

ANNEX 1

HEMISPHERIC MINISTERIAL AGREEMENT

■ AGRO 2003-2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.

Panama 2003 – Guayaquil 2005
Guatemala 2007 – Jamaica 2009

The Shared Vision 2015 and the Strategic Actions
belonging to the twelve Purposes of the AGRO-Matrix

THE SHARED VISION 2015 AND THE STRATEGIC ACTIONS

PERTAINING TO THE 12 PURPOSES
OF THE AGRO-MATRIX

I. Promoting competitive rural enterprises

Shared Vision 2015

The rural economy comprises both agricultural and nonagricultural activities. There are organizations, institutions and enterprises with capacity for innovation. There are efficient support services and improved access to technology for production and trade. It also generates goods and services with levels of production and productivity in line with national and world markets.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Promote conditions that will stimulate, in the rural milieu, the development of needed infrastructure, competitive enterprises, and greater investment to improve rural life.

Promote innovative types of financial and non-financial services, and risk management for the rural milieu.

Promote food security through increased productivity, greater market access through improved distribution and the production of safe, nutritious foods, as well as the production and consumption of products that offer greater competitive advantages, taking into consideration social and economic issues.

Improve rural connectivity and access to information through the creation of information network systems within communities.

Promote increased coordination among farmers, research centers and agricultural public and private services to establish priorities and implement actions in the areas of research and technology transfer.

2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda

Áreas de desarrollo económico local / Areas of local economic development

To further promote local economic development with support from public and private investment based on an integrated approach aimed at improving the productivity, competitiveness and managerial capabilities of rural enterprises, with a view to generating employment and improving living conditions in rural territories..

2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda

Entrepreneurial and business capability and capability for innovation

Fomentar e impulsar el desarrollo de la capacidad emprendedora, de To strengthen and promote the development of entrepreneurial and business capabilities and capability for innovation in men and women in rural communities to support the creation of new business operators and enterprises and the sustained and competitive growth of emerging and existing enterprises.

2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda

More and better food

To promote technological innovation and to disseminate the use of good production practices and of science based technologies, including environmental and sanitary ones, among producers, growers' organizations, local leaders, and professionals providing technical assistance to contribute to increase production, productivity, nutrition, food quality and safety, competitiveness, and sustainability of agricultural activities.

Diversification of the Food basket

To improve the quality of life in rural areas by encouraging the production of traditional foods of cultural significance that are locally consumed, enhancing the use of under-utilized species and varieties and promoting an increase in

their productivity and marketing, through research among other means, with a view to contributing to the diversification of the food basket, local supply, food security and the conservation of biodiversity.

II. Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness

Shared Vision 2015

Agriculture encompasses production-trade chains whose links add value.

Agriculture supplies safe, healthy, and high-quality products; it has support services and is efficient and competitive.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Promote the strengthening of linkages in agricultural production-trade chains, and the expansion of infrastructure for development.

Promote research, development and marketing programs for products that recognize added value use of national raw materials.

2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda

Quality management and certification

To promote quality integrated management in the agricultural production chains by, inter alia, developing agricultural health and food safety systems, including certification mechanisms.

Information related to existing quality management tools shall be disseminated to facilitate the expansion of production and trade.

Development of products based on the biotechnologies

To develop new products based on the application of biotechnologies, within the framework of national policies on innovation considering biosafety mechanisms, with the coordinated participation of public and private sectors in compliance with existing regional and international agreements.

2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda

Market information

To increase the availability of, and improve access for rural producers and other sectors linked to the productive chain to, reliable and timely market information through various public and private mechanisms or services.

Inclusive chains linkages

To promote the integration of rural producers and micro, small- and medium-scale agri enterprises into production and marketing/trade chains contributing to a sustainable income.

2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda

Storage and food processing

To promote the improvement of harvesting, storage and food processing technologies and infrastructure through public and private investment that contributes to a better use of agricultural production, a reduction of post harvest losses and an increased food supply to local and export markets.

III. Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture

Shared Vision 2015

Macroeconomic policies facilitate effective management of agricultural development that foster and promote the improvement of rural life

and allow greater access to efficient services, new and appropriate technologies, improved infrastructure, user-friendly information systems, and transparent markets.

Agricultural trade is taking place in an international framework significantly less distorted by subsidies and market access barriers.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Support a real and meaningful reform in agriculture by strengthening the multilateral rules governing agricultural trade, as agreed in Doha, including substantial improvements in market access; reductions of, with a view to elimination of, all forms of export subsidies, and substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support. Support the establishment of free trade areas in the hemisphere and in other regional or sub-regional forums. Support and participate in capacity building and technical assistance that contributes to these objectives.

Assign high priority to regional policies on animal and plant health and on food safety, strengthening national and regional systems, and reaffirming their commitment to the competent organizations recognized by the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures and the relevant international organizations (Codex Alimentarius, the World Animal Health Organization (OIE), the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC)) and regional organizations.

Foster economic and social conditions conducive to the development of agribusinesses, the generation of employment, the integration of production-trade chains and their participation in the international context.

Promote micro, small and medium scale rural enterprises, cooperatives and community groups engaged in agricultural production, agroindustry and rural services.

Promote cooperatives as a way to improve production and marketing organization and to improve rural income.

Support programs that encourage internal and external private investment in the rural milieu, promoting the adoption of legal measures that provide investors with security.

Foster the establishment of priorities and the revitalization of research capabilities by coordinating among farmers, research centers and agricultural services, and facilitate access to innovative technologies that are adaptive and practical with direct links to production, processing and marketing systems.

Facilitate access to new technologies to improve productivity; and establish a hemispheric mechanism to advance better understanding of the science and safety of biotechnology products, including the development of a data base. Consider the development of biotechnology and its use in agriculture with a sustainable strategic vision.

Support actions to comply with international agricultural health standards.

2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda

Generation of energy from alternative sources

To promote policies that will encourage the generation of energy from alternative sources based on agricultural and agroindustrial activities, sustainable use of renewable natural resources and modern biotechnology.

Policies for agroindustry

To promote the adoption of policies for the development of market oriented agro-industries, agribusiness and nonagricultural rural activities.

2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda

Strengthening of small- and medium scale rural enterprise

To implement policies that promote coordination between the public and private sectors, to improve the competitiveness of rural enterprises and producers to maximize trade.

Mobilizing resources

To mobilize public and private resources for the creation of infrastructure in an effort to promote investment in the rural sector and promote competitive agriculture.

2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda

Plant and animal health and food safety

To strengthen capacity development and modernization of national and international institutions for plant and animal health and food safety with the objective of:

- improving veterinary, phytosanitary and public health status of the countries,
- the harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary measures according to science-based international standards,
- border and cross-border disease controls, and the management capacity to prevent and combat invasive organisms and diseases.

Soils and water management

To strengthen, jointly with the cooperation of other national institutions and with the technical assistance of international organizational bodies:

- the implementation of national strategies,
- exchange of international experiences, and
- mobilization of resources
to enhance the capacities of agriculture stakeholders, promote conservation and sustainable management of soils and water resources and to address degradation, desertification, floods and droughts for the protection of land and water as common resources of humankind so as to encourage agricultural production and productivity.

Land and land tenure

To create programs that facilitate access to land, and establishing mechanisms for security of tenureship and land titling for small producers.

Risk management and agricultural emergencies

To improve and develop instruments for the management of risks such as:

- agricultural insurance
- mechanisms to combat risks related to illegal occupation and praedial larceny,
- integration of early warning information systems,
- international networks for cooperation in risk assessment, as well as to strengthen the comprehensive management of emergencies in agriculture and the rural milieu caused by agro-climatic and meteorological changes, and by human intervention.

IV. Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas

Shared Vision 2015

Agriculture uses environmentally friendly practices and technologies that address sustainable management of natural resources.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Increase understanding of the environmental impact of conventional agricultural systems, and of production systems suited to agroecological systems.

Promote access to, and adoption of, agricultural, forestry and fisheries practices that are environmentally sound, including agroecological and organic alternatives.

Foster better understanding, facilitate dialogue and work towards hemispheric consensus with regard to the links between agriculture and biodiversity within the framework of national and international agreements.

Strengthen national and local capabilities to mitigate natural disasters.

Foster sustainable agriculture with an expanded agroecological and innovative vision based on land use planning, diversification and non-food uses of agricultural products.

Foster dialogue and collaborate with other sectors related to rural life for the development of activities that link agriculture with other non-agricultural activities such as agro-tourism, eco-tourism and environmental services.

2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda

Environmental plan for businesses

To promote the creation of national capabilities to develop and implement agro environmental policies in the rural milieu with the participation of rural organizations, academia and the public and private sectors.

V. From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management

Shared Vision 2015

Production-trade chains use systems and technologies that mitigate the effects of natural disasters and sanitary and phytosanitary emergencies.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Promote environmental management in the links of the production-trade chains.

VI. Participating in building an institutional environmental framework

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Promote organic agriculture, as well as regulations for the production, oversight, quality certification and trade of organic products.

Collaborate with the appropriate domestic authorities on the updating of environmental regulations for agriculture and strengthen public-private coordination for environmental management.

Encourage active participation of agricultural and rural community leaders in national discussions related to international negotiations on the environment and sustainable development.

Encourage the establishment of a hemispheric network specialized in early warning and agrometeorological monitoring for the mitigation of natural disasters through the joint efforts of public and private institutions in the hemisphere.

2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda

Environmental services and environmentally sound practices

To encourage the development of various approaches and mechanisms that recognize the value of the environmental services offered by the rural milieu and environmentally sound practices.

Market opportunities for goods and services produced in an environmentally sustainable manner

To improve institutional frameworks and consolidate the progress reached in the production and marketing of sustainable agricultural products.

2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda

Climate change

To strengthen the agricultural sector's capacity to mitigate and to adapt to climate change through the development and implementation of strategies that address:

- coordination between environmental and food security policies,
- development of incentives for those that protect the environment,
- generation and use of environmentally sustainable technologies and practices,
- increasing public and private sector investment, and
- assessment of the impact of climate change and the exchange of information.

Multisectoral agroenvironmental management

To actively encourage a multisectoral approach for the development of national strategies in agro-environmental management in rural areas.

VII. Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity

Shared Vision 2015

There has been a substantial reduction in rural poverty as defined in Millennium Development Goals. The quality of life of the inhabitants in rural communities has improved as well as the levels of employment and employment opportunities.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Support public-private interaction and coordination in order to improve national capabilities for strategic action, dialogue and negotiation.

Improve the agricultural education system and promote the improvement of education of the rural population.

Promote appropriate social protection measures for economically vulnerable rural families.

Promote the participation of the rural population and consider its cultural diversity in the design and application of rural development strategies.

Promote policies that support access to resources such as land, credit, market information and other services.

2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda

Management and leadership

To improve entrepreneurial management and leadership capacities through the operation of appropriate rural institutions offering services such as training, technological dissemination, innovation, market information and other services required for production, processing and marketing. These activities should give special priority to small and medium size producers and entrepreneurs, field workers, women and youth.

VIII. Advancing learning and expertise in the chain

Shared Vision 2015

Production-trade chains have information systems that enhance knowledge and learning processes to facilitate the management of risk involved in agriculture and contribute to the operation of efficient food security systems.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Promote the development of entrepreneurial capabilities among different social and cultural groups in the rural communities.

IX. Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities

Shared Vision 2015

Agriculture is recognized as a key component of the health and food security systems.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Promote rural development programs that include gender equity, including multicultural considerations, where applicable, and special attention to different age groups to improve the living conditions of the rural population.

Promote agricultural and rural training and recommend to the competent authorities the evaluation and accreditation of agricultural education.

2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda

Social responsibility in rural enterprises

To promote the concept of social responsibility in rural enterprises; fostering the creation of jobs and the principle of decent work as reflected in international conventions.

2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda

Repositioning of rural issues in national strategies

To participate proactively in the repositioning of agriculture and rural issues and priorities in national strategies by promoting in society an increased understanding of the contributions made by the rural sector, a rural-urban balance in the national development agenda and efforts to overcome biases and exclusions that are detrimental to rural communities.

2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda

Production and income

To promote expansion of producers and rural entrepreneurs and increased rural incomes through:

- clear price signals for inputs, food products and associated processing and transportation costs,
- increased capacity for post harvest storage and marketing,
- national strategies directed to the incorporation of rural groups, organizations and communities into the production process,
- increased investment in agriculture,
- strengthening of small and medium size rural enterprises,
- participation of rural women and youth in income and employment generating activities, to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life in the rural milieu giving priority to those that present a higher level of social vulnerability and to food insecurity.

X. Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories

Shared Vision 2015

The rural economy comprises based on the coordinated action of the public and private sectors.

The different social and productive groups of the rural sector have democratic mechanisms for reflection and dialogue and have mechanisms for their full participation in the definition and execution of actions aimed at improving rural life.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Support the participation of rural communities in decisions that affect their lives and the environment in which they live, specifically to develop their capabilities, leadership skills and their ability to participate in government programs.

2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda

Integral development of rural territories

To foster integrated rural development based on a multisectorial and participatory approach, and strengthened public-private coordination.

2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda

Establishment and follow-up of partnerships and agreements

To support rural stakeholders and their organizations with establishing coordinating, consensus building, and follow-up mechanisms on partnerships and agreements to facilitate joint efforts in implementing policies and strategies in rural territories.

2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda

Focusing on rural territories

To promote the use of a systemic, multisectoral and participatory approach in the design of policies and programs and in the assignment and focusing of resources for improving agriculture, food security and sustainable rural development.

XI. Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain

Shared Vision 2015

Agriculture encompasses production-trade chains It has mechanisms among the different stakeholders to discuss various aspects of the distribution of global benefits.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Promote institutional frameworks to facilitate dialogue and negotiation among all participants in the production-trade chains.

2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda

Coordination mechanisms and chain approach

To promote or strengthen, as required, the creation and operation of formal coordination mechanisms with all public and private agricultural production chain stakeholders, to facilitate, among other things:

- identifying and eliminating those factors that restrict their competitiveness,
- the integral analysis of such chains through a chain approach,
- trust building and institutional mechanisms to solve the conflicts inherent to each chain,
- improving logistics from farm to the table,
- improving regulatory compliance
- responding to crises
- dialogue, reaching agreements and follow-up of action commitments.

XII. Promoting National policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life

Shared Vision 2015

Agriculture is recognized of strategic importance to development.

2003-2005 Hemispheric Agenda

Strengthen the mechanisms for cooperation among countries in the areas of technical assistance, knowledge, information and experience which contribute to the modernization of agriculture and rural life.

Develop additional opportunities for cooperation and collaboration with agricultural and non-agricultural stakeholders and with civil society and to ensure that agricultural institutions have sufficient capacity to pursue these objectives.

Strengthen regional and hemispheric interaction among and between agricultural ministries and international organizations.

2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda

National policies

To promote long-term national policies for the development of the agri-food sector and the rural milieu, taking into consideration existing international frameworks.

Interinstitutional and multisectorial work

To strengthen sectoral and multisectorial coordination to facilitate the implementation of long-term national policies, for improving agriculture and the quality of life in rural communities.

2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda

Establishment of partnerships and agreements

To promote cooperation and the establishment of lasting alliances and agreements at the national, regional and hemispheric levels, which allow for greater participation of the private and social sectors in public policy development and implementation geared towards the improvement of agriculture and rural life.

Modernization and institutional strengthening of the rural public sector

To promote the modernization of public institutions in agriculture to enable them to integrate actions and services, that will improve linkages with other public, private and social stakeholders, as well as international partners, in the implementation of the 2003-2015 AGRO Plan.

Reassessment of the value of agriculture and the rural milieu

To promote efforts to reassess the value of agriculture and the rural milieu by helping to address strategic and emerging development issues, promoting urban-rural integration, taking into consideration social, political, economic, ecological and cultural factors, reporting on the multidimensional contributions made by the rural sector to national development.

2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda

Institutional capacity

To enhance the public and private institutional capacity in order to promote:

- participation of stakeholders in the agricultural sector and the development of their own capacities,
- expansion of technical services and technological innovation to improve the entire agricultural value chain, with particular emphasis on small and medium sized producers and entrepreneurs,
- building trade capacities for the benefit of agriculture and rural communities,
- environmental management of the different agricultural activities,
- inter-institutional coordination, and
- informed participation in international forums regarding agriculture and rural life.

Investment in agriculture and rural development

Promoting National policies to increase public and private, national and international investment as well as better financing of agriculture, agribusiness, small and medium-size enterprises, cooperatives, infrastructure and public goods for the rural milieu.

