

JAMAICA WILL HOST IN 2009 THE FIFTH MINISTERIAL MEETING “AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN THE AMERICAS”

With “**Building Capacity for Enhancing Food Security and Rural Life in the Americas**” as our motto, we are making progress with the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.” A key point in the process will be reached during the last week of October 2009, in the city of Montego Bay, Jamaica when the Fifth Ministerial Meeting will take place.

That Meeting will mark the culmination of the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process, with the participants focusing on the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, reaching new agreements and reaffirming the continuity of the process.

As a result, the expected **Results** of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting will be:

- The adoption of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreement Jamaica 2009, with the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda for the implementation of the AGRO Plan.
- A more thorough understanding of the strategic importance of agriculture and the rural milieu for the sustainable development of the Americas, as the basis for making new decisions regarding implementation of the AGRO Plan.



- A renewed commitment on the part of the countries to promote the development and implementation of the information system for following up on and evaluating the AGRO Plan and its regional strategies.
- The strengthening of international cooperation within the framework of the AGRO Plan.

The current Ministerial Process focuses on the implementation of the Ministerial Agreement adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Meeting (Guatemala 2007), which emphasizes two strategic orientations:

- “to promote with the agricultural stakeholders a broad based approach to thinking and acting in agriculture and the rural milieu.”
- “working together” (agricultural and non agricultural stakeholders) to improve agriculture and rural life in the Americas.”

Jamaica as host of the Meeting is a key player for the Ministerial Process. Jamaica will strive, as Chair of the 2009 GRICA (the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates) and the Ministerial Meeting to make our motto a reality.

In order to achieve the aforementioned **Results**, it is necessary to carry out the following **actions**:

- a) Continue the **dissemination** of the AGRO Plan, as updated with the Ministerial Agreement of Guatemala.
- b) Continue the **implementation** of the Ministerial Agreement of Guatemala 2007, specifically the strategic guidelines for the 2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda and those related to its Implementation and Follow-up component.

- c) Preparing in each country a **national progress report** on the implementation of 2008-2009 Hemispheric Agenda.
- d) Continuing the dialogue, headed by the Ministers and their Delegates to the GRICA 2009, on **strategic topics** for the improvement of agriculture and rural life.
- e) Identifying the principal challenges inherent to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, and of progress toward the Shared Vision 2015 of the AGRO Plan.
- f) Update the AGRO Plan with **strategic actions** for the 2010-2011 Hemispheric Agenda.
- g) Continuing updating and the implementation of the information system for following up on and evaluating the AGRO Plan, and its regional strategies.
- h) Strengthening **joint actions and horizontal cooperation** between countries.

