

Progress made by countries

TWO YEARS AFTER BAVARO

to fulfill the Ministerial Agreements
on Agriculture and Rural Life

Second Ministerial Meeting

November 2003



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
Secretariat of the Ministerial Meeting



INDEX

INTRODUCTION	5
TOWARD RURAL PROSPERITY IN THE AMERICAS.....	7
PROCESSES TO TRANSFORM AND MODERNIZE AGRICULTURE IN RURAL TERRITORIES.....	7
PREVENTION AND MITIGATION OF NATURAL DISASTERS	8
FOSTER SUPPORT PROGRAMS IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL DISASTERS	9
POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS TO REDUCE RURAL POVERTY	10
HUMAN CAPITAL FORMATION AS A STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING POSSIBILITIES FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF RURAL LIFE.....	12
POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE HARMONIOUS AND EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL TERRITORIES.....	13
EFFORTS FOCUSING ON FOOD SECURITY	17
THE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION-TRADE CHAIN AS ONE ELEMENT IN THE TRANSFORMATION AND MODERNIZATION OF AGRICULTURE.....	17
PREVENTION AND MITIGATION OF PHYTOSANITARY AND ZOOSANITARY EMERGENCIES.....	20
INCENTIVES TO ADOPT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES	21
INVESTMENT IN HUMAN CAPITAL FOR ACTIVITIES RELATED TO CHAINS, WITH EMPHASIS ON VULNERABLE GROUPS.....	22
PRIORITY ASSIGNED TO NATIONAL POLICIES ON FOOD SECURITY AND FOOD SAFETY AND QUALITY	23
<i>Food Security</i>	23
<i>Food safety and quality</i>	25
BUILDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE	29
PROGRESS IN LIBERALIZING AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND ELIMINATING SUBSIDIES	29
MACROECONOMIC POLICIES FOR AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT.....	30
REDUCING GAPS IN KNOWLEDGE, INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY WITHIN AND AMONG THE COUNTRIES OF THE HEMISPHERE.....	31
PROMOTION OF INVESTMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL AND AGROINDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION	33
INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR DIALOGUE AND FOLLOW UP.	34
INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT RURAL COMMUNITIES	35
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE TWO YEARS AFTER BAVARO	37
DOCUMENTS CONSULTED	41
WEBSITES CONSULTED	43

INTRODUCTION

The Third Summit of the Americas (Quebec 2001) gave rise to a Declaration and a Plan of Action; agriculture and rural life in the hemisphere were addressed in section 10 of said Plan. The Heads of State and Government issued mandates in which they called on the Ministers of Agriculture to promote dialogue and joint action among government ministers, parliamentarians and civil society, in particular organizations linked to rural areas, in order to improve agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

In order to follow up on the mandates issued by the Heads of State at the Quebec Summit, the Ministers of Agriculture of the hemisphere held their First Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Rural Life in Bavaro, Dominican Republic, in November 2001. At this meeting, the ministers reiterated their commitment to the Summit mandates and signed the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro for the Improvement of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas (MDB).

The Declaration contains a series of principles that implicitly express a desired vision of agriculture and rural life in the Americas, as well as the strategic objectives that sustain the vision: rural prosperity (paragraph 13 of the Declaration), food security (paragraph 5), and sustainable territorial development, based on the objectives of greater competitiveness, equity, sustainable natural resource management and democratic governance (paragraph 7).

In order to analyze the information available on the countries' actions to meet the strategic objectives, a systemic approach was adopted that made it

possible to transcend the traditional vision of agriculture as a primary production sector of the economy, in order to take into account the new political framework promoted in the Summits of the Americas process.

For practical purposes, the systemic approach refers to the analysis of information in the “agricultural system” matrix, which considers two types of elements: a) the first one consists of three categories (columns in the matrix) that include the actors of agriculture and rural life (in terms of rural territories and agricultural production-trade chains) and the national and international environment or context (set of elements that affect the development of territories and the performance of the chains); and, b) the second one consists of four dimensions of development (rows in the matrix), defined as: productive-commercial; ecological-environmental; socio-cultural and human; and, political-institutional.

SYSTEMIC CONCEPT - AGRICULTURE & RURAL LIFE

CATEGORY	RURAL TERRITORIES	AGRI - FOOD CHAINS	NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT
DIMENSION PRODUCTION - COMMERCIAL			
ECOLOGICAL - ENVIRONMENTAL			
SOCIO - CULTURAL AND HUMAN			
POLITICAL - INSTITUTIONAL			

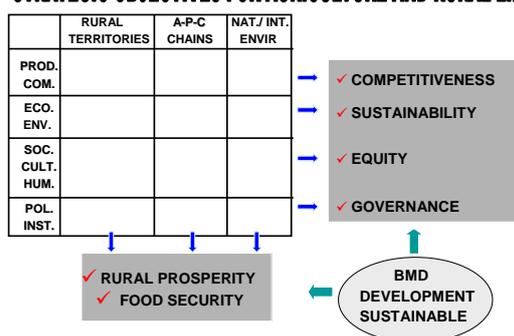
Area for analysis and strategic action

The importance of this systemic view lies in its direct linkage with the strategic objectives defined in the Bavaro Declaration. The four dimensions make it possible to identify progress made by the countries, taking into account the four

sustainable development objectives agreed to in the Bavaro Declaration: *competitiveness*; *sustainability* of natural resources; *equity*; and *democratic governance*.

The three categories also include variables and indicators that, in turn, make it possible to identify progress made in terms of the other two objectives defined in the MDB: *rural prosperity* and *food security*.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES FOR AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE



The purpose of this report is to briefly present the progress made by the countries to implement the Bavaro Declaration. To this end, national and sectoral development plans available electronically from the ministries of agriculture, ministries of planning or the offices of the president of the countries, as well as project information published by the Ministries of Agriculture, were analyzed to determine the degree of commitment, in their strategic planning and actions taken, to the principles of the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro. As a result, one of the limitations of this document is that it does not include information on all the countries of the hemisphere, but rather a sample of twenty one that have served as the principal source of information for this document.

The document is divided into four parts: The first chapter deals with actions taken

to foster prosperity in rural territories. It includes a description of actions taken or planned for bringing about change in agriculture and rural territories; preventing and mitigating natural disasters; designing policies and strategies to reduce rural poverty in the countries; and developing strategies for harmonious territorial development.

The second chapter refers to efforts to increase the priority of policies that address food security, food safety and food quality; the prevention and mitigation of agricultural health problems; and investment in human capital for improving the performance of agro-production chains.

The third chapter covers actions taken to create an enabling national and international environment for attaining rural prosperity and food security. It analyzes the actions of government policies to promote rural well-being, from the standpoint of macroeconomic policies; what has been done to reduce existing knowledge, information and technology gaps within and among countries; policies and actions to increase investments in agriculture; creation of institutional mechanisms for increasing government dialogue with and support for rural communities.

Finally, the fourth chapter synthesizes the other three, regarding progress made to attain sustainable development. In it, the countries' achievements are briefly summarized vis-à-vis sustainable development, and mention is made of future challenges outlined by them that seems to us linked to fulfill the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro.

TOWARD RURAL PROSPERITY IN THE AMERICAS

This chapter discusses the proposals made and actions taken by the countries to promote rural prosperity. It covers the countries' policies, programs, actions and initiatives that have an impact (sociocultural, environmental, agro-production, commercial and political-institutional) on rural territories and that are called for in the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro.

This chapter is organized to present the processes that contribute to transforming and modernizing agriculture from the standpoint of the rural territories, for example: policies to support infrastructure development and the strategies of integral territorial development policies, among others.

It also discusses programs and proposals for natural disaster prevention and mitigation, as well as strategies for achieving equity through poverty reduction, and programs to invest in human capital.

The last topic covered in this chapter is the strategies adopted by the countries to promote harmonious and equitable territorial development.

Processes to transform and modernize agriculture in rural territories

The countries propose in this area to create capacities in rural territories through the creation of appropriate means for integral development, ranging from the establishment of such territories from the legal and planning standpoints to the

provision of infrastructure needed for developing production.

Several such cases exist in the hemisphere. For example, Venezuela has established the so-called Special Sustainable Development Areas (ZEDES). This program aims to achieve several goals, including increasing production activities and directing the population toward new settlement areas; emphasizing the location of business activity and human settlements; and developing infrastructure in new areas. These objectives seek to tap the potential of existing resources for progressively settling rural territories in a more rational and efficient manner, ensuring a more equitable distribution of employment and income, and fostering greater welfare for rural communities.

Efforts also aim to reform production factors in rural territories to ensure adequate physical production infrastructure. In many countries, including El Salvador, Venezuela, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, a sweeping review and legislative changes are being made of land use and land tenure, water and forest resources and territorial arrangement, irrigation, and other topics.

Joint efforts have also been undertaken among different ministries to strengthen infrastructure in the rural milieu. Such is the case of the Ministry of Agriculture in El Salvador, which is working with other ministries to implement the Rural Roads Program. In its implementation, the parties have sought to harmonize the interests of agricultural production with the general needs of the rural population, taking into account the areas of influence of rural development projects, environmental

criteria, access to social services, and the current and potential use of land for agricultural products such as vegetables, fruits, staple grains, sugar cane, coffee and livestock. The first stage covers 138.4 km and the second stage, which will begin soon, is to cover 700 more kilometers.

Projects to reconstruct infrastructure are also underway in Saint Lucia on a farm access road project, an initiative of the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the Ministry of Communications, Works, Transport and Public Utilities. In the next government term, the aim will be to include the participation of external funding sources, such as the Caribbean Development Bank. A law is currently before the Saint Lucia Legislative Assembly to regulate water extraction and to strengthen irrigation and drainage infrastructure.

The Bolivia Plan seeks to boost rural competitiveness through policies, strategies and actions in the area of infrastructure. Rural electrification, road construction, irrigation systems and telecommunications are part of the needs to be met, determined through a mechanism of consultation in the municipalities. Investments and actions will be oriented so that the communities themselves can directly manage their resources for specific actions.

Prevention and mitigation of natural disasters

The Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro expresses the determination to prevent and mitigate the economic and social effects of natural disasters on rural populations.

The strategies adopted by the countries to address this issue include environmental conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources in order to prevent disasters and improve the environmental balance.

In this connection, Peru and Guatemala are planning programs aim toward a similar approach as the one just mentioned.

The countries' position is based on their view that the use of the natural resources should be environmentally, economically and socially sustainable. They seek to convert the environment into an asset of high value for agricultural and rural populations, so that its benefits can be delivered from one generation to the next. They propose that watersheds serve as the planning units for natural resource management.

Another type of strategy seeks to recover natural resources that are at risk due to the inappropriate use of same. For example: i) Mexico's Law on Sustainable Rural Development has created the National System on Desertification and Natural Resource Degradation which has an impact on programs to recover and conserve soil and water resources; ii) Chile's ten-year Degraded Soils Recovery Program, which benefits 150,000 Chilean producers in an area of 2,500,000 hectares.

Some methodological components of these programs, for example in Mexico, include the design of policies that are differentiated by region, species, technology, surface, natural forest, or commercial plantations. These are expected to function as additional mechanisms that promote the rational use, preservation and improvement of natural resources. They also aim to promote the economic viability of production through socially acceptable production processes that create jobs.

Canada has examples of policies for preventing natural resource degradation for the purpose of improving the quality of the environment. Through training in farm production practices, it aims to reduce the amount of water polluted by nutrients, pathogens and pesticides, as well as the risk of soil erosion and the dissemination of contaminating particulates. In addition, it promotes biodiversity protection in the territories.

Regarding natural phenomena, countries such as El Salvador and Peru have designed policies whose primary objective is to propose and support measures to mitigate and reduce its effects in sensitive and high-risk rural areas. These countries are implementing strategies that include systems to monitor and evaluate atmospheric phenomena, river flow (volume), information and early warning systems, guidelines for appropriate land management of agricultural areas, among others. Their purpose is to reduce agricultural vulnerability to disasters and climate change phenomena such as El Niño.

Colombia is incorporating the concept of environmental sustainability into its national policies and the Colombian authorities working in this field have been grouped into the National Environmental System (SINA). The Ministry of Environment serves as the regulatory body of the system; the autonomous regional and sustainable development corporations execute environmental policy at the regional level. The environmental planning process is coordinated by the SINA through regional environmental management plans, land management plans (POT) in the municipalities, and the tri-annual action plans that frame the work of the autonomous regional corporations.

The environmental sustainability strategy adopted in Colombia includes five principal programs:

- a) conservation and sustainable use of environmental goods and services;
- b) comprehensive water management;
- c) generation of income and “green employment”;
- d) environmental sustainability of national production; and

- e) planning and efficient administration by environmental authorities.

In case of natural disaster emergencies, the government of Colombia has established the following policy lines:

- Increasing knowledge of natural risks and disseminating this information.
- Designing and implementing an integrated information system.
- Expanding and updating monitoring and warning networks.

Foster support programs in the event of natural disasters

Paragraph 14 of the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro proposes the reduction of the detrimental effects of natural phenomena and external factors, and calls for the implementation of support programs.

In this connection, Mexico established a policy to facilitate quick response to rural populations affected by climatic events or natural disasters. This will be achieved through coordination between federal governments and their organizations, and by strengthening the fund managed by the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA) for supporting recovery of production capacities.

As part of its agricultural development strategy, El Salvador has established that in times of national catastrophe the State will provide the resources necessary for addressing the situation and will implement measures to guarantee food supply for the population.

Colombia has a section in its national policy to include risk prevention and mitigation in territorial and sectoral

planning. To this end, it has established lines of action for programming support to rural territories:

- *Strengthening territorial and sectoral planning process:* A comprehensive strategy is being implemented in support of municipalities to ensure appropriate management of natural hazards in local emergency plans; at least 150 high-risk municipalities have received support.
- *Reducing vulnerability to earthquakes, tsunamis and floods:* Priority has been given to seismic micro-zoning of cities with populations of over 100,000 located in high-risk seismic areas such as Bucaramanga, Cúcuta, Villavicencio, Grass and Yopal. Also, a contingency plan will be designed and implemented for coping with tsunamis along the Nariño coast.
- *Relocating high-risk populations.*
- *Reducing the financing vulnerability of the government vis-à-vis disasters:* The National Planning Department and the Ministry of Finance and Public Credit have been charged with defining the government's responsibilities and funding for rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts after a natural disaster.

Policies, strategies and programs to reduce rural poverty

Reduction of the incidence of rural poverty is one of the principles expressed in paragraph 13 of the Ministerial Bavaro Declaration and is an essential component of the strategies of some countries for achieving the objective of rural prosperity. The plans and actions implemented by the countries aim to improve the living conditions of the rural population, giving priority to activities that generate

employment and boost the incomes of rural families.

The strategy followed by Brazil is set out in the social dimension component of the "Brazil for All" Plan, and seeks to generate more jobs and improve working conditions, support for farm families, agrarian reform and labor reform.

A number of programs and plans are operating in the hemisphere to reduce poverty in rural territories, for example: the PRODARIEN, Rural Poverty and Natural Resources projects in Panama; the PRORURAL program in Chile; the New Life Program in Costa Rica; the Poor Rural Communities Support Services Project (PRCSSP) in Guyana, among others. They have the institutional backing of the ministries of agriculture and other State institutions.

Basically, the objectives and actions of these programs carried out under rural development policies are to foster equal access to the factors of production, such as land, water, capital, training, marketing; they also promote non-agricultural rural activities. By way of example, in Guatemala the guidelines established by MAGA for its programs to reduce rural poverty include:

- Technical and financial support for the production and marketing of goods and non-agricultural services, in coordination with the Small- and Medium-scale Enterprises Program. Support for promoting the production and marketing of handicrafts.
- Support for implementing community eco-tourism projects.
- Support for training in non-agricultural trades in coordination with the Technical Training and Productivity Institute (INTECAP), private sector organizations and specific projects.

A similar approach is being followed in Costa Rica, where its strategy emphasizes

establishing micro-enterprises as alternatives for farmers who have had to abandon their farming activities due to economic circumstances. The promotion of tourism, business training and business incubation are included in this type of program. The aim is to promote training approach in which their skills and know-how become their principal tools for developing capacities for production, increasing productivity and acquiring new skills.

In Argentina, the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food (SAGPyA) is implementing the Small-farmers Development Project (PROINDER), the objective of which is to improve the living conditions of some 40,000 small poor farmers. The aim is to increase their incomes by fostering sustainable production, organization and participation in the development of the communities. This project seeks to strengthen institutional capacities for formulating, executing and monitoring rural development policies. By late 2001, the project had provided 12,600 families with technical assistance and more than 12,000 families with financial assistance.

Taking into account the National Policy to Combat Poverty, the government of Honduras formulated its Master Plan for National Reconstruction and Transformation and the Poverty Reduction Strategy. Within that framework, Honduras is implementing the National Sustainable Rural Development Program (PRONADERS), which fosters a long-term, multi-sectoral approach to sustainable rural development. The Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock provides inter-institutional coordination for the PRONADERS Program, which aims to increase the efficiency of rural poverty eradication actions. Through a participatory process that facilitates rural dwellers' access to basic services, the Program promotes human development and the sustainable use of natural

resources. Its key components aim to strengthen local management capabilities and human capital, furnish social and basic production infrastructure, provide funding, among others. By 2002, the Program had served approximately 95,000 families in 15 of the country's poorest municipalities.

Also noteworthy is the Rural Uruguay Project, which is being implemented with poverty reduction as its main objective. Its strategy and actions focus on creating a mechanism that will provide continuity and a medium- and long-term perspective to policies and instruments to address poverty in the countryside.

Mexico's approach, set out in the PROCAMPO program and ratified in the "Agreement for the Countryside," signed in mid-2003, proposes a participatory strategy that targets poor rural families with limited production or land ownership possibilities. The Agreement for the Countryside continues with the PROCAMPO advance payment scheme, which is not conditional on crops and which provides this type of rural family with resources to invest in their parcels or to increase family incomes through different types of business activities.

Most poverty alleviation projects target areas that have the highest incidence of poverty. This is the case in Honduras, where projects are concentrated in the Northern Corridor zone; in Guyana, in the coastal zones (primarily 2 and 3); in Venezuela, the ZEDES will be established in Barlovento, south of Lake Maracaibo, Mesa de Guapina, Sur de Cojedes-Portuguesa and federal dependencies, among others. This strategy of addressing poverty reduction with a territorial approach was based on the Triple-C Project, executed by the Ministry of Agricultural Development in Panama. This project directly serves 7,500 rural families in the provinces of Coclé, Colón and Panama. Its general objective is to reduce

poverty by promoting micro-businesses and by increasing output and productivity.

Human capital formation as a strategy for improving possibilities for the improvement of rural life

The development plans of the countries of the hemisphere attach considerable importance to the subject of rural education; it is also a key point in the Bavaro Declaration (paragraph 15).

Chile's policy guidelines view education as the motor of development, and it is therefore committed to increasing the average schooling of the population, ensuring secondary school attendance, including by means of fellowships for the poorer sectors. It is also reviewing the content of its educational programs and improving the image of the role of rural teachers.

Mexico is increasing coordination and synergy among different government training programs. To this end, it has stipulated that actions in this area are carried out through the National Integral Training and Rural Technical Assistance System and Service, under the Law on Sustainable Rural Development.

Some of the countries of the hemisphere have focused their human resources training strategies for improving rural life on three lines of action. The first is to support and improve existing training networks. In Guatemala, for example, a plan is being executed to integrate the agricultural education system by strengthening the National Central School of Agriculture and the Agricultural Education Schools. In addition, support is being provided to the National Agricultural Education Forum.

The second line of action is pursued in countries such as Costa Rica, Guatemala and Mexico, which emphasize training for

traditionally marginalized groups, such as women, young people and indigenous peoples. This type of policy aims to involve women and rural youth in developing production activities. It includes facilitating access to land and other production resources, as well as improving their capacities for association and organization. In Guatemala, for example, the "Program for the Development of Rural Women in Agriculture" is under way, and incentives are provided for women to participate in the programs of the Business Training Schools.

Work with rural youth, as one of society's key resources for strengthening rural development, is proposed as an alternative. A number of countries agree it is necessary to provide young people with educational, technological, and financial tools so they can assume an active role in raising the standards of living. In this regard, Costa Rica is implementing a public policy to support business development among rural young people and will launch an inter-sectoral business program for them in 2004.

The third line of action assists producers who have been displaced as a result of the low profitability of their economic activities; by training them in tasks that offer better opportunities for their development. Saint Lucia, for example, is going to finance the National Apprentice Programme, which is intended to equip displaced young people to meet demands in the job market. In joint action with the private sector, the government of Saint Lucia will finance the cost of research, the establishment of the program, and assistance for the apprentices.

Some proposals have partially or fully included the three aforementioned lines of action. In Chile, one of the basic pillars of the efforts to boost the competitiveness of sectoral activities is the expansion and improvement of technological, innovation and management capabilities. The proposed policy promotes:

- A system of ongoing education and training, in collaboration with the Ministries of Education and of Labor. Essentially, the system will include two principal components: creation of opportunities to complete studies (basic, intermediate, technical) and improvement of the supply of intermediate and higher technical training.
- Implementation of an educational/training program to improve the professional capacities of rural producers.
- Increased access to and use of Internet in different sectoral activities.
- Coordination of initiatives in the area of the education and training (SENCE, INDAP, PROCHILE, CHILE Foundation, FAE, INIA), based on a common strategy.
- Design and implementation of an accreditation system for labor competencies.

Policies, strategies and programs to promote harmonious and equitable development in rural territories

In the Bavaro Declaration, the ministers declared their intention to adopt policies, strategies and programs of action that contribute to harmonious and equitable development of rural territories and improved quality of life of their inhabitants. Depending on the countries' evolution and social and political development, they have formulated a range of strategies to reach this goal, from the establishment of guiding principles to the formulation of plans for rural services and territorial planning.

In the United States, a series of principles guide actions in the rural area. The first is

that, in policy making, it is necessary to acknowledge diversity in rural areas. They recognize that there is no single formula for bringing about prosperity, and that the diverse conditions and factors in rural territories must be taken into account. The second principle, also related to policy-making, is to consider the importance of non-agricultural activities because of their importance in developing rural areas, where they have become the principal motors of rural economies.

Some of the strategies implemented in LAC countries to develop rural territories involve legal security for land tenure, greater coverage of basic services, reduction of imbalances between rural and urban areas, and social recovery programs.

El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, among others, are in the process of consolidating land tenure policies for promoting the harmonious and effective development of territories. In El Salvador, the objective of this policy is to guarantee legal security over land and contribute, therefore, to its efficient and rational use. The MAG of El Salvador recognizes that land is an economic good in democracies, and that legal security is a key requisite for investments in production, the care of natural resources, access to credit, and full use of the land. For this purpose, it intends to complete the agrarian reform process it has been promoting.

With regard to increasing services and coverage, each country's plans are based on the needs expressed by their population. Mexico, for example, places great emphasis on increasing the coverage of health services, food, housing, education and culture in rural territories. It is executing the Special Concurrent Program, which prioritizes support for vulnerable groups in regions with high and very high degrees of marginalization and extreme poverty. This includes staff training, support for

infrastructure and funding to facilitate the rural population's access to health services.

Colombia also has a strong interest in supporting basic infrastructure in rural territories, with special emphasis on communications and telephony services, within the framework of its "Agenda for Connectivity Program." The Colombian government will be working to further develop its "Telecenters" and community rural telephony programs, with a view to increasing the density of rural telecommunications services and access to information and communications technologies. These community solutions will serve the municipal seats of government and population centers of over 1,700 inhabitants, where telephone service is not provided or is insufficient. The Telecenters program will provide the community, as a whole, with telephony, fax and Internet services. The government's goal for the 2002–2006 period is to install 3,000 points of community rural telephony.

Social recovery programs are another strategy for promoting harmonious development in rural territories. The case of Saint Lucia is illustrative: reductions in subsidies to banana farmers have resulted in a large number of banana farmers being displaced from this activity. To address this situation, the government is implementing a strategy to serve nearly 10,000 farmers and their families. The target is to include them in productive activities and improve their living conditions under its Social Recovery Programme. This plan includes activities in the areas of adult education, housing and health, community organization, training, reproductive health, recreation, labor and land reform, among others.

Similarly, Mexico's Agreement for the Countryside has created the National System to Promote Rural Social Enterprises, which seeks to implement a basic organizational strategy for economic cooperation that fosters the development

of individual, collective and institutional competencies for improving the quality of life in rural environments by making better use of resources.

Bolivia has implemented a comprehensive proposal entitled "Local Economic Development," by which an agenda is agreed to between the public and private sectors to improve incomes, the conditions of production, competitiveness, and the quality of life of rural populations. After identifying actions to be undertaken in rural areas by the community or local economic stakeholders, an agreement is reached with the government to sign an agenda of shared responsibility among the parties.

Under this line of action, Paraguay is executing a program to develop the Chaco (PRODECHACO) with the active participation of its population and fostering environmental respect. With its participatory approach, the program pursues sustainable solutions that take into account the organizational capacities and opinions of the communities, and targets the poorest populations of this large area in Paraguay.

Chile takes into account the diversity of rural life and the multi-sectoral nature of its problems. An urgent task of its Ministry of Agriculture (MINAGRI) is to define appropriate institutional structures and schemes for addressing, at the central and regional levels, the problems of rural development. To this end, it is compiling the experiences of different agencies and projects that address rural poverty, such as PRODECOP and PRODESAL (under INDAP) and the PRORURAL Network. This network is directed by the Minister of Agriculture and involves the Ministry of Public Utilities (MOP), the Ministry of Planning (MIDEPLAN) and other institutions.

Given Chile's goal to move toward a national territorial development strategy,

based on a long-term vision duly integrated into the country's overall development plan, it will be promoting a national rural development policy that considers:

- *Development instruments:* This consists of a flexible line of support for diversifying the rural economy through non-farm business activities; programs to promote rural tourism; incentive mechanisms for investments; employment programs; and implementation of the Family Farm Bond targeting poor farming families, and operated by INDAP.
- *Integrated rural and territorial development programs:* This concerns the preparation of comprehensive, decentralized and participatory programs adapted to local specificities and identities, to strengthen the competencies and technical capabilities of municipalities and municipal associations.
- *Grassroots level culture and rural education:* This refers to an active policy of cultural development in the rural and local environment, one that considers education the motor of development, including: increased schooling, guaranteeing intermediate-level education including with fellowships to prevent drop outs; upgrading the relevance of education and the prestige of rural professors; establishing mechanisms and incentives for recovering and enriching rural culture and traditions; and adapting the training system to complement the educational system.
- *A new rural habitability:* This consists of moving toward an integrated system provides the rural population with access to suitable habitability and sustainability.
- *Modern and balanced labor relations:* The aim is to modernize labor relations, including due safeguarding of the rights of the parties and balance between the need for flexibility and the quality of jobs.
- *A more balanced territorial development:* This refers to policies to promote balanced territorial development, including instruments to promote and support consensus-building among stakeholders in the territory.

progress made by countries: two years after bavaro

EFFORTS FOCUSING ON FOOD SECURITY

Another of the strategic objectives set forth in the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro is food security, food safety and food quality.

This chapter will focus on the proposals put forth and the actions taken by the countries to transform and modernize agriculture through the development of agricultural production-trade chains.

It also contains a section on the prevention and mitigation of phytosanitary and zoonotic emergencies, and another on incentives for using environmentally friendly agricultural production techniques.

The social and political issues are analyzed based on investment in human capital in order to make chains more competitive, and on national priorities in terms of food security and food safety and quality.

The agricultural production-trade chain as one element in the transformation and modernization of agriculture

In the Bavaro Declaration, the ministers expressed their support for processes aimed at transforming and modernizing agriculture, with a view to increasing production, productivity and profitability in the agricultural sector. According to paragraph 10 of the Declaration, the goal is to improve competitiveness in global markets, revitalize small- and medium-scale production units and develop agrifood chains.

In this regard, the national and sectoral development plans of most of the countries call for a transformation of the sector, with emphasis on adopting

processes that will add greater value to their products. For example, in Chile, sectoral policies call for the transformation of production to be an ongoing process aimed at upgrading the quality of agricultural products, with a view making the sector more competitive and all commodities profitable.

Another example is Guatemala, where proposals have been put forth for making the agricultural sector more competitive on the national and global markets by increasing productivity and improving the quality of value-added products. Venezuela, like other countries, is planning to develop agroindustrial chains as a means of adding value to primary production.

In Peru, two of the goals of the country's agricultural policy are the capitalization of agriculture and the development of agribusinesses linked to production chains. It is expected that these actions will contribute to achieving the economic objectives of increasing productivity and incomes and reducing rural poverty. In addition, a proposal has been made to develop agribusinesses linked to production-trade chains as a means of adding value to production, and for enterprises to pledge to distribute profits.

Similar situations exist in a different countries, giving rise to a number of proposals calling for changes in the processes carried out in the agricultural sector. These include a reassessment of the role of agribusinesses in an agricultural production-trade chain. Several governments are promoting the development of such chains for their principal agricultural products, placing emphasis on production in areas with the

most favorable agroecological conditions and encouraging integration between producers and entrepreneurs in order to guarantee the generation of value added, in an atmosphere of competitiveness.

An example of the above is the Agricultural Supply Program (PROAGRO), being implemented in Colombia. It is intended to increase production and improve competitiveness through higher yields and lower costs. It proposes to accomplish this by strengthening the production-trade chains of products with the potential to compete successfully on foreign markets and on the import-substitution market, and which have a positive impact on the performance of the agricultural sector and on the standard of living of rural inhabitants. It is important to point out that these programs fall under the Regional Agreements on Competitiveness.

Under this approach, governments are working to modernize the services provided by the ministries, in order to better enable the agricultural production-trade chains to move products from the farm, through the process of transformation, to consumers' tables. In Costa Rica, for example, efforts are being made to strengthen the institutions of the sector, so as to be able to offer integrated services to the projects managed by the Ministry of Agriculture in all links of the agricultural production-trade chain. Such efforts are based on the needs of the production-related organizations, in order to have a greater impact on the efficiency and effectiveness of the country's production systems. The same approach has been adopted in Chile, Brazil, St. Lucia, Peru, El Salvador, Mexico, Honduras and other countries.

Some of the key services that the countries have identified as priorities for the effective operation of such a chain are: i) market development and marketing; ii) the processing of agricultural products; iii) technological innovation; iv) development

and improvement of infrastructure for production; v) technical assistance; vi) support for agricultural diversification; and vii) creation and improvement of information systems.

Marketing and the development of domestic and foreign markets are two of the services identified by the countries as priorities. For example, Chile, Bolivia, Peru and El Salvador are in the process of improving their domestic markets, having taken actions intended to make transactions more transparent and eliminate distortions in the prices received by producers. The measures taken include the formulation of rules and regulations, the creation of information systems, and the development of or support for agricultural commodity exchanges. With this same goal in mind, Mexico created a national standardization and evaluation system in order to improve the marketing of agricultural, forestry and fisheries products on the national market.

As for external markets, Chile is taking actions aimed at securing preferential treatment in international markets, ensuring access for its exports, eliminating trade restrictions, protecting overseas investments and developing export products with more technology built in. Bolivia's policy calls for consolidating those agricultural products already on foreign markets, or for which the demand has been clearly identified, and for promoting new exports by encouraging efforts to add value to production.

As regards the transformation and modernization of agricultural products and processes, proposals have been put forth and actions have been taken in Chile, Guatemala, Canada, Costa Rica, St. Lucia, Peru, Colombia and other countries. The objective of the strategies adopted is to tap the new economic opportunities generated by innovative products and processes, as a means of adding value to production in the rural sector. In some countries of Central

America and the Caribbean, these strategies are aimed at improving the quality, marketing and sustainability of traditional agricultural products such as coffee, bananas and livestock. St. Lucia is tailoring the production of bananas to the European market, especially that of the United Kingdom. To this end, it has introduced special production packages and certification programs and has established special relations with its markets.

In the interest of creating value added, the countries are allocating resources to technological innovation, which provides an additional benefit: lower prices, leading to greater competitiveness. Canada attaches great importance to science and technology in implementing its agricultural development plans, considering that they generate economic opportunities and can contribute to achieving their objectives related to food safety and sustainability.

Some actions taken by the countries are:

- To ensure that technological innovation efforts focus on meeting the needs of the market, by involving in the discussions all those agencies engaged in finding solutions to the problems that limit the efficient development of agricultural production-trade chains.
- To establish or to strengthen national technology innovation systems, as in the case of El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Mexico, making it possible to coordinate efforts among institutions and involve both those offering and those needing technological services, in order to meet more effectively the needs of the agricultural sector.
- To effect improvements in the use and development of inputs and factors for production, such as animal breeding and seed production. For example, in El Salvador, a new law has been

proposed on seeds and the protection of plant breeder rights, with a view to encouraging the production, use and genetic breeding of seeds and plants and to protecting the intellectual property rights associated with national research efforts.

The government of Mexico is currently studying proposed laws on biosafety and genetically modified organisms which call for biotechnology to contribute more to the development of agriculture, within a framework of safety measures designed to protect the environment and human health.

Other services that the governments have been reviewing are the improvement of infrastructure for agriculture and rural life, technical assistance and agricultural diversification in the countries.

In Guatemala, policies have been formulated that are intended to correct deficiencies in the physical infrastructure that supports the production and marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural products, in an attempt to involve rural areas in national development efforts.

Support has also been provided in several countries to improve the infrastructure related to irrigation. Chile passed a law promoting the use of irrigation, which calls for an investment of US\$55 million per year. Also, it strengthened the National Irrigation Commission and is implementing a program of large- and medium-scale irrigation works designed to provide the country with the infrastructure it needs during periods of drought. Similarly, Honduras places high priority on its irrigation system, particularly since climatic changes have affected rainfall amounts and distribution. In response, Honduras has formulated a National Irrigation and Drainage Plan, the goal of which is to include 40,000 hectares of agricultural lands under irrigation, by 2005.

Panama has implemented its National Irrigation Plan with a view to augmenting the amount of agricultural lands under irrigation, among other purposes. The national government authorized use of US\$40 million from the Development Trust Fund, for investments in irrigation projects. These monies support implementation of four projects in the provinces of Azuero and Chiriqui, and cover some 21,000 hectares. Costa Rica and El Salvador are also revising and lending support to their irrigation systems.

To provide the agricultural sector with adequate service in terms of technical assistance, associative production arrangements are being promoted in El Salvador, St. Lucia and Mexico. This consists of promoting the formation of groups of producers who come together freely and spontaneously in pursuit of greater profits and competitiveness. The existence of these groups makes it easier to develop policies calling for an integral approach to the training and technical assistance required by the rural population. In this regard, Mexico has proposed a policy calling for greater coordination and synergy among the different government programs related to training for the rural population. As a result, the actions in this area will be carried out through the National Integral Rural Training and Technical Assistance System and the National Integral Rural Training and Technical Assistance Service, created under the Law on Sustainable Rural Development.

Agricultural diversification is another of the services prioritized by the governments in their efforts to modernize agriculture. In El Salvador, actions will be based on the needs of the market and focus on those commodities that offer the best comparative and competitive advantages.

In countries such as St. Lucia and the Windward Islands, agricultural diversification is an alternative that may

help them out of the crisis caused by lower prices for their chief export product. There is an urgent need for new thinking in the planning of the rural sector in this region of the Caribbean if it is to compete on international markets. Their main objective is to promote growth and stability in the agricultural sector. Some of the actions that have been taken, especially in St. Lucia, are:

- To identify and promote alternative sources of income generation.
- To reduce dependence on single crops for international trade.
- To explore and tap market niches for nontraditional products
- To make optimum use of opportunities for employment in agriculture.

Prevention and mitigation of phytosanitary and zoonosanitary emergencies

With a view to strengthening food security in their countries, the Ministers of Agriculture attached priority to the prevention and mitigation of phytosanitary and zoonosanitary emergencies.

Canada has been implementing security networks as an instrument for protecting production from, among other things, the threat of diseases, pests and natural disasters. A review of these policies has led the government to evaluate the approach of the programs of these security networks, such as the Net Income Stabilization Account (NISA) and the Canadian Farm Income Program (CFIP), redirecting it toward business risk management. The goal of this approach is for the Canadian private sector to plan for the long term and implement, efficiently and rapidly, the food safety and health measures needed to avoid risks in production and guarantee the food security of the population.

St. Lucia is implementing a strategy similar to Canada's. Previously, the monitoring and control of diseases, especially black sigatoka, was the responsibility of the producers association. Plans call for each producer to assume this responsibility; as a result, the government is involved in training them in the establishment of minimum standards, so as not to have a negative impact on national production. Work is under way on legislation that will empower the government to inspect and monitor farms, promote better production practices and adopt actions needed to keep the incidence of disease to a minimum.

In the countries of Central America, efforts are under way to institutionalize the prevention and mitigation of sanitary emergencies. Honduras has created and is strengthening its national agricultural health and food safety systems. Costa Rica is in the process of training human resources to prevent, combat and eradicate pests and diseases; by the end of the process it is hoped there will be 2400 technicians and producers trained, as well as another 4000 producers in integrated pest management.

Panama has advanced considerably in implementing a permanent agricultural health surveillance program, with the establishment of Phyto-zoosanitary Security Zones in the ports of Balboa, on the Pacific, and Manzanillo, on the Atlantic. It has also established others on its coasts and in adjoining areas, from which monitoring activities, phyto-sanitary surveys, training, dissemination and geo-referencing activities, among others, are conducted to ensure early detection and warning regarding harmful agents.

Chile is implementing a number of programs intended to monitor, control and eradicate pests and diseases, in order to protect the country's flora and fauna. The goals proposed include to ensure that the country retains its status of free of foot-and-mouth disease without vaccination; to

eradicate brucellosis; to control bovine tuberculosis; to retain its status of free of fruit flies; and to control and eradicate the sirex woodwasp and the different pathogens that affect potatoes, as well as other pests and diseases. To accomplish this, a Sanitary Emergencies Fund is being developed and the infrastructure for research, such as the laboratory at Lo Aguirre and the national network, is being strengthened. As a result, the country will have reference laboratories that meet international standards and can provide support for research on animal and plant health.

Incentives to adopt environmentally friendly agricultural practices

The use of incentives which will not distort the market, but which will encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly agricultural practices, has become an important aspect of laws in several countries. In El Salvador, for example, they play an important role in the management of watersheds; as a matter of fact, they are the foundation of special projects such as the environmental program in the upper Lempa River basin.

They are also used as a strategy within rural development programs aimed at reducing poverty and protecting the environment, for the purpose of fostering the recovery of environmental resources and the sustainable development of fragile areas, and ensuring that the production capacity of such areas does not decline.

In other cases, the incentive is the economic benefits that come with the proper management of the environment, that involves its productive capacity and the generation of new technologies for environmental management. In this regard, the objective of Guatemala's agricultural development plan is to support and develop sustainable management

options for the conservation and protection of renewable natural resources. In Costa Rica, 20 projects are under way on integral agricultural farms to demonstrate, disseminate and transfer new technologies for natural resource management.

Costa Rica's goal is to promote organic agriculture and eco-agriculture, through training for 2000 producers in 2002-2004. Eighty agro-ecological tourism projects are being executed to take advantage of the natural and cultural resources existing on farms and in communities. Also, 80 studies are being prepared on conservation agriculture in watersheds and micro-watersheds, focused on increasing productivity, improving plant cover and fertility, and reducing contamination. To this end, 2000 producers are being trained in the management of agriculture/forestry/grazing systems and agroforestry systems, which will generate revenues from the sale of environmental services.

Chile is implementing Good Agricultural Practices programs. It is strengthening this line of work in an attempt to replicate the experience of its vegetable/fruit export sector in other production sectors such as livestock farming, with particular emphasis on upgrading quality. These programs promote the execution of production activities that are in compliance with international standards related to the environment and labor laws.

In Colombia, the Alternative Development Program (PDA) offers incentives for the management and conservation of natural resources and for food security program, with a view to promoting the substitution of illicit crops in environmentally strategic areas. The Colombian government is promoting effective resource management as a means of providing alternatives for income generation.

Investment in human capital for activities related to chains, with emphasis on vulnerable groups

Many agricultural development plans include a component on human resources and their importance in the development of agriculture and rural life. The plan in El Salvador states that profitable and competitive agriculture is intrinsically linked to the development of human capital. Also, the Canadian document "Architecture for Agricultural Policy" addresses the importance of investment in human capital, and the need for producers to acquire the skills and resources required for the agricultural sector to compete successfully in the Twenty-first Century.

By way of example, the goals that the government of Canada has established in the area of investment in human capital are:

- to enable producers with limited experience to acquire the skills and experience that will enable them to manage their businesses and to adapt to changes in consumer preferences and to scientific progress.
- to involve producers in the continual improvement of the skills needed on farms in a constantly evolving sector.
- to provide producers with the management capabilities needed to make their activities as profitable as possible.
- to provide producers with access to a wide range of options for improving their quality of life in the future.

For El Salvador, young people, farmers and professionals constitute the driving force behind a sustainable agricultural sector, which will lead to greater well-being for

society. Therefore, the objective of the policy on investment in human capital is to provide the conditions and make the investments needed for them to be more creative and show greater leadership. Therefore, its principal policy strategies in this field are:

- To provide training based on the needs of users, promoting the exchange of experiences among producers from different areas.
- To continue to support the consolidation of the Forum for Dialogue and the Integration of Agricultural and Rural Education.
- To promote the development of agribusiness training programs and centers, with support from international cooperation agencies. In this regard, Costa Rica, Guatemala and other countries have taken the same path and are executing programs with the same focus.
- To modernize the Roberto Quiñonez National Agricultural School (ENA).

The Mexican government is earmarking resources for an integral approach to training and technical assistance demanded by the rural population and their organizations. To this end, it will be implementing plans to establish a direct relationship between professionals and technicians, and producers, in order to promote a market for specialized services in the sector. Also, it is promoting training programs for jobs in which the abilities and knowledge of the small farmers themselves are the principal tools for developing production capacity, increasing productivity and acquiring other skill and abilities. To this end, the government established the National Integral Rural Training and Technical Assistance System and the National Integral Rural Training

and Technical Assistance Service, under the Law on Rural Development and the Agreement for the Countryside.

Panama promotes the creation of Sustainable Production Farms in areas where there is extreme poverty, and which include training in environmentally friendly practices, the marketing of products, and the organization of production to achieve self-sufficiency. The objective of these farms is to enable these communities to supply their own needs and to take better advantage of available resources.

Argentina has been implementing the Agricultural Social Program (PSA) through the Technical Unit for National Coordination, of the Secretariat of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Food. It is intended to help small farmers to overcome, through training, organization and technical and financial assistance, those production-related, financial and social restrictions that prevent them from participating fully and equitably in the economy. The program is being implemented in almost all the provinces of the country and its beneficiaries are smallholders with little land and capital and low incomes, and who face long periods of unemployment and underemployment. The PSA promotes the execution of Associate Production Enterprises (EPAs); as of June 2003, some 6800 EPAs had been carried out, benefiting some 60,000 families.

Priority assigned to national policies on food security and food safety and quality

Food Security

Policies on food security have become an important part of the development plans of the countries. Peru has made it a key element of its agricultural policy, given its importance in terms of the well-being of

society. Therefore, it states that domestic production sectors must be stable and balanced enough to guarantee the availability of food, or produce enough agricultural exports to avoid the country's running up unmanageable trade deficits. In its plan, Venezuela states that agriculture must be capable of guaranteeing the food security of the nation, within the context of sustainable use, and of producing sufficient competitive export commodities, with a view to continuing the present trend toward improving the agricultural trade balance.

In Brazil, the strategic role of food security is based, in part, on bringing about a proportional increase in income and consumption among the poorest of the poor. As a result, one of the programs established in this regard is Zero Hunger, which includes a reform that increases the amount of resources earmarked for the most needy strata of the population. The program is used to eliminate inequalities in the rural milieu in Brazil. The program includes a project called "Cartão-Alimentação", which is intended to include 44 million people in efforts aimed at providing them with food over the next four years. The challenge Brazil has taken on is spelled out in its agricultural development plan: More Food and an Income for Brazilians. More Foreign Exchange for Brazil.

In Venezuela, the Special Program on Food Safety (PESA) is being implemented. It is currently being reviewed, with discussions focusing on the possibility of allocating US\$50 million more so that it can continue to support the distribution of food throughout the country. Also, policies are being prepared that are intended to ensure that agricultural production grows at a faster rate than the population, by increasing productivity, making products more competitive and increasing investment in agriculture, thus contributing to rural development and the well-being of the small-farm population.

In El Salvador, efforts will continue to implement policy actions aimed at improving the level of food security in the country. The government considers that the opportunities offered by the opening of markets will enable farmers to opt for those commodities which are more profitable, thus increasing their purchasing power, which translates, according to the plan, into better nutrition.

The principal strategies for achieving food security in El Salvador are:

- To increase productivity through the development of technology, and the dissemination of same to producers, via the rural development projects the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock is executing in the country.
- To develop improved varieties that will provide foods of better nutritional quality, such a HQ061 white corn, and to guarantee the quality of germ plasm and breeding stock.
- To promote agricultural diversification, as a means of improving what producers eat and their incomes.
- To make improvements in infrastructure related to rural roads, including food storage facilities, in order to reduce post-harvest losses. Peru is making efforts in this direction too.

In Guatemala, plans call for strengthening the National Nutritional Food Security System through the reactivation of the National Food Security Council. Also, support is provided for the production and marketing of nutritional staple foods, and for efforts aimed at creating employment opportunities, with a view to enabling the population at risk to acquire more food. There are also plans to provide this population with training in good nutrition,

especially women, children and adolescents.

As in El Salvador and Guatemala, in Mexico, food security policies also address matters related to nutrition and supply. The Mexican government is promoting the development of micro-regional markets in order to increase the availability of and access to staple foods for the small-farm population. To do this, it uses the physical infrastructure of the competent agencies of Federal Government to increase the supply of food products in rural areas. Likewise, plans call for conducting a national campaign to promote sound nutrition for everyone. The government has reaffirmed sovereignty and food security as the focus of its agrifood policy, using as a basis the provisions of the Law on Sustainable Rural Development which refer to self-determination in matters of production, supply and access to food for everyone.

The priority instruments established by the government of Peru to achieve the objective of food security are related to policies on good nutrition and consumption of domestic products, as well as policies aimed at generating employment opportunities and fostering development in the countryside. Also, plans call for efforts to identify populations facing malnutrition and bring them in contact with independent small farmers offering food products for sale, by gradually incorporating both groups into the market. Likewise, Costa Rica plans to promote a food security strategy, attaching priority to local production, based on criteria of physical and economic availability, stability, access and use of foods. It plans to foster traditional activities based on the Costa Rican diet, and to gradually increase productivity and competitiveness.

Other initiatives are under way in the countries with respect to the purchase of raw materials and local food. In St. Lucia, the Buy Local Campaign, initiated by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Consumer

Affairs, is in full swing. The goal of this program is to foster domestic production and generate employment and food security for the population.

Food safety and quality

Within the framework of the priorities established in this field, significant progress has been made in terms of procedures, harmonization of rules, certification, access to international markets, and creation of institutional frameworks, among others.

For example, in the area of food safety, Costa Rica has proposed five lines of action: to strengthen those agencies responsible for overseeing and verifying compliance with sanitary procedures; to work toward the harmonization and regulation of sanitary measures at the regional level; to establish technical cooperation agreements with agricultural protection agencies; to regulate trade in genetically modified organisms; and to establish a code for inspection of industrial plants.

El Salvador plans to adopt a policy calling for the strengthening of animal and plant health services, in order to obtain greater access to foreign markets. This policy is intended to ensure the safety and quality of national products and protect national agricultural resources by preventing, controlling and eradicating pests and diseases. To this end, it has passed the Law on Animal and Plant Health, as well as rules and regulations that have been harmonized with the WTO Agreement on the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures.

Mexico is in the process of organizing its domestic market for agricultural, forestry and fishery products, by strengthening its quality and safety programs. It plans, in coordination with small-farmer organizations and producers, to review, modify or create phytosanitary and

zoosanitary and food safety rules by production chain. These rules will be brought into line with international standards and strictly applied to imported products, in the interest of ensuring fair competition for producers in the domestic market and protecting local consumers. Closer coordination will be fostered among the Secretariat of the Economy, the SENASICA and the Secretariat of Health for the purpose of ensuring safety and compliance with the phytosanitary and zoosanitary rules and rules related to trade information for importing foods.

As regards the quality of foods, the Mexican government is promoting the revision and creation of Mexican standards on the quality of agricultural products. Also, there are plans to promote the work of the national consultative committees on the standardization of sanitary, phytosanitary and zoosanitary measures and trade information, directing the efforts of their programs to specific issues related to standardization in the agricultural and forestry sectors. As an incentive for promoting the quality of foods that meet high quality standards, plans call for issuing the official seal "Mexico Select Quality."

El Salvador's strategy for promoting the adoption of good practices in agriculture and food processing, with emphasis on quality, is summarized below:

- To disseminate the rules applicable to the quality of agricultural products, so that producers and processors will be more familiar with the regulatory framework and be able to upgrade the quality of their products and ensure greater access to markets.
- To support the system for the creation of technical and sanitary standards applicable to agricultural products.
- To take advantage of the technical assistance and training offered by international organizations, sharing the

knowledge acquired with actors in the private sector. The goal is to move forward quickly in the implementation of quality assurance programs in the production and processing of animal and plant products.

- To support the adoption, in enterprises, of international quality systems for agricultural, forestry and fisheries products. The two systems implemented are the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), and the Good Manufacturing Practices. In this regard, El Salvador has been adopting rules that are consistent with those of international organizations such as OIE, Codex and IPPC and the ISO.

St. Lucia has proposed making improvements in its certification and inspection systems, so as to ensure the safety of foods.

In Canada, food quality and safety has become a key component of efforts to achieve one of the principle objectives of its agricultural development strategy. This objective has three components: i) to become producers of healthy and quality products, protecting human health by reducing exposure to events that can damage the quality of foods; ii) to increase the trust of consumers in the quality and safety of foods sold by the country within its borders and overseas; and iii) to increase the ability of the sector to meet or exceed the market standards regarding safety and quality.

Some of the goals of the Canadian agricultural policy as it applies to food safety and quality are:

- To adopt recognized food safety and quality systems throughout the production and processing of foods.
- To implement monitoring systems throughout the production and

processing of foods, in order to be able to respond more effectively to potential threats from diseases or contamination, and satisfy consumer preferences.

- To share critical information on food safety and surveillance systems among governments.

Chile is working on two strategic aspects of food quality. The first is the creation of an institutional framework for the development of quality. Since production processes take place in a context of complex networks of suppliers of products and services that go into and add value to a final product, all those involved must be

competitive to ensure access to international markets. It is for this reason that Chile's strategy is aimed at public-private articulation, which will require that the personnel of the Ministry of Agriculture receive training to improve coordination in the execution of this process.

The second consists of strengthening the regulatory frameworks and promoting quality. To this end, it will implement programs on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and modernize its food inspection systems, possibly incorporating Quality Assurance and other systems.

progress made by countries: two years after bavaro

BUILDING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE

The national and international environment has a major impact on rural territories and agricultural production and trade chains. It is comprised of an array of legal, political and institutional elements, at the international, national and local levels.

This chapter focuses on the elements of this national and international environment that the Ministers of Agriculture singled out in the MDB as being key to improving agriculture and rural life. It describes the approaches to the liberalization of agricultural trade and the elimination of subsidies, and the macroeconomic policies related to agriculture.

This chapter also deals with the progress being made in reducing gaps in knowledge, information and technology, for the equitable and competitive development of agriculture. And it looks at the public sector's efforts to improve investments in agricultural and agroindustrial production, the institutional mechanisms for dialogue established by the countries, and other support mechanisms set up to ensure better coordination among the different levels of government, the private sector and civil society for the preparation of strategies for the rural milieu.



Progress in liberalizing agricultural trade and eliminating subsidies

To achieve rural prosperity and food security, the Ministers of Agriculture declared their intention of moving toward the liberalization of agricultural trade and the elimination of subsidies and unfair practices within the framework of the

WTO negotiations and in hemispheric and subregional forums.

Agriculture forms part of the agenda of the ongoing negotiations. At the regional level, hemispheric integration has also progressed by means of free trade treaties. The negotiations include those involving Canada and the United States and the Central American countries and Chile; and Chile-MERCOSUR, the Andean Community-MERCOSUR, Chile-United States, Central America-United States and Brazil-Mexico. Chile and Mexico have negotiated a trade agreement with the European Union and are currently negotiating agreements with Asian countries. CARICOM, as well, has signed trade agreements with countries such as Venezuela, Colombia, Dominican Republic and Costa Rica.

The countries also have made great efforts at the national level. Colombia, for example, has set as a strategic objective the negotiating of international agreements that promote foreign investment and facilitate the reallocation of resources for more productive activities. The Government of Colombia is supporting the consolidation of an Andean common market that would pave the way for a joint trade policy and the free circulation of goods, services, capital and people among the member countries.

Colombia's trade policy for the agricultural sector has two main objectives: to continue the efforts to promote exports; and to ensure reasonable protection for agricultural production, without overlooking its harmful effects on the industrial component, value added and rural employment.

Costa Rica's policy is similar to Colombia's. It calls for consensual, gradual opening, consistent with what was agreed upon at the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995. When necessary, it tries to preserve the most sensitive products and reasonable protection levels, and gain more time for introducing changes or excluding those products from the negotiations. The MAG of Costa Rica has devised a market strategy for agricultural products, with the active participation of the productive sector, for the short, medium and long terms.

The Government of Mexico intends to carry out a comprehensive evaluation of the impact and implementation of the Agricultural Chapter of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and of fisheries and forestry products in international trade treaties.

With regard to the WTO negotiations on agricultural production, Mexico will push for recognition as a developing country, propose the immediate elimination of export and internal subsidies that distort international trade, and defend the right to reintroduce quantitative or tariff restrictions when justified on the grounds of sovereignty and food security. All this will be handled via the applicable legal procedures when damage is being done, including the protection of rural employment and natural resources.

In the Caribbean, Saint Lucia's banana industry has undergone a process of liberalization, following the passage of the Saint Lucia Banana Growers Association (Dissolution) Act in 1998.

The United States' food and agriculture policy calls for the coordination of consistent agricultural and trade policies. The aim is to coordinate trade policies and agricultural export programs with national production programs, to ensure that its competitiveness is not reduced.

Venezuela is promoting an economic integration model that gives priority to regional initiatives. It is seeking to join MERCOSUR and promoting a partnership between MERCOSUR and the ACN, and plans to make the FTAA negotiations subject to the Latin American agreements being concluded first.

Peru's agricultural policy guidelines call for efforts to reduce the tariffs on inputs and capital goods, to help reduce costs and spur the capitalization of the agricultural sector. It is also negotiating the most prudent position within the framework of the Andean Community.

One of Peru's policies is to protect national production from the distortions of international trade, based on an analysis of the impact of these distortions, and within the context of the agreements and commitments signed and ratified. The measures to correct the distortions would consider not only the impact on a given activity but throughout the production chain.

Macroeconomic policies for agriculture development

Chile states in its agricultural policies that, to begin with, international prices of agricultural products must be adequate and the macroeconomic scenario must be favorable for sectoral development. In the sector that produces tradable goods in particular, the profitability of agriculture is highly sensitive to the exchange rate. As a result, Chile regards it as important to maintain an exchange rate that stimulates exports and makes imports more expensive. This policy is complemented with interest rate management, which encourages investment and the modernization of production in the sector, based on clear medium- and long-term market signals.

El Salvador follows the same tack. The general objective of its macroeconomic policy for the agricultural sector is to help create a climate of confidence for investment. The specific objectives include improving the per capita income of agricultural producers and stabilizing and growing the economy as a whole, which will increase the demand for food and foster agricultural production. The macroeconomic policy for the agricultural sector focuses mainly on three areas: trade and marketing policy, rural financing policy and fiscal policy.

Some of the characteristics of the agricultural trade policy actions called for are as follows:

- Establish tariff levels that stimulate agricultural production and support changes in the sector's production patterns. In this connection, products were divided into two types - sensitive and strategic products.
- Take the lead again in seeking tariff harmonization.
- Actively combat trade fraud and unfair competition. To accomplish this the Government set up the Inter-ministerial Commission on Agricultural Trade, comprising officials of the Ministries of Economy, Agriculture and Livestock, and Finance.

The Government of El Salvador has also drawn up a Rural Financing policy, whose objective is to improve the coverage of, and access to, credit and savings services for the rural population, especially micro, small and medium-scale agricultural and non-agricultural entrepreneurs. The aim is to increase productivity, profitability, investment possibilities and the sustainable development of this sector of the population. The Agricultural Development Bank is being strengthened, mechanisms are being implemented for evaluating and modifying credit obligations and the terms

of credits, and special funds for producers are being promoted.

El Salvador's fiscal policy is aimed at achieving greater discipline, to ensure that the Government has the capacity to channel the support for activities and services designed to meet the needs of rural sector as a whole. Priority is being given to production services and investments intended to benefit the population (health services, education and socio-productive infrastructure). The MAG has taken the lead in channeling public spending toward rural areas.

Peru is channeling credit for agriculture through Agrobanco. It also intends to promote and strengthen the participation of private banks, agricultural funds and other mechanisms for providing resources.

Saint Lucia is implementing the Rural Economic Diversification Incentives Project (REDIP), which has become a mean to give rural companies more access to credit. The government intends to expand and strengthen this project to increase the number of beneficiaries and projects.

Reducing gaps in knowledge, information and technology within and among the countries of the hemisphere

To achieve greater competitiveness and more equitable economic development, paragraph 12 of the MDB calls for efforts to reduce the gaps in knowledge, information and technology within and among the countries of the hemisphere. Several efforts have already been implemented.

Chile, for example, is in the process of coordinating and further developing the work of the Foundation for Agrarian Innovation (FAE) and the Agricultural Research Institute (NARI). In the case of the FAE, the aim is to strengthen lending

for agrarian innovation projects, technological change and specialized consultancies. Two new instruments are also to be implemented - "Education for Innovation," to enhance the skills of farmers, technical personnel and professionals, and "Promotion of Innovation," to share experiences and disseminate new know-how among sectoral agents. The projects planned with the NARI include the implementation of a Technological Information System, to transfer information to Chile's agricultural producers.

Colombia is implementing the Connectivity Program, a state policy aimed at the large-scale use of information and telecommunications technologies (ICTs). The aim of the program is to ensure that the country takes advantage of technologies for its economic, social and political development by democratizing access to information, thereby making the productive sector more competitive and spearheading the modernization of the state. To achieve these objectives, the Connectivity Program is implementing six strategies: i) access to the information infrastructure; ii) education and training in the use of ICTs; iii) use of ICTs in companies; iv) promotion of the national ICT industry; v) generation of relevant local content; and vi) the implementation of the program "Government on Line".

In the rural area proper, the Government of Colombia is trying to implement telecenters and grassroots rural telephony programs to increase the coverage of telecommunications services and access to ICTs.

El Salvador's strategy has been to strengthen the Ministry of Agriculture's role, so as to generate, process and facilitate access to information for producers and marketers. The types of information that need to be distributed include data on national agricultural and international markets, agro-meteorology

and agricultural health, useful for decision-making by policy makers and agribusiness investors. The Ministry is also improving information dissemination, using mass media tools such as the Internet, radio, the press, television, telefaxing and rural "notice boards" to cover most users in rural areas.

Another national effort to reduce the gaps in knowledge and information is the Guyana Agricultural Information Network (GAIN). The aim of this project is to create an agricultural information system for the country's extension offices, technical personnel, farmers, students, researchers and the private sector. This information system will permit the dissemination of consistent information and statistics, and provide equitable access to official information on agriculture and lay the groundwork for cooperation among sectoral agencies in Guyana. The GAIN's activities include the provision of ICTs, training and the development of the Agri-Net Guyana website.

Mexico's strategy includes research to generate knowledge geared to the real needs of producers and the market, followed by effective mechanisms for validating and transferring technology to the productive sector. The aim is to increase investment in research, education, innovation and the development of state-of-the-art technology, to generate a first-rate rural education system. The strategy considers the active participation of universities and research centers, to help develop the most backward regions. Technological exchanges are also being encouraged between producers and other countries, to increase their production know-how.

Many countries use price information systems to help their agricultural sectors compete. Costa Rica, Peru, Honduras, Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay and Chile are all cases in point. Some of these systems are not limited to prices and also

provide access to a wide variety of information services related to production, technologies, land markets, marketing, etc.

Promotion of investments in agricultural and agroindustrial production

Paragraph 17 of the DMB calls on the ministries to implement policies, programs and strategies that will help guarantee investment in agricultural and agroindustrial production, especially in support services for the sector. Peru's sectoral development plans include a process along these lines. According to the Institutional Strategic Plan of the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture and the 2002-2006 Multiyear Sectoral Strategic Plan, the policy guidelines in the sector are as follows:

- The economic, social and environmental feasibility of projects must be presented, keyed to the methodological requirements of the evaluation of public projects of the National Public Investment System.
- The operational and financial sustainability of projects must be guaranteed once the state has finished implementing them. Specifically, each project must demonstrate how, based on the future resources available, the operation and flow of benefits can be guaranteed once the investment has been made.
- Investment projects should be of short- or medium-term financially sustainable. A few exceptions are permitted, provided they are fully justified (e.g., reforestation projects and some long-term crops).
- It is essential that the users and beneficiaries be involved in the design and preparation of the project, as well as in its financing (especially as regards operating and maintenance costs).

- Projects should achieve a good level of synergy with other state initiatives, especially municipal districts and regional governments.

The priority areas by which the Peruvian authorities define their investment projects are:

- Research and technology transfer, with emphasis on projects that promote the participation of the private sector and related institutions.
- Information on prices, areas, markets and marketing, among others, for the development of the National Agricultural Information System.
- Plant and animal health.
- Titling and cadastre.
- Modernization of irrigation.
- Training in management, administration, and preparation of public and private investment projects.
- Agricultural technical assistance for crops and stock-raising, with emphasis on the outsourcing of the service.
- Strengthening of producers' organizations, with emphasis on small ones.
- Institution building.
- Improved management of natural resources, especially forests, water and watersheds.
- Livestock and dairy development.
- Rehabilitation of large and medium-scale irrigation infrastructure.

- Rehabilitation of small-scale irrigation infrastructure, for areas of extreme poverty, especially in mountains and rainforest.
- Prevention on natural disasters.

Peru is changing the structure of expenditure in the sector over the period 2002-2006. The aim of agricultural sector policy for this period is to place greater emphasis on services that were not given priority in previous years.

The makeup of public investment in the sector is intended to reflect this change. There is an increase in investment in projects related to agricultural research and extension (10%), the environment and the management of natural resources (9%), agricultural health (8%), institution building (5%), agricultural information (2%), infrastructure and the modernization of irrigation, as well as disaster prevention.

The Government of Guatemala also has a policy for establishing priorities that is designed to achieve an effective and efficient allocation and implementation of financial resources in activities related to productive investment in the agricultural sector.

The chief actions of this policy are:

- Preparation of the public investment program for the agricultural sector.
- Prioritization of productive programs and projects in the agricultural sector.
- Strengthening of the preinvestment and investment monitoring process.
- Negotiation with the national financial system for access to financial services for small and medium-scale producers who are unable to obtain credit because

they cannot provide conventional guarantees.

Institutional mechanisms for dialogue and follow up

One of the core objectives set out in paragraph 8 of the Ministerial Declaration of Bavaro is the creation and strengthening of institutional mechanisms for interaction among government, entrepreneurs, producers and civil society, to prepare strategies for the agricultural sector.

In Canada, the federal, provincial and territorial governments, with the participation of the agricultural sector, agribusiness and civil society, collaborated in the development of a national agricultural policy. The result was a long-term strategy set out in a document entitled "An Architecture for Agricultural Policy in the 21st century." In this way, the strategy, whose objective is to position Canada as a leader in food safety, innovation and production with environmental accountability, was discussed at the national level. The governments' strategy focuses on five thematic areas: food safety and quality, the environment, science and innovation, renewal, and risk-based management.

The governments of Chile and Honduras also promoted dialogue with the main authorities in the sector, setting up Forums for Discussions on Agriculture. In Chile, the first of these forums was used to outline the state's overarching policies for agriculture. A document was then drawn up setting out the main orientations for agricultural development over the present decade. The second forum focused on small-scale family agriculture and produced a set of agreements under which its members are to implement strategic actions for rural development and the promotion of family agriculture. The rural development strategy also includes

organizing rural civil society to support interaction with the public institutional structure.

In Honduras, the Agricultural Board was created in response to a call from the President of the Republic to develop a strategic national plan for the transformation of agriculture, the environment and protected areas, as well as long-term territorial land-use planning, validated by civil society. After a process of dialogue and consultation, the Board evaluated and defined short-, medium- and long-term sectoral policies for agriculture. The *Proposed 2003-2021 State Policy for Honduran Agriculture*, prepared by the technical secretariat of the Honduran Agricultural Board at the request of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Livestock, aims to provide a global response to the proposals of stakeholders who participated in the dialogue.

Mexico undertook a process that began with the Dialogue on State Policy for the Countryside, with rural and producers' organizations calling for a structural change in the sector. At the end of the discussions, the Executive signed the "National Agreement for the Countryside" with rural organizations, establishing a new relationship between the parties involved, who include the public, private and social sectors. The Policy for Productive and Economic Development and the Social Policy for Sustainable Rural Development followed.

Trinidad and Tobago took the opinions of 300 members of the sector into account in preparing its agricultural development plan, approved early in 2001. The parties consulted included producers, fishermen, importers of inputs, marketers, processors, consumers, conservationists, interested parties from other agencies and nongovernmental organizations, and the country's rural community.

The guiding principle of Peru's agricultural rural development policy is that the Ministry of Agriculture should play a leading role in inviting and promoting the organized intervention of the different multisectoral entities.

In Peru, the President of the Republic, convened representatives of political, religious and civil society organizations, as well as government representatives, to sign the so-called National Accord, in 2002. This agreement consists of 29 State policies, which lay the basis for transition and the consolidation of democracy, the affirmation of national identity, and the design of a common vision of the country for the future. The *State Agrarian and Rural Development Policy* is a formal commitment to fostering agrarian and rural development in the country, to include agriculture, livestock, aquaculture, agro-industry and sustainable forestry use. The Ministry of Agriculture was established as the lead organization that will convene the different sectoral entities to participate in implementing rural development strategies.

Institutional mechanisms to support rural communities

The strengthening and development of institutional mechanisms intended to support rural communities and civil society in the improvement of their capabilities and living conditions, is one of the components of the Bavaro Declaration. The Government of Chile believes that policies need to be established that generate a framework of stability for the development of the sector, so that farmers can innovate, invest and continue improving their productive processes. It plans to develop proactive promotion instruments, well designed and especially focused on the most disadvantaged areas (the central-southern and southern regions of the country) and the owners of small and medium-sized operations.

This is the purpose of the Family Agricultural Production Grant introduced by the National Agricultural Development Institute (INDAP), established in 2001. This grant channels budgetary instruments and resources to the roughly 100,000 subsistence farmers identified in the 1997 Agricultural Census.

In Colombia, the government is promoting and facilitating the participation of civil society by strengthening strategic alliances involving grassroots joint enterprises, private companies, producers' associations, marketers and NGOs. It will also be implementing the so-called "Regional Development and Peace Programs" and the "Peace Laboratories," social participation initiatives that promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts, the protection of citizens' rights and economic and social development. With the support of the community, the goal is to formulate economically profitable and environmentally sustainable activities based on partnerships and joint economic undertakings that create productive opportunities in the region and help reduce poverty.

Employing a similar strategy, Bolivia has set up the Bolivian System for Productivity and Competitiveness, adopting a participatory approach that creates partnerships among the public, private and academic sectors. The aim is to design guidelines for the effective management of the sector and the use of resources to eliminate factors that limit their competitiveness. Through the Productivity and Competitiveness Unit, this system

draws on the experience of the sector's public, private and financing institutions to strengthen the country's chains of value.

Saint Lucia is channeling resources toward training projects that will enable society to identify and solve its development problems, dealing with the poverty among banana workers and supporting initiatives in affected communities.

In Mexico, the Government and small farmers' and producers' organizations are committed to promoting different types of social economic undertakings in rural milieu as the basic organizational strategy for economic cooperation, as established in the "National Agreement for the Countryside". This privileges the development of individual, collective and institutional aptitudes that support the generation, appropriation and distribution of resources and capabilities. The aim of this strategy is to achieve a sustainable increase in the quality of life.

The development of the social economy is based, on the one hand, on the dynamics of the economic and social organization and cooperation of rural inhabitants; and, on the other, on the Executive's pledge to use government institutions to help support and promote these cooperative initiatives, in all relevant public policies.

To promote the productive activities of the social economy, the actions will be coordinated through the National System for Promoting Rural Social Enterprises created under the Mexican Sustainable Rural Development Act.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE TWO YEARS AFTER BAVARO

The Ministers of Agriculture called for national and international institutional frameworks to be renewed, to contribute to the sustainable development of agriculture and the rural milieu, with objectives such as enhanced competitiveness, sustainability, equity and democratic governance.

Based on the information from twenty one countries included in this document, it can be seen that countries have made progress with regard to competitiveness linked to the development of rural territories and agricultural production-trade chains, as well as the development of an institutional framework for competitiveness in the national and international environment.

Regarding rural territories, national plans and on going projects present approaches and efforts aimed toward the improvement of infrastructure development in the territories in terms of basic services, land use planning, land tenure legislation and other services for the improvement of living conditions.

The need to be more competitive is also an integral part of most plans related to agricultural production and trade chains, with the efforts focusing on the reorganization of resources, processes and products, so that the food that arrives on the tables of domestic and foreign consumers is safe and of good quality. In fact, the countries have made food safety and quality policies a high priority, along with food security, with a view to meeting the needs of the population, fostering the local production that promotes income that will increase prosperity in rural territories.

In the national and international context, the countries are fostering institutional

frameworks that demands improvements in the agricultural sector competitiveness. Process oriented toward free trade, such as the FTAA, the creation and strengthening of MERCOSUR, the CAN and the proposed free trade agreement between the United States and Central America, among others, made the countries analyze their policies and their ability regarding the impact on competitiveness, among other issues, that will come with the implementation of these agreements.

Also, the countries are committed, through different modalities, toward the enabling of a institutional structure on competitiveness on the rural milieu, by fostering the creation of knowledge and the dissemination of information and technology.

The countries have made progress in the area of sustainability. In fact, the development plans call for the sustainable management of resources in rural territories, and for territories to be better prepared and have contingency plans for dealing with natural disasters (Colombia is a case in point). Agricultural production and trade chains are also being organized to take environmental considerations into account (Costa Rica, for example, is promoting organic and conservation agriculture). With respect to the national environment, laws are being passed such as Mexico's Sustainable Rural Development Act, which provides a complete institutional framework for addressing environmental and natural resource issues.

With respect to equity, most countries have programs for alleviating poverty in rural territories. Among them, programs like the one to be implemented in Saint Lucia,

which aims to provide more opportunities to producers who are unable to compete in the market, and the projects of poverty reduction in Panama and other countries. Efforts like these show how the governments wish to make rural inhabitants participants of the development benefits, and that is the purpose of training and skills creation models and the institutional arrangements to support rural communities.

Efforts to bolster the democratic governance of rural territories have also been undertaken. The examples in this field include Canada, Mexico, Trinidad & Tobago, Honduras and Chile, where producers and rural inhabitants are involved in preparing their countries' rural and agricultural strategies and policies. To support this, dialogue mechanisms have been established for interaction among the government, civil society and producers, with a view to developing strategies for the countryside.

Despite the progress made, countries have defined major challenges to achieve sustainable development, and they are linked to the circumstances and needs of each one of them. Brazil decided to face the challenge of generate both the physical and financial resources needed to achieve the objectives of its "Zero Hunger" program.

A major challenge for Colombia is implementing solutions to the expansion of illegal crops and the armed conflict, which, in addition to the tragic loss of life involved, are undermining the competitiveness and productivity of its economy. Violence, the breakdown of society, insecurity, the lack of governance, the imbalances between rural and urban areas, and the effect on natural resources are some of the enormous problems facing this Andean country.

Honduras indicates that in order for its development strategy to be successful, the

profitability crisis of the sector and the issue of competitiveness will have to be resolved. This crisis has serious repercussions on small-scale agriculture and is aggravating rural poverty.

Like many other countries, Costa Rica is endeavoring to integrate its economy successfully into the globalized economy. Related to this challenge is the creation of alternative employment, the consequent mobilization of producers and reassessing the value of agricultural activities.

Guatemala proposes that one of its biggest challenges is the need to correct the critical constraints to access to productive resources, such as land, technology, inputs and support services for marketing, so that small and medium-scale agricultural producers can be incorporated and play a active role in the economic, social and political development process.

For Guyana, the challenge lies in achieving an integral policy framework, that include programs and activities for the development of the agricultural sector. According to the Government's plans, this framework must include a bigger role for rural communities, the reorientation of agriculture sector institutions and the development of a environment that will enable the sector to improve continuously and help reduce the serious problem of rural poverty.

Trinidad and Tobago is concerned at the negative impact of agricultural practices and production methods on the quality of soils, biodiversity, human health and natural resources. The country is therefore seeking to maximize production with a minimum impact on soil fertility, and to minimize the negative impact of production on ecosystems and human health.

Two of Peru's goals are the capitalization of the agricultural sector and the development of agribusinesses linked to

production-trade chains. The first takes place due to the current state of the land market and limited technological innovation, while the second is justified by insufficient productivity and capacity to generate employment.

Summarizing, the countries have accomplished progress in the implementation of the Bavaro Declaration to achieve sustainable development.

However, more accomplishments are needed to fulfill the Bavaro Declaration.

In this perspective, it is necessary priority settings, agreements, the pooling of resources and coordinated actions that will enable all the countries to progress toward the levels of well-being proposed by the Heads of State and Government at the Quebec Summit and the Ministers of Agriculture at the First Ministerial Meeting.

Documents Consulted

- BELIZE. Office of the Prime Minister. *People's United Party Government Manifesto 2003*. Downloaded from: <http://www.belize.gov.bz/pm/manifesto.html> in August 2003.
- BOLIVIA. Ministerio de Asuntos Campesinos, Indígenas y Agropecuarios. *Estrategia de Desarrollo Agropecuario y Rural*. Bolivia: MACIA. 2003, 87 pp.
- BRAZIL. Ministério do Planejamento, Orçamento, e Gestão. *Plano Brasil de Todos, Participação e Inclusão. 2004-2007*. Brazil: 2003, 20 pp. Downloaded from: [http://www.sigplan.gov.br/arquivos/portallppa/15_\(PlanoBrasildeTodos\).pdf](http://www.sigplan.gov.br/arquivos/portallppa/15_(PlanoBrasildeTodos).pdf) in July 2003.
- _____. Ministério da Agricultura, Pecuária e Abastecimento. *Plano Agrícola e Pecuário 2003/04 Mais Alimentos e Renda para os Brasileiros. Mais Divisas para o Brasil*. Brazil: 2003. 11 pp. Downloaded from: <http://www.agricultura.gov.br/html/pap.htm> in August 2003.
- CANADA. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. *The Agriculture Policy Framework, Overview - Putting Canada First*. Downloaded from: http://www.agr.gc.ca/cb/apf/index_e.php?section=info&page=gen in August 2003.
- CHILE. Ministerio de Agricultura. *Una Política de Estado para la Agricultura Chilena. Período 2000-2010*. Chile: MINAGRI. 2000. 140 pp. Downloaded from: <http://www.agricultura.gob.cl/politic2000-2010.pdf> in July 2003.
- COLOMBIA. Departamento Nacional de Planeación. *Hacia un Estado Comunitario. Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2002-2006*. Colombia: DNP. 216 pp. Downloaded from: http://www.dnp.gov.co/01_CONT/POLITICA/PLAN.HTM in August 2003.
- COSTA RICA. Ministerio de Planificación y Política Económica. *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2002-2006 - Monseñor Víctor Manuel Sanabria Martínez*. Costa Rica: MIDEPLAN. Downloaded from: <http://www.mideplan.go.cr/PND-2002-2006/index.html> in August 2003.
- EL SALVADOR. Gobierno de El Salvador. *Política Comercial Agropecuaria 2000-2004*. El Salvador: 6 pp. Downloaded from: <http://www.mag.gob.sv/html/Publicaciones/PublicacionesPlan.htm> in July 2003.
- _____. Ministerio de Agricultura y Ganadería. *Política Agropecuaria y Gestión Agraria Nacional 1999-2004*. El Salvador: MAG. 37 pp. Downloaded from: <http://www.mag.gob.sv/html/Publicaciones/PublicacionesPlan.htm> in July 2003.
- GUATEMALA. Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Alimentación. *Política Agropecuaria 2000-2004*. Guatemala: MAG. Downloaded from: <http://www.maga.gob.gt/dto00106.htm> in July 2003.
- GUYANA. Ministry of Finance. *National Development Strategy*. Guyana. Downloaded from: <http://www.guyana.org/NDS/NDS.htm> in July 2003.

- HONDURAS. Gobierno de Honduras. *Plan de Gobierno 2002-2006*. Honduras. Downloaded from: <http://www.sdp.gob.hn/Plan%20Gobierno.htm> in July 2003.
- . Secretaría de Agricultura y Ganadería. *Política de Estado para el Sector Agroalimentario y el Medio Rural de Honduras. 2003-2021*. Tegucigalpa: SAG. 2003, 175 pp.
- MEXICO. Presidencia de la República de México. *Acuerdo Nacional para el Campo*. Mexico. Downloaded from: <http://www.presidencia.gob.mx/?P=2&Orden=Leer&Tipo=PP&Art=5111> in August 2003.
- . Presidencia de la República de México. *Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2001-2006*. Downloaded from: <http://pnd.presidencia.gob.mx/index.php?idseccion=50> in August 2003.
- PERU. Ministerio de Agricultura. *Plan Estratégico Sectorial Multianual 2002-2006*. Downloaded from: <http://www.portalagrario.gob.pe/politicaagraria7.shtml> in August 2003.
- . Republic of Peru. *Acuerdo Nacional para Trabajar de Acuerdo!*. Perú: 2003. 33 pp. Downloaded from: http://www.acuerdonacional.gob.pe/libro_an_.pdf in september 2003.
- SAINT LUCIA. Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. *Country Strategy Paper for the Banana Industry, Agricultural Diversification & Social Recovery of Rural Communities*. Saint Lucia: MAFF. Downloaded from: <http://www.slumaffe.org/> in August 2003.
- TRINIDAD & TOBAGO. Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. *Vision 2020*. Downloaded from: <http://www.gov.tt/government/Vision2020/Vision2020.asp> in August 2003.
- UNITED STATES. United States Department of Agriculture *Food and Agricultural Policy. Taking Stock for the New Century*. United States. USDA. 2001.125 pp. Downloaded from: <http://www.usda.gov> in August 2003.
- VENEZUELA. Ministerio de Planificación y Desarrollo. *Líneas Generales del Plan de Desarrollo Económico y Social de la Nación 2001-2007*. Venezuela: Downloaded from: <http://www.mpd.gov.ve/pdeysn/plan.htm>

Websites Consulted

Argentina

Small-farmers Development Project (PROINDER)

http://www.sagpya.mecon.gov.ar/0-8/proinder/index_prodernea.htm

Social Agriculture Program

http://www.sagpya.mecon.gov.ar/0-8/psa/index_prodernea.htm

Colombia

Agricultural Supply Program (PROAGRO):

http://www.minagricultura.gov.co/planes_proagro_presen.htm. Downloaded in August 2003

Panamá

Triple C Project

<http://www.mida.gob.pa/triple.html>

Paraguay

Program to develop the Chaco

<http://www.prodechaco.org.py/>

Uruguay

Rural Uruguay Project

<http://www.mgap.gub.uy/ProyectoURural/ProyectoURural.htm>