



Annual Report **2008**

Canada

■ IICA's Canada Contribution to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities in the Americas

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2008 Annual Report

IICA's Canada
Contribution to Agriculture and
the Development of the Rural
Communities in the Americas



Table of Contents

Message from the Representative.....	1
Acronyms.....	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Executive Summary.....	7
3. The State of Agriculture and Rural Life in Canada in 2008.....	13
3.1 - National Political Context in 2008	13
3.2 - Changes in Institutional Frameworks for Agriculture and Rural Life	14
3.3 - Changes in Legislation that Affect Canadian Agriculture	15
3.4 - The Context for Agriculture and Rural Life.....	16
3.5 - Changes in Agri-Food Production.....	16
3.6 - Major Development in the Thematic Area.....	17
4. Results of the Implementation of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda in Canada in 2008.....	20
4.1 - IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life	20
4.2 - Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness	21
4.3 - Strengthening Agriculture Health and Food Safety Systems.....	23
4.4 - Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	26
4.5 - Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach.....	27
4.6 - Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life.....	29
5. Results of Inter-Agency Cooperation.....	32
6. Results of Horizontal Technical Cooperation	33
7. New Opportunities for Technical Cooperation.....	34
8. Main Activities Organized by IICA	35
9. List of Publications	36

Message from the Representative

Dear Friends of IICA,

It is with great pleasure that we present you today with the *IICA's Canada Contribution to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities in the Americas 2008* Annual report which highlights the most important activities and projects undertaken by the IICA Canada team in 2008. This year was especially important for our office as it marked the 25th Anniversary of IICA Canada. We are proud to mention that since 1983, IICA Canada played an active role in the development of agriculture and rural communities in the Americas. This success is in major part due to the work, involvement and strong commitment of our Canadian stakeholders. Thank you to all for your continued engagement and partnership with IICA. We are looking forward to maintaining this fruitful and valuable relationship in the future.

As many of you will recall, in 2007, the Government of Canada adopted the *Global Strategy for the Americas*. In response to this commitment on the part of the federal government to increase its involvement in the Western Hemisphere, IICA Canada developed in 2008 a strategic proposal entitled *Canada-IICA: Partnership for the Agriculture Development in the Americas*. This proposal is designed to provide a new framework for the agriculture technical cooperation in the Americas in areas such as leadership, trade and rural development. IICA Canada shared the proposal with government officials and our key stakeholders. Throughout 2008, we met with public and private stakeholders to discuss and review the proposal in order to align it with Canadian priorities and objectives for the region. Responses that we received on the proposal were positive and work will continue in 2009 to streamline and refine the document with a view to have it adopted soon. Let me also take this opportunity to thank all the people who were involved in the drafting of the proposal for the development of a strategic document of such high quality.

As mentioned previously, IICA Canada celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2008. As part of the celebration activities, IICA Canada welcomed the Director General, Chelston W.D. Brathwaite in September 2008. It was the second visit of the IICA DG in Canada in 2008 as Dr. Brathwaite had previously attended the Caribbean Development Bank Governors meeting which took place in Halifax, Nova Scotia. During his three-day visit in September, the IICA DG met with senior Government officials from AAFC, CFIA, CIDA and DFAIT where he promoted the IICA partnership proposal and insisted on the importance for Canada to continue playing an active role in the development of the agriculture sector in the Americas. He also used the opportunity to thank CIDA for the approval of two agriculture-related projects that are going to be implemented in Haiti and in Jamaica in 2009.

During his visit, Dr. Brathwaite also participated as a guest lecturer at the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and Jarislowsky Chair in Public Sector, at the University of Ottawa, where he discussed the impacts of the international food crisis on Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, he was received as the guest of honour at the GRULA Ambassadors luncheon meeting. To this effect, we would especially like to extend our genuine gratitude to HE Juan Esteban Aguirre, Ambassador of Paraguay, for all his courtesies.

As part of the IICA Canada 25th Anniversary activities, the IICA Canada team also organized a stakeholder event in December 2008. The event consisted of a workshop session on the strategic directions for IICA Canada followed by a celebration reception. We had an outstanding response from our stakeholders who came to Ottawa to share their views on the work IICA is doing in Canada and to identify strategic directions for the coming years. We wish to extend our thanks to all our partners who participated in the session. We hope that the token minted in commemoration of our 25 years of presence in Canada will always remind them that they are part of the IICA Canada family.

On the political scene, 2008 was a very active year. The Conservative Party of Canada was re-elected as a minority government in October 2008. The Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Gerry Ritz, was reconfirmed in his position. Lawrence Cannon was appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and Peter Kent was nominated Minister of State for the Americas, a new position in the Government of Canada. Other changes in the ministries and agencies included the nomination of Ms. Alex Bugailiskis as Assistant Deputy Minister Latin America and the Caribbean at DFAIT and the appointment of Mr. Jamal Khokhar as Regional Director General for the Americas at CIDA. In AAFC, Daryl Nearing, Deputy Director, and Aura DeWitt, Senior Agri-Food Trade Service Officer, continued to be responsible for the IICA file.

As for the institutional activities, I would like to mention that during the IICA Representatives Week in October, Michelle Bachelet, President of the Republic of Chile, visited our Headquarters in San José, Costa Rica. She provided an inspirational speech to all IICA staff about the importance of the agriculture sector in the development of our countries. Also, some changes in IICA should be noted, starting with the arrival of Mr. David Hatch as IICA Representative in the U.S., IICA Director of Strategic Alliances and Director of the Northern Region, and the nomination of Mr. Gino Buzetti as the new IICA Representative in Mexico. Christopher Hansen, Deputy Director General (DDG), former IICA Northern Regional Director, was appointed acting Director of the Direction of Regional Operations (DORI).

In 2008, IICA Canada managed to execute 98% of its budget and this in spite of all the staff movements we faced during the year. The year began with the arrival of Ms. Ysabel Giroux as IICA Canada's Administrative Assistant. This was followed by the departure of Kimble Costain, our Technical Cooperation Specialist, who returned to AAFC in March. In April, Émilie Bergeron a young professional from AAFC replaced Kimble Costain as the new Technical Cooperation Specialist. Lastly, in August, Christine Forgrave joined the team as our new Administrative Secretary. All three have joined the IICA Canada team with ample enthusiasm and energy. We thank them for their dedication, interest and efficient work.

This year, we had several guests from IICA Headquarters: Linda Landry, Director of Human Resources, François Dagenais, Director of Projects, Christopher Hansen, DDG and DORI Director, and Assefaw Tewolde, Director of the Biotechnology Unit. We offer our thanks and sincere gratitude to all of our distinguished guests who honoured us with their presence. However, it is with deep regret that we must inform you that Dr. Tewolde passed away shortly after his visit in Canada. We wish to offer our sincerest condolences to Dr. Tewolde's family and take a brief moment to remember a man who aside from being an outstanding professional was a very good friend.

Finally, we are proud to present this report to you. Your continued involvement with IICA enables our Institute to continue to play an active role in the development of the agricultural sector in Canada and in the rest of the Americas, today and in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "Michael Bedoya".

Michael Bedoya, Representative
IICA in Canada

Acronyms	
AACTI	Alberta Association of Colleges and Technical Institutes
AAFC	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
AEPLA	Agri-Environmental Policies in Latin America
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
AI	Avian Influenza
APF	Agriculture Policy Framework
BSE	Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy
CATIE	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza
CAHC	Canadian Animal Health Coalition
CCAA	Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIP	Centro Internacional de la Papa – International Potato Centre
CINVESTAV	Centro de Investigación y de Estudios Avanzados del Instituto Politécnico Nacional
CONASA	National Animal Health Committee (Mexico)
COOL	Country-of-Origin Labelling
CTCB	Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building
CTP	Commodity Technology Package
CUCBA	Centro Universitario de Ciencias Biológicas y Agropecuarias Universidad Autónoma de Guadalajara
CWB	Canadian Wheat Board
CYFF	Canadian Young Farmers Forum
DEAIT	Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade
FAD	Foreign Animal Diseases
FMD	Foot-and-Mouth Disease
FPT	Federal-Provincial-Territorial
FTA	Free Trade Agreement
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GRULA	Group of Latin America Countries
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
HLB	Huanglongbing
ICID	International Centre for Infectious Diseases
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IMUS	Integrated Manure Utilization System
INDAP	Instituto de Desarrollo Agropecuario - Chile
KVD	Kernel Visual Distinguishability
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LANAGRO	Laboratório Nacional Agropecuario – National Agriculture Laboratory
NABI	North American Biotechnology Initiative
NACS	North American Consulting School
NAPPO	North American Plant Protection Organization
NCFAD	National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases (Canada)
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OIE	World Organization for Animal Health
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PANAFTOSA	Centro Panamericano de Fiebre Aftosa – Pan-American Centre for Foot-and-Mouth Disease
PANVET	Congreso Panamericano de Ciencias Veterinarias
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PROCI	Program for Cooperation in Innovation
PROCINORTE	Program for Cooperation in Innovation in the Northern Region
SESA	Servicio Ecuatoriano de Sanidad Agropecuaria
SOMEXAA	Sociedad Mexicana de Administración de Empresas Agropecuarias
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
UAAAN	Universidad Autónoma y Agraria Antonio Narro
UNAM	Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
WTO	World Trade Organization

1. Introduction

Two thousand and Eight (2008) began with the international food crisis. Created by a dramatic increase in food prices, the crisis impacted people around the world. In Canada the increase in world food prices did not create significant food prices inflation; however Canadians were concerned about the situation and pressed the Government to respond to the crisis. It is in this context that the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) increased its participation in the World Food Program and that Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) developed the *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security*, which is discussed later in this report.

For the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector, the rise in international food prices did not impact the different industries in the same way. While the grains industry did especially well during the year, the livestock sector faced some difficult challenges, in particular related to the increase in feed and energy costs and the decrease in the livestock prices.

Later in 2008, several food safety cases were reported in Canada and abroad. As a result, Canadian consumers grew worried and questioned the capacity of the system to respond appropriately to a safety crisis. In response to this situation, the Canadian Government adopted in April 2008 the *Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan*. The plan is part of the Government's commitment to promote and reinforce the Canadian food safety system, which includes the review of current regulations and the development of new compliance and enforcement measures.

All these issues are discussed in more detail in this 2008 Annual Report that IICA Canada is proud to present you. Through its participation in the development of agriculture in the Western Hemisphere, our office wishes to reaffirm its commitment vis-à-vis the Canadian agriculture sector. We will continue to support its efforts in establishing linkages with other stakeholders from Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries. We are convinced that these relations will benefit all citizens of the Americas.

1.1 - IICA's Canada Technical Cooperation

1.1.1 - The 2008 IICA Canada Internship and Expertise Exchange Program

The IICA Canada Internship and Expertise Exchange Program continued to be very popular among Canadian and LAC producers, researchers, government and agri-business leaders. Since its creation, more than 50 people were supported by IICA under this program. In 2008, IICA Canada provided financial support to 28 experts and interns. Of that number, 8 Canadians went to LAC countries and 20 people from LAC countries came to Canada. Table 1 provides a summary of the projects supported under this program in 2008.

1.1.2 - IICA Canada Support to Events

Each year, IICA Canada partners with its stakeholders to offer financial, technical and logistic support to important events in Canada and throughout the Western Hemisphere. Table 2 provides a summary of the events IICA Canada supported in 2008.

Table 1. Summary of the 2008 IICA-Canada Internship and Expertise Program

<i>Intern/Expert</i>	<i>Field of Study or Expertise</i>	<i>Home Institution</i>	<i>Counterpart Institution</i>
<i>Agriculture Health and Food Safety</i>			
Washington Cardenas, 4.3.5	Animal Health	Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral -EPSOL	National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases, Winnipeg
Paola Párraga, 4.3.5		Servicio Ecuatoriano de Sanidad Agropecuaria, SESA	
Anne Mackenzie, 4.3.6	Animal Traceability	Canadian Consultant	PANVET
Jacques Borde, 4.3.3	Citrus Greening	Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Uruguay	NAPPO
Sharon McDonald, 4.3.3		Jamaican University of the West Indies	
Alí Inteaz, 4.3.2	HACCP	McGill University, Montreal, QC	University of West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago
Yireli Calvete, 4.4.3	Honeybee Colony Collapse Disorder	Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootécnica, UNAM	University of Guelph
Antonio Donizeti, 4.2.1	Trade and Agri-Business	IICA-Colombia	Pulse Canada
<i>Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment</i>			
Shahira Esmail, 4.4.4	Climate Change	Dept. of Environment & Resource Studies, University of Waterloo	CATIE
<i>Repositioning Agriculture</i>			
Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, 4.1.4	Food Security	IICA HQ	University of Ottawa
<i>Sustainable Rural Development</i>			
Alfredo Aguilar & Agustin Cabral, 4.5.3	Academic	Mexico, UAAAN	CYFF
Kevin Tiessen, 4.5.5	Agriculture Science	McGill University, Montreal, QC	International Potato Centre
Roberto Rondón, 4.5.3	Agro-Energy	IICA Nicaragua	Rural Development Network, AAFC
François Dagenais & Abnel Pierre Desamours, 4.5.1	Food Security	Haitian Ministry of Agriculture	McGill University, Montreal, QC
Erik Leach & Ian Richardson, 4.5.3	Young Farmer	CYFF	IICA HQ
Mark Anthony Lee, 4.5.3		Jamaica	
Herauld Museau, 4.5.3		Haiti	
Ever Quiñones, 4.5.3		El Salvador	
Enrique Strassburger, 4.5.3		Mexico	
<i>Technology and Innovation</i>			
Frederique Abreu, 4.5.3	Biofuels	IICA HQ	CYFF/Highland Feeders
Alberto Ramalho & Andre Mendonca, 4.3.1	Bio-Safety	LANAGRO, Brazil	International Centre for Infectious Disease, Ottawa
Paula Arriagada, 4.3.5	Food Science	Agro-aquaculture Nutritional Genomic Centre -CGNA	Olds College Canada
<i>Trade and Agribusiness</i>			
Darell Toma, 4.2.5	New Generation of Cooperatives	CCAA	SOMEXAA, Mexico
Chris Hansen, 4.5.3	Human Resources	IICA HQ	CYFF, Canada
David Hatch, 4.5.3	Business Risk Management		
Enrique Jacob, 4.2.1	Food and Health	PAHO	Pulse Canada
Dr. Peter Williams, 4.2.2	Agro-Tourism	Simon Fraser University	Regional Investment Forum, Barbados

Table 2. Events in 2008 with IICA-Canada's Support or Involvement

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Location</i>
<i>Agriculture Health and Food Safety</i>		
March	Animal Disease Modeling Training, 4.3.4	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
May	International Workshop on Citrus Greening, 4.3.4	Sonora, Mexico
June	CTCB International Workshop on RT-PCR, 4.3.4	Winnipeg, Canada
October	NAPPO Annual Meeting, 4.3.3	Guadalajara, Mexico
October	PANVET, 4.3.6	Guadalajara, Mexico
<i>Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life</i>		
May	Northern Region Technical Meeting, 4.3.3	Tapachula, Mexico
May	CDB Governors Meeting, 4.1.2	Halifax, Canada
July	IICA Northern Region Annual Meeting	San José, Costa Rica
September	CIDA/IICA Meeting, 4.1.1	Ottawa, Canada
September	DG visits IICA-Canada, 4.1.3	Ottawa, Canada
September	IICA DG – Global Food Crisis: A Perspective from the Americas, 4.1.4	University of Ottawa, Canada
September	GRULA Ambassadors Lunch, 4.1.4	Ottawa, Canada
October	Representative's Week Meeting	San José, Costa Rica
November	DDG visit to Ottawa, 4.1.3	Ottawa, Canada
December	IICA Stakeholders Meeting, 4.1.1	Ottawa, Canada
<i>Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment</i>		
January	Canada Brazil Network for Advanced Education and Research in Natural Resources, 4.4.1	Toronto, Canada
March	AEPLA Pilot Workshop, 4.4.2	San José, Costa Rica
June	IICA/University of Guelph, 4.4.1	Guelph, Ontario, Canada
<i>Sustainable Rural Development</i>		
January	Regional Investment Forum, 4.2.2	Bridgetown, Barbados
February	CYFF Annual General Meeting, 4.5.3	Calgary, Canada
March	IICA's Forum for Young Leaders of Agriculture from the Americas, 4.5.3	San José, Costa Rica
June	IICA-OXFAM Meeting, 4.2.4	Montreal, Canada
September	McGill Conference on Food Security, 4.5.1	McGill University, Montreal, Canada
November	CIDA Cooperation Day, 4.1.1	Ottawa, Canada
December	Young Farmers Summit of the Americas, 4.5.3	Calgary, Canada
December	Blood Tribe – Exploratory Mission, 4.5.4	Alberta, Canada
<i>Technology and Innovation</i>		
January	IICA-PROCINORTE Meeting, 4.6.3	Mexico City, Mexico
March	IICA-AACTI Meeting, 4.6.2	Calgary, Canada
April	IICA-IOGEN Meeting, 4.6.1	Ottawa, Canada
June	AACTI/UAAAN, 4.6.2	Torreón, Mexico
July	IICA/AACTI Meeting, 4.3.4	San José, Costa Rica
August	PROCINORTE, 4.6.3	Ottawa, Canada
October	IICA-AACTI, 4.6.2	Alberta, Canada
December	IICA/AACTI Meeting, 4.1.2	Alberta, Canada
December	Highland Feeders, 4.6.4	Alberta, Canada
<i>Trade and Agri-Business</i>		
January	Mexico-Canada International Bean Producers Meeting, 4.2.1	San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico
March	North American Consulting School, 4.2.3	Banff, Canada
March	Pulse Canada/IICA-Mexico Meeting, 4.2.1	Ottawa, Canada
March	Canada-Mexico Partnership Meeting, 4.2.1	Ottawa, Canada
April	Schouten Brothers Dairy, 4.6.1	Richmond, Canada
May	International Symposium on Pulses and Health and Nutrition, 4.2.1	Puerto Vallarta, Mexico
May	SOMEXAA Congress, 4.2.5	Torreón, Mexico
June	Conference of Montreal, 4.2.4	Montreal, Canada
October	CCAA-IICA Meeting, 4.2.3	Banff, Canada

2. Executive Summary

In 2008, AAFC, under the leadership of the Honourable Gerry Ritz, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board, finalized the new Canadian agriculture policy framework called *Growing Forward*. Adopted in July 2008 by the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture, *Growing Forward* will take effect on April 1st, 2009. This five-year policy framework is designed to provide improved services and programs to the Canadian agricultural sector, especially focusing on six integrated pillars: Business Risk Management, Canada Food Safety and Quality Programs, Science and Innovation, Environment, Renewal, and International Trade.

The re-election on October 14th, 2008, of the Conservative Party allowed the continued implementation by the federal ministries and agencies of the *Engagement Strategy for the Americas*, which was adopted in July 2007. As part of the implementation of this strategy, Canada signed Free Trade Agreements (FTA) with Colombia and Peru, and launched negotiations of a new FTA with Panama. Also, Canada increased its development aid to Haiti, a priority country, and indicated its intention to enhance its participation in inter-American organizations, such as the Organization of American States (OAS). To lead the implementation of the *Engagement Strategy*, the government created two new positions in the Department of Foreign Affairs. First, the Prime Minister nominated the Honourable Peter Kent as Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, Americas, and second, a new position of Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Coordinator for the Americas was created, and Alex Bugailiskis was nominated in this position.

2.1 - Results of IICA Canada Technical Cooperation in 2008

2.1.1 - Enhancing Relationship with the Canadian Government and Canadian Stakeholders

In 2008, IICA Canada developed a new partnership proposal called *Canada and IICA: Partnering for Agriculture Development in the Americas*. This proposal is designed to present Canada with a new engagement model for the Americas focussing on three main areas: Rural Development, Leadership, and Trade. During 2008, IICA Canada made several representations to senior government officials and key stakeholders to promote and explain the proposal. This broad communication enterprise allowed IICA Canada to present the Institute, to promote its work, and at the end, to reposition IICA as a strategic partner for Canada. In this context, when IICA Director General Chelston W.D. Brathwaite visited Ottawa in September 2008, he was assured by senior government officials that Canada will continue to support the Institute and consider it a key partner when defining policies and projects related to agriculture in the Americas, especially with regards to food security. Considering that Canada is the second largest contributor to IICA, its continued political, financial and technical support is key to the future of the Institute.

2.1.2 - Promoting Trade and Competitiveness of Agribusiness

Throughout 2008, IICA Canada continued to partner with Pulse Canada to support the Canadian and Mexican bean sector in their efforts to collaborate on areas of mutual interest, such as research and innovation, trade, and promotion of bean consumption. To this effect, IICA Canada facilitated the collaboration between Canadian and Mexican bean producers via the organization of seminars which took place respectively in Mexico and Canada.

In addition to the establishment of a permanent network of producers, these activities allowed the farmers to discuss and exchange views on their respective experience and identify areas of common interest, such as facilitating trade, increasing technology transfer, promoting bean consumption, and improving nutritional quality of beans. Since then, the bean industries from both countries are collaborating, especially on promotion of bean consumption and research on nutritional and health aspects of beans. This collaborative approach, which goes beyond trade, allowed bean farmers, especially in Mexico, to access improved bean varieties and develop new markets for their products.

2.1.3 - Strengthening Agriculture Health and Food Safety

IICA Canada worked during 2008 to enhance and formalize the Institute relationship with the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO). The collaboration between NAPPO and IICA allows the dissemination of information on phytosanitary and plant protection standards between the northern region and the rest of the hemisphere with a view to ensure a continued trade flow throughout all regions of the Americas. Based on successful past experiences, IICA and NAPPO have agreed to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding. Among the activities that took place this year, IICA Canada supported and facilitated the participation of experts from the Caribbean and the Southern Cone to an *International Seminar on Citrus Greening* organised by NAPPO. IICA also invited NAPPO to participate at its Regional Meeting, while NAPPO invited IICA to participate at its Annual Meeting.

2.1.4 - Promoting Young Leaders

During 2008, IICA Canada worked closely with the Canadian Young Farmers Forum (CYFF), an organization designed to build knowledge and leadership among Canadian young farmers, to promote leadership, both in Canada and in LAC. As part of its collaborative activities with CYFF, IICA Canada secured the participation of two Canadian young leaders to the *IICA Leadership Forum* held at IICA headquarters in March. Also, IICA Canada collaborated with CYFF in the organization of the Young Farmers Summit of the Americas, held in Calgary, Canada, from December 8 to 10, 2008. IICA Canada facilitated the participation of young leaders from LAC countries and IICA speakers. Both of these activities were key in the establishment of a young farmers' network through which the young leaders could exchange views on agriculture issues and discuss ways to improve their farming practices.

2.1.5 - Introducing Technology and Innovation

IICA Canada was invited by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) to be part of the *Counter-Terrorism Capacity-Building Project*. This project is designed to enhance the capacity of the Andean countries to diagnose animal diseases and to facilitate the application by the Southern Cone countries of a computer simulation modeling system to assess, predict and mitigate animal disease outbreaks. IICA Canada played an active role by facilitating the identification and participation of the appropriate laboratory scientists and technicians in the training organized by CFIA. IICA Canada also assisted in the organization of follow-up sessions with the participating countries. This program, which allows technology transfer, training and information sharing, is useful in preparing these countries to prevent and monitor animal disease outbreaks, such as Foot and Mouth Disease. With state-of-the-art detection and monitoring systems, countries affected by animal disease outbreaks are better prepared to respond effectively to crisis and ensure a quick return to the market for their products.

2. Sommaire exécutif

En 2008, sous la direction de l'Honorable Gerry Ritz, Ministre de l'agriculture et de l'agroalimentaire et Ministre de la Commission canadienne du blé, Agriculture et Agroalimentaire a finalisé le nouveau cadre stratégique pour l'agriculture intitulé *Cultivons l'avenir*. Adopté en juillet 2008 par les ministres fédéral, provinciaux et territoriaux de l'agriculture, *Cultivons l'avenir* entrera en vigueur le premier avril 2009. Cet accord quinquennal a été élaboré de façon à offrir aux agriculteurs canadiens des services et programmes améliorés organisés sous six thèmes : 1) gestion de risques de l'entreprise; 2) salubrité et qualité des aliments; 3) science et innovation; 4) environnement; 5) renouveau; et, 6) commerce international.

La réélection du Parti Conservateur du Canada le 14 octobre 2008 a permis aux ministères et agences fédéraux de poursuivre la mise en œuvre de la *Stratégie d'engagement envers les Amériques*; stratégie adoptée en juillet 2007. Dans le cadre de cette stratégie, le Canada a signé des accords de libre-échange avec le Pérou et la Colombie et a aussi lancé la négociation d'un nouvel accord avec le Panama. Par ailleurs, le Canada a augmenté l'aide au développement destiné en Haïti, un pays prioritaire, et a indiqué son intention d'accroître sa participation au sein des organisations du système interaméricain, telle l'Organisation des États Américains (OEA). Afin de mener la mise en œuvre de la Stratégie d'engagement, le gouvernement a créé deux nouveaux postes au sein du Ministère des affaires étrangères. Tout d'abord, le Premier-Ministre a nommé l'Honorable Peter Kent Ministre d'État aux affaires étrangères, Amériques, et a ensuite investi Alex Bugailiskis des charges de sous-ministre adjointe et coordonatrice exécutive pour les Amériques.

2.1 - Résultats obtenus en 2008 des activités de coopération technique de l'IICA Canada

2.1.1 - Amélioration de la relation avec le gouvernement canadien et les intervenants canadiens

En 2008, IICA Canada a développé une proposition de partenariat intitulée *Canada et IICA: Partenaire pour le développement de l'agriculture dans les Amériques*. Cette proposition a été élaborée dans le but de proposer au Canada un nouveau modèle d'engagement pour les Amériques se concentrant sur trois thèmes principaux, soit le développement rural, le leadership et le commerce. Au cours de 2008, IICA Canada a rencontré à plusieurs reprises des agents du gouvernement et des intervenants canadiens afin de promouvoir et de présenter la proposition. Cette entreprise de communication a permis de faire connaître l'Institut, de promouvoir son travail et surtout, de repositionner l'IICA comme un partenaire stratégique pour le Canada. Dans ces circonstances, lorsque le Directeur général de l'IICA, Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, est venu à Ottawa en septembre, il a obtenu l'assurance de la part des représentants du gouvernement que le Canada allait continuer d'appuyer l'Institut et de considérer comme un partenaire de choix dans l'établissement de politiques et projets liés à l'agriculture, en particulier ceux relatifs à la sécurité alimentaire. Tenant compte du fait que le Canada est le second plus important contributeur à l'IICA, son appui politique, financier et technique est essentiel au maintien futur de l'Institut.

2.1.2 - Promouvoir le commerce et la compétitivité des entreprises agricoles

Au cours de 2008, IICA Canada a poursuivi sa collaboration avec Pulse Canada dans le dessein d'appuyer les efforts des producteurs de légumineuses canadiens et mexicains qui collaborent depuis quelques années dans les domaines de la recherche et l'innovation, le commerce et la promotion de la consommation de légumineuses. À cet égard, IICA Canada a soutenu cette collaboration entre producteurs par l'organisation de séminaires qui se sont tenus au Mexique et au Canada.

Ces activités permettent aux fermiers de discuter, d'échanger sur leurs expériences respectives

et d'identifier des domaines pour lesquels ils ont un intérêt commun, tel que le commerce, le transfert de technologie, la promotion de la consommation de légumineuses et l'amélioration des qualités nutritives des légumineuses. À ce jour, l'industrie mexicaine et canadienne collabore dans plusieurs domaines, mais en particulier en ce qui a trait aux activités de promotion des légumineuses et sur la recherche sur les aspects nutritifs et de santé des légumineuses. Cette approche, qui va au-delà du commerce, permet aux producteurs, particulièrement ceux du Mexique, d'avoir accès à des variétés améliorées et de développer de nouveaux marchés pour leurs produits.

2.1.3 - Renforcer la salubrité et l'innocuité des aliments

Au cours de l'année 2008, IICA Canada a travaillé à renforcer et à formaliser la relation qu'entretient l'Institut avec l'Organisation nord américaine pour la protection des plantes (NAPPO). La collaboration entre NAPPO et l'IICA vise à faciliter le processus de dissémination d'informations sur les normes phytosanitaires et de protection des plantes développées en Amérique du Nord dans le but de faciliter le commerce en encourageant l'harmonisation des normes. Suite à des expériences passées très positives, l'IICA et NAPPO ont décidé de négocier un Mémoire d'accord. Entre autres activités qui ont eues lieu cette année, IICA Canada a soutenu la participation d'experts des Caraïbes et du Cône Sud au *Séminaire international sur la maladie du dragon jaune* organisé par NAPPO. L'IICA a aussi invité NAPPO à participer à sa réunion régionale et NAPPO a demandé à l'IICA de participer à sa réunion annuelle.

2.1.4 - Promouvoir les jeunes leaders

En 2008, IICA Canada a travaillé de pair avec la Table pancanadienne de la relève agricole, une organisation destinée à développer les connaissances et le leadership des jeunes fermiers canadiens, à pouvoir le leadership chez les jeunes producteurs. Au titre de cette collaboration avec la Table, IICA Canada a soutenu la participation de deux jeunes leaders canadiens au *Forum sur le leadership* qui s'est tenu au quartier général de l'IICA, à San José, Costa Rica, en mars dernier. Par ailleurs, IICA Canada a également collaboré avec la Table pour l'organisation du *Forum panaméricain de la relève agricole* qui a eu lieu à Calgary, Canada, du 8 au 10 décembre 2008. Dans le cadre de cet événement, IICA Canada a soutenu la participation de jeunes leaders et de conférenciers provenant des Amériques. Ces activités ont permis l'établissement d'un réseau où les jeunes leaders peuvent échanger leurs points de vue sur les enjeux agricoles de l'heure et discuter des façons d'améliorer leurs pratiques agricoles.

2.1.5 - Introduction de la technologie et l'innovation

IICA Canada a été invité par l'Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments (ACIA) à se joindre au projet sur le *Renforcement des capacités dans le domaine du contre-terrorisme*. Ce projet vise à renforcer la capacité des pays andins à diagnostiquer les maladies animales et à faciliter l'application par les pays du Cône Sud d'un modèle de simulation informatique permettant d'évaluer, de prédire et d'atténuer la propagation des maladies animales. IICA Canada a joué un rôle actif en soutenant la participation de scientifiques et techniciens de laboratoire aux formations organisées par l'ACIA. IICA Canada a également permis l'organisation d'activités de suivies au sein même des pays participant aux sessions de formation. Ce programme favorise le transfert de technologies, la formation et le partage d'informations. Il est ainsi très utile afin de préparer ces pays à mieux prévenir et surveiller l'apparition et la propagation des maladies animales, telles la fièvre aphteuse. Avec de meilleures méthodes de détection et des systèmes de surveillance mieux adaptés, ces pays sont plus aptes à affronter les flambées de maladies animales et peuvent, suivant une crise, remettre plus rapidement leurs produits sur les marchés.

2. Resumen Ejecutivo

En general el 2008 fue un buen año para el sector agrícola de Canadá, especialmente para los productores de granos y oleaginosas que se beneficiaron considerablemente de los aumentos de precios.

En el 2008, Agricultura y Agro-Alimentación de Canadá bajo el liderazgo del Honorable Gerry Ritz, Ministro de Agricultura y Agro-Alimentación y Ministro de la Bolsa Canadiense de Trigo, finalizó el marco de la nueva política agrícola de Canadá llamada “*Growing Forward*”. Este fue adoptado en Julio por los Ministros de Agricultura federal, provinciales y territoriales para hacerlo efectivo el 1º de abril de 2009. Este marco de la política agrícola está diseñado a proveer servicios mejorados y programas al sector agrícola Canadiense, y se enfoca a cinco pilares integrados: Manejo de riesgo en agro-negocios; Programas Canadienses de inocuidad y calidad de alimentos; Ciencia e innovación; Medio ambiente; Renovación y Comercio internacional.

La reelección en Octubre 14 del 2008 del Partido Conservador permitió continuar con la implementación por parte de los ministerios y las agencias federales de la *Estrategia de Compromiso para la Américas*, que fue adoptada en Julio del 2007. Como parte de la implementación de esta estrategia, Canadá firmó Tratados de Libre Comercio, (TLC) con Colombia y Perú, e inició las negociaciones de un nuevo TLC con Panamá. Canadá también aumentó su asistencia de desarrollo para Haití, que es un país prioritario, e indicó sus intenciones de fortalecer su participación en los organismos Interamericanos como la OEA. Como inicio a esta *Estrategia de Compromiso*, el gobierno creó dos nuevos puestos en el Departamento de Relaciones Exteriores. Primero, el Primer Ministro nombró al Honorable Peter Kent como Ministro de Estado de Relaciones Exteriores para las Américas, y segundo creó un nuevo puesto de Viceministro Asistente y Coordinador Ejecutivo de la Estrategia de las Américas en donde fue nombrada Alex Bugailiskis.

2.1 - Resultados de la Cooperación Técnica de IICA Canadá en el 2008

2.1.1 - Fortalecimiento de la relación con el Gobierno y Socios de Canadá

En el 2008, IICA Canadá desarrolló una nueva propuesta de asociación con Canadá llamada: *Canadá y el IICA: Asociados para el Desarrollo de la Agricultura de las Américas*. Esta propuesta fue diseñada para presentarle a Canadá un nuevo modelo de compromiso para las Américas enfocado a tres áreas principales: Desarrollo Rural, Liderazgo y Comercio. Durante el 2008, IICA Canadá hizo presentaciones en diversas ocasiones a altos oficiales del Gobierno y socios clave para promover y explicar la propuesta. Esta amplia iniciativa de comunicación permitió al IICA Canadá presentar al Instituto, promover su trabajo con el fin de reposicionar al IICA como un socio estratégico para Canadá. En este contexto, el Director General del IICA, Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, visitó Ottawa en septiembre del 2008, para reunirse con altas autoridades gubernamentales que le aseguraron que Canadá continuaría apoyando al instituto, considerándolo como un socio clave en cuanto definieran políticas y proyectos relacionados con la agricultura de las Américas, especialmente en lo que se refiere a seguridad alimentaria. Considerando que Canadá es el segundo contribuyente mayor del IICA, su apoyo político, financiero y técnico es clave para el futuro del Instituto.

2.1.2 - Promoviendo el Comercio y la Competitividad de los Agronegocios

Durante 2008, IICA Canadá continuó trabajando en sociedad con Pulse Canada en apoyo a los sectores productores de frijol Canadienses y Mexicanos en sus esfuerzos por colaborar en temas de interés mutuo, tales como investigación e innovación, comercio y promoción del consumo de frijol. En esta línea, IICA Canadá facilitó la colaboración entre productores de frijol Canadienses y Mexicanos por medio de la organización de seminarios que se llevaron a cabo en México y Canadá.

Además del establecimiento de una red permanente de productores, estas actividades permitieron a los agricultores discutir e intercambiar sus puntos de vista relacionados con sus experiencias e identificar temas de interés común, como la facilitación del comercio, aumento en la transferencia de tecnología, promoción del consumo de frijol e investigación en los aspectos nutricionales y de salud asociados con el consumo de frijol. Este enfoque de colaboración, que va más allá del intercambio comercial, pues permite a los agricultores de frijol, especialmente en México acceso a variedades mejoradas de frijol y desarrollo de nuevos mercados.

2.1.3 - Fortaleciendo la Sanidad Agropecuaria e Inocuidad de los alimentos

El IICA en Canadá trabajó durante el 2008 en fortalecer la relación del Instituto con la Organización Norteamericana de Protección Vegetal, NAPPO (North American Plant Protection Organization). La colaboración entre el IICA y NAPPO permite la diseminación de información sobre estándares fitosanitarios y de protección vegetal entre la Región Norte y el resto del hemisferio, con la visión de asegurar el flujo continuo del comercio, entre todas las regiones de las Américas. En base a experiencias exitosas, el IICA y la NAPPO han acordado negociar un Memorandum de Entendimiento. Entre las actividades que se llevaron a cabo este año fueron el apoyo y facilitación de IICA Canadá para la participación de expertos *del Caribe y del Cono Sur al Seminario Internacional del Enverdeamiento de los Cítricos* organizado por la NAPPO. El IICA también invitó a la NAPPO a participar en su reunión Regional del Norte mientras que la NAPPO invitó al IICA a participar en su Reunión Anual.

2.1.4 - Promoviendo Líderes Jóvenes

Durante el 2008, IICA Canadá trabajó de cerca con el Foro Canadiense de Jóvenes Agricultores, CYFF (Canadian Young Farmers Forum), una organización diseñada para construir conocimiento y liderazgo entre agricultores jóvenes Canadienses, promoviéndose el liderazgo tanto en Canadá como en ALC. Como parte de las actividades colaborativas con la CYFF, el IICA Canadá aseguró la participación de dos jóvenes agricultores líderes Canadienses en el *Foro de Líderes* que se llevó a cabo en la Sede Central del IICA en Costa Rica en Marzo. También el IICA Canadá colaboró con la CYFF en la organización de la *Cumbre de Jóvenes Agricultores de las Américas*, que se llevó a cabo en Calgary, Canadá del 8 al 10 de diciembre. IICA Canadá facilitó la participación de jóvenes líderes de países de ALC y de conferencistas del IICA. Ambas actividades fueron clave para el establecimiento de una red de jóvenes agricultores en donde los jóvenes líderes pueden intercambiar puntos de vista en temas de agricultura y discutir formas de mejorar sus prácticas agrícolas.

2.1.5 - Introduciendo Tecnología e Innovación

IICA Canadá fue invitado por la Agencia Canadiense de Inspección de Alimentos, CFIA (Canadian Food Inspection Agency) a integrarse al *Proyecto de Capacitación Contra el Terrorismo* (Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Project). Este proyecto se diseñó para fortalecer la capacidad de los países Andinos en el diagnóstico de enfermedades animales y facilitar la aplicación por los países del Cono Sur de un sistema modelo de simulación computarizada para evaluar, predecir y mitigar los brotes de enfermedades. El IICA Canadá jugó un papel activo facilitando la identificación y participación de científicos y técnicos de laboratorio en los entrenamientos organizados por la CFIA. El IICA Canadá también ayudó en la organización de las sesiones de seguimiento con los países participantes. Este proyecto que permite la transferencia de tecnología, capacitación e intercambio de información, es de utilidad para los países, en su preparación para prevenir y monitorear brotes de enfermedades animales como la Fiebre Aftosa. Con estos sistemas de última generación de detección y monitoreo los países afectados por brotes de enfermedades animales, están mejor preparados para responder y recuperar sus mercados en menor tiempo.

3. The State of Agriculture and Rural Life in Canada in 2008

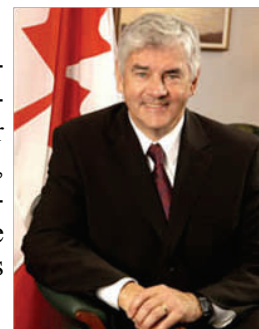
3.1 - National Political Context in 2008

On October 14, the Conservative Party of Canada was re-elected as a minority government. With Prime Minister Stephen Harper at the head of the Government, a new Cabinet has been formed where 37 elected members of Parliament were nominated ministers and ministers of state.



Part of the Cabinet, the Honourable Gerry Ritz was reconfirmed as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board. Minister Ritz was first elected to Parliament in 1997 and was re-elected in 2000, 2004, and 2006, when he was first nominated as Canadian Minister of Agriculture.

Prime Minister Harper also appointed the Honourable Laurence Cannon as Minister of Foreign Affairs. The nomination of the Honourable Peter Kent as Minister of State of Foreign Affairs, Americas, and Alex Bugailiskis in the new position of Assistant Deputy Minister and Executive Coordinator for the Americas, signalled the interest of the Harper Government to continue its involvement in the Americas.



On November 19, 2008, her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, delivered the Government's Speech from the Throne to open Canada's 40th Parliament. Focusing on protecting the Canadian economy, the strategic directions outlined in the Speech from the Throne included five priority areas: 1) reform Global Finance; 2) Ensure Sound Budgeting; 3) Secure Jobs for Families and Communities; 4) Expand Investments and Trade; and, 5) Make Government more Effective.

As it relates to agriculture, the Governor General mandated the Government to work toward increasing the safety of the food products Canadian consumers buy and providing Canadian authorities with more powers in case of non-compliance with Canadian safety regulations.

Speech from the Throne

Safety and security also mean that Canadians must be assured that the food on their dinner table, the toys they buy their children, and the medicines on which they rely are safe. Our Government will follow through with legislation providing better oversight of food, drug and consumer products. It will strengthen the power to recall products and increase penalties for violators. It will also move quickly to launch an independent investigation of this summer's listeria outbreak and act quickly upon its findings.

For more information on the Speech of the Throne, please consult the following website:
<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1210258449709&lang=eng>

3.2 - Changes in Institutional Framework for Agriculture and Rural Life

In March 2008, the *Agriculture Policy Framework (APF)*, a five-year agreement aimed at providing strategic directions for the Canadian agriculture, expired. The opportunity was then taken by the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture to develop a new institutional strategic framework designed to better position the sector to succeed in the future. After months of consultations and discussions between the federal and provincial governments, as well as with the agriculture and agri-food sector, a new framework was developed. Endorsed on July 11, 2008, by all the federal, provincial and territorial Ministers of Agriculture, *Growing Forward* became officially the new Canadian agricultural framework.



Growing Forward is a new commitment to Canada's agriculture sector that focuses on achieving results, reflects input from across the sector, and will deliver programs that are simpler, more effective and tailored to local needs.

To implement this new agriculture framework, the federal, provincial and territorial governments will be investing CND\$1.3 billion over five years in programs and activities. The objective is to provide the industry with the necessary instruments that will allow the sector to be profitable and innovative, to better respond to market demands, and to contribute to the health and well-being of Canadians.

Growing Forward Policy Direction:

- *Enable the sector to meet and exceed standards and requirements, notably those relating to food safety and the environment, while building profitability in the industry.*
- *Facilitate the sector's contribution to addressing environmental priorities.*
- *Strengthen the capacity of the food safety system to manage and mitigate risk.*
- *Position agriculture as a solution provider to society's needs in healthy food and the environment.*

For more information on *Growing Forward*, please consult AAFC website at:

<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1200339470715&lang=eng>

The full implementation of *Growing Forward* is scheduled for April 1, 2009, once all bilateral agreements with provinces and territories are concluded. Once implemented, *Growing Forward* will allow the sector to build profitability by placing the emphasis on the following: more investments in innovation, actions on key regulatory priorities, environment and food safety programs, programs that better meet local needs, and measures that enable farmers to be proactive in managing risk when facing disasters.

3.3 - Changes in Legislations that Affect Canadian Agriculture

3.3.1 - Proposed Amendments to the Canadian Wheat Board Act

Since their election in 2006, the Conservative Party has worked at changing the Canadian Wheat Board (CWB) rules in order to provide farmers with choice about whether or not they want to market their grain through the Board. To this effect, in March 2008, the Conservative Government introduced the *Bill C-46 Amendments to the Canadian Wheat Board Act*. The changes proposed would give Western Canadian barley producers the right to sell their barley to any foreign or domestic buyer, including the CWB. However, due to the dissolution of the House of Commons in September 2008 for the elections, the Bill C-46 died before its adoption and will need to be re-introduced by the Government in 2009 for its revision and adoption by the Members of Parliament.

3.3.2 - Proposed Amendments to the Food and Drugs Act

In response to the growing number of food safety incidents, the Government of Canada launched in April 2008 a new action plan designed to better protect Canadian consumers and provide authorities with modern tools to respond to new safety risks. The *Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan* is part of the Government's commitment to promote and reinforce the Canadian food safety system. The Plan is accompanied by a legislation package which includes amendments to the *Food and Drugs Act* (FDA), as well as a new *Canada Consumer Product Safety Act*. With the objectives to modernize the compliance and enforcement tools at points of entry and provide new inspection and enforcement powers to Canadian authorities, the amendments to the FDA were submitted to the House of Common on April 2008. However, the final bill was not adopted when the Parliament session resumed in September 2008 before the elections. In this context, the amendments will need to be submitted again in 2009 when the Members of Parliaments return to the House of Commons in January.

3.3.3 - New Canadian Food Labelling Initiative

As part of the *Food and Consumer Safety Action Plan*, Prime Minister Harper and Agriculture Minister Gerry Ritz presented in May 2008 the new *Canadian Food Labelling Initiative*. This initiative improves the definition of *Product of Canada* and *Made in Canada* on food labels and advertising, in order for Canadians to have a greater certainty about the Canadian content of the food products they purchase. The new Food Labelling guidelines came into effect on December 31, 2008.

3.3.4 - Amendments to Canadian Seed Regulations



In May 2008, the CFIA proposed amendments to the *Seed Regulations* designed to remove the Kernel Visual Distinguishability (KVD) requirements when importing wheat seeds in Western Canada.

The amendments came into force on August 1st, 2008, and had for effect the full removal of KVD as a variety registration screening criterion for all classes of Western Canadian wheat. Removing the KVD requirements for wheat registration in Canada will allow for the development and registration of new varieties of wheat that could be used for feed and biofuels, without requesting that the grain looks different than the wheat used for milling.

3.4 - The context for Agriculture and Rural Life

Throughout the world, 2008 will be remembered as the year of the international food crisis. Due to numerous factors, including bad weather conditions, increased demands by emerging economies, and market speculation, commodity prices reached all-time records in the late spring 2008. Despite the efforts of the international community, food prices remained high during a 15-month period. It wasn't until late summer that prices began to decline slowly. In Canada, ranked fourth in the world for food exports, the high agricultural prices had a limited impact on food price inflation. The appreciation of the Canadian dollar since 2003 moderated the food price increase in Canada. The fact that Canadian consumers spend a smaller part of their family budget on food explains in part why high international agricultural prices did not automatically translate in high food prices for Canadian consumers¹.

3.5 - Changes in Agri-Food Production

Contributing 8% of the total Canadian Gross Domestic Product (GDP), the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector has been growing at an average of 2.4% per year over the last decade². While 70% of the total Canadian agriculture and food processing GDP is contributed by Ontario, Québec and Alberta³, the other provinces contribute also to the success of the Canadian agricultural business. From the wheat production of Saskatchewan to the potato industry of Prince-Edward Island and, including the British Columbia fruit industry, the Canadian agriculture generally did well in 2008.

3.5.1 - Crops

This was especially true for the grain industry which ended the year with a production record for the most common western and eastern crops at 72.64 million tonnes, i.e., an increase of 16.8% compared to the previous season⁴. With only 1.8% increase in planted area compared to 2007, higher yields were mostly responsible for the increase in Canadian production⁵. This successful production year translated into record farm cash incomes of \$43.86 billion for farmers, which represented a gain of 8.4% over 2007⁶. As for the farm net incomes, they also increased in 2008 to reach \$6.83 billion, i.e., 21.2% higher than in 2007⁷. Despite high energy costs, increased input costs and a decline in commodity prices at the end of 2008, the Canadian grain sector performed very well in 2008.

3.5.2 - Livestock

The situation was however different for the Canadian livestock sector. This sector was dramatically affected by the high feed grain prices and the increasing value of the Canadian dollar. Coupled with low livestock prices, the cattle and beef industry and the hog and pork industry went through a difficult year. Livestock farm cash incomes remained lower throughout 2008. Hog prices were about 16.5% lower in 2008 than in 2007, while the farm-gate cattle revenues were down 9% compared to last year⁸. Due to high feed costs and low prices, both the cattle and hog industries had to down-size during 2008 with a decline in the total hog and pig population of 11% and a cattle population which was nationally 7% lower than in 2007.

¹ AAFC, An Overview of the Canadian Agriculture and Agri-Food System – 2008, Internet: http://www.agr.gc.ca/pol/index_e.php, 2008, page 10.

² Ibid., 2008, p.15.

³ Ibid., 2008, p.16.

⁴ AGRIWEEK, Annual Review/Forecast 2008-2009, Published January 5, 2009, p.1.

⁵ Ibid., 2009, p.6.

⁶ Ibid., 2009, p.2.

⁷ Ibid., 2009, p. 4.

⁸ Ibid., 2009, p.3.

Canadian Cattle Numbers July 1/ 000 heads

	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	All cattle & calves		Beef cow & heifers		Slaughter	
Atlantic	272	387	62	72	40	44
Quebec	1,375	1,395	252	252	144	148
Ontario	1,880	1,956	410	418	636	682
Manitoba	1,515	1,540	679	684	650	667
Saskatchewan	3,385	3,430	1,605	1,670	317	280
Alberta	6,010	6,470	2,222	2,360	1,555	1,835
B.C.	750	805	281	317	79	82
CANADA	13,895	14,155	5,517	5,773	2,752	3,079

Source: AGRIWEEK Annual Review/Forecast 2008-2009

Hog numbers October 1 /000 heads

	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007
	All hogs & pigs		Female Breeding		Market Hogs	
Atlantic	169	265	26	29	143	236
Quebec	4,035	4,050	378	391	3,652	3,653
Ontario	3,176	3,831	354	400	2,815	3,423
Manitoba	2,750	2,910	343	366	2,403	2,539
Saskatchewan	900	1,265	109	128	787	1,133
Alberta	1,350	1,890	164	180	1,480	1,703
B.C.	115	127	17	18	98	109
CANADA	12,795	14,360	1,390	1,512	11,379	12,817

Source: AGRIWEEK Annual Review/Forecast 2008-2009

3.6 - Major Development in the Thematic Areas

3.6.1 - Agriculture Health and Food Safety

3.6.1.1 - Animal Health Issues

3.6.1.1.1 - New cases of BSE detected in Canada

Canada's first case of BSE in a domestic animal was found in May 2003. During 2008, four new cases of BSE were confirmed by the CFIA, bringing the total of BSE cases for Canada at fifteen. Canada remains a Controlled-Risk country for BSE, as recognized by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

3.6.1.1.2 - Commitment of CDN\$660,000 to FMD prevention and preparedness in South America

At the beginning of 2008, the Government of Canada announced that CDN\$660,000 would be spent over the two next years to assist governments in South America in their efforts to eradicate Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD). The Canadian contribution will include laboratory equipment and training in FMD diagnostic technologies and computer simulation modeling to assess, predict and mitigate FMD outbreaks. Canada is collaborating with the Pan-American Health Organization's (PAHO), FMD Center for South America and IICA to implement the project.

3.6.1.1.3 - Continued implementation of the Poultry Avian Influenza Surveillance plan

In June 2008, the Government of Canada announced the enhancement of its Avian Influenza surveillance plan. The expanded program, one of many national and international initiatives that have been implemented to eradicate AI, was developed in collaboration with provincial and territorial governments, poultry farmers and other industry representatives. In Canada, the AI (H7) of low pathogenicity was first detected on February 19, 2004, in birds from a commercial chicken breeder farm in British Columbia's Fraser Valley. Between 2005 and 2007, three other outbreaks were detected in Canada, one in British Columbia, one in Prince Edward Island and one in Saskatchewan. In 2008 however, no outbreaks were detected in Canada.

3.6.1.2 - Plant Health Issues

3.6.1.2.1 - Eradication of Plum Pox virus

In May 2008, the CFIA announced the successful eradication of plum pox virus in the area of Stoney Creek, Ontario. The plum pox virus was first discovered in Ontario and Nova Scotia in 2000. Since then, the virus has been detected and regulated in seven areas in these two provinces. After seven years of effective regulatory controls and eradication programs, it has been eradicated in six areas. Only one area is still in quarantine at this time in Canada.

3.6.1.2.2 - Emerald Ash Borer Found in Ontario

In December 2008, the CFIA confirmed the presence of emerald ash borer in the province of Ontario. This invasive beetle, which was found in Canada before, does not spread quickly on its own. In fact, it is most commonly spread when people move materials which are infested. In this context, the Canadian Government launched a *Don't Move Firewood* campaign in June to limit the spread of this invasive species by Canadians.

3.6.2 - Food Safety Issues

During the summer 2008, Canada faced an important outbreak of *Listeria Monocytogenes*. The outbreak was confirmed by the Public Health Agency of Canada and CFIA on August 23, 2008. It was found that the main contamination source originated from a Maple Leaf Foods plant in Toronto, Ontario. During the crisis, more than 2,700 products were recalled by CFIA, in particular cold cuts and processed food containing cold cuts. In total, 56 cases of listeriosis were reported, including twenty people who died of the listeriosis bacteria.

During 2008, the CFIA issued 150 food safety alerts. Of those, 37 were Allergy Alerts for issues such as undeclared milk, sulphites, egg, sesame seeds, fish, cashews, soy protein, wheat, and other allergens in products. Of the remaining 116, 113 were Health Hazard Alerts related to issues such as, *E. Coli*, melamine, salmonella bacteria, and *Listeria Monocytogenes*. Three Safety Hazard Alerts involved products that were identified as presenting a choking hazard or bacteria.

3.6.3 - Agricultural Trade and Agri-Business

As part of the Canadian strategy to increase investments and trade, the Government of Canada launched and signed new free trade agreements (FTA) this year. In November 2008, the Canadian Government signed FTAs with Peru and Colombia. In addition, Canada launched FTA negotiations with Panama, which after three negotiating rounds is near completion. With these FTAs, Canada is seeking to increase market access for its agriculture and agri-food products, as well as create clearer and more transparent trade rules, and more comprehensive Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regulations.

3.6.3.1 - Country-of-Origin Labelling

The 2002 U.S. Farm Bill created new mandatory labelling requirements for certain beef, lamb, pork, fish and shellfish, fruit and vegetables, and peanut products sold at U.S. retail outlets. Based on the bill, retailers are required to provide information to consumer on the country of origin of the product. As part of the June 2008, *Food Conservation and Energy Act*, the U.S. adopted legislation imposing mandatory country-of-origin labelling for beef, pork, lamb, chicken, and goat meat sold in the U.S. market.

On December 1st, the Government of Canada announced that it was seeking formal consultations with the U.S. under the World Trade Organization (WTO) dispute settlement process on country-of-origin labelling (COOL) measures. Canada indicated that it is concerned that *the legislative requirement to separate products into three categories based on the country or countries where they were produced will impose additional costs at each stage of the process (for example, feedlots, processing and packing, and retail). Processors, for instance, may need to segregate animals at their facilities, which will generate additional costs. These additional costs could create a disincentive to purchasing Canadian animals. Processors may choose not to buy Canadian animals or may buy them at a discounted price.*

3.6.3.2 - Canada's Action Plan for Food Security

In response to the World Food Summit (WFS) commitment made by the international community to reduce by half the number of undernourished people by no later than the year 2015, the Government of Canada developed the *Canada's Action Plan for Food Security*. The plan presents the Canadian perspective on the food security issue and establishes actions Canada is going to undertake to fulfill its WFS commitments. The plan comprises ten priority actions which have been identified by a Joint Committee Group formed by representatives from the civil society, industry and government.

Canada's Action Plan for Food Security

Priority 3: *Promotion of access to safe and nutritious food is seen as a critical component of food security. In developing countries, actions on micronutrient and vitamin supplementation of foods contribute to improved nutrition. Breastfeeding is also highlighted as critical to infant health and nutrition worldwide. In Canada, commitment to this is furthered through actions to support working mothers, hospital programs, mother and child health care and other initiatives in support of the International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes. Beyond the promotion and protection of breastfeeding and other food security conditions, caring practices, and health and education measures are important for the nutrition security of mothers and children, particularly, but not only, in developing countries.*

Priority 4: *Food safety underlines the new threats to global food supply posed by the rapid increase and deep market penetration of new and exotic foods from a variety of trading partners, which may constitute a safety or disease hazard; by environmental contaminants, especially in traditional food sources in Canada's Far North, which are also a threat to safety; and emergencies or disasters, which can cause problems such as contamination from hazardous chemicals or disease-causing micro-organisms. In addition, lack of knowledge about preparation and storage of foods is identified as a threat, mainly at the household level. Actions to ensure safe supplies and safe handling include enhanced public education, better product labelling, enhanced biotechnology assessment, improved monitoring methods and stronger multisectoral partnerships.*

For more information on the plan, please consult the AAFC website at:

<http://www4.agr.gc.ca/AAFC-AAC/display-afficher.do?id=1210258449709&lang=eng>

4. Results of the Implementation of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda in Canada during 2008

4.1 - IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life

4.1.1 - IICA Partnership Proposal for the Americas

In 2007, the Government of Canada adopted the *Engagement Strategy for the Americas*. Aimed at reinforcing Canada's presence in the Americas, the federal ministries and agencies worked in 2008 toward the implementation of the strategy. In response to the interest on the part of the Government of Canada to increase its collaboration with LAC countries, IICA Canada developed the *IICA-Canada Partnership for the Agriculture Development in the Americas*. The proposal is designed to provide a framework under which IICA and the Government of Canada could enhance their collaboration in the Americas on matters related to agriculture. In particular, the partnership proposal suggests action areas that build on Canada's agriculture capabilities and strengths to respond to the technical cooperation needs that exist among the IICA member states, such as environmental stewardship, governance system, innovations, rural community development, trade facilitation, leadership, etc.

IICA Canada shared the partnership proposal with government officials and its key private and academic stakeholders. Meetings with government officials were arranged throughout the year in order to provide opportunities to discuss the proposal and review it according to Canadian priorities. In this regard, IICA Canada had meetings with officials from AAFC, CIDA and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFAIT). Besides the discussions about the partnership proposal, these meetings provided IICA Canada with the opportunity to promote the Institute, familiarize government officials with the work IICA is doing in the Americas and secure Canada's political support to the organization. IICA Canada, in close collaboration with its government, private and academic partners, will continue to work toward the adoption of the partnership proposal in 2009.

4.1.2 - IICA DG Chelston W.D. Brathwaite Attended the Caribbean Development Bank Governors' meeting

In 2008, Canada hosted the Caribbean Development Bank Governors' meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia, from May 22 to 29. IICA Director General, Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, and IICA Canada Representative attended the meeting. During the event, Dr. Brathwaite commented on IICA's response to the food security crisis. He also discussed the role IICA intends to play in preparing the countries of the Americas to respond more effectively to similar situations in the future. In addition to the formal venue, IICA DG had the opportunity to meet informally with high level officials from the Caribbean countries and senior representatives from the Canadian Government, including the Honourable Beverly Oda, Minister of International Cooperation, Ms. Diane Jacovella, CIDA Vice-President Sectors and Global Partnerships, and Ms. Alex Bugailiskis, Executive Coordinator for the Americas, DFAIT. When meeting with Canadian officials, Dr. Brathwaite insisted on the importance of enhancing the collaboration between Canada and IICA on matters related to agriculture and suggested that the strategic proposal developed by IICA Canada provides the appropriate framework to do so.

4.1.3 - IICA Director General Chelston W.D. Brathwaite Meets with Government' Senior Officials



Daryl Nearing, Krista Mountjoy, Dr. Brathwaite, Paul Murphy, Michael Bedoya, George Shaw and Andrea Zeleny

As part of the 25th Anniversary event, IICA DG visited Canada in September 2008. During his three-day visit, he had the opportunity to meet with high level government officials from AAFC, DFAIT, CIDA and CFIA to discuss ways to strengthen collaboration between Canada and IICA on food security, rural development, trade and agri-business and leadership. Government officials reaffirmed their support of IICA and indicated interest in working more closely with the Institute on important issues, in particular on food security and animal health and food safety.

Also during his visit, IICA DG participated as guest of honour at the monthly meeting of the Group of Latin American Ambassadors in Canada (GRULA). During the lunch meeting, Dr. Brathwaite had an opportunity to speak about the importance for the governments to continue investing in agriculture, in particular noting the important contribution of the agricultural sector to the sustainable growth of countries' economic and social development.

4.1.4 - Dr. Brathwaite invited lecturer on food security at University of Ottawa

Dr. Brathwaite returned to these themes later that day during his public lecture on *Global Food security Crisis: A Perspective from the Americas* delivered at the *Graduate School of Public and International Affairs and Jarislowsky Chair in Public Sector Management* of the University of Ottawa. The lecture, which was attended by government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, professors, and students, allowed Dr. Brathwaite to discuss causes and effects of the current food security crisis and propose ways to prevent a new crisis from happening in the future.



Chelston W.D.

4.1.5 - IICA's Canada Key Stakeholders meet to commemorate IICA Canada 25th Anniversary and Recommend Strategic Directions

To conclude the year, IICA Canada organized a meeting at which its key stakeholders were invited to exchange views and discuss IICA Canada strategic directions for the next ten years. In total, seventeen IICA Canada stakeholders attended the meeting, including officials from AAFC, CFIA, CIDA and DFAIT, representatives from Pulse Canada, Oxfam-Québec and the NAPPO, and three IICA Canada consultants. The meeting, which took place in Ottawa on December 2nd, 2008, was very successful. It allowed IICA's Canada stakeholders to share their views on how they would see IICA Canada playing a role in the broader Canada agricultural and technical cooperation agenda.

4.2 - Promotion of Trade and Competitiveness of Agribusiness

4.2.1 - IICA Canada Continues to Support the Bean Sector

IICA continued to support the Canadian and Mexican bean sectors in their efforts to collaborate on areas of mutual interest. In this context, IICA Canada facilitated the *Mexico-Canada International Bean Producers Meeting*, held in San Blas, Nayarit, Mexico in January. Besides the participation of the IICA Canada Technical Specialist in the event, IICA provided support to two Canadian bean producers to attend. Also, as IICA secured the participation of a representative from Human Resources and Social Development Canada to give a talk on foreign agriculture worker programs in Canada. As a result of the meeting, Canadian and Mexican Bean producers reached several points of agreement on topics such as certificates of origin, knowledge transfer and promotion of bean consumption.

In addition, IICA Canada was invited by Pulse Canada to participate, as an observer, at the Agri-Business Working Group (ABWG) meeting of the *Canada-Mexico Partnership Initiative*, held in Ottawa, on March 2008. The purpose of the ABWG is to foster greater understanding and cooperation on initiatives of mutual interest.



Also part of the joint activities with Pulse Canada for 2008, IICA Canada promoted and sponsored the *International Symposium on Pulses, Health and Nutrition* which was held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico on May 20th. The Symposium focused on studies and promotion campaigns of the health benefits of consuming pulses. IICA Canada supported the participation of the PAHO expert, Enrique Jacoby, as a key speaker. Other speakers included scientists and communication experts from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Australia, and South Africa. The Symposium was attended by approximately 400 people and was followed by the *International Convention of Pulses Trade and Industry Confederation*. IICA Representative in Canada attended the event as well as Mr. Antonio Donizetti, IICA Trade Specialist in Colombia.

In the months preceding the event, IICA Canada assisted with the promotion of the Symposium by facilitating the organization of meetings between Pulse Canada and the IICA Representative in Mexico, as well as between Pulse Canada and the Mexican Agriculture Attaché in Canada. Also, as part of the promotion activities, IICA Canada shared the information about the event with all the IICA offices and all of its Canadian stakeholders. After the Symposium, IICA Canada compiled and distributed to all the offices and its stakeholders the proceedings of the meeting which contained very relevant information on the health benefits of pulses and their role in a balanced diet. In recognition of its support to the Symposium, IICA Canada was presented with a recognition plaque by the event organizers.

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4.2.2 - IICA Canada Supports the IICA Caribbean Agri-Tourism Initiative

In support of the agri-tourism initiative for the Caribbean, IICA Canada assisted the IICA Agri-Tourism Specialist and the IICA Office in Barbados to secure and facilitate the participation of a Canadian expert, Dr. Peter William, to the *Regional Investment Forum* being held in Barbados in February. Dr. Williams, Director of the Center for Tourism Policy and Research at the Simon Fraser University, made a presentation at the forum about the Canadian experience in supporting the development of tourist sites and attractions in rural areas and farm-based siting. He also assisted IICA Barbados in preparing a manual on how to set-up a workable agri-tourism model for the Caribbean.

4.2.3 - IICA Key Speaker at the North American Consulting School in Banff

IICA Canada partnered once again with the Canadian Consulting Agrologists Association (CCAA) to bring an international perspective to the *2008 North American Consulting School*, which was held in Banff, Alberta, in March 2008. IICA Canada Representative Michael Bedoya was invited as a speaker where he presented and discussed the *IICA-Canada Partnership for the Agriculture Development in the Americas*. In addition, IICA Canada participated at the CCAA's Annual Board meeting where it was invited to become a permanent member of the CCAA International Committee.

4.2.4 - IICA Chaired a Panel on Biofuels at the Agri-Business Forum of the Conference of Montreal

The *International Economic Forum of the Americas of the Conference of Montréal* was held from June 9 to 12, 2008. Mr. David Hatch, Assistant Deputy Director and IICA Representative in the U.S., was invited to chair a panel session entitled *The Impact of Commodity Prices on Agribusiness: New Strategies, New Policies*. Members of the panel chaired by Mr. Hatch were José Miguel Insulza, Secretary General, OAS; Andrew Ferrier, Chief Executive Officer, Fonterra Co-operative Group, New Zealand; Issad Rebrab, CEO, Cevital, Algeria; and Daniel S. Sullivan, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Economic, Energy and Business Affairs, United States Secretary of State.

4.2.5 - Canadian Expertise on Cooperative Shared at the XXI SOMEXAA International Congress

The Mexican Society of Farm Managers, SOMEXAA (Sociedad Mexicana de Administración de Empresas Agropecuarias) held its twenty-first International Congress in Torreón, Mexico, on May 29-31. IICA Canada sponsored the participation of Darrell Toma, a Canadian agriculture consultant, who was invited as a key speaker at the conference. Mr. Toma focused his presentation on how the new generations of cooperatives are structured in Canada, and he provided examples of several successful enterprises. Mr. Toma also toured the facilities of the Cooperativa Agropecuaria, the largest dairy co-op in the region. The meeting was attended by approximately 300 participants.

4.2.6 - IICA Canada Proposal for a Value-Chains Seminar for the Caribbean

After a productive meeting with the CEO and the Director of the Value Chain Management Center of the George Morris Institute in June 2008, IICA Canada, in collaboration with the Institute and the IICA Agri-Business Direction, developed a proposal for a Value-Chain Management Workshop for the Caribbean. The workshop, which would be organized jointly by IICA and the George Morris Institute, will provide information on the establishment of value-chains and their importance in a modern agriculture and agri-food system. In 2009, IICA Canada will continue to work on this project in order to have the workshop organized in early 2009.

4.3 - Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

4.3.1 - Laboratory Biosafety Training at the International Centre for Infectious Diseases for Brazilian Professionals



IICA Canada and IICA Brazil facilitated the participation of two Brazilian professionals, Dr. Alberto Knust, responsible for biosafety at the National Reference Laboratory (LANARA) in Minas Gerais, Brazil, and Dr. André de Oliveira Mendoça, responsible for the poultry unit at the

LANAGRO laboratory in São Paulo, Brazil, at a training course offered by the International Center for Infectious Diseases (ICID), in Ottawa. The course was designed to provide information on the design and operation of containment level 3 facilities. The ICID is a Canadian organization providing innovative leadership and collaborative solutions for the global fight against infectious diseases by delivering specialized training to public health and high containment laboratory personnel throughout the world. Dr. Knust will be implementing the biosafety program at the recently reformed LANARA laboratory and Dr. Mendoça will be responsible for the construction and implementation of a new unit in LANAGRO laboratory. A meeting to review the course and identify follow-up activities was held in the IICA Canada Office.

4.3.2 - McGill University Expert in Trinidad to Validate a HACCP approach to Cocoa Beans

In 2008, Dr. Inteaz Alli, Professor at the Food Science Department of McGill University, participated in the IICA Canada Expertise Exchange program. In late March and the beginning of April, Dr. Alli went to Trinidad to validate a HACCP approach entitled Commodity Technology Package (CTP) designed to address food safety hazards in cocoa beans. This approach will allow the cocoa bean producers and processors to improve the quality and safety of their products with a view to best position the sector to export to the international marketplace.

The second portion of Dr. Alli's internship consisted of visits to the University of the West Indies with which McGill University is interested in expanding its relation, in particular in the area of food safety and food quality.

4.3.3 - Joint IICA- NAPPO participation and support to HLB Workshop and 2008 Regional events in preparation to a formal agreement



During 2008, joint regional events were organized by IICA and NAPPO. The IICA North-American Regional Technical Meeting was held in May in Tapachula, Mexico, where Ian McDonnell, NAPPO Executive Director, participated as a speaker. Based on the outcomes of prior discussions between IICA Canada and NAPPO, Mr. McDonnell presented a cooperation proposal which included potential areas of collaboration between our two organizations. The meeting in Tapachula also provided the opportunity for all participants to visit the Mexican and West Indies Fruit Fly Mass Rearing and Sterilization Facility operated by IICA Mexico and the Mediterranean Fruit Fly Facility, managed by the National Plant Protection Organizations of Mexico, USA and Guatemala through a Cooperative Agreement. Also, as part of the joint IICA-NAPPO activities, IICA Canada facilitated the participation of two experts, Sharon McDonald, Jamaica, and Jacques Borde, Uruguay, in the NAPPO *International Workshop on Citrus Greening*, or Huanglongbing disease, which took place in Sonora, Mexico, in May 2008. This disease has recently devastated the citrus industry in Florida, U.S., and is threatening to spread to other production areas in North America. With a view to formalize their collaboration, a draft Memorandum of Understanding has been jointly drafted by IICA and NAPPO. The draft agreement was presented to the NAPPO Executive Committee during its annual meeting which was held in Guadalajara, Mexico, in October 2008. The NAPPO Executive Committee agreed in principle with the terms of the agreement and designated the NAPPO Secretariat to finalize it with IICA. The final version of the agreement will be submitted to IICA and NAPPO authorities in 2009 for their approval and signature.

4.3.4 - IICA Supports CFIA in the Implementation of the Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Project funded by the Canadian Government

IICA Canada was invited to formally support CFIA in the implementation of the *Counterterrorism Capacity Building Project* (CTCB). This project was approved and funded by the Canadian Government through DFAIT. The project focused on the transfer of laboratory diagnostic and epidemiology methodologies to enhance FMD preparedness and mitigation in South America. Other participants in the project were the PAHO, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the University of Colorado.



Participants at the FMD detection training at NFADC—Winnipeg, June 2008

The CTCB project was administrated by the CFIA and the National Foreign Animal Disease Centre (NFADC), under the leadership of Dr. Alfonso Clavijo, responsible for the transfer of diagnostic methodologies to the Andean Countries, and of Dr. Dorothy Geale, responsible for the transfer of the epidemiological modeling system. Several capacity building activities were carried out during 2008 at the NCFAD in Canada, at PANAFTOSA in Brazil and at the University of Colorado in the U.S. IICA was represented at all these events by officials from Headquarters, the Andean region or Canada. In particular, IICA Canada participated in the event which took place at the NFADC, Winnipeg, in June 2008. It also supported the logistics for the participation of representatives from Argentina, Colombia, Brazil, and Uruguay at the epidemiology modeling system training which was held in Brazil in March.

4.3.5 - IICA Canada Supports the Participation of Two Ecuadorian Professionals to a Training Course in Avian Influenza Surveillance Program

In support of the *Avian Influenza Surveillance* program of the Animal Health Services in Ecuador, IICA Canada facilitated the participation of two Ecuadorian professionals, Dr. Washington Bolivar Cárdenas from the EPSOL Polytechnic School and Paola Karina Parraga of the SESA National Services, to a training course in laboratory diagnostic techniques for Avian Influenza (AI). The one-month training was held at the NFADC laboratory located in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The objectives were to establish an inter-institutional program on AI research and surveillance and also to provide the Ecuadorian veterinary services with detection techniques, such as real-time PCR, to detect and monitor the presence of the AI virus in wild birds, poultry and farm mammals.

4.3.6 - Canadian participation at the XXI Pan-American Veterinary Sciences Congress and 16th CONASA meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico



In October 2008, the Pan-American Veterinary Association organized its twenty-first congress jointly with the 16th meeting of the National Animal

Health Committee (CONASA) in Guadalajara, Mexico. Approximately 1200 professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean attended the Congress. IICA Canada facilitated the participation of a Canadian consultant, Anne Mackenzie, former CFIA official, who shared her experience on animal traceability at the *Food Safety and Technologies Forum*. There have been rapid developments in technologies which are facilitating the establishment of sophisticated tracking systems across food commodities and along the supply chain. In Canada attention has been given to traceability capabilities for over twenty years, having started with animal identification schemes. Through consulting and collaboration, there has been increasing commitment from both industry and government to the development of farm-to-retail tracking systems. Several recent Canadian initiatives and their outputs were described by Dr. MacKenzie at the PANVET Conference. Many participants expressed interest in using the Canadian model.

IICA Canada Representative also participated in the panel organized by the University of Guadalajara, which focused on the future role and integration of the animal health committees, such as CONASA, CAHC and USAHA. The session was attended by academic and government officials from the U.S., Mexico and other Latin American countries.

During the plenary session, Dr. Hector Campos, former IICA Director of Animal Health and IICA Representative, received the 2008 Merit in Animal Health Certificate from CONASA. This prize was delivered to him in recognition of his outstanding work in the control and eradication of animal diseases in Mexico and in the Americas.

4.3.7 - Continued Canadian support to the IICA Sanitary and Phytosanitary Initiative

In 2008, IICA launched the second phase of the SPS project called the *Development of the Institutional Capacities of the Countries of the Americas in the Area of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures and Regulations*. The project is led by the IICA AHFS Directorate and is designed to reinforce the capacity of the LAC countries to comply with the WTO SPS Agreement. The CFIA was actively involved in the first phase of the project and continued to support the initiative in 2008. Effectively, as part of the project's activities, CFIA experts Bertrand Gagnon, Rolf Schoenert, Daniel Burgoyne and Gary Koivisto led missions in some Caribbean countries with the objectives to assess and evaluate the capacity of these countries to develop and implement SPS measures and regulations in compliance with the WTO SPS Agreement.

4.4 - Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment

4.4.1 - Canada-Brazil Network for Advanced Education and Research in Natural Resources



On January 31st 2008, the University of Guelph and Kinross Gold Corporation launched, in Toronto, the *Canada-Brazil Network for Advanced Educa-*

tion and Research in Natural Resources. This new education and research network has been created to facilitate the development of environmental initiatives focused on the use and remediation of land and water. Professor Richard Heck, a soil scientist who participated in the IICA Canada Expertise Exchange Program in 2004, is leading the network project. IICA Canada Representative went to Guelph to meet with Professor Heck and discussed opportunities for joint collaboration projects. As an outcome of this meeting, Dr. Heck approached IICA Canada to look at the possibility of signing a MOU with Guelph University in order to further the collaboration between the two Institutions, including in areas relevant for the network project. This avenue will be explored in 2009.

4.4.2 - Joint Agri-Environmental Pilot Project in Costa Rica

Since 2004, IICA Canada has provided support to AAFC for the implementation of the *Agri-Environmental Policies in Latin America (AEPLA)* project. As part of this project, a pilot workshop was held in Costa Rica in March 2008 where the training modules on agri-environmental policies were presented. The objective was to provide the Costa Rica Ministry of Agriculture with tools to assist in the development of an agri-environmental policy framework. The report of the workshop was shared with AAFC in May 2008. This concluded the activities planned under the project which included a training module as well as a policy assessment survey made in six LAC countries which provides a clear portrait of their needs in term of agri-environmental policies.

4.4.3 - Honey Bee Colony Collapse Disorder Internship Training at the School at Environmental Sciences of Guelph University

IICA Canada facilitated the participation of Yireli Calvete López, a graduate student from the Veterinary Faculty of the National University of Mexico (UNAM), in a training course on field sampling and laboratory diagnostic techniques for the Bee Colony Collapse Disorder. The training was held at the School of Environmental Sciences of Guelph University, Ontario. The Bee Colony Collapse Disorder caused considerable damages and losses in bee colonies in Canada, the U.S.



Yireli Calvete López

and Mexico. Ms. Calvete was trained by Professor Ernesto Guzman, bee genetics and diseases expert, and Paul Kelly, Associate Researcher. The data generated during Ms. Calvete training will be used to improve the Bee Colony Collapse diagnostic techniques.

4.4.4 Climate Change Internship Training at CATIE

IICA Canada facilitated the participation of Shahira Esmail, MES candidate at the University of Waterloo, Ontario, to an internship at CATIE, Costa Rica. During her internship, she studied the impact of climate changes on the growth of tropical agroforestry tree seedlings. The purpose of her study was to determine how tropical agroforestry tree seedling growth will be effected by the expected change in temperature and CO₂ associated with climate change in order to provide further insight to help inform adaptation strategies for agroforestry and silvopastural systems.

4.5 - Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach

4.5.1 - IICA at the McGill International Conference on Food Security

IICA Canada facilitated the participation of Mr. Abnel Pierre Desamours from the Conseil National sur la Sécurité Alimentaire of the Haitian Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Ressources Naturelles et du Développement Rural to the McGill Conference on Food Security. Senior officials from governments, international organizations, international research centers, and academic communities attended the Conference to discuss the impacts and challenges posed by the food security crisis on governments and people. Speaker at the Conference, Mr. Desamours, made a presentation in which he discussed the food situation in Haiti and presented the policies and the programs implemented by his government to mitigate the impacts of the crisis on the Haitian population.

François Dagenais, IICA Director of External Finance and Investment Projects, also was a speaker at the Conference where he presented the impact of the crisis on Latin America and the Caribbean and how IICA was going to assist the countries in preventing another crisis. IICA Canada Representative and Technical Specialist also attended the Conference.

4.5.2 - IICA Signs a Cooperation Agreement with Oxfam-Québec



*Participants at the IICA Young Leaders Forum,
Costa Rica, March 2008*

On November 5, 2008, Oxfam-Québec and IICA signed a Cooperation Agreement which is designed to increase the collaboration of the two organizations in technical capacity projects related to agriculture in LAC. IICA and Oxfam-Québec have similar institutional values and share a common vision: contribute to sustainable agriculture development, food safety and rural prosperity. Both organizations value the development of partnerships with local stakeholders and, the importance of education as a vehicle to stimulate economic and social development,

and are committed to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the Americas. IICA Canada played an active role in the negotiations of the agreement and assisted in its approval and signature process. Several follow-up meetings between Oxfam-Québec and IICA took place in 2008.

4.5.3 - IICA Canada Continued Involvement with Future Agriculture Leaders

Throughout 2008, IICA Canada continued its collaboration with the Canadian Young Farmers Forum (CYFF). In February 2008, IICA Canada Representative met with the CYFF Board to present and promote the IICA new Leadership Initiative and to secure the participation of two Canadian young leaders to the first *IICA Young Leader Forum* which took place in San José, Costa Rica, in March 2008. Ian Richardson, CYFF President, and Erick Leah, member of the CYFF's Board, represented Canada at the IICA leadership forum.

In addition, IICA Canada partnered with CYFF to promote and secure the participation of young farmers from LAC countries to the *Young Farmers Summit of the Americas*, which took place in December 2008, in Calgary, Alberta.

The summit represented an opportunity for young leaders to discuss and exchange views on issues related to modern agriculture, including best management practices and adaptability to challenges. It also provided an excellent opportunity for young leaders from the Western Hemisphere to meet and establish networks. IICA Canada attended the forum and facilitated the participation of six young leaders from Mexico, El Salvador, Jamaica, and Haiti. In addition, IICA Canada jointly sponsored the participation of three speakers from IICA.

4.5.4 - IICA Delegation Meets Members of the Blood Tribe in Alberta

In December 2008, an IICA delegation met with the agriculture team of the Black Foot Blood Tribe in Lethbridge, Alberta. The IICA delegation was led by Christopher Hansen, IICA Deputy Director General, with the participation of David Hatch, IICA Assistant Deputy Director General, IICA Representative in Canada and the IICA Canada Technical Specialist.

The purpose of the meeting was to explore opportunities of collaboration between IICA and the Blood Tribe, especially in areas such as sustainable development in rural native and indigenous communities. The IICA delegation was welcomed by the Tribe CEO, Shawn Stang, as well as other members of the Tribe Board. Following an introduction and exploratory meeting, the IICA delegation was offered a guided tour of the Blood Tribe lands. In 2009, IICA Canada will prepare a proposal based on the collaboration opportunities that were identified during the meeting.



Participants at the Blood Tribe and

4.5.5 - IICA Canada Supports the International Year of the Potato

IICA Canada facilitated the participation of Kevin Tiessen, graduate student at the Department of Natural Resources Sciences at McGill University, Québec, to a conference entitled Potato Science for the Poor – Challenges for the New Millennium. The conference, which was held in Cuzco, Peru, in March 2008, was part of other activities organized to celebrate the International Year of the Potato.

4.6 - Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life

4.6.1 - Biofuels Expert from Nicaragua Invited Speaker at the Canadian Rural Network Meeting

In April 2008, Mr. Roberto Rondón, former Minister of Agriculture and Biofuels expert from Nicaragua, was invited as a speaker to the Canadian Rural Network's annual meeting. At the event, he made a presentation on the situation of the Biofuels industry in Nicaragua and a project proposal developed by the IICA Office in Nicaragua. In addition to his attendance at the *Rural Network Annual Meeting*, Mr. Rondón met with the Marketing Director of IOGEN Energy Corporation, a Canadian enterprise specializing in the production of cellulosic ethanol. Since Mr. Rondón is a dairy farmer, a visit to the Schouten Brothers Farm, a dairy operation located outside Ottawa, was arranged with the support of Bob Lang from the Canadian Livestock Genetics Association (LGA).

4.6.2 - IICA and the Alberta Association of Colleges & Technical Institute Explore Opportunities of Collaboration

On June 11th, IICA Canada facilitated a visit by a delegation of the Alberta Association of Colleges & Technical Institutes (AACTI) to the Chapingo University facilities in Bermejillo, Durango, Mexico. The delegation comprised six professors under the leadership of Dr. Abimbola Abiola with experts in Environmental Waste Management, Forestry and Carbon sequestration, Entomology, Reclamation, Bioenergy and composting. The visit allowed members of the AACTI network to meet professors from the Chipango University and discuss potential opportunities of collaboration. Previous to this visit Dr. Abiola initiated a prospective exploratory visit to the Antonio Narro Agriculture University (UAAAN) campus in Torreon, Mexico. The June 11th trip provided an opportunity for IICA Canada to arrange a meeting with Professor Agustin Cabral, a Farm Management Professor at UAAAN and member of SOMEXAA, to explore mutual interests in technical cooperation.



AACTI members and IICA representatives, Olds College, October

Following the visit in Mexico, IICA Canada organized, in July 2008, a meeting between AACTI and IICA Headquarters officials. Bruce Wallace and Darrell Toma, representing AACTI, met with IICA thematic directors and specialists in order to identify how the two organizations could collaborate on agricultural technical cooperation activities in the Americas. IICA Canada Representative and Technical Specialist accompanied the AACTI delegation in Costa Rica. The two AACTI representatives also visited Earth University. During their tour of the Earth campus, AACTI met with key professors and researchers and discussed potential collaboration opportunities between Earth University and AACTI member institutions.

During the meeting in July, the two organizations stated their interest in working together on issues related to rural development, extension services and transfer of technology and innovation. To explore further the ideas discussed in Costa Rica and to get a better understanding of the AACTI network, an IICA delegation, led by IICA Deputy Director General Chris Hansen, visited Alberta in October 2008. During their visit, which was organized by AACTI, the IICA delegation met with AACTI representatives and senior officials from the Albertan Government, including the Honour-



AACTI members, Alberta government officials and IICA representatives, Edmonton, October 2008

able Doug Horner, Minister of Advanced Education and Technology. In addition, the delegation visited colleges and technical institutes which are members of AACTI, including NAIT, Olds College and The Banff Center. During the visit, AACTI and IICA pinpointed specific activities and projects that both organizations wanted to pursue together.

A follow-up discussion on these identified projects and activities occurred in December 2008 when an IICA delegation composed of IICA Deputy Director General Chris Hansen, Assistant Deputy Director General David Hatch, IICA Canada Representative and Technical Specialist, met with AACTI representatives in Calgary, Alberta. At that meeting, the two organizations discussed the formal AACTI-IICA plan of activities and identified candidates who will be interested in leading or participating in these projects. In this context, IICA and AACTI will continue their collaboration during 2009, where activities are scheduled throughout the year.

4.6.3 - Strategic Plan for PROCINORTE Developed jointly with IICA

In January, representatives from PROCINORTE and IICA Northern Regional Offices jointly developed a Strategic Plan for PROCINORTE. The plan, which was later approved by the PROCINORTE Board of Directors, was designed to improve the structure and functioning of PROCINORTE, beginning with the organization of national consultations in each of the three countries.

The National Consultation Meeting in Canada took place in Ottawa on August 28, 2008. The meeting was organized by AAFC International Science Cooperation Bureau, under the leadership of Dr. Brad Fraleigh and was attended by Canadian scientists, government experts and industry representatives. IICA Canada Representative and Technical Specialist attended the meeting, also accompanied by Mario Pareja, IICA Northern Regional Specialist. The objective of the meeting was to gather the views of Canadian experts on how to improve the PROCINORTE structure and functioning in order to ensure its viability in the long term. The report of the meeting prepared by AAFC was circulated among the participants and will be presented in January 2009 at the PROCINORTE Board of Directors meeting.

4.6.4 - IICA Biofuels Expert Visits the Highland Feeders Biogas Plant

In December 2008, IICA Canada organized an introductory meeting between IICA Biofuels Specialist, Mr. Frederique Abreu, and Mr. Mike Kotelko, co-owner and Vice-President of Highland Feeders, located in southern Alberta. This company, which includes a feedlot of a capacity of 36,000 head of cattle, is leading a pilot project using a technology developed by the Alberta Research Council to transform the manure of 7,500 heads to produce almost one megawatt of



Highland Feeders, Alberta, December 2008

electricity. This represents enough power to service the requirements of the feedlot, in addition to a farming community of about 2000 people. The technology, known as Integrated Manure Utilization System (IMUS), turns manure into energy, bio-based fertilizers and reusable water while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, odors and other environmental impacts associated with outdoor feedlots. This introductory meeting provided an opportunity for IICA Biofuels Specialist to learn about this new technology and identify potential opportunities for collaboration.

4.6.5 - Flax Processing Technology Training in Olds College

IICA Canada facilitated the participation of Paula Arriagada Strodthoff, member of the Processing Unit of the Agro aquaculture Nutritional Genomic Center, Chile, to an internship at the Department of New Products from Crops and Bioprocessing of Olds College, Alberta. The purpose of the internship was to study the different technologies available at pilot plant scale to process flaxseed mainly for animal nutrition, in order to develop them in the national scenario.

5. Results of Inter-Agency Cooperation

5.1 - IICA-NAPPO Developed a Cooperation Agreement

In 2008, IICA Canada and the NAPPO met several times to develop and draft a Memorandum of Understanding which provides the terms of the institutional collaboration between the two organizations. This process was initiated following the IICA North-American Regional Technical, which took place in Tapachula, Mexico, where Ian McDonell, NAPPO Executive Director, made a presentation on the possible opportunities of collaboration with IICA. In October, Mr. McDonell presented the MOU to the NAPPO Executive Committee which agreed in principle with the terms of the agreement. Further work was done by IICA Canada and NAPPO to finalize the document, and the MOU will likely be signed and approved in early 2009.

5.2 - IICA-PANAFTOSA Joint Effort for the Eradication of FMD in South America

In 2008, IICA Canada and PANAFTOSA jointly cooperated with the CFIA for the eradication of FMD in South America. Both IICA and PANAFTOSA were involved in the CFIA's CTCB project.

6. Results of Horizontal Technical Cooperation

IICA Canada has worked in 2008 to increase the involvement of Canadian stakeholders with LAC countries and stakeholders.

<i>COUNTRY</i>	<i>PRIORITY AREA</i>	<i>CANADIAN STAKEHOLDERS</i>
Barbados	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and Agri-Business • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SFU • McGill University
Bolivia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFIA
Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology and Innovation • Sustainable Management of Natural Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ICID • Guelph University
Colombia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFIA
Costa Rica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Management of Natural Resources • Institutional Modernization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAFC • AAFC
Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFIA
El Salvador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Rural Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYFF
Haiti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Rural Development • Food Security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYFF • McGill University
Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Rural Development • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYFF • NAPPO
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Rural Development • Trade and Agri-Business • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYFF • Pulse Canada • Guelph University
Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFIA
Uruguay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAPPO
Venezuela	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFIA

7. New Opportunities for Technical Cooperation

In 2009, IICA Canada will be playing an active role, among other, in these activities:

<i>Country or Region</i>	<i>Project - Activity</i>	<i>Priority Area</i>	<i>Canadian Stakeholders</i>
Andean Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agri-Business Management in native farming communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Rural Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood Tribe
Andean Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensions Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology and Innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AACTI
Andean Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTCB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFIA
Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value-Chains and Best Management Practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and Agri-Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George Morris Institute
Chile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INDAP – CCAA- AACTI collaboration on extension services and innovation centers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technology and Innovation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCAA • AACTI
Ecuador	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Modernization 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant
Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trade and Agri-Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AACTI
Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bean Farmers Exchanges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Rural Development and Trade and Agri-Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulse Canada
LAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Workshop on Citrus Quarantine Pest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agriculture Health and Food Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAPPO
LAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOU with Guelph University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Management of Natural Resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guelph University
LAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Farmers Forum of the Americas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Rural Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CYFF

8. Main Activities Organized by IICA

The five most important events organized with the participation of IICA Canada in 2008:

<i>Event</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Number of Participants</i>
2008 CCAA North American Consulting School	• March 2008	• Banff, Alberta	• ≥ 40
Pulse Health and Nutrition Symposium	• May 2008	• Puerto Vallarta, Mexico	• ≥ 300
AACTI mission in CR	• July 2008	• San José, Costa Rica	• 6
CYFF Young Farmers Forum of the Americas	• December 2008	• Calgary, Alberta	• 100
25th Anniversary Workshop with Canadian Stakeholders	• December 2008	• Ottawa, Ontario	• 23

9. List of Publications

1. 2007 Annual Report: IICA's Canada Contribution to Agriculture and Development the Rural Communities in the Americas



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