

**The Rural Innovation Institute Foundation
Will not Continue**

October 2007

Six months after announcing its creation, the Rural Innovation Institute Foundation suspended its activities definitively, as announced by its Executive Director Jacqueline Ashby.

The promoters of this initiative were the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), the Colombian Corporation for Agricultural Research (CORPOICA), and the AlvarAlice Foundation of Cali, Colombia.

The Foundation's purpose was to ensure that the results of agricultural research reached the poorest rural communities, but it was not financially viable.

Dr. Ashby moved to Peru to join the International Potato Center (CIP), after rendering services to CIAT for almost 20 years. Both centers form part of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Dr. Ashby is a sociologist who gained international recognition for having designed a participatory research methodology known as Local Committees for Agricultural Research or CIALs (for their Spanish acronym), where farmers work together with scientists to detect and solve their agricultural problems. This methodology has been successfully applied in several Latin American countries.