

DECLARATION

Cooperative Program in Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region

(P R O C I N O R T E)

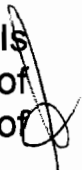
We, the participating institutions of PROCINORTE confirm the need to foster agricultural research and technology for competitive, sustainable development in the region's agriculture and natural resources and the benefit of joint actions to solve problems and take advantage of regional opportunities and capabilities.

In keeping with the above, we agree to join efforts to develop a regional mechanism PROCINORTE for mutual cooperation in agriculture research and technology transfer.

PROCINORTE supports the interests of the three countries within the framework of regional integration and complements similar efforts in Latin America and the Caribbean and elsewhere in the world.

BACKGROUND

1. IICA, within the framework of the Inter-American system, has a mandate to support its countries in efforts involving agricultural research and technology development and has made possible the implementation of cooperative mechanisms for agriculture research and transfer of technology.
2. Five regional collaborative mechanisms called PROCIS (Cooperative Programs on Agricultural Research and Transfer of Technology) have been established through the joint efforts of member countries, IICA, and other organizations.



3. Collaborative mechanisms of hemispheric scope have also been established. FORAGRO, a mechanism to facilitate and foster dialogue and cooperation among the countries of the Americas, is the most recent example of these mechanisms and includes participation of national institutions, public and private, as well as the PROCIs and other networks.

4. Recognizing the need to have a collaborative mechanism in the northern region to promote linkages and to facilitate cooperation not only among institutions of the region, but also in the institutions and mechanisms of the hemisphere, the three countries of the North in cooperation with IICA decided to initiate PROCINORTE in late 1998. Since that time three task forces have been established, one to orient the process of creation of PROCINORTE and the other two in response to the identification of a need for joint action (Library and Information Services and Genetic Resources).



AGREEMENTS

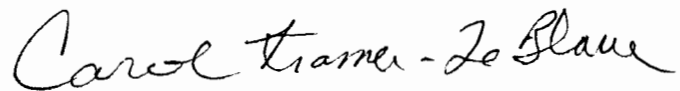
1. The creation and operation of PROCINORTE is formalized as a regional mechanism for mutual cooperation in agriculture research and technology transfer.
2. The PROCINORTE task force is composed of official representatives of Canada, Mexico, the United States, and IICA.
3. IICA is a member of PROCINORTE, serving as the program's promoter and facilitator.
4. PROCINORTE will define and prioritize areas of interest to all three countries for regional cooperation in the field of agricultural research and technology transfer. To carry out defined actions, specialized task forces may be established and specific initiatives and projects undertaken of a regional nature, that are agreed upon by all three countries. The first two task forces identified are the Library and Information Services and the Genetic Resources Task Forces.
5. The PROCINORTE Task Force or any of the Specialized Task Forces may invite representatives of other countries, networks or organizations to participate in their work and meetings.



Representative from Mexico



Representative from Canada


Director, IICA/Northern Regional
Center


Representative from the
United States


Director, General IICA


Director, IICA Area II

22 September 2000