

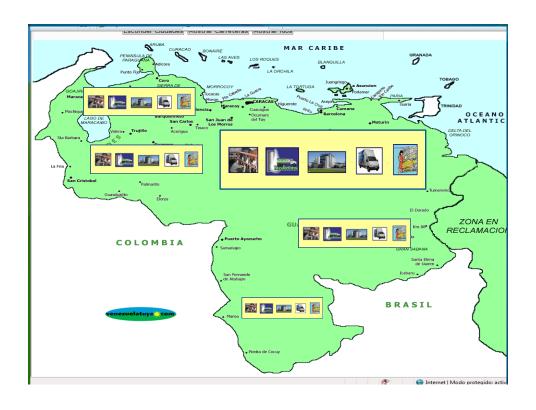
## International Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)

- Specialized agency of the Inter-American System for the promotion of agriculture and rural well-being. By providing technical cooperation to the member countries, its efforts are fully focused on making agriculture more productive, more inclusive, more competitive and more sustainable in the Americas and the Caribbean. The agricultural ministers of the countries give the orientations to the IICA's agenda.
- Technical concentration Programas
  - Innovation for productivity and competitiveness
  - Agricultural health and food safety
  - Agribusiness and commercialization
  - Agriculture, territories and rural well being
- Programs for Cross-Cutting Coordination
  - Agriculture, natural resource management and climate change
  - Agriculture and food security

### The Agribusiness and Commercialization Program (PAC)

- Assists the countries in the development of policies, institutional frameworks and capabilities required to create enabling environments for agribusinesses
- Promotes competitive and inclusive agribusinesses by enhancing entrepreneurial and organizational capabilities and thereby improving the management skills of producers and their capacities to access the markets

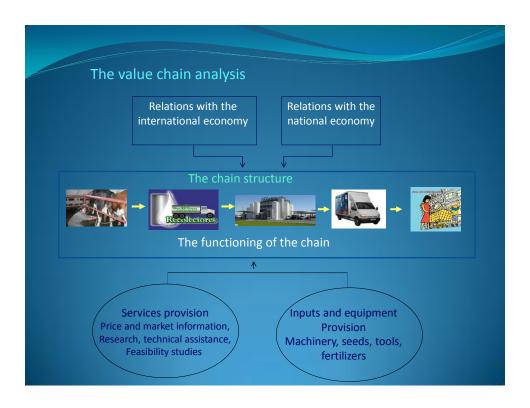






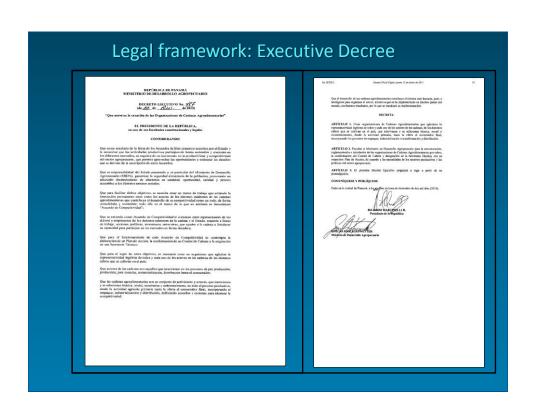
# Chains and dialogue for action approach Strategy: to reach a "Competitiveness agreement" 1) A consensus among stakeholders and representatives of the chain links with the government support, about working lines, actions, policies, investments, necessary to improve their capacity to participate in markets in a lasting way 2) accompanied by permanent mechanisms to the execute the agreements • Basic Steps 1. Institutional consultations 2. Analysis of the value chain competitiveness











Panama City, November 14, 2011 (IICA). Panama's goal in establishing nine agrifood chains this year, and more in 2012, is to ensure greater equity in the distribution of income among producers, reduce the cost of food and ensure access to food for the entire population.

With technical support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), plans of action have been established for the rice, milk, bean, corn, plantain, beef, potato-onion, cassava-yam and vegetable production chains this year; with pork chain being added next year.

These sectors are considered vital by the Ministry of Agricultural Development (MIDA) given their contribution to the national economy and to the generation of employment, and because of the number of small- and medium-scale producers involved.

The chains were created under an executive decree issued in October 2011, which calls for the operation of a technical secretariat for each sector and the allocation of resources needed to implement the proposed plan of action.

The participants in the chains, such as producers, businesses and associations, draw up the plan of action jointly in order to overcome the factors that make their specific activity less competitive,

# Difficulties



- · Lot of small and medium poor producers
- · Small producers not organized
- Big actors like processors, industries, wholesale distributors, supermarkets not enough interested to participate
- Weak agricultural public institutions

# Areas for joint work



- To adapt concepts of Value Change Management (VCM) centered at the business level to the sector, industry or country level
- To apply concepts and share successful experiences to convince all the value chain actors about the benefits to coordinate, collaborate and work together
- To refresh and improve methodologies for the analysis of the value chain competitiveness
- To design new modern instruments to foster associativity among the producers as well to apply new proved instruments