

**INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR  
COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE  
(IICA)**

**NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER  
(NRC)**

***PROCINORTE***  
**Second Task Force Meeting**

**Executive Report**

Mexico, D.F.

February 28-29,2000

**NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER (NCR)  
PROCINORTE  
Second Task Force Meeting**

**I. BASIC INFORMATION**

Date : February 28 and 29, 2000

Place : Mexico, D.F.

Participants: See Annex I

Agenda: See Annex II

**II. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

- 2.1 Reconvene the umbrella Task Force to meet its new members from Mexico and the United States.
- 2.2 Examine the general outlook of the activities carried out to date and briefing to all new members.
- 2.3 Review the strategy behind PROCINORTE, corroborate its goals and objectives and develop a strategy to complement this effort.
- 2.4 Define a detailed action plan for the next two years for the execution of PROCINORTE in more effective way.

**III. OPENING SESSION AND PRESENTATIONS**

- 3.1 The Director of the NRC, John Miranda, welcomed the participants from Mexico, the United States and IICA, and expressed IICA's recognition to Mexico for the support provided to carry out the Second Task Force Meeting of PROCINORTE. Special thanks were given to Dr. Jorge Kondo, Director of the INIFAP.

The Director of the NRC presented background information and an overview of PROCINORTE First Task Force Meeting held in Washington, D.C., one year ago. He also reviewed the provisional agenda.

### 3.2 FORAGRO

Jorge Kondo, Director in Chief of INIFAP presented an overview of FORAGRO and its relationship with mechanisms such as PROCINORTE. Jorge Kondo's presentation included the current situation and outlook of the agricultural sector of Mexico within the globalization process.

### 3.3 PROCIs

Enrique Alarcon, Director of Science, Technology and Natural Resources, complemented Jorge Kondo's presentation by referring to the cooperative programs in research and technology transfer in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### 3.4 PROCINORTE Initiatives: Achievements to date

John Miranda presented the results from the First PROCINORTE meeting to establish the Leading Task Force, its scope, nature, goals, objectives, priorities and action plan.

Guillermo Grajales presented a specific report on the results of the Task Force on Agricultural Libraries and Information Initiative and on the Genetic Resources Task Force.

### 3.5 PROCINORTE Initiative: Brainstorming

The participants initiated a process of reflection and analysis on the issues related to PROCINORTE's nature, goals, specific objectives, new task forces and definition of the 2000-2001 Action Plan. During this session John Miranda and Enrique Alarcon acted as moderators.

## IV CONSENSUS ON PROCINORTE'S KEY ELEMENTS

### 4.1 Nature

- PROCINORTE is not an organization. It is a formalized mechanism – catalyst to facilitate cooperative actions of mutual interest to the three countries, including the public and private sectors.
- PROCINORTE will generate a number of communication mechanisms including task forces which will work in specific areas.
- The Executive Secretary of each Task Force formed will be comprised of a lead country and a person from the IICA office in that country.
- Potential participating institutions:
  - ✓ Federal, State/Provincial universities, civil societies, and private sector organizations
  - ✓ Regional and international organizations
- It is not anticipated that any staff or office space will be specifically assigned to PROCINORTE on a dedicated basis in the near term.

### 4.2 Goals

- Strengthen the effectiveness and countries' capacity to carry out agricultural research and technology transfer through linkages and exchanges and partnership efforts in a cost-effective way.
- The initiative should facilitate the relationship among the three countries and promote the same with other regions of the Americas.

#### 4.3 Specific Objectives

- Promote policy dialogue to identify priority research issues common to all three countries to impact regional, hemispheric and global agendas
- Facilitate the exchange of expertise, information and training
- Build solid linkages among public and private institutions of the region and among regional, hemispheric and global leading professionals in the field of research and transfer of technology
- Execute joint activities with participating institutions to solve problems of mutual interest.

### V RESULTS

The participants reached consensus on a number of valuable points related to the current and future scope of PROCINORTE:

- 5.1 Participating countries confirmed their support to PROCINORTE
- 5.2 They ratified the nature and goals of PROCINORTE with contributions that permit its formalization (Declaration) extending its scope from agricultural research to agricultural research and technology transfer.
- 5.3 They reformulated PROCINORTE's specific objectives broadening its scope for the identification of common priorities, articulation with other similar mechanisms and linking hemispheric and global research efforts.
- 5.4 They discussed the possibility of creating a new Task Force on Animal and Plant Health Research, after preparing a concept paper for discussion among the three countries.

- 5.5 They ratified the importance to continue with the Task Forces on Libraries and Genetic Resources.
- 5.6 The official delegates considered that PROCINORTE must move forward to become a formalized mechanism by agreeing to the terms of the attached provisional Declaration (Annex III), which will be discussed with Canada.
- 5.7 They agreed on an Action Plan for the period 2000-2001 to respond to each specific objective (Annex IV).

## **VI NEXT PROCINORTE MEETING**

The III PROCINORTE meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 2000, in Mexico, D.F., prior to the FORAGRO Hemispheric meeting.

**NOTE:** During the next meeting, members agreed to report on their activities related to the Action Plan defined in Annex IV as well as be prepared to sign the Declaration found in Annex III. They also agreed to designate a country as chairman, propose a plan on rotation of the chairmanship, and make a final decision on the proposed Task Force on Animal and Plant Health Research.

## **VII ANNEXES**

- Annex I: Final List of Participants
- Annex II: Final Agenda
- Annex III: Declaration
- Annex IV: Action Plan

**ANNEX I- ANEXO I**  
**SECOND PROCINORTE TASK FORCE MEETING**  
**SEGUNDA REUNION DEL GRUPO DE TRABAJO**  
**PROCINORTE**

**February/Febrero 28-29, 2000**  
**Mexico, D.F., Mexico**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**LISTA DE PARTICIPANTES**

**CANADA**

N/A

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**NORTHERN REGIONAL CENTER**  
***PROCINORTE***  
***SECOND TASK FORCE MEETING***

**DATE:** February 28 and 29, 2000

**PLACE:** Hotel Calinda Genova "Salon Colonial"  
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***AGENDA***

***SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2000***

Arrival at Mexico City International Airport  
Transportation to hotel provided by IICA office in Mexico

***MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2000***

***9:00 a.m. Regional Forum on Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO)***      ***Jorge Kondo, Mexico (invited)***

**10:00 a.m. PROCINORTE Initiative**

- Review *John Miranda, IICA*
- Genetic Resources Task Force *Guillermo Grajales, IICA*
- Library and Information Initiative *Guillermo Grajales, IICA*

**1:00 p.m. Lunch**

**3:00 p.m. PROCINORTE Initiative** Moderator: *Enrique Alarcon, IICA*

- Evaluation and Future
- New suggested Task Forces
- Mission/Vision (review)
- Looking Ahead: Products and Results
- Towards Strengthening the Process

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2000**

**9:00 a.m. Consensus on Key Issues related to PROCINORTE**

*Co-Moderators: John Miranda, IICA  
Enrique Alarcon, IICA*

**1:00 p.m. Lunch**

**2:30 p.m. Plan of Action for PROCINORTE 2000**

**6:00 p.m. Adjourn**