



INVESTING IN INNOVATION

ANNUAL REPORT
15/16





Dr. José Luis Repetto

President of FONTAGRO
2014-2016 Term

Vice President of INIA,
Uruguay

WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear friends and colleagues,

I am glad to present the report for this period, which involved a lot of work and effort, resulting in significant achievements. Among those, the following can be mentioned: significant project results, increased collaboration among FONTAGRO's members, and the renewal of our Administration Agreement with the Inter-American Development Bank for the next three years.

Throughout this period, we focused our efforts on working with our partners to build the capacities of researchers and professionals involved in FONTAGRO projects, by offering such improved instruments as in-person and online courses on several priority topics.

We created work platforms and reinforced our search for new strategic partners with the aim of scaling up successful projects. We especially devoted our energy to sharing our knowledge and experiences as well as improving our tools to make that knowledge available to more people.

We organized competitions and activities that enabled us to experience, firsthand, the problems and vicissitudes faced by family farmers. These competitions also gave us the opportunity of collaborating to identify innovations, mainly aimed at addressing challenges faced by family farming, such as those brought about by climate change.

However, these challenges require coordinating actions among countries with the aim of achieving sustainable funding for research and development, as well as intensifying our efforts toward building the capacities of our technicians and scientists, in order to generate more innovations that can meet farmers' needs.

On a personal level, my term of office as the chair of FONTAGRO's Board of Directors has come to an end. This term strengthened me and contributed with new stories and experiences that have gratified me professionally, and mainly personally. It has been a pleasure and a great honor to chair this group of leaders from the region, with whom we share our vision of contributing toward the innovation of family agriculture.

For all of the above, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your support: the Board of Directors for granting me the honor of working with a wonderful team and the Technical Administrative Secretariat for facilitating my work at the head of FONTAGRO, in a highly professional manner. Lastly, I want to wish every success to this big family that is FONTAGRO and to its new authorities, as well as to renew my willingness to accompany you in the near future as your close collaborator.

All the best!



Dr. Hugo Li Pun

Executive Secretary of
FONTAGRO

WORDS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Dear friends of FONTAGRO,

This year witnessed many achievements and FONTAGRO's consolidation as a cooperation mechanism among countries for the innovation of family agriculture.

Regarding our operations, we are executing more than 29 projects. During this period, we also launched two joint projects and three small grants on strategic issues for the region. We carried out a new call for proposals, approving four new projects on value chains in family agriculture.

Together with such partners as the Global Environment Facility, the IDB, and IICA, we organized a competition that enabled us to identify successful experiences involving innovations for adapting to climate change, implemented by farmers in the region. This also gave us the opportunity to meet the stakeholders responsible for these innovations, who shared information about their challenges with us.

We worked to create new regional platforms on key issues for the region, such as sustainable intensification of the dairy sector, cattle farming, and climate change, as well as horticulture in protected environments.

Capacity building is one of FONTAGRO's strategic objectives. Therefore, this past year we organized workshops and in-person training courses, and we designed online courses aimed at drafting competitive innovation projects, thus contributing to build capacities in member countries.

During this period, we also organized a bioeconomy

seminar in Lima, Peru, on the occasion of our annual technical project monitoring workshop.

Sharing knowledge generated from our projects is also part of our strategy. Therefore, we prepared several publications, shared information with the media, and increased our participation in social media, in order to reach more people.

We have continued to work with the support of our partners, including the IDB, IICA, INDES, AgroLAC 2025, the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Government of New Zealand, and such international organizations as CATIE and CIAT. We have also continued to establish new partnerships and look for new member countries.

None of these developments and initiatives would have been possible without the solid support of our member countries, which are represented in the Board of Directors; our IDB and IICA sponsors; and my Technical Administrative Secretariat colleagues. I wish to convey my deep appreciation to them for their trust and support and, especially, for sharing our vision of working toward the innovation of family agriculture in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge the key contribution of Dr. José Luis Repetto, President of the Board of Directors, for his leadership and commitment to FONTAGRO. I would also like to welcome our new President, Engineer Armando Bustillo from Honduras, and our Vice President, Chile's Dr. Julio Kalazich, to whom we wish much success in their mandate.

Best wishes!

2015-2016 SIGNIFICANT FACTS

This report summarizes the activities FONTAGRO carried out during the November 2015 to October 2016 period.

FONTAGRO's 2015-2020 Medium-Term Plan defined a new vision and mission, which established FONTAGRO

as a cooperation mechanism to promote the innovation of family agriculture in its member countries, instead of as a traditional fund for financing agricultural research, as it had originally been established.







Our Achievements During the November 2015 to October 2016 period:







1. **WE ARE EXECUTING** 29 initiatives totaling \$7.28 million while eight other projects, totaling \$2.0 million, are being audited.
2. **WE IMPLEMENTED** four new projects from our 2015 Call for Proposals totaling \$3.99 million, of which FONTAGRO contributed \$1.56 million.
3. **WE SUCCESSFULLY CARRIED OUT** the 2016 Call for Proposals and recommended that four projects be funded, totaling \$5.14 million, of which FONTAGRO would contribute \$1.59 million.



4. **WE APPROVED** two joint projects:
 - 1) Sustainable intensification of dairy systems, which involves twelve countries, totaling \$1.65 million, of which FONTAGRO contributed \$400,000, and 2) Beekeeping and cattle farming in the Gran Chaco, involving three countries and totaling \$995,550, of which FONTAGRO contributed \$200,000, and which is cofinanced by the IDB's MIF with more than \$1.5 million.
5. **WE ARE IMPLEMENTING** three small grants totaling \$191,000, of which FONTAGRO is contributing \$90,000, for the development of bioeconomy initiatives led by Spain's INIA, impact indicators led by Argentina's INTA, and horticulture in protected environments led by Colombia's CORPOICA.
6. **WE IMPLEMENTED** a workshop on methodologies for mitigating greenhouse gases in livestock, together with IICA, the Government of New Zealand, and Peru's Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina. Fifteen researchers from four Andean countries attended the workshop.

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- 7. WE AWARDED** prizes to five winning cases from the Competition for Successful Cases of Innovations for Family Agriculture Adaptation to Climate Change, co-organized with the GEF, IDB, and IICA. A publication on the subject was published.
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- 8. WE CARRIED OUT** a photo competition; 680 photos were submitted; there were 12 finalists and 3 winning photographs. A book containing the best 67 photos was published.
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- 9. WE CREATED** an online course on project drafting to build capacities in FONTAGRO member countries, in collaboration with IICA and INDES (IDB). Fourteen officials graduated from the course.

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- 10. WE ORGANIZED** a workshop about research methodologies in livestock systems adapted to climate change at CATIE, in Costa Rica. It was cofinanced by the Government of New Zealand. Twenty-five researchers from fourteen FONTAGRO countries attended the workshop as well as researchers from another five countries audited it.
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- 11. WE INCREASED** our social media participation. More than 81,000 Twitter impressions were obtained.
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- 12. WE DELIVERED** a training course for 15 FONTAGRO project leaders on "Introduction to Communications for Researchers."
- 13. WE PUBLISHED** 24 press releases and 13 articles on sponsor and international organization blogs, and achieved 60 mentions in the press.

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- 14. WE REVAMPED** our website's graphic design and content structure. The number of visitors almost tripled since 2011, with more than 132,000 visitors and more than 330,000 pages visited from November 2015 to October 31, 2016.
- 15. WE PARTICIPATED** in several international meetings to develop strategic partnerships and seek cofinancing.
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- 16. WE ARE EXPLORING** scaling-up possibilities regarding the use of research results in three countries.
- 17. WE ESTABLISHED** the Climate Smart Livestock Platform, which has 14 participating countries. The platform is led by CATIE, and supported by FONTAGRO and New Zealand.
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- 18. WE RENEWED** our Administration Agreement with the IDB until June 30, 2019.

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY



We designed our knowledge management and communications strategy with the support of the Korea Poverty Reduction Fund (KPR). We are implementing it with the support of the Knowledge Partnership Korea Fund for Technology and Innovation (KPK).



Results:



- **We designed** a social media plan.



- **We created** FONTAGRO users on Twitter, LinkedIn, Google+, Vimeo.



- **We updated** the website's content and functionalities, thus improving speed.



- **We taught** a course to improve communication among our researchers.



- **We published** 36 press releases and we obtained 60 mentions in the press.



- **We published** 13 articles on blogs from sponsors and related international organizations.

ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

We rewarded scientific excellence by granting awards to the best project completed in each relevant year, as well as to the team of researchers and institutions that were in charge of the project.

2015



FTG-3360/11 Project:
"Expanding Potatoes'
Agricultural Frontier
to Reduce the Effects
of Climate Change
(CLIPAPA)"

2014



FTG-8038/08 Project:
"How to Increase
Competitiveness in
Potato and Wheat
Production Systems in
South America in the Age
of Climate Change"

2013



FTG-8042/08 Project:
"Evaluation of Changes
in Water Productivity
Within Different
Climate Scenarios in
Several Regions of the
Southern Cone"

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



“IMPACTFUL INNOVATIONS”

We launched the publication on *“Impactful Innovations: Lessons from Family Agriculture on Adaptation to Climate Change in Latin America and the Caribbean”*. It includes the description of winning cases as well as a summary of lessons learned.



“BIOECONOMY SEMINAR MEMOIRS”

We launched the *“the Bioeconomy Seminar”* memoirs, which includes a compilation of Latin American experiences regarding bioeconomy and their opportunities for family agriculture, as well as the results of the Bioeconomy Seminar held in Lima, Peru.



“UNDER A NEW LIGHT: FAMILY AGRICULTURE IN LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN, AND SPAIN”

We launched a publication with the materials of the 2016 Photo Competition, *“Under a New Light: Family Agriculture in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain”*. The competition sought to show family agriculture in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Spain, through an original lens. FONTAGRO received 680 applications from its 15 member countries. An independent selection committee selected 12 finalists and three winning photographs.

2012



FTG-0617/06 Project:
“Identifying and Using
Durable Resistance
Against Barley Diseases
in Latin America”

2011



FTG-353/05 Project:
“Technological
Innovations and
Differentiated Markets
for Producers of Native
Potatoes”

2010



FTG-605/05 Project:
“Strengthening
Banana Value
Chains: Technological
Innovations to Reduce
Agrochemicals”

PARTNERSHIPS AND MEMBERSHIPS



IBERO-AMERICAN INIA SYSTEM

We participated in the Fourteenth Ibero-American INIA System Meeting, in Almería, Spain. FONTAGRO's member countries agreed to work together with Spanish organizations on the subject of horticulture in protected environments, as well as explore activities on Bioeconomy. FONTAGRO's Board of Directors approved small grants to follow up on potential initiatives on these topics. Coordinated activities between the Ibero-American INIA System and FONTAGRO have proven beneficial, since it has created synergies between both mechanisms.



FORAGRO

FONTAGRO, IICA, and EMBRAPA co-organized the Fifteenth Meeting of FORAGRO's Extended Executive Committee, held in Brasília.

The forum brought together more than 70 experts from Latin America, Canada, and English-speaking Caribbean countries. FONTAGRO supported FORAGRO's Restructuring Plan, which was discussed at the meeting.



AGROLAC 2025

We participated in the Second Conference of Partnerships and Projects, organized by AgroLAC 2025, which was held last April in Cali, Colombia. The conference was sponsored by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT).

The conference brought together different stakeholders from the region with the aim of promoting networking for the development of agricultural innovation projects. It also enabled FONTAGRO to identify potential partners for its projects.



CATIE

CATIE's new authorities, led by its Director General and its Deputy Director General, visited FONTAGRO. At the meeting with IDB and FONTAGRO officials, possible areas of cooperation were discussed, including AgroLAC 2025 projects, the sustainable intensification of the dairy sector, the Climate Smart Livestock platform, and capacity-building activities.

During the visit an agreement was signed to conduct a workshop on research methodologies for adapting livestock production to climate change, to be held in Costa Rica.



NEW ZEALAND'S GOVERNMENT

We met with the Climate Change Ambassador of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Dr. Mark Sinclair, who was accompanied by officials from New Zealand's Embassy in Washington, D.C., as well as with New Zealand's appointed agricultural advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, to discuss the continuation of the work on livestock and climate change that New Zealand and FONTAGRO have been supporting.



SCALING UP TECHNOLOGIES - GEF/IDB PROJECT

We identified three areas of collaboration with the GEF's "Climate Technology Transfer Mechanisms and Networks in Latin America and the Caribbean" project:

- a) Developing a rice self-sufficiency and food security program in Panama;
- b) Strengthening agricultural research and development in Haiti; and
- c) Expanding water harvesting in Nicaragua's dry corridor.

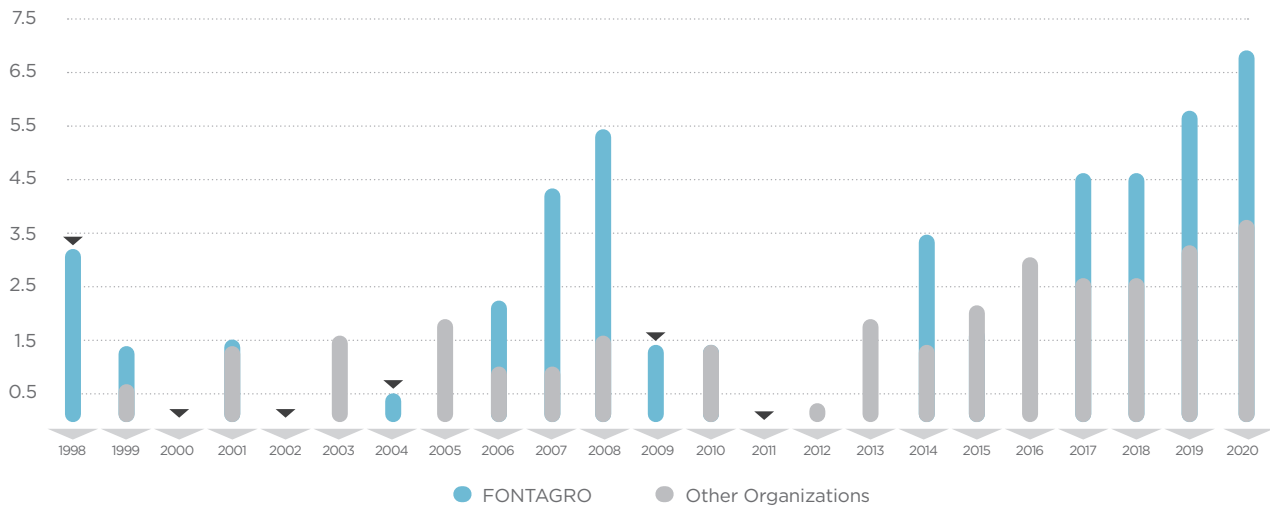
In all three cases, we are negotiating the implementation of feasibility studies to promote larger investments by governments toward the employment of climate-smart agriculture. The objective is to promote the use of research results at large scale and generate greater impacts on the improvement of family farming.

OUR FINANCES

FONTAGRO's financial projection is solid according to its financial statements, audited as of December 31, 2015. Over the next decade, FONTAGRO is expected to have sufficient resources for its operations.

The chart shows the evolution of annual contributions made by FONTAGRO and its partners. The black arrows at the top of the bars show the years in which FONTAGRO did not make contributions to new projects. Funds from other organizations include contributions executed and/or mobilized by FONTAGRO.

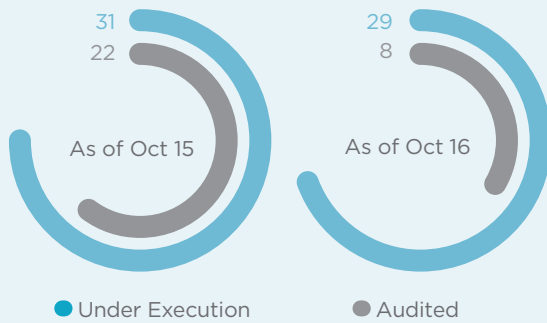
FONTAGRO: Annually Allocated Funds and Their Sources



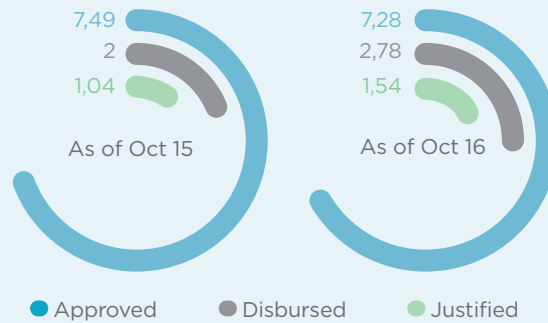
MANAGING AND MONITORING OUR PROJECTS

PERFORMANCE OF PROJECTS IN 2015-2016

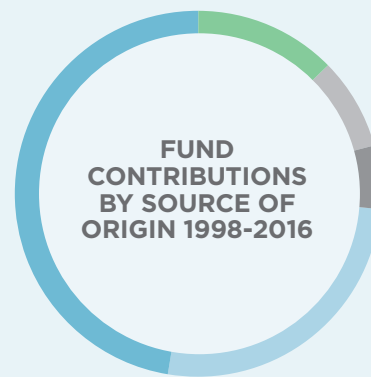
NUMBER OF PROJECTS IN 2015-2016



VALUE OF PROJECTS IN 2015-2016
(\$ in millions)



- 31% ● FTG/TAS
- 17% ● Central America
- 10% ● Andean Region
- 24% ● Southern Cone
- 14% ● IO
- 4% ● RI



- 64% ● Matching
- 36% ● FTG + Other Organizations
- 8% ● Others Organizations
- 11% ● IDB
- 17% ● FONTAGRO

FTG/TAS: FONTAGRO's Technical Administrative Secretariat
 IO: International Organization
 RI: Regional Institutions

LEARN ABOUT FONTAGRO

We are a unique cooperation mechanism among countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Spain, that promotes family agriculture innovation, competitiveness, and food security.

We were established in 1998 and we have fifteen member countries that have contributed a capital of some \$100 million.

Our sponsors: The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) provides us with legal, administrative, and technical support and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) provides us with technical and strategic support.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

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Photos: Courtesy of Biopolis and FONTAGRO's 2016 Photo Competition

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OUR VISION

To be an internationally recognized mechanism of cooperation for strengthening sustainable agrifood and agribusiness innovation among member countries.

OUR MISSION

To contribute to the innovation of family farming through cooperation among member countries, while promoting competitiveness and food security based on standards of equity and sustainability.

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With the support of our sponsors:



FONTAGRO
1300 New York Avenue, NW, Stop W0908
Washington, DC 20577, United States
E-mail: fontagro@iadb.org

www.fontagro.org