

**PROCINORTE**  
**2019 ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT**  
**30 October 2019**

As of October 30, 2019, 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 2019.

**1. Progress on TF Work Plan 2019**

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

<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Planned Activity</b>	<b>Activity Planned / Executed</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>ANIMAL HEALTH</b>	Workshop “Emerging Swine Pathogens that Pose a Threat to North America focus on African Swine Fever	This activity was successfully executed as planned, September - 10, 2019	Attendance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 37 participants: 20 from Mexico, eight from the United States, three from Canada</li> <li>• One scientist representing CaribVet</li> <li>• Five professionals representing other organizations</li> <li>• Two specialist in animal health from IICA</li> </ul>
	<p>Ongoing Research Collaborations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North American Assessment of Bluetongue and Culicoides Vectors</li> <li>• Development of Strategies to Control Tick-Borne Babesial Pathogens of Livestock. Performance of New Reagents and Methods for the Diagnosis and Control of Equine Piroplasmiasis is a sub-project of the above project:</li> </ul> <p>Collaborative Research on Vesicular Stomatitis Diagnosis</p>	Project “Use of IFN-expressing vectors in control of Nipah and Ebola virus diseases in swine” has been completed and report has been submitted	Based on research collaborations that come up as a result of recent workshop discussions and networking, more scientific exchanges and training visits for Mexican scientists in Canadian and US laboratories will most likely occur

Task Force	Planned Activity	Activity Planned / Executed	Comments
	<p>Training and scientific exchanges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mayra Cobaxin, INIFAP: training to acquire the tools for growing <i>Anaplasma marginale</i> in tick cell lines at the Animal Diseases Research Unit, Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA, Pullman, Washington.</li> <li>• Edith Roja-Anaya, Department of Biotechnology and Animal Health, INIFAP: Training to initiate collaborative metagenomics research in small ruminants, National Animal Disease Center (NADC), Agricultural Research Service (ARS), USDA, Ames, Iowa.</li> <li>• Elizabeth Loza Rubio, Department of Biotechnology and Animal Health, INIFAP: Training to sort trapped midges, CFIA Lethbridge Laboratory, Alberta, Canada.</li> </ul>	<p>These activities were successfully executed as planned</p>	<p>The workshops have included graduate students from Mexico and provided opportunities for official presentations and interactions with leading scientists in their field from Canada, Mexico and the United States of America. Opportunities for training and exchange are also considered when the budget provided by the PROCINORTE Executive Committee allows</p>
	<p>Outreach.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participation of CaribVet at the annual PROCINORTE Animal Health Task Force workshop</li> <li>• Graduate students from Mexico participated</li> </ul>	<p>These activities were successfully executed as planned</p>	<p>Participation from CaribVet at the workshops provided a forum for scientific exchanges and areas of common interest for research projects that are relevant to North America</p> <p>Provided opportunities for official presentations and interactions with leading scientists in their field from the three countries.</p>

<b>Budget Allocation (USD):</b>	<b>\$15,000.00</b>
<b>Expenditure (USD):</b>	<b>14,457.70</b>
<b>Planned - not yet executed (USD)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Estimated Balance (USD)</b>	<b>2,542.30</b>

<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Planned Activity</b>	<b>Activity Planned / Executed</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>NORGEN</b>	Survey about PGR training priorities administered in Canada and in Mexico under the auspices of NORGEN	This activity was successfully executed as planned.	A total of 425 survey responses was analyzed, representing academia, genebanks, non-governmental organizations (NGO), and the private sector. Survey was very short and easy to understand so funding of USD 3,000.00 for translating this survey from English into Spanish and French was not used
	E-Learning materials for plant genetic resources conservation and use	Ongoing, being carried out by Colorado State University	This will develop a learning module on the conservation of crop wild relatives and their use in breeding programs. The learning material will be completed by end of December, 2019. Costs: USD 3,937.00
	Study on maize germplasm flow among the countries and impact on cropping systems diversity	An outline for such a project has been presented in Spanish language	Continuation of this activity needs further discussion among the Task Force members

<b>Budget Allocation (USD):</b>	<b>\$6,000</b>
<b>Expenditure (USD):</b>	<b>3,937.00</b>
<b>Planned-not yet executed (USD)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Estimated Balance (USD)</b>	<b>2,063.00</b>

<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Planned Activity</b>	<b>Activity Planned / Executed</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>PLANT HEALTH</b>	Workshop Potato Zebra Chip disease and Candidatus <i>Liberibacter solanacearum</i> ” (Lso) in the Americas Affecting Crops in North America”	This activity took place in Lethbridge, Canada, September 16 to 17, 2019. A leaflet with the state of the art on the disease, pathogen and vector has been produced to be translated into Spanish and distributed among farmers in North and Latin America	Scientists from the 3 countries met and discussed what information would be relevant to stakeholders to aid them in detecting, preventing, controlling and mitigating damage caused by the bacterial pathogen and its insect vector.

<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Planned Activity</b>	<b>Activity Planned / Executed</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	Participation in Entomology 2019 (planned)	Nov. 17-20,, 2018 in San Louis Missouri, USA	Dr. Jose Isabel Lopez from INIFAP will be participating on behalf of the TF (pending confirmation by Dr. Lopez) Budget allocated US \$3,000.00

<b>Budget Allocation (USD):</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>
<b>Expenditure (USD):</b>	<b>8,525.00</b>
<b>Planned - note yet executed (USD)</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>
<b>Estimated Balance (USD)</b>	<b>-25.00</b>

<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Planned Activity</b>	<b>Activity Planned / Executed</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>TREE FRUIT</b>	Development of a robust model for predicting dry matter in Hass avocado has culminated in a publication	Paper submitted to the journal Fruits in September 2019. MTA has been signed by Felix Instruments CEO, to be signed by INIFAP and IICA DG	The MTA has been modified to include a clause that requests Felix Instruments acknowledges the support of PROCINORTE and its member organizations when promoting the instrument
	Training workshops for farmers to familiarize the industry with the use of the spectrometer for predicting dry matter in the field and packinghouse	Several activities carried out in Mexico during the year by INIFAP's post-harvest specialist	The Mexican marketing group APEAM is currently comparing and evaluating the spectrometer method against the existing standard method.
	Development of the models for predicting maturity in Mexican mangoes.	Draft publication for submission to HortTechnology before the end of this year.	Felix Instruments Inc. has been hosting webinars on the use of the spectrometer for determination of dry matter in mangoes, some of which includes the work of the Task Force as performed under Dr. Osuna-García's supervision

<b>Task Force</b>	<b>Planned Activity</b>	<b>Activity Planned / Executed</b>	<b>Comments</b>
	The Task Force engaged executives of Tropicals Homestead, FL and a University of Florida faculty member discussing the activities and progress of the Task Force in developing a predictive model for dry matter in Hass avocado.	Activity carried out September 9 - 10, during TF annual meeting Meeting	Interest from private companies the development of a model to predict maturity in other avocado varieties grown in FL
	Study “Technology package transfer Feasibility and benefits of using a spectrometer to determine the dry matter content of avocados in the orchard and/or packing house to make decisions for harvest or for marketing of the fruit”	Underway, will be finish by Dec 30	Following IICA’s regulations, the Mexican consulting firm CamBioTec has been retained, Executive Secretary is monitoring progress. Cost US \$6,900.00
	Study “Novel nondestructive technique to determine optimum harvesting stage of ataúlfo mango fruit” presented at American Society for Horticultural Science Conference.	Poster presented at the American Society for Horticultural Science Conference, Las Vegas, July 21-25, 2019	Increased visibility for the work of PROCINORTE and its member organizations at international conference
	INIFAP specialist in postharvest demonstrate the use of the use of the spectrometer for predicting dry matter of hass avocados	During BoD meeting in Costa Rica, Nov 2019	Demonstrate the use of instrument to BoD members, explore interest of producers in Costa Rica to use this method, Explore potential to use this instrument in IICA’s Fab Lab.

<b>Budget Allocation (USD):</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
<b>Expenditure (USD):</b>	<b>\$11,639.14</b>
<b>Planned - not yet executed (USD)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Estimated Balance (USD)</b>	<b>3,360.86</b>

**SECRETARIAT**

<b>PN</b>	<b>Planned Activity</b>	<b>Activity Planned / Executed</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Secretariat	Climate Change Virtual consultation with IICA	Three teleconferences were held between scientists from the three countries and IICA's climate change specialists to try to establish the pertinence of establishing a TF focusing on climate change (water and soil management). PPT and plans were shared.	There was no consensus of priorities between the three countries and also with IICA. It was recommended that the topic is analyzed during IICA's programming 2020-21.
Secretariat	Follow up to TF work plan execution	Teleconferences and frequent emails - regularly	Maintaining communication with TF leaders on work plan implementation and progress
Secretariat	Transfer of Executive Secretariat from IICA Canada to IICA HQ	April-June 2019	Executive Secretary supported by an Administrative Assistant based in Costa Rica, devoting approximately 25% and 20% time respectively to PROCINORTE.
Secretariat	Study "Tech Transfer Package for avocado instrument"	In progress by CamBioTec	Terms of Reference, carrying out IICA's competitive process, firm selection and monitoring.
Secretariat	Study "Learning Materials for Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Use"	In progress by Colorado State University	Terms of Reference, hiring process and monitoring.
Secretariat	Interview with Fruit Task Force members to highlight the process to develop a predictive model for dry matter in Hass avocado	During TF meeting, USDA-ARS Sub-Tropical Horticulture Research Station, Miami, Florida	This is an input for the program to be developed by TV channel Agrotendencia disseminated in Latin America and the Caribbean
Secretariat	Preparation of a computer graphics document highlighting PROCINORTE (Spanish and English) for the IABA	October, 2019	Opportunity to disseminate PROCINORTE among 34 Ministries of Agriculture

PN	Planned Activity	Activity Planned / Executed	Comments
Secretariat	Presentation of the work of PROCINORTE and other mechanisms supported by IICA	AAFC Research Station, Lethbridge Canada	Increased visibility for the work of PROCINORTE and its member organizations at international conference
Secretariat	Implement Communications Plan	The website had 6 updates in 2019. Web page functional and currently maintained with support from IICA Canada.	To transfer website, additional support was required from IICA IT personnel. A short training session carried out for Executive Secretariat and Administrative Assistant. All workshops were advertised on the PN website. Results of the events were also posted on the website.
BoD	Members of the BOD provided inputs to consultancy “Analysis of mechanisms of cooperation for innovation, PROCINORTE, PROCISUR, FONTAGRO and FORAGRO, supported by IICA”	Between March and June, 2019	Study provided recommendations to IICA to be shared with the PROCINORTE BOD
BoD	XXIth Meeting Board of Directors of PROCINORTE, IICA Costa Rica	Reports of TF activities against 2019 work plan and proposed work plan for 2020 will be shared with BOD.	The BoD Meeting was planned in collaboration with IICA staff.
BoD	Official signing of MTA of avocado maturity instrument	Felix Instrument done in the US, INIFAP and IICA DG done at BoD meeting, Costa Rica	Technology is officially transferred to private sector for commercialization

<b>Budget Allocation (USD):</b>	<b>\$4,500</b>
<b>Expenditure (USD):</b>	<b>1,967.37</b>
<b>Planned - not yet executed (USD)</b>	<b>2,516.00</b>
<b>Estimated Balance (USD)</b>	<b>16.63</b>

## 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 both in Canada and Costa Rica	Implemented work plan, managed emerging issues and follow-up actions.
Communication with Task Forces	To schedule, facilitate and coordinate Task Force activities	During the first semester regular teleconferences with the 4 Task Forces. During second semester, frequent email with TF members to review BoD recommendations on respective Work plan and planning the execution of work plans.	BoD Recommendations were accepted and work plans adjusted accordingly. Activities for 2020 discussed & agreed.
Coordination with IICA's DG, DDG and Director of Technical Cooperation	To inform about results of study "Analysis of mechanisms" and advice on scenarios to continue collaboration	August and September, 2019	IICA authorities informed about the results of study and scenarios for collaboration with PROCINORTE
Provide detailed information about PROCINORTE results	Document "PROCINORTE y la cooperación técnica del IICA en investigación e innovación agrícola" prepared for IICA report	September, 2019	IICA authorities are informed about the history and results of PROCINORTE

## 3. Upcoming BOD Meeting 2019

The BOD Meeting will be held in IICA Headquarters, San Isidro de Coronado, Costa Rica, November 12 – 13, 2019.

## 4. Promotion & communication

The new website is being maintained, with 3 uploads during the first semester. Task force members have been reminded to assist in populating the site. Workshop announcements have been posted, as well as 1 report after the workshop. Brochures were distributed at

each TF workshop held. In addition, social media (Twitter) was used to share information regarding workshops using the new account @PROCINORTE-IICA.

## **5. Financial Management**

- a. Budget was received on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019. 73.38 % has been spent to date. Another 9.7% of the budget is estimated to be spent by mid-December. Budget execution for the year will be 83.13%.

## **6. Comments**

- a. A review of financial support to mechanisms of technical cooperation on innovation supported by IICA (PROCINORTE, PROCISUR, FONTAGRO and FORAGRO) was conducted towards reducing the burden on IICA, which is experiencing financial constraints. Results will be shared with Bod at the XXI annual meeting.
- b. This year's meeting of FORAGRO could not be held due to financial limitations of IICA. A single activity was carried out: an electronic consultation to elucidated the factors that limit or favor digitization of agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean. This was carried out in in Spanish.

## **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.

The transfer of the Executive Secretariat from the IICA Office in Canada to IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica has meant a reduction in the time that the Executive Secretary and her assistant devote to the activities of PROCINORTE.