

IICA AND IESC TO JOINTLY PROMOTE RURAL PROSPERITY IN THE HEMISPHERE

Washington, D.C., Thursday, January 25, 2007 – The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and the International Executive Service Corps (IESC) today signed an Agreement of Technical Cooperation at IICA's Representative Office in the United States. The two organizations agreed to cooperate and work closely and systematically in efforts aimed at improving agricultural competitiveness, as a means of contributing to rural development, and poverty reduction in the Americas. It also will establish a framework and legal basis for future agreements arising from shared concerns.

"Recognizing IICA and IESC's similar objectives and interests, our organizations can better contribute to the modernization of the rural sector, the development of a sustainable agricultural sector and the enhancement of rural life in the Americas," said IICA's Associate Deputy Director for the Development of Strategic Partnerships and IICA Representative in the United States, Christopher Hansen. "Today's signing of the technical agreement will enable us to foster linkages and transfer relevant information, technology and skills between our two organizations."

Founded by David Rockefeller and other distinguished Americans in 1964, IESC is a private, not-for-profit organization that capitalizes on the skills of industry expert volunteers, consultants and professional staff to promote economic growth around the world.

IESC has implemented more than 200 multidimensional economic development programs and completed over 25,000 technical assistance consultancies that have resulted in the creation of greater than one million jobs and \$500 million in donated services in over 130 countries.



"IESC is very enthusiastic about our commitment to partner and support IICA's new concept of agriculture," said Spencer King, IESC President and CEO. "We are convinced that agriculture can be a key instrument in reducing rural and urban poverty and ensuring food security and sustainable development in the Americas."

IICA proposes a new broader and more systematic view of agriculture, one that goes beyond the traditional way of seeing it as farms, crops and animal protection. In the new vision, IICA believes that agriculture should be viewed as two cross-cutting systems: a rural system

comprising territories that are a natural resource base, where agricultural production is conducted and the agri-food system made up of agri-food chains, ranging from the primary producer to consumers, and bringing into play all actors involved in production processing, distribution, down to the final consumer, whether national or international.

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.

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

For additional information on IESC, please go to: <http://www.iesc.org>.