



**THE MARRAKESH DECISION AND FOOD SECURITY:  
CONTRIBUTION OF THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE  
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

SUBMISSION BY THE IICA

The following submission, dated 21 November 2018, is being circulated at the request of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The purpose of this document is to inform member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) about some of the technical cooperation activities carried out by the IICA in 2018<sup>1</sup> to support Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries in the area of food and nutrition security.

The IICA seeks to contribute to food security in its member countries through areas such as international trade and regional integration, family farming, food health, safety and quality, the bioeconomy, and climate resilience. To this end, it works with its member States to develop policies and strategies and strengthen institutional frameworks.

Some of the activities through which the IICA has contributed to the food security<sup>2</sup> of Latin American and Caribbean countries are described below. Such activities have been implemented through various technical cooperation instruments and partnerships with national and international bodies in IICA member countries, and are based on the four dimensions established by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): food availability, access to food, food utilization and stability.

## **1 MULTINATIONAL ACTION BY THE IICA**

1.1. During the period 2017-2018, the IICA supported various countries and regions through activities based on the four dimensions of food security:

### **1.1 Access to food<sup>3</sup>**

- a. Caribbean region:** *Study to improve transport and logistics in the Caribbean.* This outcome was achieved within the framework of the [Agricultural Policy Programme \(APP\) led by the IICA and focusing on the Caribbean countries](#), which is funded by the European Union (EU). The study's recommendations to the Caribbean Community

<sup>1</sup> The 2018 period covers July 2017 to June 2018. The relevant activities in all the areas of agriculture covered by the IICA in 2017, and details thereof, can be found in the annual report available at: [http://apps.iica.int/SReunionesOG/Content/Documents/CE2018/en/b06971dc-9819-40a4-a853-00c524f78efa\\_wd683\\_2017\\_iica\\_annual\\_report.pdf](http://apps.iica.int/SReunionesOG/Content/Documents/CE2018/en/b06971dc-9819-40a4-a853-00c524f78efa_wd683_2017_iica_annual_report.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> IICA (Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, Costa Rica), 2009. IICA's Definition of Food Security. San José, Costa Rica. Viewed on 29 August 2017. Available at: [http://legacy.iica.int/esp/programas/seguridadalimentaria/Documents/SeguridadAlimentarias\\_Quees\\_Esp.pdf](http://legacy.iica.int/esp/programas/seguridadalimentaria/Documents/SeguridadAlimentarias_Quees_Esp.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Access to food: Access for individuals to adequate resources (entitlements) for acquiring appropriate foods for a nutritious diet. Entitlements are defined as the set of all commodity bundles over which a person can establish command given the legal, political, economic and social arrangements of the community in which they live (including traditional rights such as access to common resources). See FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Italy), 2015. An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security. Rome, Italy. Viewed on 29 August 2017. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/al936e/al936e00.pdf>.

(CARICOM) and the Eastern Caribbean countries include the creation of a single window between customs and other entities, and the harmonization of procedures in the region.

- b. Modernizing market information systems:** The [Market Information Organization of the Americas \(MIOA\)](#), which has 33 member countries, has supported the development of a new curriculum on agricultural market information and analysis with universities in Brazil, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Trinidad and Tobago, and the compilation of a catalogue of 39 products that are of commercial importance to Central America, such as maize, potato, melon, onion and pineapple. Furthermore, an [Agricultural Market Information System \(AMIS\)<sup>4</sup> platform](#) has been developed to manage a cloud-based price database. In 2017, the cloud-based MIOA database was developed to manage, store and disseminate information on agricultural prices, thus benefiting the AMIS of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominica, Grenada, the Dominican Republic, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. An online course (in English and Spanish) was also made available to AMIS technicians and the public in general.

## 1.2 Food availability<sup>5</sup>

- a. Cooperation programmes on research and innovation for competitiveness:** The IICA has supported cooperation projects implemented in countries and subregions through various joint regional programmes. The Cooperative Programme for the Technological Development of Agri-food and Agro-industries in the Southern Cone (PROCISUR), the Cooperative Programme on Agricultural Research, Development and Innovation for the South American Tropics (PROCITROPICOS), and the Cooperative Agricultural Research and Technology Programme for the Northern Region (PROCINORTE) focus on research, public policy, and knowledge sharing and knowledge management in relation to various topics such as marketing models, genetic resources, and animal and plant health, thereby contributing primarily to food availability and utilization.

Under PROCITROPICOS, the national research institutes of member countries of the South American tropics have improved their capacity to conduct research activities relating to agricultural, livestock and forestry development, while member institutions and stakeholders in the same region have improved their knowledge of new strategies for the use and exchange of plant germplasm in the various countries, with a view to the sustainable conservation of agrobiodiversity.

## 1.3 Stable access to food<sup>6</sup>

- a. Grow more with less: rice-growing systems.** Colombia and the Dominican Republic approved the methodology of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), with a view to making rice producers less vulnerable to the biophysical and socio-economic effects of climatic change (both current and anticipated). The system has been successful in both Africa and Asia, and promising efforts are now being made in Latin America and the Caribbean to reduce the sensitivity of production systems and improve their capacity to adapt.
- b. Regional Cooperative Programme for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Production in Central America, Mexico, Panama and the Dominican Republic (PROMECAFE).** The region's coffee sector has laid the groundwork and established

<sup>4</sup> The platform, into which price data are fed by ministry of agriculture officials or statistical officers in various countries, may be accessed at: <http://www.sima-amis.com>.

<sup>5</sup> Food availability: The availability of sufficient quantities of food of appropriate quality, supplied through domestic production or imports (including food aid). See FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Italy), 2015. An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security. Rome, Italy. Viewed on 30 August 2018. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/al936e/al936e00.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> Stability: To be food secure, a population, household or individual must have access to adequate food at all times. They should not risk losing access to food as a consequence of sudden shocks (e.g. an economic or climatic crisis) or cyclical events (e.g. seasonal food insecurity). The concept of stability can therefore refer to both the availability and access dimensions of food security. See FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Italy), 2015. An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security. Rome, Italy. Viewed on 30 August 2018. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/al936e/al936e00.pdf>.

conditions for the creation of a Regional Early Warning System (REWS) to help tackle climate change. The system will underpin the formulation of public policies to improve adjustment to climate change and thus build the response capacity of the most vulnerable populations in production zones exposed to climate-related risks and the adverse effects of environmental and climatic events.

#### 1.4 Food utilization<sup>7</sup>

- a. **Secretariat for the Inter-American Commission for Organic Agriculture (ICOA):** In certain countries of the IICA-led Secretariat, such as Bolivia, Chile, Argentina, Ecuador, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic, steps have been taken to build the capacities of organic agriculture stakeholders in the areas of information and knowledge management in order to support the development of organic production and the marketing of organic products.

## 2 ACTIONS IN VARIOUS LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES

2.1. Described below are some of the main activities carried out by the IICA and its representatives in support of its member States, in relation to the four dimensions of food security:

### 2.1 Food availability

- a. **Belize:** Capacity-building activities on micropropagation were organized for the University of Belize with a view to improving the production of banana planting material; steps were also taken to enhance the Banana Producers' Association's knowledge of integrated soil fertility management.
- b. **Costa Rica:** Regional innovation platforms, made up of public and private stakeholders, were set up for potatoes, yucca, avocados and tomatoes in order to enhance awareness of innovation processes and knowledge management.
- c. **Chile:** Assistance was provided to further the recovery of beekeeping activity affected by fires in the region of El Maule, Chile.
- d. **Ecuador:** Small-scale banana and blackberry producers now have protocols to determine the effectiveness of bioformulations (fungi and bacteria). This enables them to improve their incomes through the development of sustainable agriculture systems, the reduction of plant protection costs, and the addition of value to crops.
- e. **Guatemala:** Innovative technologies, innovative consortia, and good practices to strengthen avocado, potato, tomato and yucca value chains throughout the region were introduced through training and information-exchange events for small-scale farmers. Technology has been made available to technicians and producers, who have received training on the use of good agronomic practices that contribute to improving irrigated rice production. Similarly, small-scale cocoa producers now enjoy approved technologies that enable them to optimize productivity and improve bean quality.
- f. **Haiti:** Capacity-building activities were organized for goat and swine enterprises under the Reforest project.
- g. **Mexico:** Capacity-building activities were organized for Hidalgo-based producers of prickly pear cactus (pads and fruit) with a view to boosting the territory's resources and promoting coordination between stakeholders through the implementation of the Localized Agri-Food System. The Moscafrut Operational Programme was implemented as part of the National Fruit Fly Campaign. The agricultural health programmes developed by the National Agriculture and Food Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) were enhanced

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<sup>7</sup> Utilization of food through adequate diet, clean water, sanitation and health care to reach a state of nutritional well-being where all physiological needs are met. This brings out the importance of non-food inputs in food security. See FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, Italy), 2015. An Introduction to the Basic Concepts of Food Security. Rome, Italy. Viewed on 30 August 2018. Available at: <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/al936e/al936e00.pdf>.

through the provision of technical and financial information concerning verification at origin, which ensures that shipments of animals or products to be imported into the country comply with the requirements laid down in Mexican legislation.

- h. Paraguay:** In the livestock sector, activities were organized to build the capacities of production units belonging to small-scale producers, thereby enabling them to produce in a more efficient manner, in accordance with quantity, quality and safety criteria, for self-consumption and income generation. Furthermore, by enhancing their technical capacities, the National Animal Quality and Health Service (SENACSA) is able to facilitate the successful control and eradication of bovine brucellosis and ensure that sanitary conditions are in compliance with sanitary requirements for exporting livestock products. The Brucellosis Programme ensures the timely availability of inputs for laboratories and activities in the field, and the provision of advice and training.
- i. Dominican Republic:** The capacity of the extension system has been enhanced in terms of soil and water management and climate change. Partners have better access to financing for adjustment purposes.
- j. Saint Kitts and Nevis:** Under the draft Proposal for Post-Hurricane Irma Rehabilitation Support, a group of farmers (including 16 greenhouses, 12 acres of vegetable crops and four livestock farms) was selected to receive support through agricultural sector rehabilitation activities that foster more resilient agriculture.
- k. Suriname:** Within the framework of the Climate Smart Programme, activities were organized to improve the understanding of water-harvesting and micro-irrigation technologies and the use of these technologies by vegetable farmers, particularly in the Weg Naar Zee area, with a view to mitigating drought and ensuring year-round production. Agricultural technicians and farming students involved in vegetable crop production also improved their knowledge and capacities in respect of the use of protected agricultural technology to mitigate the effects of climate change (excessive rainfall, pests and disease, extreme temperatures).

## 2.2 Access to food

- a. Colombia:** In Colombia, the organizational capacities, empowerment and living conditions of 60 people from marginalized groups (women, landless peasants, former combatants and young people) were enhanced through the IICA's "Unleashing Local Energies" action-training programme.
- b. Bahamas:** Groups of women entrepreneurs and young people in the apicultural chain were able to improve their strategic market access capacities, which will enable them to increase their incomes and access more and better food.
- c. Haiti:** Under the Agricultural Financing and Insurance System project, agricultural entrepreneurs in Haiti are able to improve the way their businesses are managed in order to generate more income. In the South department, 100 women from a local organization received training on organizational strengthening and animal production.

## 2.3 Food stability

- a. Plurinational State of Bolivia:** Producers have been provided with technical information on managing and controlling pests and have been made aware of the need to participate actively in the process of identifying, managing, controlling and evaluating pests. The national authorities now have a risk communication strategy for locusts, and producers and technicians have improved their capacity to handle sanitary emergencies, particularly in respect of locusts.
- b. El Salvador:** Revival of the coffee sector in El Salvador: Cooperation and communication mechanisms have been established for the coffee sector, and the groundwork has been laid for the introduction of national union of guilds to promote the revival of the sector. Further steps have also been taken to make Salvadoran poultry products eligible for

importation into the United States, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock now has proposals for technical inspection and auditing procedures and a draft technical regulation on the monitoring of residues of veterinary drugs, pesticides and heavy metals.

- c. Guatemala:** Modelling activities took place with a view to helping interested parties adapt forestry and agro-forestry systems to global changes through the identification, measurement and analysis of data. This will enable the sector to anticipate pests and disease and adapt to new climate scenarios.
- d. Peru:** The risk management plan for extreme climatic events affecting livestock has contributed to the formulation of an agricultural sectoral strategy for strengthening and expanding the resilience of small and medium-sized cattle farmers in high Andean regions to extreme climatic events.
- e. Dominican Republic:** In light of the phytosanitary emergency caused by cocoa moniliasis, and in view of the potential introduction of *Moniliophthora roreri* into the Dominican Republic, activities were organized to enhance the response and monitoring capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector.
- f. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines:** Farmers and technicians enhanced their capacity to implement climate-smart agricultural practices on farms, such as good soil and water management practices and the selection of crops and varieties conducive to sustainable production. This activity was carried out in conjunction with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to promote the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices among small producers.

#### 2.4 Food utilization

- a. Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela:** Under the comprehensive training programme for the sustainable production of cow's milk - Nestlé Leche Zulia y Táchira, livestock producers were provided with information and tools to help them implement good animal husbandry practices.

2.2. For further details on IICA activities in this area:

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