

Hipólito Mejía

President of the Dominican Republic

Hipólito Mejía was born on Feb. 22, 1941, in Santiago de los Caballeros. He attended Loyola Polytechnical Institute in San Cristóbal, where he graduated as an agronomist in 1962. He went on to study tobacco cultivation at the University of North Carolina.

Mr. Mejía began his career in agricultural research at the Dominican Republic's Tobacco Institute, where he became a director in 1965. In 1966, he joined the United States agro-chemical manufacturer, Rohm and Haas, as representative for the Caribbean. He was hired in 1973 by Industrias Linda as vice-president of planning and agricultural development.

In 1978, Mr. Mejía was appointed Secretary of State for Agriculture. In 1982, he returned to the private sector as an international consultant, but continued in politics as national vice-president of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD). In 1999, his party selected him as presidential candidate for the 2000 elections.

Following elections in May 2000, Mr. Mejía became President of the Dominican Republic on Aug. 16, 2000.

Mr. Mejía is married and has four children.