



Promoting Prosperity in the Rural Communities of the Americas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ayesha London
alondon@iicawash.org
(T) 202-458-6955

IICA AND OAS RECOMMIT TO COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Washington, D.C., March 29, 2006 – The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the Organization of American States (OAS) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to renew their commitment to support the countries of the hemisphere in their efforts on integration, cooperation and participation in the global economy.

The signing which took place during a regular session of the Organization of American States' Permanent Council is expected to have a huge impact on the development of agriculture and rural life in the member countries. According to Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, Director General of IICA, synergy is of critical importance. He said, "This Agreement underscores the institutional actions in partnerships with member countries. We have an obligation to embrace greater social responsibility and a development agenda that allows us to play a more dynamic and strategic role in the promotion of prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas."

The OAS brings together the countries of the Western Hemisphere to strengthen cooperation and advance common interests. It is the region's premier forum for multilateral dialogue and concerted action. "We are at a crucial time in history. With this Agreement we hope to move forward, joining efforts among all of us who wish to promote sustainable agriculture and prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas," Secretary General, José Miguel Insulza said. He also stressed, "Agriculture is a crucial tool for development and sustainability for the region at a time when we need every possible vehicle to deliver the benefits of globalization to our citizens."

Under the new OAS leadership, strategic partnerships have been given added focus and geared towards achieving results.

ABOUT IICA

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is the specialized agency for agriculture of the inter-American system. Its mission is to support the Member States in their pursuit of progress and prosperity in the hemisphere through the modernization of the rural sector, promotion of food security, and development of an agricultural sector that is competitive, technologically prepared, environmentally managed, and socially equitable for the people of the Americas.

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For additional information on OAS, please visit [Http://www.oas.org](http://www.oas.org)

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