

U.S. Grains Council and IICA highlight the importance of the bioeconomy and biofuels

President Ryan LeGrand Director General Manuel Otero address economic development in the Americas

SAN JOSÉ, SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA, September 5, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- ([IICA](#)). The bioeconomy is a key driver of sustainable development and the burgeoning production and use of biofuels in the Americas, especially due to the current role of biofuels as catalysts for agricultural and economic development in the region.



IICA and US Grains Council

The President and CEO of the U.S. Grains Council, Ryan LeGrand, and the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), [Manuel Otero](#), both stressed this point during a discussion that took place within the framework of a regional seminar entitled “Growing Energy” organized by the two organizations in San José, Costa Rica.

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Manuel Otero

“We see the bioeconomy, and especially bioethanol, as a catalyst in the agriculture sector in the Americas; it creates jobs and markets. Today, much of the ethanol produced in the region is for potable alcohol, not much of it is mixed with gasoline. There is a good market, but they have the opportunity to create a new industry, and doing that stimulates investment and innovation. This is one of the main benefits we see of incorporating bioethanol in the Central American and Caribbean countries”, said LeGrand during the conversation.

Otero also highlighted the transformative impact that the current agricultural revolution is having, and emphasized that, due to its enormous potential, agriculture is no longer just an activity dedicated to food production.

“In addition to producing food, agriculture is growing energy, and generating new markets such as the carbon market. Producers have to be the guardians of biodiversity, custodians of rural territories, and all of this creates a new frontier of opportunities for agriculture. If we take full advantage of it and follow the good examples that are occurring as part of the energy transition, we believe it can change the face and situations of food insecurity, poverty and hunger in our continent”, said the head of IICA.

Both LeGrand and Otero acknowledged the fact that in order to make steady progress with the use of bioeconomy resources, it is imperative to educate and raise awareness among the population and governments about the environmental and economic benefits of an increasingly sustainable form of agriculture that is triggering the creation of emerging industries with huge potential, such as biofuels, in which agriculture plays a crucial role as a supplier of raw materials.

“We have an opportunity here to create programs to educate people about the environmental benefits, the lower cost, and the fact that ethanol fuel burns cleaner than conventional gasoline. So there is an opportunity to begin educating people and governments; there has to be good policy to promote the use of clean fuels. It is hard work. In the United States, all types of gasoline contain 10% ethanol nationwide, but hardly anyone knows this; they just come and fill up their car and leave”, said the President and CEO of the U.S. Grains Council.

“Seminars like this one (Growing Energy) are a great opportunity to share positive experiences; these new trends should be included in the curricula of universities, in communication, communicators need to understand that this is a key issue and all of this should permeate governments so that regulatory frameworks, regulations -in short, a new generation of public policies- speed up this extremely important transformation process”, Otero added.

During the dialogue, the two experts discussed the focus of the joint work that IICA and the U.S. Grains Council intend to pursue following the signing of a memorandum of understanding. They will be evaluating the role and benefits of biofuels, particularly ethanol, in promoting economic growth, diversifying the energy matrix and decarbonizing transportation as part of the global energy transition toward fuels compatible with international commitments aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting global warming.

Dialogue: https://youtu.be/5GpFp5klhal?si=-3p7aC_yjIdKlcYz

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