

Strategic partnerships

Assuming a commitment to joint action

▲ *Given the challenges of development, IICA has assumed a commitment to join forces and pursue common objectives with other international cooperation organizations.*

During 2007, the Institute strengthened and expanded its strategic partnership with Spain's central government and developed new alliances with that country's regional governments under a new strategy for working with Spanish development agencies. As a result, during 2007, project profiles were prepared on 20 topics of interest to AECI and MAPA in 10 countries, working closely with local ministries of agriculture. So far, nearly half of the projects have been submitted. This initiative has generated results institution-wide, focusing the project development process on the explicit needs of our member countries and fostering tangible cooperation from strategic partners.

Also in Spain, MOUs were signed with IRTA, a leading agricultural research and technology institution, and the ARCA Consortium, a private company specializing in the type of aid provided by Europe. These agreements will allow IICA to build relations with technical agencies in Spain and the European Union (EU).

Technical Cooperation in Mexico

A new general technical cooperation agreement was signed with the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) covering the period 2007-2012. The agreement includes implementation of various projects aimed at preventing, controlling and eradicating exotic pests and diseases, and operation of the National Information System for Sustainable Rural Development (PSNIDRUS) program.



Ambassadors and representatives of the Member States participated in the celebration of IICA's 65th anniversary, held at OAS Headquarters in Washington, D.C.

IICA strengthened existing initiatives and advanced new ones to promote rural prosperity, food security and sustainable development throughout the hemisphere. Numerous agencies in Washington, D.C. were made aware of our technical work through various conferences and forums on the themes of regional integration, hemispheric trade and the importance of agriculture and agricultural and livestock health.

Other noteworthy results are:

- The second annual “IICA Day at the OAS,” whose theme was “Realizing the Inter-American Dream of 1942,” culminated in an **OAS** Permanent Council resolution recognizing IICA’s contribution to agriculture and rural development in the Americas.
- **ENESA**, the public insurance agency of Spain, and the **MAPFRE** Foundation, which represents Spanish private insurance companies with interests in Latin America, worked closely with IICA on project proposals.
- An activity to exchange information on the status of the WTO Doha round of trade negotiations was hosted with **Caribbean Central American Action (CCAA)** and the **Inter-American Council (IAC)**.
- In the Caribbean, the signing of a memorandum of understanding between **CARICOM** and the **Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)** to advance the Caribbean Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Bio-energy Action Program.



Photo: USDA, U.S.A.

- In the **United States**, the signing of a MoU between IICA and CROPLIFE, aimed at promoting the transfer of technology that will benefit farmers in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Strategic partnerships in Nicaragua

An example of the networking capabilities of IICA is visible in countries like Nicaragua, where partnerships with the governments of Finland, United States, Austria, Japan (JICA), and Switzerland (SDC) enabled various inter-institutional commissions to take action to:

- i) implement PRORURAL, which contributed to the institutional strengthening of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests (MAGFOR) and the Institute of Rural Development;*
- ii) formulate policies to promote the production and use of biofuels, livestock raising and organic farming;*
- iii) enhance technical capabilities in the institutional structure for agricultural health and food safety;*
- iv) strengthen the Seeds Commission; and*
- v) launch the Network of Producers of Improved Bean Seeds in Boaco, Cárdenas, and Cuatro Santos in Chinandega.*