



Agriculture
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The Hon. Eugene Whelan
Minister of Agriculture



Dr. José Emilio G. Araujo
Director General of IICA

preface

The fourteenth session of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences (IICA) is meeting in Ottawa, April 27 to May 10, 1975. After membership of only 2 years, Canada is very pleased that the Institute accepted the invitation of the Canadian Government to hold its annual session in Ottawa.

Canada has in the 1970's taken action to strengthen her ties with her Latin American and Caribbean neighbors. One of these steps is a program of bilateral technical assistance, through CIDA, in Latin America. Assistance is concentrated in three sectors: agriculture (farming, forestry and fisheries), education, and community development. It is also apparent that one way for Canada to draw closer is through increased association with regional institutions and organizations. One such organization is IICA.

Since its inception in 1942, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences has played an active and important role in the encouragement, development and coordination of agricultural research and in the dissemination of this knowledge within the Americas. Canada has a distinctive role to play in this important area.

The Department of Agriculture has been assigned the responsibility of working closely with IICA in its efforts to improve the well-being of both the rural and urban populations in Latin America and the Caribbean countries.

IICA and the "Campesino"

Canada joined IICA in 1972. IICA's full name is Instituto Interamericano de Ciencias Agrícolas, or in English it is the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. Canada is one of 25 American countries who are members of IICA. Membership in IICA is open to all countries of the Western Hemisphere, who are prepared to accord to the Convention of the Institute, which was established "... to encourage and advance the development of agricultural sciences in the American Republics through research, teaching and extension activities in the theory and practice of agriculture and related arts and sciences."

In 1975, 25 countries of North, South and Central America, as well as several Caribbean countries (Haiti, Jamaica, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Trinidad and Tobago) are members. Cuba was a member, but was suspended from the OAS in 1963, and thus has not been eligible to participate in IICA. Cooperative relations have also been established between IICA and a number of countries outside the area of the Americas and the Caribbean. These countries — Spain, Federal Republic of Germany, Britain and the Netherlands — participate as observers.

IICA is only one of a number of Latin American organizations that Canada has joined over the past few years, as a recognition of its responsibility to increase its cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean region in the effort to speed up economic development. Other organizations through which Canadian assistance is provided include the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Pan American Health Organization, Inter-American Economic and Social Council, Inter-American Statistical Institute and the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain.

Assistance to agriculture is provided, in addition, through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the International Development Research Center (IDRC) and Canadian nongovernmental agencies. Through its membership in FAO and its contribution to the UN/FAO World Food Program, Canada has shared in the assistance made available to the developing countries in the Western Hemisphere.

THE CHALLENGE

Three hundred million people live in Latin America and the Caribbean region. Of these, about 60 percent depend on agriculture for a livelihood, ranging from 75 percent in Haiti to 15 percent in Argentina. Per capita incomes range from less than \$100 in Haiti to over \$1000 in Argentina and Venezuela. In his 1974 message to the IICA Board of Directors, the Director General said that on an average, half the population of Latin America has an income of \$120 per capita per year. An intermediate group, which includes about 45 percent of the population, earns approximately \$400 per capita per year. The remaining 5 percent of the population earns about \$2400 per capita per year. For the agricultural sector, per capita income of nearly 80 percent of the "campesinos" (small farmers) is less than \$100 per year. At the same time, unemployment in the region as a whole in the early 1970's was over 25 percent.

Although food production has increased, it has not kept pace with the population growth. Agriculture is generally characterized by a low level of technology, low productivity and little purchasing power.

Within the framework of this challenge to accelerate progress in agriculture, to raise the nutritional levels of the low income people, and to improve the general level of living, can be found the objectives of IICA.

OBJECTIVES OF IICA

IICA is the specialized agricultural agency of the Organization of American States (OAS). Founded in 1942 by the Latin American countries, its objectives are to help stimulate rural development in member countries as a means to general economic development and the well-being of the people of the region. Solutions are sought to national agricultural problems through Inter-American cooperation based on common support in the areas of research, teaching, and the dissemination of agricultural theory and practice. On the anniversary of 30 years of work, in what was described as an example of positive evolution, IICA's present status was defined as being "dedicated to the strengthening of institutions of the agricultural sector of the member countries as a means to eventually collaborate in the overall development and well-being of the American man."

The Institute was first established at the Training and Research Center in Turrialba, Costa Rica, as a center devoted basically to research and training in the agricultural sciences. Since 1970, IICA has been guided by the "General Plan" introduced by the present Director General, José Emilio G. Araujo. The emphasis is on what Dr. Araujo calls the "hemispheric and humanistic projection": "Man," he says, "is the subject and object, the essence of the development process." Three particular goals are identified for the Institute: (a) to increase production and productivity; (b) to meet the demand for jobs in the rural sector; and (c) to reduce economic and social inequality. The policy is hemispheric in that IICA seeks to coordinate its actions with those of the other organizations of the Inter-American system in the western hemisphere.

ORGANIZATION AND STRUCTURE

The structure of IICA consists of:

- (a) Executive offices under the Director General;
- (b) Regional offices for four zones (Andean, Antilles, Northern, Southern);
- (c) National offices in most member countries;
- (d) Supporting centers:
 - Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center (IICA-CATIE), Turrialba, Costa Rica.
 - Rural Development and Agrarian Reform Center (IICA-CIRA), Bogota, Columbia.
 - Inter-American Center for Documentation and Agricultural Information (IICA-CIDIA), Turrialba, Costa Rica.

The activities of IICA though directed from headquarters in San José, are operated at the country level to ensure maximum national input. In 1975, there were over 20 national offices, with others to be established in the new member countries of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. According to the General Plan, the national offices are the basic units of operation, responsible for executing the activities of IICA's programs and projects. Their programs are drawn up annually by national program committees made up of representatives of the agrarian sector of each country. The intention is to have the IICA representative in each country become intimately acquainted with the needs of the country and report on the technical cooperation requirements directly to the

Institute. Multination projects, such as in irrigation or a cooperative program for the High Andes, are coordinated through the regional offices that cover the Andean Zone (Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Colombia and Bolivia) by an office in Lima, Peru; the Southern Zone (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay) by an office in Montevideo, Uruguay; the Northern Zone (Mexico, Central America and Panama) with headquarters in Guatemala City; and the Caribbean countries (Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana) for which the office has not yet been established.

PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET

To achieve the objectives of IICA, the basic strategy that has been adopted consists of strengthening national institutions responsible for agricultural development in member countries. The strategy also recognizes that the development process implies an improvement in the condition of the rural masses of the people and the "campesinos," so that they may actively participate and share the benefits of economic development.

The program of work of the Institute under the General Plan is based on seven lines of action:

- Line I — Analyzing rural development and related information.
- Line II — Strengthening agricultural education institutions essential to disseminate existing knowledge in agriculture, forestry, socioeconomic and agricultural extension sciences.
- Line III — Strengthening agricultural research institutions commissioned to increase knowledge in the biological and social fields.
- Line IV — Strengthening institutions dedicated to the promotion of agricultural production.
- Line V — Supporting national integration organizations.
- Line VI — Strengthening those institutions entrusted with bringing about structural changes to promote and carry out policies for the distribution of productive resources, political, social and economic powers; and eliminating rural inequality.
- Line VII — Strengthening institutions that administer and prescribe agricultural policy whose function is to plan, organize and coordinate government action to rural development.

Here are some examples of development projects under way:

- The Irrigation Program for the South American Temperate Zone has been in progress for 3 years. Irrigation specialists and technicians have been located in some countries. They have worked on projects, such as a study of water resources for different crops, in Peru. Courses on the operation and development of irrigation systems have been given to over 350 professionals in several countries, including Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay.
- The Hemispheric Marketing Program seeks to strengthen national marketing institutions. In 1973-74, this program consisted of 22 projects. Projects recently completed include cooperation in the preparation of agricultural marketing programs for Costa Rica's 1974-78 development plan; support to the National Rice Institute and to the National Storage and Marketing of Agricultural Products Enterprise in Bolivia and Ecuador; and analysis of the national marketing system of Haiti.
- The Agrarian Reform and "Campesino" Organization programs promote "campesino" community agricultural enterprises. IICA coordinates a special program for the Central American Isthmus Training Program, Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Studies (PRACA). The program includes training and technical assistance to national agrarian reform organizations.

- Research at the Tropical Agricultural Research and Training Center (CATIE) emphasizes the study of agricultural systems, for example, the work with multiple crop systems which attempts to train the smallholder to obtain maximum production from his land.
- Projects aimed at improving animal husbandry and veterinary services are part of the Program on the Promotion of Agricultural Production. A recent study covered 185 million hectares, consisting of Uruguay, Paraguay and parts of Argentina and Brazil.

The regular source of income for IICA is derived from annual assessed contributions by member governments. The major contributors are the United States – 66 percent, Mexico – 8.3 percent, Argentina – 7.4 percent, Brazil – 7.4 percent and Canada – 6.7 percent. Canada's share was \$405,233 in the fiscal year 1974-75. Other income comes from such extra-budgetary resources as contracts and agreements to undertake special projects for other international organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank, U.S. AID, W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the American Cocoa Research Institute and the Agricultural Research Institute of Brazil (EMBRAPA).

There are also additional contributions such as the newly established IICA-Simon Bolivar Fund. Thus, total resources available to IICA have grown from \$1.1 million in 1954-55 to \$9.6 million in 1974-75.

canadian participation

Canada has been a member of IICA for too short a period to record a large input into the work of the Institute. Canada is a member of the Special Committee of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, of the Technical Advisory Council, and of the Board of Directors. Canadian aid to the Latin American and Caribbean region, however, through CIDA and other agencies, has been substantial. A start has been made in collaboration with IICA by CIDA undertaking a training program in Haiti on project evaluation and presentation. Under this program, which costs \$244,000, CIDA is providing Canadian experts, equipment and translation services to train some 20 Haitians in techniques of identifying and developing requests for development assistance for presentation to national and international financing agencies.

Other Canadian bilateral assistance to agricultural projects (including forestry and fisheries) in progress in 1974-75 in Latin America, include the following:

- various agricultural projects in Colombia; the largest project here is the provision of expertise in food technology;
- a number of forestry projects in Colombia;
- a fisheries cooperative project in Peru;
- a baking school in Peru;
- an agricultural marketing project in Honduras; and
- training in navigation and fishing in El Salvador, as part of the establishment of a regional fisheries school.

Bilateral projects in agriculture in the Caribbean include the following:

- animal feed studies in Barbados, including one using a unique Canadian machine for processing animal feed from sugar cane;
- agricultural marketing and forestry development projects in Belize; and
- projects in the Leeward and Windward Islands, including research on bananas, a poultry processing plant, a fish storage plant and development of animal feed from sugar cane.

CIDA has also pledged \$3.25 million to the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) in Colombia and a similar amount to the International Center for Maize and Wheat Improvement (CIMMYT) in Mexico. CIAT is engaged in research on the use of cassava as feed for swine on small farms; CIMMYT is engaged in breeding triticale (a cross between wheat and rye) as a drought- and heat-resistant grain.

epilogue

The overall objective of Canada's international development program is to assist in the economic, technical, educational and social development of developing countries. In the light of the current world food situation and the recommendations coming out of the World Food Conference, greater emphasis must be put on agricultural development. No one agency, no one country, can solve the many difficult agricultural development problems. IICA is one of the agencies that can help. Through IICA, Canada can assist in overcoming many of these problems. Thus, as Mr. Gérin-Lajoie, the President of CIDA has said:

"If we accept the concept of cooperation as an encounter between societies which are each, in their own way, in the process of development, Canada's relationship with the countries of Latin America should create a new rapport, within which each society derives benefits for its own development."

Given the level of development in agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean region, and the manner in which agriculture impinges on the lives of the majority of the people living there, it is apparent that one of the most significant areas for Canadian cooperation is in agriculture, forestry and fisheries. It is out of recognition for this that the relationship between Canada and the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences has been forged.

north and central americas



POPULATION (MID-1972), GNP PER CAPITA (1972), PERCENT OF POPULATION IN AGRICULTURE (1970), AND SHARE OF AGRICULTURE IN VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (1970)

No.	Country	Population ¹ (mid-1972) (‘000)	GNP per capita ¹ 1972 (U.S.\$)	Population ² in agriculture (% of total population)	Share of agr. in value of total exports ² (%)
1	Canada	21,897	2,650	8	13 ³
2	USA	206,481	4,240	4	18 ³
3	Mexico	54,152	750	47	57 ⁴
4	Guatemala	5,623	420	63	86 ⁴
5	Honduras	2,687	320	67	81 ⁴
6	El Salvador	3,665	340	57	69 ³
7	Nicaragua	2,152	470	56	90 ⁴
8	Costa Rica	1,843	620	45	78 ³
9	Panama	1,524	880	43	76 ³
10	Jamaica	1,932	810	27	41 ⁴
11	Cuba	8,900	310	33	80 ⁵
12	Dominican Rep.	4,234	470	61	87 ⁴
13	Barbados	250	500	23	74 ⁴
14	Trinidad-Tobago	1,048	970	17	8 ³
15	Haiti	4,377	130	77	n.a.

¹ World Bank Annual Report 1974, except for Barbados, Canada, Cuba, and U.S.A.

² FAO, State of Food and Agriculture 1973, except Cuba, Guyana.

³ 1970 data for both Population in Agriculture and Share of Exports.

⁴ 1965 data for both Population in Agriculture and Share of Exports.

⁵ Approximate figure for 1971.

south america



POPULATION (MID-1972), GNP PER CAPITA (1972), PERCENT OF POPULATION IN AGRICULTURE (1970), AND SHARE OF AGRICULTURE IN VALUE OF TOTAL EXPORTS (1970)

No.	Country	Population ¹ ('000)	GNP ¹ per capita 1972 (U.S. \$)	Population in ² agriculture (% of total population)	Share of agr. in ² value of total exports (%)
1	Brazil	98,203	530	44	72 ³
2	Argentina	23,946	1,290	15	84 ³
3	Colombia	23,039	400	45	75 ⁴
4	Peru	14,122	520	46	55 ³
5	Venezuela	11,108	1,240	26	1 ⁴
6	Chile	10,040	800	25	6 ⁴
7	Ecuador	6,514	360	54	97 ⁴
8	Bolivia	5,194	200	58	4 ⁴
9	Uruguay	2,959	760	17	n.a.
10	Paraguay	2,354	320	53	n.a.
11	Guyana	752	390	34	n.a.
12	Surinam				
13	French Guiana				

¹World Bank Annual Report 1974, except for Barbados, Canada, Cuba, and U.S.A.

²FAO, State of Food and Agriculture 1973, except Cuba, Guyana.

³1970 data for both Population in Agriculture and Share of Exports.

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⁵Approximate figure for 1971.

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