

Actions to benefit the dairy goat chain in Trinidad and Tobago

FIRST, WE IDENTIFIED THE NEED TO:

- 1 Strengthen the institutional framework to enhance sector support.
- 2 Establish and strengthen coordination and dialogue mechanisms.
- 3 Strengthen technical capabilities of the different chain actors, including extension officers.
- 4 Define Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for producing high quality milk, with acceptable standards for packaging and labelling for stakeholders in the chain.
- 5 Strengthen the capacity of producers, processors and others along the goat dairy value chain to consistently produce high quality milk and value-added products from goats' milk to effectively access markets.
- 6 Implement a marketing strategy to take advantage of business opportunities beyond the current farm-gate sale.

THEN WE DECIDED TO FOCUS OUR EFFORTS ON:

- 7 Establishment and strengthening of the dairy goat chain committee.
- 8 Design and implementation of a capacity building program to promote product and process innovations.
- 9 Facilitate market access for milk and value added products.

ACHIEVING THE FOLLOWING RESULTS

- 10 A Dairy Goat Stakeholder's Committee was established and a business plan was prepared and partially implemented to increase production; productivity and market access for milk and value added products from members' farms.
- 11 The Committee worked on the mobilization of resources, the production of fodder to reduce costs, the construction of milking rooms for member farms and the launch of products to the market. Additionally, a proposal was made for the establishment of a goats' milk and by-products processing plant.
- 12 Members of the TTGSS and other stakeholders increased their productivity, quality of goat's milk and other value added products in order to increase access to markets through a series of capacity building activities and instruments.
- 13 Capacity building activities were carried out on the following topics: husbandry management practices, including sanitation, feed mixing, breed selection, castration, hoof trimming and dehorning; housing management and construction; public health requirements; animal health and nutrition; labelling regulations; food safety; elaboration of cheese and yogurts; and business management, focused record keeping and entrepreneurship.



- 14 To supplement the training activities, public goods were developed and disseminated among producers:
[The Trinidad & Tobago Dairy Goat Manual: Breeds, Milking, Herd Health, Records](#); forage fact sheets on [clitoria](#), [kudzu](#), [leucaena](#), [moringa](#), [mulberry](#), [tithonia](#), [trichanthera](#) and [gliciridia](#); [Dairy Goat Milking Handbook for Farmers: A step-by-step guide](#); and The Trinidad and Tobago Dairy Goat Manual Vol II: Comprehensive Guide to Goats' Milk Production and Handling.
- 15 A marketing strategy was developed, including information on market segmentation, promotion and branding, market penetration, marketing channels, pricing strategy and new product development. These efforts allowed milk, cheese and yogurt producers to sell their products to local supermarkets chains. In addition, IICA in collaboration with the TTGSS showcased and promoted goats' milk, cheese, and other value added product to the public at a recent exhibition hosted by the University of the West Indies.