

IICA Office in the United States Hosts USAID Foreign Service Officers



Visiting USAID DLI officers listen as IICA Representatives in Guatemala, El Salvador and Bolivia share information on the state of agriculture at the local levels.

Washington, DC, February 8, 2011 - The Office of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in the United States today welcomed Foreign Service Officers from USAID’s Development Leadership Initiative (DLI) where the state of agriculture and the challenges faced within the Hemisphere, particularly those in Bolivia, El Salvador and Guatemala were discussed.

According to IICA Representative in the United States, David C. Hatch, the session presented the opportunity to share valuable knowledge. “IICA’s experiences at the country level are unique in that our Representatives and staff work in close

collaboration with the ministries of agriculture.” He continued, “This allows for strong working relations that benefit local government, local farmers and our partners.”

“We are at a cross roads in agriculture development in the Americas,’ said Dr. Priscila Henríquez, Technology and Innovation Specialist, IICA. “It is important to continue focusing on developing capacities in the public sector to support small farmers, especially to link food producers and processors to markets, ensuring that the value added to their products stays in their territories.”

USAID’s DLI Initiative has evolved over the years to address challenges of modern agriculture including that of climate change, disease and water management issues, agribusiness and competitiveness, to name a few. “We look forward to the continued collaboration and synergy between USAID and IICA in achieving our common goals in agriculture development,” emphasized John R. Thomas, Agriculture Development Advisor for USAID.

The IICA office in the US hosted its first session with USAID’s DLI in 2010. At that time, soon to be relocated USAID officers were briefed on the state of agriculture in Peru, Nicaragua, Brazil, Honduras, Haiti and Guatemala.

DLI is a multi-year effort to enhance USAID’s capability to effectively deliver U.S. foreign assistance and to increase its overseas presence. By 2012, DLI is expected to double the size of the Agency’s Foreign Service workforce. To this end, USAID plans to hire 300 new Foreign Service officers each year until 2012.

About IICA

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is the specialized agency for agriculture and the rural milieu of the Inter-American System, whose purpose is to provide innovative technical cooperation to the Member States, with a view to achieving their sustainable development in aid of the peoples of the Americas.

For additional information on IICA, please visit <http://www.iica.int/usa>

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