

KEY PLAYERS IN THE 2008-2009 MINISTERIAL PROCESS

The key players in the 2008-2009 Ministerial Process and its Fifth Ministerial Meeting are the Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture and their Ministerial Delegates of Agriculture and Rural Life. They are called upon to lead the national dialogue in each country, the goal of which is to prepare, based on the **challenges** faced in implementing the AGRO Plan, the national proposals on **strategic actions** for updating the Plan.

JAMAICA

Since Jamaica will be hosting the Fifth Ministerial Meeting in 2009, the country's Ministry of Agriculture will be responsible for:

- Chairing the Fifth Ministerial Meeting.
- Conducting the Ministerial Process and chairing the Hemispheric Forum of Ministerial Delegates (2009 GRICA).
- Organizing and holding, with IICA, the Fifth Ministerial Meeting "Agriculture and Rural Life" and the XV Regular Meeting of the IABA.
- Promoting the positioning of agriculture and rural life in the Summits of Americas Process (which next Summit is going to be held in Trinidad and Tobago, April 2009).



GUATEMALA

Since Guatemala hosted the Fourth Ministerial Meeting, Guatemala 2007, its Ministry of Agriculture will serve as the Joint Chair of the 2009 GRICA and assist Jamaica in conducting the Ministerial Process until 2009.

THE MINISTERIAL DELEGATES

Based on the experience acquired with the previous ministerial processes, the role of the Ministerial Delegates in the 34 countries is crucial in the conduct of the current process. They are responsible for the following:

- Seeing to the implementation and follow-up of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements entrusted to them by the ministers at their previous ministerial meeting;
- Coordinating with their foreign ministries the circulation of information on the mandates on agriculture and rural life of the Summits and follow-up of those mandates;
- Leading the dialogue and building national consensus on national proposals for updating the AGRO Plan.
- Participating in the virtual dialogue and the meetings of GRICA 2009, while seeking to build hemispheric consensus on the agreements of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting.

A key element required for the success of the Ministerial Process is the leadership of the Ministerial Delegates in the

dialogue with other development stakeholders and the close collaboration with the National Summit Coordinators of the respective ministries of foreign affairs.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)

An institutional partner in the Summits of the Americas process since the Quebec Summit, held in 2001. Since then, it has served as Technical Secretariat of the Ministerial Process “Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas.”

Its contribution is aimed at facilitating the continuation of the Ministerial Process and its linkage to the Summit of the Americas process. It plays an important role in facilitating agreement on the monitoring and adjusting of the national and regional strategies and the AGRO Plan. Through its Offices in the 34 Member States, its Directorates of Regional Operations and other units at Headquarters, it supports the national authorities of its Member States in the development of the Ministerial Process and in the implementation of the AGRO Plan.

IICA, through specialized units at Headquarters and its Office in Jamaica, will provide full support to the Jamaican authorities in all tasks related to its role as host country of the most important hemispheric event for agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

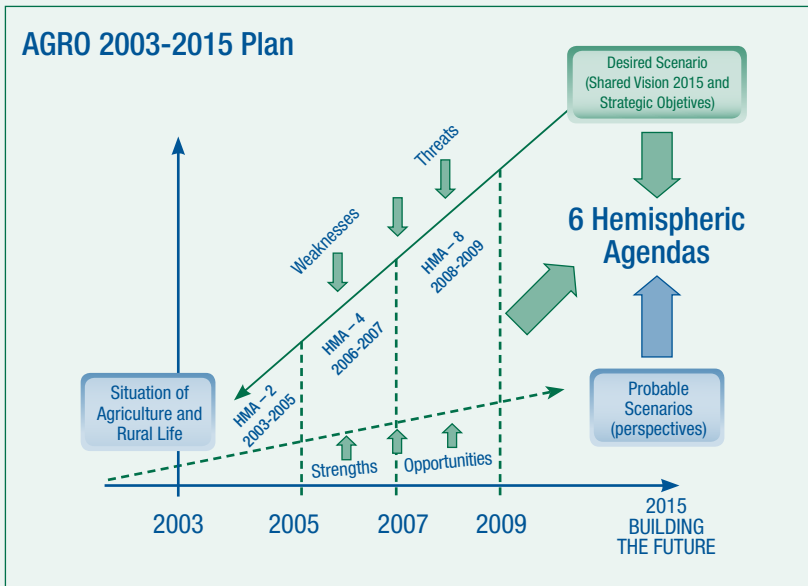
Also, IICA will continue cooperating with other International Organizations in assisting the countries to achieve the mandates from the Summits of the Americas.



WHAT IS THE AGRO 2003-2015 PLAN?

The AGRO 2003-2015 Plan is the shared long-term agenda for promoting the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu.

The Plan was adopted at the Second Ministerial Meeting (Panama 2003), following a broad-based process of dialogue and negotiation aimed at reaching consensus on national proposals, which were then submitted to the same process at the hemispheric level under the responsibility of the Ministers of Agriculture and their Ministerial Delegates.



AGRO PLAN 2003 – 2015

More than a ministerial document, the AGRO Plan is a continuing joint process for learning and consensus building, the adoption of commitments and the execution of strategic actions to move ahead towards the Shared Vision 2015 for agriculture and rural life in the Americas

The Plan provides a framework for bringing about the changes required to achieve the Shared Vision 2015, and is implemented and updated by the countries through the strategic actions contained in the biennial hemispheric agendas, and the measures for their implementation and follow-up negotiated by the GRICA and defined by the ministers in their Ministerial Meetings.

The AGRO Plan has been updated as a result of the Hemispheric Ministerial Agreements (HMAs) adopted at the Third and Fourth Ministerial Meetings (Guayaquil 2005 and Guatemala 2007).

WHAT IS THE AGRO-MATRIX AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

The AGRO-Matrix, used as the basis for preparing the AGRO 2003-2015 Plan, is a comprehensive conceptual framework for the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu. It is one of the main outcomes of the Ministerial process. Two aspects need to be differentiated in the AGRO-Matrix.

They are:

- the two pillars of its structure; and
- the three components of the desired situation

The two pillars of its structure are a systemic concept of agriculture and rural life, broken down into three operational areas (rural territories, agricultural value chains and the national and international context) and a sustainable development approach consisting of four dimensions (production-trade, ecological-environmental, socio-cultural-human and political-institutional).



The three components of the desired situation needed to attain the Shared Vision 2015 are the twelve purposes, the seven strategic objectives and the overarching goal, the sustainable development of agriculture and rural milieu, which guide the strategies, policies and actions adopted.

In addition to the AGRO Plan, the design of the Information System for Monitoring and Evaluating the Plan is based on the AGRO-Matrix.

The AGRO-Matrix				
Systemic Concept	Rural Territories	Agricultural Production-Trade Chains	National and International Context	STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES
Sustainable development approach				
Production – Trade	I. Promoting competitive rural enterprises	II. Integrating chains and strengthening their competitiveness	III. Promoting an environment conducive to competitive agriculture	→ Competitiveness
Ecological – Environmental	IV. Being environmentally responsible in the rural areas	V. From farm to table: promoting integrated environmental management	VI. Participating in building an institutional environmental framework	→ Sustainability
Sociocultural - human	VII. Quality of life in rural communities: creating know-how and opportunity	VIII. Advancing learning and expertise in the chain	IX. Promoting policies to create capabilities and opportunities for the rural communities	→ Equity
Political - institutional	X. Strengthening public and private sector participation and coordinated action between them in the territories	XI. Strengthening dialogue and commitments among actors in the chain	XII. Promoting national policies and regional and hemispheric cooperation for agriculture and rural life	→ Governance
STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES				OVERARCHING GOAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL MILIEU