



**Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting of the
Executive Committee**

**REPORT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION
ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE
2018 - 2019**

July 2019

San Jose, Costa Rica

CONTENT

1. Background.....	2
2. Organic agriculture in the Americas and the Global Context.....	4
3. Results achieved by the ICOA and ongoing actions	8
4. Financial situation of the ICOA.....	15
5. Acknowledgements	19

1. Background

In 2007, the "First Meeting of Competent Authorities of Organic Agriculture of Latin America and the Caribbean" was held in the city of Managua, Nicaragua. During this meeting, the Competent Control Authorities (CCA)¹ of 16 countries in the region came together to create the Network of Competent Authorities for Organic Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. This Network constituted the first immediate antecedent of the Inter-American Commission on Organic Agriculture (ICOA).

The ICOA was established as a Special Commission by the Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas through Resolution IICA / CE / Res. 484 on "Coordination mechanisms for the development of organic agriculture in the Americas", approved at the Twenty-eighth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee (EC) of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), held in 2008. At this meeting, the Ministers of Agriculture entrusted IICA with responsibility for the management of the Executive Secretariat (ES) of ICOA, and the task of preparing a proposed Statute (Bylaws) jointly with the CCAs of the Member States of the Commission. In accordance with this mandate, in 2009, the ES of the ICOA presented the proposed Statute to the Twenty-ninth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA, which was approved by Resolution IICA / CE / Res. 506, and subsequently ratified by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) through Resolution IICA / JIA / Res. 455 at its Fifteenth Regular Meeting. In this way, the first official regional body operating in the area of organic agriculture was created.

On the basis of Article 29, paragraph 1 of the Bylaws of the ICOA, and through Agreement N° 2 of the Fifth Regular Meeting of the ICOA held in Santiago, Chile (May 2013), the Commission approved its Operating Rules, which establish in Article 7 that all Member States of the ICOA shall contribute the sum of six thousand American dollars (USD 6,000.00) annually to finance the Annual Work Plan and its administrative activities.

In order to establish a legal framework that would ensure the means for promoting cooperation between IICA and the ICOA for implementation of the actions established in the agenda and work plans, a cooperation agreement was signed between the two institutions in March 2014. The conditions established in said agreement are currently in force until October 2019, through the corresponding addendum N° 2 signed in March 2019.

As follow-up to the mandate of the IABA, and based on the efforts of IICA and the ICOA in previous years, the VII Assembly of the ICOA of the Competent Development Authorities (CDA)² of Organic Agriculture was convened in 2015. This initial CDA group signed its constitutive act as Agreement No. 2 of the General Act, by providing inputs to determine its strategic focus for promoting organic agriculture within the hemisphere.

¹ The Competent Control Authorities (CCA) for organic agriculture are the entities responsible in each country for ensuring application of and compliance with the technical regulations of the activity and to guarantee the organic status of products from the respective country. The CCA's functions include registering the producers, processors, marketers, input processors, inspectors and certifying organic production agencies, auditing them and keeping records of their operation.

² The Competent Development Authorities (CDA) for organic agriculture are the bodies responsible for the promotion, development and advancement of the organic sector.

During the five years that the ICOA has been operating with support from IICA, the Commission has succeeded, through its actions, in facilitating trade in organic products and market development, strengthening the national control systems for organic production, improving information and knowledge management, as well as promoting activities and developing policies for the advancement of organic production.

The ICOA is currently made up of 19 countries in the Americas, which are Full Members and have established oversight bodies for organic production and regulatory standards for this activity: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela. Canada has participated in meetings as an Observer Member. During 2017 and 2018, Spain and Portugal, respectively, joined the Commission as Permanent Observer Members.

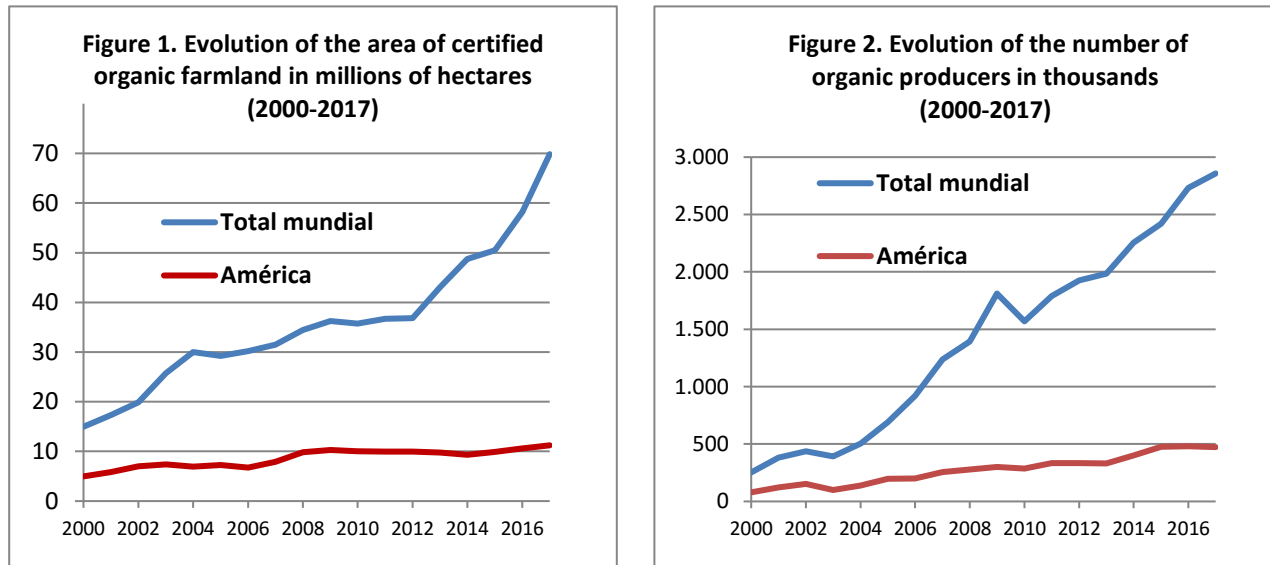
In line with IICA's new cooperation model, in 2018, the Institute's General Directorate, through the Directorate of Technical Cooperation, informed the Board of Directors and the Assembly of the ICOA, of its intention to join the ICOA as another Member of its Board of Directors. The proposal was discussed during the X Regular Meeting of the ICOA in Peru, and was again submitted to the consideration of the member countries at a Special Virtual (online) Meeting held in May 2019. The ICOA countries are currently holding an internal consultation process with their highest authorities and will cast their vote on July 1, 2019.

At present, the Board of Directors (BD) of the ICOA is made up of Ecuador as Chair, plus Bolivia, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. The latter country will host the XI Regular Meeting of the ICOA, which will take place during the third week of August of this year.

The ICOA, in compliance with the provisions of Article 3, paragraph *m* of its Bylaws, is submitting this report to the Executive Committee of IICA, convened at its Thirty-ninth Regular Meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica.

2. Organic agriculture in the Americas and the Global Context

The growth trend in certified organic agriculture worldwide has been constant since the end of the 1990s, with the area under organic farming quadrupling between 1999 and 2017, as shown in Figure 1 (Report3 FiBL-IFOAM4, 2019). Even more noteworthy has been the increase in the number of organic producers, which rose from approximately 200,000 to 2.86 million (Figure 2).



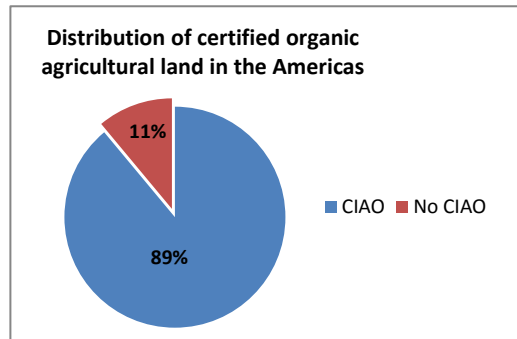
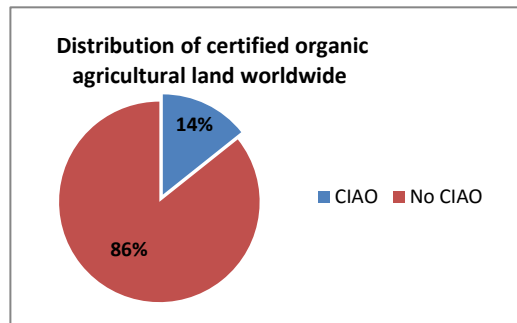
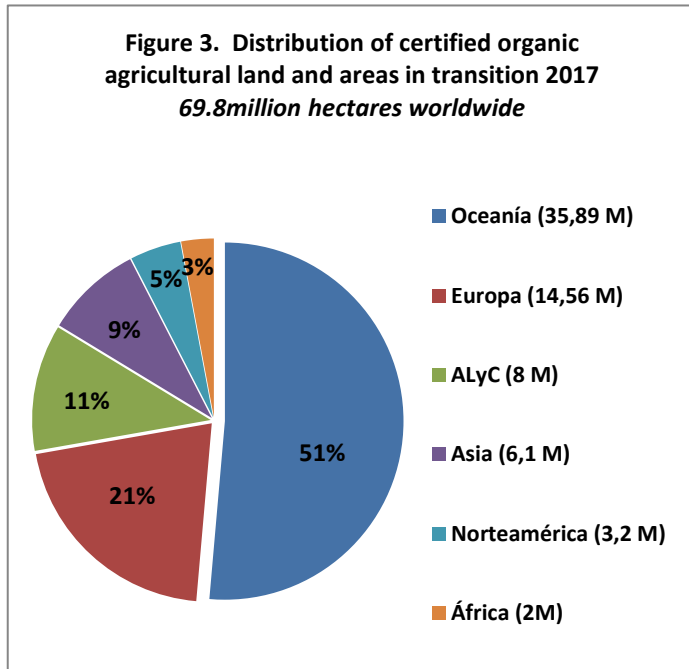
Although this is a positive trend for the Americas, the increase is proportionately smaller than the growth observed at the global level. In 2000, the Americas accounted for 34 % of the global certified land area, a percentage that dropped to 16 % in 2017. With respect to the number of producers, in 2000 the Americas accounted for 31 % of the total number of certified producers worldwide, a percentage that fell to 17 % in 2017.

Based on data from 181 countries that keep records on certified organic production, in 2017 there were around 69.8 million hectares of organic farmland worldwide, including in-conversion or transition areas (latest data updated globally, FiBL-IFOAM report, 2019). This represents an increase of 12 million hectares in comparison with the previous year (20% annual increase), accounting for 1.4 % of total agricultural land. It is estimated that 2.7 million producers are involved in organic agriculture, 80% of whom are in developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

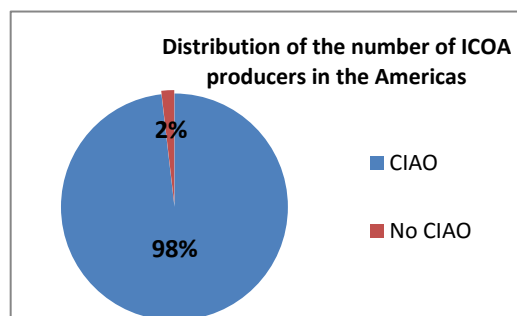
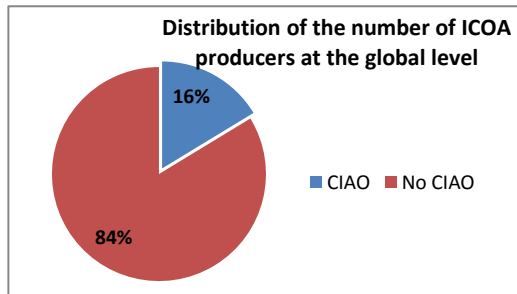
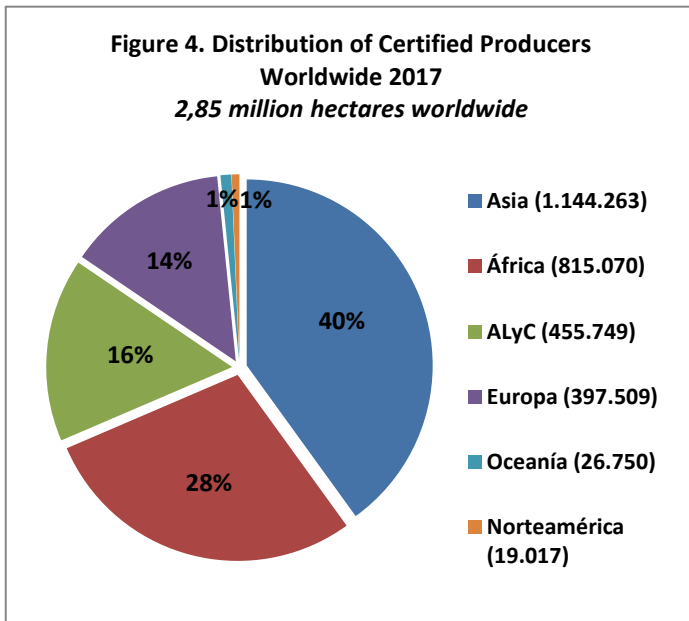
The countries of the Americas have 11.2 million hectares under organic production, which represents 16 % of the total area dedicated to this type of production worldwide. Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have 8 million hectares, while the United States and Canada have 3.2 million hectares. The countries affiliated with the ICOA represent 89 % of the land used for organic production in the Americas, accounting for 14 % of the organic area worldwide (Figure 3).

³ Source: The World of Organic Agriculture. Statistics & Emerging Trends 2018. FiBL and IFOAM, 2018.

⁴ FiBL: Forschungsinstitut für biologischen Landbau (The Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, Switzerland). IFOAM: (International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements).

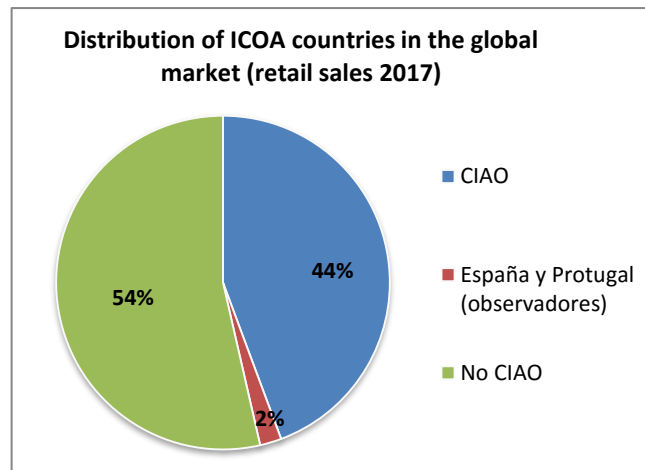
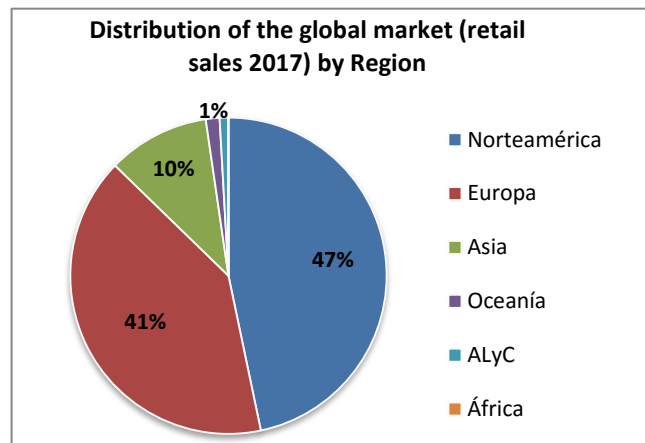
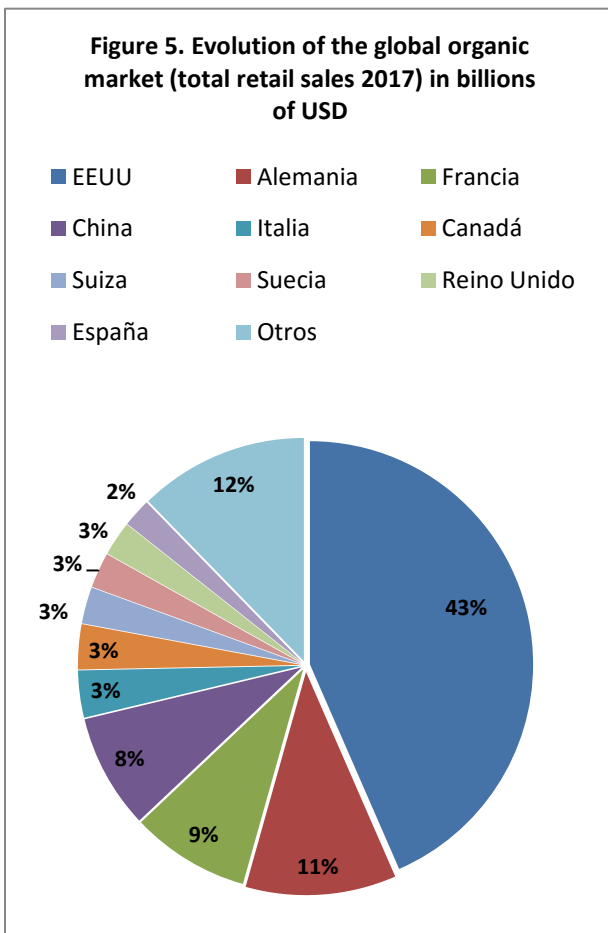
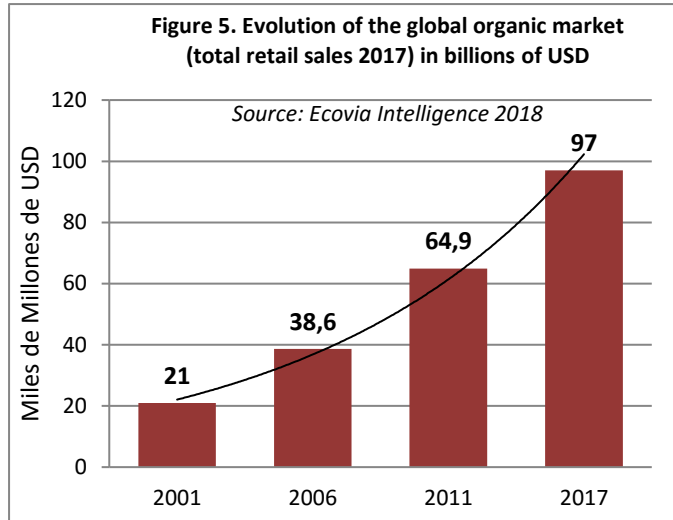


On the other hand, it is estimated that there are around 475,000 organic farmers in the American hemisphere, accounting for 16.5 % of all organic producers worldwide. Of these, 15.9 % are in Latin America and the Caribbean and the remaining 0.6% in the United States and Canada, with 98% of producers in the Americas belonging to the ICOA countries (Figure 4)



It is estimated that during 2017, 97 billion dollars were generated in domestic sales⁵ (or 92.07 billion euros, according to the FIBI-IFOAM report) with a steady year-on-year increase of over 10 % (Figure 5).

The United States market has the largest volume, with sales reaching nearly 40.01 billion euros (or 45.2 billion dollars), representing 43% of the global total. It is followed by the European market with 37.3 billion euros (41 %). The ranking is completed by China with 8% and Canada with 3%. The ranking by country and regions is shown in Figure 6.



⁵ Ecovia Intelligence is a company specializing in research, consulting and training, with a focus on sustainable markets.

Figure 6 shows that 46% of the total global market is distributed between the ICOA countries and their partners, mainly due to the weight of the retail market in the USA.

The domestic market of LAC is still emerging and accounts for less than 1% of the global total and, although there is currently greater awareness about sustainable and healthy production, the region retains a strong profile as a supplier of raw materials to the most developed markets. The exception in the region is Brazil, whose domestic market has a marked development profile as a contributor to food security and family agriculture.

- **Outlook and challenges for the Americas**

Efforts to strengthen policies and strategies for the promotion and development of organic agriculture and its control systems continue to be the backbone of ICOA's work. The countries must also continue working to reinforce their public institutional framework in order to take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by the local, regional and global contexts. In doing so, they should focus on linking producers with regional, local and international markets, where it is increasingly important to comply with rules and standards established to regulate organic production and trade.

The harmonization of national organic production standards among countries of the region, and the strengthening of national control systems for organic production, are two of ICOA's priority tasks. The goal is to achieve equivalence arrangements with key trading partners, and guarantee and create confidence in the region's products, thereby facilitating trade and access to global markets.

In general terms, the countries of the region have developed organic production in response to commercial opportunities in the international market. However, efforts to promote and develop their own domestic markets are a more recent development, and therefore the results have yet to be seen. This calls for active policies such as awareness-raising and training for producers and consumers, and the promotion of new market strategies for organic products at the domestic level.

3. Results achieved by the ICOA and ongoing actions

With reference to the five objectives that were established for the ICOA by the Ministers of Agriculture when it was created through Article N° 3 of the ICOA Bylaws: IICA/CE/Res.506 (XXIX-O/09)⁶, the following are the results achieved and the activities in progress:

1) Facilitation of trade in organic products and development of markets⁷

- **Central American Technical Regulations (RTCA)**

Under the auspices of the Secretariat for Central American Economic Integration (SIECA) and the competent agricultural authorities of the States Party, the ICOA countries discussed the Central American Technical Regulation (RTCA) on "Organic Agricultural Products: Requirements for Production, Processing, Marketing, Export, Import and Labeling." A total of five rounds of face-to-face negotiations took place, together with six videoconferences (Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama). Agreement was reached on the final RTCA document,⁸ which was circulated for public consultations in each country. The RTCA 67.06.74:16 Organic Agricultural Products was approved on April 25, 2019, through Resolution No. 411-2019, and will enter into force on October 25, 2019 in all the countries, with the exception of Costa Rica.

- **Equivalence, harmonization and bilateral agreements**

The ICOA has supported processes of equivalence, harmonization and bilateral agreements, specifically the following:

1. Equivalence negotiations between Mexico-USA
2. Recognition of Equivalence and Reciprocity in Organic Standards: Chile-European Union.
3. Recognition in Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS): Chile-Brazil.
4. Request for Equivalence negotiations: Argentina-USA.

⁶ Objectives: 1) To serve as a mechanism for consultation, liaison and reciprocal cooperation between the competent government bodies that promote and regulate the development and control of organic agriculture in each country of the Americas; 2) To coordinate and promote the development and harmonization of standards and procedures to stimulate and regulate the production, control of and trade in organic foods in the countries of the Americas; 3) To contribute to the strengthening of the institutional structures of the Competent Authorities for organic agriculture in the countries of the Americas; 4) Within the framework of other functions that contribute to the development of organic agriculture, to sponsor, insofar as possible, the development of the activity and its institutional framework; 5) To contribute to the development of and trade in organic products in the countries of the Americas, acting as a technical body for knowledge management and the dissemination of relevant and timely information.

⁷ Harmonization of regulations among countries. Preparation of regulations on aspects of organic production that are not regulated. Support for the countries engaged in processes aimed at achieving recognition and equivalence of their regulations. Support for the countries in defining strategies for the development of organic markets.

⁸ The document in question has been harmonized with the latest versions of the *Codex Alimentarius* standards CAC / GL 32-1999; European Union Regulations (EC) No. 889/2008 and (EC) No. 834/2007; the USDA-AMS National Organic Program (NOP); USDA Organic Standards 7 CFR 205; International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures, ISPM 5; Glossary of Phytosanitary Terms, based on the Organic Agriculture Regulations of the member countries.

- **Working Group on inputs suitable for organic production**

The ICOA countries formed a special Working Group to establish harmonized procedures for evaluating and approving the use of commercial inputs allowed in organic production. The Group aims to prepare guidelines to serve as a reference for evaluating inputs for organic production.

During the 2018-2019 period, 4 videoconferences were organized. The Group is currently drafting terms of reference for a consultancy to be guided by experts in each member country.

2) Creation and strengthening of the National Control Systems (NCS) for Organic Production⁹

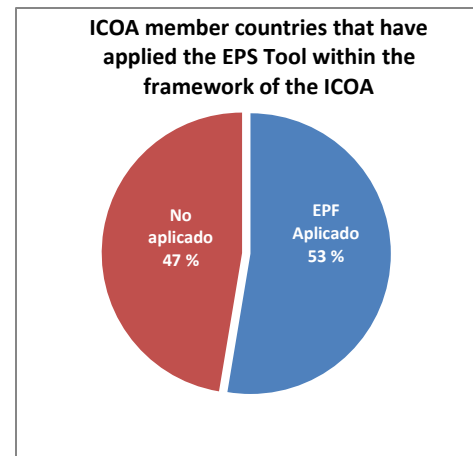
- **Development and application of the EPS Tool: Evaluation and Planning to Strengthen the National Control Systems for Organic Production**

The EPS tool was developed by the ICOA and IICA to facilitate the participatory assessment of the National Control Systems.

This tool was validated and has been successfully applied in Guatemala, Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Costa Rica, Mexico, Bolivia and Ecuador.

The EPS tool has enabled the stakeholders involved in organic production to assess the status of their National Control Systems (NCS) for organic production and, with support from IICA and the Executive Secretariat of the ICOA, prepare action plans to strengthen the institutions and organizations associated with organic production at the national level.

The document is currently under review in order to update it.



- **Technical Cooperation Agreement: ICOA-INTERECO¹⁰**

This Agreement was signed in 2017 for the purpose of:

- ✓ Designing joint projects to harmonize legislation on organic/ecological production: joint work on bioinputs for use in organic agriculture and development of a matrix of active ingredients and raw materials approved in each country.
- ✓ Training. Continuous specialized training on topics related to control or oversight and certification of organic production, inspection in line with European standards for organic

⁹ Development of methodological instruments for strengthening the NCS. Preparation of proposals for strengthening the NCS in the countries. Support for the establishment of the institutional framework required for oversight.

¹⁰ Chamber of Control Authorities of the Autonomous Communities of Spain.

production, participatory guarantee systems, the INTERECO Input Certification System, and other experiences undertaken by the ICOA.

- ✓ Expanding knowledge of public certification systems and other quality assurance systems for organic products and supporting their implementation, where appropriate, through:
 - Information and analysis of the possibility of implementing public certification schemes (such as those implemented in Panama and Dominican Republic)
 - Identification of countries interested in receiving information and analysis of the possibility of public certification and PGS.

- **ICOA-CIRSA/OIRSA Partnership**

This partnership reaffirms the interest of CIRSA, of the International Regional Body for Agricultural Health (OIRSA), in establishing a mutual cooperation agreement between the ICOA and OIRSA and including organic agriculture in the regional technical agendas, taking advantage of the ICOA's expertise on health issues in organic agriculture. The Ministers pledged to facilitate the participation of their delegates (even though some mentioned budget cuts) and confirmed their interest in including organic producers in considerations relating to sanitary emergencies in the region.

- **Technical Cooperation Agreement: ICOA-ECOVALIA ¹¹**

ICOA and Ecovalia signed a technical and financial cooperation agreement for the purpose of working on issues such as training on standards for inputs and organic production, and to reach a consensus with the ICOA on decisions to be taken with respect to the European Union (EU).

In the context of the ICOA-Ecovalia agreement, the following immediate actions were taken:

- ✓ Participation by Ecovalia in the X Meeting of the ICOA in Peru and as a presenter at the International Seminar held in the context of the X Meeting of the ICOA.
- ✓ Online training on standards and other topics related to bioinputs for ICOA countries and face-to-face workshops (transportation costs to be covered by the countries themselves).
- ✓ Ecovalia presented itself as a partner of MAPAMA and ICOA for the XII Meeting of the ICOA to be held in Spain, in 2020.
- ✓ Participation of the ICOA in Organic Food Iberia (First International Professional Organic Trade Fair of Spain and Portugal).

- **FIBL**

The ICOA signed a Memorandum of Understanding with FiBL, which covers general aspects of the mandates of both institutions, including data collection tools, methods and analysis required for global monitoring of organic agriculture, and the dissemination of related products.

¹¹ Ecovalia is a Spanish national association that promotes organic production and responsible consumption, and has more than 15,000 active members.

Summary of Agreements and Partnerships			
	2017	2018	2019
INTERECO	FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR ICOA – INTERECO COLLABORATION Implementation of joint projects on inputs suitable for organic agriculture and technical training on topics related to Certification Systems (PGS and public certification). Resources: In-kind and miscellaneous contributions		
OIRSA		Technical cooperation partnership (proposal to be discussed at the XI Meeting of the ICOA) Technical cooperation on topics related to AHFS in organic agriculture and inclusion of ICOA member countries in training and sanitary emergency campaigns, etc. Resources: In-kind and miscellaneous contributions to be determined.	
Ecovalia		Technical and financial cooperation agreement (to be signed at the X Meeting of the ICOA): Training on EU standards, inputs for organic production. Technical institutional cooperation for the creation of an Ibero-American network of associations of input suppliers for organic production. Resources: In-kind, cash and miscellaneous contributions to be determined	
FiBL			Memorandum of Understanding General areas of cooperation include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange and sharing of data on land use in organic agriculture around the world. • Harmonization of procedures: the partners will work toward the standardization of their data presentation and analysis, including codification and terminology. • The partners will facilitate, where possible, the mutual exchange, transmission, use and processing of relevant data. • Joint projects. • Joint seminars, workshops and other scientific meetings • Joint scientific and technical publications. Resources: In-kind and miscellaneous contributions

• **Working Group on Internal Control Systems (Group Certification)**

The ICOA countries established a Working Group to assess the requirements and specifications for internal control systems (ICS), such as functions and areas of competence within organizations, and to consolidate their position at the hemispheric level regarding the requirements of importing countries (EU and USA).

• **Working Group on Residues**

In response to Chile's request for support regarding notifications of traces of Fosetyl-Al (and phosphoric acid/phosphonates) found in fruit, a Working Group was established to consider:

- ✓ Tolerance levels for certain residues
- ✓ Analysis of causes
- ✓ Prepare common proposals and establish maximum limits

3) Information and knowledge management¹²

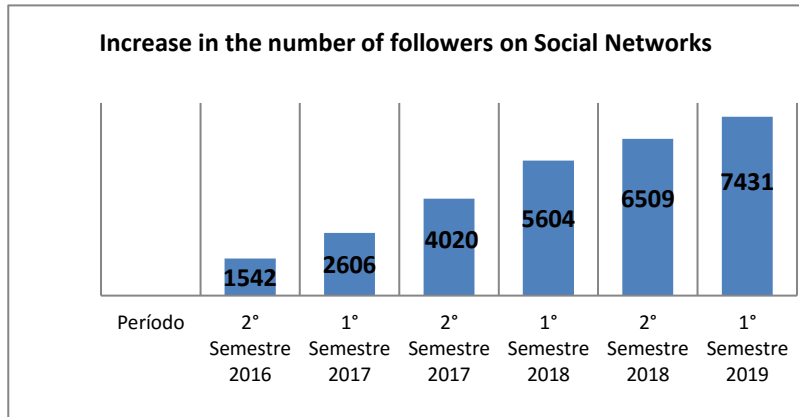
- **ICOA Web Portal and Social Networks**

The ICOA Web site (<http://ICOAorganico.net/>) was comprehensively redesigned in order to meet the communication needs of stakeholders involved in organic production in the Americas.

As part of the ICOA's communications strategy, which includes the Web site

and the monthly newsletter, *Inforgánica*, the communications plan for social media (*Community Management Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube*) was designed, validated and is currently being implemented.

To date, the ICOA has more than 7,400 followers on its social media platforms, a number that is expected to reach 10,000 in August. This represents a significant increase.



- **Guides to Good Practices in Organic Production**

The ICOA has prepared the following guides to good practice for organic products:

1. Horticultural production. The text has been written and approved by the ICOA. It is currently being edited.
2. Production of tropical fruits and fruit derivatives. The text has been written and approved. It is currently being edited.

- **Horizontal Training**

In the context of the ICOA, and with the support of IICA, horizontal (country-country) training processes were implemented for officials involved in oversight functions in the member countries.

The most common procedure to obtain training is as follows: a country with a particular interest or need submits a request for support via the ES/ICOA. The ICOA Secretariat then seeks out the required knowledge or expertise within the Commission, or among its strategic partners. Accordingly, the following videoconferences were organized:

¹² Access to information to support and improve decision-making processes. Dissemination of relevant information among stakeholders in organic production.

- ✓ Videoconference: “Methodology and experiences in the implementation of National Organic Certification Systems: the cases of Panama and the Dominican Republic.”
- ✓ Videoconference: “Methodology and experiences in the implementation of National Organic Certification Systems: the case of Spain.”
- ✓ Videoconference: "Experiences in the implementation of the Organic Seal in the ICOA countries."
- ✓ Videoconference: Inputs for organic production - “Scope of the Competent Control Authority’s Responsibility with respect to international standards.”
- ✓ Videoconference: Dialogue “Modification of EU standards and progress in the UNE Standards.”
- ✓ Videoconference: Dialogue between MAPA-Spain and coffee producers in Honduras.
- ✓ Videoconference: Technical proposal for the breakdown of tariff classifications.

4) Development of organic production¹³

- **ICOA - Organic Production Development Group**

The creation of a network of Competent Development Authorities was agreed during the VII Regular Meeting of the ICOA Assembly, a decision that was included in Annex II to the minutes of the meeting. The main areas of work for the development of a common agenda were identified and, in this context, a proposal for a “Regional Development Plan” was drafted and approved.

During the 2018-2019 period, seven videoconferences were organized to define the following points within the document: Current Situation; Future Scenario; Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives; Achievement Indicators.

- **Differentiated public policies for organic agriculture in Panama**

In the context of horizontal cooperation between IICA-Panama, IICA-Argentina, ICOA, MIDA and AECID, several workshops were organized, leading to the implementation of a methodology for the design of “Differentiated Public Policies for Organic Agriculture in Panama.” This effort resulted in installed capacity in Panama, thus enabling the country to design its own differentiated public policy for OA and providing a basic tool for the promotion and development of organic agriculture in the country.

- **First Virtual Forum of the ICOA member countries: “Experiences in Structuring the Private OA Sector and its Articulation with the Public Sector”**

¹³ Design of tools to promote organic production. Design of policy proposals and agendas for development. Support for the establishment of an institutional framework for organic production.

The Forum took place on March 28, 2019 and was organized with the support of IICA and private partners of the Commission. The general objective was to strengthen the private OA sectors of the ICOA countries, share their experiences and discuss positioning strategies and articulation with the public sector. During the Forum, 53 connections were established with more than 200 participants.

- **First Virtual Seminar: Bioeconomy, Innovation and Organic Production Chains for the ICOA Countries. (In partnership with IICA's Hemispheric Cooperation Programs)**

The Virtual Seminar on Bioeconomy, Innovation and Technology was organized for the purpose of raising awareness of these topics among producers and officials of the ICOA countries, from the point of view of IICA and other institutions. The aim was also to expand their knowledge through access to practical cases of development, promotion and adoption of technologies applicable to organic production chains, as tools for differentiation and access to markets. During the Seminar, 40 connections were established with more than 100 participants.

Topics of Interest and Lines of Action 2019 - 2020

The Competent Authorities of the ICOA Member States have identified several topics of interest and lines of action for the period 2019-2020, which will be discussed during the XI Regular Meeting (August 2019, Dominican Republic). These include:

- Risk analysis and classification for certification bodies and organic operators.
- Exchange of information and analysis of contaminants (chemical and microbiological).
- Traceability of organic products, calculation of ingredients and mass balance.
- ICOA assessment of Producer Group Certification and Internal Control Systems.
- EU Regulation 848/2018 on Organic Production: changes that affect the ICOA countries and analysis of its implications for exports and equivalence negotiations.
- Harmonization of Global Standards, such as Organic 3.0 of the IFOAM.

4. Financial situation of the ICOA

The ICOA has an annual Budget to finance the activities approved by its Assembly and specified in its Annual Work Plan; this budget is provided by the member countries. At the V Regular Meeting of the Assembly of the ICOA, representatives of the member countries approved the Operating Rules of the Commission, the articles of which outline the commitments relating to payment of the annual quota contribution:

- Article 6 states that the main resources of the ICOA shall come from the quota contributions of its Member States.
- Article 7 states that all Member States of the ICOA shall contribute USD 6,000.00 annually to finance the annual work plan and its administrative activities.
- Article 10 states that said quota shall be paid during the 1st quarter of each calendar year, to finance the annual work plan established for that calendar year. Any delay in the payment of the quota affects the execution of the annual work plan and this will result in the Board of Directors having to review said plan.

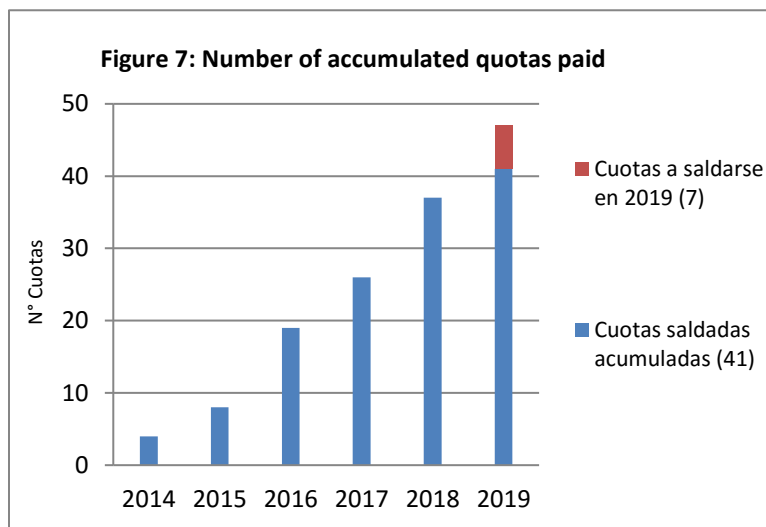
Moreover, in order to provide details regarding certain administrative matters and the management of the regular annual quota contributions paid by the Member States of the ICOA, the BD-ICOA approved the Procedures Manual, in the Minutes of Virtual Meeting N°02 of 2014, to support the administration of resources provided within the context of the agreement signed with IICA to this end. The status of quotas pledged by Member States to the ICOA, as of June 2018, is shown in Table 1.

TABLE 1. Status of quotas owed to the ICOA up to June 2019 (in USD)							
COUNTRY	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL owed
UNITED STATES (1)	n/a[1]	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PANAMA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
MEXICO	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
PARAGUAY	0.00	0.00	0.00	-31,97	0.00	6,000.00	5,968.03
GUATEMALA	0.00	0.00	0.00	0,00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
ECUADOR	0.00	0.00	0.00	0,00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
NICARAGUA	0.00	0.00	0.00	249,20	0.00	6,000.00	6,249.20
CHILE (2)	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	18,000.00 (2)
ARGENTINA	0.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	24,000.00
BOLIVIA	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	36,000.00
BRAZIL	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	36,000.00
COLOMBIA	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	36,000.00
COSTA RICA	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	36,000.00
EL SALVADOR	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	36,000.00
HONDURAS	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	36,000.00
PERU	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	36,000.00
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	36,000.00
URUGUAY	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	36,000.00
VENEZUELA	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	36,000.00
TOTAL owed	60,000.00	60,000.00	66,000.00	72,217.23	72,000.00	108,000.00	438,217.23

[1] USA has been a member of the ICOA since 2015; therefore, its quotas are calculated as of that calendar year.

[2] Chile informed the X Meeting that its quotas are calculated as of 2017 and 2018, adding that the country could not pay retroactive quotas. The Meeting of the ICOA will analyze this case.

It is important to note that since the signing of the agreement with IICA, and following discussions between the Executive Secretariat and the parties involved, there has been a positive and growing trend in the members' quota contributions, as shown in Figure 7. During 2014, four quota payments were made, and in 2015 four more were received amounting to 8, and so on, as shown in Table 2.



It is expected that in 2019, six of the countries that make regular payments (Mexico, Paraguay, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Chile and Guatemala) will pay the quota corresponding to this year. Furthermore, it is hoped that Argentina will normalize its situation, and also that the Dominican Republic, Peru and Honduras will make at least one quota payment for the first time.

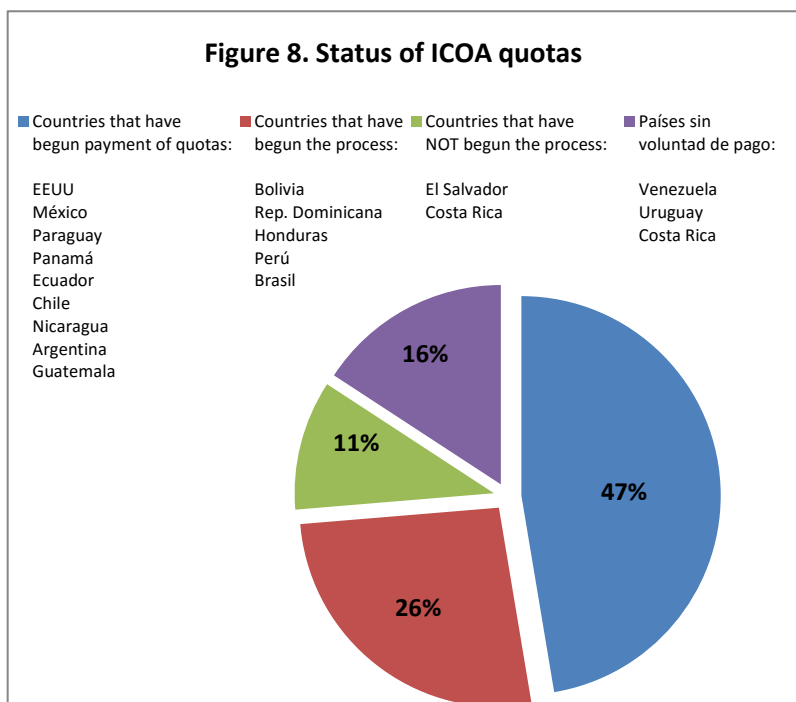
Table 2. Chronological detail of annual quotas of ICOA Members								
Date of payment	Country	Quotas corresponding to year:						Income per year
		2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
								(quota amount in USD)
2014								(4 quotas collected)
16/05/2014	Paraguay	6,000.00						24,000.00
06/08/2014	Argentina	6,000.00						
23/10/2014	Ecuador	6,000.00						
17/12/2014	Nicaragua	6,000.00						
2015								(4 quotas collected)
23/01/2015	Mexico	6,000.00						24,000.00
08/04/2015	Paraguay		6,000.00					
30/04/2015	USA		6,000.00					
12/06/2015	Mexico		6,000.00					
2016								(11 quotas collected)
08/04/2016	USA			6,000.00				65,750.80
17/05/2016	Argentina		6,000.00					
08/06/2016	Paraguay			6,000.00				
30/08/2016	Mexico			6,000.00				
26/10/2016	Ecuador		6,000.00	6,000.00				
15/11/2016	Panama	6,000.00	6,000.00					
27/12/2016	Nicaragua		6,000.00	6,000.00	5,750.80			
2017								(7 quotas collected)
06/04/2017	Paraguay				6,031.97			

09/05/2017	Ecuador				6,000.00			
27/06/2017	USA				6,000.00			
28/07/2017	Panamá			6,000.00	6,000.00			
14/09/2017	México				6,000.00			
19/10/2017	Chile			6,000.00				42,031.97
2018								(11 quotas collected)
29/03/2018	USA				6,000.00			
29/05/2018	Chile				6,000.00			
27/07/2018	México				6,000.00			
13/09/2018	Nicaragua				6,000.00			
19/09/2018	Panamá				6,000.00			
21/12/2018	Guatemala	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00		
27/12/2018	Paraguay				6,000.00			66,000.00
2019								(4 quotas collected)
24/01/2019	Ecuador				6,000.00			24,000.00
26/03/2019	USA					6,000.00		
08/05/2019	Chile				6,000.00			
04/06/2019	Panamá					6,000.00		
Quota income/year		42,000	48,000	48,000	47,782.77	48,000	12,000	245,782.77
Balance owed /year		66,000	66,000	66,000	66,217.23	66,000	102,000	432,217.23
Quota income /year		7	8	8	8	8	2	41

As shown in Figure 8, to date, nine member countries of the ICOA have made quota payments, while five countries are currently in the process of making at least one quota payment for the first time.

In El Salvador, Colombia and Costa Rica, no solutions have yet been found to persuade the countries to commit to paying the annual quota. With regard to Uruguay and Venezuela, these countries do not recognize the obligation to pay membership quotas.

The difficulties encountered in collecting the quotas have prompted repeated calls by various countries for legal instruments that would stipulate the obligation to pay the annual membership quota of USD 6000.00.



Given that this requirement is not specified in the Bylaws —the instrument approved by the EC/IICA through Resolution IICA/CE/Res.506(XXIX-O/09) and ratified by the IABA through Resolution IICA/JIA/Res. 455(XV-O/09)—, but rather in the Operating Rules adopted by ICOA itself at its Fifth Regular Meeting (Santiago de Chile, 2013), for the purposes of facilitating future negotiations, the Commission will work to modify its Bylaws and Operating Rules during the 2019 – 2020 period, in order to submit it to the EC/IICA in a timely manner.

5. Acknowledgements

The Board of Directors of the ICOA, through its President, wishes to express its appreciation to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), to its Director General and to its Director of Technical Cooperation, for the support received from the Executive Secretariat, from the offices in the Member States and from other bodies within the Institute, without which it would not have been possible to showcase the achievements of this Commission.

The ICOA also wishes to thank the Ministers and, through them, the Member States for the support provided by each country during the 2018-2019 period described by this report.

We are confident that this support will continue to be reciprocated by the ICOA for the benefit of the countries in the Americas, the organic producers and their families.