ABOUT FONTAGRO

FONTAGRO is a unique cooperation mechanism for agricultural innovation in Latin America and the Caribbean (ALC) and Spain, that works through regional platforms. It is composed of 15 countries that have contributed capital exceeding 100 million dollars and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which is its legal representative.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

A Board of Directors with representation of the member countries and a Technical Administrative Secretariat.

MISSION

The mission of FONTAGRO is to contribute to the increase of the competitiveness of the agricultural sector, to the reduction of poverty and to the sustainable management of natural resources in the region. FONTAGRO also serves as a discussion forum on agricultural and rural innovation in the region.

MEDIUM TERM PLAN (MTP)

The MTP focuses on the improvement of family farming, emphasizing four themes:

- Technological, organizational and institutional innovation;
- Adaptation and mitigation of climate change;
- Sustainable intensification of agriculture and management of natural resources;
- Value chains and competitive territories.
FONTAGRO IN NICARAGUA

Nicaragua has been member of FONTAGRO since its creation in 1998 with a contribution of US$ 1.0 million. During the 23 years of membership, Nicaragua has participated in 34 consortiums representing a total of US$ 27.6 million, of which US $ 10.3 million were contributed by FONTAGRO and other agencies. Additionally, Nicaragua has led 3 of these 34 consortiums. The projects in which Nicaragua has participated have included research and technological development in coffee, corn, bean, banana, rice, cassava, tomato and palm crops. Nicaragua has also participated in livestock projects, production chains, food safety, rural extension, among others. Some of the most important results are:

1. It was discovered that relative humidity and precipitation are the two most important factors in the development of the epidemic caused by the Black sigakota of banana, as well as the progress curve of this disease.
2. F1 hybrid clones of Coffea arabica were developed that have shown significantly higher productions (up to 150 % more on average) and of the same quality as the traditional varieties. There are possibilities to increase the quality of coffee produced in low areas, with the planting of selected clones for these altitudes.
3. A manual of good management practices for the safety of lettuce and tomato was created.
4. Predatory mites of Steneotarsonemus spinki of the genera Neoseiulus, Propioseiopsis, Pseudoparasitus and Hypoaspis were identified, which weaken the sustainable production of rice.
5. Three promising lines of improved rice germplasm that are in the final evaluation phase were identified. INTA Fortaleza tolerant to the mite-fungus-bacteria complex was released.
6. Two varieties of maize tolerant to climate change and pod rot were released.

STRENGTHENING

1. The platforms increased the efficiency and effectiveness of research and innovation, strengthening the capacities of researchers.
2. Technical, organizational and institutional strengthening at national and international level.
3. Access to partnerships in projects with the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the International Center for the Improvement of Maize and Wheat (CIMMYT), the International Potato Center (CIP), CATIE, SICTA-IICA, PROMECAFE, CIRAD of France, Bioversity, Texas University, EMBRAPA of Brazil, etc. Through these, we have also obtained access to multiple international cooperation networks such as the Latin Potato Network where institutions from more than 11 countries participate at a global level, PROMECAFE, CGIAR, etc.
4. The FONTAGRO projects generate privileged and free access to technologies, contacts, publications, case studies and international networks.

EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS IN NICARAGUA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>LEAD INSTITUTION</th>
<th>MEMBERS OF THE CONSORTIUM</th>
<th>TOPIC</th>
<th>AMOUNT OF THE CONSORTIUM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>AGROSAVIA COLOMBIA</td>
<td>INIAP (EC); IDIAP (PA); FITTACORI (CR); INTA (CR); IDIAF (DO); INTA (NI); AGROCALIDAD (EC); INIAF (BO); INIA (PE); UNA Paraguay (PY); ASBAMA (CO); DICTA (HN); CIAT (CO); Bioversity International (CR); BID Invest (US); AUGURA (CO); DICTA (HN); CIAT (CO); CIRAD (FR); INTA (AR); INIA (UY); CSIC (ES); WUR (NL); KILIMO (AR);</td>
<td>Prevention and management of Fusarium wilt</td>
<td>$1,378,298</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>ARGENTINA</td>
<td>INTA (AR); INTA (NI); INIA (UY); CSIC (ES); WUR (NL); KILIMO (AR);</td>
<td>Irrigation advice system and ICTs</td>
<td>$459,004</td>
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<td>IDIAP PANAMA</td>
<td>INTA (NI); DICTA (HN); AGROSAVIA (CO); HARVESTPLUS (CO); EMBRAPA (BR); CENTA (SV); ICTA (GT);</td>
<td>Biofortified bean value chain</td>
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<td>2018</td>
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<td>INTA (AR); INIA (CL); INIA (CL); INTA (NI); IDIAF (DO); IPTA (PY); INIA (UY); EMBRAPA (BR); PROECISUR (UY); Ministry for Primary Industries NZ (NZ);</td>
<td>Sustainable intensification of legume-based livestock systems</td>
<td>$1,794,524</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
<td>Organization</td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Amount</td>
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<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>INIA URUGUAY</td>
<td>INTA (AR); CATIE (CR); IDIAP (PA); INTA (CR); IDIAF (DO); IPTA (PY); DICTA (HN); INIA (CL); INIAP (EC); INTA (NI); INIA (VE); HEIFER (NI); ARGENINTA (AR);</td>
<td>Sustainable Intensification of Dairy</td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td>FONTAGRO UNITED STATES</td>
<td>INTA (AR); AGROSAVIA (CO); DICTA (HN); IDIAF (DO); IDIAP (PA); INIA (VE); INIA (CL); INIA (ES); INIA (PE); INIA (UY); INIAF (BO); INIAP (EC); INTA (CR); INTA (NI); IPTA (PY);</td>
<td>Mechanism and Climate Technology Transfer Networks</td>
<td>$250,000</td>
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