

PROCINORTE
Minutes of the XXth Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 25 – October 26, 2018
Herbel Library Room 208, Wooton Hall
Rangeland Management Research Lab, USDA
University of New Mexico
Las Cruces, New Mexico, United States

Background and Objectives

The 20th Annual Meeting of the PROCINORTE's Board of Directors (BoD) was held on October 25 – 26, 2018, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, at the facilities of the United States Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Station, University of New Mexico. The location was selected to offer the opportunity for board members to view first-hand developments and work related to climate change on grasslands.

The main objectives of the meeting were:

- i. Review the activities and accomplishments of the Task Forces for the current year (2018).
- ii. Review and decide on PROCINORTE's work plan and budget for 2019.

The expected results were:

- i. Members of PROCINORTE Board of Directors are familiar with challenges, opportunities and achievements related to PROCINORTE's work.
- ii. Individual Task Force work plans and budgets approved.
- iii. Overall Work plan and budget for 2019 approved.

1. Opening Session

Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 am, with Dr. Steven Kappes, Board Member representing the US, welcoming Board Members to the Rangeland Management Research Lab. He provided a brief background on the centre as a part of USDA-ARS network, and noted the close collaboration with the University of New Mexico where it is housed. He acknowledged the renowned work of The Jornada Experimental Range and advised that members would have an opportunity to tour some of the facilities. Members were then invited to introduce themselves. Dr. Yannik Melançon, Senior Analyst, International Engagement, AAFC, was presented as the support member for Canada for this meeting as



well as Viviana Palmieri, Specialist in Technological Innovation Management, Technical Cooperation with IICA and Executive Secretary of FORAGRO, support member for IICA.

Opening Remarks

The new President of the PROCINORTE Board of Directors, Dr. Jose Fernando de la Torre Sanchez, President of the Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones, Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP) of Mexico, opened by acknowledging and thanking the former President, Dr. Gilles Saindon of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC), for his leadership of the PROCINORTE Board of Directors over the past 4 years. He also expressed appreciation to PROCINORTE for its role in helping INIFAP to modernize its genetic resources management system. Acknowledging the ongoing challenges being faced, Dr. de la Torre advocated that PROCINORTE needed to be very innovative and relevant to the new paradigm of modern agriculture. In this regard, he reaffirmed the need for Task Forces to be reviewed to ensure that they remained relevant, reinventing themselves if necessary.

Regrets for absence

Regrets for absence were tabled on behalf of Dr. Brad Fraleigh, AAFC, Dr. Miguel Garcia, IICA Representative in the USA, and Mrs. Gloria Abraham, IICA Representative in Mexico. It was noted that Dr. Federico Villarreal, Manager of Technical Cooperation at IICA, would participate briefly via videoconference.

2. Approval of Agenda

Subsequent to the following changes:

- Reverse the order of presentations on FORAGRO so that Feedback on the Steering Committee Meeting would be presented before the Update on FORAGRO's restructuring.
- Note that on the list of participants, Dr. Elizabeth Loza-Rubio (INIFAP) would be presenting the Animal Health Task Force report on behalf of TF leader Dr. Cyril Gay, USDA-ARS, and Dr. Tim Widmer, USDA-ARS, would be presenting the Plant Health Task Force report on behalf of Task Force Leader Dr. Della Johnston, AAFC.

The agenda ([Click here](#)) was adopted by Board members at 10:02 a.m.

3. Minutes of XIXth Meeting

The President commended the Secretariat on the timely preparation and circulation of the Minutes and invited the Executive Secretary to present them ([Click here](#)).

The Minutes were adopted by the Board on a motion by Dr. Gilles Saindon and seconded by Dr. Steven Kappes, at 10:10 a.m.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes & Action Plan

A summary of Matters Arising ([Click here](#)) from the XIXth meeting, together with the Action Plan ([Click here](#)) were presented by the Executive Secretary. The following observations and changes were suggested prior to adoption by the BoD:

- Action #1: Dr. Saindon commended the fact that the outreach activities went beyond the PROCIs and Dr. Kappes concurred. Dr. de la Torre also suggested that the Task Force on genetic resources, NORGEN, also presented opportunities for outreach, as was evidenced in the 2017 meeting of the Simposio de Recursos Genéticos para las Américas y El Caribe (SIRGEAC) in Mexico involving over 14 countries from the region. Dr. Kappes also suggested that, as a result of recent discussions on plant health, efforts could be made to have more US universities participate in exchanges of students from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).
- Action #5: Gilles Saindon enquired whether the intent of the joint meeting of the Presidents & Executive Secretaries (ES) of the PROCIs was clear. It was agreed that it was intended to promote a higher level of collaboration and joint activities. The President indicated that this activity was only partially fulfilled, considering that only the Executive Secretaries of the PROCIs met. The 'Matters Arising' document was to be edited to this effect.

Decisions:

D-1. Representatives of the USDA-ARS on the BoD will encourage US universities to accept short term placements from Mexico and LAC as well as promote current opportunities for US students obtaining placements in Mexico.

D-2. The Matters Arising #5 (i.e. checking with other PROCIs on the feasibility of establishing a joint website): This should reflect partial completion.

5. Highlights of IICA's new MTP 2018-2022 and current status

Dr. Federico Villarreal, Manager of Technical Cooperation at IICA, presented the Institute's new Medium Term Plan, highlighting the program areas approved for the 2018 – 2022 period. He drew attention to the cross-cutting program areas, which included Innovation and Technology, and noted that better integration of PROCNORTE with IICA's technical cooperation program was expected.

Federico apologized that he was unable to remain for the duration of the meeting, and advised that Viviana Palmieri would further address this matter.

Q&A

Fernando de la Torre sought clarification on the definition of territories used by IICA, and was advised that the context varied – from social, productive and administrative.

Discussion then ensued on the MTP, with members cautioning that while the background information was great, challenges remained in implementation across the hemisphere, because of its high degree of diversity.

The President questioned the difference between the former MTP and the current one and was advised that the current MTP reflected a new way of doing technical cooperation, as well as new topics, such as Bioeconomy. Viviana Palmieri suggested that there was an opportunity for PROCINORTE to participate with proposals to ensure that innovation and technology were reflected in each of the MTP's five program areas.

Gilles Saindon shared information on the International Bioeconomy Forum (IBF), observing that Mexico was not yet a member, and through PROCINORTE, perhaps this could be further explored. Jose Fernando de la Torre suggested that as Mexico had best practices and knowledge on water & soil, information could be shared through related outreach activities.

Steve Kappes concurred, noting that full advantage should be taken of the research, data and knowledge already in place. Yannik Melançon added that Canada and the USA were already working on research to standardize microbiome indicators and related methodologies.

Decisions:

D-3 Any other areas deemed appropriate for collaborating with IICA will be shared with Technical Cooperation Directorate.

Responsible: BOD members

D- 4 A meeting between PROCINORTE Secretariat and the coordinators of the relevant Program Areas of IICA will be scheduled to identify opportunities for engagement with PROCINORTE as an innovation platform.

Responsible: Viviana Palmieri

Feedback on the first FORAGRO Steering Committee Meeting

Mr. Jorge Fajardo Guel of INIFAP presented a report of Dr. Francisco Moreno ([Click Here](#)) who attended the meeting on behalf of then Acting PROCINORTE President, Dr. Obando. Members were concerned that the impression shared by Dr. Moreno was not particularly favorable, as he did not see a meaningful role of the Northern Region in FORAGRO.

The presentation was followed by Viviana Palmieri who gave a short review ([Click Here](#)) of the restructuring process of FORAGRO up to its current activities, as well as a status report on the Global Forum on Agricultural Research (GFAR).

Ryan Moore sought clarification on the value of FORAGRO in influencing GFAR. Audia Barnett shared her perspective of GFAR responding to global imperatives according to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), and the FORAGRO mechanism as one of the regional arms for implementing actions in line with GFAR's objectives and priorities. It was conceded that due to lack of resources, it was not possible for PROCINORTE to be engaged in everything.

Gilles Saindon pointed out that IICA's MTP made a connection with the UN SDGs. After some discussion, it was agreed that the apparent disconnect observed between FORAGRO and the northern region may have been due to a misunderstanding of the way the Steering Committee is composed, according to the Charter approved by the FORAGRO Assembly as explained by Viviana.

Decisions:

D-5 The draft Strategic Plan of FORAGRO is to be shared with the President of PROCINORTE (in his capacity as member of the Steering Committee of FORAGRO) for subsequently sharing with the members of the BoD.

6. USDA Climate Change initiatives

Dr. Marlen Eve, National Program Leader Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems, USDA, presented selected Climate Change initiatives of the USDA ([Click Here](#)). He highlighted the role of the Long-Term Agroecosystem Research (LTAR) network and regional climate hubs, and the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) with specific reference to what is done by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of USDA. It was interesting to note that up to 100 years of data are available through 18 LTAR sites in the US.

Dr. Eve also pointed out the fact that the Jornada Experimental Range was part of the LTAR network as well as one of the US's regional climate hubs. Highly variable and changing climate including extreme events such as drought and flooding resulted in water challenges and underscored the need for transdisciplinary research to tackle the various challenges which ensued. As such, bridges between technological, physical, biological, ecological to socio-economic boundaries have to be addressed to ensure

productive capacities are optimized. Universities, NGOs, industries, producer communities and international organizations are all involved in the LTAR.

Regional climate hubs serve as centers of excellence on climate and weather information to help land managers. All information obtained from scientists and (NOAA) national weather services is interpreted and made available to land managers and farmers. Employees have an extensive network of grower and commodity groups to extend the reach of ARS scientists for sharing information, e.g. to warn of impending frost or to mitigate damage from drought.

The BoD members were apprised of a new working group on Agro-eco-system Living Labs (ALL) which was formed subsequent to the Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) held in Argentina during the current year when the ALL concept was presented by Canada. This concept complements the LTAR and the climate hubs. Examples were shared to illustrate benefits to users. Central to these was multi-stakeholder collaboration. Projects which involved ARS, university scientists, ranchers, producers, and environmentalists working together to review problems, formulate research questions and response strategies, collecting data – resulted in co-publishing as well as applying results on respective farms.

Citing the central role of modeling and big data, Dr. Marlen Eve spoke of the large number and diversity of data sets collected by LTAR sites, all contributing to Big Data. He shared that scientists in Fort Collins had developed a spatial tool - Agricultural Collaborative Research Outcome System (AgCROS), which integrates various data sets for suitable application by scientists, land managers, farmers, etc. To illustrate, he explained that data on soil carbon, nitrogen, microbiology of soils (microbiome), etc., are all integrated in AgCROS with common variables so that, with specific location (GPS), farmers can obtain useful information for decision making.

During the ensuing discussion, it was made clear that the various data sets prepared by the LTAR, regional climate hubs contributed to sustainability decisions made by large corporations, land managers and farmers. Dr. de la Torre sought feedback on the Living Labs initiative and its potential connection with PROCINORTE's consideration of addressing soil and water in the future.

Marlen Eve responded that the Agroecosystem Living Lab initiative aimed to allow participating countries learning from each other and identifying opportunities for collaboration. He commented that mapping activities will likely lead to improved resiliency in the agricultural sector. As such, Canada's Living Labs and the USA's LTARs are *in situ* initiatives capable of impacting agricultural sustainability in a relatively short time. Gilles Saindon also added that while not necessarily linked with the potential new Task Force of PROCINORTE, awareness by the three countries of the Living Labs program would be useful.

Report and recommendations of the virtual workshop on Climate Change priorities.

Dr. Audia Barnett shared highlights of the Climate Change virtual workshop held in June, 2018, reminding members of the genesis of the workshop ([Click Here](#)) Observations and recommendations of the (IICA) moderators pointed to the potential role of IICA and the need for a roadmap to define more specifically the niche area related to soil and water, and of shared interest for addressing by PROCINORTE. Possible areas aired by BoD members included drought and flooding prediction beyond mapping, water erosion, and/or soil microbiome.

The President led a discussion on next steps, with suggestions such as engaging other PROCIs, FORAGRO, and/or IICA on specific areas of interest. There was consensus that there were various ways to “claim victory” and PROCINORTE could leverage and connect persons without creating a new Task Force. The workshop recommendations were accepted, in view of the proposed consideration for inclusion of the climate change theme in PROCINORTE’s new strategic plan.

Decisions: D-6 Implement the recommendations of the climate change virtual workshop relating to information sharing by IICA

D-7 Coordinate the development of a road map for climate change and soil & water conservation, by organizing a session with representatives from the three countries to identify specific areas with continental implications and opportunities.

USDA-ARS Jornada history and programs – Dr. Brandon Bestelmeyer, Supervisory Scientist, USDA-ARS Range Management Research Unit, Jornada Experimental Range

Dr. Brandon Bestelmeyer provided a brief background on “The Jornada” (JER) which is combination of a number of programs designed to create and transfer science based knowledge for sustainability of agriculture and other land uses, primarily focused on drylands. ([Click Here](#)). Funded and administered by the ARS and located on the campus of the New Mexico State University, the Jornada has the privilege of working with faculty members, students, post-docs, and administrators in addition to their own scientists. Brandon Bestelmeyer spoke of various networks such as National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Climate Reference Network that are housed at the JER, which serves as a testing ground for new concepts and methods. He also mentioned that the Jordana is home to some of the longest term vegetation monitoring in the world.

Dr. Bestelmeyer explained that sustainability crises in environmental variability, technological changes as well as societal and economic changes resulted in massive buildup of livestock and rangeland degradation. Gaps in knowledge in the management of dryland systems led to the collapse of high value forage areas in the early 1950's. He explained that this underpinned work in the 1960's & 1970's when study of ecosystem functions complemented the long-term monitoring data. With the high variability in precipitation having severe implications on vegetation and productivity, spatial variability and societal changes, the JER now focuses on site based research, LTAR, and project specific initiatives. Brandon Bestelmeyer then gave several specific examples of translating big data into knowledge for decision making, pointing to the use of mobile and web applications. As a part of their innovation program, he noted work with Criollo cattle - a "heritage" breed from the drylands of Latin America, which is adapted to arid, shrub-dominated environments. This generated some discussion by BoD members.

Jornada Experimental Range

Members traveled to the JER where typical studies being undertaken were demonstrated:

- a) National Wind Erosion Research Network/data model integration
Dr. Brandon Edwards provided a description of the terrain indicating that measurements of wind and erosion at selected shrub dominated sites across different environments typical of range environments were collected as part of JER's monitoring regime ([Click Here](#)).
- b) Land Potential Knowledge System and Mobile Applications
Dr. Jeff Herrick, acknowledging the importance of international collaboration, demonstrated the use of a free App (Land- Potential Knowledge System) that collects basic soil and vegetation cover information. ([Click Here](#))
- c) Raramuri Criollo Research Program
Dr. Rick Estell, Dr. Andres Cibils, and Mr. Alfredo Gonzalez spoke on various aspects of the Criollo Research Program. Participants were subsequently treated to a BBQ of Criollo beef.

Day 2.

The summary of decisions taken during Day 1 was agreed prior to presentations of Task Force reports.

Reports from Task Forces 2017 and Proposed Actions for 2018

Animal Health

Dr. Elizabeth Loza-Rubio (INIFAP) of the Animal Health Task Force presented a report on behalf of Dr. Cyril Gay. She joined the meeting virtually, presenting an overview of activities of the Task Force. ([Click Here](#)) A significant result of their work was the standardization in Mexico of two molecular techniques that were shared by PROCINORTE. She also mentioned three specialized training sessions undertaken by Mexican scientists late last year (subsequent to the BoD meeting) in the USA and Canada. Joint research activities funded by the member organizations have been undertaken since 2016. Results of one of these studies - North American assessment of Blue tongue - are now available. “Genomic Tools for Animal Health Research” was the theme of the main workshop hosted by the TF in 2018. As outreach, Dr. Loza-Rubio pointed to the participation of CaribVet on the agenda and workshop discussions. A future project identified was: North American tracking of Arthropod Disease vectors.

The theme identified for knowledge sharing in 2019 was Emerging Diseases in Swine in light of the importance of African Swine Fever in the continent. Other activities planned for 2019 were also shared. The proposed budget was \$20K.

In response to a question regarding impact of the TF, Dr. Loza-Rubio indicated that strides had been made in tick borne diseases and stomatitis. Additionally, Dr. Loza-Rubio agreed on further making information on new diagnostic tools available to other countries, and further opined, that protocols should also be shared, as countries such as Brazil, Colombia, and Argentina could also benefit. Dr. Barnett reminded all present of the document: “Increasing the Impact of PROCINORTE through IICA and its Instruments” which was prepared in 2017. This summarized selected impact areas and suggested means of further dissemination. The President also recommended that the rationale for selection of the topics identified should be clearly stated.

Board Members provided the following recommendations to the TF:

- Accommodate where possible, virtual participation of other countries in annual workshops, particularly when new knowledge is being shared.
- Each country should clearly indicate the rationale for selecting topic identified.
- Ensure that information on impact of the Task Force is always included in the annual report.

NORGEN

Dr. Axel Diederichsen, TF Leader, presented the report on behalf of the Genetic Resources Task Force. ([Click here](#)) He indicated the change in one of the TF members (Mexico) in September, 2018. In reviewing the activities undertaken, Dr. Diederichsen stated that the budget came a bit late resulting in the US sponsoring the first activity (Curriculum Development meeting). There were two activities that had not yet taken place in 2018,

both relating to genetic resources of indigenous peoples. This accounted for the major part of the budget. He highlighted outreach activities undertaken as well as the in-kind support provided by the member organizations.

He presented the Task Force's draft work plan for 2019 noting a planned survey on plant genetic resources priorities towards the development of a curriculum for an on-line course for genebank managers. Outreach activity with the Caribbean Agricultural Research & Development Institute (CARDI) was also included. The proposed budget for 2019 was \$15K with estimated in-kind support being \$30K.

The importance of communicating the success of work done over the years was again stressed by the BOD. In this regard, the work being done with indigenous peoples was thought to be worthy of documenting and sharing. Similarly, the study of the movement of maize germplasm from indigenous groups in Mexico to groups in Canada could present interesting material from the TF. The President, who is a former member of this TF, provided assurances of his continued support.

Board Members provided the following recommendations to the TF:

- Document the initiative being undertaken with indigenous groups in Canada relating to the 3 Sisters (Corn, Squash, and Beans).
- Link the study regarding the flow of maize germplasm from Mexico to Canada, to the current 3 Sisters initiative being undertaken in Canada.

Plant Health

Dr. Tim Widmer, National Program Leader – Plant Health of USDA/ARS, presented the Task Force report on behalf of Dr. Della Johnston who tendered her apologies. ([Click here](#)) Tim Widmer is the newest member of the TF, replacing Dr. Rose Hammond, who had been acting Program Manager. The main TF activity was the “Trilateral Workshop on Vector-borne Viruses affecting Crops in North America”, with some 17 presentations from the three countries. Noting the large contingent of students, Dr. Widmer felt that outreach to the next generation of scientists was worthwhile. He also advised of his participation in the North American Plant Protection Organization (NAPPO) annual meeting as well as the TF's planned participation in the annual conference of the Entomological Society of America. Board members were apprised of the work plan for 2019, when the Task Force is planning to build on the previous three workshops (2016, 2017, 2018), bringing an integrated systems approach to plant protection and plant health. The estimated proposed budget remained at \$15K.

During the Q & A period, Dr. Widmer was asked whether any of the presentations resulted from joint work; as well as the methodology for deciding on the themes over the years. Dr. Widmer responded, indicating that sharing research activities in the respective topics being conducted by the countries was a precursor to identifying opportunities for joint work. He also related a recent instance whereby the workshop offered the wherewithal for a USDA/ARS scientist to forge further research collaborations. Regarding the methodology for determining the themes, Dr. Widmer stated that the three TF members

discussed topics of interest and agreed on one which was of relevance to the three countries.

Board Members provided the following recommendations to the TF

- Examine progress made on a specific topic or crop - demonstrate results of the three countries working together on an identified problem
- Document conditions, success factors, etc., that allowed collaboration to take place.

Decision

D8. Advise Animal Health and Plant Health Task Forces to highlight results from collaborative work.

Tree Fruits

Dr. Peter Toivonen, Research Scientist, Food Safety and Quality, AAFC, Leader of the Task Force, made his presentation ([Click here](#)). He advised that the year was particularly active, with notable strides being made by Dr. Osuna-Garcia (INIFAP) with the support of Felix Instruments on the model for avocado. He also shared that the student Jesús Daniel Olivares Figueroa, who conducted related studies on Tommy Atkins & Ataulfo mango, received his BSc. Engineering degree based on the work done.

Peter Toivonen was pleased to report that the external validation studies demonstrated the robustness of the model over two growing areas, and that a Material Transfer Agreement had been prepared to enable Felix Instruments to tailor and improve the model for industry applications. He stated that a publication is being prepared for a peer reviewed journal as well as a technical brochure. Dr. Osuna-Garcia has also been invited to present at the First Mexican Avocado Congress.

In going forward, Dr. Toivonen indicated that training sessions were being planned for avocado packing house staff during the first quarter in 2019. He noted that the TF would prepare an information package, documenting the steps, challenges and strides involved in the development and technology transfer of the successful model. Options for related work were noted, as well as the fact that three of the four TF members are due to retire within the next few years.

In the ensuing discussion, Dr. Saindon commended the TF, indicating that it was a trail blazer based on the planned roll out to industry, an innovation which resulted from collaboration of three countries and IICA. It was clarified that the innovation was not patentable as the instrument manufacturer made the spectrometer based on the planned application. Members concurred that the MTA, which was based on one used by Canada, would give due recognition to PROCINORTE and IICA.

Board Members provided the following recommendations to the TF:

- Share information package, documenting the steps, challenges and strides involved in the development and technology transfer of the successful model with exporters, importers and producers in the three countries.
- The draft MTA is to be reviewed by relevant legal personnel prior to signing.

Board Members also took the following decisions:

D9. Buyers/importers in Canada & USA should be involved in the tech transfer of the non-destructive testing of avocados, the TF should therefore, prepare a list of such persons and share relevant information.

D10. Share MTA with legal departments of INIFAP & IICA for decision regarding same.

D11. A no-objection letter to be issued by USDA –ARS & AAFC regarding transfer of technology (MTA) relating to non-destructive testing of avocado

7. Summary Report

The Executive Secretary, Dr. Audia Barnett, recapitulated information provided by the Task Forces and included activities of the Secretariat in a Summary Report on the 2018 work plan ([Click Here](#)). She claimed that the main challenge related to the fact that most of the Task Forces scheduled annual activities in September, which put a strain on the Secretariat as well as on the timely preparation of the required reports for the BoD meeting. Programmed meetings with the acting President of PROCINORTE and the Task Forces were carried out as planned. It was observed that while the approved budget was released late, activities were largely undertaken. There were two scheduled activities still to take place.

Promotion and Communication

In updating members on the implementation of the Communications Plan, Dr. Barnett tabled a report which indicated the status of activities. She indicated that additional adjustments were made to the PROCINORTE website. She demonstrated the website, ([Click here](#)) making a plea for more content to be uploaded. She advised that in addition to the distribution of PROCINORTE brochures at meetings, the one page Information Note prepared in 2017 was also shared during targeted meetings.

Monitoring and Evaluation

On the introduction of an appropriate Monitoring and Evaluation plan, the Executive Secretary advised that two indicators were approved for the “light” Monitoring and Evaluation plan which addressed:

- a) Clarity of roles and responsibilities of Task Force Leaders and Members; and,

b) Incorporation of TF activities/research findings/knowledge into policy deliberations and/or regulatory program development.

Dr. Barnett provided examples to illustrate that the Task Forces were performing well based on the indicators used. ([Click Here](#))

Financial Management

The meeting was advised that as of October 23, 2018, 64% of the budget had been executed, with another 33% planned to be spent by the end of the year, resulting in an estimated 97% budget execution. The in-kind support obtained from AAFC and USDA-ARS was acknowledged.

The estimated proposed budget for 2019 was \$64.5K.

A discussion on the reimbursement protocol relating to travel expenses by USDA followed. The possibility of a financial agreement for facilitating future reimbursements was noted.

Recommendation

- *The work plan and budget assigned for each Task Force were approved pending allocation by IICA.*
- *Include forging a relationship with the IICA Program areas as an activity for the Secretariat.*
- *All the final documents should be updated on the Google Drive.*

8. Additional Business

Dr. de la Torre requested that an agreement be established with INIFAP for facilitating payment of expenses related to participation of scientists in PROCINORTE research activities.

8.1. Next PROCINORTE meeting

The date and venue of the next BoD meeting will be communicated in due course. Based on the rotation of venue, it is likely to be hosted by IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica.

8.2. Closing Remarks

Appreciation was expressed for the use of the Rangeland Management Research Lab facilities and the hospitality provided by Brandon Bestelmeyer and members of his team.

Acronyms

BoD : Board of Directors

TF : Task Force

ES : Executive Secretary

Invitees:

1. Dr. Jose Fernando de La Torre, Director General, INIFAP, President, PROCINORTE
2. Mr. Jose Fajardo Guel, Coordinator of Planning and Development Area, INIFAP
3. Dr. Gilles Saindon, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, Science and Technology Branch, AAFC
4. Dr. Yannik Melançon, Senior Analyst, International Engagement, AAFC
5. Dr. Steven Kappes, Associate Administrator, National Programs, ARS/USDA
6. Mr. Ryan Moore, International Affairs Specialist, ARS/USDA
7. Ms. Viviana Palmieri, Specialist in Technological Innovation Management, Technical Cooperation with IICA and Executive Secretary of FORAGRO
8. Dr. Audia Barnett, IICA Representative in Canada, Executive Secretary, PROCINORTE

Guest:

1. Dr. Marlen Eve, National Program Leader, Natural Resources and Sustainable Agricultural Systems, USDA
2. Mr. Brandon Bestelmeyer, Supervisory Scientist, USDA-ARS Range Management Research Unit, Jornada Experimental Range

Presenting:

a. Via Videoconference

- Dr. Federico Villarreal, Technical Cooperation Manager, IICA
- Dr. Tim Widmer, Plant Health Task Force Member, USDA/ARS
- Dr. Elizabeth Loza, Animal Health Task Force Member, INIFAP
- Dr. Axel Diederichsen, Leader NORGEN Task Force, AAFC
- Dr. Peter Toivonen, Leader Tree Fruits Task Force, AAFC

b. Apologies

1. Dr. Brad Fraleigh, Director, Multilateral Science Relations, AAFC
2. Dr. Miguel Garcia, IICA Representative in USA
3. Ms. Gloria Abraham, IICA Representative in Mexico