



WHAT IS IICA?

We are the specialized agency of the Inter-American System for the promotion of agriculture and rural well-being, and our efforts are fully focused on making **agriculture competitive and sustainable in the Americas.**

We have a modern vision of the challenges facing agriculture, which range from the effects of climate change on agricultural production to the urgent need to feed a growing world population; while at the same time creating opportunities and jobs for the men and women of the rural areas of our member countries.

Faced with such extraordinary challenges, we propose a **new paradigm for agriculture:** one in which the sector will improve national revenues and individual incomes, play a key role in making food security a reality, and is a line of defense in mitigating the impacts of climate change. We are committed to making agriculture **more productive, more inclusive and more sustainable.**

Since our founding, in 1942, we have acquired a wealth of experience in the provision of technical cooperation in the areas of technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development and training.

More recently, the Institute has become involved in the relationship between agriculture and the environment, natural resources and climate change. It has also helped the countries to meet new challenges in areas such as biotechnology and biosafety, agroenergy, agrotourism, organic agriculture, agricultural insurance, rural agroindustry and rural development from a territorial approach.

In our **34 Member States**, we work very closely with the ministries of agriculture. Our governing body is the **Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)**, comprising the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere. In addition, we serve as the secretariat of the **Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture** in the Context of the Summit of the Americas Process.

► MISSION

IICA is the institution of the Inter-American System that provides technical cooperation, innovation and specialized knowledge to contribute to the competitive and sustainable development of agriculture in the Americas and to improve the lives of rural dwellers in the member countries.

► VISION

To be a leading and innovative institution in the provision of technical cooperation for agriculture, known for its contributions to making the agrifood sector competitive, achieving the sustainable development of agriculture, promoting food security, reducing poverty and improving living conditions in the rural territories of the Americas, based on its strong technical expertise and capacity to provide solutions to the new challenges facing the member countries in these areas.

► THE INSTITUTE'S PRINCIPLES

- Leadership through excellence
- Innovation
- Interdisciplinary approaches and teamwork
- Excellence in performance
- Partnerships to boost impact
- Social responsibility
- Environmental responsibility
- Focus on results and accountability
- Efficiency, transparency and financial prudence
- Adherence to rules and regulations
- Equality and equity
- Respect for diversity

► OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

We offer technical cooperation to help the countries achieve the following strategic objectives:

1. To improve the **productivity** and **competitiveness** of the agricultural sector.
2. To strengthen agriculture's contribution to the **development of territories** and to rural well-being.
3. To improve agriculture's capacity to mitigate the effects of, and adapt to, **climate change**, and make better use of natural resources.
4. To improve agriculture's contribution to **food security**.

► FOCUSED ON MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTRIES

We meet the needs of the member countries and guarantee efficiency in the use of our resources.

To this end, we develop **international public goods** that can help the countries address issues they share in common, at three levels:

- Hemispheric. The entire hemisphere.
- Regional. Northern, Central, Andean, Southern and the Caribbean.
- National. In each of the 34 member countries.

WHAT DOES IICA DO?

We focus our efforts on those fields in which they will have a greater impact:

- Design, analysis and evaluation of public policies and strategies
- Strengthening and modernization of institutions
- Creation and development of capabilities
- Knowledge management for agriculture and rural well-being
- Support for the countries on specific issues and investment projects

► TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

We carry out our technical cooperation actions through six programs:

- Innovation for productivity and competitiveness
- Agricultural health and food safety
- Agribusiness and commercialization
- Agriculture, territories and rural well-being
- Agriculture, natural resource management and climate change
- Agriculture and food security

Each program provides hemispheric technical **leadership** in its respective area of competence; offers guidance for the implementation of Institute projects; and provides the IICA Offices with technical cooperation and support in implementing their strategies in each country.

► STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

For the purpose of helping the countries develop a State vision for agriculture and giving them the tools they need to conduct prospective analyses and engage in strategic thinking, we have the **Center for Strategic Analysis for Agriculture**.

HOW IS IICA GOVERNED?

The Institute has two governing bodies:

The **Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA)**, comprising the representatives of its 34 member countries. It meets biennially.

The **Executive Committee**, comprising representatives of 12 Member States, elected in accordance with the principles of partial rotation and equitable geographic distribution. It meets annually.

The **General Directorate** is the executive organ of IICA. It is made up of the technical and administrative units through which the activities of the Institute are coordinated and carried out.

The Director General of the Institute receives support from the **Special Advisory Committee on Management Issues**, a nine-member advisory body whose purpose is to facilitate dialogue with the Member States.

The current Director General of IICA is **Dr. Victor M. Villalobos**, from Mexico. He was elected by the IABA for the 2010-2014 term.

