



Antigua and Barbuda



Significant Achievements 2020

- With funds obtained through the Australian Direct Aid Programme (DAP) and technical support from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), under the project, “Developing Sustainable Protein Sources for Community Nutrition Resilience in Antigua”, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) coordinated the installation of four one-acre forage demonstration plots. Five drought-tolerant forage species were established to support the local small ruminant producer group.
- Additional funding from the DAP allowed IICA to enhance the knowledge and build the capacities of thirty-three young people, small ruminant producers and technicians, through a virtual session on the production and management of forage species.
- IICA assisted in coordinating a series of virtual sensitization and capacity building training sessions with key stakeholders, funded under the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) regional project, “Strengthening Coastal and Marine Climate Resilience through Community Engagement and Ecosystem-based Adaptation Solutions”. The project, which is a collaborative effort between IAMovement, the University of Florida (UF), the University of the West Indies (UWI), local CBOs and NGOs, as well as the Ministry of Agriculture, is currently being implemented in Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia, and Trinidad & Tobago. The project is managed by the IICA Delegation in Trinidad and Tobago, with assistance from IICA’s Climate Change program.
- With resources from its Special COVID-19 Fund for the Caribbean Region, IICA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, provided agricultural inputs and supplies to assist in boosting the production of twenty-six small-scale farmers, whose livelihood had been impacted by the novel Coronavirus. In addition, beneficiaries participated in a production capacity building workshop to strengthen their knowledge and skills in efficient vegetable production management.
- The Institute provided technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture, through a partnership with Digicel, a telecommunications network, to increase market promotion and opportunities for twenty-six backyard gardeners, through their participation in the first National Backyard Gardening Competition.
- In support of innovation and extension services for sustainable production and food security, IICA facilitated the development of the AgriExtAPP, which is intended to enhance information and communication exchange between farmers, extension workers, and other stakeholders in the region’s agriculture and innovation systems. The assistance included strengthening the capacities of all stakeholders, through a survey and sensitization and capacity building workshop, while also enhancing visibility and communication efforts prior to the launch of the app. The app is currently being piloted in Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas and St. Vincent & the Grenadines.
- IICA played a pivotal role in facilitating a virtual discussion with the Minister of Agriculture of Belize, and the Minister of Agriculture of Antigua & Barbuda, regarding the conceptualization of a horizontal cooperation activity between both countries for the development of a livestock sector traceability system for Antigua and Barbuda.
- The Institute coordinated a series of virtual meetings with key public/private partners and stakeholders, including ministers of government, focusing on the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the protocols and solutions which should be implemented to support the Institute’s technical cooperation model.
- Through a Rapid Response Action and at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Institute collaborated with the Ministry’s Statistics, Research and IT Unit to conduct a survey study report on the Social and Economic Dimensions of the Giant African Snail (GAS) in Antigua. The GAS—considered to be one of the most





damaging land snails—was first reported in Antigua in 2008. Since then, it has spread to almost all parishes in the country, with reports of significant economic and social impacts. Yet, to date, there has been no structured investigation to substantiate these claims. As such, the study assessed the nature and extent of the problem, with a specific focus on the social and economic impacts.

The findings indicate that:

- Over 15% of the stakeholders have been affected by the GAS.

- More specifically, 24% of schools and livestock farms have been affected.
- Crop farms and hotels follow closely, at 23% and 20% respectively.
- Just over 10% of homes have been affected.

Further, the costs associated with the management of the snail include costs for bait, labour, land clearing, loss of income, depreciation and medical bills. Stratified Random Sampling (SRS) was used to collect data from 202 stakeholders between November 2019 and June 2020, which consisted of representatives of homes, schools, hotels, crop farms, livestock farms and input suppliers.