

PROCINORTE
2018 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT
10 October 2018

As of October 10, 2018, PROCINORTE’s work plan activities have been implemented according to the approved Strategic Plan (2015 – 2020), with some adjustments made to the approved Work Plan for 2018.

1. Progress on TF Work Plan 2018

The following activities have been executed by the Task Forces with support provided from the Secretariat:

Task Force	Planned Activity	Activity Planned / Executed	Comments
ANIMAL HEALTH	Workshop “Genomics Tools for Animal Health Research” and Task Force Planning Meeting	This activity was successfully executed as planned, September - 5, 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 34 persons from the 3 countries (Canada, Mexico and United States) attended to this workshop. • 1 participant from CaribVet, on invitation, attended & presented • 100% Budget US \$12,000.00 allocated was spent.
	Heartwater Gap Analysis Workshop	This activity will take place in Guadeloupe from October 8-12, 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US \$3,000.00 was budgeted for participation in the workshop, however Dr. Gay was self-sponsored. The funds were subsequently earmarked to accommodate training of a Mexican technician to work in Pullman to support the continued effort on Cattle Tick Fever research.
	Continued activities on 2 projects : Use of IFN-expressing vectors in control of Nipah and Ebola viruses in swine” and “Collaborative Research on Vesicular Stomatitis Diagnosis and Epidemiology”	<p>IFN-expressing vectors in control of Nipah and Ebola has been completed and report submitted.</p> <p>Collaborative Research on Vesicular Stomatitis Diagnosis and Epidemiology” is still underway</p>	<p>The technical report noted:</p> <p>The Ad5-poIFN-α gave very promising results as a possible countermeasure in case of EBOV outbreak in swine, and in combination with Ad5-poIFN-λ pre-treatment may be further explored to offer protection over a broader time-frame (effect of poIFN-λ is expected to have a later onset than poIFN-α).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>AHTF Research Project Report - IFN-Expressing Vectors - Control of Nipah Ebola</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Doc.Annex 7</p>

Budget Allocation (USD):	\$15,000.00
Expenditure (USD):	12,713.00
Planned - not yet executed (USD)	3,000.00
Estimated Balance (USD)	-713

Task Force	Planned Activity	Activity Planned / Executed	Comments
NORGEN	Enhanced cooperation among Canada, Mexico, and the US to train the next generation of plant genetic resource managers	This activity took place in Ft. Collins, CO, US during the week of April 23 to 25.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The funds were assigned for this event, however at the time that the training took place, the budget had not been approved by IICA. The activity was funded by the organisers of this event in Colorado State and USDA/ARS The assigned budget of US\$ 5,000.00 was made available for another activity.
	Enhanced cooperation among US, Mexico and Canada to improve the effectiveness of plant genetic resource management	The workshop took place in Washington D.C from June 19 to 21, 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bod had recommended virtual participation, however TF members indicated the high value of attending in person. Dr. Moises Cortes of INIFAP represented the Task Force, US and Canadian TF members were self-sponsored Budget allocated US \$5,000.00 budget spent US\$ 2,163.54.
	Outreach workshop - Three Sisters Project Enhanced cooperation for indigenous genetic resources in USA, Canada & Mexico.	November 2018, in St. Hyacinth, Quebec, Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PROCINORTE will support 3 Mexican Participants to exchange knowledge and to discuss the results of their work with Canadian First Nation community leaders. A presentation is scheduled during the 1-day workshop. Side meetings being organized for the Mexican scientist working on the maize study. Budget allocated US \$5,000.00 budget Proposal

	Project on Genetic diversity of native maize in Mexico and Canada	A proposal submitted by Task Force Member, Dr. Jose Fernando de La Torre, INIFAP, was approved for implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Juan Manuel Hernández Casillas of INIFAP will be leading a research project which aims to check the native genetic diversity of maize in Mexico and Canada. Proposal English version Doc. Annex 8 Budget allocated US \$5,000.00 budget
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Budget Allocation (USD):	\$15,000
Expenditure (USD):	\$2,456.00
Planned-not yet executed (USD)	10,000.00
Estimated Balance (USD)	2,544.00

Task Force	Planned Activity	Activity Planned / Executed	Comments
PLANT HEALTH	A 2 1/2-day workshop for 20 – 30 scientists & regulators from the three countries, on “Vector-borne Viruses Affecting Crops in North America”	This activity took place in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico from September 25 to 27, 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Jose Ysabel Lopez, Task Force member of INIFAP organized the event with support of the Secretariat. The event had 82 participants in total from the 3 countries (Canada, Mexico and United States). 17 Scientifics with presentations, 65 Mexican Scientifics and students attended the workshop. Budget allocated US \$11,000.00 Dr. JI Lopez secured US \$3.294 to sponsor the reception & the banner of the event.
	A new Task Force member from the Unites States joined the TF	Dr. Tim Widmer, National Program Leader – Plant Health at USDA/ARS is the new representative on the Plant Health Task Force.	Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Rose Hammond who participated as a TF member during the last two years.

Task Force	Planned Activity	Activity Planned / Executed	Comments
	Invited participation in the annual NAPPO meeting 2018.	This meeting will take place in Tucson Arizona in October 2018.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget allocated US \$1,000.00 Dr. Tim Widmer will be attending. The Secretariat of PROCINORTE will reimburse USDA up to US \$1,000 for the expenses of Dr. Widmer to attend the NAPPO annual meeting
	Participation in Entomology 2018	Nov. 11-14, 2018 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Jose Isabel Lopez from INIFAP will be participating on behalf of the TF. Budget allocated US \$3,000.00

Budget Allocation (USD):	\$15,000
Expenditure (USD):	\$11,063.00
Planned - note yet executed (USD)	4,000.00
Estimated Balance (USD)	-63

Task Force	Planned Activity	Activity Planned / Executed	Comments
TREE FRUIT	A revised work plan for 2018 was approved by the BoD. (revised Work Plan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> USD \$6,000.00 approved for Research Intern for mango and avocado studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An agreement was signed with the research intern, who had been the student working on the project in 2017. He graduated in July 2018. Thesis Approval

Task Force	Planned Activity	Activity Planned / Executed	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Reports received. Information available in the following links • Report 1 • Report 2 • Report 3 • Proposed changes in new work plan addresses training for industry and transfer of technology. • A draft MTA - INIFAP-PROCINORTE-FELIX for facilitating mango and avocado models prepared for BOD decision. • Material Transfer Agreement • Plans in train for publishing 2 articles : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building and Validating an 'Ataulfo' Model with the F-750 Spectrometer to Optimum Harvesting Time. 2. Non-destructive Technique to Determine DM Content in 'Hass' Avocado Fruit.

Budget Allocation (USD):	\$15,000
Expenditure (USD):	\$11,327.00
Planned - not yet executed (USD)	1,800.00
Estimated Balance (USD)	1,873.00

SECRETARIAT

PN	Planned Activity	Activity Planned / Executed	Comments
Secretariat	Climate Change Virtual workshop held on Jun 4, 2018	38 persons from Canada, United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, Colombia, Brazil and Trinidad And Tobago, attended this knowledge sharing event.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations to be tabled at BOD. USD \$660 was spent for translation services. This was not budgeted. Report and Recommendations
Secretariat	Implement Communications Plan	The website had 3 updates during the first semester. Invitation to the Climate Change event was placed on IICA's website and the same information had been shared with other PROCIs and stakeholders. Although not planned, additional improvements were made to the website during the 2 nd semester.	To improve the website updates, additional support was required. This was obtained from the budget of each Task Force. . The website was reconfigured to be more reader-friendly. All workshops were advertised on the PN website. Press Releases of the event were also posted on the website.
BOD	XXth Meeting Board of Directors of PROCINORTE United States	Reports of TF activities against 2018 work plan and proposed work plan for 2019 will be shared with BOD.	The BoD Meeting was planned in collaboration with the USDA-ARS Board Member.
FORAGRO	FORAGRO Meeting	Francisco Moreno, Director of the Technical Support Unit, attended on behalf of the President of PROCINORTE	A debriefing session was held with Dr. Moreno as well as a followup meeting with the Exec. Secy of FORAGRO. Participated in the virtual interview administered by FORAGRO

Budget Allocation (USD):	\$4,000
Expenditure (USD):	\$2,508.00
Planned - not yet executed (USD)	2,302.00
Estimated Balance (USD)	-\$810.00

2. Support Activities

The Secretariat has undertaken the following support activities during the period:

Date	Objective	Activity	Comments
Fortnightly Meetings	To plan, organize, execute and coordinate weekly activities contained in the Master Plan of the Secretariat (Communications Plan, BOD Minutes, TF Action Plan, etc.)	Meeting with Admin. Assistant	Implemented work plan, managed emerging issues and follow-up actions.
Task Force meetings	To schedule, facilitate and coordinate Task Force meetings	8 meetings facilitated for the 4 Task Forces, 4 of them were held to review BoD recommendations on respective Work plan and 2 of them were held for planning the execution of work plans.	BoD Recommendations were accepted and work plans adjusted accordingly. Activities for 2019 discussed & agreed.

3. Upcoming BOD Meeting 2018

The BOD Meeting will be held in Las Cruces, New Mexico, October 25-26, 2018.

4. Promotion & communication

The new website is being maintained, with 3 uploads during the first semester. Revision of the website was completed during the 2nd semester. Task force members have been reminded to assist in populating the site. Workshop announcements have been posted, as well as 1 Press Release after the workshop. Brochures were distributed at each TF workshop held. In addition social media (Twitter) was used to share information regarding workshops.

5. Financial Management

- a. Budget was received on April 10th, 2018. 64 % has been spent to date. Another 33% of the budget is estimated to be spent by mid-December. Less than 5% budget will be left unspent.
- b. USD \$660 was provided for the translation services for the Climate Change workshop from the budget assigned the Secretariat.

6. Comments

- a. Dr. Rosemarie W. Hammond, Research Plant Pathologist of USDA- ARS who had been acting as a Plant Health Task Force member for two years was succeeded by Dr. Tim Widmer, new National Program Leader – Plant Health.
- b. The new administration of IICA has indicated that a review of financial support to entities external to IICA is to be conducted towards reducing the burden on IICA, which is experiencing financial constraints.

7. Challenges

a. Activities

Most Task Forces' activities take place during the month of September, which made it challenging for the Secretariat to manage arrangements as well as to prepare advance documents for the BoD annual meeting. Several activities are taking place in October and November, after the BoD meeting.