



Minutes of the  
**Sixteenth Meeting of the Executive Committee of FORAGRO**

Turrialba, Costa Rica, November 16-17, 2016

**Background:**

The Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO) is a hemispheric mechanism for discussion and agreement on major research and innovation issues that affect the agrifood sector of the Americas. FORAGRO is comprised of institutions that implement and/or promote technological innovation.

The Executive Committee (EC) is FORAGRO's steering body and is responsible for moving forward its agenda within the dynamic national, regional and global contexts of agriculture. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) supports FORAGRO and provides its Technical Secretariat.

In 2015, an external evaluation of FORAGRO was carried out with a prospective vision, the results of which were presented at the Meeting of the Expanded Executive Committee in Brasilia, held on November 10-11 of that same year. The evaluation outlined the Forum's critical points and functions and, as a result of that assessment, a decision was made to initiate a restructuring process for the development of a new FORAGRO.

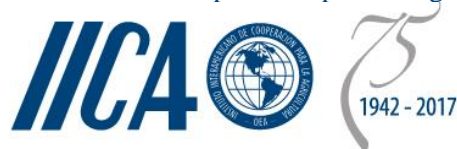
The Executive Committee, with financial support from IICA, also established a Transition Support Group for FORAGRO, made up of IICA specialists in innovation and the Representatives of Canada, El Salvador, the Caribbean and FONTAGRO. This group worked closely with Dr. Sergio Salles, a specialist on technology development policies and management, and prepared a restructuring proposal to advance toward a more effective, inclusive and sustainable FORAGRO.

The central topic of the Fifteenth Meeting of the EC was the presentation and discussion of a restructuring proposal to strengthen FORAGRO. The most important outcome of the meeting was a set of agreements for producing a revised version of the proposal reflecting the consensus of the EC. This proposal will be submitted to the relevant bodies for approval during 2017 in order to continue with the transition toward a new FORAGRO.

A list of participants is included as Annex 1

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## Report on the Meeting:

Dr. Amadeo Nicora, President of FORAGRO and of Argentina's National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) opened the Meeting. This was followed by addresses given by the Director of the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE), Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, and remarks by the Director General of IICA, Dr. Víctor Villalobos, as hosts of the event.

Dr. Nicora then provided a summary of the background leading to the meeting and explained its objectives.

The Minutes of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Executive Committee held in 2015 were unanimously approved.

Dr. Sergio Salles, a consultant, gave a brief presentation on the restructuring plan for FORAGRO. This was followed by a plenary session during which the participants discussed the plan, asked questions and expressed their opinions. The delegates were then divided into two groups or panels to discuss aspects such as FORAGRO's mission, vision and roles, membership and governance, preparation of work agendas, the financing model and institutional sustainability. The results of these deliberations were presented at a plenary session. A summary of the inputs generated by each group or panel is included in Annex 2.

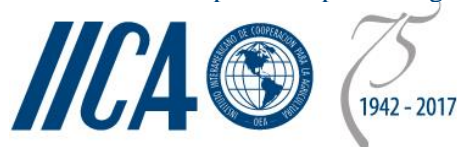
The second day of the Meeting began with a videoconference on the recent restructuring of the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR) and its potential contribution to FORAGRO, presented by its Executive Secretary, Dr. Mark Holderness. The delegates agreed to organize a discussion session in January, via Webinar, to determine how GFAR would be able to support the process to strengthen FORAGRO and how FORAGRO could contribute to the collective objectives and actions of GFAR.

Next, Dr. Priscila Henríquez, the Technical Coordinator of FORAGRO, gave a presentation on the results of the study by ASTI/IFPRI on "*Agricultural Research in Latin America and the Caribbean: A cross/country analysis of institutions, investment and capacities*" (<http://asti.cgiar.org/publications/lac-regional-report2016>). This was followed by a presentation on "*The Contribution of the International Potato Center (CIP) to Agricultural Innovation for Food Security in Latin America*" by Dr. Andre Devaux, the CIP's Regional Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the end of the Meeting, the participants visited the CATIE campus.

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### ***Agreements reached during the Meeting***

Agreement on FORAGRO's vision and mission: the Technical Secretariat will review these statements based on input provided by the two work groups. The results will be submitted to the Executive Committee as part of the updated restructuring proposal, for approval through a no-objection procedure.

Agreements on the roles of FORAGRO:

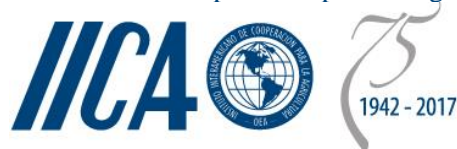
1. FORAGRO acts as a catalyst and promoter of improvements, raises awareness, informs and advocates with political and technical bodies, including governments, academic sector, private sector and civil society, in support of agricultural R+D+I and fair access to its benefits to respond to the needs of the agricultural sector and rural communities in the Americas.
2. FORAGRO produces relevant information and knowledge on priority R+D+i-related issues to support decision-making processes by policymakers and stakeholders of the productive sector.
3. FORAGRO facilitates inclusive mechanisms to improve representation of its stakeholder groups.

Agreements on the Work Plan to be implemented in the next 12 months:

1. Update FORAGRO's restructuring plan with the input generated by the Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the FORAGRO Executive Committee and submit it to the Executive Committee for approval through a no-objection procedure.
2. Prepare a concept paper aimed at developing one or more regional public goods of interest to FORAGRO on R+D+i policies; submit this to the EC for approval with a view to its subsequent presentation by entities of at least three countries to the Call for Proposals to promote Regional Public Goods (RPG) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).
3. Carry out a study of FORAGRO's achievements to date to help communicate the Forum's value and increase its visibility.
4. Compile and systematize information on current R+D+I agendas at regional and country level, and prioritize the topics to be proposed to FORAGRO.
5. Constitute the Assembly of FORAGRO (activities: draft Statutes and Regulations, inform potential members about the approved stakeholder categories, invite potential members).
6. Prepare a proposal for a 2017-2018 Work Plan to be submitted to the Assembly.

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7. Establish the Assembly, the new Executive Committee, the Technical Secretariat and the Technical Advisory Group, and present FORAGRO's studies at an event prior to the Meeting of the IABA.
8. Begin work on the development of a Strategic Plan for FORAGRO using the Theory of Change methodology.
9. Participate actively in GFAR and other forums of importance to FORAGRO.
10. IICA will provide financial support to this process during 2017, while progress is made on developing a model of long-term sustainability to finance the Forum's activities.

### *Next steps*

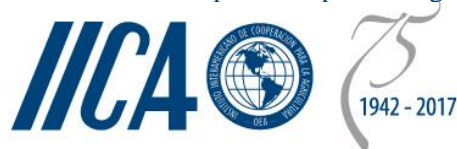
The Technical Secretariat will update FORAGRO's restructuring plan with the input from the Sixteenth Annual Meeting, and will submit it to the Executive Committee in January 2017 for approval via a no objection procedure.

### *Annex 1. List of participants* (in alphabetical order)

1. Amadeo Nicora, President of FORAGRO
2. Andre Devaux, Regional Representative for LAC- CIP
3. Armando Bustillo, President of FONTAGRO and Representative of GT ITTI
4. Audia Barnett, Executive Secretary of PROCINORTE
5. Carlos Pomareda, Consultant
6. Cecilia Gianioni, Executive Secretary of PROCISUR
7. Dina López, Regional Officer for South-South Cooperation, FAO
8. Enrique Flores Mariazza, Vice-President and Representative of Universities on the FORAGRO- EC, Dean of the National Agrarian University of La Molina
9. Fernando López, Representative for Producers' Organizations, Secretary General of COPROFAM and National Commission for Rural Development
10. Hugo Li Pun, Executive Secretary of FONTAGRO
11. Jamil Macedo, Executive Secretary of PROCITROPICOS
12. José Antonio Arana Salazar, Youth Representative – YPARD
13. Luis Fernando Flores, Director General of the National Institute for Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research - INIFAP, Mexico
14. María Rodríguez, Associate Director of Technical Cooperation, IICA, and Secretary of FORAGRO
15. Mario Allegri, Ex-President of FORAGRO
16. Mark Holderness, Executive Secretary, GFAR (via videoconference)
17. Muhammad Ibrahim, Director of CATIE
18. Octavio Ramírez, Representative of the FAO Regional Office

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19. Pedro Pablo Peña, Representative of Private or Mixed Foundations that Support Research, Executive Director, CEDAF
20. Priscila Henríquez, Technical Coordinator of FORAGRO
21. Rene León, Executive Secretary of PROMECAFE
22. Román Cordero, Regional Integration Specialist - IICA – GT ITTI
23. Salvador Fernández, Director of Technical Cooperation, IICA
24. Sergio Salles, Consultant
25. Steven Robinson, Representative of CARDI
26. Víctor M. Villalobos, Director General of IICA
27. Waldyr Stumpf, Representative of PROCISUR and PROCITROPICOS, Executive Director, EMBRAPA

## ***Annex 2. Summary of inputs generated by the discussion groups***

### **Group 1.**

#### 1. Strategic actions:

- Establish an observatory to develop ideas and topics for common agendas.
- Consider influencing other agencies in addition to the IABA for political strengthening.

Priority activities for 2017: systematize global and regional agendas (examples: climate change, reduction of post-harvest waste, public investment in R&D; food security, etc.).

#### 2. Mission and Vision:

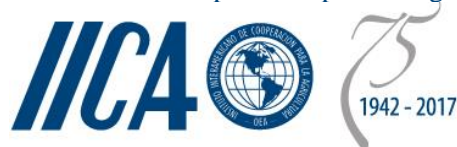
- Mission: To promote discussion, analysis and proposals that strengthen science, technology and innovation systems for the sustainable development of agriculture in the Americas.
- Vision: To be recognized as the leading Forum in the Americas for discussing and sharing the future of agricultural science, technology and innovation systems.

#### 3. Governance:

- Define criteria for the selection of members, their links with FORAGRO's thematic areas and its mission, and the representation of organizations with national, regional and sub-regional or global impact.
- Draft Statutes/ Regulations.
- Consider membership without differentiated levels.
- Structure of the Executive Committee:
  - Clearer definition of members of each stakeholder group and specify whether the Representative is the person or the institution.
  - Include more non-agricultural stakeholders and agricultural extension groups.

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- Include all the PROCIS (change the category of PROMECAFE as a PROCI).
- Differentiate between representation of family and corporate agriculture.
- Guarantee representation of the Caribbean.
- The presidency should be exercised by a public organization.

## Group 2.

### 1. Roles and strategic actions:

#### a. Roles

- Promote dialogue to secure support for R+D+I policies and systems in each country.
- Promote financial support for capacity-building.
- Promote public and private investment in agricultural R+D+I.

#### b. Strategic actions

- Create a list of stakeholders.
- Establish mechanisms for setting priorities, developing regional agendas and decision-making on actions.
- Develop a strategy for informing stakeholder groups about the new FORAGRO.
- Participate in international meetings, including global Forums.

### 2. Mission and Vision:

#### Mission:

- Promote and facilitate dialogue.
- Promote dialogue, partnerships and investment.
- Identify needs and opportunities.
- Forum for exchange and representation.
- “Promote dialogue and partnerships in the areas of science, technology and innovation for the development of agriculture in the Americas”.
- “Serve as a Forum to actively discuss needs and opportunities and to strengthen research, technology and innovation partnerships to advance agriculture in the Americas”.

#### Vision:

- Hemispheric and global leadership.
- “Be recognized as the leading Forum of the Americas for discussion and sharing the future of the agricultural science, technology and innovation systems.”

### 3. Governance:

- General Assembly.
- Management committee: 14 members including one donor.

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- Executive Secretariat (include a fundraising unit).
- Principles of accountability, integrity, responsibility, probity, transparency.
- Clear definition of the roles of each of the governing bodies and their members.
- Clear definition of the roles of the Executive Secretariat; strengthen its work force.

#### 4. Sustainability

- Prepare a proposal for institutional strengthening in order to obtain funding.
- Manage resources both from multilateral bodies and bilateral mechanisms (USA, Canada, Brazil, Japan, China, etc.).
- Disseminate the public goods generated.
- Increase FORAGRO's presence and visibility in the media, especially its Web site.
- Marketing plan to attract donors, organize events with donors.
- Search for sponsors for events and conferences.
- Quota payments.
- Establish "rapid impact" areas.
- Prepare a document demonstrating actions and impacts.
- Prepare a proposal for securing IDB funding (Regional Public Goods).

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