

THE HEMISPHERIC TRAINING SYSTEM FOR THE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (SIHCA)¹

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ABSTRACT

The Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development (SIHCA) has been established to coordinate the efforts of countries in the western hemisphere to upgrade the skills of people working in agriculture and related fields, particularly through training because in the 90's decade there was a great isolation between the agrarian and agricultural science faculties: few of them have agreements and inter institutional way of work together. SIHCA was created to promote horizontal cooperation among America's member's countries in connection with agricultural training initiatives, programs, projects and education activities.

SIHCA's principal instrument for the action is the Hemispheric Network of Agricultural Training Institutions. Establishing and coordinating this network is the SIHCA Executive Secretariat. To this end, from 1.996 to 2008, SIHCA will receive support from IICA's Office. In 2008, The IICA endorsed this effort to FAESCA, The Andean Federation of High Education in Agrarian Science, which delegates this responsibilities in SIHECA FUNDATION, an special civil association in order to do so.

The Hemispheric Training Network is made up of public and private organizations and institutions of the member countries. SIHCA operate a network of about 470 Institutions: agrarian universities, agronomical, veterinarian, agro industrial, food, environment and forestry faculties and other education, training and research institutions that are related with education and training in the agricultural science field. SIHCA have conducted and organized about 115 training events, webmaster a site www.sihca.org which have near a million of visits per year with educational information, a profile of the supply of training and programs in agricultural items and serve as the Network of the FRADIEAR, the Regional Forum of the Andean Region of the Agricultural Science Faculties for the Education and Rural Development, which have an annual regional meeting, an annual national meetings in every Andean countries and a permanent electronic intercommunications by mail, electronic forum and so on.

Key Words: Training, agricultural education, network, courses, rural development.

I. BACKGROUND²

Along the lines of promoting different activities related to strategic topics, Carlos Aquino Gonzalez, eleven years ago, General Director of IICA, at the beginning of his administration, encouraged diverse alliances with countries and public and private corporations interested in those topics. Their support would help the integration of resources and efforts to strength the real actions to achieve the most important goals. In

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² From QUEVEDO C. RAFAEL I. 2002 'EL SIHCA, una experiencia exitosa'. EN Temas Agrarios, de la agricultura a la educación rural. ED. ARWACA. Caracas, Venezuela. /SIHCA, A SUCCESSFUL EXPERIENCE. In AGRICULTURAL TOPICS, FROM AGRICUCULTURE TO THE RURAL EDUCATION. Printer ARWACA CARACAS

this regard The Hemispheric Training System for Agricultural Development (SIHCA) has been established to coordinate the efforts of countries in the western hemisphere to upgrade the skills of people working in agriculture and related fields, particularly through training. During the searching to create SIHCA, through 1996, an agreement was consolidated between IICA and the Venezuelan Government to create the Hemispheric Training System for the Agricultural Development (SIHCA), published in the Official newspaper of Venezuela, number 36.260, on Friday, August 1st, 1997. It was target of the Executive Order of IICA, number 08/98, May 22nd, in 1998 where are written the objectives, functions, processes, strategies, financial sources and the desired aim according to the activity. Both documents provide the Coordination Unit, made by the Steering Committee, the Executive Secretariat and the Hemispheric Network of Agricultural Training Institutions as a significant component of the system³ In the ninth meeting in Santiago de Chile, the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) approved the resolution N° 329 to support SIHCA, with a clear order for IICA and an appeal to the countries to strengthen it. Then in 2003, through exchanged letters by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land of Venezuela, Arnoldo Márquez, the President of the Central University of Venezuela Antonio Paris, the Dean of the Agronomy Faculty, Franklin Chacín and the Director of IICA, Mr. Chelston Brathwaite, it is established this faculty as headquarters and be in charge of SIHCA and continuing its developing in partnership with IICA. To this end, from 1.996 to 2008, SIHCA will receive support from IICA's Office. In 2008, The IICA endorsed this effort to FAESCA, The Andean Federation of High Education in Agrarian Science, which delegates this responsibilities in SIHECA FUNDATION, an special civil association in order to do so.

II. THE PROBLEM

At the 90's decade there was a great isolation between the agrarian and agricultural science faculties: few of them have agreements and inter institutional way of work together. In additional to this, there were a few importance of the training activities because all the resources was direct or indirect focuses in the formal curriculum and in some cases in research and some extension activities. On the other hand there was a traditional approach of the agronomical studies and a modernization of the vision, mission and structure of these institutions was needed.

III. SIHCA'S OBJECTIVES

SIHCA's general objective is to contribute, through the coordination of joint agricultural training efforts, to bringing about the changes required in agricultural production, institutions and trade in western hemisphere countries in order to achieve equitable, sustainable and competitive development.

Its specific objectives are as follows: To promote horizontal cooperation among IICA member countries in connection with agricultural training initiatives, programs, projects and activities. To conduct ongoing studies to identify the demand for agricultural training in the member countries, particularly the demand for training related to priority and shared needs. To identify training available in the countries, especially that suitable for meeting priority and shared needs. To establish mechanisms and instruments for bringing together

³ The agreement created by SIHCA and the Executive Order can be consulted at the [http:// www.sihca.org](http://www.sihca.org)

those who need and those who offer training. To promote and support, as commissioned by IICA's Specialized Unit of Training and Education (UNECAP), the establishment and implementation of the Hemispheric Network of Agricultural Training Institutions, made up of public and private institutions and organizations. To design, promote and support the implementation of a modern, polyvalent information system on agricultural training, to contribute to and spur the development of the network and all its members. When necessary, to supplement available agricultural training by organizing, coordinating and supporting the execution of innovative processes and events addressing specific topics and methodologies. To promote training for instructors through specific activities aimed at increasing the availability and improving the quality of training. To promote, coordinate and support research and educational activities aimed at enriching the range of methodologies and topics on which the countries can offer agricultural training. To promote and sponsor special national, subregional and regional events for the analysis, discussion, exchange and improvement of research findings and further development in the field of training.

IV. METHODOLOGY

The steps for the creation of SIHCA were: 1) the negotiation between the actors of the development in the countries, about the necessity of the coordination efforts in order to get more efficiency and productivity with the human and financial resources. 2) The creation of an ambiance of confidence, political, cultural and financial, for sign an agreement in order to cooperate for the rural education and training. 3) The design of the system. In this agreement is necessary to put the compromise of every one in black and white in order to go forward. 4) The organization of the structure and select the people for the different position. 5) The design of a Plan of Action and a Program to do the work. 6) The evaluation of the activities and go on with new ones.

V. THE SIHCA OPERATION.

SIHCA targets its efforts on promoting, coordinating, supporting, monitoring and evaluating agricultural training processes. Member country organizations and institutions execute or are the focus of the training actions. The Hemispheric Training Network brings together public and private institutions and organizations of the different countries which provide agricultural training. IICA's Technical Cooperation Agencies in the countries support SIHCA's activities. The types of training that receive SIHCA support include hands-on training and classroom teaching, distance learning systems and, if necessary, involve the use of social communications media. The academic sector is encouraged to participate so as to take advantage of higher education, research and university extension programs to enhance the availability of agricultural training.

1. The Organization of SIHCA.

SIHCA's principal instrument for the action is the Hemispheric Network of Agricultural Training Institutions, the Steering Committee and the Executive Secretariat. To this end, SIHCA will receive support from IICA's Technical Cooperation Offices in all its member countries.

The Agronomy Faculty of the Central University of Venezuela (UCV), located in Maracay city, has an important role to play in SIHCA's activities, providing support to agricultural training institutions and organizations, primarily through the training of

training managers and instructors.

SIHCA maintains close relations with IICA's Offices in the countries and units at IICA Headquarters, and with training institutions and organizations in Venezuela

2. Levels of SIHCA's structure

The STEERING COMMITTEE is the governing body of the system, and as such is responsible for defining its lines of action, approving its program budgets, monitoring and evaluating its activities and establishing its internal regulations, pursuant to the terms of the cooperation agreement signed by IICA and the Government of Venezuela.

The members of the Committee are: the Director of IICA's Knowledge Management, who serves as Chairperson; the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Land of Venezuela, who serves as the Vice-Chairperson; the Andean Director of IICA's; the IICA Representative in Venezuela; the President of the Central University of Venezuela (UCV), the Dean of the Agronomy Faculty of the UCV, and the Executive Secretary of SIHCA, who serves as the committee's ex-officio secretary, without the right to vote.

3. The Coordination Unit

The STEERING COMITEE of SIHCA and the EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT , as the coordination unit of the activities, Venezuela headquarters, where it was held the first Ordinary and Constitutive Meeting from the Steering Committee of SIHCA, from August 29 to 30, in 1996 . In this meeting the Regulations of SIHCA were approved and was proposed the Executive Secretary, whose formal possession as international staff of IICA occurred on November 1, 1996. From this time, an intense and growing activity has been developed to achieve the objectives proposed in the Agreement of Creation of SIHCA and its Regulations. The Steering Committee has assisted to 8 meetings to evaluate the results from each year, to approve the ongoing projects and plans and consider different subjects related to the performance of SIHCA. These results have been published in the SERIES OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS SIHCA, from the first number and on since 2003 and after signing the Letter of Understanding by the Agronomy Faculty of the Central University of Venezuela, with office in Maracay, The Secretariat moved its offices to the campus of the institution. There the old installations of Experimental Station of Tobaccos (EXPERTA) were fitted out for the Executive Secretariat of SIHCA with vast communicative resources and support to reach an entire performance. This place is an important point of reference because of the amount of communicational flows with the network institutions, public and private institutions of Venezuela, the headquarters country and the embassies of other American countries in Venezuela. In addition SIHCA has been supported, when necessary, by the technique staff of the Extension Coordination Office and the academic staff of the Agronomy Faculty as the support of the Faculty of Veterinary Science that has offered an excellent conference room to perform the current Program Training of Presencial Courses.

The Executive Secretariat has accomplished the Plans of Actions of SIHCA and has performed a technique management focused on reaching the objectives, especially the constitution of the Hemispheric Network, the exchange of availability of and demand for training , promotion, and coordination of courses of specific topics that require the training of trainers and spreading of the training topics and the information about the activities of SIHCA as the participation in international and national training events ,

the execution of conferences about training topics and the interaction of operative units of IICA and diverse public and private institutions linked to SIHCA, through the SIHCA's bulletin that is published constantly, it was printed until volume 14 then it was published by e- bulletins.

4. The Hemispheric Network of Training Institutions

The Hemispheric Training Network is made up of public and private organizations and institutions of the member countries. They must be well-established institutions that play a leading role in agricultural training in their respective country. Subregional, regional and international agricultural training institutions and organizations may also join the network. Organizations join the network by signing an agreement or protocol with the Executive Secretariat of SIHCA.

At this moment in time, THE HEMISPHERIC NETWORK OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, assembles four hundred seventy (470) training institutions of America and the Caribbean; it permits the exchange of supply and demand, through the programming of courses with the institutions of these countries, Faculties of Agricultural Science, Agricultural institutions and more public and private institutions of agricultural training and to start an exchange of information and experiences from specialists in this topic

The institutions joined to the Hemispheric Network of Agricultural Training are made by Faculties of Agronomic Science, Veterinary Science, Forestry Science, of Natural Resources, Agrifood and so on, as Agricultural universities and public and private institutions of agricultural training and organizations, not headed by the government, aimed to the training and those that have decided to join to the network can do it by downloading a membership format of the SIHCA's site www.sihca.org Not all the institutions remain active because it depends on the frequency each one of them upload and exchange the information.

There are different institutions which have joined to the network taking into account the importance of belonging to a NETWORK that allows the inter-institutional exchange, but also creates a NEW VIRTUAL MARKET, the market of training through the SIHCA's site, where it is possible to reach the objective of exchanging the availability of and demand for training among institutions and users from all the hemisphere around. This site has been redesigned constantly and nowadays is displayed in Spanish, English, French and Portuguese to give the opportunity to the institutions of being connected, which are a huge amount.

5 Criteria for Selecting Members of the Hemispheric Training Network

The criteria for selecting the members are: A well-established legal and institutional structure. Significant experience in agricultural training A demand-oriented institutional strategy Proven capacity in evaluating the achievements of teaching-learning processes, and in monitoring and evaluating their impact An explicit focus on sustainability for agricultural development An institutional training strategy that uses a gender approach and promotes rural youth Experience and a clear commitment to training as a means of modernizing agriculture.

6 The Virtual Market of Agricultural Training

THE VIRTUAL MARKET OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING is the most important product generated by the Hemispheric Network. This is a section of SIHCA's web site (www.sihca.org) where the institutions that are logged in present the training offering planned for all the year, through virtual templates that let the users to have access to the training events they are interested in from any searcher. These events can be courses, workshops, seminars, conferences and others; they are classified by topics in alphabetical order, countries and institutions thus, users can find the information easily. These links provide an information profile about the background, objectives, contents, schedule, locations, costs, degrees received in the course, as the profile of the participants and their addresses, phone issues and e-mails of the institution that offers the course, in this way there is a direct and an immediate contact between the user and the responsible of the event, therefore, interaction of supply and demand of training on line in an instant. Nowadays, there are more than five hundred courses and other training events about diverse interesting topics for the agricultural development. This system has the advantage of being interactive, so users can access to the site and the data base, from their own offices, using a login and a password given by the SIHCA's Executive Secretariat and add new events or modify the existing information, besides the system deletes those courses whose date is over.

This site, www.sihca.org, offers additional services as follows: IICA books with their abstracts and specific stores to acquire them; access to SIDALC to browse in the bibliographic mechanisms of search of this important network of IICA ; to an electronic mechanism of bibliographic search of the SIHCA's documents related to Knowledge management ; job market of professional people in agricultural sciences , human talents availability, News, a direct access online to more than forty national e international channels, newspapers and so on; chats and forum services that permit the permanent exchanging of opinions and specialized technique debates among specialists , experts of the institutions and professional people; e-mail obtained by a free subscription using this address name@sihca.zzn.com ; links with more than twenty international organisms, training institutions that have web pages and even organisms of the Government of Venezuela, the country seat; a special IICA's window and having access to IICA's web page , all its programs messages services and a file format for the new institutions that are interested in being part of the network. The SIHCA's site also has a link with the Global Development Learning Network (GDLN) of the World Bank, another with the Educational Program for America of the Organization of American States (OAS) to publish all the education activities and training promoted by these international organisms, besides the activities of the Hemispheric Network of Agricultural Training Institutions. In addition, this site has some special buttons to select specific courses for agronomists, veterinarians, forest engineers and related careers.

Recently, by request of the FORUM⁴ OF THE ANDEAN REGION OF THE AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE FACULTIES FOR THE EDUCATION AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (FRADIEAR), the SIHCA made a reengineering of the data base to include new sections, besides the Virtual Market of Training, to grant it as an

⁴ See: INSTITUTO INTERAMERICANO PARA LA AGRICULTURA. 2005. Memorias de la V Reunión del Foro Regional Andino Para el Dialogo y la Integración de la Educación Agropecuaria y Rural. Acuerdos y Resoluciones. ED. IICA-IESALC-UNESCO, Quito, Ecuador 2.005 220 p.

ACADEMIC INTEGRAL SITE, that permits the institutions to publish not only the training courses but the profiles of the careers, postgraduate studies, investigation, extension, and social projection projects, distance education courses, different mechanisms of integration among the institutions, all surrounded by the HORIZONTAL COOPERATION in tune with the new IICA's approaches . Since 2004, SIHCA has been working in coordination and communication with FRADIEAR and its site has become into an instrument of cooperation with this Regional Forum.

7. Studies on Demand

SIHCA has promoted studies based on the demand for agricultural training. It is a pleasure to mention that a field study was made in Venezuela through adapting and updating the methodology that IICA has used before at the beginning of the 90's decade in Central America and Ecuador. As a result of this research it was obtained the document called 'CARACTERIZACIÓN DE LA DEMANDA DE CAPACITACIÓN PARA EL DESARROLLO AGRÍCOLA EN VENEZUELA'⁵ / (Characterization of the training demand for the agricultural development in Venezuela) which has been distributed, focused on encouraging the IICA's Cooperation Agencies to sign similar agreements to achieve financial resources and the training of the human team required to accomplish it in other countries of the Hemisphere. The methodology of this study is published in the section of current topics in SIHCA's site.

8 Program of Courses about Strategic Topics

A PROGRAM OF COURSES has been developed in collaboration with the universities and other corporations, based on those relevant topics for the development. It is necessary to train trainers and complement the institutions effort to promote the innovation and evaluation of the impact on strategic areas. Therefore, areas such as Sustainable Agricultural Development, Environment Impact, Environment Management, Environment Economy, Good Agricultural Practices, Agricultural and Environment Extension, , The Programming of the Extension, Management Administration of Rural Microbusiness, Planning and Evaluation of Projects, Agribusiness, International Trade, Agricultural Health Related to Trade, Analysis of Agricultural Food Products Chains, Planning of Agricultural Policies, Institutional Empowerment for Changing , Strategic Planning, Curricular Development in the Universities, Evaluation And Certification of Academic Programs , Technical Topics On Demand as Geographic Systems of Information, The Usage and Handling of Rural Biodigestors, Rural Tourism, in general, those topics that are new and useful to improve the professional performance of people in charge of the rural development. In view of that, these topics have been promoted and have allowed signing alliances with universities, having around 3,326 participants, in 115 courses, seminars, and training workshops. These events performed in collaboration with national universities, IICA's cooperation Agencies, Ministries public and private institutions have caused a great effect on the desire of new knowledge, and spreading of strategic topics for the agricultural and rural development. Professional people from different countries as ARGENTINA, PARAGUAY, PERU, COLOMBIA, REPUBLICA DOMINICANA, PANAMA, COSTA RICA, NICARAGUA, SALVADOR, HONDURAS,

⁵ IICA-SIHCA-MAC (1999). Estudio sobre la demanda de Capacitación para el desarrollo agrícola de Venezuela. Trabajo realizado por MV. Magda Perozo y Licenciada Brizeida García bajo la dirección de Rafael Isidro Quevedo. Vd. SIHCA, Caracas, Venezuela.

GUATEMALA, BELICE, MEXICO and VENEZUELA have participated in these events. Likewise, this Program of Courses⁶ has acceded to develop a new cooperation strategy that has lowered the cost per event notably, according to the organization and the performing they have had, by means of arrangements with different institutions interested in the topic, so physical, financial resources and human teams that participate are shared. SIHCA does not substitute the training institutions; on the contrary, SIHCA works in collaboration with them, sharing efforts that afford the making of the events in which the institutions are interested in, providing classrooms, audiovisual aids, computers and their own staff, on the same way, working with member trainers of SIHCA, linked with other universities and specialists of IICA. This takes a complex effort to coordinate in a place and in a specific time everything that such event needs to be successful, but this action contributes to strengthen the interpersonal and inter-institutional cooperation links.

All of the events promoted by SIHCA have been evaluated by the participants through a rubric that has twenty different variables associated with diverse aspects that involve the success of the course. The general average always has been between OUTSTANDING and EXCELLENT. The high percentage of professors' participation in these events has qualified the academic field by having new knowledge, worries and motivations to encourage the updating of study plans, subjects contents and high and middle public staff level has reinforced their performance in different areas.

9 SIHCA Bulletin

The publication of the SIHCA BULLETIN⁷ has been a special effort of diffusion, as informing about SIHCA's activities as offering a forum of opinion about international cooperation and training topics as publishing documents and technical guidelines of IICA. Fourteen (14) issues of the SIHCA bulletin have been published; with a press run from three thousand to four thousand copies per edition. SIHCA BULLETIN has been distributed by mail to all the member institutions of the NETWORK, to the embassies of the American countries in Caracas, in Venezuela, to the National Libraries of these countries, to the libraries of the international organisms to the Ministries of Agriculture of the hemisphere , to all the principal's and manager's offices and IICA headquarters staff , of regional centers, of IICA's Cooperation Agencies in these countries as to the participants of SIHCA's events , visitors and people interested in. These bulletins have also been published in SIHCA's site www.sihca.org where it is possible to consult them and 'download' the text. Due to the high costs of printing, from the 14th issue, it was taken the decision of sending weekly e bulletins to the members of the HEMISPHERIC NETWORK, to reduce their costs and make the Informative processes faster.

VI. STRENGTHENING PROCESS

The achievement of these results has not been nor easy neither simple, for this reason, a great motivation and promotion have been required to challenge the renaissance of real interest in training. Fortunately, the actual movement of Knowledge Development in the world produces that those techniques and production methods become out-of-date, besides the globalization and opening processes have created a world environment of

⁶ IICA-SIHCA-UCV. Programa de Capacitación Agropecuaria para la Región Andina. [On line <<http://www.sihca.org>>

⁷ SIHCA. Boletines SIHCA. [On line <<http://www.sihca.org>>

competence and an atmosphere of innovation and constant changes in general. These new tendencies make those five years careers or 2 or more years postgraduate studies become so time-consuming, compared to that knowledge we learnt yesterday and is checked today, pushing the institutions in the need of finding out fast and easy ways to guarantee the constant updating of professional people, urgently. So, it is necessary to obtain opportunities to update all that knowledge related to specific matters, this produces a growing interest in the training programs as a strategy to promote human talent in short term.

The SIHCA has achieved its strengthening. Its results are around it. New institutions have been associated with the Network, and it becomes more interactive each time. The IICA maintains its support to this project. In Venezuela, the set of National Universities with Agricultural Science Faculties have widespread their support to SIHCA, through a strategic agreement which has permitted double the goals of training trainers and professional people. Moreover, a TRAINER TEAM of high academic level was made up by experienced professors and advisers and postgraduate studies that guarantee the quality of the training. The staff of the former IICA's Directorate of Education and Training (Now, UNECAP) also answered to this united effort with the support of its specialists to the courses which have required it, as the help of specialists from other units when some programs have been integrated. It is important to notice the support of IICA's offices who have worked in the creation of an excellent program of courses based on Venezuela as in the Andean Region and other countries. IICA's Offices in the hemisphere have received, constantly, the SIHCA's information, they have distributed among the National Institutions, the invitations to the courses, bulletins and all the information that has been published. So, it is possible to state that there is a clear concept of SIHCA, its usefulness and its benefits thanks to its presence, inside IICA and their Network of Institutions.

Furthermore, the countries represented by their ministries have expressed their solidarity in the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA), through resolutions that give relevance to the topic and request to the countries and institutions to give the greatest possible support to contribute to the talent development in the rural field. According to this, the RESOLUTION 329, of the ninth IABA, in Santiago de Chile, still in force, established a mandate for supporting the SIHCA, an invitation to all the countries to participate in the system and in the creation of a scholarships fund by IICA through SIHCA, for agricultural training. In the tenth IABA, held in Salvador de Bahía, another resolution was announced giving instructions to the General Director of IICA: 'to strength the education and training activities', this is focused on the consolidation of SIHCA as a mechanism of IICA, available for all the countries and institutions that take advantage of the benefits of the exchange and cooperation.

XI. VISION⁸ AND MISION OF SIHCA.

Nowadays, the Vision of SIHCA is to "being an international and innovative mechanism, having excellence as a culture, technical, integrated, identified and well-known by the Hemisphere, sponsor of training, educational researching. A mechanism

⁸ Vision and Mission can be consulted in: PARISI, JOSE LUIS Y CARRIQUIRY, MIGUEL. (2001) RESULTADOS DE LA EVALUACIÓN DEL SIHCA. En la sección de documentos / Results of the evaluation of SIHCA. In SIHCA's site. www.sihca.org documents section.

that offers technical advise and training related to the requirements of the agricultural development of the member countries and is an international reference point, that relates resources of different institutions and a mandatory consult to satisfy the training demand, having the role of an active motor of exchanging knowledge and experiences between the actors of the agricultural and rural field”

The Mission is: “To consolidate the training network, in the hemispheric level and national countries working as a system. To wide the TRAINING ACTION , strengthening strategic topics as rural development , natural resources, management, environment and economy impact, organic agriculture, biodiversity and biotechnology, administration management and rural safety, agricultural health and food safety, project, planning, international trade and negotiations , innovative topics and agricultural technologies because of demand, agribusiness , strategic planning, evaluation and monitoring, good agricultural practices, and products, institutional strengthening and other topics asked by the countries through the national agendas. To strength the relationship with the universities and spread the mission of supporting the higher education, investigations and postgraduate studies, doing alliances and consortiums of human talents. To wide the relationship with SIHCA , as having new members from international organisms, public and private entities of the countries , foundations and enterprises from regional and local governments To strength the training studies on demand, the study of the training impact and the monitoring of the trainees as the profiles of professional people of Agricultural Science. To contribute to the increasing of institutional skills of the principal actors of the sustainable rural development through massive communication methodologies. To wide the international relationship to strength the training activities and to commit the countries of America and the Caribbean with the sustainability of SIHCA and the support of its operations.”

X. THE PRODUCTS OF SIHCA

At this moment SIHCA operate a network of about 470 Institutions: agrarian universities, agronomical, veterinarian, agroindustrial, food, environment and forestry faculties and other education, training and research institutions that are related with education and training in the agricultural science. SIHCA have conducted and organized about 115 training events, webmaster a site www.sihca.org which have near a million of visits a year with educational information, a profile of the supply of training and programs in agricultural items and serve as the Network of the FRADIEAR, the Regional Forum of the Andean Region for the Agricultural Science Faculties for the Education and Rural Development, which have an annual regional meeting, an annual national meetings in every Andean countries and a permanent electronic intercommunications by mail, electronic forum and so on.

XI.CONCLUSIONS:

SIHCA is a mechanism to exchange information on the availability of and demand for training, ongoing processes, methodological approaches, the human resources available, and the results of evaluations of experiences. Is working in exchange, where possible, educational materials on human resources development. Provide a forum for the analysis and discussion of important aspects of agricultural training at the national, subregional and regional levels. Facilitate the identification and execution of specific training projects and research and educational development activities, keyed to the needs of the countries,

subregions and the western hemisphere as a whole and establish links, whenever advisable and possible, with other national, subregional and regional networks or mechanisms with similar or complementary objectives.

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