



MINUTES OF TENTH ANNUAL MEETING
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROCINORTE
 28-29th January 2009, Mexico City, Mexico
FIRST DRAFT¹

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¹ March 04th, 2009. M. Pareja.



Cooperative Program in Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
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1. Background and Meeting Objectives

The 10th Annual Meeting of the PROCINORTE Board of Directors (BOD), corresponding to the programming year of 2008, took place at the main office building of INIFAP, Santa Catarina, Viveros de Coyoacan, México City on January 28th and 29th, 2009.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

- To review PROCINORTE Executive Secretariat (ES)'s and Task Forces (TF)'s progresses and evaluate the results achieved;
- To learn about the Regional Technical Agricultural Fund, FONTAGRO;
- To review the progress made in the preparation of the PROCINORTE Strategic Plan (PEP);
- Update the Action Plan and budget for 2009.

2. Opening Ceremony

Warm welcoming words were given by Dr. Pedro Brajcich, Director General of the National Institute for Forestry and Agricultural Research (INIFAP), who encouraged participants to have active and successful discussions on PROCINORTE. He stressed the relevance of the mechanism for horizontal technical cooperation on research and innovations among the three northernmost countries of the Americas. He immediately turned the Mexican representation responsibility at the PROCINORTE BOD to Dr. Enrique Astengo, Planning and Development Director for INIFAP, the regular designated INIFAP's representative and President of PROCINORTE.

Mr. David Hatch, IICA Representative to the PROCINORTE Board of Directors (BOD), welcomed participants in the name of IICA, stressing the importance of a horizontal cooperation mechanism, such as PROCINORTE, at times when budgetary restrictions are being felt all over the world due to the financial crisis. Resources from the three countries could be pulled together to lead the way into new technologies in an innovative manner. PROCINORTE, he stated, is at a cross-road looking into its first ever strategic plan. This is a time when "we need to decide what we want to do with PROCINORTE, a time of worldwide financial and food crises. We need to look at our resources, both financial and technical, and define PROCINORTE mission and vision". He further highlighted some of the criteria to be considered for the future, such as:

- Find high value projects requiring low resources with in-kind support;
- Projects that unite the 3 countries around common interests, complementary capacities and commitment; and
- Implement projects with clear results and products.

According to Mr. Hatch, PROCINORTE needs to learn from the other PROCIs supported by IICA across the Americas but above all PROCINORTE should find its niche: what can PROCINORTE do that others cannot or do not do? He finalized reassuring the BOD that IICA will continue, now more than ever,



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supporting PROCINORTE because the Institute recognizes the great potential of the mechanism.

3. Approval of Proposed Agenda

Under the chair of Dr. Astengo, the BOD approved the proposed agenda (see annex 17) with the following modifications:

1. Move the FONTAGRO presentation forward, before beginning with PROCINORTE issues (proposed by Dr. Gustavo Cruz).
2. Add a brief report on the last FORAGRO meeting attended by the President and the ES of PROCINORTE (proposed by Dr. Brad Fraleigh).
3. Include a presentation and update on the IICA supported regional technological cooperation system (proposed by Dr. Enrique Alarcon).
4. Move the closing time for the second day from 01:30 PM to 02:30 PM due to pending issues (proposed by Dr. G. Cruz).

Decision: The agenda was approved with the above mentioned modifications.

4. Presentation on FONTAGRO

As invited guest speaker to the PROCINORTE BOD, Dr. Nicolas Mateo presented the Regional Fund for Agricultural Technology in the Americas (FONTAGRO), emphasizing its programmatic priorities, membership, funding and operational procedures. The Fund has three objectives: the reduction of rural poverty, the increase in competitiveness of agricultural production chains and the sustainable management of natural resources. It makes annual Request for Proposals (RFP) around a theme, approved by its BOD and based on Terms of Reference (TOR) prepared by the Administrative and Technical Secretariat (ATS). Mateo explained that the Fund, managed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and receiving technical support from IICA, has presently USD 53 million coming from 15 member countries. He commented on the fact that none of the Northern Region countries are members of FONTAGRO. However, USDA has funded some specific RFP in the past and the Canadian's International Development Research Center (IDRC) provided support during the first phases of the establishment of the Fund. Actually, FONTAGRO acts a leverage platform for co-financing of annual RFP raising additional monies from IDB, CGIAR, AECID and others. The role and impact of FONTAGRO is not only measurable at the financial level but it also has a significant impact on capacity development through the consortia that implement the regionally funded projects.

Dr. Alarcon stressed the options open to interested countries ranging from full membership to joining other agencies in funding specific RFP of interest to the countries. He also mentioned the strong involvement of several of the PROCI, acting as catalyzers for the ensemble of consortia that prepare proposals for FONTAGRO. This, in turn, brings additional funding to the PROCI, such is the



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case of PROCISUR, to promote collaborative research projects among member countries.

Decision: The BOD thanked Dr. Mateo for his presentation and Canada made a specific request for the Northern Region countries to consider the possibility of joining FONTAGRO, either as full members or as co-financers in specific proposals. Membership or co-financing would bring the added benefit to the region that the countries can then participate on the RFP made by FONTAGRO.

[HYPERLINK HERE FOR FONTAGRO PP PRESENTATION](#)

5. Update on PROCINORTE

Dr. Cruz, ES of FONTAGRO, reviewed the objectives, structure and organization of PROCINORTE as well as the five active tasks forces: Library and Information Services, Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruits, Genetic Resources (NORGEN), Animal Health, and Plant Health. He also mentioned that the PROCINORTE Web Site has been redesigned, reorganized and the information updated (<http://www.procinorte.org>) but added that there is a need for additional help to keep it updated in the future: authorization from the page administrator and the human resource capacity to do it.

The discussion that followed, led by Drs. Fraleigh and Alarcon, stressed that the interaction with other PROCINORTEs has not been very successful and that there is a need for more specific interaction with the ES as well as information exchange on programmatic issues with their Boards. For example, the PROCINORTE BOD would appreciate receiving the minutes of the other BOD as well as technical information about their research activities.

Decisions: The BOD acknowledged the work of the ES and recommended two areas for the ES to concentrate efforts in the future: (1) assure a technological system and the resources that could keep the Web Page updated; (2) consult with the BOD members before placing the information on the work of the TF in the Web Site; and (3) place specific activities in the 2009 Work Plan to improve communication with the other PROCINORTEs.

[HYPERLINK HERE FOR UPDATE ON PROCINORTE PP PRESENTATION](#)

6. Update on Task Forces

This section was devoted to hear the reports of the TF that were present at the BOD meeting –Library and Information Services, Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruits and Plant Health- and the ES informed the BOD representatives about the status of progresses of the other TF.

a. Library and Information Services

Ms. Ileana Isabel Hernandez Javalera, representing the Library and Information Services TF, presented the activities conducted during the year 2008 as well as



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their plans and budget for the year 2009.

Some of the most notable achievements of this TF were:

- The establishment of the *National Science and Technology Information System for Rural Development*, a project co-funded by Mexico CONACYT that concluded in the consolidation of six databases: ProQuest, Elsevier, Nature, BioScience, Gale and Acta Horticulture.
- Consolidated the *National Catalog of Mexican Agricultural Information*, including 16 members of REMBA (Mexican Network of Agricultural Libraries), 22 databases, and its own webpage (<http://etech.tucansys.com/remba.mx/>), allowing to access the various data bases of the *National Science and Technology Innovation System for Rural Development*, and an “on line directory” of REMBA members.
- Conducted several training sessions on intellectual property rights.
- Celebrated the REMBA 2008 annual meeting with the in-kind collaboration of the Canadian Agricultural Library, USDA National Agricultural Library, IICA-Costa Rica/SIDALC Network and the Agricultural Network Information Center.

The 2009 action plan for this TF calls for:

- Strengthening the REMBA Network;
- Improve the REMBA Portal through incorporation of a Spanish thesaurus; and
- Improve the hemispheric access to REMBA information and vice versa.

Discussion and Decision: Mr. Hatch proposed to incorporate in the work of the TF, or parallel to it, an initiative that IICA is pursuing to make USDA research data available to all the Americas via electronic means. Dr. Fraleigh added that for Canada it is important not only to make their information available to other countries for also Canadians researchers to be able to access foreign data. The proposal reaches a certain level of maturity it will be taken for discussion to the TF.

HYPERLINK HERE FOR L&IS TF PP PRESENTATION

b. Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruits

Dr. Samuel Salazar Garcia, Chair of the Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruits TF, presented its main achievements during the year 2008 and its plans and budget for 2009.

Some of the most notable achievements of this TF were:

- An update and complete web site, available in English, Spanish and French: <http://www.ars-grin.gov/cgi-bin/may/procinorte/index.cgi>
- Fruit quality charts for avocado and mangoes available in English, Spanish and French (on going).
- Evaluation and calibration of non-destructive techniques to determine “on tree” ripeness of avocado, mango, and *mamey sapote*.



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- Active participation at the 44th Caribbean Food Crops Society Meeting Miami, Fla., USA, 13-17 Jul. 2008, where TF members made 8 presentations.
- A presentation on ripeness of mangoes at the 3rd National Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry Innovation (Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, 3-8 Nov. 2008)
- A presentation about ripeness on *Hass* avocados at the First National Meeting of the Avocado Product System (Uruapan, Michoacan, Mexico, 3-5 Dec. 2008)
- Two technical publications produced and a technique on water quality monitoring validated.

The 2009 TF Action Plan calls for:

- Continue the work on ripeness for *Hass* avocado.
- Continue the work on ripeness of “*Ataulfo*” mango.
- Continue the work on ripeness of *mamey-zapote*.
- Publication of a Manual to Evaluate Water Quality on mango packing plants and a technical bulletin on the use of Zn and Bo on *Hass* avocado.
- Annual meeting of the Task Force at the 3rd Latin American Avocado Meeting (Medellin, Colombia, 11-13 Nov. 2009).

TF members have identified some constraints to their work that were presented at the BOD meeting:

- There is a need for a stronger Institutional commitment to support Task Force initiatives for engagement in tri-national research efforts.
- Administrative regulations as well as budget constrains at each delegate’s institution make it difficult to spend money with researchers from abroad.
- International travel expenses restrict participation to accomplish Task Force objectives. Support to PROCINORTE Task Forces should be part of the member’s Institutional research agendas
- As OECD countries the Region has no access to research and development assistance so alternative fund raising strategies should be considered by PROCINORTE.

Discussion: Dr. Rexroad stated that USDA/ARS is fully committed to support this TF and pointed to the need to leverage more institutional support in general. Dr. Fraleigh indicated that Canada is in the process of finding a replacement for Dr. Gilles Doyon, the previous Canadian TF member.

[HYPERLINK HERE FOR T&STF TF PP PRESENTATION](#)

c. Plant Health

Dr. Robert Mangan, Chair of the Plant Health TF, recently (2007) separated from the Animal Health one, presented the status and plans for this YF. It has not been very active and has not used its budget since 2007. The group has been searching for common themes that could be of interest and priority for the



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three countries and this has not been easy task to achieve.

The TF is planning a meeting, early this year, to come to an agreement on common themes. Some of the possible topics they are considering are: (1) fruit flies, (2) citrus diseases and vectors, (3) Aphids and Psyllids vectors of potato diseases, and possibly (4) sunflower insect pests. These are to be complemented, or may be replaced by an approach by concepts, such as: (1) pesticide, including herbicide, resistance, (2) quarantine issues, (3) methyl bromide replacement, (4) greenhouse pests, and (5) GMO in pest management. The first two are probably the most important options. A possible area of interest is that of a partnership with NAPPO looking for complementarities of strengths and actions.

Discussion: Some members of the Board manifested that the partnership with NAPPO should be analyzed carefully since it is a regulatory agent. However, IICA representatives, Mr. Hatch and Dr. Bedoya, stated that a possible role for PROCINORTE is to become the scientific support for NAPPO and so each institution complements each other. IICA is in the process of developing a MOU with NAPPO. Dr. Fraleigh manifested his concern that the TF has taken so long to come up with priority themes and the action plan for 2009 is key for its future.

[HYPERLINK HERE FOR PH TF PP PRESENTATION](#)

d. Other Task Forces

Dr. Cruz informed the BOD that no reports or action plans had been received from the other TF: Genetic Resources and Animal Health. USDA/ARS is changing its representative to the latter TF and it has been a surprise that NORGEN, a TF that has been very active in the past, has not yet sent its report. Although this TF has been performing well it has gone through recent significant staff changes and that may explain the delay in presenting their reports.

e. Review of Task Forces

There were words of praise for the two TF that made presentations at the BOD meeting and all representatives recognized their achievements, results and impacts. Specifically congratulated them for the networking and information dissemination they both have achieved in their respective thematic areas.

On the financial side, the Board faced a situation in which an approval of the budget was almost impossible because there were three TF still to present their action plans and budgets. On the other hand, Drs. Fraleigh and Pareja argued that it would not be fair to penalize the two TF that have done their home work and not to approve their proposals. The discussion finalized with a decision that will not penalize the most active TF but will also give some additional time for the three late comers to prepare their proposals.



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Decisions: The BOD decided: (1) to congratulate both TF that presented at the meeting -Library and Information Systems and Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruits- for their achievements; (2) to give Plant Health, Animal Health and Genetic Resources TF a maximum of two months to present their 2008 Report and 2009 Action Plan and Budget; the BOD will make a decision on these items via a conference call in early April; (3) to encourage the Animal Health TF to come with priorities for the Region, eventually more closely linked to general topics than specific diseases; (4) to encourage the Plant Health TF to prioritize and come up with specific and concrete proposals, mainly on the area of vectors of diseases; (5) given the scarce resources available, the Board encouraged all TF to closely link proposed work plans with the budgets.

7. IICA Technical Cooperation

Dr. Alarcon presented IICA's views on reasons, importance and relevance of technical cooperation between and among countries and institutions. He described the history of Latin America in terms of technical cooperation and on how, in the late 80's early 90's, a regional cooperative system started to emerge. Some of these, like FORAGRO and FONTAGRO are of hemispheric breath while others, such as the regional research centers and the PROCIs, cover a sub-region of the Americas. These are also related to the global research system (the GFAR). Given that IICA is only a catalyzer and supporter of these mechanisms, he stressed the importance of appropriation of the PROCIs by the member countries. By appropriation Alarcon meant: an active participation in their decision making, recognizing the researchers from the NARS that participate in the PROCi, and providing additional financial support to the mechanism.

[**HYPERLINK HERE FOR IICA TECH COOP PP PRESENTATION**](#)

8. Report on FORAGRO

Dr. Alarcon introduction to the IICA supported technical cooperation systems provided a platform for Dr. Astengo to inform the BOD on the participation of PROCINORTE in the biennial meeting of FORAGRO, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in July 2008. The PROCi was there represented by its President, Dr. Astengo, and its ES, Dr. Cruz. Dr. Astengo presented PROCINORTE to the audience and in turn had the opportunity to learn about the experiences, level of development and lessons learned from all other PROCIs.

[**HYPERLINK HERE FOR PROCINORTE PP PRESENTATION AT FORAGRO**](#)

The focus of FORAGRO meeting was on institutional innovations for an agriculture based on knowledge management. As such, its official declaration addresses food security as one of the major and most important issues LAC is facing today, stresses the relevance of technology development and innovations both from the point of view of resource allocation to promote



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sustainable development as well as to influence policy decisions. The declaration also emphasizes the importance of the linkages and needs between research, development and extension and the relevance of family agriculture in the LAC region. The FORAGRO Montevideo declaration can be viewed at: <http://infoagro.net/shared/docs/a2/FORAGRO2008.html>.

9. Election of Executive Secretary

Dr. Cruz expressed his interest in pursuing his research career at INIFAP and this conflicted with his time dedication to the ES of PROCINORTE. He manifested his desire to step down as ES for PROCINORTE and work full time as INIFAP researcher.

Discussion and Decision: Mr. Hatch, spoke representing IICA, and basing his arguments on the fact that all other PROCIs have an IICA employee as the ES, proposed the same structure for PROCINORTE. He nominated Dr. Pareja, Northern Region Technical Coordinator, for the position of ES of PROCINORTE. Board members agreed with the proposal, recognized IICA's support and commitment to the PROCi and named Dr. Pareja as the ES of PROCINORTE effective February 1, 2009.

10. Various Issues Related to PROCINORTE Upkeep

This was a section where various loose end issues were discussed and clarified by the Board and decisions made.

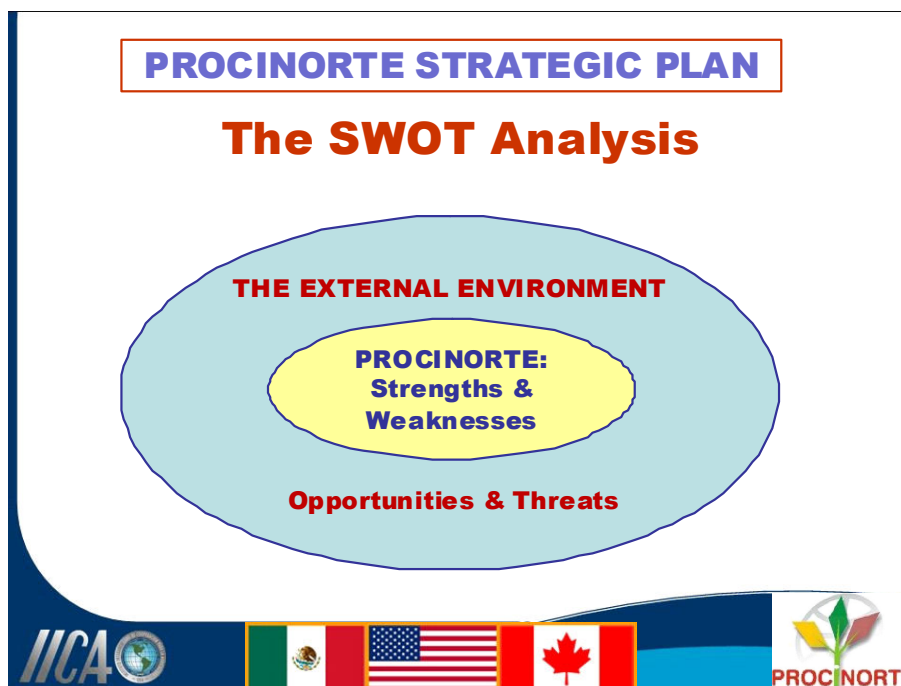
Discussions and Decisions:

- Relations with other PROCi: a teleconference should be established to keep us all informed on priorities and activities. The ES should coordinate this not later than mid-year 2009.
- The Technical Committee of PROCINORTE should be reactivated and each Board member agreed to name a representative to it. This Committee will not deal with strategic issues, which continue under the domain of the BOD, but rather help the ES as a consultative body on technical issues.
- Dr. Fraleigh stressed the importance of continuously updating the web site. M. Pareja pointed to the fact that there may be technical limitations to do so. The ES will investigate what type of arrangement needs to be made with the Mexican company presently providing the service and consult with the BOD the best way forward.

11. PROCINORTE Strategic Plan

At its 9th Meeting the BOD charged the ES, with the technical support of IICA, to develop a draft strategic plan for PROCINORTE. Implicit in the Board decision was the recognition that the external environment in which the PROCi operates has changed from the one existing when PROCINORTE starting functioning,

back in 1999, and that new opportunities and threats were probably present. As implied in a strategic exercise, it was also a good opportunity to look internally to the PROCINORTE and identify its weaknesses and strengths (see diagram below).



a. Introduction

Dr. Pareja briefly recounted the BOD decision and the steps taken afterwards, including the ES-IICA Strategic Planning Workshop (Mexico, January 2008) where general guidelines and timelines were established for the development of PROCINORTE Strategic Plan (PEP). Afterwards, Mexico had a two-day and Canada one-day consultation workshops with the participation of both the PROCINORTE-ES and the Northern Region Technical Coordinator of IICA. The US conducted an electronic consultation through the months of November and December.

[HYPERLINK HERE FOR UPDATE ON PEP PP PRESENTATION](#)

b. Mexico Consultation Workshop Report

Dr. Astengo reported that INIFAP Mexico organized a 2-day consultation workshop with the objectives of (a) defining priority productive systems and themes from a national perspective with a regional view; and (b) identifying opportunities for synergies among participant institutions for the implementation of tri-national projects on research and innovation on Agrifood chains. User (6 institutions) and suppliers (5 institutions) were consulted in separate sessions of the workshop.



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One of the most interesting outputs of the workshop was the identification of its vision as “a mechanism for internal as well as external technical cooperation, becoming a donor and provider of technological research results and innovations in agriculture to the hemisphere”. Additionally, the workshop identified priority themes, such as food safety, agri-business, technologies, including biotechnology, sustainable natural resources management, climate change, agro-energy, capacity building, institutional innovation and technology transfer. A large list of commodities was produced as priority crops for Mexico from a regional perspective.

[HYPERLINK HERE FOR MEXICO WORKSHOP PP PRESENTATION](#)

c. Canada Consultation Workshop Report

Dr. Fraleigh reported that in early September, AAFC conducted a consultation workshop with the following objectives: (a) consider priority of already established Task Forces; (b) discuss alignment with regional science priorities; (c) consider Canadian priorities for new Task Forces; (d) identify possible means of funding PROCINORTE activities; and (e) generate advice and Canadian recommendations for the overall PROCINORTE Strategic Plan.

The 23 participants agreed that PROCINORTE should focus on issues of interest to all three countries and its objectives could be:

- To operate in support of improved production and trade at regional, hemispheric and global levels,
- To address both research and innovation, and
- To include outreach to the other Americas countries.

Other important conclusions from the workshop were that task Forces need to be very focused and that “PROCINORTE is not a ‘quick response’ system for ‘emerging issues’, and should attempt to synthesize information rather than establish Task Forces”.

Finally, the workshop concluded that, in order to broaden PROCINORTE scope of actions and strengthen its impact, IICA funding should only be taken as seed money and member countries should contribute supplementary resources as it occurs in other PROCI. It recommended reactivating its Technical Advisory Committee and possibly creating an Industry Advisory Committee.

Summarizing, the workshop concluded that:

- PROCINORTE is a positive and effective vehicle for agricultural science cooperation at the regional level; and
- Provided recommendations on:
 - The structure of PROCINORTE,
 - Procedures for setting priorities,
 - Made proposals on how to address important issues not taken up by Task Forces,
 - Options for funding it,



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- Improve communications with Mexican partners, and
- Provide professional recognition for participant researchers.

[HYPERLINK HERE FOR CANADA WORKSHOP PP PRESENTATION](#)

d. US Consultation Process Report

Dr. C. Rexroad explained that USDA conducted an electronic consultation to more than 150 researchers that were connected to research projects with Canada and Mexico as well as with PROCINORTE. The results of the consultation point to a role definition of PROCINORTE around some or all of the following lines:

- Information sharing programs that review research that is common to all three countries;
- Find areas of mutual interest already funded by all three countries to provide a synergistic effect;
- Organize workshops on common research programs;
- Actively encourage finding funding through other venues;
- Facilitate interaction of government with private sector to identify common interest research ideas;
- Identify research strengths of each country and then disseminate to stakeholders;
- Foster/facilitate communication, coordination between groups with common interests;
- Identify emerging production issues;
- Use web based conferencing technologies to bring scientists together for less money;
- Facilitate information exchange among government agencies for solving specific problems

In terms of priority thematic areas, the USDA consultation identified the following:

- Establish scientific basis for quarantine uniformity amongst nations;
- Continental scale dynamic risk assessment for animal diseases;
- Follow NAPPO identified issues that affect trade;
- Understanding horizontal gene transfer in bacteria that results in food safety and trade issues, rapid nucleic acid tests, traceability, risk assessment, predictive modeling;
- Amplify, unify, plant genetic resource efforts, systems;
- Climate change adaptation;
- Water resource management;
- Environmental safety and sustainability of biotech crops (resistance monitoring, pest biology, range shifts, emerging pests);
- Better understanding of plant disease biology common to all 3 countries (e.g. *Phytophthora* spp.)
- Work with other PROCI groups to strengthen hemispheric access to agricultural information;



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USDA researchers generally found value added in PROCINORTE. However, there is a clear understanding that certain areas need improvement, such as communication within USDA/ARS and with PROCINORTE. Also, PROCINORTE should improve its communication with scientific agencies and stakeholders, its website and have a list-server.

e. Summary of Results

Dr. Cruz presented a summary table (attached) with a summary of results from the three consultation processes. This, as well as previous country presentations, was the basis for the BOD discussion that followed.

Discussion: The members of the BOD stressed the importance of the three exercises, the similarities in findings and, above all, the coincidence on the value added of PROCINORTE. Issues to be considered in the future are: (a) the importance of improving the communication mechanisms internally and externally; (b) identifying laboratories with similar interests; (c) the development of a fundraising and outreach strategy; (d) development of the strategic plan for the PROCI; (e) align the strategic priorities of the TF with those of PROCINORTE.

Decision: The BOD decided to move forward with the PEP step by step as follows: (1) the ES will review and update the summary matrix with the results from the three country consultation processes; (2) the ES will send the draft matrix to BOD members for review and approval; (3) the ES will receive and incorporate the feedback from Board members and update the matrix; (4) the ES will then write the first draft of the PEP, based on the matrix, and will send it to Board members for comments; (5) the ES will receive and incorporate the feedback from Board members; (6) the ES will send the second draft of the PEP for review by the BOD members; (7) the ES will organize a tele/video conference with Board members to discuss the second draft of the PEP; (8) after corrections the ES will submit the final draft of the PEP for approval by the BOD of PROCINORTE in its next, 2009, meeting.

12. PROCINORTE 2009 Action Plan and Budget

The BOD reviewed the action plan proposed by the ES for the year 2009 and made a few adjustments (see Annex 1). Given that not all TF have so far presented their 2008 Annual Report or their 2009 Action Plan and Budget requests the BOD was not in a position to approve the full budget including the ES and BOD section as well as the request by the two task forces that presented their proposals during the meeting.



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Decisions: The BOD decided to (1) approve the budget for the ES and the administration of PROCINORTE as presented by the ES; (2) to approve only 75% of the budget requested by the Library and Information Services and the Tropical and Sub-Tropical Fruits TF; (3) wait for the final budget approval for all TF until the other three have presented their requests within the period mentioned before of two months (end of March 2009).

13. Next PROCINORTE BOD Meeting

Dr. Fraleigh, of AAFC, offered to host the next PROCINORTE BOD meeting in or nearby Ottawa on the week of October the 12th or November the 2nd.

Decision: The Board unanimously accepted the offer from AAFC and the proposed dates. Dr. Fraleigh will communicate Board members the best date for the meeting.



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ANNEX 1

PROCINORTE ACTION PLAN 2009

PLAN DE ACCIÓN 2009 DE PROCINORTE

OBJECTIVE 1

Promote dialogue to identify priority research issues common to the three countries and to influence the regional, hemispheric and global agendas.

OBJETIVO 1

Promover el dialogo para identificar temas de investigación prioritarios comunes a los tres países e influenciar las agendas regionales, hemisféricas y globales.

ACTIONS/ACCIONES	RESPONSIBLE RESPONSABLES	DEADLINE FECHA LÍMITE
1.1 Try to identify issues PROCINORTE wants to collaborate with other PROCI. Set a conference call among PROCI.	The Executive Secretary-IICA ES	1 st quarter 1 st Semester
1.2 Take advantages of opportunities at relevant meetings to present PROCINORTE purpose, progress and accomplishments	ES & BOD	December 2009

OBJECTIVE 2

To facilitate the exchange of experiences, information and training through the building of linkages among public and private country institutions of the Northern region (PROCINORTE) and between the major research and technology transfer actors in the region, hemisphere and the world.

OBJETIVO 2

Facilitar el intercambio de experiencias, información y capacitación a través de la construcción de ligas entre las instituciones públicas y privadas nacionales de la región Norte (PROCINORTE) y entre los principales actores de la transferencia de tecnología en la región, el hemisferio y el mundo.

ACTIONS/ACCIONES	RESPONSIBLE RESPONSABLES	DEADLINE FECHA LÍMITE
2.1 Present the accomplishment of PROCINORTE at the next FORAGRO	The President & ES	2 nd quarter 2009



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ACTIONS/ACCIONES	RESPONSIBLE RESPONSABLES	DEADLINE FECHA LÍMITE
Executive Committee Meeting.		
2.2 Continuously update PROCINORTE web site with the Task Forces information and BOD reports and other relevant information	ES, IICA, Task Forces	On going

OBJECTIVE 3

To facilitate collaboration among the countries to solve problems of mutual interest.

OBJETIVO 3

Facilitar la colaboración entre los países para resolver problemas de interés mutuo.

ACTIONS/ACCIONES	RESPONSIBLE RESPONSABLES	DEADLINE FECHA LÍMITE
3.1 Urge the Task Forces to provide to the Secretariat their annual budget proposal & an annual report of the previous year in time for the Board of Director for approval.	ES	2009 Annual Report and 2010 Action Plan & Budget - Before September 1, 2009
3.2 Make a presentation of the achievements of PROCINORTE to higher level northern region decision makers in the 3 countries in order to get support.	Members of BOD, ES and President	

OBJECTIVE 4

Definition of PROCINORTE's institutional issues.

OBJETIVO 4

Definir consideraciones institucionales de PROCINORTE.

ACTIONS/ACCIONES	RESPONSIBLE RESPONSABLES	DEADLINE FECHA LÍMITE
4.1 Prepare a mid year report for the BOD emphasizing accomplishments & constrains, both technically and financially, and other updates as necessary.	ES	July 2009
4.2 Recognition letters for Task Force members	ES-President BOD	December 2009



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ACTIONS/ACCIONES	RESPONSIBLE RESPONSABLES	DEADLINE FECHA LÍMITE
4.3 Complete the integration of a technical committee by the directors appointing a member.	BOD Members	1 st quarter 2009



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ANNEX 2

PROCINORTE BUDGET FOR 2009

2009 PROCINORTE BUDGET

Presupuesto de Actividad por Fuentes y Objeto de Gasto Mayor para el Año Calendario:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Para cada rubro a programar se debe dar una justificación. • Se debe programar los recursos en la(s) columna(s) correspondiente(s) a el/los recursos autorizados para este Instrumento de Cooperación. • Los recursos deben ser programados en dólares americanos. 		
Objeto de Gasto Mayor:	Justificación:	Recursos IICA (Cuota, Misceláneos y/o TIN)
Rubro	OGM	(en US\$):
Personal Profesional Internacional	1	
Personal Local	2	
Capacitación del personal	3	
Capacitación a terceros, eventos de coop. técnica	3	100,000
Viajes oficiales	4	4,000
Publicaciones	5	1,000
Materiales e insumos	5	1,000
Mejoras en terrenos y edificios	6	1,000
Adquisición de libros y publicaciones	6	
Adquisición de equipo y mobiliario	6	
Adquisición de vehículos	6	
Comunicaciones y servicios públicos	7	2,000
Mantenimiento	7	
Alquileres	7	
Contratos de Servicios (Aseo, vigilancia, otros)	7	
Consultores	8	<i>Nota: Detallar cada consultoría en la sección 3.5</i>
Traducciones	8	16,600
Actos oficiales, seguros y gastos bancarios	9	1,000
TOTAL		126,600



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ANNEX 3

Provisional Agenda / Agenda Provisional

TENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROCINORTE /
DÉCIMA REUNIÓN ANNUAL DE LA JUNTA DE DIRECTORES DE PROCINORTE

January 28 - 29, 2008

Sala de Usos Múltiples Edificio Principal Oficinas Centrales de INIFAP,
Av. Progreso 5 Barrio de Santa Catarina, Viveros de Coyoacan
Ciudad de México

Wednesday, Jan. 28 / Miércoles, Ene. 28

- 9:00 **Welcoming remarks / Palabras de bienvenida**
- **Dr. Pedro Brajcich**
Director General of the National Institute for Forestry and Agricultural Research/ Director General del Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales Agrícolas y Pecuarias
 - **Mr. David Hatch**
IICA Northern Region Director /Director de la Región Norte de IICA
 - **Dr. Víctor villalobos**
Coordinator for International Affairs, SAGARPA / Coordinador de Asuntos Internacionales de SAGARPA
- 9:30 **Approval of draft agenda / Aprobación de la agenda propuesta**
- **Dr. Enrique Astengo López**
President of PROCINORTE / Presidente de PROCINORTE
- 9:40 **Update on PROCINORTE / Actualización sobre PROCINORTE**
- **Dr. Gustavo M. Cruz Bello**
Executive Secretary of PROCINORTE / Secretario Ejecutivo de PROCINORTE
- 10:00 **Special Talk about FONTAGRO / Plática especial sobre FONTAGRO**
- **Dr. Nicolás Mateo**
Executive Secretary of FONTAGRO / Secretario Ejecutivo de FONTAGRO
- 10:45 -11:00 **Coffee break / Café**



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11:00 Task Forces' progress reports for 2007 /
Informes de avances de los Grupos de Trabajo en 2007

Note: A representative from each Task Force will make a presentation
Nota: Un representante de cada Grupo de Trabajo realizará una presentación.

- 11:00 -11:30 **Agricultural Library and Information Services Task Force /**
Grupo de Trabajo en Bibliotecas Agrícolas y Servicios de
Información
- 11:30 – 12:00 **Genetic Resources Task Force (NORGEN)/**
Grupo de Trabajo en Recursos Genéticos (NORGEN)
- 12:00 – 12:30 **Tropical and Subtropical Fruits Task Force /**
Grupo de Trabajo en Frutales Tropicales y Subtropicales
(Dr. Samuel Salazar)
- 12:30 – 13:00 **Plant Health Task Force /**
Grupo de Trabajo en Sanidad Vegetal
- 13:00 – 13:30 **Animal Health Task Force /**
Grupo de Trabajo en Salud Animal
- 13:30 – 14:00 **General Discussion on Task Forces /**
Discusión General sobre Grupos de Trabajo
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Luncheon / Almuerzo**
- 15:30 – 17:30 **Pending business / Asuntos pendientes**
- Review of Task Forces: performance, results and deliverables /
Revisión de los Grupos de Trabajo: desempeño, resultados y
entregables de los grupos de trabajo.
 - Appointment of the new Secretary of PROCINORTE (2009) /
Designación del Nuevo Secretario Ejecutivo de PROCINORTE (2009)
 - 2009 Work Plan / Plan de Trabajo 2009
 - 2009 PROCINORTE Budget /Presupuesto PROCINORTE 2009
- 17:30 End of day 1 / Fin del día 1

Thursday, Jan. 29 / Jueves, Ene. 29

- 9:00 – 11:00 **Continue discussion on pending business / Continúa**
discusión en asuntos pendientes



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Presentation of the Achievements on the strategic Plan of PROCINORTE/
Presentación de los logros en el Plan Estratégico de PROCINORTE.

- Introduction: Mario Pareja
- Evaluation of National Consultation Workshops on PROCINORTE /
Evaluación de los Talleres Nacionales de Consulta Sobre PROCINORTE: Consultation process and results/ Proceso de consulta y resultados

México: Dr. Enrique Astengo
Canada: Dr. Brad Fraleigh
USA: Dr. Craig Rexroad
Summary: Gustavo Cruz

- 11:00 – 11:15 Coffee Break / Café
- 11:15 – 12:15 Main Strategic Directions for the Future of POCINORTE/
Principales Direcciones Estratégicas para el Futuro de PROCINORTE.
- 12:15 – 13:30 Additional Business / Asuntos Adicionales
- Specific actions and budget for the Strategic Plan/
Acciones específicas y presupuesto para el Plan estratégico
 - Next PROCINORTE meeting (Date & Place) /
Próxima Reunión del PROCINORTE (Fecha y Lugar)
- 13:30 Closing Ceremony / Clausura. **Dr. Enrique Astengo López**
President of PROCINORTE / Presidente de PROCINORTE



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Annex 4

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January 28 - 29, 2008

Sala de Usos Múltiples Edificio Principal Oficinas Centrales de INIFAP,
Av. Progreso 5 Barrio de Santa Catarina, Viveros de Coyoacan
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Participants / Participantes

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*Cooperative Program in Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
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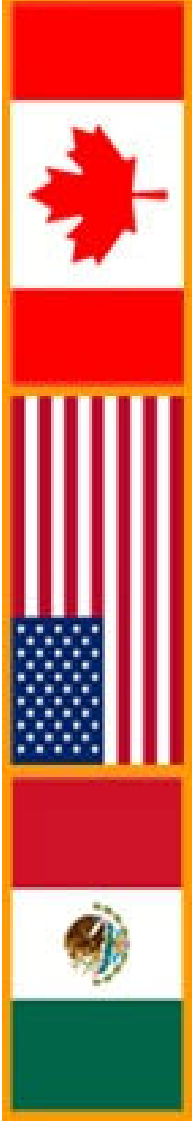
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PROCINORTE

Gustavo Cruz Bello



ANNEX 5

DRAFT

SELECTIVE SUMMARY OF MAIN PROCINORTE ISSUES COMPARED AMONG THE THREE COUNTRIES¹

Issue	Canada	Mexico	USA
Mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intra regional cooperation mechanism with hemispheric projection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intra regional cooperation mechanism with hemispheric projection as a technology provider & donor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regional integration mechanism designed to facilitate institutional and technical cooperation between Canada, United States and Mexico on strategic topics of common interest in agricultural research
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support improved production & trade at regional, hemispheric & global levels. ▪ Address both research & innovation ▪ Include outreach to other Americas countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pool together research, education & innovation institutions in regional programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Information sharing programs that review research that is common to all three countries ▪ Find areas of mutual interest already funded by all three countries to provide a synergistic effect ▪ Organize workshops on common research programs ▪ Facilitate interaction of government with private sector to identify common interest research ideas ▪ Identify research strengths of each country and then disseminate to stakeholders ▪ Foster/facilitate communication, coordination between groups with

Issue	Canada	Mexico	USA
<p>Main benefits so far perceived by stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved scientific standard setting for food quality & safety, access to genetic resources, scientific documentation ▪ Bean research ▪ Genetic resources networks ▪ Tropical & sub-tropical fruits work has attracted private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Library & information services ▪ Bean research ▪ Genetic resources networks ▪ Tropical & sub-tropical fruits work 	<p>parallel interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify emerging production issues ▪ Facilitate information exchange among government agencies for solving specific problems
<p>Task Forces</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Considered the heart of PROCINORTE ▪ Justified only when is a national priority for the 3 countries ▪ Need real focus to be efficient ▪ Structured for participation ▪ Should establish own priorities ▪ Funding provided by IICA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collectively, the Board will be able to assess each country's priorities and determine if PROCINORTE's Task Forces are on target or need to be adjusted.

Issue	Canada	Mexico	USA
Structure	<p>should be used as leverage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintain the same: BofD + Task Forces (may be one less) ▪ Develop long term strategy for phase out & in the Task Forces <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Activate Technical Advisory Committee with 3 country membership ▪ Explore Industry Advisory Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create a national advisory board to PROCINORTE ▪ Strengths & weaknesses of main institutions in Mexico were identified (see report). ▪ Also a list of stakeholders with their responsibilities was developed (see report). 	
Priority Setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Responsibility of each country director ▪ Possible surveys conducted by the BofD ▪ Final decisions at BofD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have been developed by thematic area (see below) & by products system (see document). 	
Other issues not addressed by task forces to be dealt through seminars, special events, conferences, brief papers, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Science based decision making on biotechnology ▪ Beans research ▪ Climate change & agriculture ▪ Sharing NAFTA lessons learned ▪ Policy briefing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institutional innovation ▪ Training & information transfer ▪ Information systems ▪ Policy briefing & development 	
Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Balance # of tasks forces ▪ Develop a funding strategy ▪ Member countries should 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Possibility to work with NIFA to define research grants that have components that need to be addressed



Issue	Canada	Mexico	USA
What it is not	<p>contribute funding to PROCINORTE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ IICA should increase funding allocation ▪ IICA could take over ES ▪ IICA should provide budget flexibility ▪ Other funding sources: explore ▪ Northern countries membership of FONTAGRO ▪ Approach Genome Canada ▪ Sell services to rest of hemisphere 		<p>in collaboration with Mexico and/or Canada due to trans-boundary nature of the issue.</p>
What needs to improve	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A quick response mechanism ▪ Communication mainly with Mexico ▪ Recognize national researchers' work in Task Forces ▪ Getting genetic resources out of Mexico 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identity of the PROCI: a commonality among the three countries ▪ Stronger support from the three countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve communication of PROCINORTE, internally in the ARS and externally with scientific agencies and stakeholders. ▪ Use <u>web based conferencing</u> technologies to bring scientists together for less \$\$ ▪ Work with other PROCI groups to strengthen hemispheric access to agricultural information, multilingual websites that support priority research

Issue	Canada	Mexico	USA
<p>Themes of interest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tuberculosis in bovines ▪ Arthropods vector of plant diseases, potato diseases, pesticide resistance ▪ Bean germplasm development ▪ Bioproducts & bioprocess ▪ Climate change 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plant & animal health & food safety ▪ Agribusiness & trade ▪ Technologies, including biotech ▪ Sustainable management of natural resources ▪ Climate change ▪ Agro-energy ▪ Information systems ▪ Extension and training ▪ Innovation: at the institutional & technological levels ▪ Arthropods vector of plant diseases, potato diseases, pesticide resistance 	<p>areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Establish scientific basis for quarantine uniformity amongst nations, states ▪ Continental scale dynamic risk assessment for animal diseases ▪ Follow NAPPO identified issues that affect trade ▪ Understanding horizontal gene transfer in bacteria that results in food safety and trade issues, rapid nucleic acid tests, traceability, risk assessment, predictive modeling, ▪ Amplify, unify, plant genetic resource efforts, systems ▪ Climate change adaptation ▪ Water resource management ▪ Environmental safety and sustainability of biotech crops (resistance monitoring, pest biology, range shifts, emerging pests) ▪ Better understanding of plant disease biology common to all three countries (e.g. <i>Phytophthora</i> spp.)

¹ MP. First draft: November 17, 2008. / GC. Second draft 27 January, 2009



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