

## **In Jamaica, ECLAC, FAO and IICA to present joint report on agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean**

- *Report will be presented to the ministers of agriculture of the hemisphere at their meeting will be held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from October 25 to 31.*
- *These organizations arrived at a consensus on how to calculate and interpret agricultural production and trade indicators, as well as indicators related to social conditions and food security in the America.*

**San Jose, Costa Rica, October 16, 2009 (IICA).** With a view to providing decision makers with a single document on agriculture and rural development in the hemisphere, ECLAC, FAO and IICA joined forces to publish the report “The outlook for Agriculture and Rural Development in the Americas: A Perspective on Latin America and the Caribbean. 2009.”

This is the first time the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have reached agreement on a single methodology for calculating not only agricultural production and trade indicators, but also indicators related to social conditions and food security in the Americas, and decided to present them all in a single document aimed at decision makers in the Americas.

In the past, each institution used or calculated agricultural indicators differently. According to Acting Director of the Institutional Modernization Unit of IICA, Rafael Trejos, who coordinated the preparation of IICA’s portion of the document, this new methodology standardized the calculation and interpretation of these indicators, making it possible to convey a common message.

The report, which will be presented in October during the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas, will be accompanied by a Website with quantitative indicators that describe the state of and outlook for agriculture and rural life in the Americas. The data base will be updated on a regular basis and will be available at [www.agriruralc.org](http://www.agriruralc.org).

According to ECLAC Executive Director, Alicia Barcena, FAO Regional Representative, Jose Graziano da Silva, and the Director General of IICA, Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, it is the intention of the three organizations to make this document the first of a regular series of joint publications.

In doing so, they hope to respond to the wishes of member governments of the three organizations to avoid duplications and inefficiencies and improve inter-agency cooperation.

### **Between the covers**

The 158-page publication has three chapters which were prepared by interdisciplinary working groups, coordinated by the organizations in their respective areas of competence.

The first chapter “Sectorial analysis” focuses on the outlook and need for policies in the agriculture, livestock, fisheries and aquaculture and forestry sectors of the region.

The chapter “Rural well-being and institutional framework” analyzes not only the policies required in the rural milieu to boost its contribution, but also studies the institutional arrangements that characterize agriculture in the region.

The chapter “Volatility of agricultural prices” studies the impact of this phenomenon on the agricultural and rural sectors, based on studies dealing with the transmission of international prices to local markets conducted by all three organizations. At the end of the chapter, existing policy options for dealing with this phenomenon are analyzed.

Trejos stated that, in general, these organizations believe that Latin America and the Caribbean is the region that has shown the greatest growth in agricultural, livestock, forestry, and fishery production and exports over the last 15 years, while recognizing that the crises of recent years have wiped out some of the progress made in reducing poverty and hunger in the last decade and a half.

**More information**

[rafael.trejos@iica.int](mailto:rafael.trejos@iica.int)

[adrian.rodriguez@cepal.org](mailto:adrian.rodriguez@cepal.org)

[salomon.salcedo@fao.org](mailto:salomon.salcedo@fao.org)