

CONACYT-IICA Agreement

100 scholarships
annually



CONACYT



Promoting technical capacities
for agriculture in Latin America
and the Caribbean



Inter- American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

Postgraduate programs in high-priority areas for agriculture in Latin America and

The government of Mexico and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), conscious of the need to strengthen technical capacities in the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in areas that are of high priority to agriculture, have agreed to establish a strategic alliance.

Through this alliance, the National Council on Science and Technology in Mexico (CONACYT) will offer one hundred scholarships per year to Latin American and Caribbean professionals wishing to undertake postgraduate programs in academic institutions in that country, in the field of sustainable agriculture or any other science related to the thematic areas of the Institute, or of interest to the candidate's country.

CONACYT and IICA will jointly select the applicants for postgraduate programs who are interested in reinforcing their knowledge in order to contribute to the

✦ What are the objectives of this initiative?

General objective

To strengthen the technical capacities of the professional personnel in the institutions of the agricultural and related sectors in LAC, through their participation in programs leading to a specialist, master's or doctor's degree in a field of strategic importance for the competitive and sustainable development of agriculture.

Specific objectives

- To promote specialization among professionals in the agricultural sector of the countries of LAC through reinforcement of their capacities in the areas of science, technology and innovation in the service of agriculture and related areas.
- To strengthen the provision of technical cooperation through training of specialized technical personnel in priority areas for the sector.

✦ In what areas will the scholarships be granted?

The scholarship recipients will be able to undertake specialized studies or pursue master's or doctor's degrees in the following thematic areas:

- Technological innovation
- Agricultural health and food safety
- Agribusiness and commercialization
- Agriculture, territories and rural well-being
- Agriculture, natural resource management and climate change
- Agriculture and food security
- Other related topics

✦ How will the scholarships be allocated?

The initiative will cover 31 Member countries of IICA. Scholarships will be awarded based on criteria relating to geographical coverage, the ability of the candidates, equity and transparency.

✦ When will the scholarship program begin?

The initiative will begin in December 2011 with the announcement of the scholarship program. These scholarships will be offered annually and will be awarded with due consideration for both the admission periods stipulated in the CONACYT call for applications, as well as the periods established by the postgraduate institutions in Mexico.

✦ Who can apply for these scholarships?

The 100 scholarships will be granted to academically qualified professionals involved in sustainable agriculture and related fields who work with the governments and with institutions of the agricultural sector of the countries of LAC that are members of IICA.

✦ How will this initiative function?

- The entity responsible for coordinating the initiative will be the CONACYT-IICA scholarship office, with assistance from other units at Headquarters, as well as the Offices in the member countries.
- The Institute will be responsible for sending the call for applications, as well as other relevant information, to its Offices in its member countries.
- The Offices will publicize the call for applications, pre-select the candidates and send the list of pre-selected candidates to the CONACYT-IICA scholarship office.
- The office will review the list, select the candidates who satisfy the requirements of the Institute, CONACYT and the corresponding institutions, and send the list of the candidates selected to CICY-CONACYT.
- Once the candidates have been admitted to an academic institution in Mexico that is accredited by the National Quality Postgraduate Studies Program (Programa Nacional de Posgrados de Calidad AENICP), CONACYT will assign them a scholarship.

Once the scholarship has been granted, the IICA Office in the corresponding country will be informed so that it can provide the scholarship recipient with the necessary logistical support and follow-up.

✿ What is the role of the IICA offices in its member countries?

These Offices have a key role to play as they are the first point of contact between applicants and the scholarship programme. Their responsibilities are:

- To circulate the call for applications and information about the program among government entities, agricultural sector organizations and academic and research institutions in the respective country.
- To pre-select candidates for scholarships in the countries, ensuring that they satisfy all the requirements established.
- To assign a staff member or advisor to provide candidates with support and orientation in meeting the requirements and in identifying the institution at which they wish to carry out their studies.
- To present to the CONACYT-IICA scholarship office the list of pre-selected candidates, accompanied by all the documentation requested by CONACYT and the academic institutions.
- To ensure that funding is available to cover the cost of round trip airfare for scholarship recipients to and from their place of study, as well as for trips they may make to their home country for the purpose of conducting research.
- To provide graduates with support as they rejoin their institutions at the end of their studies, and follow up on them.

✿ What does the scholarship offer?

The scholarship recipients will receive a monthly stipend, medical attention and exemption from payment of registration and tuition fees at the academic institutions that accept to participate in the programme.

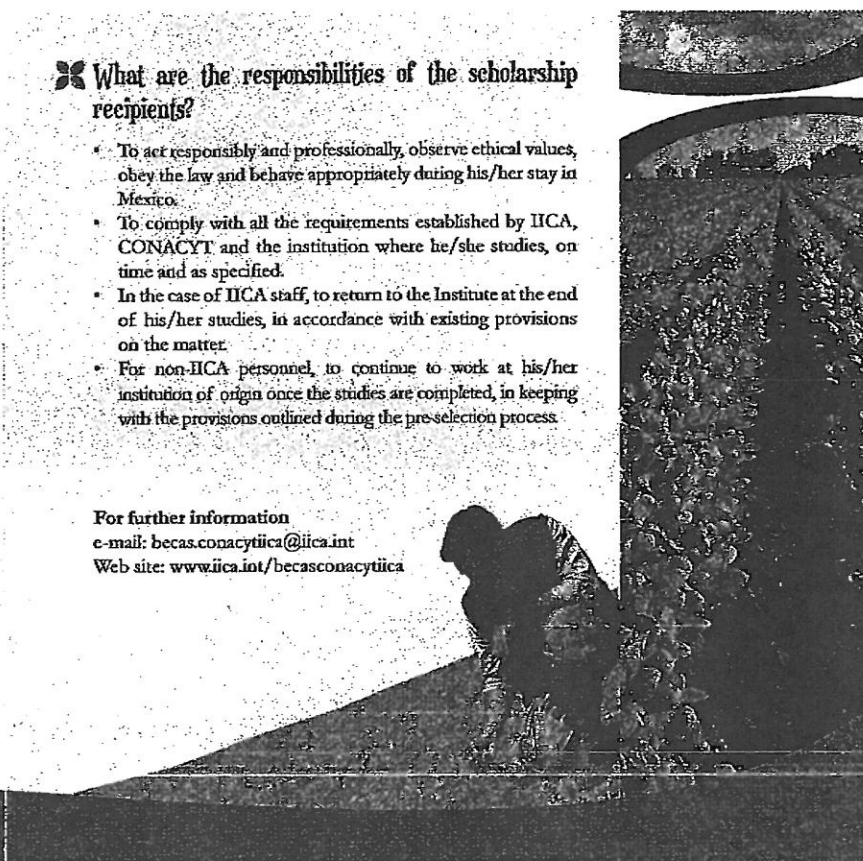
✿ What are the responsibilities of the scholarship recipients?

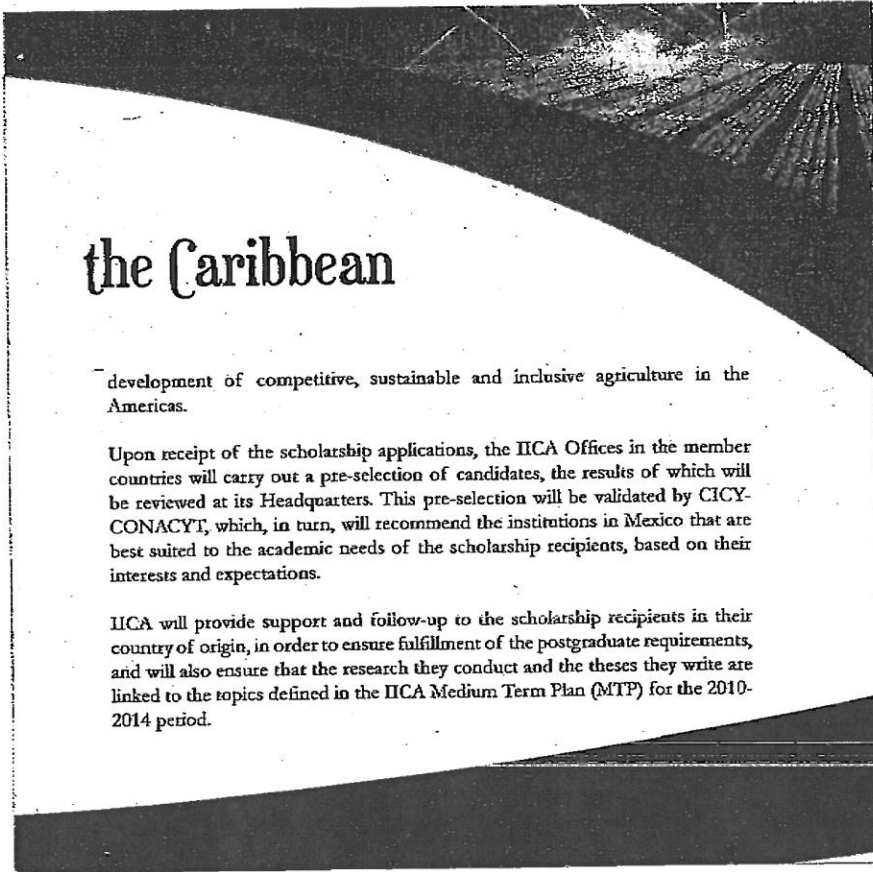
- To act responsibly and professionally, observe ethical values, obey the law and behave appropriately during his/her stay in Mexico.
- To comply with all the requirements established by IICA, CONACYT and the institution where he/she studies, on time and as specified.
- In the case of IICA staff, to return to the Institute at the end of his/her studies, in accordance with existing provisions on the matter.
- For non-IICA personnel, to continue to work at his/her institution of origin once the studies are completed, in keeping with the provisions outlined during the pre-selection process.

For further information

e-mail: becas.conacytica@iica.int

Web site: www.iica.int/becasconacytica





the Caribbean

development of competitive, sustainable and inclusive agriculture in the Americas.

Upon receipt of the scholarship applications, the IICA Offices in the member countries will carry out a pre-selection of candidates, the results of which will be reviewed at its Headquarters. This pre-selection will be validated by CICY-CONACYT, which, in turn, will recommend the institutions in Mexico that are best suited to the academic needs of the scholarship recipients, based on their interests and expectations.

IICA will provide support and follow-up to the scholarship recipients in their country of origin, in order to ensure fulfillment of the postgraduate requirements, and will also ensure that the research they conduct and the theses they write are linked to the topics defined in the IICA Medium Term Plan (MTP) for the 2010-2014 period.

What is IICA?

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture is the agency of the Inter-American System that specializes in agriculture and the promotion of rural well-being.

All our efforts are focused on making agriculture competitive and sustainable in the Americas.

Since the Institute was founded in 1942, we have accumulated extensive experience in providing technical cooperation in the areas of technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development and training.

More recently, we have become involved in critically important issues such as food security and agriculture's relationship with natural resources and climate change. Furthermore, we are helping the member countries to respond to new challenges in fields such as biotechnology and biosafety, agroenergy, agrotourism, organic agriculture, rural agroindustry, agricultural insurance and rural development from a territorial approach, among others.

We work very closely with the ministries of agriculture in our 34 Member States, and our highest-level governing body is the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), comprising the ministers of agriculture of those states. Dr. Victor Villalobos, a Mexican citizen, is the Director General for the period 2010-2014.

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE
Headquarters P.O. Box 55-2200 San Jose, Vazquez de Coronado,
San Isidro 11101 — Costa Rica • Phone: (506) 2216 0222 • Fax: (506) 2216 0233
e-mail: icabq@iica.int • Web Site: www.iica.int