



FONDO REGIONAL DE TECNOLOGÍA AGROPECUARIA
SECRETARÍA TÉCNICA-ADMINISTRATIVA

FONTAGRO is an alliance of Latin American and Caribbean countries created to support research and innovation in the agricultural sector. The Fund contributes to the reduction of poverty, promotes competitiveness of agri-food chains and encourages the sustainable management of natural resources

Member countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Spain, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Structure: A Board representing member countries and a Technical Administrative Secretariat (TAS).

Sponsoring institutions: The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA).

Investments: US\$52.3 million invested by member countries plus counterpart project funding and other resources provided by sponsors and other research and development organizations.

The Fund: A competitive and transparent mechanism. Projects are funded by means of grant resources from the interest generated by the capital and by other organizations sharing the Fund's mission. Regional experts, external to the Fund, judge proposals on the basis of established socio-economic and environmental criteria, technical competence and institutional capacity.

Research projects: The Fund has supported 65 projects dealing with productivity, natural resources, generic resources, innovation in agri-food chains, competitiveness, food safety and agricultural policies. The Fund has committed \$20 million in grant funds, it has mobilized over \$38 million in counterpart funding and has received over 350 proposals.

Alliances: The Fund, besides encouraging cooperation in science and technology among member countries and centers of excellence, has developed alliances and cooperation with national, regional and international organizations including the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR), AECID of Spain, the Sustainable Energy and Climate Change Initiative (SECCI / IDB), universities and the private sector.

Recent developments: During its last meeting the Board reaffirmed the mission of FONTAGRO in relation to poverty, competitiveness and natural resources. Likewise it decided to adjust its Medium Term Plan with to goal to fine tune research priorities, emphasize innovation as a framework for action and strengthen evaluation of results and impacts and the dissemination of knowledge. The Fund will continue to organize yearly meetings in order to review technical progress of all active projects.

Priority Families of Technologies:

- Productivity and sustainability of agri-food chains
- Small-scale agriculture
- Food safety
- Water and soil management
- Improvement and utilization of genetic resources
- Policy research and institutional strengthening.

Call for Proposals 2008: In 2008 the Board approved a total of 9 projects financed by its own resources as well as by resources allocated by the CGIAR and the SECCI initiative. For further information please see www.fontagro.org

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