



MEMORANDUM

N° NRC/CA-042

DATE April 27, 2009

TO: Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, Christopher Hansen and David Hatch

FROM: IICA Canada

SUBJECT: IICA Canada 2008 Accountability Report

It is with great please that I submit to you the *IICA Canada 2008 Accountability Report*. The report contains information on the accountability activities IICA Canada held during 2008, as well as a summary of the comments/suggestions/recommendations we received from our stakeholders.

Do not hesitate to contact us to have more information on our 2008 accountability exercise.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Bedoya', written in a cursive style.

Michael Bedoya
IICA representative in Canada

***IICA Canada
2008
Accountability Report***

Introduction

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), under the leadership of Director General Chelston Braithwaite, has made a strong commitment to transparency and accountability to its stakeholders throughout the Americas. As part of this commitment, each IICA office prepares an annual report and work plan and is fully engaged in seeking input from national stakeholders on the technical cooperation offered.

As part of its accountability exercise for 2008, IICA Canada held a formal consultation with its stakeholders on December 2nd, 2008, and shared its national report with its key stakeholders in early 2009 with the objectives to receive their inputs on the document and to inform them of the activities the office realized in 2008.

For the 2008 period, IICA Canada stakeholders expressed their satisfaction with the strategic directions of IICA's Canada technical cooperation. Issues such as agricultural health and food safety, rural development, agri-business and trade and technology and innovation continue to be priorities for the Canadian agricultural sector.

However, IICA Canada's technical cooperation can achieve greater impact and stakeholders have provided suggestions on how to do this. Placing more focus on issues such as food security, trade, leadership, food health and nutrition, and technical transfer and increasing awareness of IICA and its objectives among Canadian organizations have been raised as ways to improve IICA Canada's work.

The active involvement from our stakeholders is a critical element to our success in implementing IICA's technical cooperation agenda. To this effect, IICA Canada is strongly committed continuing pursuing this on-going dialogue with its stakeholders in the future.

IICA Canada Accountability Process

1) Performance Stakeholder consultation – December 2008

In 2008, IICA Canada celebrated its 25th Anniversary. To underline the event, IICA Canada organized a 25th Anniversary consultation event. This event was designed to provide our stakeholders with an opportunity to share their views and discuss IICA's Canada priorities, activities and work, in order to improve the focus of its technical cooperation agenda and performance

Individuals from the three groups of key stakeholders participated in the event representing the following organizations:

Government Departments, Agencies and International Organizations

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Canadian International Development Agency

Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
North American Plant Protection Organization

Universities and Colleges

Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institutes
University of Guelph
McGill University

Commodity/Producer and Private Sector groups

Pulse Canada
Canadian Livestock Genetics Association
Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association

Others:

Oxfam Québec

The main conclusions and recommendations were:

- **Agricultural Health and Food Safety** continues to be a priority for the Canadian stakeholders. Issues such as animal health, plant safety and food health and nutrition are of particular importance for Canada.
- **Trade and agri-business development** is also a priority for the Canadian stakeholders; in particular in support of the Government of Canada efforts in implementing Free Trade Agreements with LAC countries.
- IICA Canada should support the Government of Canada in **reinforcing its bilateral relationships** with countries in LAC countries;
- Canadian stakeholders support IICA Canada's approach to technical cooperation, i.e. where the cooperation focuses on a **win-win situation**;
- As an international institution, IICA would benefit of **coordinating its work with other regional/multilateral organizations**. In a context where governments tend to provide fewer resources to international technical cooperation, a better coordination will prevent duplication in the use of these limited resources.
- IICA Canada should improve its **communication** mechanisms in order to 1) increase its visibility in Canada, 2) promote its mission, role and strengths, 3) disseminate more information on its technical cooperation activities and, 4) facilitate follow-up with national stakeholders.

The strong participation to our 25th Anniversary consultation event, especially those from outside of Ottawa who were traveling at their own expense, demonstrates the interest of our stakeholders vis-à-vis the Institute and the technical cooperation work our Office is doing.

2) Review and Approval of IICA Canada's Annual report 2008

As part of its accountability activities, IICA Canada shared a draft of its 2008 Annual Report with its key Canadian stakeholders for review and approval. Public, private and academic sector key stakeholders were provided with a draft copy of the 2008 Annual Report and were asked to review and approve the report. As all were participants in the activities reported, many (50%) responded with their comments and suggestions to improve the quality and relevance of the document. The final version of the Report was unanimously approved by all stakeholders.

Several individuals from each of the following institutions or organizations participated in the accountability exercise:

Government Departments, Agencies and International Organizations

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Canadian International Development Agency
Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
North American Plant Protection Organization

Universities and Colleges

Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institutes

Commodity/Producer and Private Sector groups

Pulse Canada
Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association

Others:

Oxfam Québec

All the stakeholders involved stated their continued interest in being informed and consulted by IICA Canada on projects, activities or documents produced by our Office which we interpreted as an indication of their interest in the Institute and the activities delivered in Canada through our Office.

Conclusion

We are encouraged by the results of these accountability exercises, especially by the proactive participation of our stakeholders and the indication of their great interest in continuing their involvement with IICA activities, not only as recipients, but full partners. We will be working during the coming year on the development of improved communication tools and other recommendations.