



**CENTER FOR
LEADERSHIP
IN agriculture**

**Promoting Leaders
with a global vision**



**Inter-American Institute
for Cooperation on Agriculture**



Responding to the Challenges of the XXIst Century

Promoting leaders with a global vision is a sine qua non for the repositioning of agriculture and rural life in the Americas.

The leaders of agriculture in the XXIst century are faced with new and highly complex challenges. Coping with the changing role of agriculture in development, striking a balance between food security and environmental concerns, finding solutions to the problems of energy security are just a few of the problems that face our leaders. In addition, present-day society requires leaders that are transparent and visionary and that find a healthier balance between work and family life.

To help leaders achieve these goals, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) created the Center for Leadership in Agriculture as a pioneer in its genre and an innovator in its methods.

The Institute's new response to the needs of its 34 Member States is part of a process that took off at the dawn of the third millennium. Through this process, the Institute has worked closely with the Ministers of Agriculture to define the strategic and vital role of agriculture in integrated development to acknowledge it as a factor that contributes to the very survival of democracy and the social and political stability of our societies.

Through this Center, the new Ministers of Agriculture, Senior Executives in the sector as well as young leaders of the Americas will have a unique opportunity to foster strategic dialogue on trends that impact agriculture and rural life at the national, regional and global levels. Here, participants will contribute to shaping a more modern vision of agriculture and rural life,

share successful experiences and participate in the formulation of new proposals for transforming agricultural institutions.

The Center, which is located at IICA Headquarters in San José, Costa Rica, is intended to respond proactively to the need to train leaders with a holistic perspective and an ability to grasp and act in the face of mega trends that are a feature of the new millennium.

The work of the Center will contribute to changing the old command and control model of leadership, characteristic of the industrial era, to a new model as motivator, facilitator, strategist, coach and steward. The following are some of the main components of the program of the Center:

- The Forum for Leaders in Agriculture
- The Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture
- The Inter-American Network of Young Leaders in Agriculture
- Internships in a foreign country
- A magazine and a Web Site

Mission

To be a specialized center which promotes a new generation of leaders with a global vision who can create a modern agricultural sector that contributes to integral sustainable development, food security, and rural prosperity in the Americas.

The Forum for Leaders in Agriculture

This program is intended especially for **new Ministers of Agriculture and decision makers** in the agricultural sector in the Americas. The agenda is based specifically on the needs and interests of each Minister and therefore generates significant input for revising IICA's technical cooperation agenda in the country.

The Forum focuses on change in an ongoing process of learning and feedback. It seeks to:

- Encourage others to adopt a new vision of agriculture and national rural life in the context of a globalized world;
- Promote the modernization of institutions in the agricultural sector and tailor them to the new challenges;
- Contemplate the various scenarios for future policy on agriculture, production and trade; and
- Share knowledge with other national and international institutions.





The Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture

This Forum is intended for **new leaders of agriculture in the Americas**. It links four components:

1 Summary of the status of and prospects for agriculture in the XXIst century;

2 Strategic dialogues on current and emerging issues regarding the status of agriculture and rural life in the Americas;

3 Leadership tools and strategies; and

4 Field trips and internships.

Shared learning is an important part of this process. A hemispheric forum will be held each year and regional and national forums will also be held. Each hemispheric forum will result in a Declaration of Young Leaders of the Americas, which will reflect the thinking and commitment of the participants. The Forum seeks to:

- Explore various scenarios for future agricultural policy, production and trade;
- Contribute to creating a new vision of agriculture and rural life in the context of a globalized world;
- Create or transform institutions in the agricultural sector in response to new challenges;
- Share knowledge and successful experiences with other young leaders from the same country and other countries of the Americas; and
- Discuss concepts, methodologies, the dynamics of leadership and leadership skills.
- Discuss the requirements for leadership in the 21st Century.



Inter-American Network of Young Leaders

The Center will support the development of an **Inter-American Network of Young Leaders** which will afford ongoing contact among participants from a modern technological platform, enabling them to derive mutual benefit, find joint solutions to shared problems, take advantage of trade and job opportunities and have access to specialized information services available at IICA.



Internships abroad

Young leaders will be given an opportunity to work up to a period of **one year in a different country from his or her own** to learn a new language and share the experience of living in a different culture, observe another cultural and agricultural reality and, as a result, broaden his or her horizons and acquire more tools for being truly an agricultural leader with a global vision.



Communication instruments

The Center will promote the broadest possible access to information on leadership required for agriculture and rural life. To do so, one of the main tools will be the magazine entitled *Leaders in Agriculture*. The magazine will include stories of success, the thoughts of experts, methods to consolidate leadership skills and tools for being much more than a manager in an agricultural enterprise.

In addition, new developments in leadership with regard to agriculture and rural life will be available on a **Web Site, which will be updated continually**, and which will be user friendly and interactive. It will afford access to the results of the fora, the contents of the best journals, magazines, books and links to other useful sites.

www.iica.int/Eng/dg/centroliderazgo/Pages/default.aspx



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