

## Peru

### La Molina National Agrarian University confers Doctor Honoris Causa degree on Director General of IICA

*During his visit to Peru, the Director General of IICA met with the President Alan Garcia and several Cabinet Ministers.*

**San Jose, Costa Rica, April 2009 (IICA).** During a visit to Peru from April 6-8, the Director General of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, met with President Alan Garcia and several members of his cabinet, received a Doctor Honoris Causa degree from the La Molina National Agrarian University and was honored by the government of the province of Huaura.



*With Peruvian president Alan Garcia.*

This prestigious institution of higher learning, which has been in existence since 1902, bestows this honor on people known “for their moral fiber, academic excellence and significant scientific and cultural contributions.”

During the acceptance ceremony, attention was called to the administrative, technical and institutional leadership Brathwaite has exercised in the field of international agricultural development.



*Brathwaite received a Doctor Honoris Causa degree.*

Reference was also made to the vision he has implemented in IICA, thanks to which it is now known as an agency that “promotes sustainable agricultural development, food security and prosperity in the rural communities of the Americas.”

The ceremony was attended by the Rector of the University, Luis Maezono Yamashita, the Vice Rectors, the deans, the Director of the Graduate School, student representatives on the University Council and the General Secretariat.

In his address, Brathwaite acknowledged the role the University has played, from its beginnings, in developing in its students a comprehensive approach to agriculture, as a means of contributing to the sustainable development of their country.

“Faithful to its motto: “Hominem et Agrum Colere Cupio” (Let me cultivate men and the land), this university is right to focus its efforts on the promotion and development of the most important resource a country has: its people,” he said.

### Strategic meetings

As part of his official visit to Peru, the Director General and the IICA Representative in Peru, Freddy Rojas, met with Peruvian president Alan Garcia to go over the technical activities of the Institute in the country.

The Director General highlighted the results presented in the 2008 IICA Annual Report for Peru, as well as information on the different projects being carried out in the country.

He called particular attention to the creation of the national biotechnology center, the development of the Observatory for Agricultural Production Chains and Rural Territories and a number of other actions.

After meeting with President Garcia, Brathwaite met with Prime Minister Yehude Simon, and the Minister of Agriculture, Carlos Leyton, to identify new opportunities for technical cooperation and renew the Institute's commitment to continue supporting the development of agriculture and rural life in Peru.

He later met with the Representative of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Peru, Ambassador Bertha Santoscotoy, to discuss the possibility of carrying out joint actions aimed at providing education and training for young people in rural areas.

The Director General also participated in the Annual Accountability Seminar of the IICA Office in Peru, at which a report on the results achieved during 2008 was delivered to the Minister of Agriculture, ambassadors, representatives of international organizations, educational authorities and other stakeholders in the sector.

At the close of the event, the head of the government of the province of Huaura, Pedro Zurita, presented the DG with a certificate in recognition of IICA's "important contributions in promoting agricultural development" in the region, especially through the Network of Villages project.

"It is the practice of the government of the province of Huaura to value, recognize and honor those distinguished persons and/or institutions of excellence that write the history of peoples with wisdom, commitment and integrity," it reads.

#### **Other honors**

The Director General has received other awards in recent years. In 2008, he was honored by the people and government of Ecuador as part of the celebration of IICA's 40 years of service in that country. Among other honors, he received the highest award granted by the Confederation of Schools of Agricultural Sciences of Ecuador: the Medal of Agricultural Merit.

In 2006, the Governor of the State of Rio Grande del Sur, Brazil, presented him with a medal in recognition of the work of the Institute in promoting agricultural development in that State.

In 2004, Brathwaite was honored by one of the oldest universities of the Americas, the National University of Asuncion, Paraguay, where he received a Doctor Honoris Causa degree.

In 2003, he received the Companion of Honour of Barbados award, one of the highest awards granted to citizens of Barbados. When announcing the award, on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II, the Governor General congratulated Brathwaite for "this well-deserved honour in recognition of his dedication and many contributions to agriculture."

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