



IICA Canada Winter 2010 Newsletter

REP'S CORNER



Straight from beautiful, sunny Jamaica, I wish I could claim responsibility for the lovely weather experienced in Ottawa when I arrived. Regrettably I can't. However, with the "warm" welcome received, I have a positive outlook on my tenure with IICA-Canada. The organization is well placed to further

its contribution to the agricultural landscape, having benefitted from the foundation laid by my predecessor, Dr. Michael Bedoya.

You may be aware that the Institute elaborated its Medium Term Plan (2010 -2014) after much consultation. Having recently been approved by its Executive Committee of which Canada is a Member, the sixty-eight year old organization, under the leadership of Dr. Victor Villalobos, has quite a bit of ground to cover. IICA is however energized by the challenge, and agreed to utilize technical skill sets available within the organization as well as through strategic partnerships, to tackle hemispheric imperatives.

More and more it appears that sustainable development, trade, food and energy security are all woven together in a seamless fabric. No longer can agriculture be sidelined and taken for granted! It is an exciting, multi-dimensional economic activity that is "morphing" even as we speak. This means that participants at all points on the value-chain have to be flexible and responsive, technology-savvy and safety-conscious, prudent and efficient. IICA-Canada is fortunate to have you as key stakeholders, committed to producing, assuring and providing safe, nutritious food to the people of the Americas. I eagerly look forward to our discussing issues, collaborating on projects..... working together!!

Dr. Audia Barnett

Farewell and Welcome Reception

IICA Canada hosted a farewell reception and dinner in honour of Dr. Michael Bedoya and to welcome our new Representative Dr. Audia Barnett. The Reception took place at The Ottawa Marriott on November 18th, 2010.

Many high level individuals attended from the Canadian Government, Academia and the Private Sector to express their appreciation and best wishes to Dr. Bedoya as well as to welcome Dr. Barnett to Canada.



First Institutional Management Meeting - "Building a Single IICA"



Country Representatives, officials and Technical Specialists from around the Americas met at Headquarters in Costa Rica for a weeklong set of meetings around the theme "Building a Single IICA". It was the perfect opportunity in the new administration to harmonize visions and proposals vis-a-vis what the Institute should be doing and how, where and when. The meeting which was

extremely participatory addressed the following specific objectives :To help officials embrace the key messages in the Strategic Plan and the 2010-2014 Medium term Plan, to review concepts relating to Institutional Modernization and to discuss strategies for implementing IICA's technical approach at the program and country levels, to sensitive to the new administrative management models for technical co-operation, the management of technical co-operation, the programming and budgeting process and corporate services, to foster agreement on the mode for implementing the main strategic actions in the MTP and the strategic projects contained in each IICA Country Strategy, and to identify actions needed to implement the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. Plenary presentations, Panel Discussions

(representing all regions), Dialogues and discussions from the floor ensured that the meeting addressed salient issues for meeting the stated objectives. While there were a few sticky points, the meeting was very well executed and accomplished the task of having most persons satisfied having participated. Dr. Michael Bedoya, outgoing Representative in Canada was presented with an award for his twenty-five years of service.



The McGill Global Food Security Conference and Institute

The Third Annual Conference on Global Food Security was held at the end of October at McGill University in Montreal. The event featured David Nabarro, the United Nations Secretary General's Special Representative on Food Security and Nutrition and Beverly Oda, the Canadian Minister for International Relations. The forum also marked the official launch of the McGill Institute for Global Food Security. Webcasts for the entire conference are now available on line at www.mcgill.ca/globalfoodsecurity.



The unveiling of the McGill Institute for Global Food Security

Quick notes

IICA Headquarters hosted the Thirtieth Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee in Costa Rica on October 5th to 7th, 2010. The Executive Committee (EC) is a governing body of the Institute which is made up of 12 member states elected for two years. The Government of each member state designates a representative or advisor who specializes in agricultural and rural development to attend the meetings of the EC. Daryl Nearing, Deputy Director of Agriculture and Agri-Food attended the meeting to represent Canada. Several Topics were discussed throughout the course of the meeting. One of the highlights being the approval of the 2010-2014 Medium Term

GrowCanada Conference

To wrap up the year, IICA Canada attended the GrowCanada Conference in Ottawa. The conference celebrates the role of agriculture in bettering the lives of Canadians and provides an opportunity for people across the country to form connections and further develop relationships. The conference included inspirational speeches about being Canadian from Peter Mansbridge and John Furlong and many informative presentations from a variety of scientists and industry leaders.



Collaborations with CATIE



At the end of October, the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center, CATIE invited IICA Canada to participate in a forum focusing on collaborating potentials with Canadian organizations.

Collaboration ideas included a variety of activities including student and faculty exchanges, capacity building in environmental economics, applied research in food security and adaptation to climate change. IICA Canada is currently working in these areas and hopes to partner with CATIE to provide more opportunities

for Canadians. Also in attendance were the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Natural Resource Canada (NRCAN), the University of Guelph and the CUSO-VSO. For more details on CATIE visit their website at <http://www.catie.ac.cr>.



DID YOU KNOW?

According to Agriculture Canada, the agri-business sector is one of Canada's top five industries, and accounts for about 8.5 percent of its Gross Domestic Product.

USDA

Développement Internationale Desjardins Celebrates 40th Anniversary

At the beginning of this quarter, IICA Canada was invited to attend the fourth annual Proxfin International Seminar and to help our partner, Développement Internationale Desjardins' (DID) celebrate their 40th anniversary. Over 70 participants attended the sessions in Quebec City on October 5th and 6th whose theme was "Is microfinance an effective tool

to ensure food security?" Rachelle Chery, a Project Specialist from IICA Haiti, gave a presentation on KREDIFAM, a credit program for rural Haitian women. The Proxfin seminar provided an opportunity for a variety of organizations to get together to discuss a very pertinent subject and develop ties.



IICA Haiti's Project Specialist Rachelle Chery



Joining Forces with the Canadian Veterinary Reserve

On November 22, the Canadian Veterinarian Medical Association (CVMA) and IICA Canada signed a Letter of Intent addressing efforts for mutual communication and cooperation between IICA Canada and the Canadian Veterinary Reserve (CVR) with regards to emergency management, including prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. The CVR, which is affiliated with CVMA, is a growing, national body of qualified Canadian veterinarians who are available to rapidly assist governments in responding to large-scale emergencies and disasters involving animals (livestock, pets and wildlife). For more information on the CVR and



Dr. Audia Barnett, IICA Representative in Canada, and Mr. Jost am Rhyh, Executive Director of CVMA

Canada Strategy Document

You may have recently received a survey from IICA Canada regarding our Canada Partnership Strategy. We encourage you, our stakeholders, to take the survey and give us your feedback on how we can better serve your needs and deliver IICA's mandate in the Americas. Also, in the near future, you may receive sent a draft copy of the Strategy for an initial review. Please let us know what your thoughts are on how we can improve the Strategy and make it more meaningful to you. If you would like to receive a copy of the Survey or the Strategy please contact our office at office@iicacan.org.

IICA'S 68th Anniversary

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) recently celebrated its 68th Anniversary which took place on October 7th, 2010. IICA is a specialized institute of the Organization of American States and Canada has been a member since 1972.



*From the IICA Canada Team
Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and
A joyous holiday season.*

*De l'équipe de l'IICA Canada
Nous vous souhaitons un très Joyeux Noël et
Un joyeux temps des fêtes.*

IICA Canada

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Upcoming Events

- IICA Canada will be accepting applications for the 2011 Internship Program. The last day to submit your application will be February 11th, 2010.
- On June 7 – 8, 2011, the University of Guelph will be hosting a conference with CropLife Canada on Climate Change and the Implications for Plant Science. Leading researchers from around the world will share cutting-edge research and scientific thinking over two days of conference sessions

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is a specialized agency of the Inter-American System, and its purposes are to encourage and support the efforts of its Member States to achieve agricultural development and well-being for rural populations.