

# Significant achievements 2018



## Canada



- Four new, mutually beneficial and strategic partnership agreements were advanced with the private sector, not-for-profit organizations and foreign officers: Fertilizer Canada, the Cooperative Development Foundation of Canada (CDF), the Trade Facilitation Office of Canada (TFO) and the Embassy of Paraguay. The agreement with Fertilizer Canada will promote the 4R Solution (right source, right rate, right time, right place) for fertilizer application to enhance smallholder sustainable crop production in Latin America and the Caribbean. Fertilizer Canada has already agreed to co-fund two research internships for Paraguayan researchers to conduct studies in Canada. The agreements with CDF and TFO position IICA to participate in future projects, related to cooperatives and market access issues. The landmark agreement signed with the Embassy of Paraguay seeks to assist Paraguay to benefit under the Mercosur trade agreement.
- The Canadian Government and industry stakeholders were sensitized in the opportunity for knowledge transfer from participants in Canada's Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP) and to benefit selected agri-food sectors in home countries. This has made an invaluable contribution to the public debate and a comprehensive review is being undertaken by the Government of Canada to determine the fate of the program. IICA has subsequently been invited to take part in a follow-up study, to be carried out in Jamaica by the University of Guelph. Additionally, IICA has submitted a proposal for conducting a pilot project to demonstrate the use of knowledge and skills of SAWP workers in Jamaica's greenhouse and organic agriculture sectors.
- The Research and Internship Assistance Program (RIAP), in its 21st year, continued to facilitate the internationalization of research and innovation. Eight research internships and exchanges related to IICA's Program Areas enabled joint research and knowledge transfer by participants from Costa Rica, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, Chile, Guyana, OECS, Argentina, Brazil, and Canada.
- The Institute gained associate membership in the Canadian Food Security Policy Group (FSPG), which is a recognized partner group for Global Affairs Canada (GAC). This will closely align IICA with the decision-making process for Canada's development agenda and will enable the organi-

zation to collaborate with some of the 25 members of the FSPG on projects in LAC.

- IICA's engagement with over 35 constituents of the Bioeconomy (private and public sector) in three of Canada's Atlantic Provinces served to examine existing models that are being utilized to establish and support sustainable activities, by optimizing their bio-resources. On behalf of PROCINORTE, three specific prospects were identified for technical exchanges/internships, joint research, knowledge-sharing and participation in international programmed activities.
- With funding provided by PROCINORTE member countries (through USDA-ARS, Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones

Forestales, Agrícolas y Pecuarias (INIFAP) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency – CFIA), joint research projects were conducted in areas of importance to the three countries: Bluetongue and *Culicoides* Vectors, the Diagnosis and Control of Equine Piroplasmiasis, and Vesicular Stomatitis Diagnosis. Outputs stand to benefit other countries in LAC, through regional platforms such as CaribVet. In addition, a Material Transfer Agreement (MTA) between IICA and INIFAP with CID BIO SCIENCE, INC. (Felix Instruments) was a major outcome of several years of joint research facilitated by IICA, a PROCINORTE Task Force, and INIFAP, on the non-destructive testing of avocado maturity. This MTA will enable Felix Instruments to continually update the model developed and make instruments available to the avocado industry throughout the region to achieve improved quality, less waste and more profit by farmers. IICA will also benefit from due acknowledgement and recognition of its role.

- Via IICA, two technical workshops on priority diseases impacting agricultural health (animals and plants) were organized and executed, providing up-to-date information on trends, new tools and methodologies to over 120 researchers, regulators and students in Mexico, USA and Canada.
- Joint activities were undertaken with the Canadian SME, MAPAgri, to conduct a scoping mission with regards to establishing a nucleus herd of goats in Jamaica for enhanced

resiliency and productivity, based on Canadian and Jamaican genetics. The Institute also coordinated the active participation of MAPAgri in the Caribbean Week of Agriculture and partnered with them on a joint project proposal for consideration by the Canadian Government under the Canadian Agricultural Partnership (CAP) program.

- IICA coordinated and hosted knowledge-transfer sessions for other IICA member countries, in response to requests or emerging trends, in the following technical topics: Climate Change through the Lens of Soil and Water; Greenhouse Management; Geospatial Tools for Agricultural Productivity to Aid Decision-Makers; and Data Management for Genetic Improvement in Small Ruminants. Methodologies, new tools and open source data platforms were shared with approximately 100 persons from five Caribbean countries and six countries in Latin America, to assist decision-making and improve agricultural productivity.
- IICA also successfully planned and executed the project - Strengthening National Food Safety Regulatory Capacity in CARICOM Countries-, by applying the innovative tool known as Group Concept Mapping. This effort resulted in several recommendations being reflected in the new Regional Strategy to Strengthen International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) Focal Points in the Caribbean.

