

## **IICA CAMPUS VIRTUAL PROJECT**

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the organization of the Inter-American System that supports the efforts of the Member States in the Americas to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being. IICA has acquired a wealth of experience in areas such as technology and innovation for agriculture, agricultural health and food safety, agribusiness, agricultural trade, rural development, natural resource management and training.

The Institute provides its cooperation through close and permanent collaboration with its 34 Member States, whose needs it addresses. IICA develops international public goods that can help the countries address issues they share in common, at three levels: hemispheric, regional and national.

One of the IICA priorities established in its Medium Term Plan for 2014 – 2018, is to increase the capabilities of the public and private sectors with the purpose of promoting a productive, profitable and competitive agricultural sector that provides safe food to local, regional and global markets through the application of appropriate sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

To this end, the implementation of capacity building initiatives with public and private stakeholders related to the performance of the Ministries of Agriculture, the national agricultural innovation systems, advisory/extension services, and agricultural health and food safety services; throughout the use of knowledge management, information and communication technologies and the intensive use of virtual (online) and blended learning tools, has become a successful experience and has allowed the implementation of mechanisms for building consensus between and articulating the public and private sectors; the exchange of technical cooperation initiatives among member countries to strengthen the institutional framework, agricultural innovation, food security, trade and the linking of producers to agricultural chains.

As a way to increase competitiveness in the agricultural health and food safety sector in the Americas, IICA has been one of the technical cooperation organizations that supports the implementation of capacity building initiatives in the framework of the FeedLatina Project financed by the STDF with the objective of contributing to the harmonization/equivalence of the regulatory framework for the production and commercialization of animal feed, ensuring its safety and access to markets, based on the standards and recommendations of Codex and the OIE. By using distance learning tools and telepresence activities, financial and human resources will be optimized and more representatives from private and public sectors will be benefited from this initiative.