

## Minister of Agriculture and agricultural entrepreneurs from Trinidad and Tobago visited Costa Rica

*As part of their participation in the Forum for Leaders of Agriculture, organized by IICA's Center for Leadership in Agriculture, they discussed the establishment of partnerships with the Ministry of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Corporacion Horticola Nacional, PROGROAIN and B&C Exportadores.*



The Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources of Trinidad and Tobago, Arnold A. Piggott, accompanied by government officials and a group of agricultural entrepreneurs, visited Costa Rica on June 8-11 to acquire know-how that will make it possible to promote the growth of the agricultural sector in that country.



“We are implementing a plan aimed at increasing food production and improving nutritional levels in Trinidad and Tobago,” said Piggott, who, along with his delegation, participated in the Forum for Leaders of Agriculture, a discussion forum promoted by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), through its Center for Leadership.

The event was inaugurated by the Director General of IICA, Chelston Brathwaite, who called on the participants to adopt an expanded vision of agriculture and rural life, one that takes into consideration not only primary production, but also its linkage to agroindustry.



It is estimated that the contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP, when all its backward and forward linkages are taken into account, is three to seven times greater than that reported in official statistics.

“We need leaders who will promote the adoption of policies that favor the development of agriculture and recognize that the sector is strategic for the development of the countries. With a broader vision of agriculture, we can tackle global challenges such as poverty, nutrition and energy sustainability,” said Brathwaite, a citizen of Barbados who has been at the helm of the Institute since 2002.



As part of the visit, Minister Piggott met with the Minister of Agriculture of Costa Rica, Javier Flores, discussing, among other things, certain actions aimed at reducing the cost of producing food.

“We want to produce more food at accessible prices and we want to modernize our agricultural sector to obtain greater value added,” said Piggott. The minister believes that crop diversification, the production of 25% of all food required for domestic consumption, along with the other countries that make up the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the attraction of foreign investment are essential to transforming agriculture in his country.

*Activities of the Minister in Costa Rica.*

The two most important crops produced in Trinidad and Tobago are cacao and sugar cane, which, according to IICA reports, cover approximately 52% of all agricultural land.

According to data provided by the Minister, his country imports 2.6 million tons of food at a cost of US\$1.5 billion.

“How to reduce the amount we spend on imported food is a challenge we must tackle; Costa Rica’s experience in agricultural extension services and the production of grains, vegetables and fruit can help us to meet our challenges more effectively,” he said.

Fluctuation in the international prices of agricultural commodities has had a significant impact on the import bill of Trinidad and Tobago, considering that the amount of food produced in the country covers only a small part of demand.

The impact was felt most in the case of grains. The country imports 95% of all grains consumed domestically, and by mid-2008, international prices had increased by 161% compared to 2005. The importance of this commodity is unquestionable since they account for more than 40% of all calories consumed in the Trinidadian diet.

The increase in the food import bill has led to increases in domestic prices for food and in the family food basket in general. Reports from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) show that from 2000-2007 the Consumer Price Index (CPI) rose by 187 points and that the Food PCI rose approximately 48 points.

The delegation took a field trip to the Corporacion Horiticola Nacional, near the city of Cartago, where they were able to observe modern techniques for cultivating and processing carrots, potatoes, onions and other vegetables.

Near the border with Nicaragua, they visited pineapple plantations operated by the Agroindustrial Development Plan for the Northern Zone (PROAGROIN), and observed the production of cassava, yams, and dasheen at the firm B&C Exportadores.

Also in attendance at the Forum of Leaders in Agriculture was the Ambassador of Trinidad and Tobago in Costa Rica, Sandra Honore, who said it would lead to closer technical and trade relations between the two countries. Other participants included the Director of Operations for the Caribbean Region, Trevor Murray; the IICA Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, Gregg C. E. Rawlins; and the Coordinator of the Center for Leadership in Agriculture, Hernan Chiriboga.

“This visit will result in increased trade between Costa Rica and Trinidad and Tobago, a win-win situation for both countries. We are certain that sales of carrots and vegetables from Costa Rica to the Caribbean will increase, and the doors are open for Trinidad and Tobago to send fertilizer to Costa Rica,” Chiriboga said.”

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## IICA Director General takes part in 39<sup>th</sup> OAS General Assembly

*He participated in a meeting on follow-up to the agreements reached at the Fifth Summit of the Americas.*



*Days before the OAS meeting, IICA and the other members of the Joint Summit Working Group met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.*

A delegation headed by the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Chelston Brathwaite, traveled to Honduras to take part in the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), held 2-3 June in the city of San Pedro Sula.

The Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG) met before the hemispheric event to discuss the status of the agreements adopted in the Declaration of Commitment of Port of Spain, during the [Fifth Summit of the Americas, held in Trinidad and Tobago in April of this year](#).

Adopted by consensus by the Heads of State and Government of the Americas, the declaration contains mandates related specifically to food security, agriculture and rural life, energy security, environmental sustainability, international cooperation and summit follow-up, all of which have implications for the work of IICA.

As an institutional partner in the summit process and the Secretariat of the Ministerial Meetings “Agriculture and Rural Life,” IICA has been providing the countries of the hemisphere with sustained support since 2007, submitting to the chairs of the summits and meetings of the SIRG the main orientations defined by the ministers of agriculture of the Americas.

Days before the OAS meeting, IICA - represented by its Deputy Director General, Christopher Hansen - and the other members of the Joint Summit Working Group (JSWG) met with U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton to provide follow-up to the commitments adopted at the summit.

On a number of occasions, Rodham Clinton has stressed the importance of reducing poverty and including historically marginalized groups in national, regional and hemispheric markets in order to promote the development of the Americas.

The delegation that took part in the OAS Assembly in San Pedro Sula comprised the Director General, the Deputy Director General, Assistant Deputy Director General David Hatch, the Director of the Office for Follow-up to the Summit of the Americas Process, Bernardo Badani, and the IICA Representative in Honduras, Salvador Monge.

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## Director General visits Honduras

### IICA signs letter of understanding with Pan American School of Agriculture

*The document formalizes IICA's technical support in the areas of agricultural health and food safety.*



*IICA Director General Chelston Brathwaite, the Dean of the Zamorano Pan American School of Agriculture, Kenneth Hoadley, and the Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras, Hector Hernandez.*

During a visit to Honduras, Chelston Brathwaite, the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), signed a letter of understanding with the Zamorano Pan American School of Agriculture (EAP) of Honduras to formalize the Institute's technical support in the areas of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS).

The agreement was signed by the school's Dean, Kenneth Hoadley, and the IICA Director General, who visited Honduras from 1-5 June to [participate in the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Organization of American States \(OAS\)](#). The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock of Honduras, Hector Hernandez, also signed the agreement, as Witness of Honor. Under the terms of the letter of understanding, the Institute will carry out strategic activities and provide training in AHFS, as part of the IDB-MIF/EAP project entitled "Improving the Quality and Competitiveness of Agrifood Production in Honduras."

The IICA Director General took advantage of his visit to Honduras to meet with a mission from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and discuss opportunities for complementary cooperation between the two organizations.

The members of the CIDA mission were the Director of the Inter-American Program, Benoit-Pierre Laramée, the Manager of the Inter-American Program, Brigitte D'Aouost, the Head of CIDA Cooperation for the OAS in Washington, Darren Rogers, the Counsellor and Head of Cooperation of Canada's Embassy in Honduras, Daniel Arseneault, and CIDA Counsellor Officer Graham Dattels.

During the meeting, Brathwaite spoke about the integrated management of the Institute, in relation to the process of preparing national agendas, and described the thematic areas of IICA's work. The Representative in Honduras explained that the Institute executes projects under each of those hemispheric topics.



*During the meeting with CIDA, Brathwaite spoke about the thematic areas on which IICA focuses its work.*

During the Director General's visit to Honduras, the local IICA Office organized a working breakfast with the entire staff. During the meeting, Brathwaite was presented with a commemorative plaque as a token of gratitude for his work at the Institute.

The IICA Representative in Honduras highlighted the Brathwaite Administration's achievement in positioning the Institute as a member of the international technical cooperation community. "Today it is recognized as a leading institution in the Americas, one that is contributing to food security and rural prosperity in our hemisphere."

Brathwaite was accompanied by IICA Deputy Director General Christopher Hansen, the Director of Follow-up to the Summit of the Americas Process, Bernardo Badani, and the IICA Representative in Honduras, Salvador Monge.

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## IICA and Ministry of Agriculture of Peru to expand joint efforts

*The Minister of Agriculture participated in the Forum for Leaders, held at IICA Headquarters.*



*Pictured during the Forum for Leaders, from left to right, are the Representative of the IICA Office in Peru, Freddy Rojas, the Minister of Agriculture of Peru, Carlos Leyton, and the Director General of IICA, Chelston Brathwaite.*

The Minister of Agriculture of Peru, Carlos Leyton, identified priority areas to be incorporated into the technical cooperation agenda being implemented by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in his country.

These areas include the formulation of public policies for the sustainable development of rural territories, the analysis of the impact of climate change on agriculture, and the development of mechanisms to make smallholdings in Peru more competitive.

During a visit to IICA Headquarters on May 28-29 to participate in the Forum for Leaders of Agriculture, Leyton met with senior staff members of the Institute.

The Forum, which is one of the activities organized by IICA's Center for Leadership in Agriculture, facilitates discussions on leadership and the challenges facing agriculture in the 21st century, and affords an opportunity to revise the national technical cooperation agenda IICA implements in each of its Member States.

In the coming weeks, Minister Leyton will meet again with IICA staff to define specific actions. It has already been decided that the first activities will focus on training and education. One such activity is the Forum for Young Leaders of Peru, which, as announced, will be held in September of this year and will bring together enterprising young people from different social sectors in Peru.

The Director General of IICA, Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, said that leadership is one key to the development of agriculture. "Effective leadership is essential if we are to tackle the problems of this century because we must think of our countries in a global context," he said.

The Forum was also attended by the Peruvian Ambassador to Costa Rica, Moises Tambini del Valle. On the morning of Friday, May 29, the minister and the ambassador held a meeting with the Director General of the Tropical Agriculture Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Jose Joaquin Campos, to learn about the Center and discuss the possibility of Peru becoming a member country.

As part of the activity, Leyton visited the INCAE Business School. There he met with the Regional Manager of Executive Programs, Sylvia Poll, and with the Coordinator of the Master's Degree program in Agribusiness INCAE/CATIE, Bernard Kilian, to initiate discussions on an agreement to provide training in agribusiness for students from Peru.



*The minister met with the Director General of the Tropical Agriculture Higher Education and Research Center (CATIE), Jose Joaquin Campos.*



*During the activity, Leyton visited the INCAE business school. On his right is INCAE's Regional Manager of Executive Programs, Sylvia Poll.*

### **A renewed vision of agriculture and the promotion of national policies**

IICA believes it is necessary to adopt a renewed vision of agriculture and rural life that takes into consideration both primary agriculture and the entire agrifood system.

According to a novel study conducted by the Institute, the contribution of the agricultural sector to gross domestic product (GDP), when all its backward and forward linkages are taken into account, is three to seven times greater than that reported in official statistics. In Peru, official estimates place the contribution at 6.6% of GDP. However, it is actually more like 31.8% when the criteria mentioned above are applied.

“We must move beyond the traditional concept of agriculture and understand that agriculture is a strategic sector of our countries, where food security is as important as national security. Without food security, without agriculture, there would be no national security,” said Brathwaite.

For the Director General, “national policies are a first step in achieving the comprehensive integral development we seek.” Leyton agreed that “we must develop policies that take into consideration the medium and long terms and create opportunities and lead to the well-being of the population.”

According to official statistics, three of every four people who live in poverty worldwide are inhabitants of in rural areas. In Peru, 69% of the rural population lives in poverty, of whom 64.6% are considered poor and 32.9% live in extreme poverty.

During the Forum, Minister Leyton presented the National Agrarian Policy of Peru, which promotes the modernization of agriculture in the mountains of Peru, the competitiveness of smallholdings, articulation among rural development programs and the strengthening of sector organizations. These are some of the short-term challenges which must be overcome to improve living countries in Peru.

### **Joint efforts**

In recent years, IICA, has sought years to reposition itself to more effectively deal with the challenges posed by the new context of agriculture and meet the needs of its Member States.

In order to achieve this objective, Minister Leyton stated “It is necessary to strengthen the cooperation that IICA channels through the ministry in Peru.”

More precisely, the technical cooperation actions carried out by the Institute are based on agendas: one for each Member State, one for each Region (Northern, Central, Caribbean, Andean and Southern) and one hemispheric agenda. As stated by the IICA Representative in Peru, Freddy Rojas, “The main objective of this Forum of Leaders is to support measures aimed at improving the management of the Ministry of Agriculture of Peru, which will make it possible to promote the development of the agricultural sector and reduce rural poverty,” he said.

During the Forum of Leaders, discussions focused on other topics of mutual interest such as agricultural health and food safety, technology and innovation, and natural resources.

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## **IICA and SELA discuss food security**

*They met at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica.*



*The Permanent Secretary of the SELA, Jose Rivera, and the Director General of IICA, Chelston Brathwaite.*

On 26 May, the Director General of IICA, Chelston Brathwaite, and the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System (SELA), Ambassador Jose Rivera Banuet, held a meeting to discuss topics of mutual interest related to hemispheric food security.

The meeting took place at the Institute’s Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, and the aim was to explore the possibilities of joint work. “Our mission is to improve the living conditions of human beings in the Americas, we must reduce poverty and ensure the population has enough to eat,” said Brathwaite, who regards work with other organizations as essential to achieve those objectives.

On the issue of food security IICA is working closely with inter-American and United Nations agencies such as the Organization of American States (OAS), FAO, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Food Programme (WFP).

During the meeting, Brathwaite and Rivera talked about the current situation and outlook for food prices and the price of the inputs used to produce food. They also reviewed the work that IICA and the SELA carry out individually in the region.

The SELA promotes a system of consultation and coordination aimed at building consensus among countries, groups of nations, forums and international organizations on common positions and strategies on economic matters for Latin America and the Caribbean. It also encourages cooperation and integration among Latin American and Caribbean countries. Created in 1975, it has 27 member countries.

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## Nevis Agriculture Minister grateful for international support given farmers

*The Canadian Funding for Local Initiatives gave a \$41,300 cheque to the Nevis Growers Corporative.*

Persons involved in agriculture on Nevis have been urged to utilise any assistance they received from local or international sources to the benefit of consumers on the island announced the Nevis Government Information Service.

The urging came from Minister of Agriculture on Nevis, Robelto Hector, who was at a ceremony to witness the presentation of a \$41,300 cheque to the Nevis Growers Corporative, from a Canadian funding agency. He registered the Nevis Island Administration's (NIA) appreciation for the support of the island's farmers.

"Today you are getting assistance and it is my hope as an organisation, we would see the translation among our consumers," he said of the Canadian Funding for Local Initiatives (CFLI) grant.



*Minister of Agriculture on Nevis, Robelto Hector, and IICA Representative, Augustine Merchant, share a light moment at the presentation.*

The Minister also called on the farmers of the Cooperative to continue to strengthen themselves and to be productive. He said if they did not sustain their growth, as an organisation, they would not have met the objectives outlined in a triangular structure set up by the Ministry of Agriculture.

The structure, he explained, was a three way linkage system which operated in agricultural development. It included the farmers, government and allied agencies that assisted.

He used the opportunity to thank Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Representative and Nevis' former Director of Agriculture, Augustine Merchant, who helped to broker the grant as he pointed to the link between the agencies involved and the NIA.

"I want to thank Merchant for his work. Too often the satisfaction is only known at the Ministry level. These are organisations the government in some way contributes to and their contribution is always based on the satisfaction or performance of the work done.

"Today when we see Merchant here with us as an arm of IICA and a part of the triangular linkage, it is part of the satisfaction of work and I want to thank him for his efforts. I want the records to reflect our gratitude to Merchant, to IICA and all the other allied agencies that tend to assist our farmers," he said.

Hector noted Merchant's vast experience in agriculture which he said had assisted Nevis many times.

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## IICA Technical Forum

### Competition policies for agrifood chains urgently needed

*International consultant presents groundbreaking report on the anticompetitive practices that exist in the agrifood chains of several Latin American countries.*



*Competition policies are essential to guarantee the competitiveness in the agrifood chains, concluded the panelists at a technical forum.*

Agrifood chains have many more distortions and inefficient features than industrial ones, and that ultimately translates into higher prices for consumers. Competition policies are therefore essential to guarantee the competitiveness of all the links in the chains and prevent anticompetitive practices that push up prices.

That was one of the conclusions reached by the panelists at a technical forum entitled “The role of competition policies in addressing the concentration of markets in key agrifood chains in the Americas.”

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) organized the activity, held 26 May, as part of the Annual Series of Technical Forums for the Modernization of Agriculture in the Americas.

Pioneering research, commissioned by IICA and carried out by Argentine economist and researcher Diego Petrecolla, was presented at the activity. The research will form part of a comprehensive report that IICA will be presenting to the Ministers of Agriculture during the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas, [scheduled to take place in Jamaica in October of this year](#).

Petrecolla, the main speaker at the Forum, presented the findings of his innovative study, entitled “Conditions of competition in key agrifood chains in the Americas. Challenges and recommendations.”

Eduardo Sibaja, who began his duties as Minister for Economic Affairs, Industry and Trade of Costa Rica on 18 May this year, inaugurated the activity. Several Costa Rican specialists then commented on the subject of the forum. Mario Montero presented the viewpoint of the agroindustrial sector; Stephan Brunner gave the arguments in favor of competition policies from the institutional standpoint; and Jaime Granados offered an analysis from the trade perspective.

Around 50 people attended the event at the Institute’s Headquarters, which was webcast to all of IICA’s Offices in the hemisphere. The participants at Headquarters included officials from the ministries of agriculture and economic affairs, international agencies such as the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the National Chamber of Agriculture and Agroindustry, and the National Commission for the Consumer. Former ministers of agriculture and foreign trade, academics and IICA staff members also took part.

Petrecolla explained that another of the study’s conclusions is that, in general, the size of the links in Latin American agrifood chains varies. The actors are more concentrated in some stages of the production process and exercise more power than those in weaker and more disperse links in the chain.

In general, suppliers of inputs for production, wholesale distributors and retailers are the strongest and most concentrated links in agrifood chains, while producers and consumers are largely disperse and disorganized.

This market structure is one of the reasons why price fluctuations in international markets are not reflected symmetrically in national markets. “The most concentrated sectors can maintain or increase their margins by passing on variations in costs up or down the chain,” Petrecolla explained. As a result, price increases have a big impact on small producers and the poorest consumers, who not benefit from reductions as much as other links in the chain do either.

The Minister for Economic Affairs of Costa Rica said the large number of middlemen operating in agrifood chains - many of whom are inefficient and informal - made products more expensive and allowed anticompetitive practices to develop that distorted prices.

IICA expert Tania Lopez, the coordinator of the forum, said it was for those reasons that competition policies were needed - to prevent, eliminate and sanction the anticompetitive practices that occur when some abuse their dominant position in the marketplace, and, in general, to distribute the benefits of free trade more equitably.



*The Minister for Economic Affairs of Costa Rica inaugurated the forum.*

The Executive Vice President of the Costa Rican Chamber of the Food Industry (CACIA), Mario Montero, explained that “competition policies help improve the distribution of wealth but, even more importantly, they make it possible to redistribute negotiating power among the economic sectors.”

However, to be effective and achieve their objectives such policies must form part of a regulated market. “The law of competition will never be able to compensate for the effects of poor market regulation,” pointed out agricultural economist Stephan Brunner, who is a member of Costa Rica’s Commission to Promote Competition (COPROCOM).

This opinion was endorsed by Montero and Jaime Granados, an international trade specialist with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), who emphasized the need to complement competition policies with trade and tariff policies.

“A good competition policy enhances a good trade policy but a bad competition policy neutralizes or undermines the benefits of a good trade policy. In general, the two go hand in hand and complement each other,” Granados said. The expert also felt that, working together, the IDB and IICA could make a positive contribution on these issues.

Petrecolla underscored the importance of combining free competition with preventive and corrective actions, such as the monitoring of markets, the control of mergers and takeovers, and investments in assets that are essential for competition (infrastructure and services, technical and technological assistance, information for the consumer). Therefore, policies for production and development were also important to strengthen the weakest links in agrifood chains.

In the case of non-concentrated sectors, the expert recommended fostering partnerships for the joint purchase or contracting of key goods and services, promoting the development and adoption of innovative, small-scale storage systems, reducing the financial costs of small producers and providing them with training and assistance.

He also mentioned the need for “state intervention to help the weakest links, designing and implementing government programs that permit competition and protect and contribute to the development of the most vulnerable sectors of the population (poor consumers and small farmers).”

Minister Sibaja echoed his comments: “The current international crisis shows that totally free, uncontrolled markets are just as dangerous as highly controlled markets. The State should not be a major player or act as a regulator, but it should watch over markets, especially small ones.”

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## Uruguay

### **IICA signs technical cooperation agreement to spur the development of agricultural insurance**

*IICA and the Association for the Development of Agricultural Insurance signed the agreement during a national and regional seminar-workshop on weather risk management and agricultural insurance held in Uruguay.*

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Latin American Association for the Development of Agricultural Insurance (ALASA) - whose members include insurers based in both Europe and the Americas - signed a technical cooperation agreement under which they will share information, provide training and design projects to secure resources for the development of agricultural insurance.

According to the press office of the Southern Agricultural Council (CAS), the agreement was signed during the national and regional seminar-workshop on weather risk management and agricultural insurance, organized by Uruguay's Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries and the IICA Office in that country. The activity took place 4-5 June in Montevideo.

Climate change can cause extensive damage in agricultural regions and agricultural insurance helps reduce farmers' losses. Therefore, the collaboration between the two institutions is aimed at disseminating the use of agricultural insurance in order to reduce or attenuate the results of weather risks.

The document, signed by the President of ALASA, Nestor Abatidaga, and the Assistant Deputy Director General of IICA, David Hatch, underlines the desire of both institutions to contribute, through close coordination between the public and private sectors, to the development of agricultural insurance in the Americas.

Founded in 1986, ALASA is a non-profit organization comprised of 23 entities in the Americas and Europe linked to agricultural insurance.

For its part, IICA has a mandate from the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), issued via a resolution adopted in 2005, to promote and facilitate the systematization and dissemination of successful initiatives related to agricultural insurance and guarantee funds.

Abatidaga and Hatch were two of the experts who took part in the seminar-workshop, the objective of which was to share information and discuss policies and instruments for tackling the growing vulnerability of the agricultural sector to climate change.

After discussing the role of policies for risk management and the promotion of insurance as part of the socioeconomic growth of the agricultural sector, representatives of different international organizations spoke about international cooperation and their experience in developing policies to manage risk and promote agricultural insurance.

The meeting then focused on experiences and possibilities of reinsurance, to provide cover for the agricultural sector, in particular in order to cope with systemic or catastrophic events in a context of increasing unpredictability.

The second part of the activity, which was attended by nearly 300 people, consisted of a workshop on policies and instruments for risk management and agricultural insurance.

Specifically, the focus was on institution building and the requirements for inter-institutional and inter-business cooperation for risk management and agricultural insurance.



*The President of ALASA, Nestor Abatidaga, and the Assistant Deputy Director General of IICA, David Hatch.*

The second panel was used to discuss the regulatory framework needed for a system of cover that benefits the public sector, agricultural production and insurance companies.

The participants then focused on the use of information systems to support risk management and agricultural insurance. The meeting concluded with a round table to discuss proposed initiatives and policies for the development of the agricultural insurance market.

The Minister of Livestock, Agriculture and Fisheries of Uruguay, Ernesto Agazzi, who took part in the inaugural and closing ceremonies of the event, underscored the importance of weather risk management as a tool for private insurers and for the implementation of specific policies on the issue.

The participants in the activity included government agencies involved in the issue, international organizations with experience in promoting and developing risk management tools, insurance and reinsurance companies, and producers' organizations.

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