



Version 1

First Face-to-Face Meeting of FORAGRO's New Assembly of Members

**Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
San Isidro de Coronado, San José, Costa Rica, August 8 - 10, 2017**

Background

The Forum of the Americas for Agriculture Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO) is the hemispheric mechanism for debate of an agreement on research and innovation issues affecting the agriculture and food industry of the Americas. A diversity of players in the hemispheric agriculture technology innovation system make up the Forum.

FORAGRO was established in 1997 by the resolution No. 327 of the Inter-American Board of agriculture (IABA), which also entrusted to IICA the establishment of a Secretariat to support the Forum. In 2003, through its resolution No. 398, the IABA again confirmed its support of the Forum.

In 2015, an external evaluation of FORAGRO was carried out which resulted in a series of recommendations on critical aspects of its operation and functions. In response, a restructuring proposal was developed to strengthen FORAGRO in order to make it more effective, sustainable and inclusive. This proposal was evaluated at the 16th meeting of the Executive Committee held in Turrialba, Costa Rica in November 2016 and general agreement was reached on the vision and mission of a renewed FORAGRO and on the next steps to implement the new model.

It was also agreed in Turrialba to take stock of achievements of FORAGRO as well as of the various agendas in agricultural research, technology development and innovation at the country and regional levels, with a view to identifying major themes of common interest to guide the Forum's future activities and prioritize its actions.

The first step towards the implementation of FORAGRO's new governance model is the constitution of an Assembly of Members with inclusive representation of the different groups of actors. The Assembly will have among its functions to adopt a statute for the Forum, choose representatives to a Steering Committee, and define the Forum's strategic direction.

}



Meeting objectives

Advance the implementation of the new governance model for FORAGRO by installing the Assembly of Members, discussing and approving a Charter, and beginning a process to put in place the proposed new structure.

Identify priority focus areas for FORAGRO and define next steps to develop a strategic plan to guide the actions of the Forum.

All this in order to move forward with a more sustainable, inclusive and effective FORAGRO able to enhance hemispheric cooperation to address challenges and opportunities through agricultural innovation.

AGENDA

Day 1: Tuesday, August 8, 2017

9:00-10:00	<p>Opening of the meeting by Dr. Amadeo Nicora, President of FORAGRO and Chair</p> <p>Welcoming remarks by Dr. Víctor Villalobos, Director General of IICA</p> <p>Remarks by Dr. Nicora</p> <p>Reading of the minutes of the 16th meeting of the Executive Committee and adoption of the proposed agenda - <i>Dr. María Rodríguez, Secretary of FORAGRO</i></p>
10:00-10:15	<p>Report on 2016-17 activities</p> <p>Update on GFAR</p> <p><i>María Rodríguez</i></p>
10:15-10:30	<p>Coffee and refreshments</p>
10:30-11:00	<p>Presentation: Achievements of FORAGRO throughout its history</p> <p><i>Mario Allegri</i></p>
11:00-12:00	<p>Challenges of agricultural and agroindustrial innovation: agendas and trends</p> <p>1. Research, development and innovation (R+D+I) agendas at regional and country level: Supply and Demand</p> <p>Priscila Henríquez</p>



	2. Global trends in agricultural and agro-industrial R+D+I systems -Javier Ekboir (Moderator: María Rodríguez)
12:00-13:00	Discussion on themes of common interest (Moderator: María Rodríguez)
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00-15:30	Discussion of draft Charter of FORAGRO (Moderator: María Rodríguez)
15:30-15:45	Coffee and refreshments
15:45-16:30	Discussion on the process of election of the new Steering Committee and installation of the Technical Advisory Committee (subject to approval of Statutes). (Moderator: María Rodríguez)
16:30-17:00	Day 1 Adjournment - recap and agreements
17:00-17:45	Presentation: The national system of research and transfer of agricultural technology (SNITTA) in Costa Rica: example of a model, achievements and challenges Ing. Carlos Araya, PhD., Executive Director, INTA Costa Rica <i>Questions and discussion (Moderator: Priscila Henríquez)</i>

Day 2: Wednesday August 9, 2017

8:30-10:15	<p>Breakout groups</p> <p>Based on discussions of day 1, four breakout groups are proposed. Groups 1, 2 and 3 will focus on <u>the way regional and hemispheric cooperation can contribute to meet the challenges in three of the major priority issues of common interest agreed on day 1.</u></p> <p>Group 4 will discuss <u>how FORAGRO can add value through different forms of collective action, which types of collective action are within its scope and mandate, and how to strengthen the sustainability of the Forum.</u></p> <p>Group 1: Priority theme 1 <i>Facilitator: María Rodríguez</i></p> <p>Group 2: Priority theme 2 <i>Facilitator: Priscila Henríquez</i></p> <p>Group 3: Priority theme 3 <i>Facilitator: Cecilia Gianoni</i></p> <p>Group 4: FORAGRO value added and sustainability <i>Facilitator: Audia Barnett</i></p>
10:15-10:30	Coffee and refreshments
10:30-12:30	<p>Proposals from breakout groups and discussion in plenary</p> <p>Plenary discussion will develop general recommendations to strengthen FORAGRO's organization to increase its value added and sustainability</p> <p><i>Rapporteurs of each group</i></p>
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:30	<p>Discussion on next steps for the development of an action plan: prospective analysis and strategic planning</p> <p><i>Moderated by María Rodríguez with participation of GFAR GFAR specialist Iman El Kaffass)</i></p>



14:30-15:00	Presentation of FORAGRO's new website
15:00-17:00	Conclusions and agreements

Day 2: Thursday August 10, 2017

8:00-12:30	Field visit (details to follow)
12:30-1:30	Lunch and adjournment