

FORAGRO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: COMPOSITION, NOMINATIONS, FUNCTIONS, MEETINGS

Includes amends agreed at the VII Meeting of the EC Panama 2003

MAIN ROLE

The Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development will have an Executive Committee (EC), which will be its orienting body to carry out actions and for the mechanism's evolutionary development. Its global orienting actions will be carried out according to the dynamic national, regional and global contexts of agriculture, with a comprehensive vision of the sector and from the perspective of research and technological development.

COMPOSITION

The Executive Committee consists of the following members:

- The Presidents of the Directive Commissions of the Sub-regional Cooperative Research Programs: PROCINDINO, PROCITROPICOS, PROCISUR, SICTA PROCICARIBE, PROCINORTE
- One representative from the Universities.
- One representative from the private sector
- One representative from the NGOs.
- One representative from the private or semi-private research support organizations.
- One representative from the producers or growers associations that promote research.
- IICA, through the Director General, who may delegate his participation on the Directorate of Area II - Science, Technology and Natural Resources, according to the current organizational structure or, if this structure is modified, on the unit in charge of technological innovation functions with a hemispheric scope.

The Executive Committee will also have participation, without the right to vote, from the Executive Secretaries of the PROCIs, FONTAGRO, the networks sponsored by FORAGRO, representatives from the Regional Centers CATIE and CARDI, the FAO, and the International Research Centers with headquarters in the Region.

IICA, through the Directorate of Science, Technology and Natural Resources, will act as the Technical Secretariat for FORAGRO and will fulfill the secretarial functions in the Committee meetings.

PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT

The Executive Committee will have a President and four Vice-Presidents, elected by the official Committee members, for a period of two years. The Presidency, held by a NARI, as well as the Vice-presidencies, will be exercised by the represented institutions, in the person of the maximum authority of the institution in each case. The first Vice-presidency corresponds to the NARIs, in this case to one

of the institutions in charge of a PROCI Presidency at the time of the election. Second and third Vice-presidencies correspond to the university, NGOs or private sectors, as agreed by the EC members.

When the President cannot act as such, he will delegate in the First Vice-president his representation. If the first Vice-president cannot represent him, he will delegate in the second and third Vice-presidents, successively. The convenience of having these directive positions is, on one hand to facilitate the continuity of the actions of the Forum and, on the other hand, to assure as much as possible the presence of FORAGRO in different technical and political "spaces", previous agreement among the EC directives to represent the interests of the Forum.

It is important to give continuity to the activities of the Forum through the EC President's and Vice-presidents' experience. Therefore, when the President's period ends, the first Vice-president will assume the Presidency.

EC FUNCTIONS

- Orient the general development of FORAGRO, determining its course regarding general goals and carrying out thematic and operative activities.
- Approve the biannual Action Plan and the high-priority annual activities.
- Follow up the execution of the Forum's Action Plan and the annual activities in general and adopt the necessary decisions that lead towards the fulfillment of its objectives.
- Determine the content of the biannual meetings of FORAGRO, their general organization and the procedure to obtain the expected products and to publicize them.
- Give orientations so that, through the Technical Secretariat and the EC members, procedures are advanced to mobilize resources for the activities of the Forum.
- Represent FORAGRO in regional and world meetings relevant to the Forum's goals and activities, through the President, the Vice-presidents or another one of its members.
- Orient, support and interact with the Technical Secretariat in order to promote the development of the Forum and its activities.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The Executive Committee will meet in ordinary sessions at least once a year. In the years in which the FORAGRO International Meeting takes place, the EC meeting will preferably concur with it. For the Committee to be able to hold a session, at least six of its members must be present, representing the public, private, national and regional sectors.

PROGRAM OF THE MEETINGS

For each Executive Committee meeting, the Technical Secretariat of FORAGRO will prepare a program to be approved by the President, and which will be distributed to the EC members with the invitation to the meeting. These members may request the inclusion of specific topics, in agreement with the EC President.

DECISION TAKING IN THE EC

Committee decisions will be taken, preferably, by consensus from its members.