doc. 656 (16)
- 6.3. Status of the resolutions of the Thirty-fifth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 657 (16)
- 6.4. Status of the resolutions of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of the IABA IICA/CE/Doc. 658 (16)
- 6.5. Date and Venue of the Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee IICA/CE/Doc. 659 (16)

7. Other Business

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Santiago Vélez	Coordinator of the Directorate of Management and Regional Integration

ANNEX 3: MEETING STAFF

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