

AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN

Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil on Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

We, the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture of the Americas, assembled in Guayaquil, Republic of Ecuador (August 30-31, 2005) at the Third Ministerial Meeting “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas” within the framework of the Summit of the Americas process, in fulfillment of the mandates on agriculture and rural life issued by the Heads of State and Government at the Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec 2001) and the Special Summit (Monterrey 2004), and in follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas adopted at the Second Ministerial, reaffirm our commitment to the Plan and its components: Shared Vision 2015, Strategic Objectives, Hemispheric Agenda and Implementation and Follow-up.

Accordingly, pursuant to the ministerial agreements on implementation and follow-up of the Plan adopted in 2003, the national progress reports and the challenges identified in implementing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, presented by our respective ministries, we hereby update the Hemispheric Agenda, for implementation in the 2006-2007 biennium, and adopt the measures necessary for implementation and follow up.

2006-2007 HEMISPHERIC AGENDA

Promoting national policies on agriculture and rural life

The process of updating the Hemispheric Agenda, for implementation in 2006-2007, is comprised of two components: the continued validity of the strategic actions adopted in 2003, and the new, complementary strategic actions identified by the countries in 2005.

In order to move towards the Shared Vision for 2015 and the achievement of the Strategic Objectives, we express our wish to continue the efforts which began in 2003, and besides, to promote, together with stakeholders of the agri-food sector and the rural milieu and others linked to the development of agriculture and rural life, the following complementary strategic actions:

I. Promoting competitive rural enterprises

(Rural territories – production/trade dimension)

Areas of local economic development

1. To further promote local economic development with support from public and private investment based on an integrated approach aimed at improving the productivity, competitiveness and managerial capabilities of rural enterprises, with a view to generating employment and improving living conditions in rural territories.

II. Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness

(Agricultural production-trade chains – production/trade dimension)

Quality management and certification

2. To promote quality integrated management in the agricultural production chains by, inter alia, developing agricultural health and food safety systems, including certification mechanisms. Information related to existing quality management tools shall be disseminated to facilitate the expansion of production and trade.

Development of products based on the biotechnologies

3. To develop new products based on the application of biotechnologies, within the framework of national policies on innovation considering biosafety mechanisms, with the coordinated participation of public and private sectors in compliance with existing regional and international agreements.

III. Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture

(National and international context – production/trade dimension)

Generation of energy from alternative sources

4. To promote policies that will encourage the generation of energy from alternative sources based on agricultural and agroindustrial activities, sustainable use of renewable natural resources and modern biotechnology.

Policies for agroindustry

5. To promote the adoption of policies for the development of market oriented agro-industries, agribusiness and non-agricultural rural activities.

IV. Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas

(Rural Territories – ecological/environmental dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

V. From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management

(Agricultural production-trade chains – ecological/environmental dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

VI. Participating in building an institutional environmental framework

(National and international context - ecological/environmental dimension)

Environmental services and environmentally sound practices

6. To encourage the development of various approaches and mechanisms that recognize the value of the environmental services offered by the rural milieu and environmentally sound practices.

Market opportunities for goods and services produced in an environmentally sustainable manner

7. To improve institutional frameworks and consolidate the progress reached in the production and marketing of sustainable agricultural products.

VII. Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity

(Rural Territories - sociocultural/human dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

VIII. Advancing learning and expertise in the chain

(Agricultural production-trade chains – sociocultural/human dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

IX. Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities (National and international context - sociocultural/human dimension)

Social responsibility in rural enterprises

8. To promote the concept of social responsibility in rural enterprises; fostering the creation of jobs and the principle of decent work as reflected in international conventions.

X. Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories (Rural Territories – political/institutional dimension)

Integral development of rural territories

9. To foster integrated rural development based on a multisectoral and participatory approach, and strengthened public-private coordination.

XI. Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain
(Agricultural production-trade chains – political/institutional dimension)

No complementary strategic actions have been added to those contained in the Hemispheric Agenda approved in 2003.

XII. Promoting National policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life (National and international context – political/institutional dimension)

National policies

10. To promote long-term national policies for the development of the agri-food sector and the rural milieu, taking into consideration existing international frameworks.

Interinstitutional and multisectoral work

11. To strengthen sectoral and multisectoral coordination to facilitate the implementation of long-term national policies, for improving agriculture and the quality of life in rural communities.

IMPLEMENTATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Strengthening regional integration and international cooperation

The AGRO 2003-2015 Plan reflects the intention of member countries to work towards the shared vision with the understanding that national governments have the main responsibility for implementing the shared agenda and the execution of the Action Plan in compliance with international commitments and agreements.

Updating of the biennial agendas

12. The 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda is the second of six two-year agendas by means of which the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan is implemented. National governments will deliver reports on their progress in implementing each two-year agenda to the Ministerial Meeting “Agricultural and Rural Life in the Americas” which takes place at the end of that two-year period, and use these reports to update the agenda for the next period.

Regional mechanisms and strategies

13. To strengthen regional meetings of ministers of agriculture, mechanisms for the regional integration of agriculture, for consultation, identification of priorities, coordination of actions and adoption of regional policies on matters of common interest, in support of the implementation of the national strategies aimed at improving agriculture and the quality of life in rural communities.

Support for international organizations and interagency agendas

14. To recognize and thank international organizations for their efforts in support of the ministerial process for the implementation of AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. We ask them to continue these efforts, avoiding duplication of actions and strengthening the inter-institutional and multisectoral work. We recall our call, as we did in 2001 and 2003, to international financial institutions and other regional cooperation agencies and cooperating governments to engage in this institutional effort, strengthening joint actions, in accordance with national and regional strategies, aimed at implementing and following up on the shared agenda of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan.

Information system for agriculture and rural life

15. To support the development of an agriculture and rural life information system for the AGRO 2015 Plan follow-up and evaluation. In this regard, we acknowledge the initial efforts made by ECLAC, IICA, PAHO, FAO and UNESCO in the identification of indicators for the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. We applaud the recent incorporation of the ILO into this initiative. We request their continued support, and call other international organizations

associated with agriculture and rural life to join this initiative by providing information, resources and technical support in order to implement the system in 2007.

16. Recognizing the importance of developing appropriate measurement and assessment mechanisms for the progress of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, we will work along side international organizations in collecting national data for input into the information system for follow-up to the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan. Moreover, efforts will continue to define appropriate measurements to evaluate the progress of the Plan.

*Signed in the city of Guayaquil, Republic of Ecuador, on the
thirty-first of August of the year two thousand and five.*

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Honorary Witnesses

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