

The Secretary of State for External Affairs, the Honourable Mitchell Sharp, announced today that Canada is to become a member of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences. At a ceremony this morning in Washington, D.C. Mr. A.J. Pick, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of Canada to the O.A.S. deposited Canada's instrument of accession to the Institute. The Canadian presentation was received by His Excellency Galo Plaza, Secretary General of the O.A.S. Dr. Jose Emilio Araujo, Director General of the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences, normally resident in San José, Costa Rica, where the headquarters of the Institute are located, was present to welcome Canadian accession. In accordance with the Convention of the Institute, Canada's full membership takes effect one month from today.

Since its inception in 1944, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences has played an active and important role in the encouragement, development and coordination of agricultural research and in the dissemination of this knowledge within the Americas. Canada has a distinctive role to play in this important area. Through our scientific community, our research institutes and the appropriate government departments we look forward to cooperation with the agricultural studies and programmes of the Institute and to an increasingly active part in the economic growth of the Americas. Canadian participation in the work of the Institute marks one further step in the implementation of Canada's policy to develop a more substantive and meaningful relationship with the Inter-American Family of Organizations and with our Hemisphere as a whole.