

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE
TROPICAL AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION CENTER (CATIE)
AND THE
INTERNATIONAL PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES INSTITUTE (IPGRI)**

PREAMBLE

Whereas, the Tropical Agriculture Research and Education Center (hereinafter referred to as "CATIE") has been a pioneer in Latin America and the Caribbean in stimulating agricultural research and training and has, since its inception, supported activities related to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources growing systems research and capacity building;

Whereas, the guidelines for maintaining the production capacity of natural resources and for preserving the quality of the environment, as set forth in the Center's Plan of Action for Agricultural Research in Latin America and the Caribbean, and approved by the Center's Board, calls for implementation of a regional programme for the conservation of natural resources in the American tropics.

Whereas, CATIE contributes to strengthening research capacity and technology transfer systems in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean through post-graduate training, short courses and joint collaborative research;

Whereas, the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (hereinafter referred to as "IPGRI") carries out important activities to promote, and support the conservation and use of plant genetic resources throughout the region by implementing research, training, dissemination and information programs, aiming at increasing the capabilities of national and international plant genetic resources programs;

Whereas, IPGRI promotes and develops the concept of plant genetic resources networks for crops of current and potential socio-economic importance, as well as sub-regional plant genetic networks;

Whereas, IPGRI, with its international mandate, and CATIE, at the regional level, share common objectives, aiming at promoting sustainable agricultural development, and overall rural development in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and to strengthen and coordinate actions with national institutions committed to these objectives;

Whereas, CATIE is the specialized Center for agriculture research, training and technology development of the Inter-American system and, given its status as an inter-governmental agency, with institutional ties in all its member countries in its mandated area, offers a suitable operating base for working towards the common objectives mentioned above;

Whereas, joint and complementary action of IPGRI and CATIE can, in many cases, more effectively benefit the countries and their national agricultural production and rural development programs than the isolated and independent actions of each.

Now therefore, both Parties, recognizing that they have many aims in common, agree as follows:

**ARTICLE I
(Objectives)**

1. CATIE and IPGRI will contribute jointly, and as effectively as possible, to strengthening national agricultural institutions and agencies in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to hastening the improvement of agriculture and rural development in said countries, particularly as pertains to the collection, conservation and use of plant genetic resources.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding provides a framework and legal foundation for future specific operational agreements for cooperation, whether they arise from shared concerns, or as a proposal for collaboration from either of the Parties.

**ARTICLE II
(Areas of Cooperation)**

1. CATIE and IPGRI will collaborate in the development of national plant genetic resources programs through:
 - a. Strengthening national agricultural research and technology transfer to institutions in those areas, disciplines or specializations of both centers' field of action, and that are of interest to the beneficiary governments and institutions;
 - b. Collaboration in the preparation of national projects or programs related to the conservation and use of plant genetic resources as covered by IPGRI's and CATIE's work, or of other broader rural development projects or programs that involve the management of plant genetic resources and their use.
2. CATIE and IPGRI will collaborate in the development of sub-regional plant genetic resources networks in Latin America and the Caribbean, and in particular will:
 - a. Support to the design and subsequent operation of reciprocal horizontal cooperation programs and the establishment of relations between institutions in the countries of the region;
 - b. Give support to the design and subsequent operation of sub-regional plant genetic resources networks or other cooperative mechanisms.

**ARTICLE III
(Implementation)**

1. Official contact between IPGRI and CATIE, for the purpose of this Memorandum of understanding, shall be maintained through Officers designated by both Parties for this purpose.
2. The operation of the Memorandum of Understanding shall take place through specific agreements on concrete projects indicating the objectives, instruments, forms of participation and contributions of each of the Parties.

3. When deemed appropriate, the Parties shall set up technical groups or teams to conduct joint studies on the nature, intensity and magnitudes of specific projects or work programs, and to draft proposals for the corresponding implementation agreements.

4. These agreements may be formalized with other bilateral or multilateral agencies of technical cooperation or financial assistance, when the Parties to this Memorandum of Understanding deem it appropriate.

ARTICLE IV (Modification)

Consultations with respect to the amendment of this Memorandum of Understanding will be entered into at the request of either Party.

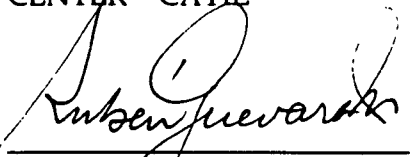
ARTICLE V (Final Provisions)

1. This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the latter of the two dates upon which the Memorandum of Understanding was executed by the Parties.

2. This Memorandum of Understanding shall remain in force for three years after signature. Thereafter it will continue in effect unless or until either Party serves notice in writing on the other of its intention to terminate it, in which event this Memorandum of Understanding, shall stand terminated at the end of 12 months from the date of service of such notice.

3. The termination of this Memorandum of Understanding shall not effect the validity or duration of joint projects referred to in Article III of this Memorandum of Understanding, unless otherwise mutually agreed by the Parties hereto.

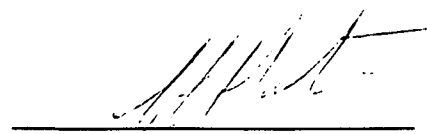
FOR THE TROPICAL AGRICULTURE
RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
CENTER - CATIE -



Dr. Rubén Guevara Moncada
Director General

Date: 31 August 1994

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL PLANT
GENETIC RESOURCES INSTITUTE
- IPGRI -



Dr. Geoffrey Hawtin
Director General

Date: 26 August 1994