

Agriculture Policy Programme Caribbean Action



Suriname



Country
UpDate

APP Country Update – Suriname

The Update highlights contributions of the APP from actions under the Scale Down Work Plan, that were grounded in-country with direct benefits to local stakeholders.



Local young agripreneurs given opportunities for developing the enterprises and expanding their business networks

- Raveen Ramtahalsing and Safora Hermelijn, involved in very dynamic and successful hydroponics vegetable production under Protected Agriculture and a Horticulture/Landscaping/Vegetable production/Agro-tourism family business ‘NV PARA FLOR’, respectively, were fully funded under the APP to participate the Youth in Agriculture (YiA) Business Forum as part of the D4D in Grenada [18th – 22nd January 2016]. The Forum targeted youth who own and operate agribusinesses and/or manage and play a vital role in a family-owned agricultural enterprise. Through the YiA Forum, the Youth from Suriname were exposed to other business youth from the rest of the Caribbean, and they are now part of a post-forum youth-driven vibrant ‘network’.

The Grenada YiA Forum also provided the youth with additional opportunities to inform of and promote their business to their peers and agri-stakeholders in the Region and to be the start of a YiA database designed to ensure that they are targeted for subsequent opportunities for further training under the APP and other development initiatives. The young agripreneurs who participated in the YiA Business Forum have established a social network using the WhatsApp platform, through which they have maintained contact, continue to share valuable information and are pursuing options for commercial ventures. This networking platform has expanded as they have added other young agripreneurs to the group. Their open and genuine commitment to pass on the knowledge gained by providing training and mentoring to other youth at the national and regional level, the post-forum continuity achieved through the networking platform provides a good basis for continuity and sharing of the knowledge and benefits started in Grenada.

- Vanessa Grootfaam was given the opportunity, along with 14 other young agripreneurs, to directly engage regional planners to propose solutions to hindrances experienced by agripreneurs at the Component 1 (CCS) 9th Regional Planners Forum (RPF) on Agriculture from June 7 – 10, 2016 in Trinidad and Tobago. The RPF also included a special training session on an enterprise development programme Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunity (CEBO) which was specifically adjusted and tailored into a hybrid programme for youth agripreneurs. This training was a direct follow up from the APP-supported YiA Business Forum held in January 2016. It provided the young agripreneurs with tools for improving business operation and competitiveness. It is anticipated that continued building of institutional capacity and fostering of policy dialogue with youth farmers will assist in the development and implementation of policies and other initiatives to support young farmers in Suriname and the wider Caribbean region.

Support provided under. . .

Component 1 – CCS:
‘Support Involvement of Women and Youth in Dialogue on the Region’s Agriculture Issues’
&
Component 2 – CARDI:
&
Component 3: *‘Strengthen and link existing fora for multi-stakeholder dialogue to widen regional exposure and networking opportunities for small producers/ entrepreneurs’*

as at July 2016 ~ 1 ~ APP/PMU



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Local Herbs & Spices producers get an opportunity to chart a future for the industry in the region

A local producer, Mr. Dewanand Jakhari director of Greanleaves, participated in a technical meeting convened by the CARICOM Secretariat [9th – 10th May 2016] in Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting provided a forum to consult with and exchanging information with other herbs and spices entrepreneurs and a consultant Dr. André Gordon, on the development needs for the sector as part of an initiative to develop a Regional policy and strategy for the sector and a mechanism to facilitate industry collaboration, commercial activities and their interface with the public sector on matters of policy. The process taken for the development of this industry will also inform the process for and be incorporated into the new policy framework for agriculture.

- **This activity commenced in December 2015, and will conclude in August 2016.**

Support provided under . . .
Component 1 – CCS:
‘Develop a Regional policy framework for the Herbs and Spices Industry’

Agriculture Planners get more opportunities for regional and international policy networking

Soenita Parbohe Rosan, a representative of the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries in Suriname, was afforded the opportunity to benefit from participation in the:

- 8th Regional Planners Forum (RPF) on agriculture in Grenada, [18th – 22nd January 2016]. Ms. Rosan networked with planners from the Region, heads and senior professionals from key regional and international agricultural development institutions and private sector entities on topics of direct significance to agricultural development in Suriname, including approaches for developing commodity-based industries, facilitation of intra-regional trade and critical areas for policy response.
- 2016 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Outlook Forum in Arlington Virginia [25th – 26th February 2016], along with eight other planners from the Region. Participants reported that the experience and exposure to the level of research, technical information, dialogue and networking was worth it and despite the economic differences between the US and other developed countries, and the Caribbean, there is need for a much greater level of investment and technical infusion into the development of agriculture.
- 9th RPF where the opportunity to engage and network with peers in the Region also included engaging with youth in agriculture. The 9th RPF was held from 7th to 9th June 2016, in Trinidad and Tobago.

Support provided under . . .
Component 1 – CCS:
‘Support for policy capacity building and networking through a Regional Planners Forum (RPF)’

as at July 2016 ~ 2 ~ APP/PMU



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APP Country Update – Suriname

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Ministry gets direct support to complete national agriculture policy & plan

An APP contracted consultant team Glenroy and Associates, including Dr. Sharon Hutchinson, has initiated direct technical support to the Ministry for the development of a National Agricultural Policy for Suriname. Mr. Gordon, will contribute directly to the Ministry’s effort to effectively engage all actors and ensure that there is ownership for the final product. The Ministry of Agriculture will host a Validation Workshop on June 2, 2016 to discuss specific aspects of the policy with stakeholders. The work will address proposed programmes for crops, livestock and fisheries and seafood products as well as marketing and financing for the agriculture sector.

- **This activity started in March 2016** and is expected to be fully concluded by August 2016.

Support provided under. . .

Component 1 – CCS: *‘Provide direct Technical Assistance to CARIFORUM countries to develop/ strengthen National Agricultural Policies / Plans’*

Banana farmers’ access to and capacity to manage improved, climate-ready planting material enhanced

CARDI in collaboration with the Center for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS) started refurbishment work on the tissue culture facility at CELOS, University of Suriname Complex. This includes purchase of laboratory equipment (Eppendorf pipettes, memmert oven, portable autoclave) for plant tissue culture propagating operations, PCR / Elisa equipment and CIAT diagnostic field kits for testing field material before propagation in the tissue culture laboratory. In addition, wooden racks in the cultivation room will be replaced with metal racks and the nursery will be equipped with timers and a misting system.

- **Work is ongoing and will be completed in September 2016**

Support provided under. . .

Component 2, CARDI : *‘Refurbish existing germplasm production structures & multiplication units’*



as at July 2016 ~ 3 ~ APP/PMU
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APP Country Update – Suriname

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Farmers capacity to multiply and manage improved germplasm strengthened through expert, hand-on training

- Two key plantain farmers, Mr. Linga (Kapassikele) and Mr. Jhinkoe (Uitkijk) in the Kapassikele and Uitkijk village, district of Brokopondo and Saramacca respectively, benefitted from training in the rapid multiplication of plantains. Experts from CELOS used the propagating bin (1m x 10m) established by CELOS under the APP, on these farmers' farms as the venue and basis for the training. The propagation bin will facilitate the multiplication of 125 suckers, with each sucker producing 20-25 new plants (depending on the size). This technique was developed by FAO and is a new technique being implemented in Suriname. This technique once proven successful will help to increase plantain germplasm production in Suriname. This rapid multiplication method will then be used to demonstrate to other farmers in the community.
- Mr. Matao (Phedra -20 ha), a leading cassava farmers, was provided with on-farm training in the rapid multiplication of cassava using two node cuttings. This experience will be used to provide further training of other farmers in the community between June and July 2016 in the Phedra and Powakka areas, district of Brokopondo and Para respectively in the rapid multiplication / propagation of cassava.
- Ms. Adriaan of (Powakka) has also benefited from the sharing and testing of research findings by CELOS in the control of Leaf Cutter Ants by using Swingfog (natural indigenous plant). This pest was causing huge losses to the farmer which is now being controlled. Rapid multiplication techniques will be demonstrated to other farmers in the Powakka area.
- Mrs. Linga (Kapassikele) will also benefit from training by CELOS, in late June 2016, in the selection of good planting material that is free from frog skin disease before using the rapid multiplication technique.

Support provided under. . .

Component 2, CARDI :
'Develop capacity of selected institutions and small producers/ entrepreneurs for multiplying and managing improved germplasm'
&
'National and Regional Workshops; Farmer Field Visit for training in management of improved germplasm and animal breeds (agencies & producers)'

as at July 2016 ~ 4 ~ APP/PMU



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APP In-Country Actions – Suriname

as at July 2016

The National actions highlighted are those that grounded in-country and/or having a direct benefit on local stakeholders.



Small farmers will exposed to the benefits of appropriate small-scale equipment and improved practices

CELOS is completing arrangements, under the C2 APP agreement, to provide training and manage crop evaluation trials in July, targeted at:

- Banana farmers in the Brokopondo and Saramacca districts, as part of demonstrating improved banana technologies. This training will also be complemented by the purchase and distribution of practical tools for demonstrating the ease of disinfecting wheels of agricultural machines; automatic slash disinfectors, pruning-shear disinfectors for easy and comfortable handling of phytosanitary pruning; disinfection buckets for easy and comfortable application in the field and in hygiene using these tools.
- Farms of Mr. Linga (Kapassikele) and Mr Jhinkoe (Uitkijk) will be used to establish to evaluation trials to test the effects of Timorex Gold (natural botanical broad spectrum fungicide with prophylactic and curative activity, based on a plant extract of Melaleuca alternifolia) in the control of Yellow and Black Sigatoka in banana production. Similarly, the farm of Mr Jhinkoe (Uitkijk) is also the location of an evaluation trial using high levels of potassium to test the effects of resistance against Yellow and Black Sigatoka using no chemical control.
- A number of cassava farmers in the Phedra and Powakka areas will benefit from the purchase of practical tools for easily disinfecting wheels of agricultural machines; disinfection buckets for easy and comfortable application in the field as part of the improved cassava technologies. Training in hygiene using these tools will also be demonstrated.

Support provided under . . .

Component 2, CARDI :
'Procure and demonstrate use of small scale equipment, tools and machinery for training demonstrations'

SME's supported to attend National Agri-Expo

Ten (10) female and one (1) male SME's were fully enabled by the APP, to participate in the 'Made in Suriname' Expo from April 27 – May 1, 2016, aimed at strengthening capacity of small-scale enterprises in Suriname, particularly women and youth, in value-added processes and market opportunities to meet the demands of retailers and consumers. The Expo was coordinated by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and took place at Kernkampweg 37 Paramaribo. Participants included Sherida Mormon, Vanessa van Hetten, Leonie Cairo (Stockpa), Shivangi Vermeijs-Mahabali (The Golden Honey Bee Products), Marina Da Costa (Tea with Flair), Tiffany Van Ravenswaay (Mathiland), Fenny Zandgrond (GoSu Spice), Audrey Dors (Mamdosa Agro), Roy Kewal (Medical Herbs), Peggi Hetzert (Princes Success Juices), and Maria Internaats (Friut and Vegetable Garden). The expo provided an ideal platform to expose women producers from the interior to business opportunities in Paramaribo and as well for these SMEs to display and sell their cassava bread, cassava crackers, cassava pie, cassava cake, cassava and fruit smoothies, chilli pepper sauces and herbal teas, honey products, etc., demonstrate cassava bread baking and meet with commercial buyers. The APP acted as a catalyst and the expected benefit of participation in the expo is improved access/increased presence of products from CANROP members in mainstream domestic markets.

Support provided under . . .

Component 3, Support small producers/entrepreneurs to improve marketability (presentation and market opportunities) of select agri-food products

as at July 2016 ~ 5 ~ APP/PMU



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APP In-Country Actions – Suriname

as at July 2016

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SME's receive training in packaging labelling and product development

Three (3) local MSMEs, Tania Lieuw-A-Soe – Agro cooperative Wi Uma Fu Sranan, Shivangi Vermeijs-Mahabali – The Golden Honey Bee Products / SURAFY and Chin-Fo-Sieeuw Oliveira – Blessings Enterprise engaged in the processing of value-added products from roots and tubers and honey as well as production of cosmetics, were given the opportunity to attend a Regional training Workshop on Product Development, Marketing, Food Safety and GMP's for SME's [21st – 24th March 2016, Trinidad and Tobago]. Participants agreed that they required and benefitted from the exposure and training in improved packaging and labelling design and the use of appropriate semi-industrial equipment and infrastructure to improve good manufacturing practices in their enterprises. Hence continued and targeted interventions by development partners in this area will of great benefit to them in enhancing their operation. In June 2016, in a follow-up monitoring exercise for APP activities in Suriname two enterprises indicated that since the training, they started the process of upgrading the labels for their products. Ms. Mahabali indicated that she had contacted one of the facilitators from workshop (Ms. Carolyn Chu Fook Creative Director, Monster Media) to upgrade her label. With the assistance of another participant (Tania Lieuw-A-Soe – Agro cooperative Wi Uma Fu Sranan) she was able to access grant funding to pay for the upgrade. Ms. Oliviera highlighted that based on the recommendations provided at the workshop she is currently upgrading her labels, changing the packaging material and the design of her product.

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA:
'Improve design of packaging and labelling for select agri-food processing MSMEs (producer groups)'

SME's receive technical assistance and equipment to support product development

Local sweet potato producer groups will receive direct technical assistance from a local National Value Chain Facilitator (NVCF) Mr. Reinier Hafiez Taus contracted through a CAFAN Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the APP Components 2 and 3, as well as from provision of small scale packaging equipment (crates) to improve the marketability and presentation of their products. In addition, the Agro Cooperative Wi Uma Fu Sranan will benefit from the provision of two smokehouses and two cassava graters which is intended to support women of the interior in the production of cassava products. The equipment will assist to increase the efficiency of production of value added cassava products by the group which is currently limited by the manual processing and inadequate drying/smoking facilities.

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA:
'Purchase and distribute small-scale processing and packaging equipment to support improved product handling, presentation and quality for select agri-food processing MSMEs'

as at July 2016 ~ 6 ~ APP/PMU



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APP In-Country Actions – Suriname

as at July 2016

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Producer groups and networks capacity for governance and value chain development supported

The locally-based secretariat of CAFAN, concluded a LoA with the APP (Component 2 and 3) which makes provision for the contracting of the services of one (1) National Value Chain Facilitator (NVCF), Mr. Reinier Hafiez Taus assigned to provide direct assistance to the local CaFAN membership for a period of six months, to support sweet potato producer group enterprises in areas related to production, export marketing, group governance and development, and credit readiness and investment profiling. Mr. Taus has participated in initial consultations on the CAFAN Execution plan and C2, C3 training activity at the recently concluded APP Regional Producer Group/Enterprise Governance and Group Dynamics training workshop [April 25-27, 2016] in St. Vincent and the Grenadines). At that workshop NVCFs received expert orientation on producer group governance, dynamics, financial assessment tools, and Good Agricultural Practices, and contributed to the development of subsequent training modules in Producer Group Organizational Development/ Dynamics - all to support their delivery of technical assistance to commodity-based producer groups. The local NVCF will continue to support these groups, with a focus on members of Sweet Potato Producer clusters, within defined areas of activity covered by the CaFAN-IICA-CARDI LoA/CaFAN Execution Plan – including Producer Group Governance building activities and Buyer Networking.

- **The NVCF will be in-place until September 2016.**

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Direct technical assistance to selected producer groups and commodity-based enterprises for value chain development through National Value Chain Facilitators'

Producer groups and networks capacity for governance and value chain development supported

- Two representatives, Vardiy Rogathe Pansa and Tania Lieuw-A-Soe from the Agro Cooperative Wi! Uma Fu Sranan of Suriname received expert training at a regional training workshop in Producer Group Governance hosted jointly by C2 and C3 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, [April 25-27, 2016].
- Mr. Reinier Hafiez Taus (NVCF) participated in the *Strengthening Producer-Buyer Relationships: Networking Platform Experiences and Strategy Meeting* held in St. Lucia during the period 27-28 June, 2016. It was designed to facilitate joint planning and sharing of information so as to improve the organizational capacity of producer, women and youth through their insertion into value chains. The aim of the dialogue platform is the removal of obstacles to the production, marketing and distribution of commodities and to build capacity and institutional frameworks and systems for value chain development. The meeting in St. Lucia benefited from the already established producer-buyer relationship which exists between Massy Stores Saint Lucia and several local producers and was the focus of discussions. Experiences of producer-buyer relationships in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana were also highlighted.

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Support National Producer-Buyer Networking and Group Governance Building activities'

as at July 2016 ~ 7 ~ APP/PMU



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**APP In-Country Actions – Suriname
as at July 2016**

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SME's receive support to conduct financial investment profiles

Selected sweet potato producer enterprises will be assessed in terms of credit-readiness and qualifying enterprises will undergo an investment profiling. The local NVCF has already been provided with initial training/orientation by FAST expert in enterprise credit-readiness assessment and investment profiling tools at the C2-C3 April 25-27, 2016 workshop in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. NVCF application of tools and final assessments of selected local qualifying Sweet potato producer enterprises will be completed by end of August 2016, in preparation for engagement with Financial Institutions (FIs) during the C3 Regional Agri-Value Chain Finance Forum to be held in Jamaica in September 2016. This is being undertaken within framework of C3 FAST-IICA and CaFAN-IICA-CARDI LoAs.

Support provided under. . .
Component 3, IICA: 'Prepare Financial/Investment profiles for selected commodity based Industries to strengthen information baselines and stakeholders engagement on value chain financing in CARIFORUM'

Directory of major enterprises in the cassava and small ruminant value chain published

Sixteen (16) organization within the Cassava value chain and twelve (12) organizations within the small ruminant value chain were featured in an APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers. The Directory includes the contact information for key producer groups, supermarkets, restaurants, traders, exporters, agro-processors, and input suppliers involved in these commodity-specific chains. Sixty (60) copies have been made available for distribution to stakeholders in Suriname and the Directory will also be made available online in APP partner and Ministry of Agriculture websites.

Support provided under. . .
Component 3, IICA: 'APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers'

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
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as at July 2016 ~ 8 ~ APP/PMU



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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Upgrade the Regional Agribusiness Platform (Carib-Agri Website www.agricarib.org) and support capacity of producers to use same for business and trade-related information</p>	<p>An upgraded website has been delivered to the CARICOM Secretariat. Website content uploads are being done, and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9th Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad & Tobago</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the content for the website.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Upgrade/expand the existing web-based Institutional Directory and Activity Integration Map developed under a previous IICA-CTA project</p>	<p>The consultancy is advanced and a presentation was made by the consultant to officials of the Ministry in April. It targets key agricultural development agencies which are part of the umbrella Agriculture Food and Nutrition Cluster (AFNC) and that provide development support to the sector. The information already gathered/provided by these agencies on their activities and initiatives will be coded and included in the database to enhance stakeholder knowledge on what's happening and foster greater institutional coordination.</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute information on projects to enhance the database.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Support AFNC (one F2F), virtual coordination meetings, logistics, communications</p>	<p>CARDI as Chair of the AFNC has been leading the process to manage monthly virtual meetings addressing a number of areas that are supported directly under the APP as well as complementary actions by other institutions. Since the start of 2014, a smaller core of agencies, comprising CARICOM Secretariat, IICA, FAO, CDB, UWI, OECS Secretariat, CRFM, CRFM, FAO, CARPHA, CaFAN and CABA have been holding monthly coordination meetings, of which four have been face-2-face. With support from the APP, in its short life the AFNC has managed to establish itself as a credible mechanism to foster collaboration on agency work activities to minimize overlaps and accelerate consensus on solutions to tackle common issues. Given that these key institutions provide direct support to agriculture in the countries, these meetings facilitate open dialogue and information sharing which could impact on delivery of support in country or could be based on sharing of successful experiences in country that could be replicated. Under the AFNC, teams have been created to champion the development process of priority commodities. These priority commodities and the lead agency are (a) Small Ruminants (CARDI), (b) Roots & Tubers (FAO), (c) Herbs & Spices (CABA)</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input through the CARICOM Secretariat, as well as through the local IICA and/or CARDI office, or directly through any of the key AFNC members.</p>

as at July 2016 ~ 9 ~ APP/PMU



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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Strengthen Coordination meetings, logistics, communications of the 4Thematic Groups (TGs)	<p>The 4 TGs meet virtually and F2F on matters relating to their portfolio. As part of their functions, these TGs would need to liaise at the country level to determine the status of activities/initiatives being undertaken by Ministries of Agriculture, and other national, regional and international agencies, relating their specific portfolio. Countries have an important role in this information gathering process. The TGs and their lead agencies are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (CCS) 2 Business Development (IICA) 3 Climate Change & Natural Resource Management (FAO) 4 Human Resource, Research & Development (CARDI) <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input directly to the lead agencies identified.</p>
[C1 - CCS - completed] Examine the adequacy of market infrastructure with focus on small producers	<p>This study was grounded in five (5) countries - Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St, Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago. It sought to determine whether existing ‘physical facility or tangible facilitating arrangements’ are adequate to permit the flow of agricultural products from farm-gate to consumer. ‘Adequacy’ was measured from the supplier (farmer, retailer and/or vendor) and the buyer (individual consumers, retailers/wholesalers) perspectives, as well as any intermediary, for example packing houses. Based on the findings of the country assessments, several recommendations were offered for improving market infrastructure that will simultaneously improve the outcomes for vendors, including small producers and experiences for consumers.</p> <p>The recommendations should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</p>
[C1 - CCS - close to completion] Develop a Regional Policy framework for the Cassava-Based Industry	<p>Initially, the ToR identified five (5) countries - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, to be ‘case studied’. While these are generally representative of the difference in the agricultural sector in CARICOM, there is recognition by the Consultant that this would not provide a sufficient basis for making policy for the entire Region. The new proposal would allow for the capture of salient aspects of the industry development in a wider regional sample, by grouping the countries in Haiti, Mainland countries (Belize, Guyana, Suriname) and other CARICOM countries (including the OECS and Barbados). Hence the role of IICA and CARDI offices in facilitating the Consultant with the information and experiences gathering process will be an important factor in ensuring success of this activity.</p> <p>The recommendations should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</p>

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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Develop a Regional Policy Framework and a Business Plan for a Coordinating Mechanism for Herbs & Spices Industry</p>	<p>The countries to be ‘sampled’ as the basis for generating the body of information for analysis and recommendations will be specified on the submission of the Consultant’s Inception report. Given the regional thrust to develop links to the hotel and hospitality industry and the prominence of this industry in several countries of the region, while not all countries will be ‘sampled’ in the effort to develop of a regional industry development plan and coordinating mechanism, the results of this activity will have direct benefits for further enhancement of existing agri-tourism linkages throughout countries of the region.</p> <p>The initial findings should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Assess business facilitation mechanisms with a focus on trade limiting policy measures and transportation services systems</p>	<p>Given the longstanding priority placed on ‘alleviating’ these trade and logistical constraints, it is expected that the results of consultations will have direct application to countries’ efforts at systematically strengthening business and trade facilitation mechanisms for intra-regional trade in agricultural products.</p> <p>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be consulted during the process of country-visits and will have an opportunity to input into the recommendations.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Build capacity of policy planners to integrate Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC) Adaptation into national agricultural development policies & programs</p>	<p>While only a limited number of countries will receive direct support in this area, in the form of development of Drought Hazard Annex to existing National Disaster Risk Management Plans, the process, experiences and information generated from the support will be shared and transferred to other countries in the Region. This can be done through regional training activities, including the Agri-Planners Forum, as well as incorporated into the planned national level support for developing policy frameworks and plans at the national (country) and industry levels (cassava, herbs & spices).</p> <p><i>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be afforded an opportunity to review the findings and recommendations, including the Drought Hazard Annexes to Disaster Risk Management Plans, being developed for Saint Lucia and Grenada.</i></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Support Policy Networking and Knowledge Transfer through a Regional Agricultural Planners Forum</p>	<p>More structured opportunities will be provided for planners in Ministries of Agriculture to network and dialogue on a continuous basis as the main tool to strengthen their capacity to undertake routine planning functions, foster consensus for decision making on critical issues on the regional agenda and as a vehicle for transferring knowledge on specific policy-related topics through virtual and F2F training activities</p> <p>Activities continue in 2016.</p>

as at July 2016 ~ 11 ~ APP/PMU



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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C2 – CARDI; close to completion]</p> <p>Study/validation meetings on harmonization of trade standards for movement of select crop & animal livestock germplasm in the region</p>	<p>Through two separate, but complementary studies under C2, both completed in July 2015, CARDI is contributing to efforts at modernizing existing rules and regulations concerning trade in plant and animal material for easier movement while, at the same time, maintaining the lowest level of risk with respect to the transfer of pests and diseases within CARIFORUM. A F2F technical review meeting on plant germplasm trade protocols (to be convened on 7 December 2015) will explore the pest status and the risk of transmission for six priority crops, and a range of suitable options were selected and presented through six crop-specific “Protocols for the Transport of Disease-Free Planting Material in CARIFORUM”. The outcomes of this meeting and action on an agreed way forward will have far reaching implications for countries which have expressed an interest in obtaining improved germplasm for roots and tubers from both countries within and outside the region. A similar technical review will be undertaken for animal germplasm and given the current concerns with the spread of AI disease in poultry, the findings and recommendations of the protocols for moving animal germplasm across the region become even more relevant.</p> <p>The recommendations and protocols should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; close to completion]</p> <p>Experience capitalization on successful CARIFORUM-based financing schemes involving small producers/ entrepreneurs in value chains’</p>	<p>CARIFORUM countries will benefit from specific case studies and short videos of the successful value chain financing mechanisms. These experiences will be documented and used for knowledge transfer and promotion to other countries in the region. Among these are the financing mechanisms and experiences in the white potato and onion industry in Jamaica and the production input loan and marketing scheme spearheaded by MASSY STORES in Saint Lucia. The two consultancies are intended to contribute to the enhancing of understanding of innovative agri-value chain financing schemes for MSMEs, the pivotal role of supportive government policy and engagement and successful collaboration with financial institutions, in order to catalyse changes in practice, help others not to repeat errors and facilitate the design of new interventions that are evidence-based.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; planning in progress]</p> <p>‘Regional Agri-Value Chain Financing Forum to strengthen stakeholders engagement on Value Chain financing in CARIFORUM countries’</p>	<p>The outcome of the Credit Readiness exercise will determine those MSMEs and Development Finance Institutions from Suriname that will attend the Regional Agri Value Chain Financing Forum to be held in Jamaica in September 2016. The forum will be hosted in collaboration with the CTA, and will include representatives from national and regional financial institutions, representatives of commodity producer, women and youth organizations and technical professionals from CARIFORUM countries. Enterprises selected to attend will include those that have undergone credit-readiness assessment and subsequently investment profiling (by BDOs using FAST Tools).</p>

as at July 2016 ~ 12 ~ APP/PMU



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Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
[C3 – IICA; plans in train for technical meeting] Working Capital Fund study selected commodity based Industries	A two-day regional workshop, involving representatives of selected producer groups and enterprises involved in Roots and Tuber production, transformation and marketing initiatives (spearheaded by APP Beneficiary organizations along with selected NVCFs, BDOs and IICA National Specialists who are supporting producer groups and value-adding enterprises) is earmarked for Barbados in August. This workshop is linked closely with the work on credit worthiness assessments being undertaken under the APP-FAST LoA. Enterprises being cleared as credit worthy' is an essential step in being deemed eligible for the financing.

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