



## The process

The world vision of young leaders should be systemic and should allow for an ongoing reflection on the past, present and future. This should pave the way for more active participation and a sharing of experiences through a process of articulated learning.

For this reason, the young leaders' forum will include four inter-related components:

- ▲ Briefing on the situation and perspectives of agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

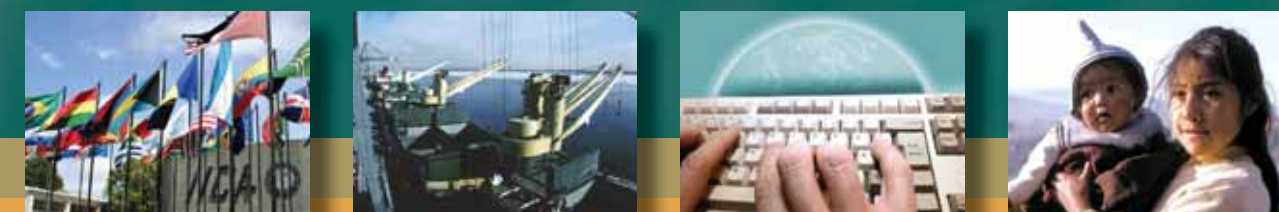
- ▲ Strategic dialogues on current and emerging issues for agricultural institutions and rural life in the Americas.
- ▲ Leadership strategies and tools
- ▲ Field trip

The Forum for Young Leaders is part of the new Leadership Program which IICA is developing. The shared learning among forum participants will be an essential part of the process to build this initiative which aims to support sustainable agricultural development in the Americas.

# FORUM FOR LEADERS IN AGRICULTURE

*PROGRAM INITIATIVE FOR YOUNG LEADERS OF SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE AMERICAS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY*

*Promoting Rural Prosperity in the Americas*



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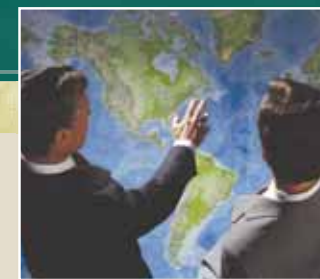


## The concept

Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires attributes relating to character which are similar to, but at the same time different from, those of the past. Values and principles such as integrity, courage, vision and determination are unchanging leadership qualities. The ability to deal with uncertainty, complexity and a globalized economy are, on the other hand, new leadership requirements. The very role of a leader is changing—from the old command and control model of the 20<sup>th</sup> century to a new role as motivator, facilitator, team leader, coach, strategist and steward.

The **IICA Leadership Forum** was established to foster strategic dialogue that can facilitate an in-depth perception of the on-going processes that impact agriculture and rural development in the hemisphere. The idea is that the agricultural leader's capacity to understand the new roles of Young Leaders—both national and international— will thereby be strengthened. This understanding involves the capacity:

1. To contemplate different scenarios for the future of agriculture policy, production and trade;
2. To contribute to shaping a new vision of national agriculture and rural life in the context of a globalized world;
3. To contribute to transforming the agriculture sector institutions in response to new challenges;
4. To share knowledge (lessons learned) with other young leaders of the sector, both at home and abroad.



## Essential areas

Within each of these broad essential areas, participants in the forum will be exposed to many specific topics, such as:

- a. The development of rural communities
- b. Opening of agricultural markets
- c. Strengthening food safety systems in the Americas
- d. Biotechnology and agriculture: challenges and opportunities
- e. Agro-energy and agriculture: challenges and opportunities
- f. Climate change and agricultural development
- g. The role of information technologies in modernizing global agriculture
- h. The leader of the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- i. Leading institutional modernization
- j. Leadership communication strategies

IICA proposes to hold the first Forum under this initiative in 2008. Young leaders of the Member States will participate in this six-day event at IICA Headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica, from March 23 to 30, 2008.



The forum will provide information on the following essential areas:

- ▲ The role of agriculture and agri-business in economic development
- ▲ The challenges and opportunities for agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- ▲ The dimensions of leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The forum is an initiative of the IICA administration to promote the development of leaders with a global vision. This initiative will provide a unique opportunity for young professionals associated with agriculture and rural life in the Americas to expand their understanding of global issues and to assist in the development of an inter-American network of young leaders who can effectively transform the agricultural sector of the Americas.

An understanding of what happens globally, of the challenges and opportunities of the global village, is of crucial importance to the success of leaders from each country of our hemisphere in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We at IICA are convinced that the future of agriculture will be about solving global problems by pooling resources and setting up a framework of mutually accepted rules on trade, the environment, food safety, science and technology for the benefit of global prosperity.

Young leaders involved in agriculture and rural life in the Americas in the 21<sup>st</sup> century face many challenges, including the changing role of agriculture in development, the need for a global vision, the need to balance food security and environmental concerns, the need for leadership that is transparent and visionary and the need for a healthier balance between work and family life.