

EMBRAPA and Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture alliance to aid Africa food security

Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation president Silvia Massruhá and IICA Director General Manuel Otero sign agreement to promote sustainable agriculture

BRASILIA, BRASIL, August 25, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [Embrapa](#) and IICA strengthen their alliance and joint efforts: they will enhance cooperation with Africa and the global positioning of sustainable agriculture

(IICA) – The President of the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa), Silvia Massruhá, and the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), [Manuel Otero](#), agreed to develop an international joint work agenda to strengthen agricultural research and innovation and promote the global positioning of sustainable agriculture.



IICA and Embrapa

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At Embrapa's headquarters in Brazil's capital, Massruhá and Otero signed a commitment to facilitate international technical cooperation actions and promote the exchange of public policies, technologies, and knowledge, which they indicated will soon become concrete actions benefiting the agricultural sector.

During the meeting, the Director General of IICA announced the creation of the “José Ireneu Cabral Fund,” with an initial seed capital of \$100,000 to finance

exchanges of agricultural researchers, facilitating the presence of African researchers in Brazil,

specifically at Embrapa, aiming at the development of regenerative tropical agriculture in Africa.

There are also plans to send Brazilian researchers to Central America and the Caribbean, two regions that, like Brazil half a century ago, need to strengthen their agricultural sectors and increase local food production.

In addition to developing cooperation projects with Africa, Embrapa and IICA committed to working together in institutional spaces at COP29, which will be held in Azerbaijan in November, and COP30, which Brazil will host in 2025.

In this regard, the Director General of IICA invited the President of Embrapa to participate in the technical and political activities of the Home of Sustainable Agriculture in the Americas Pavilion, which IICA will install in the Azerbaijani capital, as it did in 2022 and 2023 in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

“Our continent produces 30% of the world’s food. It is time for a newfound connection between agriculture and the environment, with the inclusion of new stakeholders, transformations, and digital cooperation. Embrapa is a fundamental partner that provides science and innovation. And when it comes to food security, Latin America and Africa, due to their agricultural potential, represent the present and the future. In Africa, when Brazil is mentioned, Embrapa is mentioned,” said Otero.

Massruhá praised IICA’s role as a driver of collective action and agricultural innovation and pointed out that the new scenario —encompassing nutritional transition, sustainability, traceability, and climate change— “requires the productive inclusion of small and medium-sized producers.”

“Only 10% of Brazil’s five million rural producers are large exporters, and we have three million who need to increase their income. For that, they need access to technology to reduce costs, improve management, and be sustainable. The challenge is great, but so is the motivation, and the role of partners like IICA is key,” said the President of Embrapa.

The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (Embrapa) is considered one of the largest agricultural research organizations in the world. Its mission is to provide innovation, generate knowledge, and develop technologies for agriculture in Brazil. Founded in 1973, it is a public company dedicated to developing the technological foundations of a genuinely tropical agriculture and livestock model and ensuring Brazil’s food security and leadership in the international markets for food, fiber, and energy.

Randall Cordero

Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

+506 2216 0222

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