

1999 ANNUAL REPORT



INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

NATIONAL FLOWERS OF THE MEMBER STATES OF IICA

| Member State | Common name | Scientific name | Family |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Antigua and Barbuda | Dagger log | <i>Agave karatto</i> | Agavaceae |
| Argentina | Ceibo flower | <i>Erythrina crista-galli</i> | Fabaceae |
| Bahamas | Yellow elder | <i>Tecoma stans</i> | Bignonaceae |
| Barbados | Pride of Barbados | <i>Caesalpinia pulcherrima</i> | Fabaceae |
| Belize | Black orchid | <i>Encyclia cochleatum</i> | Orchidaceae |
| Bolivia | Kantuta | <i>Cantua buxifolia</i> | Polemoniaceae |
| Brazil | Ipê-amarelo | <i>Tecoma chrysostricha</i> | Bignonaceae |
| Canada | Maple leaf | <i>Arce sp.</i> | Aceraceae |
| Chile | Copihue | <i>Lapageria rosea</i> | Philesiaceae |
| Colombia | Flor de mayo orchid | <i>Cattleya trianae</i> | Orchidaceae |
| Costa Rica | Guaria morada | <i>Cattleya skinneri</i> | Orchidaceae |
| Dominica | Carib wood | <i>Sabinea carinalis</i> | Fabaceae |
| Dominican Republic | Caoba flower | <i>Swietenia mahogani</i> | Meliaceae |
| Ecuador | Rose | <i>Rosa sp.</i> | Rosaceae |
| El Salvador | Izote flower | <i>Yuca elephantipes</i> | Liliaceae |
| Grenada | Bouganvillea | <i>Bouganvillea sp.</i> | Nyctaginaceae |
| Guatemala | Monja blanca orchid | <i>Lycaste virginalis</i> | Orchidaceae |
| Guyana | Victoria regia lily | <i>Victoria regia</i> | Nymphaeaceae |
| Honduras | Orchid | <i>Brassavola digbiana</i> | Orchidaceae |
| Jamaica | Wood of life tree | <i>Guaiacum officinale</i> | Zigophyllaceae |
| Mexico | Dahlia | <i>Dahlia rosea</i> | Asteraceae |
| Nicaragua | Sacuanjoche | <i>Plumeria rubra</i> | Apocynaceae |
| Panama | Espiritu Santo orchid | <i>Persistenia elata</i> | Orchidaceae |
| Paraguay | Mburucuya | <i>Passiflora sp.</i> | Passifloraceae |
| Peru | Kantuta | <i>Cantua buxifolia</i> | Polemoniaceae |
| St. Vincent and the Grenadines | Soufriere tree | <i>Spachea perforata</i> | Malpighiaceae |
| St. Lucia | Rose | <i>Rosa sp.</i> | Rosaceae |
| St. Kitts and Nevis | Poinciana | <i>Delonix regia</i> | Caesalpinaceae |
| Suriname | Popokai tongo | <i>Heliconia psittacorum</i> | Fabaceae |
| Trinidad and Tobago | Wild poinsettia | <i>Warzewiczia coecccinia</i> | Rubiaceae |
| United States | Rose | <i>Rosa sp.</i> | Rosaceae |
| Uruguay | Ceibo flower | <i>Erythrina crista-galli</i> | Fabaceae |
| Venezuela | Flor de mayo orchid | <i>Cattleya labiata</i> | Orchidaceae |

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INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE

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1999



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

As Director General of IICA, I am pleased to present the 1999 Annual Report in strict compliance with the regulations established by the governing bodies of the Institute. This report describes the Institute's action in support of its member countries, at the hemispheric, regional and national levels, through a corporate effort and pursuant to the guidelines established by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

IICA's mission is to provide cooperation services for agriculture and to strengthen and facilitate inter-American dialogue. The first task aims to support its Member States in bringing about sustainable development in agriculture and rural areas; the second situates this development within the context of hemispheric integration.

Our vision is that IICA will be the leading inter-American institution providing cooperation in order to bring about a comprehensive transformation of agriculture in the Americas, a transformation necessary for achieving sustainable development.

This new Annual Report follows the model of the 1998 Report in that it provides more succinct, analytical information, which is complemented by the exhaustive information, on all levels of IICA's action, that can be found on IICA's web site, including information on its technical cooperation instruments (externally funded agreements, contracts and projects).

Once again, the Annual Report was produced through a corporate effort by all units of the Institute in the countries, at the regional level, and under the Consortia operating at Headquarters. It covers IICA's cooperation actions, as well as the Institute's finances, programming, planning, operations and management of human, physical and financial resources.

On this occasion, we are also very pleased to report that the IABA, our highest governing body, adopted a resolution requesting that IICA take steps with the pertinent authorities at the Organization of American States (OAS) for presentation, among the draft resolutions to the next OAS General Assembly to be held in Canada in the first part of 2000, of a resolution to transform the Inter-American Board of Agriculture into the Ministerial Forum of the hemisphere and, accordingly, to abolish the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture, a Specialized Conference of the OAS convened by that inter-American organization.

Also concerning the transformation of the governing bodies of the Institute, the IABA, at its last meeting, held in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, approved a resolution creating the Special Advisory Commission on Management Issues, which we consider will be an effective contribution and support to the Director General in tasks related to the analysis and strengthening of institutional management.

In 1999, the Institute's decentralization process was further consolidated and it is with great pride that I inform you that now more than 75 percent of institutional resources are earmarked for the action of the Regional Centers and the Cooperation Agencies; the same is true in the case of the Institute's professional staff.

As our principal stakeholders are aware, this decentralization is carried out in strict compliance with personnel regulations and the Institute's programming and budget processes, through a delegation of functions and a greater level of responsibility in decision making to units that have been decentralized.

In my judgment, while we have advanced considerably in the area of institutional decentralization, it is also true that we have done much in the area of corporate action, in the management of technical and management information, and in our relations with the member countries for planning and evaluating our actions on their behalf effectively and in an ongoing manner.

IICA is proud of its responsiveness to the requests of its member countries, reflected in the great number of important activities under way throughout the hemisphere, as well as of the positive response from the countries and the appreciation they express for these actions. An evaluation is never complete if it does not involve the beneficiaries of the action. IICA is very conscious of this fact and has always sought to obtain such evaluations, by all possible means. The results are very positive for the Institute, which is viewed as a capable organization engaged in important action, one that can always be depended on within the limits of its possibilities.

The result of the Institute's action is the main subject of the 1999 Annual Report. We present it to you in the assurance that it is useful, reliable and timely information.

I would like to express a special thanks to all those institutions, organizations, agencies and countries with which we have formed strong strategic alliances, which have strengthened the work of the Institute and enabled us to provide broader services and more diverse cooperation.



Carlos E. Aquino G.
Director General

OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS AND EVOLUTION OF AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU IN THE HEMISPHERE: CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU IN THE HEMISPHERE

Historically, agriculture and the rural milieu have been important to the economy and to society as a whole in the hemisphere. Their importance continues to grow today, due to their interdependent and multi-sectoral natures and the variety of their contributions to the economy, macroeconomy, the environment and governance which, combined, have had an impact on economic growth, and the welfare and quality of life of all inhabitants, both rural and urban, throughout the hemisphere. Thus, now and in the future, agriculture and the rural milieu will continue to be a matter of strategic importance for all the countries of the hemisphere.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU AND THE REST OF THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

The strategic importance of agriculture and the rural milieu stem from the fact that they constitute a way of life for millions of individuals who depend on them for their work and sustenance. However, in most of the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries, rural inhabitants are chronically and overwhelmingly at a disadvantage in terms of access to resources, means of livelihood, and income. This has given rise to a situation of structural inequality and the impoverishment of very large sectors of the rural population.

Under the import-substitution model, it was generally surmised that the role of agriculture and the rural milieu was to sustain economic growth and industrial and urban development, largely at the expense of natural, human and production resources.

After the crisis of 1982, the countries began to strive to fully integrate their economies into the international economy, basing their strategy on an "outward-looking" growth model within the context of globalization. As a result, new and more rational ties were developed for agriculture and the rural milieu with the rest of the economy, ones that neither distorted the economy nor penalized any particular sector.

RESULTS OF THE CHANGES

Overall economic performance, and the performance of agriculture and the rural milieu in particular, have shown that, although the new globalized economic growth model has had an impact on all the countries, impact has varied in terms of intensity, dynamism and timing, meaning that it has not been a linear process and results have varied from country to country and from region to region.

More specifically, it appears that by the end of the twentieth century, and after 17 years of economic reforms, although many things have changed in LAC at the economic, social and aggregate levels, overall economic and social results of the reforms to date have been very low in some countries and for broad sectors of the population, and insufficient in most.

Although macroeconomic accounts have maintained relative equilibrium, the recovery growth rate as a whole is still far below 1970 levels and below the levels of competing regions in other parts of the developing world; it cannot be said that development has been equitable in the region.

Greater international integration offers advantages but also high costs on the side of trade imbalances and unfavorable terms of trade vis-a-vis prices and capital

movements. This is particularly the case because of the short-term strategy followed in pursuing integration, which can be characterized, to a great extent, by its focus on natural resources and comparative advantages, and a level of productive and competitive progress that is not in keeping with that of other countries in other regions.

Social welfare indicators have shown significant improvements, but they still have not translated into a satisfactory reduction of poverty, especially in rural areas. In the 1990s, some headway was made to turn around the accelerated deterioration experienced in the 1980s. Unfortunately, however, inequitable income distribution returned to its earlier high levels after a marked decline in the 1970s, and today LAC is the most inequitable region of the world.

CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU

Until the early 1990s, there was no visible manifestation of significant change in agriculture and the rural milieu. As of 1994, however, changes began to be observed at different levels. The growth of agricultural production became more dynamic; the production structure was visibly transformed to make greater use of natural advantages; there was a greater diversification of production, especially in the oilseed-livestock and fruit-vegetable systems. Growth was observed in agroindustry, agroindustrial and agricultural exports, the productivity of croplands, the size of the agricultural labor force, and the use of production factors.

Although these changes were not the same for all the countries, they can generally be divided into two large groups. In the first, about half the countries have a dynamic and growing agricultural sector, accompanied by a similar level of economic performance. Falling into this group are most of those countries that have boosted their per capita food output, agricultural productivity and yields. It also includes most that have made significant progress in their reform processes and in efforts to reduce poverty, are net foreign exchange contributors, and have the highest per-worker export values.

The other half includes most countries with lower agricultural and lower economic growth rates and

includes most whose per capita food output has fallen, a good part of those with minimal productivity and yield increases, and those that have more recently implemented economic reforms of narrower scope. This group also includes those that have made less progress in reducing poverty or where poverty has actually increased, those that have contributed less significantly to alleviating the trade deficit for total goods, and those requiring foreign exchange to cover their imports. Most of the countries in this group are net food importers.

Some countries demonstrate all of their group's characteristics and others display characteristics of both groups, suggesting that these complex phenomena are still evolving and that only a case-by-case analysis can provide a greater level of precision and accuracy.

STRATEGIC SUPPORTS FOR AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU

Most of the countries have not fully developed strategic support activities for the extended agricultural sector. A rapid review of institutional assessments provides the following parameters for the current situation: a) investment levels for research and technology transfer services as a proportion of agricultural GDP are low; b) food safety is growing in strategic and public importance but is still at an incipient level of development; c) mechanisms have not been institutionalized at the regional level for the purpose of reaching agreement and negotiating, which would contribute to improving the processes to build consensus among actors of agri-industrial chains on integration and more specific matters; d) shortcomings in communications and information in general, and price and market information in particular, prevent them from being determining elements of competitiveness; and e) serious constraints prevent training, education, and extension from becoming effective vectors of growth, developing competitiveness, boosting revenues, adopting technology, and upgrading management abilities in general, and natural resource and environmental management in particular.

Several countries have undertaken to reform and adapt public and private agricultural institutions at the central, regional and local levels, but these still seem to be incipient and occasional attempts.

Finally, it is of particular concern to observe in an open and competitive economy that there is a growing gap in the production, technology, information sciences, education, management, institutional and social sectors within the countries of the region, and between all of them and competing countries and regions, as well as our trading partners.

COMPETITIVENESS, POVERTY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture and the rural milieu can contribute very concretely to, and also have specific limitations for, improving overall competitiveness and overcoming rural poverty. Circumstances have shown that boosting the competitiveness of agriculture and the rural milieu and overcoming rural poverty are not solely and exclusively within the purview of agriculture and the rural milieu. The two are intimately interrelated parts of the same phenomenon that must be addressed with multi-sectoral and differing scopes of action, and involve persons from outside the sector, including stakeholders in other activities and the rest of the economy.

Because the causes producing a given level of competitiveness and poverty are multisectoral and multidimensional, each specific situation will provide the opportunity to observe the composition of intervening factors, the relationship between them and their relative importance.

THE PRESENT AND THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE

The financial crisis unleashed in July 1997 (the first great crisis of the globalized economy) produced serious and wide-ranging negative consequences, one of which was the deepening of stabilization measures by many countries. Different forecasts and projections suggest that it had and will continue to have adverse consequences for our countries, and that these will only be further aggravated unless more vigorous efforts are made to bring about transformation and development. The consequences include a slowdown in economic growth, production, and world and regional trade, in particular; and a reduction in demand, particularly for raw materials, with special impact on export agriculture, external capital flows and external capital availability in the region.



The years 1998 and especially 1999 were very difficult for most of the countries of the region, which may threaten some of the progress made during the previous 17-year period and cause a deterioration in the principal economic and social indicators.

VISION OF AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU IN THE FUTURE

All present efforts should contribute to bringing about a future scenario for the two coming decades characterized by being inclusive and sustainable, and

should reflect the interdependence of the globalized, technologically developed and socially less unjust, more democratic economy. These conditions will enable agriculture and the rural milieu to develop in a sustainable and harmonious manner, promoting economic integration and technological transformation, especially by means of the capitalization of human resources and rural development.

When examining achievements to date and especially when comparing them to the vision of the future for the next two decades, it is clear that, at this time, even greater challenges lie ahead for the countries of the region. To begin with, they will have to engage in a comprehensive process of analysis with a view to dismantling threats, deepening some measures, redirecting others, and defining long-term strategies. All of this will contribute to strengthening weaknesses, empowering strengths and taking maximum advantage of opportunities to benefit all.

CHALLENGES FOR THE FUTURE

The challenges in the last year of the twenty-first century are greater than they were just a few years ago.

THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU, STRATEGIC REPOSITIONING, VISION OF THE FUTURE, AND A RENEWED APPROACH

The great challenge appears to lie in increasing and consolidating the position of the hemisphere's agriculture and rural milieu in the world, within a context of hypercompetitiveness and accelerated change in human, institutional, commercial, and technological areas, as well as in knowledge as a whole. It will also involve redoubling their contributions to the economy and society, and to efforts to overcome rural poverty. Specifically, the challenges will be to:

- * develop a great undertaking by all of society to collectively build a vision of a shared, globalized, integrated and integral future which can accelerate the changes needed in agriculture and the rural milieu, bring them into line with changing and demanding circumstances, and demonstrate to all of society how important they are for society now and in the future;

- * define and implement a strategy for positioning agriculture and the rural milieu, to be disseminated among and assimilated by all sectors of society, and which must be consistent, functional, and based on fact; and
- * construct a new holistic and systemic focus that recognizes the interdependent, multi-disciplinary and dynamic nature of present circumstances and makes it possible to formulate and implement a strategy in keeping with these new circumstances.

REFORM, THE MACROECONOMIC SETTING AND THE CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU

- * Deepen and improve the quality of economic reforms; incorporate social reforms and achieve greater equity while at the same time boosting growth and competitiveness and making a decisive, real and sustainable attack on poverty.
- * Consolidate a macroeconomic environment that vigorously and comprehensively promotes competitiveness, profitability, investment, transformation of production, and exports.
- * Accelerate change and transformation in production, trade and institutions in order to make them more dynamic, constant and generalized, above all taking into account regional equilibrium.
- * Reorient the nature of agriculture's participation in world trade with a long-term vision and by re-evaluating the products and services of agriculture and the rural milieu, placing maximum emphasis on industrializing agriculture, the rural milieu and agri-processing.
- * Implement a support strategy to reduce the persistent effects of the world financial crisis, particularly for the most vulnerable populations, one that clarifies to the general public its causes, impact and duration.

NATURAL RESOURCES, THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

- * Foster natural resource conservation for production purposes and promote a forward-looking and

rational use of biodiversity; reorient strategies for improving the position in the international economy, which is today based on an "extensive" exploitation of natural resources.

- * Undertake more effective and preventive measures for addressing the consequences of natural disasters and climate change, given the greater, more persistent and massive effects of current challenges.
- * Define a strategy for promoting biodiversity prospecting, i.e., to determine commercial uses and environmental services including pollution reduction, air and water quality, agri-tourism, and "scenic beauty."

INSTITUTIONS AND STRATEGIC SERVICES FOR AGRICULTURE AND THE RURAL MILIEU

- * Examine public and private institutions at the central, regional and local levels in order to accelerate and deepen adaptation, articulation, strengthening and coordinated action with the "chains" approach. This effort should combine what is urgent in the short term with what is important in the long term in a broader strategic vision of the future, one that effectively incorporates an international component that is consistent with a strategic positioning of our economies in the global economy.
- * Develop strategic support activities for extended agriculture, based on institutional adjustment and joint public-private sector undertakings in specific and priority fields.
- * Define a specific strategy for increasing involvement in specialized, relevant international and regional organizations and for improving articulation and coordination among them.

POVERTY, COMPETITIVENESS AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

- * Define an explicit and differentiated strategy for efforts to overcome rural poverty by stimulating growth and pursuing an interdisciplinary, multi-sectoral and multi-solution approach that emphasizes four simultaneous and complementary elements: i) raising educational and health levels and channel-

ing the rural-rural exodus; ii) promoting non-agricultural rural activities and revenues as a powerful and sustainable "route" for creating a regional dynamic; iii) strengthening the agricultural development "route"; and iv) making social programs and guarantees available to vulnerable sectors in order to improve their capabilities and also reduce the considerable cost of macroeconomic imbalances and monetary and financial stabilization programs.

- * Define a strategy for upgrading competitiveness, also with a multi-sectoral and systemic approach throughout the "farm-to-the-consumer's-table" chain. The strategy should focus on developing dynamic competitive advantages (not just comparative advantages) at the international level.

SECTORAL POLICIES

- * Define inter-sectoral policies that take advantage of margins in international agreements, are consistent with general strategies and policies, and take into account the heterogeneous and differentiated situations of the various types of agriculture and rural milieus of each region and country.

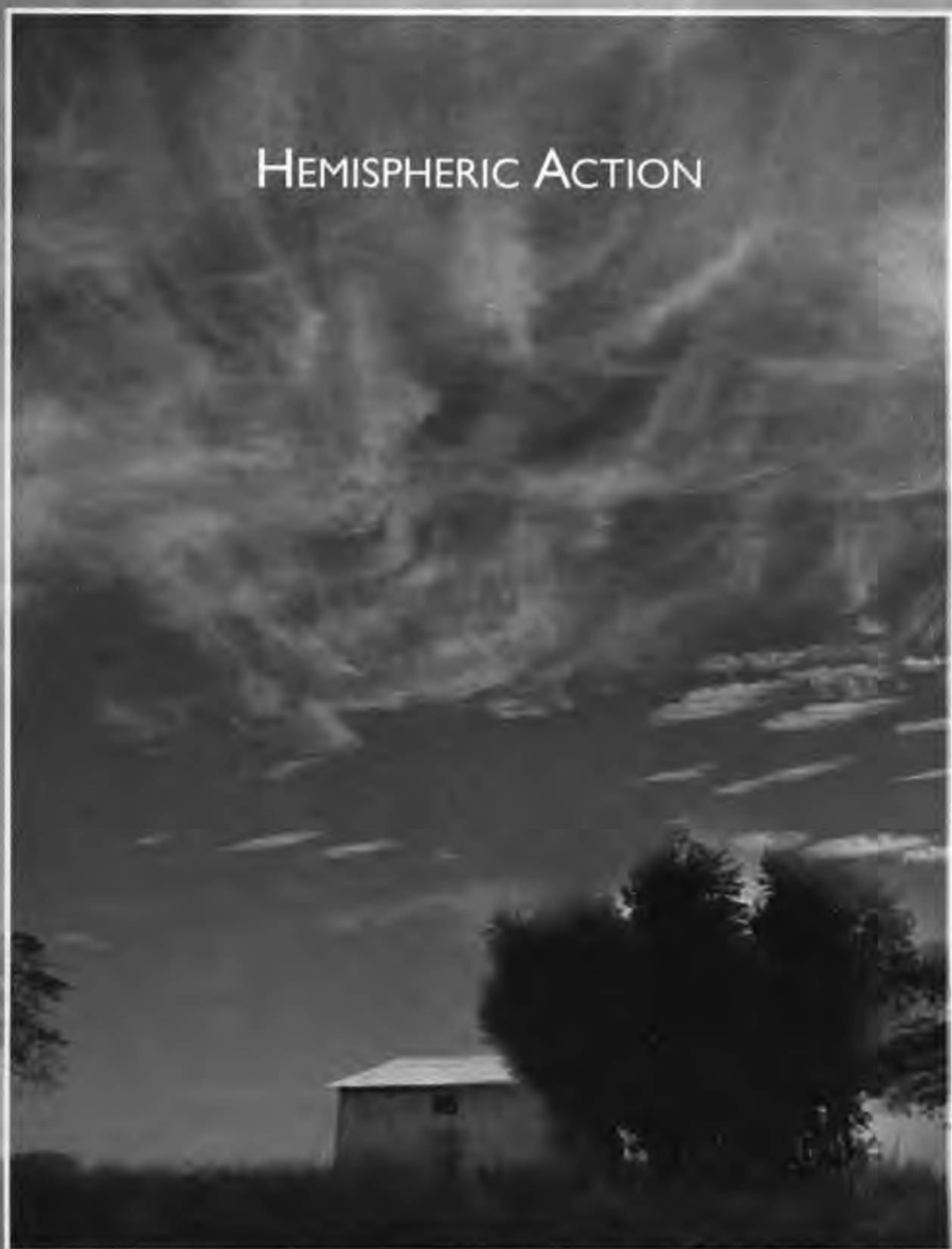
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT

- * Define a public and private funding policy to upgrade the capabilities needed to reduce gaps in the areas of production, technology, information science, education, management, institutions and society between our countries and competing countries in other regions or trading partners, and focusing on: i) development of infrastructure, ii) strategic support services for extended agriculture and the rural milieu; iii) promotion of credit, financing, and transaction cost reduction at the regional level; iv) strengthening of institutional decentralization and modernization; v) strengthening of public institutional capabilities for participation, negotiation and fulfillment of international agreements; vi) natural resource conservation for production purposes and prevention of natural disasters; and vii) support for the development of the capabilities of vulnerable and strategic populations, including rural women, children and youths.

AS A COROLLARY TO THE ABOVE, THESE FOUR GREAT CHALLENGES SHOULD SERVE TO ORIENT OUR THOUGHTS ON THE MATTER:

- * The first is to characterize or typify the balances or imbalances between innovation in thought, diagnosis, policies, and institutions in order to pinpoint the principal elements and bottlenecks so that we may redefine the development strategy for agriculture and the rural milieu in each country. In addition, we need to tap the wealth of progress attained by the countries in different fields, making this information broadly available.
- * The second consists of defining a strategy and its key components for prioritizing, focusing and redefining public and private functions, increasing the strategic importance of public functions and giving a more important role to private functions in emerging topics including, among others: i) the new rurality, policies and the struggle against rural poverty; ii) trade negotiations, execution of agreements and export promotion; iii) agricultural health, food safety and quality; iv) technological innovation, intellectual property and natural resource and environmental management; v) credit, financing, and rural infrastructure; vi) information and communications for agri-food and regional-rural development; vii) human resource and curriculum development in educational and training centers; and viii) institutional modernization and public-private sector relationships.
- * The third challenge is to design and implement a strategy for aligning all institutions (mostly public) that act directly and indirectly on extended agriculture at the central, state and local/municipal levels, promoting articulation among them and interdependence with private institutions and civil society. This process of alignment and articulation should include all international and regional, technical and financial agencies and institutions associated with extended agriculture and the rural milieu.
- * The fourth challenge consists of generating a broad consensus on the need to redefine the importance of agriculture and the rural milieu, given new circumstances and complexities, and to collectively design a new approach for developing a regional consensus for improving rural and agri-food policy guidelines now and in the coming years.

HEMISPHERIC ACTION



HEMISPHERIC ACTION

INTRODUCTION

In 1999, IICA continued to move ahead with its transformation process and its efforts to enhance its position as the specialized agency of the Inter-American System so as to increase its contribution to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu in its member countries.

In 1999, the institutional transformation process focused on strengthening and consolidating four basic areas: a) technical cooperation; b) decentralization, adjustments at Headquarters and strategic planning; c) administrative management and physical and communications infrastructure; and d) transformation of the Executive Committee and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA).

These four areas are directly linked to efforts to promote the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu in the countries; they also enable the Institute to offer more effective and strategic cooperation, and to generate real benefits and impacts in the countries.

TECHNICAL COOPERATION

In 1999, efforts focused on enhancing IICA's technical position and balancing demands for cooperation at the national and hemispheric levels, with a view to producing a greater impact on topics of strategic importance to the countries.

Taking into account the countries' increased participation in the international economy, and the mandates of its 1998-2002 Medium Term Plan (MTP), the Institute implemented hemispheric actions in six strategic areas for technical cooperation, redoubling its efforts to support the countries in the following areas: trade negotiations; agricultural health and food safety; technology innovation systems and networks; job- and income-generating rural development proposals and micro-enterprise development, especially for and by women and young people; transformation of the cur-

ricula of institutions of higher and vocational agricultural education and training; and information and communications, two areas essential for decision making and for fostering rural and agrifood development in the Americas.

Technical cooperation efforts in those six areas can be grouped into five types of complementary actions: a) the creation and operation of real and virtual hemispheric fora; b) the provision of training for specialists throughout the hemisphere; c) the holding of workshops, seminars and conferences; d) studies and methodologies on emerging topics of strategic interest, and e) exchanges of information and experiences among the countries.

POLICIES AND TRADE

For the countries, trade, trade negotiations, negotiating techniques and information, as well as the execution of agreements, export promotion and domestic market mechanisms, are key elements of processes to improve agriculture's position in international trade and within the integration process. In the area of policies and trade, the objective of IICA's cooperation has been to work with the countries to further develop their capabilities to: i) negotiate and administer agricultural trade agreements; ii) harmonize agricultural policies; and iii) formulate and implement strategies, policies and programs to improve competitiveness.

For helping the countries develop these capabilities, "improving agriculture's position in international trade and in the hemispheric integration process" was defined as a priority field for action. In this area, the following important actions were undertaken in 1999:

SUPPORT IN PREPARING FOR THE WTO AND FTAA NEGOTIATIONS

In compliance with the 1998-2002 MTP and Resolutions N° 325, 328 and 333 of the Ninth IABA, and at the request of the Chairman of that meeting,

IICA joined forces with FAO and collaborated with the countries of the hemisphere in setting up the Informal Consultative Group of Agricultural Negotiators of the Americas. The objective of the group is to upgrade the skills of national teams of negotiators, increase the exchange of information, and foster coordination of joint proposals and positions for FTAA and WTO negotiations. IICA and FAO jointly exercise the Technical Secretariat of the Consultative Group, at the decision of the countries.

Since its creation in late 1998 until December 1999, six meetings were held with the negotiators of the 34 countries of the Americas. Five of these meetings were held in Miami and one in Santiago, Chile. Progress has been made in developing low-cost and highly efficient mechanisms for ongoing liaison, such as the creation, at the request of the countries, of the Electronic Forum of the Informal Consultative Group of Agricultural Negotiators of the Americas. Through the Forum, which can be accessed by Internet (<http://infoagro.net/comercio>) specialized technical information is compiled and exchanged among agricultural trade negotiators and support teams of the countries, as well as specialists from relevant agencies, the private sector, civil society, and the Institute's trade experts, using "discussion lists" to analyze the most important issues pertaining to agricultural trade negotiations.

Technical monographs and studies on various topics were prepared and made available to the countries: a) Situation of net food-importing countries in the Americas; b) Model for calculating indicators of competitiveness for the agricultural products of the LAC countries; c) Analyses and simulations of the effect of changes on the CET of CARICOM; d) CARICOM trade vis-à-vis trade blocs; e) Inter-American consultation on institutional models for trade negotiations; f) Aspects of intellectual property of importance to agriculture; g) Institutional organization for agricultural negotiations in the countries of the Americas; h) Administration of tariff quotas by commodity exchanges; and i) a series of technical documents on competitiveness in agrifood chains. FAO has also made progress on other equally relevant issues.

Significant progress was also made in terms of training for the teams of agricultural negotiators from the hemisphere. Courses were held in most of the countries, attended by more than 600 trade specialists. Also of importance are regional/hemispheric courses carried

out in partnership with other international institutions, which have benefited over 200 trade specialists from the countries: a) WTO/IICA Workshop for Trainers Specializing in Policies and Multilateral Negotiations for Agriculture, held at WTO headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland in January, 1999; b) IICA/FAO/World Bank Regional Training Course for the Central Area, "The Uruguay Round Agreements and Future Agricultural Trade Negotiations," Tegucigalpa, Honduras, June, 1999; c) WTO/IDB/IICA Regional Training Course for the Southern Area and Bolivia, "The WTO Multilateral Trade Disciplines and Agricultural Trade Policies," Asuncion, Paraguay, July, 1999; d) Regional Workshop "Preparation of the Countries of the Central American Isthmus for the WTO Agricultural Negotiations," San Jose, Costa Rica, October 1999; e) Meeting of CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture "Joint Positions in the WTO Agricultural Trade Negotiations," Trinidad and Tobago, May 1999; and f) "Negotiating Techniques and Tactics," Mexico, September 1999. The regional course for the Andean Area was scheduled for late 1999 and the course for the agricultural negotiators for the Caribbean Region will take place in early 2000.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Research, technology transfer and technology innovation throughout the "farm-to-the-consumer's-table" chain are essential tools for ensuring competitiveness, quality and productivity in a context of economic opening, integration and hyper-competitiveness. Biodiversity prospecting (i.e., commercial exploitation), the conservation of natural resources for production purposes, and so-called "functional" and "natural" products, scenic beauty, the landscape and environmental services, are all growing in importance as alternatives for adding value and improving social well-being.

In this area, IICA's cooperation aims to work with the countries to further develop their capabilities to: i) design technology policies, ii) create and consolidate national, regional and hemispheric technology innovation systems; iii) facilitate the international transfer of knowledge; and iv) foster institutional development for the integrated management of natural resources.

In order to help the countries develop these capabilities, "strengthening technology innovation and transfer systems" was defined as a priority field for action. In

compliance with Resolutions No. 325, 327 and 331 of the Ninth IABA, and the 1998-2002 MTP, the following important technical cooperation activities were carried out:

SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM OF TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION

Noteworthy in this area was the effort undertaken by the countries of the hemisphere and their national and regional institutions to create and develop the Regional Forum on Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO), a hemispheric mechanism for articulation, synergy and dialogue in the hemisphere, for discussing and providing orientation to technology innovation processes. In a number of different meetings, including one held Brasilia in March 1998 during the "Science for Life" event organized by EMBRAPA and IICA, the countries laid the groundwork for creating the Forum. FORAGRO's first meeting was held in April 1999, and involved all the PROCIs, most networks of the national agricultural research institutes of the Americas, several universities and other players from the private sector. In compliance with a mandate from the Ninth IABA, the Institute exercises responsibility for the Technical Secretariat of the Forum.

Another important development was the creation of the Inter-American Electronic Forum on Science, Technology and Natural Resources, which can be found on Internet at <http://Infoagro.net/Comercio>. This forum enables FORAGRO participants to maintain contact with one another, and makes it possible to circulate relevant data and exchange experiences systematically, efficiently and inexpensively.

As part of its efforts to foster inter-institutional relations between the PROCIs and other regional networks, the Institute continues to support PROCITROPICOS, PROCICARIBE, PROCISUR, PROCIANDINO, SICTA, CATIE and CARDI and other



networks including PROMECAFE and FONTAGRO, contributing to their budgets and, in some cases, serving as Technical Secretariat. In particular, IICA supports and encourages their efforts to reform and modernize their operations, and to open up to emerging technological systems in the countries which involve the participation of other very important players, such as universities, the private sector and other civil society organizations. Likewise, IICA continued to support efforts to consolidate the networks established recently for Central America and the Caribbean, and to design a system for the Northern Region. Once the northern PROCI has been established, the entire hemisphere will be covered and it will be possible to create a truly hemispheric system that addresses science and technology for

agriculture and the rural milieu.

Also worthy of mention are the Institute's efforts, in partnership with other organizations such as FAO, CATIE, IPGRI, CIAT, OAS, GTZ and a number of universities and research centers, in the area of the integrated and sustainable natural resource management, with emphasis on genetic, soil and water resources. In this connection, events and seminars were held; technical documents were prepared on topics such as biosafety, intellectual property, transgenic plants, technology innovation; and documental information systems on these and other topics of growing interest were developed.

AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Agricultural health and food safety, as they apply to trade but also as a public health concern, are extremely important issues that have become the object of increased attention by the countries. In this area, IICA's cooperation has focused on working with the countries and their agricultural health and food safety institutions to further upgrade their capabilities to formulate and

execute policies and programs to ensure that products of plant and animal origin comply with the strictest health and hygiene standards, therefore enabling them to compete successfully on international and domestic markets.

With a view to contributing efficiently to helping the countries develop these capabilities, "strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems" was defined as a priority field for action.

In compliance with Resolutions No. 325 and 326 of the Ninth IABA, and the 1998-2002 MTP, the following important technical cooperation activities were carried out:

MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY SYSTEMS

Of special importance was the design and implementation of the Inter-American Agricultural Health Network (AGRIHEALTH XXI), an effective Internet-based mechanism that facilitates dialogue, exchanges of experiences, information and training between experts and specialists from the countries and the institutions responsible for agricultural health and food safety.

It consists of the following: 1) Discussion groups for specialists, to date on four topics: a) a model for modernizing agricultural health and food safety systems, b) practical application of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, c) conceptualization on emerging matters, and d) the World Bank's position on food safety; 2) Electronic conferences, focusing on upgrading and protecting agricultural health systems. Currently, two food safety conferences are operational (the French and North American systems); 3) Two on-line courses, on institutional modernization and food safety; and 4) Virtual rooms, supporting the conferences and on-line courses, making it possible for users to discuss relevant issues with experts from different institutions and countries.

Internet is also used to create and disseminate the decentralized directories of the national agricultural health systems of the countries in the hemisphere, which are updated by the official agricultural health services. It also contains a section with examples of successful experiences in the field of agricultural health and food safety.

A series of studies were conducted in the five regions for the purpose of: a) developing strategic plans for preparing national agricultural health systems to adopt a new approach to emerging issues; and b) developing a training plan and system for exchanging information and databases, in order to help the countries identify, prioritize and propose plans of action for dealing with emerging issues through AGRIHEALTH XXI. Improvements have already been made in the agricultural health and food safety systems in the following areas: human and physical resources, access to information sources, organizational set up for detecting and responding to emerging situations and identifying pests, diseases and other biological-type situations.

A model for a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System was designed and terms of reference prepared for a legal analysis of the project: "Modernization of the Legal Foundations of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Services."

An increasingly important activity in this field has been the organization of workshops and training courses with experts and specialists from the countries. The following events are worthy of special mention: a) the seminar "Food Safety and Health Systems," held in Mexico in conjunction with SAGAR that provided representatives of 21 countries from the hemisphere with an opportunity to exchange experiences and know-how; b) a panel on "Food Safety" held during the 1999 IICA Executive Committee meeting, attended by renowned technical experts and more than twenty delegations from the countries; c) the conference "Future Strategies in Food Safety: The role of cooperation role among international agencies, the public sector and the private sector," held recently in Costa Rica and organized jointly by the World Bank, EMBRAPA and IICA to analyze the experiences of Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil, Jamaica, Canada, the United States and France; d) round table discussions on "Food Safety and Public-Private Sector Relations," in Costa Rica, Honduras, Panama and Ecuador, as well as the seminar held in the Andean Region on "Food Safety, Agricultural Health and International Agrifood Trade;" e) the seminar organized jointly by FAO, CORECA, OIRSA, PAHO, USDA, FDA, EPA, California Strawberry Growers Association, Ministry of Health of Costa Rica, EARTH, University of Costa Rica and IICA for the course on "Quality Assurance and the Safety of Fruits and Vegetables," which was attended by officials from

Central America, Mexico, Dominican Republic and Cuba; and f) two seminars held jointly by the WTO and IICA on the WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, one for Central America, Mexico and Dominican Republic, and the other for Panama.

Lastly, coordination and articulation were fostered between IICA and other specialized institutions including OIRSA, FAO, COSAVE, NAPPO, OIE, PAHO, USDA-APHIS. The Emergency Fund was applied in 1999 in Brazil, Paraguay, Guyana and Central America.

SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable rural development, viewed as the execution of agricultural and non-agricultural activities in regions and small communities, is a powerful way to focus actions to boost competitiveness, upgrade human capabilities and alleviate regional imbalances occurring in the countries.

In this area, IICA's cooperation has focused on working with the countries in further developing their capabilities to formulate rural development policies and design and implement rural development strategies and programs to boost competitiveness and reduce rural poverty.

To more effectively support the countries develop these capabilities, "improving living standards in rural communities" was defined as a priority field for action.

In compliance with Resolutions No. 325, 330 and 334 of the Ninth IABA, and the 1998-2002 MTP, the following important technical cooperation activities were carried out:

SUPPORTING THE PROMOTION AND APPLICATION OF THE CONCEPT OF GENDER EQUITY AND FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT FOR RURAL WOMEN

Further efforts were made to implement initiatives promoting gender equity and business development for rural women through a number of actions including studies, conceptual development, meetings, conferences and seminars, strategic alliances with various organizations, and funding proposals. In addition, initiatives were undertaken to: a) implement the UNIDAS Fund; b) develop and promote the Fund to Finance the

Business Initiatives of Rural Women (FERURAL); c) initiate implementation of the Plan of Action for the Advancement of Rural Women; d) execute the IICA/SIDA project on Gender and Sustainable Development, primarily in Central America and the Caribbean; and e) support the initiatives of the First Ladies of the region, as well as important meetings at the regional and hemispheric levels.

Also worthy of mention were the initiatives to develop and conceptualize a new vision of the rural milieu by means of meetings and workshops, studies and documents, partnerships and joint efforts with universities and the IDB/ECLAC/FAO/IICA interagency group, involving specialists from various countries and institutions. Also, an electronic system (RURALNET) accessible via Internet, as well as a network of specialists in the field (SIDERSO) were established, which has greatly facilitated this effort.

In this area, IICA also worked to strengthen the development of small-farmer agribusinesses and family agriculture by means of: a) technical and conceptual support for projects seeking resources for rebuilding rural areas affected by hurricane Mitch in Central America; b) support for the establishment of networks of operators of small-scale and small-farmer agribusinesses, under the Institute's initiative to create an Agribusiness Network of the Americas; c) compilation and exchange of experiences in this subject area in Central America and the Southern Region; and d) efforts to articulate and strengthen actions and programs with IFAD, PDF, CUSO and CIDA.

Lastly, the following were developed under the Youth Participation Initiative: a) conceptual frameworks and a manual for young people and rural youths as important players in rural development; and b) several projects submitted for external funding and for strengthening institutional relationships with CAJIR, OIJ, Partners of America, UNDP, IDB, ICA and GTZ.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Training and education today are among the most important vehicles for bringing about the sustainable, equitable and competitive development of agriculture and the rural milieu, based on sound agribusiness management principles and the conservation of natural resources and the environment.



In this area, the objective of IICA's cooperation has been to work with the countries, their universities, academic centers and producer organizations in further developing their capabilities to engage in: a) strategic planning for academic development, the modernization of curricula and teacher training; and b) the development of networks and mechanisms for exchanges and horizontal cooperation.

To more effectively help the countries develop these capabilities, "strengthening education and training" was defined as a priority field for action. In compliance with Resolutions No. 325, 329 and 332 of the Ninth IABA, and the 1998-2002 MTP, the following important technical cooperation activities were carried out:

Support for the modernization of vocational and higher education centers, training systems and institutions associated with agriculture, with a view to enhancing the relevance and quality of their services. Support was provided for creating and developing the Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development (SIHCA) and the Hemispheric System for the Development of Higher Agricultural Education (SIHDEA), in partnership with the Foundation for Training and Research Applied to Agrarian Reform (CIARA) and the Government of Venezuela, in the first case, and the Government of Panama, in the latter. In the case of SIHDEA, the Government of Panama and the Foundation of Knowledge granted IICA use of facilities at the City of Knowledge. In addition, an organizing committee was set up for the First Inter-American

Conference on Agricultural and Rural Education, comprising IICA, SIDHEA, the Foundation of Knowledge and three Panamanian universities, with support from UNESCO and the OAS. This important meeting was held on November 16, 1999 in Panama.

Another important aspect of our technical cooperation has been training. Between 1998 and 1999, more than 80 training courses were offered to some 1,500 people from more than 25 countries in the Americas. In addition, the Institute worked with Texas A&M University to create a network of Distance Training Centers, which today operate at Headquarters, in Colombia, Barbados and (soon) the Dominican Republic. IICA also offered specialized courses together with Texas A&M and other universities.

IICA provided support for creating regional fora of vocational and higher education centers and universities in the Caribbean, Southern, Andean and Central Regions. The Institute is attaching ever greater importance to such activities, and aims to create a hemispheric network that will involve all the countries and their respective institutions.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Information and communications for development are very powerful tools for boosting competitiveness, seizing market and investment opportunities, cutting

costs and upgrading skills. In the context of economic opening and integration, information and communications are strategic means for fostering balanced development in the regions, fully tapping production and trade potential, and developing human capabilities.

In this area, IICA's cooperation focused on promoting the use of modern means of communication, facilitating access to relevant information, and fostering the exchange, management and analysis of important information among specialized organizations.

A variety of actions were carried out to support the countries in this important field:

The Inter-American Reference Center for Agricultural Information (CRIIA) was created to articulate a number of network-based information systems, ranging in coverage from national and local to hemispheric, throughout the Americas. Some of these systems are: AGROINFO Americas (operated in partnership with Texas A&M University and C/LAA), INFOAGRO (with the Government of Costa Rica), and AGRI-2000 (with CATIE). Also, with support from the Kellogg Foundation and the participation of AIBDA and other organizations, a network of documentary information centers and libraries of the Americas (SIDALC) is quickly taking shape, stretching from Canada, the United States of America and Mexico to Chile and the Caribbean.

The Institute continued the uninterrupted publication of COMUNIICA, its official magazine, to operate Radio COMUNIICA (of hemispheric scope) and to distribute their products in most of the countries. It also continued to attend national, regional and hemispheric trade shows (more than 30 to date) in order to promote the Institute, its image and its partnerships. The publication and wide distribution of documents and books continues to be a firm policy of the Institute, and Editorial AgroAmerica, its publishing arm, continues to modernize and fund a good portion of its activities.

THE AGRIBUSINESS NETWORK OF THE AMERICAS

Today we are much closer to achieving the goal of supporting the countries in setting up the Agribusiness Network of the Americas, moving steadily ahead to

create the conditions needed for launching regional networks, such as the recently established Andean and Caribbean Agribusiness Networks. Also, IICA's Center for Integration and Agribusiness Development (CIDAE) developed and disseminated the Ibero-American Directory of Agribusiness Organizations (DIGA), which is available on Internet, with the support of Spain and AECl.

STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

The progress made in complying with the thematic resolutions of the Ninth Regular Meeting of the IABA has enhanced IICA's position and strengthened strategic alliances with important regional and international institutions and organizations, increasing the capabilities of both and strengthening their ties.

Over the years, IICA has developed important relationships with and has benefited greatly from the financial, technical, and human resources provided by organizations, countries and institutions, which have enabled the Institute to increase the benefits for the Member States. Some of its most important international and regional partners are FAO, IDB, World Bank, WTO, ECLAC, CIAT, GTZ, USDA, IFAD, OAS, CATIE, CARDI, the Kellogg Foundation, universities throughout the hemisphere, CIRAD, AECl, CFIA-Canada, as well as numerous national institutions in the Member States.

IICA has expanded and strengthened its external relations through the important strategic alliances it has established over the years.

DECENTRALIZATION, ADJUSTMENTS AT HEADQUARTERS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

In 1999, the decentralization of Headquarters was consolidated. Today, more than 75% of IICA's regular resources are managed directly by the Regional Centers and the Cooperation Agencies that make them up; more than 75% of the Institute's International Professional and Local Professional Personnel are posted away from Headquarters; and a growing number of decisions are made closer to where IICA actually executes its actions, with its clients and beneficiaries in the countries. Thus, today the Institute is almost completely decentralized in terms of the allocation and use of financial and human resources, and of decision making and implementation.

In the case of human resources, decentralization can be noted in the recruitment, selection and appointment of local personnel, in the new performance appraisal system, and in the new Executive Order on consultants. In addition, there has been a turnover of roughly one third of the International Professional Personnel over the past six years. Within the next two years, as the gradual transition continues, we hope to have reached a 50% turnover.

Decentralization is being implemented in strict compliance with the provisions of the Rules of Procedure of the General Directorates, the System for the Determination of Rumeration for IICA Personnel, the Staff Rules and Staff Manual, and the Executive Orders currently in force.

The Institute has also been consolidating the decentralization of the programming and budgeting process by delegating to the Regional Directorates and Cooperation Agencies greater responsibility for making decisions related to the analysis and approval of their biennial budgets, plans of operation and instruments of cooperation.

Efforts have also been made to simplify and adjust the Institute's mechanisms, instruments and procedures, with a view to enabling its units to respond with greater flexibility and more effectively to the demands of the Member States, always taking into account the Institute's priorities and policies. As a result of the decentralization process, Headquarters now focuses its actions on strategic and regulatory issues, and on supporting, monitoring and evaluating the cooperation provided by the Regional Centers.

The decentralization of budgeting and programming was accompanied by major efforts to introduce and encourage strategic planning at the national, regional and hemispheric levels as an ongoing practice to improve the effectiveness of the Institute's cooperation. Increasingly, the Regional Centers are applying this



practice in their programming and budgeting activities, and over the next two years this important tool will be in use at all levels of IICA's action.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGEMENT, PHYSICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE

Modernization of the Institute necessarily requires upgrading communications and management information systems so as to equip them to generate the timely and reliable information needed for decision making. Twelve of the most advanced information systems on the international market were analyzed, and following demonstrations and an analysis of the Institute's needs, the BAAN system was chosen because it offers greater flexibility for mod-

eling institutional processes and can be adapted to different situations in the hemisphere. BAAN is a fully integrated system, meaning that the financial, accounting, administrative and project planning and monitoring modules are interrelated, making it possible to generate a variety of reports in real time, including warnings regarding possible occurrences that may require decision making. Currently, the system is being installed at IICA's Cooperation Agency in Brazil, after which it will be installed at Headquarters and then in the other countries, depending on the complexity and size of the Cooperation Agencies.

In this area, decentralization also advanced further, with emphasis on ensuring maximum articulation of technical, administrative, informatics and financial matters, which is of critical importance if IICA is to become a corporate and synergic institution with a hemispheric, regional, and national vision in service to the countries.

As described herein, decentralization must result in better technical cooperation, the linking and use of information technologies, physical infrastructure and human resources, administration and finances, and programming and strategic planning at all three institution-

al levels: Headquarters, the Regional Center Directorates and the Cooperation Agencies in the countries.

Transformation of the institutional culture continues to be facilitated by a systematic process of staff training at all levels, and the adoption of a new culture of multidisciplinary teamwork.

The results of efforts to break up compartmentalism, individualism and hierarchical practices at the Institute is already evident. More flexible, less hierarchical and more creative networks are proving to be more efficient and economical and are gaining ground over the old model, without a loss of discipline. To the contrary, improvements are already being seen in the degree of coordination among technical, administrative, and financial areas.

The plan to change the Institute's structures, with the creation of the Consortia, continues forward. The Consortia are the embodiment of those flexible, creative and less hierarchical networks, which do not add to the existing bureaucracy and are very effective and efficient mechanisms for strengthening linkages and facilitating a more rational use of economic, physical, and human resources.

Today, the work of IICA's units are articulated through four Consortia: the Technical Consortium (which includes the Directorates of the Strategic Areas); the Consortium for Regional Operations (which includes the 34 CAs and five Regional Directorates); the Consortium for Planning and Coordination (consisting of the Directorates of Planning, Programming, Coordination and Institutional Transformation); and the Consortium for Corporate Services (which includes the Directorates of Human Resources, Finance, Information Technology, the Editorial AgroAmerica --IICA's publishing arm-- and Services).



The Consortia not only strengthen relations among the Institute's different units, but also outside of IICA, as they contribute to forging closer ties between IICA and the Member States and with specialized international and regional institutions and organizations.

TRANSFORMATION OF THE GOVERNING BODIES OF THE INSTITUTE: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE IABA

An important aspect of the Institute's efforts to consolidate changes within IICA has been the transformation of its governing bodies. The aim has been to endow the IABA with mechanisms to enable it to become a forum for deliberation on shared, strategic issues of concern and interest to agricultural and rural

leaders in the Americas, the private sector, universities, research and information centers. As regards the Executive Committee, in addition to its traditional role, it will be equipped to provide more effective support to IICA's Administration and the IABA in connection with important decisions and actions regarding the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century.

The Executive Committee, at its Nineteenth Regular Meeting, adopted Resolution No. 316 which supported the recommendation put forth by the Director General that the IABA become the Ministerial Forum of the hemisphere for the analysis and coordination of policies for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

For its part, the IABA, at its Tenth Regular Meeting, held in October 1999 in Salvador, Bahia, Brazil, endorsed the recommendation that it become the Ministerial Forum of the Americas, and approved Resolution No. 341, which instructed the Director General to include in its annual report to the OAS a draft resolution requesting the OAS General Assembly to abolish the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Agriculture (ICMA).

A photograph of a person in a field, likely a farmer or laborer, carrying a large bundle of harvested crops (possibly wheat or rice) on their back. The person is wearing a light-colored shirt and dark pants. The field is filled with tall grasses and crops. In the background, there are trees and a structure that looks like a wooden frame or a small building. The overall scene is rural and agricultural.

REGIONAL AND NATIONAL ACTION

ANDEAN REGIONAL CENTER

Events organized by the Andean Regional Center during 1999

| | EVENTS | | PARTICIPANTS | | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Andean Regional Center | 148 | 100.0 | 5309 | 100.0 | 368 |
| Andean Directorate | 34 | 23.0 | 1275 | 24.0 | 108 |
| Bolivia | 7 | 4.7 | 325 | 6.1 | 20 |
| Colombia | 37 | 25.0 | 1224 | 23.1 | 82 |
| Ecuador | 38 | 25.7 | 1458 | 27.5 | 88 |
| Peru | 19 | 12.8 | 572 | 10.8 | 33 |
| Venezuela | 13 | 8.8 | 455 | 8.6 | 37 |

Source: CONPLAC.

DIRECTORATE OF THE REGIONAL CENTER

Policies and Trade. The Regional Center promoted agricultural trade in the Andean Community and worked to upgrade the capabilities of the countries' private and public sectors for participating in hemispheric (FTAA) and multilateral (WTO) agricultural trade negotiations. It also gave priority to laying the groundwork for the Andean Agribusiness Network, whose members are drawn from all the links in the region's agrifood chains. To this end, the first and second meetings of the Andean Agribusiness Network were held (in Bogota in May, and in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in September), bringing together more than 40 business leaders involved in primary production, agroindustry, and services, as well as the leaders of agricultural trade associations, to establish operating guidelines and mechanisms for the Network and approve its by-laws. Another important, region-wide activity was the October regional seminar on multilateral trade negotiations, held in Lima, Peru. The Directorate also provided direct support to the CAs in this field of action, for example: to the CA/Bolivia in organizing and developing the Bolivian chapter of the Andean Agribusiness Network, and in holding strategic planning seminars for the National Agrarian Reform Institute (INRA); to the CA/Peru, in preparing its 2000-2001 Strategic Plan, formulating a strategic plan for the province of



Piura, and holding the third strategic planning workshop for the National Watershed Management and Soil Conservation Project (PRONAMACHCS); and to the CA/Ecuador in planning a workshop for staff of the Saraguro-Yacuambi Rural Development Project.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Through the work of PROCINDINO, the Regional

Center: a) supported the development of global instruments and models for identifying technological needs, together with ISNAR and other LAC institutions; b) fostered a reorganization of the technology innovation systems of national agricultural research institutes (NARIs), adopting an interdisciplinary approach in an effort to bring about comprehensive transformation; c) strengthened reciprocal cooperation actions among the cooperative agricultural research programs (PROCI), FORAGRO and FONTAGRO; and d) helped upgrade the scientific and technological expertise of human resources, through 525 training events, exchanges of experiences and the preparation of research methodologies, which involved 5,865 individuals from the public and private sectors. The Soil and Water Management Network (REDAMACS) formulated and implemented integrated plans for the sustainable management of micro-watersheds and hillsides, and also set up the Natural Resources Information System (SIRENA). The Export Fruit and Vegetable Network (FRUTHEX) disseminated studies on competitive markets for the region's fruits and vegetables, designed information systems, and developed and validated a number of harvest and post-harvest techniques based on the concept of agroindustrial chains. With financial assistance from the IDB, it also launched the project Integrated Pest Management to Upgrade Sustainable Fruit Production in the Andean Region. The Andean Plant Genetic Resources Network (REDARFIT) developed capabilities for the collection, documentation, conservation and use of *passifloraceae* plant genetic resources, and new projects were designed for *caricaceae*, *anonaceae* and *solanaceae*.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The Technical Cooperation Program for Agricultural Health in the Andean Region (PROFASA) was formulated, under a letter of understanding involving the region's national agricultural health services. In its capacity as Secretariat of the Andean Agricultural Health Forum (FASA), IICA monitored the decisions taken at the Forum's fourth meeting. Other important achievements were as follows: a) technical improvements were made to the Andean Agricultural Health Information System (SANINET), which registered a 60% increase in requests for information; b) support was given to the Colombian Agricultural Institute (ICA) in organizing and holding an international seminar on plant health risks for field staff; c) five

national seminars and one regional seminar were given on food safety in collaboration with the Andean CAs and PAHO; d) a seminar-workshop on pest risk analysis was organized and held with APHIS, in Ecuador; e) technical support was provided to Peru's National Agricultural Health Service (SENASA) in implementing the Chile-Peru binational project for the eradication of the fruit fly in border areas; f) IICA and PAHO provided technical assistance to the Autonomous Agricultural Health Service (SASA) of Venezuela, for a workshop on agricultural health system models; g) cooperation was provided to the Ecuadorian Agricultural Health Service (SESA) in evaluating the progress being made with the Galapagos Island inspection and quarantine system; and h) support was given to the CA/Bolivia in formulating the feasibility study for the Integrated Agricultural Health System Project (SIDESA).

Rural Development. In relation to rural agroindustry, the findings of a study on small-scale cheese-producers, conducted together with CIRAD, the Intermediate Technology Development Group (ITDG) and the Catholic University of Peru, were presented. A new project entitled Agroindustry Networks IV was formulated and submitted to IDRC for funding; the PRODAR information system (PRODARNET), which has 250 members, was consolidated; and PRODAR's web site was launched. Together with CIP, an electronic forum called "Challenges Faced by Andean Rural Agroindustry vis-a-vis Globalization" was organized, involving some 500 people in 21 countries. A project profile was prepared for replicating in Bolivia and Peru Ecuador's project to implement rural information systems (ECUARURAL); support was provided to the CA/Colombia for setting up the Rural Development Training Network; and technical assistance was provided to CA/Peru for implementing a research project on local agrifood systems (SIAL).

Training and Education. Support was provided to the CA/Peru in connection with training events on strategic planning for the Transitional Regional Administrative Council of the Department of Piura, and in programming and facilitating a meeting of the Peruvian Forum for Higher Agricultural Education. The Regional Directorate also cooperated with the CA/Bolivia in presenting a paper on agricultural education on the eve of the twenty-first century, at the

School of Veterinary Medicine, Gabriel Rene Moreno University, in Santa Cruz de la Sierra.

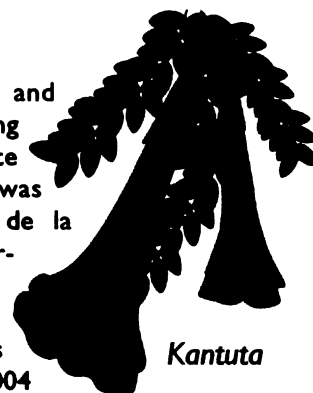
Information and Communication. The following materials were published and distributed: some 42 documents from seminars and short courses, 53 issues of informational bulletins, 28 consultants' reports, 7 technical documents, 17 issues of the SANINET bulletin, a Practical Guide for Small-Farmer Exports (in Spanish), produced in collaboration with the ILO and PRODAR, and other books on a range of topics, including guidelines for and the challenges facing the Andean agrifood sector, the marketing of rural agroindustry products, multilateral trade negotiations, and agricultural policy reform in WTO member countries.

The Andean Regional Center had a major impact on the agricultural sector through the following actions: creation of the Andean Agribusiness Network, made up of private business operators; the strengthening of the country-by-country crop chains approach, co-sponsored by PROCIANDINO; the signing of the PROFASA/PRODAR/ILO letter of understanding by the countries of the region; and the publication of a book on Andean enterprises and exports. Also of region-wide importance was the electronic forum organized by PRODAR and CIP on the challenges faced by Andean rural agroindustry in the context of globalization. Technical proposals were formulated for improving the Regional Center's strategic planning process, with a view to establishing guidelines for monitoring and evaluation, instituting a training program, and creating six groups for reflection and strategic action (GRAEs).

BOLIVIA

Policies and Trade. Technical support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (MAGDR) in preparing an investment project for the Agricultural Services Program (PSA), funded by the IDB. A study was prepared and disseminated on the rice chain, and support was provided to the FTAA Agricultural Negotiations Group and the Andean Community in analyzing and defining the Community's position in international agricultural trade negotiations. The Bolivian Agribusiness Network, composed of 16

agribusiness associations and organizations and receiving support from the Oriente Chamber of Agriculture, was established in Santa Cruz de la Sierra. The CA/Bolivia cooperated with the National Agrarian Reform Institute (INRA) in preparing its strategic plan for the 2000-2004 period, and in implementing an institutional development process. Several seminars were held on bilateral and multilateral agricultural trade negotiations, attended by 90 representatives of the public and private sectors.



Science, Technology and Natural Resources. The Bolivian Agricultural Technology System (SIBTA), which will receive financial assistance from the Andina, Valles, Tropico Humedo and Chaco foundations, was launched. Under an IDB-funded project, the Institute supported efforts to organize SIBTA and the process to establish the foundations.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Support was provided to MAGDR in defining the organizational and structural framework of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System (SENASAG). A legislative bill for its creation was drafted, and a training program was initiated for public- and private-sector specialists who will be participating in the system.

Rural Development. The following noteworthy actions were carried out under the Regional Program to Support the Development of South American Camelidae: a) organization of a national food competition based on camelidae meat; b) participation in the Fifth International Festival of South American Camelidae (Peru); c) meeting of Bolivian and Argentine processors and marketers of dried and salted camelidae meat (jerky); and d) IFAD approval of stage three of the project. In addition, together with the Project for the Development of Camelidae Breeding in the Bolivian Highlands (UNEP/IFAD) and the Canadian Centre for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI), a case study was prepared and presented on the experience of the Integrated Association of Highland Camelidae Breeders. Technical and financial cooperation was also provided for diagnostic stud-



ies of rural agroindustry in the departments of Potosi and Oruro; and a proposal was prepared for providing technical cooperation for institutional development at the Chiquisaca Chamber of Agriculture. Finally, as a result of the seminar "New Rurality, Agricultural Modernization and Impact on Women," held in La Paz in November, IICA's Rural Development Cooperation Program got under way in Bolivia.

Training and Education. A diagnostic study of higher and vocational agricultural education in Bolivia was carried out, which will be used as the basis for establishing the National Higher Agricultural Education Forum.

Information and Communication. The Agricultural Information and Documentation Center of Bolivia (CIDAB), located at the House of Agriculture, began operations with the participation of MAGDR, IBTA and IICA libraries.

IICA actively supported the MAGDR's efforts to organize and structure SIBTA and SENASAG. These systems have given new impetus to the competitiveness of the country's agricultural sector through the creation of mechanisms designed to promote technological innovation and facilitate access to international markets for Bolivian agricultural products. The decision to make the House of Agriculture a conference and study center promoting the modernization of Bolivian agriculture, in coordination with the country's most important agricultural libraries, has given IICA's cooperation in the country a new focus.

COLOMBIA

Policies and Trade. IICA provided methodological support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR) and the Ministry of Foreign Trade (MINCOMEXT) for implementing a strategy to enhance the competitiveness of agroindustrial chains (dairy products, potatoes, cotton-textile-garment manufacturing in Tolima, balanced poultry feed, oilseeds-fats-oils, forestry, tuna, citrus fruits and cocoa). The CA also supported the establishment of the Colombian chapter of the Andean Agribusiness Network, providing training for business operators in trade-related issues. In addition, training events

on WTO multilateral negotiations were offered for specialists of the public and private agricultural sectors and numerous papers were written, including on the role of public-private sector cooperation in improving the competitiveness of agrifood chains, the international outlook for the Andean dairy industry within the framework of the next round of WTO negotiations, and agriculture and globalization in Colombia.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Under the National Agricultural Technology Transfer System (SINTAP) and the National Agricultural Technology Transfer Program (PRONATTA), the CA/Colombia evaluated the results of 130 completed projects. SINTAP also carried out its annual training program (31 workshops) and a committee was set up to establish the Ecological Agriculture Network in that country. Furthermore, fora were held in Colombia's five planning regions to generate new initiatives for SINTAP, with emphasis on integrating actors around the concept of "extended agriculture." Studies were conducted on development management in the region of Alto Chicamocha, and on agribusiness project management in the Tumaco and Uraba regions, for the cultivation of peach palm. The MADR also received support in designing a national project to reactivate cotton-growing activities. Through PROCIANDINO, actions to work with strategic areas of fragile ecosystems were articulated, and efforts were made to improve the competitiveness of production chains and to manage institutional change through technology innovation. The CA/Colombia also promoted studies on the experiences of public-private sector consortia for agribusiness innovation, together with trade associations and agroindustrial organizations, the Colombian Agricultural Research Corporation (CORPOICA), the Francisco Jose de Caldas Institute for the Development of Science and Technology (COLCIENCIAS), and MADR. PROCIANDINO also supported the implementation of FONTAGRO's Regional Program on Agricultural Technology and Natural Resources Management, which involves six projects seeking to upgrade the

competitiveness of the agrifood sector and improve the sustainable management of natural resources in the countries of the region.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA supported MADR in monitoring implementation of the decisions made at the Fourth Andean Agricultural Health Forum (FASA); facilitating the participation of officials in the fifth FASA meeting, held in Ecuador; holding an international seminar on agricultural health and food safety; and offering a course on plant health risks faced by Colombian agriculture as well as fora on milk quality. Support was also provided to the National Poultry Growers' Association for preparing a case study on Colombia's poultry industry.

Rural Development. Under the new cooperation agreement between IICA and MADR, which seeks to develop a new approach for the Rural Micro-business Program, the following results were obtained: a) the pilot project for Campesino Reserves (PPZRC) was consolidated; b) the Participatory Social and Environmental Evaluation (ESAP), which integrates environmental, economic and social issues, was carried out; c) strategies were developed for granting loans to rural microenterprises; d) a monitoring and registration system for land titling and acquisition was established under the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform (INCORA); and e) a survey was conducted on the quality of life and efficiency of agricultural producers. In addition, technical and administrative support was provided to the DRI Fund for implementing municipal and regional rural development plans, programs and projects; the final report was written on strategies for developing production projects in Colombia's Pacific coastal region; novel mechanisms were defined for funding integrated production projects; support was provided to the Secretariat of Agriculture of the Department of Boyaca in preparing land planning methodologies; and, within the framework of the Program to Support Rural Micro-businesses (PADEMÉR), parameters were defined for regional development. Technical support was also provided to the DRI Fund in selecting integrated production projects for implementation in strategic geographic areas under the Colombia Plan.

Training and Education. The infrastructure of the CA was modified and tests were conducted for

establishing the Distance Learning Center, setting up a network with academic institutions in Manizales, the Manuel Mejias Foundation and the Colombian Coffee-growers' Federation (FEDERACAFE). Training activities were held on the subject of rural leadership (for teachers at rural education centers) and cooperatives (for members of municipal committees and coffee cooperatives in the departments of Tolima and Huila). Through the Coming Generation Program, IICA facilitated implementation of in-service academic training activities by universities, thereby strengthening inter-institutional relations with the academic sector, opening up new areas for IICA action, and providing more information on the Institute's activities in the sector. Support was also provided to the School of Agricultural Sciences at the National University for designing the REUNA network.

Information and Communication. The Rodrigo Peña Information and Documentation Center was modernized and its services diversified. The CA's information system was also upgraded by incorporating much new data and creating web sites on Internet with videos and information on specialists, farms and organic, ecological and sustainable agriculture. An advisory service was also implemented for agricultural information units at agricultural research institutes, and documents were published on agroecological practices, the land market in Colombia, the competitiveness of the tuna industry, and an analysis of the national agro-industrial science and technology system.

Despite the serious economic, social and fiscal problems faced by Colombia in recent years, IICA has continued to provide the cooperation services that the country needs, and to develop new ways of participating in the search for solutions. The Institute has enhanced its image in the agricultural sector, consolidated its technical capabilities and its responsiveness to the country's circumstances, and made every effort to meet the most pressing needs in the field of agriculture. In doing so, it has identified strategic alliances that will enable it to develop new niches for work in which it has the capabilities, experience and technical potential. The Coming Generation Program has given new impetus to its relations with the academic sector, while modernization in the area of training, education and communication has increased inter-institutional interaction.



Rose

ECUADOR

Policies and Trade. IICA provided technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) in formulating agricultural development policies. Four seminars on the following topics were held for representatives of the public and private sectors: international trade, food safety, institutional modernization, and the chains approach. Support was provided to the program to strengthen trade associations; the Ecuadorian chapter of the Andean Agribusiness Network was established; and a project was formulated with COSUDE on the processing and marketing of agricultural products.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Through this field of action, technical support was provided to the National Agricultural Research Institute (INIAP) in creating research consortia, with a view to strengthening the national agricultural research system. An inventory was carried out on technology, 30 training events were held and 11 overseas in-service training activities were organized in the areas of the environment and environmental management, institutional modernization and training management. Technical documents were published on the agricultural marketing funding system, and on environmental certification for agricultural production in Ecuador. Under the Pichincha Regional Development Program, an evaluation was conducted of the results of the production sub-component. The MAG/CEIRSEN/IICA agreement was signed, to implement the national environmental monitoring system and establish a window of sustainability in the country. Under the Agricultural Sector Program, studies were conducted on policies to modernize the agricultural public sector, and progress was made in three international public bids for equipping the financial, agrarian and geographic information systems. Also, technical documents were written on the environmental monitoring and environmental policy system.



Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Support was provided to the Agricultural Health Service (SESA) in its modernization efforts; in organizing and holding the fourth meeting of the Andean Agricultural Health Forum (FASA); in preparing a technical proposal for implementing its staff training component; in holding a seminar on food safety for international trade; and in conducting an evaluation of progress made to implement the inspection and quarantine system. In addition, technical support was provided to the Association of Coastal Region and Galapagos Island Cattle Ranchers for technical meetings held to discuss improvements in production and the strengthening of the association.

Rural Development. Agreement was reached with authorities of the Ministry of Labor and Social Action, the World Bank and IFAD for continuing the National Rural Development Program (PRONADER) and the Saraguro-Yacuambi and Upper Cañar River Basin rural development projects. New management advisors were appointed for the agribusinesses created under the Community Development Funds (FODECOs), and efforts were made to foster the creation of FONLOCAL, a credit mechanism for business ventures of small farmers and small-farmer organizations. Together with CIAT, a workshop was held on methodologies for identifying market opportunities, attended by managers of *campesino* agribusinesses, university students and professors, and employees of public and private institutions. The Ecuadorian chapter of the Rural Agroindustry Network (REDAR), which brings together trade associations, universities, non-governmental organizations and public and private institutions, was re-launched. A document was prepared on the situation of rural agroindustry in Ecuador, as was a project on the sustainable development of the sector and a project entitled "Coming Generation", the aim of which is to foster the creation of small businesses by young people in rural areas. Finally, support was provided for the meetings of the External Consultative Group on Sustainable Rural-Urban Development (G-DRU).

Training and Education. Support was provided to enable Ecuadorian educators to participate in two meetings on agricultural education, one in Panama and the other in Venezuela.

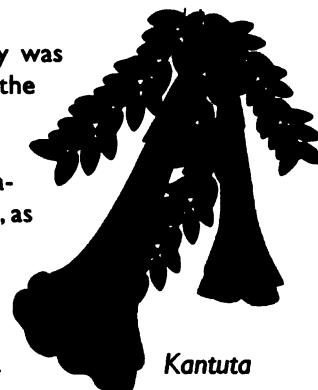
Information and Communication. The CA cooperated with the Ministry of Social Welfare (MBS) in

creating and constructing the informatics platform for the ECUARURAL information system.

PERU

Policies and Trade. A study was carried out and presented to the Ministry of Agriculture on the current status of heart of palm (*Bactris gasipaes*) cultivation in the province of Maynas, as was another on mango production and the world market. Technical support was provided to La Selva National Agrarian University in preparing a proposal for articulating efforts to create and develop agribusinesses in Alto Huallaga; support was provided to the dairy farmers' association in conducting a study on the competitiveness of milk production; papers were presented at the Forum on Agricultural Research and Intellectual Property, and at the Seminar on New Topics and Proposals for the Next Round of WTO Agricultural Negotiations. Strategic planning workshops were held for modernizing the Piura Transitional Regional Administrative Council (CTAR-Piura) and the National Watershed Management and Soil Conservation Project (PRONAMACHCS).

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. A regional project to develop appropriate technology for natural resource conservation and sustainable management (FOMRENA) was formulated. With assistance from the IICA-GTZ project to orient agricultural research towards alternative development, a series of seminars were held for drawing up plans for agricultural, forestry and aquaculture research in the Peruvian Amazon region, and for designing market information systems for alternative development. With the support of PROCITROPICOS, proposals were formulated for a program of cocoa-growing activities, and a workshop was held on the development of fish farming in the Amazon region. With PROCIANDINO, studies were carried out of the most successful experiences in the organization of agricultural research and sustainable development, which include several consortia and foun-



dations. With the project National Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer System (SINITA), IICA co-sponsored the Sixth Forum on Fruit-growing; with GTZ and CIP, a seminar was held on agrarian research and intellectual property.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA continued to support the Binational Chile-Peru Border Area Fruit Fly Eradication Program, both with regards to general coordination efforts and the management of the sterile insect technique (SIT) program in the Tacna Valley. It also continued discussions with leaders from that area regarding the importance of plant protection for the development of vegetable and fruit production and the expansion of agricultural exports. IICA also fostered closer ties between the ministries of agriculture and public health and representatives of the private sector for developing a plan of action on shared priority concerns pertaining to agricultural health and food safety.

Rural Development. Technical assistance was provided to the support committee of the Rural Women's Program, which operates under the Office of the First Lady, especially in drafting a project for the Departments of Apurimac, Huancavelica and Huanuco, for which funding was subsequently obtained. The CA also collaborated with the committee in organizing a seminar-workshop on the role of women in social investment projects. Under the program to support resettlement and development in emergency zones (PAR), of the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Human Development (PROMUDEH), seven production projects were drawn up. Subsequently, US\$2.2 million in funding was secured from international cooperation agencies for three of them. Three of the proposals were presented to the IDB, Hughes International and the Embassy of Uruguay. In addition, the project to articulate the creation and development of agribusinesses in Alto Huallaga was formulated, to be undertaken jointly with La Selva National Agrarian University. Under the project to focus economic and social investment (PROFINES), 145 technical information sheets were prepared on 129 townships in 12 of the poorest districts in the departments of Apurimac, Huancavelica and Ayacucho. The CA also helped organize the Fourth Rural Agroindustry Congress in Peru.

Training and Education. In this area, the CA helped organize four meetings of the Higher Education Forum on Agrarian Sciences to discuss, among other things, ethical values, strategic planning and curriculum design. Support was provided to La Selva Agrarian University in designing a counseling and tutoring program; and, with support from SIHCA and the Agricultural Development Association (ASPA), a course was given on rural micro-business management for agribusiness operators, primarily women.

During 1999, the CA/Peru began implementing its 1998-2000 Strategic Action Plan, paving the way for a new relationship with the different actors responsible for rural welfare in the country, through which the government acts to combat poverty. These actors are the Ministry of Agriculture (mainly through PRONAMACHCS); PROMUDEH (especially through PAR); and the provincial governments, known as Transitional Regional Administrative Councils. An important action associated with agribusiness and agroindustry was the establishment of the Peruvian chapter of the Andean Agribusiness Network.

VENEZUELA

Policies and Trade. Support was provided to the Ministry of Production and Trade (specifically the Vice-ministry of Agriculture and Food -VMAA-) for defining its new structure and identifying the actions needed to design and implement the new institutional framework for the sector. Workshops were also held on a variety of topics including: international agricultural trade negotiations, upgrading the analytical skills of VMAA specialists, sectoral programming using the general equilibrium model developed with IFPRI, trade policy instruments, the use of the agrifood-chains-and-dialogue-for-action approach (CADIAC) to enhance the competitiveness of agrifood chains. A proposal was written for a strategic plan for the development



of extended agriculture in the state of Trujillo, and technical assistance was provided for establishing the Venezuelan Agricultural Commodity Exchange.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Technical and administrative support was provided to the National Agricultural Fund (FONAIAP) in actions including: upgrading human resources, privatizing public services, establishing alliances with the private sector, and involving specialists in training activities on project formulation and evaluation, the analysis of indicators of impact in research projects, technology development and innovation, and strategic thinking. In addition, the CA/Venezuela held workshops on biotechnology and genetic resources, helped implement a survey on natural disasters, and contributed to formulating a technical proposal for reorganizing the Agricultural Action Institute (IAAGRO) in the state of Merida.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Support was provided to the Autonomous Agricultural Health Service (SASA) for drafting agricultural health legislation, a project for staff training, and another on accreditation of Venezuela's agricultural health services. The CA also facilitated the participation of officials in various international and regional meetings, such as the annual meeting of the OIE in France, the Workshop for Evaluation of Agricultural Health Programs in the EU (Spain), the Twenty-second Meeting of the GICSV Executive Committee (Peru), the Andean Workshop on Food Safety (Colombia), and a course on animal health emergencies (Brazil). In addition, it cooperated with VMAA and the Governorship of Falcon in organizing the second workshop "Fruit Fly-Free Paraguana." It participated in six meetings of the working groups of the Andean Agricultural Health Forum (FASA) and in the technical meetings for evaluating and monitoring activities implemented under the IICA/SASA agreement.

Rural Development. Some of the most important results achieved in promoting rural agroindustry were: a) organization of the second meeting on rural agroindustry in the state of Cojedes, in collaboration with the Rural Agroindustry Network of Cojedes and Los Llanos National Experimental University (UNELLEZ); b) preparation of a project to promote and develop rural microenterprises in the state of Anzoategui, together with the FINCAS



foundation; c) technical support to the CIARA foundation for organizing a workshop on the national supply of training for rural micro-businesses; d) formulation of a project for developing and fostering rural micro-businesses under the Bolivar 2000 Plan; and e) organization of a course on rural micro-business management, together with SIHCA and the Francisco de Miranda National Experimental University.

In collaboration with the Polar Foundation, a project was formulated for creating a rural development information system; technical assistance was provided to the National Agrarian Institute (IAN) for implementing a program to inventory *campesino* settlements and organizations of the agrarian reform sector. The IICA/CORPOTRUIJILLO technical cooperation agreement was signed, through which an agricultural information and services unit and the INFOAGRO-Trujillo regional information system will be designed and developed. Projects aimed at creating an information system for that state and strategic planning for extended agriculture were formulated and presented to the Governor of Barinas, and substantial progress was made in the methodology for managing windows of sustainability under the project "Integrated Management of the Binational Tachira River Watershed."

Training and Education. Support was provided to the state of Monagas for implementing a training

program on agricultural transformation. In addition, a course on business development was held for students of the Universidad de Oriente in Monagas, as was another on the formulation of agricultural and agroindustrial projects.

Information and Communication. Web sites have been established for the CA (<http://www.iica.int.ve>) REDAR/Venezuela (<http://www.redar.info.ve>) and INFOAGRO/Venezuela(<http://www.infoagro.info.ve>) Agricultural information systems were set up in the states of Trujillo and Monagas, which include the web sites INFOAGRO / Trujillo (<http://www.trujillo.infoagro.info.ve>) and INFOAGRO/Monagas (<http://monagas.infoagro.info.ve>) Moreover, progress was made in establishing agricultural information systems for the state of Zulia and for the peninsula of Paraguana (State of Falcon).

One of IICA's most important results in Venezuela's agricultural sector was the progress made in marketing cereals, particularly sorghum, following the creation of Venezuela's Agricultural Commodities and Inputs Exchange (BOLPRIAVEN). The CA also provided methodological inputs and carried out studies to foster the adoption of the CADIAC approach as an institutional management tool by the Ministry of Production and Trade, created in 1999.

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL CENTER

Events organized by the Caribbean Regional Center during 1999

| | EVENTS | | PARTICIPANTS | | |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|--------------|-------|-----|
| | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Caribbean Regional Center | 107 | 100.0 | 5064 | 100.0 | 382 |
| Regional Directorate | 24 | 22.0 | 916 | 18.1 | 52 |
| Bahamas | 2 | 1.9 | 57 | 1.1 | 4 |
| Barbados | 3 | 2.8 | 82 | 1.6 | 32 |
| Dominican Republic | 6 | 5.6 | 488 | 9.6 | 7 |
| Guyana | 11 | 10.3 | 351 | 6.9 | 35 |
| Haiti | 17 | 15.9 | 1955 | 38.6 | 184 |
| Jamaica | 10 | 9.3 | 392 | 7.7 | 12 |
| OECS | 26 | 24.3 | 581 | 11.5 | 46 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 8 | 7.5 | 242 | 4.8 | 10 |

Source: CONPLAC.

DIRECTORATE OF THE REGIONAL CENTER

Policies and Trade. The Directorate of the Caribbean Regional Center (CaRC) co-organized, with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resource of Trinidad and Tobago, the Agriculture and Trade Ministers Conference, where it presented the feature discussion paper "Priority Issues for CARIFORUM Agriculture in the Upcoming WTO Negotiations." It provided technical assistance to the COTED meeting held at the CARICOM Secretariat in Guyana and the OECS Ministers of Agriculture meeting in Dominica regarding FTA negotiations, and participated in a meeting of regional institutions and CARIFORUM's Deputy Regional Authorizing Officer to discuss the reallocation of regional funds for agriculture under the LOME IV Agreement. Technical assistance was provided to the Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM) through participation in the Agricultural Trade Policy Conference and on a panel to address the topic "Analytical Tools and Analysis for Trade Policy Making." Technical assistance on national trade consultations was provided in St. Vincent and Jamaica, and the Directorate attended an OECS meeting of planners and MoAs to discuss the OECS diversification program. In follow-up to the study on changes in the CET for agricultural products in CARICOM, visits were made to Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Vincent for discussions with officials from the Ministries of Finance, Trade and Agriculture.



Further, the Directorate continued to provide secretariat and other operational support to the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA). This included support to the Second CABA Board of Directors Meeting and the First Annual Agribusiness Trade Conference and Mini-Agricultural Trade Show in Trinidad and Tobago, as part of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture held in Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, it collaborated with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and CABA in preparing a project proposal for establishing a regional market information service, which will be submitted to CARIFORUM for funding.

At the national level, the CaRC completed preparations for implementing a study on the prospects for the poultry and pork industries in a liberalized trade environment. In addition, project proposals on agricultural credit were prepared (Bahamas), a project proposal for the Black Bay Agro-tourism Project was completed (St. Lucia), and support was provided to the newly formed Regional Oils and Fats Association. The "Agricultural Sector Analysis on Antigua and Barbuda" will be completed following a national consultation scheduled for the first trimester of 2000.

Science, Technology and National Resources. An international workshop was held entitled "Development and Protection of Intellectual Property in Agriculture: A Caribbean Response." Participants found the initiative useful and timely, and an action plan was developed for IICA and its strategic partners. As part of the follow-up program, along with the OECS/CA in St. Lucia and the CARICOM Secretariat, the CaRC sponsored an OECS Task Force Meeting in St. Lucia on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in agriculture, whose major output was a draft model national legislation. At the national level, the CaRC collaborated with Barbados' IP Committee and the MoA in interpreting, for legal drafting, their draft Plant Variety Protection (PVP) legislation. Toward the end of the year, at the request of the Caribbean Ministers of Agriculture, IICA facilitated and coordinated an institutional review of CARDI, continuing its support to CARDI and, through it, PROCICARIBE.

At the regional level, the CaRC explored opportunities for linking CARIFRUIT with FAO's Subgroup on Tropical Fruits and, by extension, the International Network on Tropical Fruits. It also provided assistance to the National Fruit Committees in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. A study on the status of fruit processing in the Caribbean was completed and submitted to CIRAD/France under the IICA/CIRAD-FLHOR Agreement. With IICA/CABI support, two Caribbean technicians participated in an international workshop in the Dominican Republic on the production and marketing of organic bananas. Representatives of the public and private sectors, as well as of regional and international institutions, participated in the IICA/CEHI/CWWA initiative to assess the status of water resource management in the Caribbean region.

At the national level, the Regional Directorate provided support to the Cooperative Citrus Growers' Association (CCGA) in Trinidad and Tobago for hosting a training workshop titled "Making Money out of Citrus." It also assisted that country's Tourism and Industrial Development Company (TIDCO) in assessing the needs of selected agro-processing enterprises in Tobago. The Grenada/CA received assistance in hosting a workshop on an integrated approach to hot pepper production, processing and marketing, and in Guyana, a mid-term report on research on the small-scale processing of pineapple was submitted and reviewed.

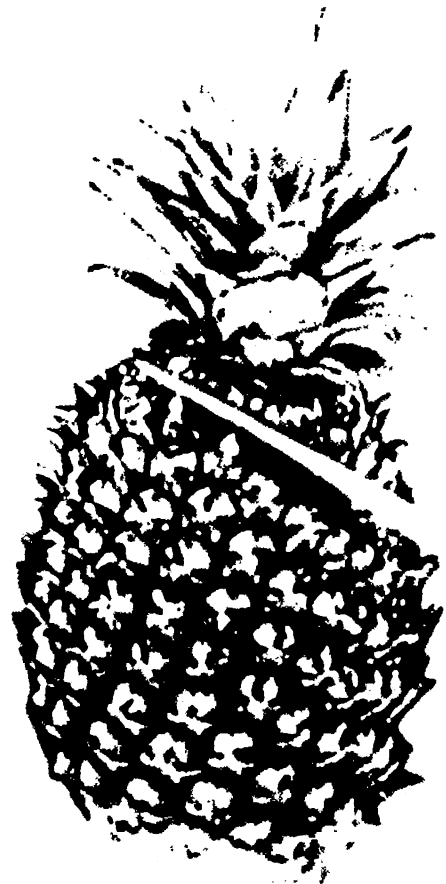
Agricultural Health and Food Safety. A new project was prepared, entitled "Caribbean Agricultural Health Services to Facilitate Trade and Health." In addition, IICA will serve as the executing agency of the complementary project "Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services in the Caribbean," which is funded by the European Union under the Caribbean Agricultural and Fisheries Program. Work was undertaken along with FAO and the CARICOM Secretariat to determine the feasibility of establishing a Caribbean Agricultural Health Agency in 2000-2001. A regional training workshop on pest risk assessment for plant health officials, sponsored jointly with USDA/APHIS, was attended by 20 participants from 13 countries. The fresh produce pink hibiscus mealy bug (PHMB) protocols were finalized and distributed to all Caribbean countries and presented at a workshop in Trinidad and Tobago to evaluate an FAO-funded biological control project on PHMB in the Caribbean. Project proposals were submitted to the GTZ (Improving Environmental Health in the Caribbean through Pesticide Management) and to FAVA/CA (Management of Black Moth in Crucifers; Management of the Varrhoa mite in Bees). The latter was successful.

At the national level, the OECS received support for preparing three projects for presentation to donors; developing a plan for the control/eradication of mango seed weevil in Grenada; and reviewing a model for a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System in Antigua and Barbuda with a team of public sector personnel. Guyana received support for training 45 farmers in vegetable production and safe pesticide use, and for a two-day training course on animal quarantine.

Under the Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF) Project funded by IFAD, the Government of the Netherlands and USDA, and under way in Suriname, French Guiana and Northern Brazil, experiments were conducted on the insect-specific sterile-insect technique with specialists from USDA/ARS and the University of Sao Paulo. Eradication using the male annihilation technique (MAT) was completed in areas south of Paramaribo, Suriname and Northern Brazil, and plans were made for eradication in the greater Paramaribo area. Use of the MAT technique was approved for use in Guyana and a biocontrol study was initiated on parasitic wasps in French Guiana and Brazil. Agreements were signed with USDA to support the project for one more year and with the Government of the Netherlands for the Suriname component of the project.

Rural Development. The Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CNRWP) was launched at the First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean, which was described as a resounding success. A regional strategy on sustainable rural development was completed and work continues to develop guidelines for implementing the sustainable agricultural and rural development philosophy.

Training and Education. The Agricultural Distance Learning Center (ADLC) located in Barbados became operational and the first CD-ROM/Internet Course on Farm Management was offered. Contracts were signed between Walters Association and VIII Interactive for the Development of CD-ROMs for the ADLC course entitled "Occupational Safety and Health in Agricultural Enterprises: Caribbean Case," and with E-Media Group Cooperative Limited of Nova Scotia for a CD-ROM course production entitled "Interactive Information and Extension Agricultural Training Course: Caribbean Connection." The following courses are in discussion and/or under preparation: Credit Management, Agri-Marketing (with the UWI and McGill Universities); Health and Occupational Safety (with Texas A&M University); and Information Communication and Extension Methods (with UWI and Nova Scotia Agricultural Science). In addition, the CaRC continued to provide support to CACHE, by means of which the final draft procedures for cross-accreditation were completed and a special meeting was held in the United States between representatives of North American Universities and CACHE.



Information and Communications. The First Annual Caribbean Week of Agriculture was held in Trinidad and Tobago simultaneously with the regional meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM. The main objective of the week was to place agriculture and the rural community at the forefront of the minds of key regional decision makers, and included a meeting of Spouses of Heads of States and Heads of Government, an Agribusiness Conference, a Mini Trade Show and a Food Festival. In addition, the Tropical Fruits Newsletter, CARAPHIN News, Economic Policy and Sustainable Rural Development, and the IICA Caribbean Newsletter were published and distributed regionally and internationally. The CaRC web page was updated and now provides access to papers presented at the IPR Workshop. The Carambola Fruit Fly web page was updated to a new three-language format. The Caribbean Differentiated Strategy (2000-2001) was completed after significant discussion and circulated to the sector's stakeholders for information and comment. Seminar presentations were made in a number of countries promoting IICA's theme "Agriculture: Beyond a Sectoral Approach."

During the year, the Directorate continued to support the Region both in terms of shedding light on the challenges and opportunities arising from the WTO, Uruguay and Millennium Rounds and in preparing successfully to address these challenges and opportunities. To that end, workshops on those issues were held in the areas of Policies and Trade; Science, Technology and Natural Resources; and Agricultural Health, supplemented by regular publication of four regional Newsletters. At the implementation level, emphasis was on activities to enhance the region's organizational structure, primarily through PROCICARIBE, CABA, CACHE, Spouses of Heads of Government, the production of instruments (e.g., draft legislation for IPR relative to agriculture and quarantine regulations), and eradication/control of pests (e.g., carambola fruit fly, pink hibiscus mealy bug, citrus black fly).

At the national level, efforts were made in most countries, with varied degrees of success, to develop and implement projects that have a direct positive impact on the productivity of agricultural production and the quality of life in rural communities. A positive indication of IICA's leadership role in the development of the region's agricultural sector is exemplified by the request to facilitate the CARDI Institutional Review.

THE BAHAMAS

Policies and Trade. In cooperation with the OAS, ALA Action, IDB, PAHO and the American Embassy, the CA/Bahamas offered a seminar for the private sector to address the topic of "the FTAA and the Bahamas." The CA participated in a national seminar offered by the private sector to discuss the economic outlook for the Bahamas in 1999 and, in cooperation with the MoA, a first draft of the CA's priorities for 1999-2001 was discussed with the Ministry and approved in principle.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Together with technical personnel from the MoA, information was gathered and organized for formulating a pilot project called "Revitalization of Agriculture in the Bahamas," which aims to introduce organic farming and orchid production in the islands.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. In cooperation with the regional agricultural health project, a training seminar given on inspection services was attended by 25 technicians from the Customs Services and Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Rural Development The CA/Bahamas responded to a request from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for help in designing a methodology and the forms needed for a national survey to assess the magnitude of destruction in the rural sector caused by Hurricane Floyd. IICA provided training to surveyors and participated in formulating the final report. Following a visit to the organic farm "Augusta Sun Produce, Ltd." located in Eluthera, it was agreed that CA/Bahamas would provide administrative and technical support to the farm. A loan request for US\$250,000 prepared and presented to the Bahamian Development Bank (BDB) was approved with some modifications. Subsequently, BDB expressed interest in using IICA as a consultant for analyzing agricultural loan requests. In collaboration with the regional project development group, a proposal was prepared for BDB. Together with OAS, IDB, PAHO and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the CA/Bahamas helped collect funds to assist the victims of Hurricane Mitch in Central America.



Yellow Elder

Education and Training. The MoA requested that the CA coordinate a working group to develop a career path for senior Ministry technicians.

Communication and Information. A proposal to develop a telecommunications backbone in the MoA was updated and presented to the national coordinator of communication and information services in the Bahamas. The proposal was approved for execution in 2000. A proposal to establish an agricultural information services was also discussed. The CA supplied information to the public and private sector on a variety of agricultural subjects.

In its second year in the Bahamas, IICA's efforts are still only beginning to be felt. Excellent relations have been developed with both the public and private sectors. With further efforts to introduce IICA into the rural sector, it is expected that IICA will soon be considered one of the leaders in rural development.

BARBADOS

Policies and Trade. The CA/Barbados participated in an agro-ecotourism project based in the Scotland District. A demand project was written for the Coca Cola Foundation and forwarded to the authorities for approval.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. A National Plant Quarantine Workshop was held, attended by 27 technicians.

Rural Development. Assistance was provided to the Association of Women in Agriculture in connection with the preparation of a project report to be presented at the Ninth Conference of Wives of Heads of State and Government of the Americas. Financial resources were sought for a marketing project in which members will manage a wholesale market for agricultural and food products, mostly fruits and vegetables.

Training and Education. Meetings were held with staff from McGill University and Nova Scotia Agricultural College to discuss courses for the Distance Learning Centre. The CA also participated in

the meeting between CACHE and universities of North America. The following distance learning courses are in discussion and/or preparation: a) credit management, with UWI and McGill University, b) agri-marketing, with UWI and McGill University, c) health and occupational safety, with two Barbadian enterprises and Barbados Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (BADMC), and d) information, communication and extension methods, with Nova Scotia Agricultural College. Meetings were held with the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Director of CEPAT. The Distance Learning Centre (DLC) was officially inaugurated, and the first course offered was "Farm Management for Farm Owners," attended by 10 students. In addition, the first video conference with students was held.

Information and Communication. A meeting was held with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the 4-H Foundation, Barbados Agricultural Society and IICA to discuss the Kellogg Foundation funds being used to implement an online library. Efforts continue to promote the image of the Institute by means of IICA participation in meetings with the MoA, and with national and private sector authorities.

The work of CA/Barbados is upgrading the skills of technicians and farmers to better fulfill their entrepreneurial functions in the agribusiness sector. By course end, students are computer literate and have learned to use the Internet to find the information they need and to market their products. IICA and the MoA worked very closely together to redefine the Ministry's functions and activities. This exercise also served as an opportunity to consult all Ministry clients and beneficiaries regarding their needs and expectations. During 1999, some work was done with online marketing, an area that will be important in the future.



Pride of Barbados

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Policies and Trade. IICA provided technical support to the Secretariat of State for Agriculture (SEA) in evaluating farmers' markets (plazas) and in formulating a proposal for establishing a new marketing model for agricultural products. A study was written on the challenges, opportunities and priorities of Dominican agri-

Caoba Flower



culture, which was delivered to SEA authorities and distributed to other public and private institutions associated with the agricultural sector.

Studies were conducted on the marketing of fertilizers, the production of green beans and the marketing of dairy products.

The CA cooperated with the Community Development


Foundation (FUNDECO) in organizing and holding the Forum on Agricultural Negotiations under the WTO; and with the Dominican Agribusiness Board (JAD), in revising the country's agricultural legislation. Talks were held with the Agricultural Bank (BAGRICOLA), the Dominican Agrarian Institute (IAD), JAD and SEA, for including them in the Ibero-American Directory of Agrifood Trade Associations (DIGA).

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Support was given to SEA and the Dominican Water Resources Institute (INDRHI) in evaluating the study "Water and Soil Management in the Dominican Republic: Needs assessment after Hurricane Georges." The CA provided support in preparing methodological guidelines for measuring the agro-socio-economic impact of irrigation projects and in formulating INDRHI's 1999 Plan of Action. A training program was formulated for irrigation organizations, and INDRHI and PROMATREC's Monitoring and Evaluation System was designed and implemented. Together with GTZ, a ZOPP seminar was given to train technical staff of the Windows of Sustainability project in the San Jose de Ocoa area. In addition, the CA collaborated in organizing and holding a meeting of national REDCAHOR coordinators, and a workshop was held for validating the diagnosis of the vegetables sector in the Dominican Republic, which was attended by public sector specialists, representatives of sales companies, merchants and producers. Also, support was given to the organization and development of the meeting of national coordinators of PROCICARIBE networks. The following project profiles were formulated and presented to the SEA: a) Selection of ecotypes and organization of a germ plasm bank of non-traditional vegetables; b) Production of fruit trees in nurseries at the Pedro Henriquez Ureña University and the Secretariat of State for Agriculture; and c) Strengthening of the coconut production sector.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Support continued to be given to the organization and holding of technical meetings of the Joint Haiti/Dominican Republic Agricultural Health Commission, to address matters related to the harmonization of bilateral criteria and the development of joint programs for the control of pests and diseases. Together with APHIS, the CA formulated and presented to SEA the proposal for a project to diagnose the situation of classic swine fever in the Dominican Republic. Also, technical assistance was provided to the SEA in the following actions: a) preparing the project "Control of International Waste in Ports and Airports"; b) restructuring the Plant Protection Surveillance and Notification System; c) drafting a proposal for the design of a system of emergency plant protection plans; d) holding events for validating quarantine procedures for agricultural imports; e) organizing and holding numerous training events on animal health surveillance and notification, attended by more than 100 technicians from the public and private agricultural sectors; f) formulating a proposal for extending the implementation period of the modular pilot project for the control of hog cholera; and g) holding technical meetings for executing the National Campaign to Control Classic Swine Fever.

Rural Development. The CA continued supporting the actions of the Milk Bank project, through assistance to technical coordination meetings with authorities of the Pedernales Integrated Development Foundation (FUNDACIPE), the purpose of which was to examine progress being made to reforest common areas, family areas and watershed basins. Under this project, the CA also contributed to concluding the first training module for project beneficiaries, which addressed the subjects of organization, leadership, community management, gender and development. An agreement was signed with FUNDECO for the implementation of joint actions and an evaluation was made of fruit tree and wood-bearing plants in the provinces of Pedernales and Elias Piña. In addition, technical support was provided to SEA for preparing a proposal for a project to establish farmers' markets in the city of Santo Domingo.

Training and Education. With support from DECAP, a course on institutional strengthening for change was given to INDRHI senior officers and technicians; a workshop was held on educational planning, in support of the Pedro Henriquez Ureña National University; and the first meeting of the Executive Commission of



REDCA's Dominican committee was organized and held.

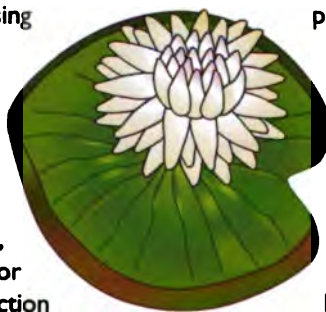
Information and Training. Several meetings were held with representatives of the public and private agricultural sectors for organizing the National Network of Agricultural Documentation Centers. With support from Orton Library staff, a workshop was held on the organization of collections and the management of bibliographic data bases. The CA's Agricultural Information System was designed and put in operation. Other relevant actions were: a) generation and distribution of monthly reports of the Food Price Information System in Santo Domingo Markets to the principal public and private institutions of the Dominican agricultural sector; b) launching on the Internet of the CA's web page <http://www.licard.org> and c) publication of studies on the milk and fertilizer markets in the Dominican Republic.

The new agricultural marketing model was launched by the SEA through the Farmers' Markets Association of the Northeastern Region. The classic swine fever control and eradication component of the project "Strengthening Agricultural Health" will receive the funding (US\$) .3 million already approved by the USDA and the local counterpart. In addition, considerable progress was made in strengthening irrigation users' associations and in implementing the INDRHI Monitoring and Evaluation System. Training actions addressed project formulation and evaluation, as well as computer skills for SEA and IAD staff, which contributed to improving technical and administrative performance. Under REDCAHOR, research activities on vegetable production were strengthened, as was dissemination of research findings. Tangible improvements were recorded both in the nutritional and health status of participants in the Milk Bank project and in community reforestation efforts.

GUYANA

Policies and Trade. The CA collaborated closely with the "new" Guyana Marketing Corporation and the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock in developing a commodity systems approach for improving the production and marketing of non-traditional crops; work is ongoing with pineapple, coffee, cassava, cashew, peanuts and dairy products.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Under the joint UG/IICA research project, work continued on a study to determine ingredient composition and processing parameters for the production of pineapple chunks. A prototype charcoal-heated drying unit was constructed for the St. Deny's cassava project; Georgetown supermarkets placed a weekly order for 1,000 packs (100g each) of garlic-flavored cassava biscuits. With the support of FAVA/CA and the University of Florida, the potential for peanut development in the North Rupununi was evaluated, while cashew trial plots established in the Rupununi and intermediate savannas with CA assistance continued to develop successfully. A training course on tomato production and pests/diseases was held for 35 farmers and technicians, and MFCL and IICA hosted a one-day vegetable production and safe pesticide use training course at Mocha/Arcadia for 66 farmers. Appropriate technology in the form of drum-type coal pots and coffee roasting pans was constructed and installed at Massarie. A project proposal for developing dairy micro-processing opportunities in Region 3 was finalized and submitted to the MoA for review prior to submission to the Mexican government for funding through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Contact was established with EMBRAPA professionals at Roraima Station, Boa Vista, Brazil and arrangements are under way for technical collaboration in cashew production and processing.



Victoria Regia Lily

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The final document of the National Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness Plan-Manual for Guyana was completed, distributed and applied in a simulation exercise. Technical and financial support was provided to the following activities held in collaboration with CARICOM, PAHO/WHO, MFCL and USDA/APHIS: a) Agriculture Health Sub-Committee of WTO-SPS, to review the proposed Action Plan; b) meeting of Chief Veterinarians of the Caribbean; c) animal health risk assessment training course; d) meeting of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Sub-Commission; and e) meeting on re-vitalization of the veterinary diagnostic and research laboratory. The Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF) Control Project continued to monitor Jackson and McPhail traps in eight of the ten Regions in Guyana; Guyana remains CFF-free. Support was provided in planning the WTO-SPS international workshop for animal and plant health technicians from the public and private sectors. The diagnosis of

Guyana's agricultural health services and the first draft of the project "Improving National Agricultural Health Services in Guyana" are near completion.

Rural Development. The Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development (SARD) model was further refined, validated in several workshops and prepared for publication. Case studies of SARD projects on coffee, cassava and dairy production were also written for publication. A US\$40,000 proposal for expanding the Coffee Rehabilitation Project to four new communities was approved by the British High Commission, and a national symposium on cattle rustling was organized by the Cattle Farmers' Association Coordinating Committee, assisted by NDDP, MFCL and IICA. The CA provided guidance and technical assistance to regional authorities and leaders from 38 communities in the formulation of a Strategic Plan for Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development in Region 9. It played a leading role in the formulation of nine project profiles addressing food security and sustainable agricultural production as part of this Strategic Plan. Project activities in peanut and cashew production and processing were launched with funding accessed through the CA/Guyana. Technical support was provided to the wife of the Honorable Prime Minister of Guyana, in preparation for the First Meeting of Wives of Caribbean Heads of State and Government, held in Trinidad. Two project profiles were drawn up for strengthening the Rural Women's Network (RWN) and public sector support services to the Network. Technical support was provided to the Handicraft Industry Development Agency (HIDA) and to the RWN in training activities on SARD and project formulation for over 50 women, and in the preparation of promotional brochures. Rural development staff played active roles in monthly project management committee meetings at Wakapoa and Tapakuma in connection with the production, processing and marketing of coffee and cassava products.

Training and Education. Two bimonthly inter-institutional meetings were held at the Cooperation Agency, attended by MFCL, NDDP and IICA personnel, for exchanging information on activities of mutual interest. Two workshops, attended by 60 farmers, were held for transferring information and technologies obtained in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. In order to establish a distance learning center at the CA, a project propos-

al was formulated and then discussed with local decision-makers and IICA's Representatives in Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. Some 30 Amerindian farmers received training on integrated pest management. A workshop was given on organizational management for the Region 6 Regional Cattle Farmers' Association at Hampshire, Corentyne, and support was provided in preparing the regional cattle development plan. The final report on the project "Improving Sustainable Agriculture in Hinterland Communities" was completed and distributed.

Information and Communication. A web site was established for SARD (www.sardguyana.org) and monthly SARD Newsletters were produced and disseminated. In addition, more than 50 case studies on agricultural and rural development projects were collected and are being placed on the web site. The book "Integrated Pest Management and Botanicals in Guyana" was received from the publisher. Three articles were written for publication in COMUNIICA on the following topics: SARD, case studies on cassava and coffee, and joint FAVA/CA-IICA activities. The Kellogg Foundation agreed to provide funding and services for Guyana's participation in developing the "Agricultural Information and Documentation System for LAC."

The CA's focus on Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development was instrumental in getting sectoral institutions to refocus on specific crops with market opportunities and comparative production advantages. Inter-institutional and interdisciplinary teams were formed to evaluate and guide the development of the cashew, peanut, pineapple and dairy industries. Technical support from the CA contributed to the restructuring of the Crops and Livestock Division of the Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock. Renewed attention is being given to the promotion and development of micro-processing, following successes led by the CA in the processing of coffee, cashew and cassava in rural communities.

HAITI

Policies and Trade. A meeting of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) was held in Port-au-Prince, attended by representatives of 23 public and private sector institutions. The Director of the Caribbean Regional Center participated in the meeting, presenting two lectures.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Rural Development (MARNDR), the CA participated on the organizing committee of the National Coffee Workshop, which was attended by 282 representatives of producers' associations, cooperatives, producers, merchants, roasters, exporters and members of the different government institutions involved in this important subsector. IICA presented four technical presentations at the workshop, and exhibited materials used in training activities geared to coffee producers and technicians. These materials were prepared in Creole and French under the externally-funded projects. In support of national bee keeping activity, the CA assisted MARNDR in its efforts to purchase improved equipment for extracting honey and other honey by-products. A technical field trip was coordinated for 30 youths from northeastern Haiti to the province of Salcedo, Dominican Republic, to observe the integrated rural development projects being implemented by the Federated Small Farmers of Salcedo (CAFESA).

In addition, the CA facilitated the participation of a national technician in an international seminar on the water situation, held in Saint Lucia and, in coordination with MARNDR, held a seminar on fruit processing. Together with the American Soybean Association, it held a training activity on hog production for technicians and farmers. The CA/Haiti also participated in several meetings of the recently created Association of Mango Exporters to identify future areas for IICA technical assistance to the Association, especially in formulating a project for boosting mango production, processing and marketing. Under PROCICARIBE, several meetings were held with members of the public and private sectors for strengthening national rice, fruit processing and plant genetic resource networks.

Noteworthy among the results of externally-funded projects was the establishment of 400 coffee nurseries with 1.2 million seedlings, which were distributed to members of producers' organizations. Some 200 demonstration plots were also established for the coffee cultivation system. The project "Technology, Organization and Credit" distributed improved bean, carrot and tomato seed. Under the PWOTOKOL project, three improved-breed donkeys were imported; three breeding centers were set up under women's management; support was provided for building a small rice processing center; and training events were held on

rice production and management of operations. Important progress was also made toward the signing of a cooperation agreement between CIAT and IICA for implementing a technology transfer project to benefit farmers affected by Hurricane Georges. The CA contributed to the formulation of a research and technology transfer project on plantain and banana cultivation, which will be implemented jointly by MARNDR, CIRAD, INABAP and the CA.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The Institute collaborated with MARNDR on the following: a) coffee berry borer control; b) a seminar on animal production and health, attended by 40 technicians; c) expansion of actions under the agricultural health agreement signed by the ministers of agriculture of the Dominican Republic and Haiti; d) support for the participation of a MARNDR official in an international meeting on whitefly in Brazil; e) coordination efforts for enabling specialists from the Universities of Puerto Rico and Florida to visit Haiti to conduct a diagnosis for detecting an insect that attacks citrus and sugar cane plantations (the sampling demonstrated that the insect is not present in Haiti); and f) support for the participation of a MARNDR technician in a working meeting in the Dominican Republic for preparing a regional project on the control of rice diseases.

Rural Development. Under the Kredifanm project, considerable progress was made to consolidate credit mechanisms for rural women. Among other achievements, there were increases in the number of project beneficiaries and loans awarded, the rotating fund reached more than US\$128,000, and the loan recovery rate was maintained at 99.4%. Efforts continued to legally constitute the Kredifanm Foundation, and funding requests were submitted to the EU, the French Cooperation Agency and the Embassy of Taiwan. Also in the area of rural development, the consultants hired to install financial management systems in the 32 coffee associations linked to projects run by the CA completed their work, funded by USAID and UCG/MARNDR. Finally, several meetings were held with representatives of the Office of the First Lady regarding IICA assistance to that Office in organizing the Meeting of Wives of Heads of Government, scheduled to be held in Haiti at the end of 2000.

Training and Education. The CA supported and coordinated the regional meeting of the Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE),

which was attended by participants from the principal universities of Haiti, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Virgin Islands and Suriname.

Information and Communication. Equipment was purchased that will enable Haiti to participate in the Agricultural Information and Documentation System of the Americas (SIDALC), a hemisphere-wide project funded by the Kellogg Foundation.

Overall, the results of the many activities implemented by the CA/Haiti during 1999 in support of the private and public sectors were very good, especially considering the socio-political situation that characterized the country during the year and which gave rise to external problems that often hindered the implementation of scheduled activities.

JAMAICA

Policies and Trade. A national training course on issues and opportunities of globalization was held in cooperation with the MoA, the Agricultural Society and the Agribusiness Council.

The study of Costa Rican agricultural management models for coffee and banana was completed and forwarded to the MoA. Technical support was provided for restructuring, modernizing and developing a corporate plan for rural development. The CA was active in a variety of activities including: a technical cooperation agreement signed with the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA); a meeting at the Agribusiness Council to discuss the Fresh Produce Market System; the Conference on the Caribbean in the Twenty-First Century; and the seminar on the potential of pepper exports to the United States. It facilitated the visit of three officials from the Jamaica Agricultural Society and MoA to St. Lucia to observe contract farming arrangements between the Black Bay Farmers and hotels and supermarkets in that country. The CA continued to meet with the Agribusiness Council to discuss the document "Policy Framework for the Development of the Agricultural Sector in



Wood of Life Tree

Jamaica"; designed/developed the framework for commodity/product studies; completed the study of the impact of trade liberalization on the poultry industry; met with RADA to discuss domestic marketing development; attended a seminar on the Jamaican economy sponsored by the private sector; and participated on the MoA's Trade Policy Committee.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. The final report of the Morant Yallahs Agricultural Development Project was completed and submitted to the project management unit, with 85% achievement of all targets. The IICA/GTZ Rio Cobre Watershed "Window of Sustainability": i) participated in an environmental education program at Reese's Farm in Berkshire Hall, ii) participated in a goat herd management workshop, iii) identified possible markets for value-added agricultural products from the Rio Cobre Watershed area, iv) met with a UWI specialist to discuss cooperative efforts for developing a natural pesticide, v) established the Rio Cobre Goat Breeders Association, vi) developed a micro-project on the use of treated bamboo for constructing farm buildings, in collaboration with the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE), which was submitted to the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica for funding.

A project entitled "Recovery of mined-out bauxite soils for goat production in the Mocho Area" was submitted to the Jamaica Bauxite Institute for external support. A visit of a Jamaican delegation to INBIO in Costa Rica was facilitated for the purposes of studying the institutional and national instruments used for preserving biodiversity; effectively grasping the challenges associated with intellectual property rights as they apply to biodiversity; and establishing links for further communications and collaboration with partners in Costa Rica. IICA-Jamaica participated in the Donor/Lender Environmental Committee Meeting at the Canadian High Commission and continued to collaborate with different sections of the MoA to provide institutional strengthening through: a) the selection of farmers to benefit from the land husbandry component and from the use of pineapples and calliandra as barriers on their farms; b) the extension of RADA at the parish level for identifying suitable vegetable varieties; and c) the publication of extension brochures by RADA's training division.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The CA participated in two agricultural forums on trade-related issues where it highlighted the need to include non-traditional export crops grown primarily by small farmers in plans to meet European standards on minimum pesticide residue levels. It also facilitated the participation of a Jamaican delegation in the International Food Safety Workshop held in Costa Rica.

Rural Development. Under the "Youth in Micro-Enterprises" project, the CA facilitated the visit of two Youth Agriculture Awardees to Costa Rica and Panama to view organic farming practices, and continued to provide technical assistance for improving the organic farm they operate and disseminating information garnered. It provided support to the "Women in Micro-enterprises" project as follows: a) important linkages were established with agencies that will provide financial and human resources support next year for the activities of the network, b) the rural women credit project submitted to the OAS for funding was approved, c) it participated in CARIFORUM-funded Projects, d) a project was identified entitled "Sustainable development through improved yam production practices," and e) a workshop was conducted to promote the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers. A visit to Chile was facilitated for the Managing Director of Tijule Co. Ltd., who reported that it had been very useful for gathering information on technology and fruit processing for Jamaica.

Training and Education. National staff received training in the Spanish language, public speaking, trade policy and goat management. A workshop on leadership, negotiation and team building was coordinated for CA staff, some of whom also attended the viewing of a video prepared by the University of the West Indies entitled "Careers in Agriculture."

Information and Communication. A workshop organized by IICA and MoA was held to establish a Network of Agricultural Information and Documentation Units in Jamaica. The Information Center continued its quest to provide information to staff and clients and much work was done in the area of cataloguing and database building. Some of the CA's publications include: a) the CA's annual report "Contribution of IICA to the Jamaican Agricultural Sector during 1998," b) Manual: "A goat-agroforestry production system for Jamaica." Several studies were

also published: a) The Banana Sector of Costa Rica: Production, Organizational and Institutional Aspects of the Industry; b) The Coffee of Costa Rica: Production, Organizational and Institutional Aspects of the Industry, and c) A Diagnosis of Agricultural Health in Jamaica. Technical reports published through the Morant Yallahs Agricultural Development Project included: a) Low-cost goat housing, b) Economic analysis of farm models, c) Carrots and ridges, d) Plantain as shade and income earner in coffee, and e) Sociological survey on response of farmers to TG&V technologies. Extension brochures produced by the CA included: Growing coffee; Growing carrots; Soil conservation practices for coffee cultivation: The case of Mango Row; Growing hot peppers; Pineapple barriers; Integrated Pest Management; Promotion of a Jamaican Network of Rural Women Producers; and Youth in Agribusiness Award 1999. Internet was used in a particularly enriching manner. The office established a web page at <http://www.agroinfo.org/caribbean/iicarc/jamaica> to provide access to agricultural information sources at the office in Hope Gardens. "BIBLIO 2000," a bibliographic database of the holdings of this office can also be accessed via this web page. IICA-Jamaica's Information Center made the "Women in Agriculture" bibliography (first in a series) available online at <http://www.agroinfo.org/caribbean/iicarc/jamaica/women.pdf>. The Center and the MoA Library have been successfully operating an informal network for inter-library loan and referral services.

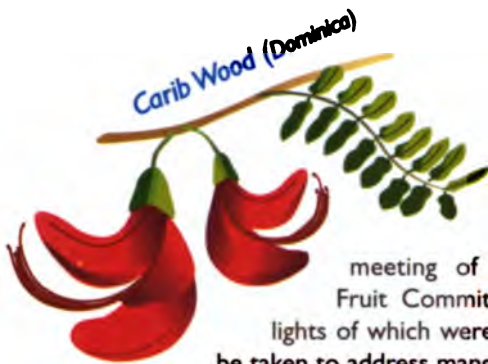
The bases for IICA's technical cooperation in Jamaica during 1999 have been to assist and collaborate with national institutions in their efforts to address the challenges facing the sector as it enters the new millennium. All technical cooperation projects involved national institutions and agencies in issues affecting the development and survival of the sector. Significant steps were made to assist Jamaica prepare for its participation in the global economy. The rural women and agricultural information networks initiated by IICA helped Jamaica forge ahead to involve women and youth in agribusinesses and improve the supply of agricultural information. Sustainable watershed management and hillside farming also made an impact with the introduction and widespread transfer of technology in the Rio Cobre area. In 1999, IICA/Jamaica's programs provided results that met the needs and demands of the country.

ORGANIZATION OF EASTERN CARIBBEAN STATES

Policies and Trade. The IICA/CARDI Commodity Systems Assessment Methodology (CSAM) Manual was field tested in Saint Lucia, Grenada, and Antigua, and AGSYS was incorporated into extension programs in Saint Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis. In Saint Lucia, the Black Bay Farmers Association received further assistance to enable it to participate in a proposal to broaden the base of its operations to include an agro-tourism venture. A proposal was developed to diversify Saint Lucia's agricultural economy through agro-tourism. Hot pepper production for marketing in Grenada resulted in a 200% increase in pepper exports during the first quarter of 1999 as compared to 1997 when the project was launched. Twenty participants from MoAs, marketing agencies and air freight companies participated in a regional workshop on a joint regional market for dasheen for ECS Countries. Workshop participants recommended that all agencies work towards a coordinated approach to the production and marketing of dasheen and that the necessary arrangements be made to finalize trading arrangements between the marketing agencies and other parties. IICA was tasked with coordinating the review of the document "Strategy and Plans of Action to Improve the Effectiveness of the OECS Agricultural Diversification Program", following a meeting of OECS Ministers of Agriculture.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Under the Integrated Project in the OECS, efforts focused on increasing capabilities to manage the production and marketing of selected commodities. In Grenada, 37 persons received training in hot pepper production and another 33 participated in a workshop on an integrated approach to hot pepper production, processing and marketing. Participants included producers, processors, extension agents and farm supervisors. All the CAs participated in PROCICARIBE meetings during the report period. Nine countries participated in the Caribbean meeting held in Saint Lucia to develop a model law for the protection of plant varieties in the countries of the





Carib Wood (Dominica)

region. St. Vincent and the Grenadines hosted a meeting of the National Fruit Committee, the highlights of which were: a) actions to be taken to address mango seed weevil; b) distribution of table grape seedlings and the reproduction of another 100 copies of the Grape Production Guide; and c) a program for a National Grape Production Workshop.

Antigua and Barbuda defined its list of priority crops as pineapple, papaya, lime, mango, coconut and melon. A workshop on fruit propagation was held with support from the Regional Fruit Crops Project. Some 60 persons in Dominica, comprising exporters, farmers and representatives of support agencies, participated in a national consultation on dasheen. In this connection, a document was prepared for recording planting, harvesting and forecasting schedules in each of Dominica's seven extension regions. In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 25 farmers and seven extension officers received training in the technical aspects of dasheen production. Three new demonstration plots were established, and the value of dasheen exports increased by 90% during the first half of 1999, as compared to the same period in 1998. In collaboration with the St. Lucia Marketing Unit, data collected on passion fruit using a commodity-systems approach was presented at a consultation, where 25 people (processors, producers, hoteliers and supermarkets, IICA, CARDI, agricultural services, and MoA marketing staff) discussed the findings of the analysis and development issues to be addressed. The first phase of the project "Diversification of Saint Lucian Agriculture through Agro-Tourism" was prepared.

In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, dasheen demonstration plots established at strategic localities in three agricultural regions now provide information for strengthening farm operations; a business training program and a radio program are providing more information for dasheen producers. IICA is working with the Saint Lucia/MoA Research Division to investigate cost-effective methods for propagating dasheen planting

materials. In Saint Lucia, Ti Rocher farmers seeking to diversify their farm operations now grow passion fruit from seeds provided by the Regional Fruit Crop Project. In Antigua, rapid multiplication work in pineapples produced some 4,000 pineapple suckers for distribution. De-fruiting followed by flower induction appears to be the most successful method of multiplication. In Saint Lucia, a plan of action was designed for re-orienting the National Farmers Association and make it more responsive to the needs of non-banana farmers. Under the IICA/FACA/CA Agreement, the major beekeeper associations in Saint Lucia received training in management, organization and business development. Situational analyses for water resources management were completed in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Dominica, St. Kitts/Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



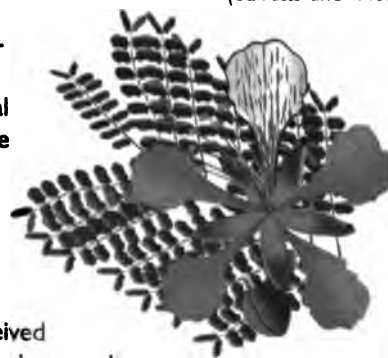
Bougainvillea (Grenada)

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Three projects "Supporting the Development and Importance of National Food Safety Systems"; "Establishing Analytic Capability for Chemical Residue Analysis"; and "Preventing the Spread of *Paracoccus marginatus* in the Eastern Caribbean" were prepared for presentation at an OECS/EDADU donors conference. IICA participated in a workshop for the OECS Pesticides Control Boards to discuss the amended version of the pesticides and toxic chemicals legislation. The CA provided technical support for the meeting of the Pink Hibiscus Management Committee in Grenada, and initiated plans in Grenada for a rapid assessment of the effects of this pest on coffee. Four workshops were held to develop emergency action plans for exotic pests as part of efforts to strengthen national health services in Dominica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; these plans were adopted as part of the national emergency response system. The spread of citrus black fly disease was arrested in both Dominica and in St. Kitts/Nevis, and national agricultural health units in Saint Lucia, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, and



Rose (St. Lucia)

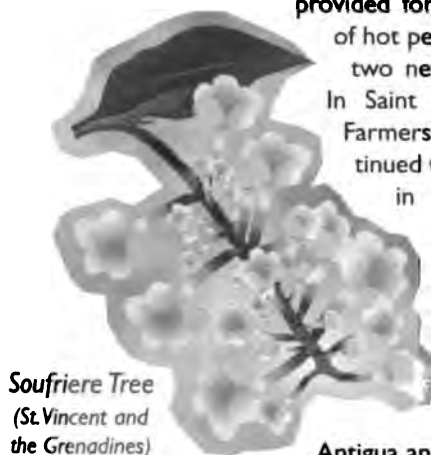
Poinciana
(St. Kitts and Nevis)



St. Vincent and the Grenadines received training in the management and control of the pest. A project document "Improving Environmental Health in the Caribbean through Pesticide Management" was submitted to the GTZ for funding through the region's Pesticides Control Boards.

Rural Development. Information on the status of youth was updated in Saint Lucia, Dominica and Grenada, and recommendations made for IICA's further action. In Grenada, ten young people received training in beekeeping, and agri-business training was provided for small producers

of hot peppers, resulting in two new business plans. In Saint Lucia, the Black Farmers' Association continued to receive training in agri-business and management skills. A credit loan facility for pineapple farmers was promoted and is operational in Antigua and Barbuda.



Soufriere Tree
(St. Vincent and the Grenadines)

Training and Education. An agricultural officer from St. Vincent and the Grenadines participated in a Cochran Fellowship Training Program in the United States, on the topic of land use management and soil conservation. Two articles "Danger of Pesticides to Man and the Environment" and "Coordination for the Safety of Agricultural Produce" were published in a special pesticide supplement of the local newspaper.

The impact of IICA cooperation services in the ECS was largely in connection with the strengthening of capacities to improve the performance of the OECS agriculture diversification program. In this regard, training received by agricultural technicians and farmers contributed to significant increases in marketable yields of hot peppers and dasheen and, to a lesser extent, passion fruit. Methodologies and tools for conducting commodity systems analysis were introduced and applied in three countries. The National Fruit Committees used the assistance received to prioritize crops for development; programs were developed for some crops. New and/or improved crop varieties were introduced and a model for diversification of agricul-

ture through agro-tourism was proposed and accepted. National health services were improved through updated pesticide legislation, preparation of emergency action plans for exotic pests, and training received in pest management and control.

In order to address emerging issues in the sector, technical capacities were strengthened for improving response to the impact of globalization and trade liberalization on OECS agriculture. A model IPR law for plant varieties was developed, and the countries' capacities to expand irrigated agriculture to foster sustainable water use was assessed.

SURINAME

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Under the Suriname national component of the multinational project "Supporting the Development of Tropical Fruits in the Caribbean," the CA's 1999 Plan of Operations gave priority to investigating and developing export possibilities and to strengthening the domestic fruit crop sub-sector and production base. To this end, two critical studies were undertaken in 1999: "A Study to Develop a Demand-Led Commodity System for Passion Fruit, Using a Case Study Approach" and "A Comparative Analysis of Passion Fruit Production Systems." A third study was undertaken by a university student under project supervision regarding "The Shelf Life of a *Heliconia* sp." Working in close consultation with the MoA, private sector entities (processors and exporters) and farmers involved in the sub-sector, priority attention focused initially on a few crops (pineapple, passion fruit and papaya). Field validation exercises were conducted on improved pineapple production on two hectares. Direct support was also provided to the national oil-palm company for establishing 7.8 hectares of passion fruit and one hectare of papaya as alternatives on the spear-rot infested oil-palm plantation. The



Popokai Tongo

project continued to help strengthen infrastructure through improvements to a fruit crops nursery and expansion of the germ plasm bank. Efforts were also made to improve and strengthen agro-processing linkages, and support was given for facilitating the visit of three rural women to observe improved agro-processing practices.

Agricultural Health. The Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF) Program, which aims to control and eradicate the Carambola fruit fly (*Bactrocera caramboleae*), made significant progress in Suriname during 1999. A total of 2000 Jackson traps and 350 McPhail traps were placed in infested areas prior to eradication in the central-south region and Paramaribo, the country's capital. The concentration of detection traps in districts where CFF is considered eradicated (Nickerie and Coronie) remained constant. Flies were only found in a small number of isolated captures in Nickerie (twice) and Coronie (four times) and no infested fruit or females were found after increased numbers of traps were placed around the capture site. The Upper Suriname River area (approx. 110 km²) is also CFF free now, which reduces the infested range to less than 20% of the country's area. From an administrative standpoint, the most important accomplishment of the national Carambola Fruit Fly program in January 1999 was the approval and signing of the agreement between the Government of Suriname and IFAD for the use of Dutch Treaty Funds for eradication activities.

Rural Development. Under the CA's 1999 Plan of Operations, the Integrated Rural Development Project gave priority to two activities: a) validation and transfer of improved farming practices, and b) strengthening and expanding farm produce marketing services. Validation and transfer of improved farming practices were accomplished by concentrating efforts on the development of the Agro-Forestry Demonstration and Training Unit, situated in one of the village-communities (Abenaston). Groups of 10 to 20 farmers from different villages were taken there for field days and other practical training, and in 1999, approximately 120 farmers were directly exposed to or received training in the improved system. This Unit is now an impact center for demonstrating to traditional farmers the feasibility of continuous farming on the same plot of land, following a carefully planned cropping program with improved farming practices, intensive use of organic manures and soil conservation measures. (In the traditional farming system, farmers cultivate a plot of land for one or at

most two years and then move on to another plot of land.) As an extension to the efforts of the Agro-Forestry Demonstration Unit, the project team worked with individual farmers (between 3 and 5 from each of 12 participating villages) to assist them in adopting the improved farming system and practices and to serve as multipliers, by demonstrating the improved systems to other farmers in their village-communities.

The establishment of the subregion's first farm produce marketing service strengthened linkages with production and provided an important incentive for adopting the improved farm practices and increasing production. Starting with five village-communities in mid-1998, the Farm Produce Marketing Service was extended to 25 communities by the end of 1999, with a growing number of requests from other villages. During 1999, the first full year of operations, the marketing service generated more than US\$10,000 for the project community, a significant amount considering it is a community steeped in tradition that practices subsistence farming and has hitherto generated no or very little direct cash income from farming. Construction work also continued on two plant nurseries and a pilot agro-processing facility to further strengthen linkages and provide opportunities for income generation and employment.

Training and Education. To support and strengthen production and marketing activities, the project continued with its training program, especially for women's groups and village-community leaders. The aim has been to encourage greater participation and improve self-reliance and capacity-building for sustainable development. These efforts were reinforced by strengthening alliances and collaboration with kindred national agencies and NGOs.

In 1999, the CA/Suriname achieved some positive impact through its projects, despite prevailing circumstances. The Fruit Crop Project contributed positively by bringing together the principal interest groups (both public and private) in the Fruit Crops Production Coordinating Committee to address problems facing the sector and to chart a new direction for repositioning and strengthening the sector and tapping new possibilities for the domestic and external markets. The advanced stage of the Carambola Fruit Fly Eradication Program increased awareness of and support for the potential of the fruit crop sub-sector and the requirements of international trade. The outcome of the pro-

gram will serve as a critical incentive for local producers and provide assurances with respect to meeting phytosanitary conditions on international markets. The Integrated Rural Community Development Project (IRD) continued to have an impact as the first major project in support of the government's policies and programs to transform traditional agricultural production in rural hinterland communities. The validation and promotion of improved farming systems and practices are already contributing progressively to boosting family food production. This, in turn, is further encouraged by the introduction of the first farm produce marketing service and by project support to women's groups and rural organizations.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Policies and Trade. The report "Prospects for the Poultry and Pork Industries in a Liberalized Trade Environment" was completed. Technical advice was provided to prominent local ice-cream manufacturers regarding the adverse impact of competing imports on domestic market share. The CA reviewed the position prepared by a consortium of local ice-cream manufacturers, identifying possible options for redress, scope for government action and private sector response. Some 75 key persons from the national agriculture sector were sensitized to issues of international trade through the presentation and discussion of the implications of trade liberalization for the agricultural sector. The CA worked with the MoA to develop an understanding of urgent issues that will affect the country's agricultural sector in WTO negotiations. It participated in and provided support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (MALMR) meeting convened for developing a national negotiating strategy for the upcoming negotiations, and contributed to clarifying the main issues/areas that should receive priority attention.

A survey on rural incomes and food access was implemented in three areas, and a case study of rural food entitlements in Trinidad and Tobago was finalized. Analytical data on tropical fruit crops commodity chains required for the review and validation of the

budgets were reviewed and discussed.

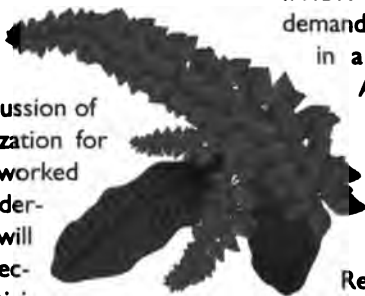
Arrangements were made for the President of CABA and a spokesman for the private sector of the region to attend the IABA meeting and for Dr. Kusha Haraksingh to participate in an American Business Forum in Canada. With the MoA, the CA sponsored the WTO-related Regional Agriculture and Trade Ministers Conference in fulfillment of a commitment by the Director General to the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. As a result of linkages between IICA, FAO and CARIFRUIT, the International Network on Tropical Fruits was established. A contract was signed between IICA and FAO to undertake a joint study to identify alternative tropical fruit diversification treatments. The CA participated in the National Fruit Committee Meetings and attended the Annual General Meeting of the Cooperative Citrus Growers' Association. A pilot project was completed for improving the reliability of the supply of fresh fruit to a leading supermarket chain, which was very pleased with the results. Support was provided to the Citrus Association (CCGA) in hosting a training workshop entitled "Making Money out of Citrus."

Further, the CA supported the National Fruit Committee, which made contributions to the CARIFRUIT work program; developed a model for a demand-led commodity chain for papaya; participated in a meeting hosted by the Coconut Growers' Association entitled "Coconut Production in the New Millennium;" conducted a case study on Water Resource Management in Trinidad and Tobago, which will serve as an input for the regional paper "Sustainable Economic Development through Integrated Water Resources Management in the Caribbean"; and provided assistance to a coconut agronomist from the CCGA to visit Mexico in order to assess coconut varieties suitable for Trinidad and Tobago and potential rapid-multiplication methods. Further assistance was provided to TIDCO in assessing the needs of selected agro-processing enterprises.

Rural Development. IICA and the wife of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago co-hosted the First Meeting of the Wives of Heads of State and Heads of Government of the Caribbean, which was held in Trinidad and was a resounding success. At the meeting, the National Network of Rural Women Producers

Wild poinsettia



(NNRWP) participated in launching the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers. During 1999, assistance included the soliciting of grant funds. Funds were approved, in principle, by the Canadian Embassy for establishing a commercial kitchen for the Point Coco Cooperative. Support for implementing the NNRWP included support to its organizational viability, through improved management skills and greater membership, and finalization of the work program, including that for the Tobago branch, which comprised training in business management and manufacture of ice cream and soap.

Further, project proposals on the following topics were reviewed: i) Youth development in Tobago: establishment of an integrated aquaculture farm; and ii) Development of an integrated aquaculture farm in Tobago. A needs assessment exercise was completed and a training program on fish processing was designed for the Mon Repos community group. In collaboration with the THA, another business management training program was successfully completed for the Goldsborough and Speyside Industrial Cottages. The CA continued to collaborate with the SHARE program of the Ministry of Social Development, through the publication of a Directory of Social Services Agencies. A policy paper on gender-sensitive agricultural extension methods was written and presented to the Director of the Extension, Training and Information Services Division. Under the Dairy Development Project, development, monitoring and evaluation continued of one model dairy farm based on Guyana's St. Stanislaus model. Financial assistance was provided to the Cattle Farmer's Association for hosting a cattle show and a feasibility study on milk processing was submitted to the MoA and FAO. IICA and the NNRWP participated in the National Annual Flower Show, hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago's Horticultural Society.

Training and Education. The CA continued to provide secretariat support to CACHE, including ongoing

financial and administrative support to its operations. It facilitated the visit of the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of the West Indies to attend CACHE's Annual General Meeting, as well as its Accreditation and Board Meetings. Spanish training began again for the academic year, with most staff members receiving good to excellent results during the last period.

Information and Communication. The CA initiated the national component of the Kellogg Foundation-financed hemispheric project (SIDALC). All the libraries in the country that possess agricultural and rural development documentation have joined to create a network coordinated by IICA with full support from the National Library Information System. A work program was developed and the CA's network server was upgraded to enable it to handle the Library Network. The CA supported the participation of two NAMDEVCO representatives in a CaRC-sponsored workshop in Jamaica to initiate the establishment of a Regional Market Information System. In December, the first of six fora in the series "Agriculture: Beyond a Sectoral Approach in the New Millennium," was launched with outstanding attendance by representatives of all of the stakeholders of the sector.

The CA's had its greatest impact in: a) sensitizing the government and the private sector to the new challenges and opportunities facing the agricultural sector and the rural community; and b) helping them plan for and develop activities to successfully meet these challenges and opportunities. With respect to the latter, emphasis was placed on strengthening groups so as to minimize the negative impact of the small size of farm holdings that characterize the sector. The CA is being recognized as an innovator in the sector and a coordinator of sectoral agencies.

CENTRAL REGIONAL CENTER

Events organized by the Central Regional Center during 1999

| | EVENTS | | PARTICIPANTS | | Total |
|-------------------------|--------|-------|--------------|-------|-------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Central Regional Center | 177 | 100.0 | 8018 | 100.0 | 409 |
| Directorate | 19 | 10.7 | 688 | 8.6 | 56 |
| Belize | 13 | 7.3 | 338 | 4.2 | 16 |
| Costa Rica | 27 | 15.3 | 1554 | 19.4 | 54 |
| El Salvador | 42 | 23.7 | 2330 | 29.1 | 146 |
| Guatemala | 8 | 4.5 | 606 | 7.6 | 22 |
| Honduras | 29 | 16.4 | 1052 | 13.1 | 65 |
| Nicaragua | 31 | 17.5 | 1237 | 15.4 | 35 |
| Panama | 8 | 4.5 | 213 | 2.7 | 15 |

Source: CONPLAC.

DIRECTORATE OF THE REGIONAL CENTER

Policies and Trade. Through the program Strengthening National and Regional Institutional Capabilities for the Management of Agricultural Trade Policies, support and training was provided to the agricultural ministries in connection with the WTO and FTAA trade negotiations. Relations with CORECA were strengthened further through the Directorate's participation in the Technical Secretariat of the Council, and the provision of human, financial and technical resources for different topics of strategic importance. Mexico was the site of the Eighteenth Regular Meeting of CORECA's Council of Ministers, at which new operating mechanisms for the Council were approved. Also, the CRC Directorate continued to advise the CAC Secretariat on matters related to world trade, at the request of the Council of Ministers of Agriculture of the Central Region. In addition, the Directorate participated in two CAC meetings and followed up on agreements reached at same. At the regional level, the countries received up-to-date information on topics of great interest to agriculture through seminars on sanitary and phytosanitary measures, the agreements of the Uruguay Round and future agricultural negotiations, and the preparation of the Central American countries for agricultural negotiations under the WTO. IICA made a



major contribution by holding national seminars in Costa Rica, Belize, Guatemala and Panama on the free trade area and the negotiation groups. It also participated in several conferences and in preparing technical studies and reports on the impact of trade liberalization on selected products.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Through REMERFI, changes were promoted in the legal framework of each country as it applies to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources. A diagnostic study was made of the legal standing of plant genetic resources in Mesoamerica; the exchange of germ plasm was promoted among countries; and technical personnel of the national plant genetic resources commission received training in the use of the pcGRIN system, in the formulation and economic assessment of environmental and forestry projects, and in strategic planning. Also, within the framework of REDCAHOR, a planning seminar was held for 21 representatives of the beneficiary countries; a data base was created of the human resources involved in vegetable production in the region; 1400 agricultural sector technicians received training in integrated pest management, intensive vegetable production systems, organic agriculture and marketing; and strategic alliances with AVRDC, CIAT, FAO and CATIE were strengthened. Under PROMECAFE, the following results stand out: a) trials were conducted on parasitoid release techniques and to determine efficiency based on volume of parasitoids and frequency; b) families of hybrids of wild types of *C. arabica* were developed; c) regional workshops were held on coffee tasting and organic coffee growing, among other topics; and d) FONTAGRO presented and selected the project Dissemination of Improved Pest-resistant Varieties by Somatic Embryogenesis.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA continued to provide technical assistance to the countries of the region in connection with the emergency created by Hurricane Mitch, and continued to collaborate with the ministries of agriculture. For example, the diagnostic, quality control and residue control laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) of El Salvador were inspected, and pertinent recommendations issued; a proposal was drawn up for modernizing the agricultural health services of the Ministry of Agriculture of Honduras and executing quarantine actions for combating an infestation of pink mealy bug in that country. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) of Guatemala received support in formulating a proposal for reviewing quarantine treatment options for tropical fruit; a proposal was drawn up for program to eradicate the pink boll worm on Corn Island, which was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAG-FOR) of Nicaragua; the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives of Belize received advisory services for implementing a

pink mealy bug eradication program; and the USDA-APHIS Manual on the Biological Control of Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug was translated into Spanish and distributed.

Rural Development. Under the project Institutional Development for Sustainable Agricultural Production on Hillsides in Central America (IICA-Holland/Hillsides Project), several workshops were held: five for facilitators, four on the preparation of small economic and environmental projects, and three on evaluation, self-evaluation and planning for local committees. Fifty-three small projects were approved in Honduras and El Salvador, with 70% of the funding being provided by the communities. Technical support was provided to the National Commission of Salvadoran Women (CONAMUS), of Chalatenango, and the Fifth Small-farmer Meeting on Experimentation was held in Esteli, Nicaragua. Execution of the project Sustainable Rural Development in Ecologically Fragile Zones of the Trifinio Region (PRODERT) continued in the border areas of El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Under this project, six sub-projects were executed in Guatemala, for the identification, organization and training of small-scale producers of coffee, corn, vegetables and fruits in Esquipulas, Quetzaltepeque, Ipala, Horcones, Angiatu and El Carrizal. Technical assistance was provided to improve traditional systems for cattle grazing, nutrition, health and stabling; efforts were made to promote reforestation, as well as the management and improvement of coffee farms and fruit orchards, soil and water conservation practices and the establishment of artisanal and industrial micro-enterprises. A trust fund was set up at the Rural Development Bank (BANRURAL) to finance production activities. The Government of El Salvador approved a loan granted by the CABI to carry out development actions in the border area of El Salvador in the year 2000; also, the Government of Honduras provided funds for start-up activities to be carried out in its border areas.

Training and Education. National education fora were held in the countries of the region, attended by representatives of the vocational and higher education sectors, as well as agricultural associations, federations and organized groups; National Fora on Agricultural Education were established in Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Panama. The First Central American Conference for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education was held, which identified the need to promote the re-engi-

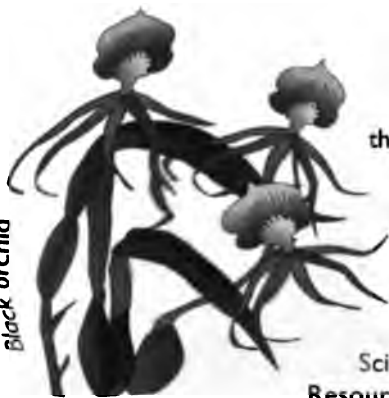


neering of educational institutions and to make educators aware of the need for change. Establishment of the Forum was approved at the meeting, as was the Technical Secretariat and the Support Advisory Group.

Just as the farming year ends with a harvest of the fruits of the land, as 1999 came to a close, the Central Regional Center harvested a number of accomplishments and commitments in the area of agricultural development. Thus, in 1999, cooperation was provided for analyzing the outlook for agriculture and information services; the modernization of coffee growing was promoted; and support was provided for the establishment of collaborative networks on vegetables and plant conservation. Also, rural organizations were strengthened to equip them to promote development in the border areas shared by Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, and to foster sustainable production on the hillsides of El Salvador and Honduras, especially among rural women. Through a strategic alliance with the association of exporters, sponsorship was provided for AGRITRADE 99 (Tenth Agricultural Convention), an event of great importance for the region that promotes the export of agricultural products with trade potential. In this connection, the Directorate prepared a study to identify market opportunities for Central American fruits and vegetables. The last year of this century was also a time for new proposals on agricultural education. Together with other sectors, attention was called to the need to modernize agricultural education and integrate it into the production processes, with a more participatory, more effective approach that is more in tune with true agricultural development. In summing up the accomplishments of this period, it is also worth noting those that were somewhat out of the mainstream, such as the CRC's sponsorship of the First Central American Photography Contest "Our Rural People," held to capture agriculture on film.

BELIZE

Policies and Trade. The CA/Belize supported the MoA in developing a coordinated national development strategy for the country's agriculture sector. It worked with RUTA and the MoA in facilitating the seminar "Agribusiness in Belize in an Environment of Globalization," which was attended by 55 technicians from the public and private sectors. It participated in



the Annual National Agriculture and Trade Show, held in Belmopan, with an exhibit that highlighted IICA's principal projects in progress in Belize.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Demonstration/seed multiplication plots for coco yam, cassava and plantain were harvested under the National Fruit/Root Crops Project, with relevant data being collected and analyzed. The project was successful in stimulating investments in coco yam production; as a result, coco yam exports increased from 8,000 lbs in 1997 to 25,000 lbs in 1999. Demonstration plots for plantains were maintained and an additional one-acre plot will be evaluated under similar management practices utilized for commercial banana production. In response to the Ministry's prioritization of fruit production, nurseries for selected tropical fruits (mango, avocado, papaya and cashew) are being established at different locations countrywide. A national committee headed by IICA has been established to coordinate the development and expansion of the fruit and root crops industry in Belize. A seminar was hosted on the production and marketing of coco yam, in Orange Walk Town, attended by farmers countrywide and technicians from the MoA and NGOs. A project is under way to promote development of the dairy industry in Belize, through which the St. Stanislaus dairy model has now been established at six farms strategically located in the Cayo District. Farmers perform all labor and facilitate the transfer of the technology to other farmers by allowing use of their farms for field days and by sharing grass and storage seeds with interested farmers.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Technical support was provided to the MoA for the project "Modernization of Agricultural Health Services in Belize." When the pink hibiscus mealy bug was first detected in Central America in Belize, IICA participated on a task force to address the emergency response to this pest, which included organization of a seminar entitled "Identification and Biological Control of the Pink Hibiscus Mealy Bug" by MoA technicians. It also provided assistance for a veterinary workshop held at Central Farm, the objective of which was to consult with relevant stakeholders in the livestock industry regarding the feasibility of

establishing a technical program on veterinary medicine at University College of Belize.

Rural Development. The hydroponics vegetable gardens established in Dangriga are functioning satisfactorily and contact has been made with women's groups in four communities to initiate the program in January 2000, which will provide seeds, nutrient solutions and technical support for garden establishment. A technical document was prepared and submitted to the AgriFuture Foundation for inclusion of Belize in the "Sembremos Semillas" (Let's Plant Seeds) program, which was created to assist recovery efforts in countries devastated by hurricane Mitch. The CA/Belize collaborated with CATIE and the MoA in hosting a workshop to identify potential areas for CATIE/IICA collaboration in the area of agroforestry, attended by 25 relevant stakeholders in the forestry and agroforestry industries. The National Coordination Committee for the Rural Women's Business Development Program (PADEMUR) was formally established.

Training and Education. The National Forum on Higher Agricultural Education was hosted to discuss and identify training needs for human resources in the agricultural sector, and was attended by 20 technicians from the public and private sectors. Support was provided to enable four Belizean technicians (from the University, secondary institutions and other professionals) to attend a Regional Forum on Higher Agricultural Education in Guatemala.

COSTA RICA

Policies and Trade. Institutional modernization of the public agricultural sector continued, with the CA helping the Executive Secretariat of Agricultural Sector Planning (SEPSA) to formulate and implement a proposal for restructuring and modernizing its operations, and to prepare the 1998-2002 Follow-up Report on Agricultural Sector Policies. The National Organic Agriculture Program (PNAO) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) received support for conducting a national diagnostic study on the production and marketing of organic products, and in holding the First National Workshop on Organic Agriculture, which served as a foundation for the subsequent for-

mulation of the Plan of Action for 2000, which outlines the Government's actions in this field.

As part of the CA's support to REDCAHOR, diagnostic studies were prepared on the vegetable clusters in all the countries of the region. Also, studies were conducted on the international markets for beef, dairy products and rice; several trade groups received support in analyzing the current situation in and the outlook for different agrifood clusters (beef, milk, palm oil and hogs), which will be used to draw up proposals to increase their competitiveness; and the CA cooperated with the Livestock Promotion Corporation (CORFOGA) in conducting a study to standardize beef slaughtering operations and design a system for grading carcasses.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. The project Conserving Biodiversity and Improving the Quality of Life for the Inhabitants of the Meso-American Biological Corridor was formulated and submitted to the World Bank for funding.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA supported efforts to enhance local capabilities in the area of food quality and safety through: a) the establishment of the Inter-institutional Group on Quality and Safety Assurance for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, comprising representatives of both the public and private sectors and which is expected to become the leading authority in this field; b) events designed to draw attention to the importance of food quality and safety, such as the First Regional Course on Quality and Safety Assurance for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, and the round table "Food Safety, a Team Strategy, a Vision;" and c) an analysis of the current situation in and the outlook for food quality and safety activities in Costa Rica, as well as a study of the certification of processes used to assure that agricultural products are of high quality and safe, and produced using environmentally friendly techniques.

Rural Development. The project for strengthening the institutions of indigenous communities in Costa Rica was formulated, and the CA collaborated with the National Technical Unit of the RUTA III Program, the Rural Development Program (PDR) and other public bodies in drawing up a rural development project pro-

file for the Atlantic region. It also cooperated with the Rural Women's Business Development Program (PADEMUR) in conducting a study of groups of women producers and in organizing the first national consultations on credit for women and on non-conventional financial services; it also sponsored the National Rural Youths Forum.

Training and Education. The MAG's Program to Strengthen the Human Resources of the Agricultural Sector and Rural Milieu (PSFRH) received support in publishing the proceedings of the First National Conference on Human Resources Training for Agriculture in the Twenty-first Century. Also, as part of its support for the PSFRH action strategy in the area of non-formal education, the CA collaborated in designing a package of courses on current topics for producer organizations, and in identifying and systematizing information on the availability of professional training and refresher courses. In the area of formal education, seminars were held to reflect on the relevance of agricultural education, involving representatives of the public and private sectors and higher and vocational education sectors. Also, staff from the Rural Information Centers of the Agricultural Sector Information Network (INFOAGRO) received training in the use of this system; and in coordination with DECAP, a workshop was held on the profile of the agricultural sciences specialist of the twenty-first century.



Guarí Morada

Information and Communication. INFOAGRO was expanded to cover the entire country, and now includes 268 rural information centers. A project was formulated for establishing the Central American Agricultural and Rural Development Information System, the goal of which is to implement in the other Central American countries information systems based on the Costa Rican model. Web sites were created for PNAO, the Integrated Agricultural Marketing Program (PIMA) and the PDR. The PIMA received support in modernizing its wholesale markets information system, through the design and implementation of tools for gathering, processing and analyzing information on agricultural commodity prices. Technical support was provided to the National Production Council (CNP) and the National Small-scale Forestry Council (JUNAFORCA) for developing e-business applications, with a view to improving their marketing services.

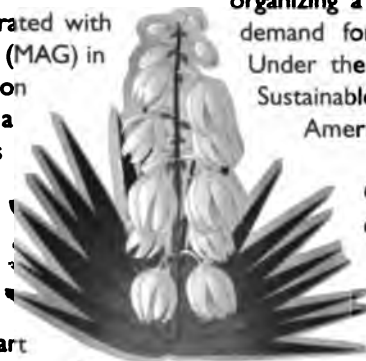
Although the CA had a positive impact in the different areas in which it intervened, of particular importance were the expansion of INFOAGRO and the strengthening of the institutions that provide support to organic production and food quality and safety, areas in which the CA enjoys a position of leadership in the country thanks to its many contributions in both fields. The expansion of INFOAGRO has brought information closer to all the stakeholders in the sector, and has laid the groundwork for the development of competitive agriculture. In the area of organic agriculture, the government's position has been strengthened with the design of a program of policies, and the organic produce movement has been consolidated by the development of stronger relations among the different actors through participatory planning. As regards the institutions that provide support in the area of food quality and safety, progress was made in raising awareness of the importance of the issue and, with the creation of the Inter-institutional Group on Quality and Safety Assurance for Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, relations between the public and private sectors were strengthened.

EL SALVADOR

Policies and Trade. The Area cooperated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) in strengthening its geographic information system, facilitating the participation of a MAG technical team in the negotiations on a free trade agreement involving El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, and implementing the Agricultural Health Information System, which is operational at the national level and offers state-of-the-art technology that cuts the costs for users and facilitates trade in animal and plant products. Some 460 extension agents from the National Agricultural and Forestry Technology Center (CENTA) attended training events on agribusiness development. Also, a study was conducted to update competitiveness indicators of important agricultural products; a national forum on agroindustry development was attended by representatives of the private and public sectors and supporting organizations; and assistance was provided in formulating a profile for the program to enhance the competitiveness of rural agroindustries in El Salvador, which was submitted to WB, CABI and MAG. IICA also par-

ticipated in the inter-ministry commission set up to review national policy vis-à-vis the Central American tariff system.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Under the Environmental Program of El Salvador (PAES), 41 events were held for professional and community extension agents, and farmers who operate demonstration plots; strategic plans were drawn up for 17 communities; 15 workshops were held to foster adoption of the gender approach; cooperation was provided for strengthening local development associations and committees; and 736 farm plans were implemented to promote soil conservation and agroforestry in 20 micro-watersheds in 11 municipalities. Under the program for sustainable agriculture on Central American hillsides (PASOLAC), a regional forum was held to discuss payment for environmental services. CENTA received technical support for documenting technologies for growing crops in trenches and ditches; 65 specialists and 850 producers received training in soil and water conservation techniques and sustainable agriculture; a study was conducted to evaluate soil conservation practices for rehabilitating the sub-basin of the Las Cañas river; and the School of Agronomy of the University of El Salvador (UES) received support in organizing a meeting to address the supply of and demand for sustainable agriculture technologies. Under the project Institutional Development for Sustainable Agricultural Production on Central American Hillsides (IICA-Holland/Hillsides), the local committees of Nueva Concepcion and Jocoro were strengthened, 26 small production projects were approved, and the MAG received support in organizing a workshop on the strategic approach.



Izote Flower
Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The MAG's diagnostic, quality control and residue control laboratories were inspected, and logistic support was provided for a technical mission comprising representatives of the USDA, SAGAR and IICA, who visited El Salvador to discuss the possible implementation of programs to control and eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly and other flies native to the country.

Rural Development. Under the project Rural Growth with Equity (CRECER), the public and private agricultural sectors received support in the following

areas: a) negotiations between the Government of El Salvador and producers for the transfer of the Aticoyo irrigation district to the latter; b) the review of national trade policy in relation to the 24 chapters of the Central American tariff system; and, c) training events on topics including trade negotiation techniques, basic international trade instruments, agribusiness, finance and business administration. The CA also promoted the creation of two fruit and vegetable agroindustry groups; cooperated in preparing and submitting to the WB, CABI and MAG the profile for the program to enhance the competitiveness of rural agroindustries in El Salvador; and held workshops to analyze the situation in the agroindustrial sector vis-à-vis credit, exports, research and technology transfer. Under the project to rehabilitate and develop the areas affected by the armed conflict in the Department of Chalatenango (PROCHALATE), 62 training events were held on production, marketing, gender, microenterprises and business management, involving 1690 men and women producers; 131 microenterprises received support for strengthening their business operations; and 75 technical personnel from the project's executing organizations received training in the exchange of experiences on tools for technology transfer and in the preparation of graphic materials.

Training and Education. The groundwork was laid for the organization and administration of what will be the Agribusiness Training Center. Curricula were designed for the two diploma programs in agribusiness management being developed with the Universidad Nacional de El Salvador (UES) and the CRECER project, whose first and second graduating classes will number 38 and 25, respectively.

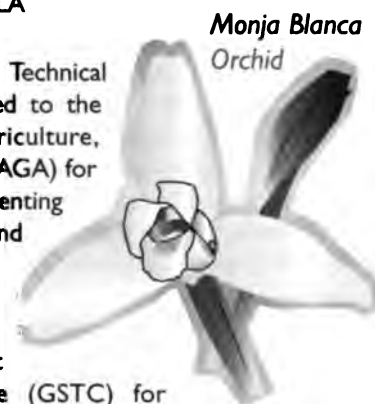
Information and Communication. The MAG received support in designing its web site to include statistical data for the past ten years on the country's agricultural sector. The CA also helped purchase equipment to computerize the MAG's library information services, and published a number of documents on subjects including a reevaluation of the country's agricultural sector, an inventory of agroindustrial goods available, and the current situation in the rural agroindustrial sector.

The actions of the CA in El Salvador addressed two strategic areas: a) competitiveness, and b) environment and poverty. In both cases, results directly and indirectly helped create and/or strengthen the capabilities,

abilities and skills needed to tackle the challenges of a rural sector that must grow in a context of globalization, trade opening and economic liberalization. Therefore, the education of human capital, the consolidation of modern public institutions, innovation in ongoing discussions to reassess the value of agriculture, and the consolidation of agents of change were, among others, some of the actions through which IICA worked with the country's agricultural sector.

GUATEMALA

Policies and Trade. Technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food (MAGA) for designing and implementing agricultural policies, and to the Milk Subsector Executive Commission (CEL) and the Meat Subsector Task Force (GSTC) for preparing the studies needed to establish their respective development plans and identify the corresponding policy measures. The CA cooperated with the Office of the Vice President of the Republic in preparing feasibility studies on ecological tourism and artisanal development in the protected areas in southern Peten and Izabal. A document was published on important Guatemalan agricultural and rural statistics for the last 50 years.



*Monja Blanca
Orchid*

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. In this area, the CA provided technical support to the MAGA in implementing the Forestry Action Plan for Guatemala (PAFG); designing and implementing the First Irrigation Fair under the Action Plan for Modernizing and Developing Irrigated Agriculture (PLAMAR); and implementing the Forest Protection Project in the Peten (PROBOPETEN). The CA also collaborated with the Agricultural Science and Technology Institute (ICTA) in formulating a strategy for positioning the latter as a leader in agricultural and forestry research in the country. In conjunction with REDCAHOR, the International Seminar on Organic Vegetable Production was held.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. IICA continued to support MAGA's vaccination activities and its efforts to maintain the health cordon along the borders with El Salvador and Honduras. It also provided assistance in combating the fruitfly, controlling tristeza disease of citrus and assessing risks.

Rural Development. The project Sustainable Rural Development in Ecologically Fragile Zones of the Trifinio Region (PRODERT), the Tropical Rain Forest Conservation Program in Southern Peten (PROSELVA) and the Business Development Program for Rural Women (PADEMUR) all made major progress in implementing their activities. The CA also supported the Central American Program to Strengthen Rural Women's Participation and Economic-Social Democratization (UNIDAS Program) in organizing a number of meetings with national authorities to discuss projects for implementation in Guatemala.

Training and Education. With support from CECADI, progress was made in establishing a distance training center, with further collaboration from the MAGA, the Universidad del Valle and Texas A&M University. A course was held, jointly with SIHCA, on the creation of rural micro-businesses, attended by 47 people from the Central American countries. Support was also provided to efforts to modernize and integrate agricultural education through the National Forum on Higher Agricultural Education and the First Central American Conference for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education, held jointly with the University of San Carlos (USAC).

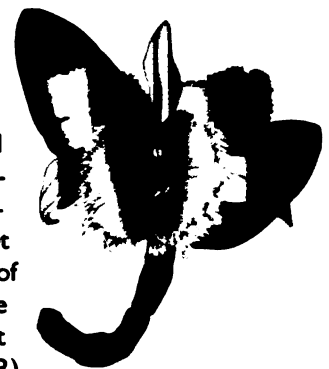
During 1999, the CA/Guatemala responded to the needs of the sector, which were determined by the fact that it was going through a transition period. IICA's greatest impact was in helping the government decide to reposition the extended agricultural sector as a key element of its development strategy, in order to achieve a more balanced development with equity, sustainability and competitiveness.

HONDURAS

Policies and Trade. The Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock (SAG) received support in preparing the 1999-2005 National Plan for Agricultural Reconstruction; formulating seven project profiles

related to the implementation of said Plan; and conducting a study on the rice chain. In addition, the Group of Exporters of Non-traditional Agricultural Products received technical assistance for formulating the 2020 Agro-export Strategy; and support was provided for SAG and private-sector authorities to participate in the WTO meetings on agriculture and the negotiations of the CA-3 Free Trade Agreement with Mexico. The CA cooperated in implementing the Management Information System Project (SIGEPRO); training specialists from the SAG and several universities; formulating a methodology on "agrifood chains-and-dialogue-for-action"; designing the marketing component of the National Sustainable Rural Development Program (PRONADERS); and designing and implementing a census of agricultural production units affected by Hurricane Mitch.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. IICA provided technical assistance to the Directorate of Science and Technology (DICTA) for formulating the National Technology Generation and Transfer Plan. Efforts were also made to foster the modernization of the National Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer System. Sixteen follow-up missions supported the institutional strengthening of the Yorito and Sulaco Sustainable Development Committees (CLODES and CIDES, respectively); projects were evaluated and submitted for consideration to the Small Economic and Environmental Project Fund. A report was drafted on the commercial and economic characterization of market opportunities; the Directorate of Statistics and Census and the Honduran Forestry Development Corporation (COHDEFOR) received support in updating their data base on Honduran soils; and a workshop was held on intensive vegetable production systems.



Orchid

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Technical support was provided to the SAG in formulating a project to modernize the national agricultural health system, and draft rules were drawn up for the organization and operation of the National Food Quality and Safety Commission.

Rural Development. The SAG's General Directorate for Integrated Agricultural Development (DGEDAI) received support in organizing a workshop on strategic planning to discuss different aspects of the establishment of the National Sustainable Development Program (PRONADERS). The National Committee of the Rural Women's Program received support in formulating project proposals to be financed by the UNDP, organizing the Conference on Gender and Rural Women, formulating and negotiating the program for rehabilitating production units affected by Hurricane Mitch (PROREMI), and preparing studies with the University of San Carlos (USAC) on funding mechanisms for the Program and for developing micro-businesses to be run by women in the municipality of Olanchito. Workshops were also held on micro-business development; the SAG received technical support for preparing a document on gender policies; the Local Committee for the Sustainable Development of the Tascalapa Watershed (CLODEST) was restructured; a literacy plan was implemented for 100 men and women producers in this watershed under the CLODEST-ALFACIT/IICA-Holland/Hillsides agreement; and support was provided for the negotiations with CABEL regarding approval of the Project for the Development of Ecologically Fragile Zones in the Trifinio.

Training and Education. Technical support was provided to the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), the Regional University Center of the Atlantic Coast (CURLA), the National School of Agriculture (ENA) and the National School of Forestry Sciences (ESNACIFOR) in reviewing the curricula of their agricultural and forestry science programs, and in organizing a forum on the modernization of agricultural education institutions. An evaluation was conducted of the first phase of the training program for micro-business operations involved in the CLODEST project.

The CA/Honduras continued to attach priority to implementing the programs and projects of the Agricultural Reactivation Plan. In this connection, it worked closely with the SAG in formulating, negotiating and implementing the program for rehabilitating production units affected by Hurricane Mitch. National authorities also indicated that the accomplishments and experiences of the IICA-Holland/Hillsides project should be replicated in other municipalities as a new approach to sustainable rural development. Another major accomplishment of 1999 was the hands-on train-

ing program for facilitators aiming to develop local capabilities, which currently involves 90 men and women from all sectors.

NICARAGUA

Polices and Trade. Under the Project to Strengthen the Services of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (FOSEMAG), IICA provided technical assistance for reorganizing the public agricultural sector, and submitted a bill to amend Law 290 and Decree 71-98. It also collaborated with the ministry (MAG-FOR) in: training the personnel of the Directorate of Producer Information Services to use agricultural statistics, preparing a study on technical cooperation options for the agrifood industry in Nicaragua, and facilitating the participation of technical personnel in the Technical Forum on Agricultural Negotiations (United States), the FTAA and WTO forum on agricultural negotiations and sanitary and phytosanitary measures, meetings to discuss a free-trade agreement between Nicaragua and Chile, and the third meeting of the Trade and Investment Council (Nicaragua and the United States).

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Under the project "Let's Save Jinguina" of the Socio-environmental and Forestry Development Program (POSAF), 118,000 seedlings were distributed to producers and 20,000 plants were produced by means of natural propagation. The FOSEMAG program facilitated the participation of MAG-FOR technical personnel in training events held in El Salvador and Argentina on charging for environmental services and remote sensing techniques for forecasting harvests, respectively. It also contributed to designing of the AGRICLIM software program, and to organizing the Second Irrigation Fair, which was attended by more than 300 people. Together with RUTA, the CA drew up a proposal for a national project on technology, which was submitted to the World Bank for funding and, together with Texas A&M University, the CA supported MAG-FOR's efforts to identify opportunities for technical assistance for reconstruction in the wake of Hurricane Mitch.



Sacuanjoche

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Some of the most important results of the FOSEMAG project were: a) organization of workshops on hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) processes in agricultural enterprises, safe handling of phytosanitary products, sanitary and quality standards for seed production, and phytosanitary surveillance; b) strengthening of the HACCP Unit, especially for the certification of seafood and dairy processing plants; c) preparation of technical norms and registration and control procedures for veterinary products and animal feed; d) design of a software program for registering veterinary products and animal feed; e) design of the National Agricultural Diagnostic Center; f) advisory services for 851 people (instructors, multipliers, sellers, distributors and warehouse workers) in the use and safe handling of phytosanitary products and in procedures for disposing of used containers; g) support to the National Directorate for the Registration and Control of Agricultural Inputs, Toxic and Hazardous Substances in the formulation of technical norms; and h) technical assistance to MAG-FOR for implementing an animal and plant health emergency plan in high risk zones affected by Hurricane Mitch, and in conducting a study on health service costs and fees.

Rural Development. Execution began of the technical assistance project for managing the Viejo River Micro-basin in Jinotega. Some 84 small farmers affected by Hurricane Mitch received training and assistance in rehabilitating their lands, equipment and other assets. Technical cooperation was provided to FOSEMAG for defining a national rural development strategy and policy, and municipal workshops were held in the Departments of Esteli, Madriz and Nueva Segovia to present the results of the study on biophysical regionalization, as the foundation for rural development planning. The MAG-FOR received technical assistance in defining a national rural development strategy and policy and in executing actions to evaluate the damage caused by Hurricane Mitch in the rural sector; the CA participated in a strategic planning seminar-workshop to incorporate the gender perspective into agricultural development programs.

Training and Education. Post-graduate training in service management, with emphasis on epidemiological surveillance, began for MAG-FOR technical personnel, with support from Texas A&M University and the Universidad Centroamericana (UCA). The project "Green Hope," a pilot environmental education experi-

ence targeting 400 school children from 10 rural schools in Jinotega, was drawn up and presented to the Ministry of Education and Culture for approval. Training events were held for technicians from the Nicaraguan Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA) involved in the rural youth program being executed with Kellogg Foundation funds.

Information and Communication. Support was provided for a MAG-FOR official to participate in an international course on AVENUE Programming, held in Venezuela.

PANAMA

Policies and Trade. Technical assistance was provided to the Agricultural Marketing Institute (IMA) for organizing and holding a seminar on the advances made in designing reference systems for daily prices at the principal fruit and vegetable markets. The CA cooperated in implementing the Agribusiness System (SIPAN), which includes analysis models for the fruit, vegetable and other products markets; holding meetings with producers from the Chiriqui highlands, to analyze their modernization plan; and designing and conducting a study on the international trade of vegetables with the United States, the EU and the countries of Central America.



*Espiritu Santo
Orchid*

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. The Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) received support in drawing up a project on the integrated management of water resources for sustainable human development in the Panama Canal watershed, and in defining the relationship between the biodiversity and the sustainable rural development components of the project for a Mesoamerican biological corridor in Panama's Atlantic region. With support from REDCAHOR, a study was prepared on vegetable production and consumption in Panama.

Rural Development. The following results were achieved under the rural poverty and natural resources

project: a) the Ministry of Economy and Finance received support in preparing a presentation on project results to World Bank authorities; b) a workshop was held to evaluate project performance, attended by MIDA officials; c) contacts were made for hiring RURAL-INVEST to improve the small-project preparation system; d) results and qualifications of the bids of NGOs for 45 municipalities were validated; and e) administrative training events were held. In addition, the rural development project was launched in the provinces of Colon, Cocolé and Panama. In this connection, an orientation workshop was held for the technical team, training events were given on communications for rural development; participatory research and action methodologies were formulated; and a variety of different events were held, including the Regional Meeting on the New Rurality. Support was provided to the National Women's Committee for preparing the final report of the diagnostic study on rural women in Panama, holding the Provincial Fora of the Twenty-first Century, and setting up the National Network of Rural and Indigenous Women.

Training and Education SIHDEA received support in planning the First Latin American Meeting on Higher Agricultural Education, reviewing the documents for the National Meeting on Agricultural Education, and holding an in-house workshop on strategic planning. The CA also cooperated with the Directorate of the Central Regional Center and DECAP in designing a project for modernizing agricultural education in Central America.

Information and Communications A video cassette was produced on the problems affecting the Panama

Canal watershed and on the outlook for sustainable development, and a brochure was published on the project Panama 21+. Under the IICA/UPEB agreement, the CA coordinated the Banana and Plantain Information and Documentation Service of Latin America and the Caribbean (SIDBAP), updated documentary and statistical data bases, and designed a system for compiling banana prices in several United States cities.

The CA worked intensely in the area of project administration, with IICA administering the following projects: a) Agricultural Services Modernization Program; b) Rural Poverty and Natural Resources; c) Sustainable Development in the Provinces of Cocolé, Colon and Panama; d) Mesoamerican Biological Corridor in Panama's Atlantic Region; e) Biodiversity Agreement with ANAM; and f) Agreement with the National Lands Program (PRONAT).

For the new government that took office, social issues and the struggle against rural poverty are priorities, and the CA established relations with the new officials in order to participate actively in opportunities for cooperation opened up by the new government's initiatives. In general terms, the CA worked to strengthen its role in technical cooperation, following guidelines established by the General Directorate. It undertook to establish stronger cooperative relations with the Foundation of the City Knowledge, located in what used to be the Canal Zone. With support from the Directorate of Rural Development and other IICA units, the IABA approved a resolution at its meeting in Brazil in 1999 supporting IICA's participation in programs to develop the Panama Canal watershed.

NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER

Events organized by the Northern Regional Center during 1999

| | EVENTS | | PARTICIPANTS | | N° DAYS |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Total |
| Northern Regional Center | 19 | 100.0 | 752 | 100.0 | 34 |
| Northern Regional Center | 10 | 52.6 | 191 | 25.4 | 17 |
| Canada | 2 | 10.5 | 116 | 15.4 | 7 |
| Mexico | 6 | 31.6 | 421 | 56.0 | 9 |
| United States of America | 1 | 5.3 | 24 | 3.2 | 1 |

Source: CONPLAC.

DIRECTORATE OF THE REGIONAL CENTER

Policies and Trade. The Directorate of the Northern Regional Center (NRC) participated in the business forum meeting associated with the FTAA meetings held in Toronto, Canada, following which a report and a paper on the results of the event were prepared and disseminated. The office continued to monitor trade-related events in the region, preparing and distributing within IICA five papers on the results of the WTO ministerial forum. Support was provided to IICA's member country delegations for attending the meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) in Brazil. The NRC Directorate represented IICA at the OAS Special General Assembly meeting in Washington, and participated in a case study entitled "Successfully Investing in International Agriculture and Rural Development for the Mutual Benefit of the U.S. and Developing Countries." The following meetings were attended and received IICA support: i) Third Ministerial Forum and Tenth Regular Meeting of the IABA (Brazil), ii) CGIAR Annual Meeting, iii) IDB Meeting on Youth, iv) OAS-sponsored meeting with the Presidents of Central America, and v) IDB/Japan Program on Agriculture and Rural Development in Asia. The NRC Directorate participated in the International Trade Symposium sponsored by the Government of Canada, and the Global Meeting on Generations at the World Bank. The third meeting of the NRC's Northern Regional Council was held in Canada, to examine strategic issues pertaining



to the Executive Committee meeting, the NRC strategic plan, and each of the countries' action plan. The NRC Directorate coordinated with the IDB to ensure IICA's participation in the Stockholm meeting to sup-

port countries affected by Hurricane Mitch: it was also involved in a number of inter-organizational meetings to address the effects of Hurricane Mitch and an inter-institutional group on natural disasters.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. In connection with PROCINORTE, the first meeting of the Genetic Resources Task Force was held at NRC offices where an initial action plan was developed and a final report on the meeting issued. The NRC Directorate participated in the Water Summit sponsored by the Government of Uruguay.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The First Equivalence Symposium was held in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, at which presentations were made by authorities from seven countries. The final report of the Symposium was completed and distributed to all interested parties. The NRC Directorate continued to monitor activities on food safety and prepared five papers on various subjects (including biotechnology) that were distributed throughout the hemisphere. A new amendment to the agreement with USDA was signed to develop "model animal health legislation" for use by countries in the Caribbean. The NRC participated in the Georgetown University Food Safety Seminar and supported efforts to secure external resources from the USDA: a) for the Suriname Carambola Fruit Fly Eradication Program (US\$92,000), and b) for the Food Safety Workshop in the Caribbean (US\$31,000). It participated in an Executive Committee meeting of the Inter-American Network of Food Analysis Laboratories (INFAL).

Rural Development. The NRC Directorate continued to work with the Institute's Directorate of Rural Development, the consultant group and IDB staff to finalize the proposal for a women's credit fund (FER-URAL), which included preparing a technical cooperation agreement for hiring European consultants. The Directorate also collaborated in formulating the strategic joint IDB/IICA action to develop an inter-American agenda in support of rural communities throughout the Americas; it participated in and supported the First Ladies' Conference held in Ottawa, Canada; and completed the agreement with the Pan American Development Foundation. The NRC gave technical support to important events and initiatives under the Rural Sustainable Development Directorate with the IDB and the governments of the region.

Training and Education. Together with the Caribbean Regional Center, the NRC Directorate sponsored the first meeting between Caribbean and North American universities, and the final report of the meeting was prepared and distributed. The Directorate also assisted the Deputy Director General with a presentation at the CEPICIDI (OAS) meeting, and supported an IICA mission to the OAS to discuss the creation of a joint distance training center. A revised plan of action for cooperation with the Caribbean was developed and distributed to NRC member countries, the Caribbean Regional Center Director and IICA's representatives in the Caribbean. The NRC Directorate provided support to the First Meeting on the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education in the Americas, which was held in Washington, D.C., and attended by about 80 non-IICA and 15 IICA participants.

Information and Communication. An agreement was signed between the Canadian Agricultural Library (CAL) and the Antonio Narro Autonomous Agricultural University (UAAAN), as was another between the US National Agricultural Library (NAL) and UAAAN. The NRC Directorate and IICA/Mexico sponsored a meeting of the National Association of Agricultural Librarians (ANBAGRO) to emphasize the need to develop a strong national library network in Mexico and assist in developing a work plan to achieve this objective. Work continued on other aspects of the library group's action plan: web pages were created, training in ARIEL arranged, and the concepts, elements and action plan for its work developed. Several initiatives outlined in the action plan at the Saltillo meeting were finalized, and discussions were held on need for a workshop with AMBAGRO and UAAAN to further identify critical actions necessary for strengthening Mexico's library systems. The Directorate collaborated in obtaining articles for the tenth issue of the Institute's magazine, COMUN-IICA, which focused on the NRC. The NRC Directorate represented IICA's Technical Consortium at the AIARD Editorial Board meeting to select key cases in agriculture and rural development for publication.

Most of the actions identified in the 1999 Strategic Plan were completed. The NRC Strategic and Operating Plan for 2000 was developed and discussed with the Member States. Contacts were made with the various new representatives in the Ministries/Departments of Agriculture in all three countries, to inform them about IICA and the NRC.

CANADA

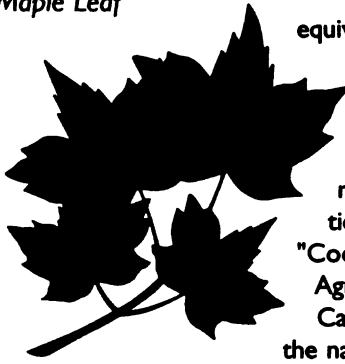
Policies and Trade. The CA in Canada provided support to the AAFC-Market and Industry Services Branch in adapting and promoting "The Great Globalization Game," also co-sponsoring an AAFC mission to St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Dominica, the purpose of which was to adapt the game to Caribbean needs and to provide training for Caribbean decision makers. It also worked with the Ontario Institute of Agrology (OIA) in organizing its Conference entitled "Taking Agriculture into the Next Millennium," which will focus on opportunities for Canadian agrologists for volunteer work, technical collaboration, and trade opportunities for goods and services in LAC countries.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. IICA worked with the Internship Program for Canadian Students and Professionals in Agricultural Sciences in selecting candidates and organizing trips for nine participants from several universities (McGill, Laval, York, Saskatchewan, Montreal, Guelph, Waterloo) to travel to various LAC countries to participate in studies on such varied topics as water management (St. Lucia), watershed protection (Panama), detection of agrochemical residues (Barbados), sustainable agriculture (Chile), prioritization of conservation lands (Mexico), as well as studies on in vitro and ex vitro coconut cultivation (Mexico) and agricultural applications of alpine peat land ecology (Chile), among other topics. Moreover, Latin American and Caribbean graduate students and professionals are developing project ideas with Canadian partners as in the case of the Oil Palm Research Center (CENIPALMA), which will work with the Environmental Technology Centre of Canada on the use of microwave for extracting palm oil, and of a specialist from the Colombia Agricultural Research Corporation (CORPOICA), who will develop a project with McGill University on nutrition systems for Andean dairy and beef cattle production systems.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Under the project "Food Safety in International Agricultural Trade," IICA participated actively with the Fisheries Council of Canada, the United States National Fisheries Institute, PAHO and FAO in organizing and co-sponsoring the Third International Fish Inspection and Quality Control Conference, held in October in Halifax, Nova Scotia. A special session was organized for participating LAC countries at which the following topics were addressed:



Maple Leaf



equivalency of inspection systems; market expectations; risk analysis; and risk assessment, management and communication. Under the project "Cooperation for Safe Agricultural Trade," IICA-Canada helped organize the national congress of the

Canadian Embryo Transfer Association (CETA), held in Ontario, which contributed to the promotion of Canadian expertise and to the facilitation of technical, scientific and commercial exchanges between Canada and its South American partners. In the framework of the aforementioned "Internship Program for Canadian Students and Professionals in Agricultural Sciences," a senior research scientist from the Animal Disease Research Center, Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), participated in a project to develop methods to measure and maximize the killing of animal pathogens in manure and carcasses during composting, in Argentina. Technical collaboration was promoted between Canadian and Latin American national agricultural health organizations through technical assistance for establishing and/or strengthening relationships with official services, research and academic organizations.

Rural Development. Under the project "Fostering Canada and LAC Farmers Exchanges," eleven Canadian farmers were selected and sent to St. Lucia, Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica and Jamaica to work on topics including rural extension services, women's participation, modernization and democratization of farmers' associations, cooperation with small-farmers' organizations and indigenous enterprises, sustainable agriculture, poultry manure composting, and poultry raising in the tropics. Under the Internship Program for Canadian Students and Professionals in Agricultural Sciences, students were selected and sent to work on rural development projects in Jamaica and Costa Rica.

Training and Education. The Internship Program for Canadian Students and Professionals of Agricultural Sciences sent 16 Canadian scholars and professionals to LAC in 1999, from a total of more than 40 candidates.

Information and Communication. Under the project "Supporting Canada on Agricultural Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Initiatives in LAC," three students from York and Guelph Universities and an information specialist from AAFC were selected for internships in Chile ("Bringing ISO 14001 to the Chilean forestry industry" and "Tracking changes in information and communication systems with the introduction of ICT"); Argentina ("Exchanging specialized food technology information between the CRDA and INTA") and Bolivia ("Development and assessment of new communication tools and practices using ICTs for developing countries' farm radio networks").

IICA/Canada enhanced its trilingual Internet site (<http://www.iicacan.org>) to further facilitate access to quality information on LAC agricultural economics, statistics, agribusiness and trade, and an on-line database of consultants. A technical meeting of ICT specialists and users from the academic, research and private sectors was held in preparation for the Inter-American Symposium "Connecting Agriculture and Rural Communities in the Americas," to be held immediately prior to the Summit of the Americas in Montreal.

IICA activities in Canada increased significantly in 1999 in terms of the number of actions, participating institutions and budget allocation. Canadian public services, universities, research institutions, and farmers' associations and organizations participated actively in the various internship and exchange programs offered for Canadians. This clearly indicates that IICA is becoming better known in Canada, and that the proposed programs respond to Canadians' needs and concerns for closer and stronger ties with sister institutions in the Americas. Moreover, for the first year, exchange opportunities were offered in Canada to Latin American and Caribbean specialists in agricultural sciences, information and communication technologies, and rural development. These programs, along with IICA's collaboration in organizing and facilitating the participation of Latin American and Caribbean specialists in international scientific events held in Canada (such as the CETA meeting and the Third International Fish Inspection and Quality Control Conference) created or/and strengthened ties between Canadian and LAC organizations, paving the way for joint ventures in academic, research and commercial areas.

MEXICO

Policies and Trade. The CA in Mexico provided support to the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (SAGA) in organizing a seminar entitled "The Millennium Round: Multilateral Agricultural Negotiations in the WTO," which was attended by 120 representatives of the public and private agricultural sectors. A technical cooperation agreement was signed to support the Planning Undersecretariat in the following areas: technical cooperation and training, institution building, strategic planning and agri-business promotion. An agricultural information and analysis system was prepared for the Agricultural Statistics Center, and the CA cooperated with the Planning Undersecretariat and the General Directorate for Studies in addressing WTO multilateral trade negotiations and bilateral negotiations with the countries of the northern triangle of Central America.

Dahlia

The CA also assisted the National Confederation of Corn Producers in organizing and holding the seminar "Agro-export Circuits and Competitiveness: Different Perspectives and Methodologies," which was attended by 40 officials from public agricultural institutions and representatives of the financial sector. The project Institution Building for Promoting Agricultural Exports and Investments (PROEXIN) was formulated and launched, in support of SAGAR's Directorate for International Affairs. Technical support was provided to the CORECA Secretariat for upgrading institutional capabilities of the Central American countries in foreign trade matters, organizing regional preparatory events for the upcoming round of negotiations, and organizing and holding (in Mexico) the CORECA meeting of ministers.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. The CA provided technical and administrative cooperation to the National Forestry and Agricultural Research Institute (INIFAP) in organizing and holding the first Latin American Symposium on Agroforestry Systems, the Second National Meeting on Low Deciduous Forests, the National Meeting on High-protein Corn, and the International Symposium on Biotechnology. Technical meetings were held between IICA, FAO and INIFAP to implement a program to develop research and production activities on new soybean varieties.

Agreements were established with UNICEF authorities to produce publications of common interest on water, drainage and environment. The CA cooperated with activities in the following areas: training, project evaluation, and the execution of programs on biotechnology, biofertilizers, tropical agriculture, conservation tillage, machinery design and economics.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Support was provided to the General Directorate for Plant Protection in executing the National Fruit Fly Eradication Campaign, designing the Food Safety Unit, and drafting bills for official regulations on: a) the mobilization, importation and release into the environment of genetically modified organisms; b) safety certification of fresh fruits and vegetables; and c) pest and disease-free zones. Courses were designed on "Mexican Phytosanitary Regulations" and "Food Safety in Fruit and Vegetable Products," which will be taught at different schools of agronomy. The CA also supported SAGAR in operating the Federal Slaughterhouse Inspection Program; participated in monthly task force meetings on hog and cattle infectious diseases; and coordinated the Working Group on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, as well as the working group on the inspection of meat and products of animal origin with technicians and officials of the ministries of agriculture of Canada and Mexico. The CA also provided support for evaluating central animal health laboratories in El Salvador; reviewing the legislative bill on the Ecuadorian Autonomous Agricultural Health Service; and coordinating the shipment of vaccinations for classic swine fever, bovine rabies and equine encephalitis for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAG-FOR) of Nicaragua.

Rural Development. The CA provided support to SAGAR through projects and programs to foster rural development; primary agroindustry; sustainable development of production activities in marginal rural areas; coffee, rubber and cocoa production; the measurement of economic, social and production impact; and to develop program performance evaluation and feedback fora and seminars, among other topics. Together with SAGAR's Undersecretariat for Rural Development (SSDR), the third International Exhibition of Non-Traditional Export Products was held, involving 336 exhibitors and products. At the event, 338 commercial contacts were made and 650 extension agents received



training. In addition, the CA fostered the development of agricultural marketing organizations and companies in the social sector, for which advisory services were provided to 303 organizations in 23 states, and 328 projects were received for funding, for a total value of 87.6 million Mexican pesos. A monitoring system was designed for the National Integrated Training and Rural Extension System (SINDER) and a cooperation agreement was signed with the National Campesino Federation (CNC) for implementing a specialty corn development program. Studies were conducted on the program for sustainable development of production activities in marginal areas of the State of Oaxaca in collaboration with the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM); and on the socioeconomic impact of the family kitchen gardens program in the State of Tlaxcala, with the support of the Autonomous University of Tlaxcala and the National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT).

Training and Education. The CA cooperated with SAGAR's Planning Undersecretariat in formulating a training program on technology development, food quality and teleconferencing. It participated in the meetings of the technical council of the National General Education Evaluation Center (CENEVAL) with a view to establishing a mechanism for a licentiate degree in agricultural engineering. Support was provided to the Autonomous University of Chapingo for implementing course-workshops for a diploma in education, reviewing and updating the curricula of the Soils Department, and launching a doctorate program in agricultural education. With support from DECAP, a program of courses was formulated for training in organization building for change and strategic planning, which will be offered at Mexico State University (UAEM). The CA coordinated the third meeting on agricultural libraries and information initiatives in support of ANBAGRO; participated in the "Latin American and Caribbean Symposium on Information Technologies in Society: Use and Impact Now and in the Future"; and furthered negotiations with UNAM authorities for organizing and promoting post-graduate courses at the regional level.

Information and Communication. Technical support was provided for editing, publishing and distributing books and other publications for SAGAR's General Directorate for Agricultural Development, INIFAP, the National Institute for Adult Education, PAHO and the Autonomous University of Chapingo.

The CA in Mexico executed a variety of technical cooperation and resource management instruments efficiently and in a timely fashion, to the benefit of SAGAR bodies and authorities. Achievements and results were broadly disseminated and adopted to a high degree by government authorities and end users. At the same time, the CA remained responsive to demands formulated within the framework of agreements in force.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Policies and Trade. IICA's CA in the United States participated in meetings of the Inter-American Council of Washington, D.C., as well as in meetings with the Brookings Institute, the International Republican Institute, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). It provided assistance to the C/LAA's 23rd Annual Miami Conference, and supported the Fresno Training Summit in Community Building for the Twenty-first Century. A new strategic action plan was prepared for the activities of the CA, taking into account comments from the USDA and the Department of State. The new plan consolidates activities under three general headings: i) representation before the U.S. Executive/Legislative branch, ii) strategic alliances, and iii) supporting US and IICA programmatic priorities. The plan was distributed to over 50 government and private institutions.



Science, Technology and Natural Resources. The CA coordinated efforts with CIDAVOCA to develop a volunteer assistance program targeting the Caribbean. It co-sponsored with Texas A&M University a workshop on Capitol Hill to promote the development of spatial tools for disaster mitigation and relief.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Meetings were arranged for IICA's Director of Agricultural Health with the USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety and the Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, with a view to further developing a comprehensive Food Safety Program for the hemisphere. Meetings and contacts were made with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Food Safety Inspection Service. In addi-

tion, the CA provided assistance and information for the Food Safety Workshop held in Colombia.

Rural Development. The CA continued to foster communications to develop joint activities with the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP), Future Farmers of America (FFA), National Association of Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC), the Southern Trade Association (SUSTA), and the Hispanic Universities Consortium (HACU). It made a presentation on IICA and its activities to the First Lady's staff at the White House, and supported a training activity for rural community leaders in California in cooperation with the office of the USDA Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Education and Training. Meetings were held and contacts made with the Cooperative State Research,

Education and Extension Service, and with the Forest Service. The pilot project with the USDA Cochran Program was launched, involving participants from Jamaica, St. Kitts, Guyana and St. Vincent.

Information and Communication. Work continued for upgrading the office with improved computer and other technology. Computer-based training continued to be provided to staff along with language training where necessary.

The Strategic and Operating Plan for 2000 was developed and discussed with the relevant United States government authorities. A congressional action plan was developed, informational materials were prepared and distributed, new contacts were made and contact lists were developed with both the public and private sectors.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL CENTER

Events organized by the Southern Regional Center during 1999

| | EVENTS | | PARTICIPANTS | | |
|--------------------------|--------|-------|--------------|-------|-----|
| | Number | % | Number | % | |
| Southern Regional Center | 66 | 100.0 | 4614 | 100.4 | 568 |
| Southern Directorate | 7 | 10.6 | 858 | 18.6 | 28 |
| Argentina | 11 | 16.7 | 423 | 9.2 | 69 |
| Brazil | 13 | 19.7 | 984 | 21.3 | 371 |
| Chile | 22 | 33.3 | 1437 | 31.1 | 50 |
| Paraguay | 11 | 16.7 | 838 | 18.2 | 33 |
| Uruguay | 2 | 3.0 | 74 | 1.6 | 17 |

Source: CONPLAC.

DIRECTORATE OF THE REGIONAL CENTER

Policies and Trade. The Directorate of the Southern Regional Center followed up on the bilateral and multilateral agreements and negotiations of importance to the countries of the Southern Region, such as those of the WTO, MERCOSUR, ALADI and the FTAA. It cooperated with the CA in Chile in holding training and other events for Agricultural Planning Office (ODEPA) staff that deal with agricultural trade policies. Together with the WTO and INTAL, a seminar-workshop entitled Multilateral Trade Disciplines of the WTO and Agricultural Trade Policy was held in Paraguay for technical personnel from MERCOSUR's six member countries. With the Secretariat of Agriculture of Argentina, the Regional Center organized the international seminar "Building the Agrifood Sector of MERCOSUR," one result of which was the creation of the MERCOSUR Agrifood Strategic Commission, on which IICA sits. The CA in Paraguay received support in organizing a seminar on the role of agribusiness as a key element of economic reactivation, and a course on trade policy instruments for the agrifood sector. The CA in Uruguay received assistance in organizing the national workshop on the WTO for the agrifood sector; work got under way to publish the third yearbook "Agriculture in MERCOSUR, Chile and Bolivia," which will be distributed in 2000; and, in coordination with the CAs, eight agrifood electronic bulletins from the Southern Cone were produced and distributed to 548 institutions.



Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Under PROCISUR, some of the most important results attained in 1999 were: a) the analysis of molecular diversity of *T. pratense* cultivars from Chile and Uruguay; b) training for national technical personnel in plant pathology techniques and molecular biology; c) design of projects on forage legumes and the molecular characterization of *Pyricularia grisea*; d) integration of Latin American genetic resources networks, to enhance actions in this field in LAC; e) training for technical personnel in the area of documentation and information and the conservation and use of genetic resources in the region; f) formulation of projects on the biological control of the codling worm, direct planting and the impact of climatic change on the use and value of land; g) a training workshop on research prioritization and environmental impact projects; h) consolidation of the network of researchers who study post-harvest handling of fruits (Chile, Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay); i) support in organizing and managing the integration of agricultural and agroindustrial technologies; j) preparation of the project Economic Impact of Climatic and Technological Change on Agriculture in the Southern Cone; and k) training in methodologies for performing economic evaluations of environmental impact. PROCITROPICOS also held the First Meeting for Prospective Analysis, a result of which was a proposal for restructuring the Program. Together with the Government of Uruguay and the CA in that country, the Second Meeting of the Waters was held to address technical aspects of water management and conservation and adopt recommendations and common policies on this topic.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. A regional agricultural health project to be implemented in 2000 was approved at the meeting of the Southern Cone Plant Protection Committee (COSAVE) held in Argentina. Support was provided for the activities of the Regional Research and Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Misiones, Paraguay, and information on the detection and spread of pests of quarantine importance for the region and on national phytosanitary regulations was distributed to the Southern Cone countries. Further support was provided to the National Agricultural Health and Quality Service (SENASA) of Argentina, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) of Paraguay received technical assistance in combating the whitefly. The Regional Center also participated in the Tenth National Livestock, Agriculture and Industry Exhibition, in Paraguay.

Rural Development. The Southern Cone ministers of agriculture praised the results obtained to date through PROCODER, as well as its current and potential importance, asking national institutions with rural development programs to participate in its activities. In addition, the Eighth Assembly of the PROCODER Advisory Council was organized; a seminar on innovative technologies for training farmers was held for 60 technicians; 16 technical papers were prepared; and research was conducted on the impact of national policies on family farms in the Southern Region.

Training and Education. The Regional Center collaborated with the CA in Argentina in organizing the Forum of Deans of Agricultural Universities of the region.

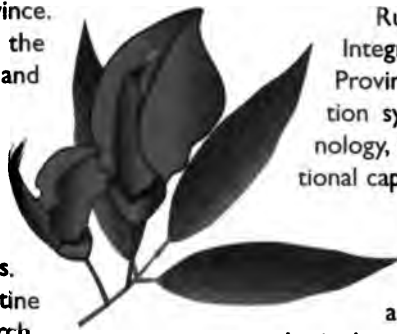
Information and Communication. The CA in Brazil received support in implementing the Integrated Institutional Management System; two electronic meetings were held among computer specialists from the CAs of the Southern Regional Center; and the Center held its first electronic conference, involving the Regional Directorate and the Representatives at the CAs of the Center.

In 1999, presidential and general elections were held in several countries of the region, which to a certain extent complicated the prioritization and implementation of cooperation actions because of the possible turnover of authorities. The economic-financial instability caused by the Asian crisis aggravated this situation. Nonetheless, as noted above, the CAs of the Region and the Directorate were able to provide the cooperation they had pledged and which was requested by the countries. Specifically as regards cooperation, particularly noteworthy was the approval of the new agricultural health project for the five countries of the Regional Center plus Bolivia. As for the Center's administrative, financial and accounting operations, a major step forward were the initial steps for installing the BAAN system, which will expand and facilitate the decentralization process under way within the Institute.

ARGENTINA

Policies and Trade. In December, the CA was found to meet NM-ISO 9002 requirements: 1994 standards for four services: preparing studies and publications,

formulating and evaluating projects, conducting seminars and meetings, and administering third-party resources. The Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, Industry and Trade (MAGIC) of the province of Santa Fe received support in analyzing the competitiveness of sugar, and a business re-engineering project was implemented for two sugar mill cooperatives in the northern part of the province. The CA cooperated with the Secretariat of Strategic Planning and the Universidad Tres de Febrero in organizing and holding the seminar Building the Agrifood Sector in MERCOSUR and two meetings of the cycle of quarterly meetings to upgrade business skills. Reports on status of the Argentine agrifood sector for January-March, April-June and July-September 1999 were published and distributed; a study on the Argentine agrifood sector during the 1990s was updated with information for 1997-1999; and the document "Argentina in Figures" was updated and published.



Ceibo Flower

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. The National Agricultural Technology Institute (INTA) received technical and logistic support in connection with the Institutional Evaluation Programs. The second stages of the following projects got under way: a) Integrated Agricultural Information System; b) Modernization of Agricultural Services: Fisheries Component; c) Quality Certification; and d) Promotion of Forestry Plantations.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The project Integrated Management of Codling Worm and Oriental Fruit Moth in Orchards in the Province of Mendoza was formulated and approved. A feasibility study prepared for a plant protection program in Patagonia comprises three projects: one to eradicate the fruit fly, another to suppress codling worm and oriental fruit moth, and the third to promote vegetable health. A program on agrifood competitiveness in the Province of Catamarca was formulated and approved, and an agreement was signed with the National Agricultural Health and Quality Service (SENASA) to execute a project to prevent bovine spongiform encephalopathy in Argentina. Also with SENASA, the CA organized the Third Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy and the

International Symposium on Transmissible Encephalopathies in Humans and Animals. Also, technical and logistic support were provided for executing a project to prevent and eradicate cotton weevil and another to reorganize tobacco-growing areas of Argentina.

Rural Development. A project entitled Integrated Development of Irrigation Areas in the Province of La Rioja, aimed at modernizing irrigation systems, organizing users, transferring technology, developing trade and strengthening institutional capabilities, was formulated.

Training and Education. Technical and logistic support was provided for the activities of the Forum to Analyze Higher Agricultural Education; the document Curricular Reform in Agronomy in Argentina was published; a forum on higher education was held in Rosario, Santa Fe; and the CA participated in 14 national and international seminars and technical meetings.

Information and Communication. Twenty press releases were issued on a variety of topics, which have helped IICA, whose publications are being quoted more frequently in the mass media, consolidate its position as a leading institution in the agricultural sector.

The positive results achieved in 1999 reflect the strategy proposed for this CA, which is to occupy and maintain a position of importance in the technical cooperation "market." To this end, efforts were made to consolidate IICA's competitive advantages and gain a position in the eye of the public and private sectors as an outstanding cooperation agency, not only because it does what it does well, but also because it can prove it since its four principal services are ISO 9002 certified. New terrain has been gained, and the advances already made (institutional and geographic) have been consolidated throughout Argentina and in the news media, all of which contributed to the record amounts of funds now managed for third parties. An additional result of the ISO 9002 certification was its impact on CA staff who, through integration, interaction and proactive behavior at all levels, brought about a change in the CA's modus operandi and improved use of existing capabilities. Finally, IICA's vision on a number of sectoral issues was disseminated, contributing genuinely to shaping opinion in that country.

BRAZIL

Policies and Trade. The Ministry of Agriculture/CEPLAC received technical support in preparing documents on the new institutional mission and its strategic planning efforts, with a view to efficiently and effectively meeting the technological needs of agriculture in the humid tropics.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. The CA collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Supply (MA) in restructuring the National Meteorology, Remote Sensing, Telecommunications and Agrometeorology Network, and in supervising the meteorology districts (DISMEs). It cooperated with the Secretariat of Rural Development (SDR) in the project Modernization and Computerization of the National Plant Classification System. Under the IICA-SRH/DNOCS Agreement, support was provided to the Northeast Irrigation Project through the distribution and transfer of technology, 55 training events, the establishment of the municipal councils of the Municipal Community Support Fund (FUMAC), and the preparation of hydro-geological studies.

In addition, the Secretariat of Water Resources (SRH) received technical support for formulating a national policy on irrigation and drainage, and a proposal for creating the Center for Advanced Studies on Water Resource Management. The Ministries of Environment, Water Resources and Legal Amazonia received support in executing the National Irrigation and Drainage Program (PRONID), for implementing mechanisms and instruments for its coordination and management; programs and projects for the development of irrigated agriculture were formulated and implemented: and an information system was developed on current conditions in the domestic and foreign fruit markets and irrigation opportunities. A program was formulated for assisting irrigated areas in becoming autonomous and training the agents involved.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. The MA was supported in formulating strategic plans for programs promoting agricultural production and certification, and in strengthening agricultural health institutions in the states of Pernambuco, Ceara, Bahia and Paraiba. The Agricultural Defense Service received support in formulating and implementing a plan for the upgrading the country's agricultural defense policy, and technical assistance was provided to the Brazilian Association of Meat Exporting Industries (ABIEC)

for training technical personnel in applying hazard analysis and critical control points methods, and in the use of administrative procedures for registering establishments and animal products.

Rural Development. Support was provided to the Special Secretariat for Regional Policies (Ministry of National Integration) for identifying eleven micro-regions where detailed studies will be conducted; the DATATIERRA Network became operational; the Management Information System (SIG) was prepared for use by the Middle Western Fund (FOC), the Northern Fund (FNO) and the Northeastern Fund (FNE); and a socioeconomic study was conducted of the regions in the states of Pernambuco, Ceara and Bahia in which five priority activities of the PROAGA project will be implemented. The CA cooperated with the Bank of Northeastern Brazil in validating a line of funding for fish breeding and a program to fund fisheries activities in the region, and training events were held in the use of participatory methodologies in local development efforts. The San Francisco Valley Development Corporation (CODEVASF) received support in preparing a plan for making the Jaiba irrigation district economically self-sufficient, and a program was formulated for improving banana productivity and quality.

Within the framework of the programs to combat rural poverty, a development program was launched to increase access to income, employment and basic social services for low-income people. In the State of Ceara, studies on sustainable reform were conducted, and an integrated and strategic approach to combating rural poverty was developed. In the State of Pernambuco, plans were drawn up for developing agribusinesses in the fruit sector, and for improving the methodology for sustainable planning. The National Settlement and Agrarian Reform Institute (INCRA) received support in decentralizing agrarian reform through strengthened municipalities, and in developing methods for analyzing and validating funding proposals.

Under the pilot project in support of agrarian reform entitled the Land Titling Program, the Secretariat for Planning of the State of Maranhao (SEPLAN/MA) received support for the training workshops on technical assistance, credit and sustainable development held for technical personnel and leaders of beneficiary communities. Under the IICA/CHESF project Support for Agricultural Development in the Itaparica Settlement, producer organizations were strengthened and progress was reported in efforts to promote the adoption of worm farming, which will have a great technological and economic impact on the farms of



Ipê-amarelo

re-settled small farmers in the medium and long terms; and operators of self-managed enterprises received training in management and the organization of cooperatives. The Secretariat of Agriculture received support in preparing project proposals aimed at formulating an agricultural policy for the state of Rio Grande do Sul, conducting a diagnostic study of the rice sector, fostering fruit production and export, and promoting flower production.

The CA in Brazil sought to diversify its field of action for technical cooperation in the agricultural sector. Particularly noteworthy in terms of rural development was the support the Institute provided to the secretariats of planning in the northeastern states, particularly in connection with the execution of projects to combat rural poverty through the identification of new economic activities that enable the rural poor to increase their incomes. IICA also provided valuable support in strengthening the water resources sector, especially by providing institutional and operating support to the Secretariat of Water Resources of the Ministry of Environment, Water Resources and Legal Amazonia. Lastly, the CA worked closely with the Secretariat for Agricultural Defense/Ministry of Agriculture in formulating a new national agricultural protection policy, which calls for the adoption of a new conceptual model and a method for upgrading the country's agricultural health system.

CHILE

Policies and Trade. The CA/Chile provided support to the National Directorate of Agricultural and Livestock Services (SAG) in analyzing various issues related to the institutional setting, such as the technical factors that determine access to international markets, environmental regulations governing agrifood development, quality as a political option for agricultural development, and strategic options for agriculture. It also collaborated with the Agricultural Planning Office (ODEPA) in strengthening the INFOAGROSISTEMA inter-institutional network by incorporating information on the costs of producing beef, milk, vegetables and fruits in Region V; and in designing models for mixed farm production systems. A program was completed for disseminating information on and providing training in multilateral trade regulations and the outlook for the next round of WTO agricultural negotiations. The participants in the eight workshops included members of the business community, leaders of campesino organizations and representatives of the academic and agroindustrial sectors. Support was also provided to PROCHILE, the organization responsible for promoting Chilean trade

worldwide, in conducting a prospective study on Chile's forestry exports to the MERCOSUR countries.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. A workshop was held on the outlook for the development of the national cattle and sheep-breeding industries, which was attended by 21 SAG specialists; support was also provided to the SAG in preparing the final version of the Environmental Agenda. The CA collaborated with ODEPA in formulating the environmental agenda for the agroforestry sector, and in organizing fora to discuss the issue with representatives of both the public and private agricultural sectors.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Nine teleconferences were held on the modernization of agricultural health services, specifically for improving their capacity to assess the setting. A technical proposal was drawn up for modernizing Chile's agricultural health services, and training workshops were held for SAG technical personnel and private sector representatives on the topics of safety and quality assurance systems, the identification and official registration of cattle, and protection of indications of origin.

Rural Development. Support was provided to INDAP in the following actions: a) creating and strengthening the Commission for Information System Development and the Commission for Institutional Development of the Management Centers; b) implementing the program for horizontal articulation of producers by commodity; c) designing the operating strategy for the Inter-American Network of Campesino Agribusiness Organizations; d) organizing and holding workshops on the integration of producers by commodity (vegetables, legumes, flowers, honey and milk); and e) designing land-mapping software. The CA also supported the PRODAR's actions to reactivate REDAR/Chile, and a donation was negotiated with IFAD for implementing the Program to Strengthen Rural Micro-businesses.

Training and Education. Under the Project to Support the Modernization of Vocational Agricultural and Forestry Education, a cooperation program on irrigation and drainage was implemented with the country's agricultural high schools; a seminar was held on human resource training for Chile's agroforestry sector, attended by 70 people; a report was prepared and published on teacher training needs of 30 agricultural high schools; and 60 teachers received training at a course on food technology for the agroindustrial sector. The CA also supported INDAP in training instructors through courses for area agency chiefs



Copihue

on business management, business administration methods and techniques and strategic administration. It also signed a cooperation agreement with the Foundation for Communications, Training and Culture in the Agricultural Sector (FUCOA), of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Information and Communication. INFOAGROSISTEMA was promoted at the hemispheric level and documents were published and distributed on vocational forestry education in Chile, the situation of rural women, the WTO agreements and multilateral negotiations, policies for the development of Chile's agricultural sector; the status of the country's cattle and sheep-breeding industries, and strategic options for agriculture.

During 1999, the CA strengthened its relations with small-farmer organizations and the public, private and academic agroforestry sectors by providing ongoing support to efforts to modernize agriculture's institutional framework. It also contributed to defining articulation and management mechanisms for enhancing production, trade and the competitiveness of the country's small farmers. Significant progress was made in modernizing the vocational agricultural and forestry education system, agricultural health and international trade, which made it possible to clearly determine the strategic options available. All the above led to an increase in cooperation actions and in the amount of external resources administered by the CA.

PARAGUAY

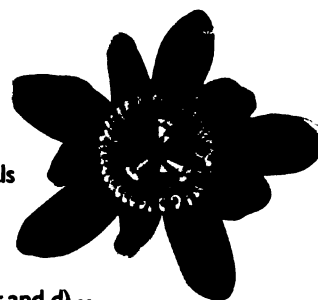
Policies and Trade. Technical and logistic support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) in preparing a study on the marketing of Chilean agricultural products in Paraguay. A report was presented to MAG on the technical and administrative decentralization of the public sector, and the CA cooperated with MAG's Marketing Directorate in organizing a workshop to analyze the unit's operations and structure, as well as a conference on agribusiness activities. A status report on Paraguay's agrifood sector was prepared and distributed; a course was held on agricultural multilateral trade negotiations and agreements with MAG's General Planning Directorate, attended by 62 MAG and private-sector professionals and officials; and the Electronic Agrifood Bulletin of the Southern Cone Countries was distributed among international organizations, embassies and national agricultural sector institutions.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. Support was provided to MAG's Agricultural Research Directorate (DIA)

in the following actions: a) regional research trials on cereals and oilseeds; b) the evaluation of sunflower and corn hybrids; c) the participation of officials in activities organized by PROCISUR; and d) implementation of actions under the *Mburucuyá* the Itaipu Program. The CA also provided technical support to the Paraguayan Chamber of Cereal and Oilseed Exporters (CAPECO) in organizing a roundtable entitled "Transgenic Soybeans: Health, the Environment and the Competitiveness of Commercial Agriculture." It cooperated with CONACYT in organizing the first seminar for consultations on Paraguay's scientific and technological needs, and with the DIA, CAPECO and the Paraguayan Rural Association in organizing and holding a seminar on the institutional modernization of the agricultural research and technology transfer system. It also prepared a report on family farming in Paraguay.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. In collaboration with MAG, IICA held a seminar on the control of the use and management of agrochemicals and veterinary products in agricultural activities in Paraguay. It also assisted the Plant Protection Directorate in publishing a manual on phytosanitary procedures; in setting up a veterinary diagnostic laboratory in the department of Misiones and another at the Undersecretariat of Livestock; in implementing a program for the prevention and control of the whitefly and the binational Argentina/Paraguay project for the control of the cotton weevil. In addition, it helped organize the meetings of the Permanent Technical Groups (GTP) on agroforestry health and pests not subject to mandatory quarantine restrictions, of the Southern Area Plant Protection Committee (COSAVE); and assisted the National Animal Health Service (SENACSA) in holding a seminar on the plant and animal health import and export requirements for international trade.

Rural Development. A cooperation agreement was signed with MAG for implementing the Northeastern Region Credit Project. Support was provided to the Secretariat for Women's Affairs/Office of the President in preparing a guide for incorporating the gender approach into sustainable rural development projects, and holding a workshop on how to use the guide. Under the project to consolidate rural settlements, technical and logistic support was provided to the National Directorate for Project Coordination and Administration (DINCAP) for strengthening the associations and commercial output of small farmers in the Coronel Oviedo region, holding training events for the staff of the project's executing unit on the



use of software programs, and preparing a study on the potential supply of agricultural technical assistance in the private sector, in support of the Small Cotton Farm Development Program (PRODESAL).

The CA also collaborated with the Rural Welfare Institute (IBR) in formulating a proposal for modernizing its operations; it carried out and presented to the MAG's Agricultural Extension Directorate (DEAG) a socio-economic study of producers' organizations in 15 microregions in the Department of Concepcion; and implemented a training module for DEAG officials on the organization and management of microenterprises. IICA also signed and implemented cooperation agreements with MAG for developing small cotton farms, upgrading the capabilities of grassroots projects, and preparing cooperative production projects.

Training and Education. Technical cooperation was provided to the Council of Deans and Directors of Schools of Agrarian Sciences and Agronomic Engineering for monitoring and evaluating the strategic planning efforts of schools of agronomy in Paraguay, and organizing and implementing a workshop to review and design study programs. The CA also collaborated with the Association of Agronomists in organizing and holding the Third Paraguayan Congress of Agronomists.

Information and Communication. The web page of the CA/Paraguay (<http://www.iica.org.py>) was designed and launched, and a data base was designed for press articles on the Paraguayan agrifood sector. Materials of the *ComunICA* radio magazine were distributed to nine radio stations; information on courses, seminars and events organized by other Institute units was circulated among the corresponding national officials; and books published by IICA were exhibited at the International Fair of Livestock, Industry, Trade and Services (EXPO 99).

The activities of the CA/Paraguay in support of public- and private-sector agricultural and rural institutions had a major impact, leading to improvements in the implementation of the rural development projects administered by MAG. They also strengthened the technical capabilities of a number of agricultural agencies in the public and private sectors, capabilities required for the institutional modernization process needed to enable the country to participate in world markets, and to promote relations between institutions in the public and private agricultural and rural sectors, especially as regards the production-related and management capabilities of producers' organizations.

URUGUAY

Policies and Trade. The CA provided support to the Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries (MGAP) in organizing training events for specialists from the public and private sectors and disseminating information on international agricultural policies and trade negotiations. It also cooperated in coordinating actions with the agricultural trade policy units of ministries in other countries of the region and in incorporating MGAP into the Hemispheric Forum of Agricultural Negotiators. Technical assistance was provided to the Agricultural Planning and Policy Office (OPYPA) for characterizing living conditions in rural areas, analyzing the macroeconomic situation, and preparing a project for coordinating institutions involved in the development and/or analysis of public policies. The CA also cooperated with the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mines in implementing the Agendas for Sectoral Competitiveness; and collaborated with the Table and Wine Grape Growers' Association in designing a strategy to open up commercial channels and penetrate new markets. At the regional level, the CA supported IICA's ongoing participation in the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) as an observer, which included identifying and designing joint cooperation actions with this regional forum, and monitoring the regional integration between ALADI and MERCOSUR. It also provided assistance to the Pan American Milk Federation (FEPALE) in preparing training activities on international trade negotiations for the hemisphere's dairy sector.

Science, Technology and Natural Resources. The CA cooperated in organizing the Second Meeting of Waters, which was attended by 372 people from South, Central and North America and the Caribbean and at which some 70 papers and 10 special presentations were given. In this area of action, the CA also supported the General Directorate of Agricultural Services (DGSA) in importing inputs for use under the National Silos Plan, and provided logistic assistance to PROCISUR for actions related to the National Agricultural Research Institute.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety. Support was provided to the Agricultural Plan Institute and the School of Veterinary Sciences in organizing a seminar on modern extension methodologies; the First Latin American Congress of Specialists in South American Small Ruminants



and Camelidae; and a workshop on the determination of minimum water quality standards for animal production. The CA collaborated with the University of the Republic and the Agricultural Plan Institute in organizing a seminar on Uruguayan meat products, and with FEPALE, the Agricultural Plan Institute and the School of Veterinary Sciences of the University of the Republic, in holding a seminar on dairy farming extension systems and the analysis of successful experiences, which was attended by specialists from the United States, Israel, Spain, Argentina, Costa Rica, Brazil and Uruguay. Technical assistance was provided to the General Directorate of Agricultural Services in analyzing the current status of all the Directorate's management processes, and in implementing a nationwide computerized management system. The CA also assisted the Rural Association of Uruguay (ARU) in participating in a teleconference of animal health specialists to discuss the outlook for stock-raising in the region, once Argentina changes its sanitary status with regard to foot-and-mouth disease.

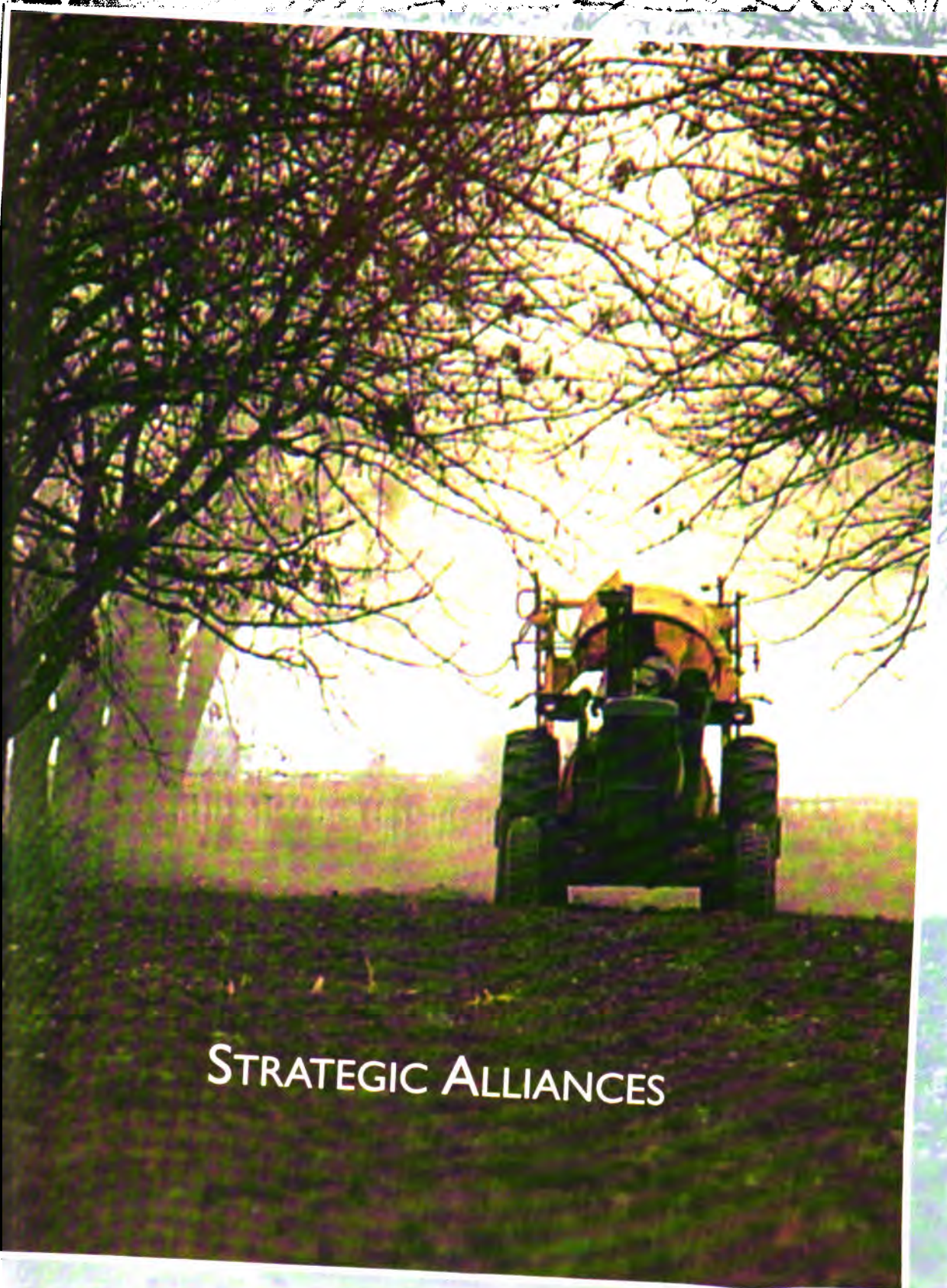
Rural Development. Support was provided to MGAP in implementing the National Livestock Development Program (PRONADEGA), through technical assistance aimed at monitoring and further developing the Technology Transfer System and the System for the Physical and Economic Registration of Farms. Technical and logistical support was also provided to the National Granja Board (JUNAGRA) in holding an international course on agro-industrial processes for fruits and vegetables, and another course on the impact of post-harvest management on the quality and marketing of fresh fruits, in publishing a document on the processing of peaches, and in preparing the plan of activities for 1999. As with PRONAPPA/IFAD, support was also provided in activities related to PROCODER. Furthermore, technical assistance was provided to the Granja Modernization Program (PREDEG) in revising and analyzing 25 case studies on successful experiences related to vegetables, fruit and citrus fruit production, wine-growing, farm animals and agroindustries; and information on the Rural Agroindustry Development Program (PRODAR) was disseminated among institutions in different parts of the country.

Training and Education. The CA strengthened relations with the University of the Republic in connection with educational integration linked to the economic and trade integration agreements. It cooperated with the University's School of Agronomy in organizing the Regional Forum of Schools of Agronomy of the MERCOSUR countries, Chile and Bolivia, and in participating in the First Inter-American

Conference on Higher and Rural Agricultural Education (in Panama) and the Regional Forum on the Integration of Agricultural Education in MERCOSUR countries (in Rosario, Argentina). Support was also provided to the second meeting of Latin American schools of agriculture that provide technical assistance to small farmers, held in La Plata, Argentina. The CA collaborated with the Group on the Evaluation and Accreditation of Agronomy Courses, in the context of MERCOSUR economic and trade agreements. Discussions were also held with the School of Agronomy of the University of the Republic with a view to incorporating its videoconferencing facilities into IICA's Inter-American Distance Education and Training Network. The School of Agronomy received support in evaluating its study program.

Information and Communication. A CD-ROM was produced containing the presentations and conclusions of the Second Meeting of Waters; information on the events and publications of IICA's different units was disseminated among governmental and private-sector organizations; the CA participated in the Prado Livestock Fair in Montevideo and in the Expoforraje 99 Fair, held in the department of Durazno. Support was provided to the National Youth Institute and the Youth Forum in publishing the "Guide for Rural Youth, Training Available in 1999-2000" (in Spanish); two editions of the newsletter IICA/URUGUAY INFORMA were produced, as well as a document entitled "The Fruits of Change" (in Spanish), the latter in collaboration with the Granja Modernization Program. A study was carried out with OPYPA on agricultural public spending, and the Development and Technical Assistance Program of the School of Veterinary Sciences was published in a joint venture with that School.

The work carried out in 1999 enabled the CA to increase its technical cooperation actions significantly. Some of its most important achievements were the support provided to MGAP and the Ministry of Foreign Relations in organizing the Second Meeting of Waters; the strengthening of relations with the University of the Republic for integrating the schools of agronomy of the MERCOSUR countries; the training events and dissemination of information on international agricultural trade policies and negotiations; the collaboration with the Agricultural Plan Institute and the School of Veterinary Sciences in organizing and holding seminars; and the documents produced and courses held to support the granja sector. The groundwork was also laid for implementing local development actions in different departments of Uruguay, which will be stepped up in 2000.



STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

HEMISPHERIC ALLIANCES FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

By the end of 1999, it was clear that the Institute had consolidated the alliances established in recent years, while continuing to enter into alliances with new organizations that will also impact its work throughout the hemisphere. By strengthening its inter-institutional relations with international, regional, subregional and national organizations as well as other public and private entities, IICA has improved the quality of its technical cooperation with more and better economic, human and technological resources at its disposal. Strategic alliances are viewed as relationships that should benefit both the institutions involved and IICA's member countries.

IICA also worked with a large number of other organizations in order to enhance the quality of its technical cooperation actions in the following subject areas: gender and sustainable development, economic integration processes, sanitary and phytosanitary standards, agricultural development, natural resource management, agricultural technology, conservation of biodiversity, agricultural information, and soil and water management and conservation.

Joint projects are being implemented in many IICA member countries with agencies, institutions and organizations such as SAGAR, INIFAP, APHIS, EMBRAPA, NAL, CAAL, VOCA, the Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon (Mexico), ISNAR, RAI Boston, NASDA, C/LAA, the World Trade Center of Miami, USDA, Texas A&M University, SIHCA, CIDA, IDRC, the University of Georgia and all the others mentioned in this report, with which actions are carried out at the hemispheric, regional or national levels.

ORGANIZATIONS



AIBDA. As it has for over 25 years, IICA continued to support AIBDA's projects and actions related to agricultural information and documentation systems in the Americas, providing the Association with technical, financial and administrative support in order to improve the articulation of its information and networks.



CARDI. Further efforts were made to expand and increase capabilities in the Caribbean. The Institute continued to provide technical cooperation and channel resources to CARDI, with the aim of improving agriculture and agroindustry.



CATIE. The Institute is strongly committed to training, education and the sharing of information and documentation; therefore, under several projects being implemented in the member countries of the two organizations, IICA and CATIE carry out technical activities in these areas. IICA's financial and administrative assistance to CATIE facilitated the identification of new projects and actions that improved the technical cooperation provided during 1999.



IDB. The IDB and IICA continued to work closely at the hemispheric level, focusing their efforts on consolidating FORAGRO and providing support for the Technical Secretariat of FONTAGRO, which is exercised by the Institute. Resources were used for strengthening the capabilities of trade negotiations specialists. The two organizations also worked together to establish, during the Annual Meeting of the IDB's Board of Governors, the Inter-Agency Group on Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has been tasked with determining new strategic actions related to agriculture and sustainable rural development in the region.



FAO. In 1999, the strong alliance between IICA and FAO focused on the organization and implementation of courses, seminars, workshops, missions and official meetings, the publication of books, documents and studies on trade and trade negotiations, rural development, agricultural health, science and technology, as well as education and training activities. One particularly important aspect of this alliance is the role played by the two organizations in their capacity as the Technical Secretariat of the Informal Consultative Group of the Agricultural Negotiators of the Americas (GINA).



IFAD. Through a close working relationship with IFAD, implementation continued of joint projects and actions in the areas of rural development, training and education. Progress was also made in developing initiatives for improving living conditions in rural communities.



Kellogg Foundation. Information and communications have become key elements of the range of cooperation products and services provided by IICA. The creation of the Inter-American Reference Center for Agricultural Information Agriculture (CRIIA) and the network of document information centers and libraries in the Americas has strengthened the alliance with the Kellogg Foundation, which contributes considerable funding for training and increasing information accessibility.



OAS. Under this alliance, seminars, courses and workshops were held and technical documents produced on topics such as biosafety, intellectual property, transgenic plants and technological innovation. Other areas of work included the integrated and sustainable management of natural resources, and education and training for development.



RUTA. IICA collaborated with the RUTA project under which its Cooperation Agency in Honduras was assisted in formulating project profiles on cocoa production and the rehabilitation of agricultural lands affected by Hurricane Mitch; the CA in Nicaragua received support in formulating a pilot project for rural businesswomen in Jinotega, which was submitted to CABEL for funding, and in preparing a technical assistance fund and an agricultural technology and training project for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAG-FOR). The CA in Costa Rica was assisted in obtaining pre-investment funds for drawing up a proposal for a cocoa project and a regional development program for the Caribbean coastal region, while the CA in El Salvador was assisted in formulating a project proposal for the Agribusiness Management Training Center, for external funding, and a pilot program for the development of agroindustrial enterprises.



SIDA. This agency made it possible to expand and disseminate the Gender and Sustainable Rural Development Program in Central America, which achieved important results in the area of sustainable rural development.



WB. As part of the preparatory process for the WTO and FTAA negotiations, seminars, courses and workshops were held in a number of countries in the hemisphere, organized jointly with the WB and other organizations, with a view to upgrading the skills of negotiators and teams of specialists. A series of studies and monographs were also produced on trade and trade negotiations, agricultural health and food safety, intellectual property, and other topics.



WTO. As part of IICA's support for Member State efforts to develop the skills needed for the negotiations and for administering agricultural trade agreements, harmonizing agricultural policies, and formulating and implementing strategies and programs to enhance competitiveness, IICA strengthened its alliance with the WTO for the purpose of offering a large number of training activities for the trade specialists of its member countries.

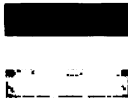
PERMANENT OBSERVERS AND OTHER COUNTRIES



France. Ongoing contact was maintained with a number of French organizations in order to continue implementation of technical projects in different countries of the Americas. Of particular importance were the ties with French Cooperation, CIRAD and the IRD.



Germany. Joint efforts between IICA and GTZ/BMZ focused on implementation of local and regional projects on the sustainable development of agriculture, genetic resources, camelidae and water. This alliance was also used to facilitate and expand dialogue with other German organizations involved in agriculture.



Netherlands. Implementation continued of the project Institutional Development for Sustainable Agricultural Production on Central American Hillside, and the Netherlands continued to provide support and advisory assistance related to communications and broadcasting.



Spain. Under various alliances with Spanish organizations, including the AECI, the Ministry of Food and Fisheries and MERCASA, further support was provided to agribusinesses in the Americas.



Taiwan. Through the financial assistance provided by the Government of Taiwan, IICA produced and published technical studies on price bands, trade negotiations and the intra-regional trade in staple grains. It also formulated a project to reduce the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to climate change, and organized regional and national seminars on sanitary and phytosanitary standards, the Uruguay Round agreements and the process of constructing the FTAA.

STATISTICAL INFORMATION

EVENTS ORGANIZED BY IICA BY REGIONAL CENTER IN 1999

| | Events | | Participants | | Days |
|----------------------------------|------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Number | % | Number | % | Total |
| Andean Regional Center | 148 | 28.6 | 5309 | 22.3 | 368 |
| Andean Directorate | 34 | 23.0 | 1275 | 24.0 | 108 |
| Bolivia | 7 | 4.7 | 325 | 6.1 | 20 |
| Colombia | 7 | 25.0 | 1224 | 23.1 | 82 |
| Ecuador | 38 | 25.7 | 1458 | 27.5 | 88 |
| Peru | 19 | 12.8 | 572 | 10.8 | 33 |
| Venezuela | 13 | 8.8 | 455 | 8.6 | 37 |
| Caribbean Regional Center | 107 | 20.7 | 5064 | 21.3 | 382 |
| Caribbean Directorate | 24 | 22.4 | 916 | 18.1 | 52 |
| Bahamas | 2 | 1.9 | 57 | 1.1 | 4 |
| Barbados | 3 | 2.8 | 82 | 1.6 | 32 |
| Dominican Republic | 6 | 5.6 | 488 | 9.6 | 7 |
| Guyana | 11 | 10.3 | 351 | 6.9 | 35 |
| Haiti | 17 | 15.9 | 1955 | 38.6 | 184 |
| Jamaica | 10 | 9.3 | 392 | 7.7 | 12 |
| OECS | 26 | 24.3 | 581 | 11.5 | 46 |
| Trinidad and Tobago | 8 | 7.5 | 242 | 4.8 | 10 |
| Central Regional Center | 177 | 34.2 | 8018 | 33.8 | 409 |
| Central Directorate | 19 | 10.7 | 688 | 8.6 | 56 |
| Belize | 13 | 7.3 | 338 | 4.2 | 16 |
| Costa Rica | 27 | 15.3 | 1554 | 19.4 | 54 |
| El Salvador | 42 | 23.7 | 2330 | 29.1 | 146 |
| Guatemala | 8 | 4.5 | 606 | 7.6 | 22 |
| Honduras | 29 | 16.4 | 1052 | 13.1 | 65 |
| Nicaragua | 31 | 17.5 | 1237 | 15.4 | 35 |
| Panama | 8 | 4.5 | 213 | 2.7 | 15 |
| Northern Regional Center | 19 | 3.7 | 752 | 3.2 | 34 |
| Northern Directorate | 10 | 52.6 | 191 | 25.4 | 17 |
| Canada | 2 | 10.5 | 116 | 15.4 | 7 |
| Mexico | 6 | 31.6 | 421 | 56.0 | 9 |
| United States | 1 | 5.3 | 24 | 3.2 | 1 |
| Southern Regional Center | 66 | 12.8 | 4614 | 19.4 | 568 |
| Southern Directorate | 7 | 10.6 | 858 | 18.6 | 28 |
| Argentina | 11 | 16.7 | 423 | 9.2 | 69 |
| Brazil | 13 | 19.7 | 984 | 21.3 | 371 |
| Chile | 22 | 33.3 | 1437 | 31.1 | 50 |
| Paraguay | 11 | 16.7 | 838 | 18.2 | 33 |
| Uruguay | 2 | 3.0 | 74 | 1.6 | 17 |
| Total: | 517 | | 23757 | | 1761 |

Source: CONPLAC.

Note:

The percentages for the Regional Centers are calculated on the basis of the grand total, and those for the CAs on the total of the corresponding Regional Center.

FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Figure 1 shows the trend in quota contributions and external resources in 1997, 1998 and 1999. Figure 2 illustrates the execution of regular resources by budget category in 1999: 87.41% of quota resources were used for direct technical cooperation services, 7.34% to

cover management costs, and 5.25% for general costs and provisions. Figure 3 shows the execution of regular resources by Chapter in 1999, i.e., by the Cooperation Agencies and Regional Centers, the areas of concentration, management costs, cooperative programs, general costs and provisions, and IICA's contributions to CATIE and CARDI.

Source: Financial Directorate

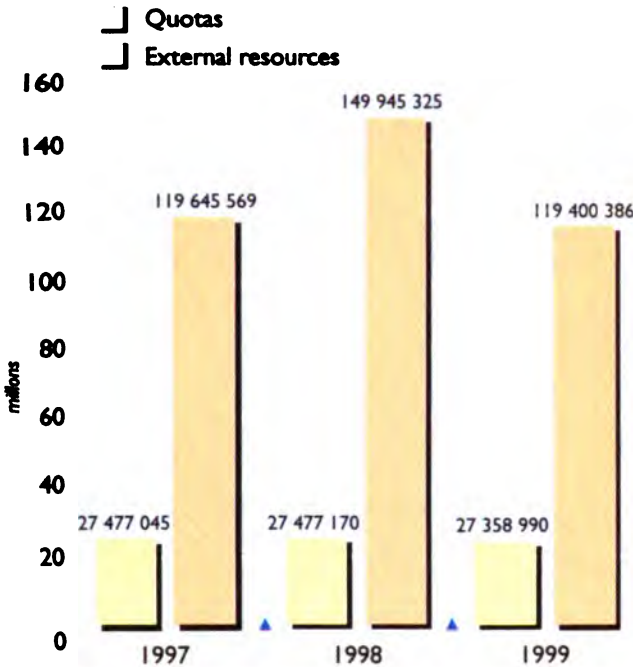


Figure 1: Execution of quotas and external resources in 1997, 1998 and 1999 (in US\$).

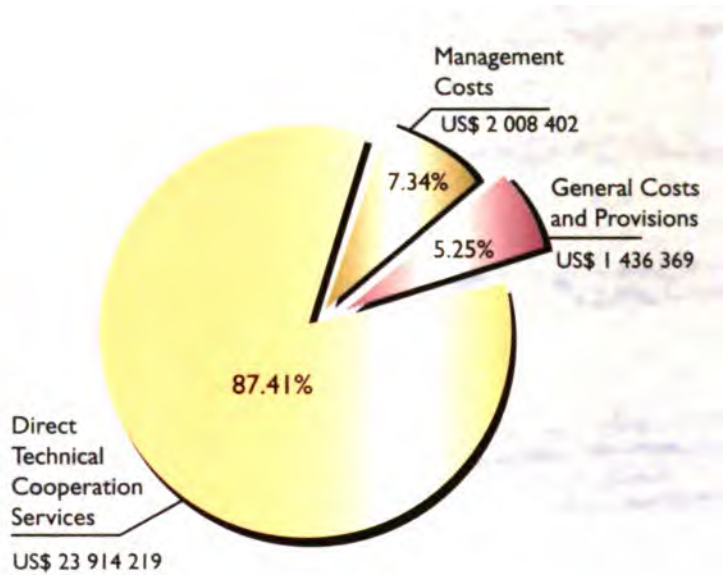


Figure 2: Execution of regular resources by budget category in 1999 (in US\$).

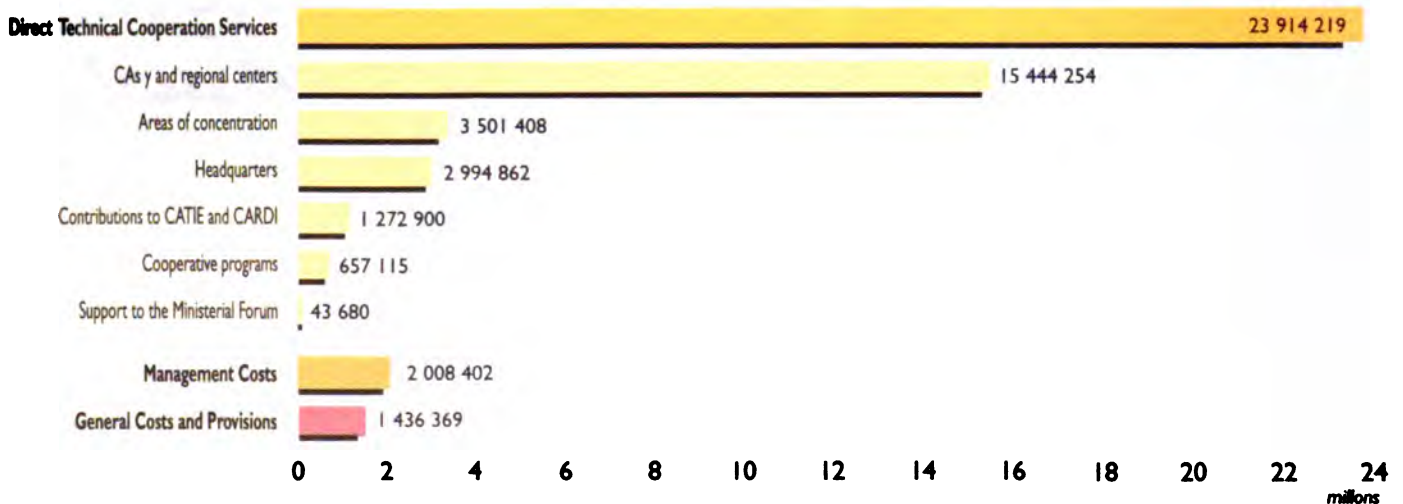


Figure 3: Distribution of quota resources by chapter in 1999 (in US\$).

HUMAN RESOURCES

Figure 1 shows the distribution of IICA's human resources by category in 1997, 1998 and 1999. Figures 2 and 3 present the distribution of personnel in 1999

by category and funding source, and by duty station and category, respectively.

Source: Human Resources Directorate

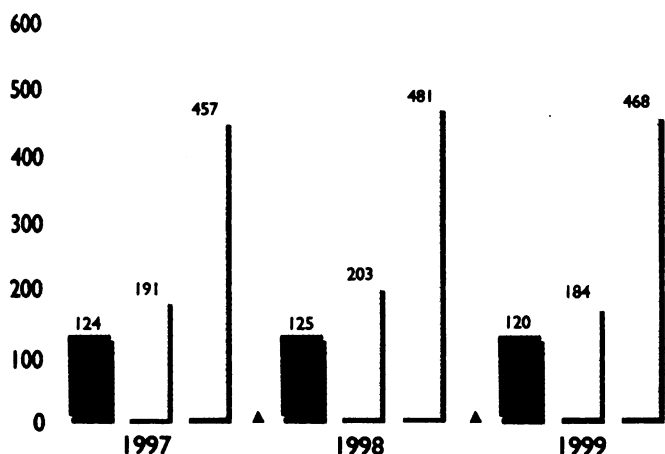


Figure 1:
Distribution of human resources by category in 1997, 1998 and 1999.

■ International Professional Personnel (IPP) ▨ Local Professional Personnel (LPP) ▩ General Services Personnel (GSP)

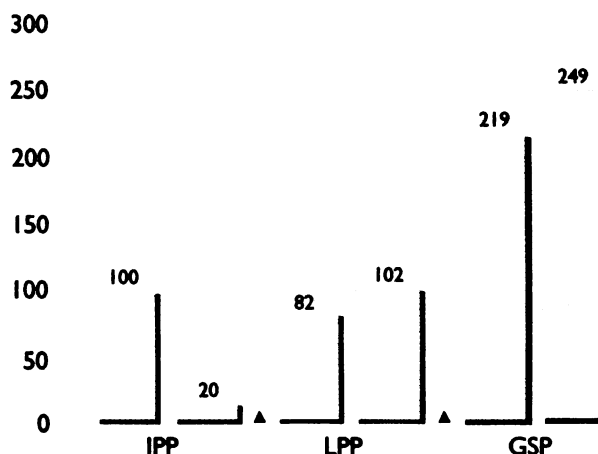


Figure 2:
Distribution of human resources in 1999 by category and funding source.

▨ Quota ▩ Extra-quota

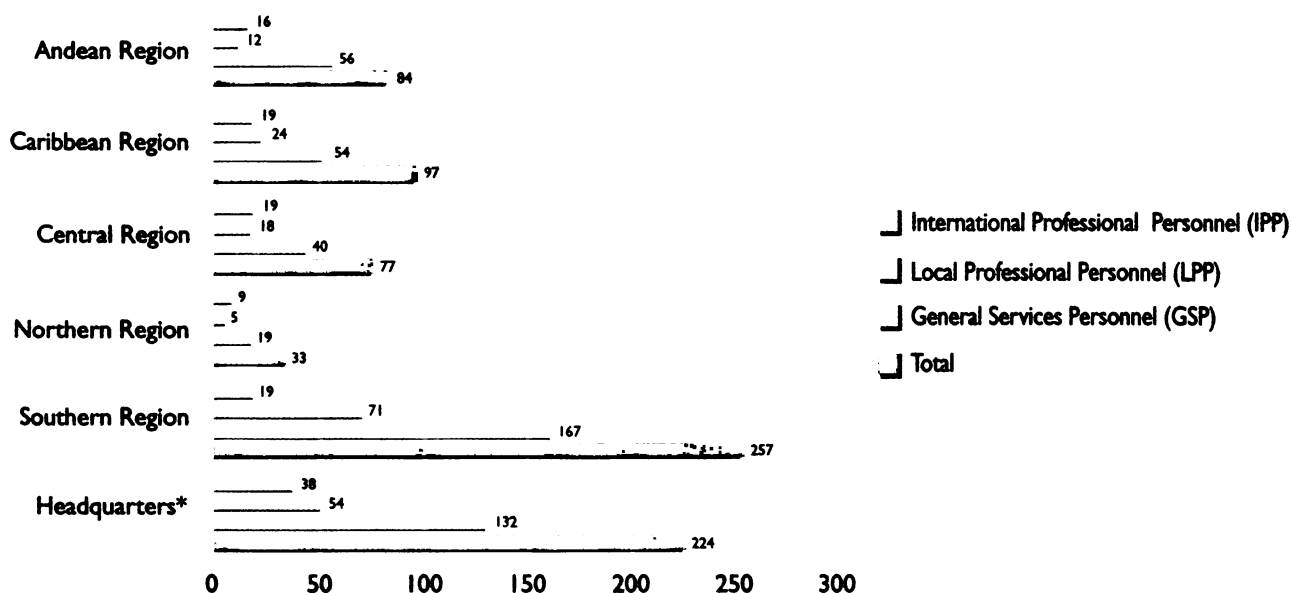


Figure 3:
Distribution of human resources in 1999 by duty station and category.

* Includes nine IICA staff stationed at the Orton Library at CATIE.

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ACRONYMS

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| IECI | Spanish International Cooperation Agency |
| AIARD | Association for International Agriculture and Rural Development |
| AIABDA | Inter-American Association of Agricultural Librarians, Documentalists and Information Specialists |
| ALADI | Latin American Integration Association |
| APHIS | Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA) |
| AVRDC | Asian Vegetable Research and Development Centre |
| CA | Cooperation Agency (IICA) |
| CABA | Caribbean Agribusiness Association |
| CABEI | Central American Bank for Economic Integration |
| CABI | Commonwealth Agricultural Bureaux International |
| CAC | Central American Agricultural Council |
| CACHE | Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture |
| CAJIR | International Rural Youth Advisory Council |
| CARDI | Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute |
| CARICOM | Caribbean Community |
| CARIFRUIT | Caribbean Fruit Network |
| CATIE | Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center |
| CEHI | Caribbean Environmental Health Institute |
| CEPCIDI | Permanent Executive Committee of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development |
| CFIA | Canadian Food Inspection Agency |
| CGIAR | Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research |
| CIARA | Foundation for Training and Research Applied to Agrarian Reform (Venezuela) |
| CIAT | International Center for Tropical Agriculture |
| CIDA | Canadian International Development Agency |
| CIP | International Potato Center |
| CIRAD | Center for International Cooperation in Agricultural Research for Development (France) |
| CIRAD-FLHOR | CIRAD/ Flowers and Vegetables Department |
| C/LAA | Caribbean Latin American Action |
| CORECA | Regional Council for Agricultural Cooperation in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic |
| COSAVE | Southern Area Plant Protection Committee |
| COSUDE | Swiss Cooperation Agency for Development |
| COTED | Council for Trade and Economic Development (Caribbean Region) |
| CUSO | Canadian organization that supports alliances for global social justice |
| CWWA | Canadian Water and Wastewater Association |
| DECAP | Directorate of Education and Training (IICA) |
| EARTH | Agricultural School for the Humid Tropic Region |
| ECLAC | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean |
| EMBRAPA | Brazilian Institute of Agricultural Research |
| EU | European Union |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency (United States) |
| FAO | United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization |
| FAVA/CA | Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action (United States) |
| FDA | Food and Drug Administration (United States) |
| FONTAGRO | Regional Agricultural Technology Fund |
| FORAGRO | Regional Forum on Research and Technology Development |
| FTAA | Free Trade Area of the Americas |
| GTZ | Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit |
| IABA | Inter-American Board of Agriculture |
| IBRD | International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank) |
| ICA | International Cooperative Alliance |
| IDB | Inter-American Development Bank |

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| IDRC | International Development Research Centre |
| IFAD | International Fund for Agricultural Development |
| IFPRI | International Food Policy Research Institute |
| IICA | Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture |
| ILO | International Labor Organization |
| INIFAP | National Forestry and Agricultural Research Institute (Mexico) |
| INTAL | Institute for Latin American and Caribbean Integration |
| IPGRI | International Plant Genetic Resources Institute |
| IRD | Research Institute for Development (France) |
| ISNAR | International Service for National Agricultural Research |
| LAC | Latin America and the Caribbean |
| MERCOSUR | Southern Common Market |
| MoA | Ministry of Agriculture |
| NAL | National Agricultural Library (United States) |
| NAPPO | North American Plant Protection Organization |
| NARIs | National agricultural research institutes |
| NASDA | National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (United States) |
| OAS | Organization of American States |
| OECS | Organization of Eastern Caribbean States |
| OIE | World Organization for Animal Health |
| OIJ | Ibero-American Youth Organization |
| OIRSA | International Regional Organization for Agricultural Health |
| PADF | Pan American Development Foundation |
| PAHO | Pan American Health Organization |
| PROCI | Cooperative agricultural research and technology transfer program |
| PROCIANDINO | Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Andean Subregion |
| PROCICARIBE | Cooperative Agricultural Research Program for the Caribbean |
| PROCINORTE | Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer Program for the Northern Region |
| PROCISUR | Cooperative Program for the Development of Agricultural Technology in the Southern Cone |
| PROCTROPICOS | Cooperative Program on Research and Technology Transfer for the South American Tropics |
| PROCODER | Cooperative Program for Rural Development in the Southern Cone Countries |
| PRODAR | Hemispheric Rural Agroindustry Development Program |
| PRODARNET | PRODAR Electronic Information Network |
| PROMECAFE | Regional Cooperative Program for the Technological Development and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Central America, Dominican Republic and Jamaica |
| REDCAHOR | Collaborative Vegetable Research and Development Network for Central America, Panama and Dominican Republic |
| REMERFI | Mesoamerican Network for Plant Genetic Resources |
| RUTA | Regional Technical Assistance Unit |
| SAGAR | Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Development (Mexico) |
| SICTA | Central American System for Agricultural Technology |
| SIDA | Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency |
| SIHCA | Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development |
| SIHDEA | Hemispheric System for Higher Agricultural Education |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESCO | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization |
| USAID | United States Agency for International Development |
| USDA | United States Department of Agriculture |
| UWI | University of the West Indies |
| VOCA | Volunteers in Overseas Cooperative Assistance |
| WHO | World Health Organization |
| WTO | World Trade Organization |

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ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: P.O. Box 1552, St. John's, Antigua, W.I. Tel.: 001 (268) 4626119 Fax: 001 (268) 4626118 E-mail: iica@candw.ag **ARGENTINA:** Casilla de Correos 063, 1401 Buenos Aires, Argentina Tels.: 00541 (14) 43451207 / 43451210 Fax: 00541 (14) 3451208 E-mail: iicarg@iica.org.ar **BAHAMAS:** P.O. Box SS-6205, Nassau, The Bahamas Tel.: 001 (242) 3258800 Fax: 001 (242) 3258803 E-mail: iica@batel.net.bs **BARBADOS:** P.O. Box 705, Bridgetown, Barbados, W.I. Tels.: 001 (246) 4274740/ 4274741 / 4274742 Fax: 001 (246) 4293509 E-mail: sprescod@iica.com.bb **BELIZE:** P.O. 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Tel.: 001 (784) 4572698 Fax: 001 (784) 4572122 E-mail: iica@caribsurf.com **SAINT LUCIA:** P.O. Box 1223, Castries, St. Lucia, W.I. Tels.: 001 (758) 4516760 / 4516761 / 4519466 Fax: 001 (758) 4516774 E-mail: iica@candw.lc **ST. KITTS AND NEVIS:** P.O. Box 848, La Guerite, Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis, W.I. Tels.: 001 (869) 4655104 / 4659325 Fax: 001 (869) 4658908 E-mail: iicastkn@caribsurf.com **SURINAME:** P.O. Box 1895, Latitia Vriesdelaan No. 11, Paramaribo, Suriname Tels.: 00597 410861 / 478187 / 410951 Fax: 00597 410727 E-mail: iica@sr.net **TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO:** P.O. Box 1318, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, W.I. Tels.: 001 (868) 6284403 / 6284078 / 6284079 Fax: 001 (868) 6284562 E-mail: iicatt@iicacarc.org **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:** 1775 K Street, N.W., Suite 320, Washington D.C. 20006, U.S.A. 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INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE
Headquarters PO. Box 55-2200 Coronado, Costa Rica / Tel.: (506) 216-0222 / Fax (506) 216-0233
Electronic address: iicahq@iica.ac.cr / Web Site: www.iica.ac.cr