



The new FORAGRO

Status of its reform and renewal

Enabling innovation for sustainable agricultural development in the
Americas within a global context: a GFAR/IICA joint workshop
Rome, February 10, 2017





FORAGRO: brief history



- Established by IABA resolution in 1997, re-endorsed in 2003
- Envisioned as a space for discussion of and agreement on R+D+I issues facing agriculture in the Americas
- Component of Hemispheric Agrifood Technology and Innovation System.
- Originally, one of its key roles was to help shape policies



FORAGRO: brief history



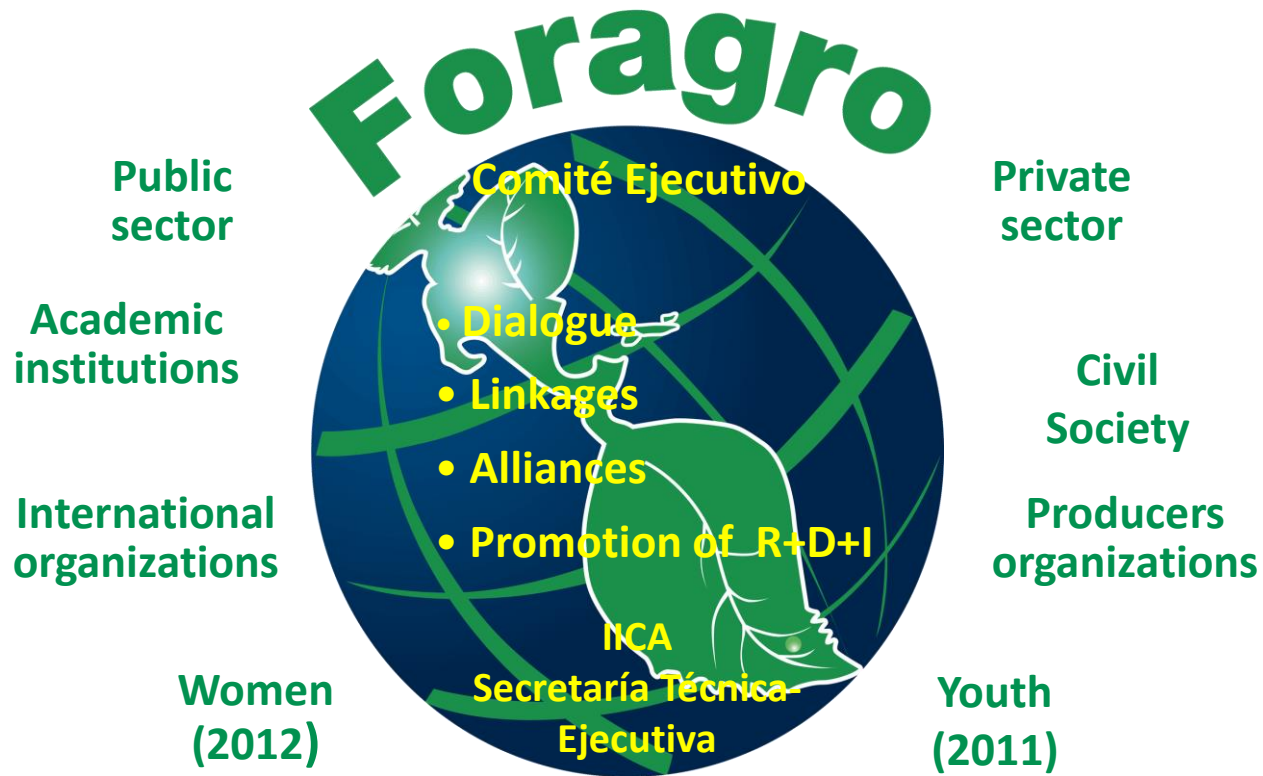
Over its lifespan the Forum has promoted numerous initiatives under different lines of action, including:

- Hemispheric dialogue
- Regional research and development agenda
- Prospective studies
- Capacity building and exchange of experiences
- Information management for research and technology development
- Political presence

Financed mostly through IICA funds and members' support to host meetings



Conceived as an inclusive forum



Some challenges with securing participation and representativeness of stakeholder groups



Current status



- IICA provides Secretariat function, institutional representation and limited financing for governance bodies to function
- IICA also supports regional and sub-regional mechanisms that are part of FORAGRO
- 2015: IICA commissioned external evaluation
- 2016: IICA commissioned the development of a restructuring proposal aimed at a more focused, effective, sustainable and inclusive forum
- 2016: Executive Committee approves the proposal
- 2017: Ongoing implementation plan



Inputs into restructuring plan



- Prospective external evaluation, 2015
- 15th Meeting of Expanded Executive Committee, Brasilia, November 2015
- Working group in support of the transition – Washington, March 2016
- 16th Meeting of Executive Committee, Turrialba, November 2016

The new FORAGRO: guiding principles



- Need to strengthen its **role as Forum**- add and combine people and organizations with specific expertise to discuss topics of mutual interest
- Must become a **unique organization**: irreplaceable, relevant, and useful to its stakeholders
- Must be **representative and ensure active participation**
- Must have a **strong institutional link** with a technically and politically recognized inter-American institution- IABA



The new FORAGRO: Mission and Vision



Proposed mission:

- To serve as a forum to promote dialogue, actively discuss needs and opportunities, generate analysis and proposals, and solidify partnerships to strengthen science, technology and innovation systems for the sustainable development of agriculture in the Americas

Proposed vision:

- To be recognized as the main Forum of the Americas where the present and future of agricultural science, technology and innovation systems is discussed and shared



The new FORAGRO: functions



- Act as a catalyst and promoter of improvements, raise awareness, inform and advocate with political and technical bodies, including governments, academic sector, private sector and civil society, in support of agricultural R+D+I and fair access to its benefits to respond to the needs of the agricultural sector and rural communities in the Americas
- Generate and exchange relevant information and knowledge on priority R+D+i-related issues to support decision-making processes by policymakers and stakeholders
- Facilitate inclusive mechanisms to improve representation of its stakeholder groups



The New FORAGRO: governance and membership

- A more inclusive governance (Assembly of Members, Steering Committee, Technical Advisory Group, Secretariat)
- Increased and better defined articulation with regional mechanisms and bodies (e.g., PROCIs, IABA)
- Building a space for multiple national, regional, and global actors



The New FORAGRO: operational framework



- Mechanism for financial and institutional sustainability
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Communication strategy



Governance proposal



- **Assembly of Members:** all stakeholder groups and subgroups, participating either as institutional representatives or as individuals.
- **Steering Committee**
 - Cooperation for R+I+D
 - Agents of the productive systems
 - Representatives of civil society
 - Promotion of R+D+I
 - Discussion Forum
 - Political entities
 - IICA
- **Executive Secretariat**
- **Technical Advisory Group-** Executive Secretaries PROCIs, FONTAGRO, Red Innovagro



The New FORAGRO: next steps



- Carry out a study of FORAGRO's achievements to date to help communicate the Forum's value and increase its visibility.
- Compile and systematize information on current R+D+I agendas at regional and country level and prioritize the topics to be proposed to FORAGRO.
- Constitute the Assembly, Steering Committee, Executive Secretariat and Technical Advisory Group (Statutes and Regulations, inform potential members about the approved stakeholder categories, invite potential members)
- Present the new FORAGRO to IABA



The New FORAGRO: next steps

- Begin development of a Strategic Plan for FORAGRO using the Theory of Change methodology.
- Prepare a proposal for a 2017-2018 Work Plan to be submitted to the Assembly.

IICA will provide financial support to this process during 2017, while progress is made on developing a model of long-term sustainability to finance the Forum's activities.



FORAGRO as GFAR partner and regional representative in the SC



- How the Americas are represented in GFAR governance model
- IICA as sponsor of FORAGRO and regional cooperation mechanisms and also as partner of GFAR
- How GFAR, through FORAGRO can support collective actions in the Americas and beyond
- FORAGRO as part of GFAR SC, a channel for its constituents to help shape GFAR's agenda and a mechanism to work with other constituencies on collective actions
- How IICA and FORAGRO can contribute to the achievement of GFAR outcomes



Thank you very much

Questions, ideas, suggestions?

