



*Cooperative Program In Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte*

REPORT OF THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROCINORTE

February, 26-27, 2015 San José, Costa Rica

Contents

1. BACKGROUND AND MAIN OBJECTIVES.....	2
2. OPENING	2
3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA.....	2
4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE XVTH MEETING AND FOLLOW-UP	2
5. THE PROCIS AS MECHANISMS FOR REGIONAL COLLABORATION	2
6. REPORT OF PROCINORTE'S ACTIVITIES IN 2013-14.....	3
7. PROCINORTE PRIORITIES.....	5
8. DISCUSSION OF PROCINORTE STRATEGIC THEMES	6
• FUNDING AND MANAGEMENT.....	6
• INTERNALIZATION.....	7
• INTERNATIONALIZATION.....	7
9. PROCINORTE STRATEGIC PLAN 2015-2020.....	7
10. BOD ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2015 AND BUDGET 2015	7
11. VARIOUS ISSUES	8
12. ANNEXES	9
• ANNEX 1. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS.....	9
• ANNEX 2. AGENDA XVITH ANNUAL MEETING	11
• ANNEX 3. COMPOSITION OF PROCINORTE, FEBRUARY 2915.....	14
• ANNEX 4. PROCINORTE ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGETS 2015	17
• ANNEX 5. SUMMARY RESPONSES TO PROCINORTE QUESTIONNAIRE.....	18



1. Background and Main Objectives

The 16th Annual Meeting of the PROCINORTE Board of Directors (BoD), corresponding to the programming year from December 2013 to December 2014, took place at the Headquarters of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) located in San Isidro de Coronado, Costa Rica, on 26-27 February, 2015. The main objectives of the meeting were:

1. To review PROCINORTE activities from December 2013 to December 2014
2. To review the Task Forces' (TFs) composition, annual progress, achievements, work plans, proposed budgets, and progress made in the implementation of their Strategic Plans
3. To discuss and finalize the proposed PROCINORTE Strategic Plan 2015-20
4. To discuss and decide upon PROCINORTE's annual work plan and budget for 2015 and other relevant issues

2. Opening

The meeting initiated at 9:00 am with welcoming remarks given by Dr. Victor Villalobos, IICA's Director General who indicated that Canada, the US and Mexico are the leaders for innovation in agriculture in the Americas. Innovation being a key concept for IICA's work, he indicated that PROCINORTE could provide a key platform and leadership in innovation for hemisphere and the rest of the world. Dr. Villalobos briefly presented IICA's Medium Term Plan (MTP) and the four mechanisms for collaboration to deliver results on 11 institutional contributions.

Dr. Gilles Saindon, President of PROCINORTE opened the meeting indicating his appreciation of the challenges facing each country in terms of refocussing the work of researchers, the impact of technology transfer and the different context in the PROCINORTE countries in comparison with other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). PROCINORTE was established with this framework in mind. He declared the session open and welcomed all. The list of participants is presented in Annex 1.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The proposed agenda was adopted by the BOD (Annex 2).

4. Approval of the Minutes of the XVth Meeting and Follow-up

The decisions taken by the BOD during the XV Meeting in Ottawa, Canada, were read out by the Executive Secretary (ES) Priscila Henríquez and were ratified by the BoD.

Dr. Fraleigh from AAFC indicated that Canada remains keenly interested in improving the usefulness of the Report as a communication tool and therefore requested that draft minutes be available to the BOD members 60 days after the annual meeting, to allow for comments and finalization within 90 days after the meeting.

BoD Decision: the BoD approved the Minutes of the XVth meeting. The ES will circulate draft minutes within 60 days of each BoD meeting for comments and approval from the BoD members.

5. The PROCIs as mechanisms for regional collaboration

Dr. Salvador Fernández, IICA's Director of Technical Cooperation indicated that LAC, in particular the Southern Cone and North-America, is considered a breadbasket for the world, providing statistics that



*Cooperative Program In Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte*

demonstrated the differences in productivity between the sub-regions. He then presented the structure and functioning of the PROCIs as mechanisms to support innovation in the Hemisphere, indicating that innovation is a key concept in the IICA MTP 2014-18 and its technical cooperation model. IICA supports agricultural research through several mechanisms including the PROCIs, the Forum for the Americas on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO) and support to research institutions in the region. He presented IICA's four Flagship Projects: (1) competitiveness and sustainability of agricultural chains for food security and economic development, (2) inclusion in agriculture and rural areas, (3) resilience and comprehensive risk management in agriculture, and (4) productivity and sustainability of family agriculture for food security and the rural economy ([click here](#) for presentation). He also described the mechanisms of Rapid Response Actions, externally funded projects, and Pre-investment initiatives of the Technical Cooperation Fund. The PROCIs are "cross-cutting" in this structure, and their activities can be slotted into any of these categories as appropriate.

Dr. Fernández posed several issues for discussion including how to explore synergies among the PROCIs, how the capacity in the PROCINORTE countries could be tapped for the benefit of other regions in LAC, how to diversify the sources of funding for PROCINORTE and how to strengthen FORAGRO.

In the ensuing dialog, the issue of outreach was brought up. It was concluded that more outreach on agricultural research and innovation from PROCINORTE to other PROCIs is possible, based on common priorities and resources. Also the integration of the PROCINORTE agenda in a broader Northern Region agenda was discussed.

Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, IICA, offered to prepare a concept note, within two months, delineating potential collaboration mechanisms among the PROCIs, FORAGRO and other relevant organizations charged with supporting agricultural research and innovation in the Hemisphere. The aim is to use this document as a guide for advancing collaboration among the PROCIs.

BoD Decision: the ES will hold teleconferences with the four PROCINORTE TF members and IICA's thematic specialists starting in April to explore joint areas of collaboration among PROCIs and IICA's Flagship projects and other mechanisms.

6. Report of PROCINORTE's Activities in 2013-14

Representatives of the four PROCINORTE TFs participating by teleconference presented the achievements of each TF with an emphasis on the period 2013-14. The current composition of the Board and Task Forces is presented in Annex 3.

Plant Health TF: Dr. Jose Isabel Lopez (INIFAP) presented on behalf of the TF Chair Deb Fravel (ARS) ([click here](#) for presentation). He indicated that the focus of attention continues to be invasive species with initial emphasis on the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB). Other pests of interest are the Bagrada bug and the Kudzu bug. Also there is interest in addressing common problems posed by the diamondback moth (*Plutella xylostella*). The three organizations have agreed to use the diamondback moth to participate in the "5000 Insect Genome Project" that aims to sequence and analyze the genomes of 5,000 arthropod species.

Two activities were carried out during 2014. First, a one day workshop was held on August hosted by ARS in Beltsville, MD, on analysis of the data collected from sequencing insect genomes for use in taxonomy. Sponsored by PROCINORTE, three scientists from Mexico and one from Canada attended the



*Cooperative Program In Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte*

event run by local USDA entomologists. Besides learning about state of the art tools, the scientists are building a network in molecular taxonomy for insect pests of agricultural crops within the Region.

Second, PROCINORTE scientists participated in the XXXVII Symposium of Biological Control carried out in Merida, Mexico in December. In front of an audience of more than 300 international delegates, PROCINORTE scientists spoke about the work carried out with BMSB and the potential of biological control agents, of which 33 candidates have been identified in Mexico for controlling BMSB.

Animal Health TF: Dr. Eileen Thacker, Chair of this TF, presented its main accomplishments, emphasizing that as the themes addressed are linked with international trade, the network incorporates both regulatory officials and researchers. [Click here](#) for presentation.

In 2014, researchers, diagnosticians and regulators from the three countries met to discuss Bovine Tuberculosis at the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa. Control strategies with a focus on new techniques and harmonization of efforts was the main topic. PROCINORTE sponsored one scientist and one regulator per country, however 25 professionals from USDA and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS/USDA) also participated sponsored by their own organizations. The plan for 2015 is to carry out a workshop on "Rapid and Efficient Response to High Consequence Animal Diseases" to prepare for a quick response to the next high-impact animal disease outbreak.

NORGEN TF: Dr. Peter Bretting (USDA) presented on behalf of NORGEN's Chair Dr. Fernando de La Torre Sánchez (INIFAP), stressing that most activities focus on plant genetic resources and that these would probably not be carried out without the seed money provided by IICA to PROCINORTE. [Click here](#) for presentation.

Strengthening capacities for conservation information systems is a long-standing priority of NORGEN. In September, a three day GRIN-Global workshop was conducted at the Saskatoon Research Centre of AAFC. The twenty-one participants included scientists, genebank curators, database managers and technicians from different locations in Mexico and Canada. The instructor was a USDA GRIN-Global project team member from the US. Mexico is capitalizing on the knowledge generated by NORGEN; a similar training workshop for 15 Mexican curators was held at the Centro Nacional de Recursos Genéticos (CNRG) funded entirely by INIFAP. Also, a videoconference discussion on handling adventitious presence of genetically-engineered traits in genebank accessions was offered by CNRG to nine staff members from CNRG and JICA (Japan) and the participation by videoconference of a curator from ARS.

Among NORGEN's most important achievements is the inclusion of Canada and the United States in the International Symposium of Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean (SIRGEALC), which will now have hemispheric scope. Dr. Bretting reminded the BOD that SIRGEALC is a biennial event and will be carried out in Brazil this year and that this renewed focus is expected to stimulate more participation from curators in Canada and the US.

To conclude, Dr. Bretting indicated that 18 accessions of *Phaseolus* germplasm have been received at the CNRG. Since collection of these genetic resources had been supported by NORGEN a few years ago, it is expected that this germplasm would be shared with AAFC by late April 2015. Dr. Audia Barnett suggested we document the process and problems of the bean germplasm transfer so that it can be used in the future when this happens again.



Tree Fruit TF: The Chair of this TF, Dr. Ricardo Goenaga (ARS) indicated that the TF's research is not only very relevant for advancing tree fruit production, post-harvest and processing but also for providing scientific support for relevant quality regulation in the three countries. [Click here](#) for report.

In 2014, scientists from the three countries carried out a field mission to several avocado orchards in Mexico to continue work to develop a portable NiR analyzer to measure avocado maturity *in situ*. The trip was very productive as stated by Goenaga, especially for the new TF member from Canada, Dr. Peter Toivonen, who had a chance to learn about the challenges in the development of a tool to measure maturity *in situ*. As part of this project, Dr. Jorge Osuna (INIFAP) has performed in Mexico a series of fruit measurements with a spectrometer on avocado fruits to determine maturity and hence, fruit quality. There was also a valuable exchange of ideas among researchers and industry personnel concerning the need for this tool as a way to improve avocado quality. Orchard and packing-house owners indicated their willingness to support the TF project, not only in economic terms by offering in-kind help for their employees' time but also on logistics, use of orchards, and packing-houses.

A report of the PROCINORTE activities for the period was circulated to the BOD previous to the meeting ([Click here](#) for Report).

The members of the BoD commended the TFs for the excellent quality and relevance of the work carried out to date, noting that many activities are carried out by leveraging the limited funding made available from IICAs budget. An animated discussion ensued on the achievements, roles and future work of the four TFs. It was particularly stressed by the BoD that PROCINORTE is carrying out excellent outreach, especially by increasing the use of videoconferences.

The ES presented a consolidated table with the TFs' proposed actions plans for 2015, that features trilateral workshops for each task force aligned with PROCINORTE's current priorities (Annex 4). She noted that the total budget for these activities would be US\$59,704, while IICA has allocated an operational budget for PROCINORTE of \$50,000. It was noted that the proposed activities for 2015 will leverage large amounts of in-kind financial support and provide good examples of outreach.

The BoD congratulated the TF representatives for their presentations and commended their excellent work and important results. There was a sense of urgency to find more funds because none of the research organizations has funding specifically targeted for international activities.

BoD Decision: The BoD approved the work plans and proposed budget of the TFs.

7. PROCINORTE Priorities

The members of the board presented their country priorities and a discussion moderated by Dr. Audia Barnett, IICA's Northern Region Coordinator followed.

Dr. Saindon highlighted the strategic direction of Canada's Science and Technology Branch (STB) and indicated that the activities focus on the application of science to agri-based production systems to support innovation in the sector ([Click here](#) for presentation).

The Representative from ARS/USDA in the BoD, Dr. Stephen Kappes, Deputy Administrator of ARS/USDA, presented the agricultural research priorities in his country. These priorities focus on food security and hunger, sustainable energy and bioproducts, food safety, climate change and sustainability,



and human nutrition and obesity ([Click here](#) for presentation).

Dr. Francisco Moreno Sánchez representing INIFAP indicated that the priorities for the institution include research production and postharvest of several crops, including corn, beans and sugar cane, and of other products such as honey, as well as an emphasis on adaptation and mitigation to climate change, and soil and water conservation. He stressed that INIFAP is also in charge of extension and technology transfer to producers through several means ([Click here](#) for presentation).

Dr. Fraleigh cautioned that several criteria besides the number of cooperative projects must be taken into consideration when reviewing research priorities for PROCINORTE, such as avoiding duplication with the work of other international organizations, and balancing priorities with means, especially financial. The BoD also discussed relationship with the economic and the social value of research.

Dr. Barnett summarized the session highlighting the observation that current common areas of research priorities across the three countries were also reflected in IICA's Technical Cooperation agenda. She further indicated that IICA's Northern Region platform was well placed to leverage a coordinating and information sharing mechanism for outreach initiatives to the rest of the hemisphere. The potential articulation among PROCINORTE, other PROCIs and IICA's flagship projects in such topics as genetic resources, resilient crops and invasive species, was also stressed.

BoD decision: The BoD members agreed on priorities for technical cooperation and updated common research agenda for the Northern Region to be reflected in the Strategic Plan 2015-2020.

8. Discussion of PROCINORTE Strategic Themes

- **Funding and management**

Dr. Saindon led a general dialog guided by the question "Are the funding mechanisms appropriate and the operation/decision making processes effective?"

The ES shared the summary results of a questionnaire sent to BoD and TF members to obtain their feedback for a SWOT analysis for PROCINORTE (Annex 5) where the most common challenge reported was the limited funding available. She indicated that according to IICA's records, PROCINORTE's budget expenditure execution reached 97.4% during 2014.

The representative from Canada noted that PROCINORTE needs its base allocation, and that it would be beneficial that some other mechanisms could complement it. He cautioned that the current budget proposal of \$50K probably makes the operation of PROCINORTE impracticable as it stands at present.

Dr. Fernandez expressed that unlike PROCINORTE other PROCIs are financially supported by the member countries and operate through externally funded projects. He indicated there are other funding mechanisms, in particular externally funded projects and IICA Rapid Response Actions to fund proposal development in specific calls that could be explored to support the technical work of the TF, as for example the Rapid Response Action line. Canada noted that the work of PROCINORTE's TFs is indeed supported by the member countries through their leverage of national research budgets, and that IICA does provide Secretariat support to the other PROCIs. Moreover the use of other IICA funding mechanisms might bypass the BoD and the criteria that PROCINORTE must determine activities to be of value to all three countries.

Dr. Fernandez indicated that IICA will provide funding for the proposed TF activities as budgeted as well



as seed funding to hold the two annual meetings of the BoD during the current year (i.e. in February and October). However, the board will have to work in developing a strategy for sustainable financing of PROCINORTE.

BoD Decision: to return to holding the Annual Board meeting in October each year to allow for better coordination of annual plans and budgets with IICA's planning cycle. Task Forces will submit their budget proposals in September in order for the BoD to evaluate PROCINORTE's overall budget for the coming year.

- **Internalization**

The questions how to make PROCINORTE more effective and functional and how the Program links with relevant activities of member institutions and other institutions in the three countries was addressed. The members of the BoD indicated that their organizations are very committed to supporting the work of the TFs as this is important to fulfill their research mandate. All activities fall within the strategic and annual plans of their organizations.

- **Internationalization**

A brainstorming session to more effectively link PROCINORTE with global initiatives and in particular within the hemisphere and other PROCIs was held. Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim indicated that there are good opportunities for involvement with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and its international research centers, particularly through the CGIAR Research Programs (CRPs).

It was stated that the countries of PROCINORTE welcome more outreach on agricultural research and innovation from PROCINORTE to other PROCIs, and that this outreach would not replace bilateral agricultural science and technology cooperation with countries of the American Hemisphere. Also, it was specified the mandates of the members of PROCINORTE is research, not capacity building and development, which are addressed by other government agencies in the three countries. The PROCINORTE representatives stated the willingness in principle of their countries to participate in the next meeting of the FORAGRO Executive Committee, to be held in Brazil in July 2015.

The BoD asked IICA to draft a concept note to identify staff, leaders and/or contact persons to enrich the activities of the TFs and perhaps leverage additional in-kind funding, such as through new programs to which IICA staff has access, without creating additional burdens for the TF members (such as funding travel).

9. PROCINORTE Strategic Plan 2015-2020

The ES gave a presentation on a new draft Strategic Plan, resulting from comments provided by the members in 2014 ([Click here](#) for presentation). A discussion and revision of the elements and text of the proposed Strategic Plan 2015-20 was held in light of the topics discussed in the previous sections.

BoD decision: the members BoD approved the Strategic Plan in principle, subject to finalization for accuracy in integrating the modifications decided during the meeting.

10. BoD Annual Work Plan 2015 and Budget 2015

The BoD reviewed the draft PROCINORTE Annual Plan 2015 and Budget 2015 as was initially discussed under the budget issues session. The BoD decided to make some changes to update the drafts.



*Cooperative Program In Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte*

BoD decision: the members BoD approved PROCINORTE's Annual Work Plan as amended, and, in principle, the 2015 Budget. The BoD will review and approve by electronic mail a revised Budget proposal including BoD expenses, provided by the ES.

BoD decision: to request that the TFs present their annual plans and budgets during September each year so that these can be reviewed and approved during the BoD's annual meeting in October. The ES should give early warning to the TF chairs about this request in March, and remind them each month.

11. Various Issues

The Board members expressed their satisfaction with PROCINORTE's activities during 2014 and congratulated the members of the TFs for their excellent collaboration in their areas of expertise. The BoD agreed to meet in Washington D.C. (USA) during October or November 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.



*Cooperative Program In Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte*

12. ANNEXES

- **Annex 1. List of participants**

Board Members:

- Dr. Gilles Saindon - Acting Assistant Deputy Minister at AAFC (Acting ADM), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Science and Technology Branch. 1305 Baseline Road Tower 5, Floor 6, Room 256. Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5 Canada. Telephone: 613-773-1840. Email: gilles.saindon@agr.gc.ca
- Dr. Steven Kappes, US Representative, Deputy Administrator U.S. Department of Agriculture. Agricultural Research Service. 1400 Independence Ave SW, Whitten Building, Room 302-A. Washington, DC 20250. Tel: 202.720.3658, Fax: 202.720.5427 E-mail: Stephen.kappes@ars.usda.gov
- Dr. Francisco Moreno Sánchez, Director Forestal, Unidad de Apoyo Técnico. Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP). Oficinas Centrales, Av. Progreso No 5, Barrio de Santa Catarina, Delegación Coyoacán. México, D.F. C.P. 04010. Phone: 8-4030-011-52-55-38.71.87.39 (o 31). Email: moreno.francisco@inifap.gob.mx
- Dr. Salvador Fernández, Director Technical Cooperation, IICA. Salvador.fernandez@iica.int

Assistant to Board Members:

- Dr. Brad Fraleigh. Director, Multilateral S&T Relations. Cross-Sectoral Strategic Direction. Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. 1341 Baseline Road, Tower 5-5, Room 133, Ottawa, Ontario Canada K1A 0C6. Telephone 613-773-1838 email: brad.fraleigh@agr.gc.ca
- Mr. Ryan Moore. International Affairs Specialist. USDA, Agricultural Research Service. Office of International Research Programs. 5601 Sunnyside Ave., Bldg 4-1124-A, Beltsville, MD 20705-5141, USA. Ph: +1-(301)-504-4535, Mobile: +1-(240)-393-8078. ryan.moore@ars.usda.gov

Task Force Members (participating by teleconference):

- Dr. Peter Bretting, Country Representative NORGEN USA), National Program Leader,, Plant Germplasm & Genomes, Room 4-2212, 5601 SUNNYSIDE AVENUE, GWCC-BLTSVL, BELTSVILLE, MD, 20705-5139, Phone: (301) 504-5541, Fax: (301) 504-6191, peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov
- Dr. Ricardo Goenaga, Chair Tree Fruits Task Force (USA), Research Leader, USDA-ARS, Tropical Agricultural Research Station, 2200 Pedro Albizu Campos Avenue, Suite 201, Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, 00680-5470, EE.UU., Tel: (787) 831-3439, Fax: (787) 831-3386, E-mail: rgoenaga@ars-grin.gov
- Dr. Eileen Thacker, Chair Animal Health Task Force (USA), National Program Leader, Animal Health, USDA - Agricultural Research Service, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5148, eileen.thacker@ars.usda.gov
- Dr. José Isabel López Arroyo , Country Representative Plant Health Task Force (MEXICO), Head Research , CAMPO EXPERIMENTAL GENERAL TERAN, Dirección: Km. 31 Carretera Montemorelos-China , Exhacienda Las Anacuas C.P. 67400, Teléfono: 01-826-2670260 (dial: 011 52 8262670260), Tel.: (01826) 26-70-539, lopez.jose@inifap.gob.mx



*Cooperative Program In Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte*

Invited professionals:

- Dr. Víctor Villalobos, Director General, IICA. victor.villalobos@iicat.int
- Dr. Muhammad Ibrahim, Director Regional Cooperation Mechanisms, IICA.
[Muhammad.ibrahim@iica.int](mailto:Mohammad.ibrahim@iica.int)
- Dr. Audia Barnett, IICA Representative in Canada. 130 Albert Street, Suite 1002, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1P 5G4. Tel: 613.230.1044.E-mail: audia.barnett@iica.int
- Mrs. Gloria Abraham, IICA's Representative in Mexico. Gloria.abraham@iica.int
- Dr. Diego Montenegro, Director regional Integration, IICA, diego.montenegro@iica.int
- Mr. Miguel Angel Arvelo, IICA's Representative in Costa Rica, miguel.arvelo@iica.int
- Dr. Priscila Henriquez. Executive Secretary of PROCINORTE. Specialist in the Management of Technological Innovation. IICA Office in the US. 1889 F Street N.W. Suite 360, Washington D.C. 20006. Tel (202) 458-6971.email: priscila.henriquez@iica.int
- Wendell Dennis (Foreign Agricultural Service –FAS, USA also visited sessions of the meeting. wendell.dennis@fas.usda.gov

• **Annex 2. AGENDA XVIth ANNUAL MEETING**

Meeting objectives:

1. Review the accomplishments of PROCINORTE from 2009 to 2014, with emphasis on 2014
2. Review the 2015 work plans and proposed budgets of the Task Forces.
3. Discuss and finalize the PROCINORTE Strategic Plan 2015-2020
4. Discuss and decide on PROCINORTE’s work plan for 2015

Expected results:

1. Members of PROCINORTE are familiar with achievements made from 2009 to date
2. Task Force work plans and budgets approved
3. PROCINORTE Strategic Plan 2015-2020 finalized and agreed.
4. PROCINORTE work plan for 2015 approved.

Meeting Agenda

Wednesday 25: Arrival of participants in Costa Rica			
Thursday 26		<i>Methodology</i>	<i>Expected results</i>
9:00 – 9:10	Welcoming remarks - Dr. Víctor Villalobos, IICA Director General		
9:10 – 9:20	Opening Session - Dr. Gilles Saindon, President of PROCINORTE		
9:20 – 9:25	Approval of agenda - Dr. Gilles Saindon		
9:25 – 9:35	Approval of Minutes XV Meeting of PROCINORTE BOD and follow up - Dr. Gilles Saindon	Dr. Priscila Henríquez, Executive Secretary of PROCINORTE, reviews decisions from XV th meeting and informs on follow up	
9:35 – 10:30	The PROCIs as mechanisms to support innovation in the American Hemisphere - presentation by Dr. Salvador Fernández, Technical Cooperation Director- IICA	After the presentation Dr. Gilles Saindon leads a general discussion with all participants	Participants decide on measures to promote the role of PROCINORTE within hemispheric research and innovation and agree to implement some best practices
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break		
11:00 – 13:00	Reports from Task Forces 2009-14 and Proposed actions for 2015. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant Health Task Force: Dr. Jose Isabel Lopez (INIFAP, Mexico) 	Report by chairs of the Task Forces by video or teleconference (20 minutes each plus 10 min Q&A) followed by general discussion.	Board members knowledgeable about the PROCINORTE’s technical achievements in the current priority topics and hear from leaders on the

**Cooperative Program in Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Health Task Force: Dr. Eileen Thacker (ARS, Beltsville, MD) NORGEN: Dr. Fernando De La Torre Sánchez (INIFAP, Mexico) Fruits Task Force: Dr. Ricardo Goenaga (ARS, Mayaguez) 	* A short report on accomplishments, plans and proposed budgets is distributed to board members	challenges faced and ideas to move forward
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch		
14:00 – 15:15	PROCINORTE Priorities	Members of the board present country priorities, discussion moderated by Dr. Audia Barnett, Northern Region Coordinator- IICA	Board members agree on priorities for technical cooperation and updated common research agenda for the Northern Region to be reflected in the Strategic Plan 2015-2020
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee break		
15:45 – 17:30	<p>Discussion of PROCINORTE Strategic Themes</p> <p>Theme: Funding and management. Questions: Are the funding mechanisms appropriate and the operation/decision making processes effective?</p> <p>Theme: Internalization. Questions: How to make PROCINORTE more effective and functional? How does the Program links with relevant activities of member institutions and other institutions in the three countries?</p>	Dr. Gilles Saindon leads a general discussion with all participants	Board members exchange information on the way ahead for PROCINORTE in terms of management and internalization within the member countries and seek to agree on mechanisms to strengthen PROCINORTE, to be reflected in the Strategic Plan 2015-2020.
17:30	Close first day		
19:00	<p>Official dinner Restaurant El Grano de Oro Calle 30, Avenida 2 y 4, San José, Costa Rica, Phone: (506) 2255-3322 E-mail: info@hotelgranodeoro.com</p>		



**Cooperative Program In Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte**

Friday, 27			
		<i>Methodology</i>	<i>Expected results</i>
9:00 – 10:00	Discussion of PROCINORTE Strategic Themes Theme: Internationalization. Questions: How does the Program link with other initiatives globally and in particular within the hemisphere and other PROCIs?	Dr. Gilles Saindon leads a general discussion with all participants	Board members seek to decide actions to collaborate more effectively within the hemisphere
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break		
10:30 – 11:45	PROCINORTE Strategic Plan 2015-2020	Dr. Gilles Saindon leads a general discussion with all participants in light of agreements from previous sessions and input since the last BoD meeting	Finalization of the PROCINORTE Strategic Plan 2015-2020
11:45 – 12:150	BoD Annual Plan 2015 and Budget 2015- Dr. Gilles Saindon	Priscila Henríquez present a draft annual plan (15 minutes) and Dr. Gilles Saindon leads a general discussion with all participants in light of agreements from previous sessions	Annual Plan 2015 and Budget 2015 are approved with deadlines, responsible and resources
12:15 – 12:30	Additional Business - Next PROCINORTE meeting (Date & Place)	Dr. Gilles Saindon	
12:30 – 14:00	Closing and Lunch		
Saturday, 28			
Participants return to their countries			



*Cooperative Program In Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte*

• **Annex 3. Composition of PROCINORTE, February 2915**

DIRECTORY OF PROCINORTE, UPDATED March 2015	
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
Dr. Gilles Saindon President Country Representative (CANADA)	Associate Assistant Deputy Minister (Associate ADM) Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Science and Technology Branch 1305 Baseline Road Tower 5, Floor 6, Room 256 Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C5 Canada Telephone : 613-773-1840 Fax : 613-773-1844 gilles.saindon@agr.gc.ca
Dr. Stephen Kappes Country Representative (USA)	Deputy Administrator Animal Production and Protection General Biological Science, Animal Production and Protection Phone: (301) 504-4700 Room 4-2108, USDA-ARS-NATIONAL PROGRAM STAFF GWCC-BLTSVL steven.kappes@ars.usda.gov
Dr. Luis Fernando Flores Lui Country Representative (MEXICO)	Director General Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales Agrícolas y Pecuarias Oficinas Centrales, Av. Progreso No 5, Barrio de Santa Catarina, Delegación Coyoacán, México, D.F. C.P. 04010 Tel: (55) 38 71 87 33, Fax: (55) 38 71 87 01 flores.luis@inifap.gob.mx
Mr. Ryan Moore Ryan.Moore@ARS.USDA.GOV	International Relations Specialist USDA/Agricultural Research Service Office of International Research Programs 5601 Sunnyside Ave., Bldg 4-1124-A, Beltsville, MD 20705-5141, USA Ph: +1-(301)-504-4535, Mobile: +1-(240)-393-8078 ryan.moore@ars.usda.gov
Dr. Brad Fraleigh	Director, Multilateral S&T Relations Cross-Sectoral Strategic Direction Agriculture and Agri-Food 1341 Baseline Road, Tower 5-5, Room 133 Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0C6 Telephone 613-773-1838, Cellular 613-240-9786 brad.fraleigh@agr.gc.ca
Dr. Francisco Moreno Sánchez	Director de Soporte Forestal, INIFAP Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales Agrícolas y Pecuarias Oficinas Centrales, Av. Progreso No 5, Barrio de Santa Catarina, Delegación Coyoacán, México, D.F. C.P. 04010 Tel: (55) 38 71 87 33 moreno.francisco@inifap.gob.mx
Dr. Priscila Henríquez Executive Secretary	Specialist in the Management of Technological Innovation 1889 F Street N.W. Suite 360, Washington D.C. 20006 Tel (202) 458-6971, priscila.henriquez@iica.int
Dr. Audia Barnett	IICA Representative in Canada, audia.barnett@iica.int



*Cooperative Program in Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte*

DIRECTORY OF PROCINORTE, UPDATED March 2015	
GENETIC RESOURCES TASK FORCE	
Dr. José Fernando De la Torre Sánchez Chair (MEXICO)	Director Centro Nacional de Recursos Genéticos C.E. CENTRO - ALTOS DE JALISCO KM. 8 CARRETERA TEPATITLÁN-LAGOS DE MORENO, COL. RANCHO LAS CRUCES TEPATITLÁN DE MORELOS C.P. 47600, JALISCO CNRG Tel: 011-52-37-81-06-50-20 Correo-e: delatorre.fernando@inifap.gob.mx
Dr. Axel Diederichsen Country Representative (CANADA)	National Curator for Plant Germplasm Plant Gene Resources of Canada Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Room P 103, 107 Science Place Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 0X2 Telephone: (306) 956-2839, Fax: (306) 956-7246 Internet: axel.diederichsen@agr.gc.ca
Dr. Peter Bretting Country Representative (USA)	National Program Leader, Plant Germplasm & Genomes Room 4-2212, 5601 SUNNYSIDE AVENUE, GWCC-BLTSVL BELTSVILLE, MD, 20705-5139 Phone: (301) 504-5541, Fax: (301) 504-6191 E-mail: peter.bretting@ars.usda.gov
TREE FRUITS TASK FORCE	
Dr. Ricardo Goenaga Chair (USA)	Research Leader USDA-ARS Tropical Agricultural Research Station 2200 Pedro Albizu Campos Avenue, Suite 201 Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, 00680-5470, EE.UU. Tel: (787) 831-3439, Fax: (787) 831-3386 E-mail: rgoenaga@ars-grin.gov
Dr. Samuel Salazar-García Country Representative (MEXICO)	Fisiólogo de Frutales Tropicales Coordinador Nacional de la Red de Frutales Tropicales / National Coordinator of Tropical Fruit Crops Network INIFAP-Campo Experimental Santiago Ixcuintla Km. 6 Entronque Carret. Internacional México-Nogales Apdo. Postal 100, Santiago Ixcuintla, Nayarit 63300, MÉXICO Tel./Fax (323) 235-2031 y 235-0710 Ext.139 Correo-e: samuelsalazar@prodigy.net.mx salazar.samuel@inifap.gob.mx
Dr. Jorge Osuna	Especialista en Post-Cosecha National Coordinator of Tropical Fruit Crops Network INIFAP-Campo Experimental Santiago Ixcuintla Km. 6 Entronque Carret. Internacional México-Nogales Apdo. Postal 100, Santiago Ixcuintla, Nayarit 63300, MÉXICO Tel./Fax (323) 235-2031 y 235-0710 Ext.139 Correo-e: jorge.osuna@inifap.gob.mx
Dr. Peter Toivonen	Research Scientist in Food Safety and Quality



*Cooperative Program in Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte*

DIRECTORY OF PROCINORTE, UPDATED March 2015	
Country Representative (CANADA)	Pacific Agri-Food Research Centre - Summerland Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada 4200 Highway 97, PO Box 5000 Summerland, British Columbia, V0H 1Z0, Canada Telephone: (250) 494-6386 Fax: (250) 494-0755 Internet: peter.toivonen@agr.gc.ca
ANIMAL HEALTH TASK FORCE	
Dr. Eileen Thacker Chair (USA)	National Program Leader Animal Health USDA - Agricultural Research Service 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Beltsville, Maryland 20705-5148 eileen.thacker@ars.usda.gov
Dr. Primal Silva Country Representative (CANADA)	Chief Science Operating Officer Canadian Food Inspection Agency Floor 3, Room 258 1400 Merivale Road, Tower 2 Ottawa ON K1A 0Y9 (613) 773-5283 Primal.Silva@inspection.gc.ca
Jose Lopez, DVM, MSc, PhD	National Manager Animal Health Research & Partnerships Canadian Food Inspection Agency 1400 Merivale Rd. Tower 1, 1st Floor, Room 314 Ottawa ON K1A 0Y9 (613) 773-5293, Fax: (613) 773-5387 Jose.Lopez@inspection.gc.ca
D. Julio Vicente Figueroa Millán	Investigador CENID-PARASITOLOGIA VETERINARIA Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias. Km 11.5 Carretera Cuernavaca-Cautla, Jiutepec, Morelos. C.P. 62550 Tel. (777) 319-28-48 ext 139 E-Mail: figueroa.julio@inifap.gob.mx
PLANT HEALTH TASK FORCE	
Dr. Deborah Fravel Country Representative (USA)	National Program Leader for Plant Health. Beltsville, Maryland, Phone 1-301-504-5450 and deborah.fravel@ars.usda.gov
Dr. Della Johnston Country Representative (CANADA)	Director Research Development and Technology for Harrow and London Floor 1, Room A-101, 2585 COUNTY ROAD 20 Harrow Ontario NOR 1G0, Canada Telephone: (519) 738-1218, della.johnston@agr.gc.ca
Dr. José Isabel López Arroyo Country Representative (MEXICO)	Head Research CAMPO EXPERIMENTAL GENERAL TERAN Dirección: Km. 31 Carretera Montemorelos-China Exhacienda Las Anacuas C.P. 67400 Teléfono: 01-826-2670260, (01826) 26-70-539

● **Annex 4. PROCINORTE ANNUAL PLAN AND BUDGETS 2015**

	ACTIVITY	Expected Result	RESPONSIBLE	DATE	BUDGET US\$	ASSUMPTION
ANIMAL HEALTH	Workshop Rapid and Efficient Response to High Consequence Animal Diseases	At least 12 scientists from laboratories better prepared to deal with high consequence animal disease situations. Some potential candidate diseases are porcine epidemic diarrhea (PED), porcine coronaviruses, highly pathogenic avian influenza, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and bovine tuberculosis	Eileen Thacker, Jose Lopez and Julio Figueroa	August Mexico	21,564	PROCINORTE allocated budget
NORGEN	Gene-Bank Manager Meeting for North America, Central America and Caribbean Countries	Genebank managers from 10 Countries of the North and Central America regions exchange experiences identified opportunities for collaboration.	Fernando De La Torre, Peter Bretting, Axel Diederichsen	Sep. Mexico	3,640	PROCINORTE allocated budget
	X International Symposium of Genetic Resources for the Latin American and Caribbean Regions (SIRGEALC)	Three NORGEN members (One from Canada, One from USA and one from Mexico) get acquainted with the most recent research developments on Genetic Resources in the Latin America and Caribbean Region; relationships are strength with specialists Latin America and the Caribbean.	Fernando De La Torre, Peter Bretting, Axel Diederichsen	Oct, Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil.	7,500	AAFC and ARS/USDA scientists get financial support
				Total	11,140	
PLANT HEALTH	Workshop: Hands-on training for molecular taxonomy techniques	Four scientists trained hand on in methods to accurately use molecular techniques for diagnosis of invasive pests	Jose Isabel Lopez, Deb Fravel, Della Johnson	Oct, Mexico	12,000	PROCINORTE allocated budget, AAFC and ARS/USDA scientists get financial support
TREE FRUITS	Continue research project Evaluating Avocado Maturity using Spectral Analysis	Scientists from three countries able to correlate NIR with dry matter and other parameters (670/740nm) advancing results to obtain a practical tool to measure fruit maturity in situ	Ricardo Goenaga, Samuel Salazar, Jorge Osuna and Peter Toivonen	Sept. Mexico	15,000	PROCINORTE allocated budget
					59,704	
Annual Meeting Costa Rica Feb. 2015	Board expenses				3,936	Verified SAP
Annual meeting				Wash. Oct.	3,411	
Grand total					67,051	



- **Annex 5. SUMMARY RESPONSES TO PROCINORTE QUESTIONNAIRE**

1. What are the three major strengths of PROCINORTE?
 - a. Good mechanism to promote interactions between Canada, Mexico and the US, promoter of collaboration between members
 - b. Foster information exchange between experts, including regulators
 - c. Minimal red tape involved in getting participants involved in trilateral activities
2. What are the three major areas in which you think PROCINORTE should improve?
 - a. Limited funding
 - b. Communications
 - c. Management to ensure follow up to technical recommendations
 - d. Member countries need to better promote PROCINORTE within spheres of influence
3. As you are aware, PROCINORTE receives some seed money from IICA to support scientific meetings and training, which is match by in-kind contributions from the member organizations. How can we improve the financial situation of PROCINORTE to have a better impact?
 - a. ARS: no monies for trilateral workshop, but in-kind contributions with personnel
 - b. Each country could provide funding for research, then TF could prepare proposals for review and approval by Board
 - c. Engage with relevant stakeholders in each country, including private sector
 - d. Engage with IICA office in Spain and mobilize funding through EU Horizon 2020
 - e. Request IICA funding to previous level (decreasing from \$130K - \$70K - \$50K)
 - f. Everyone agreed on assisting in fundraising in their own capacity
4. Would you be willing to support with mobilizing resources for PROCINORTE? If so, how
 - a. All respondents willing to collaborate in their won capacities.
5. How can coordination between the Board Members, the Task Forces and the Executive Secretary be improved?

According to one of our Task Force Leaders, “it is well coordinated now. In as much as possible, I would strive to keep bureaucracy out of PROCINORTE. The moment bureaucracy increases in any organization, efficiency is reduced significantly. So far, I don’t think this is a problem with PROCINORTE and we should work together in keeping it that way. Some minimum level of bureaucracy is always needed for accountability reasons.” We agree that the processes used in PROCINORTE to approve projects and to actually carry out a workshop, are generally very easy and not restrictive to work within. If PROCINORTE utilized more firm deadlines we could have a regular cycle of work submission and Board input for approving budgets and for setting thematic priorities. Recommendations for improving coordination between the Board Members, the Task Forces and the Executive Secretary include:



*Cooperative Program In Agricultural Research and Technology for the Northern Region
Programa Cooperativo en Investigación y Tecnología Agrícola para la Región Norte*

- a. To improve communication, effective use of SharePoint, and follow-up coordination of commitments made at workshops, scientific meetings, and training sessions.
- b. To ensure that everyone has the same understanding of the purpose of PROCINORTE and the purpose of the seed funding.
6. Please list any other ideas you have for improving PROCINORTE to make it more valuable for its stakeholders and more impactful overall.
 - a. Link with other research institutions in the member countries to leverage capacities
 - b. Create and fund task forces on other areas of trilateral interest i.e. climate change, water and soil management, technology transfer, food security
 - c. Connect with industry, i.e. fruits and animal health
 - d. Consult with TF when planning events to ensure activities relevant for the three countries, themes of value and realistic expectations for use of information
 - e. Enhance outreach to Latin American and Caribbean countries