

ANNUAL REPORT *2009*

IICA's Contribution to the
**Development of Agriculture
and Rural Communities**

Guyana



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

IICA's CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL COMMUNITIES IN GUYANA

IICA Office in Guyana
February, 2010

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ABOUT IICA

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was created by the Governing Board of the Pan-American Union in 1942. In 1949, it was recognised by the Organisation of American States as the agency of the Inter-American System specialising in agriculture and the well-being of the rural population.

A new IICA Convention came into force in 1980, establishing two Governing Bodies: the Inter-American Board of Agriculture, composed of all Member States, and the Executive Committee, made up of 12 Member States appointed to the Committee on a rotating basis. The Inter-American Board of Agriculture holds regular meetings every two years to consider and adopt measures related to the Institute's policy and action. The Executive Committee acts on behalf of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture when the latter is not in session and holds regular meetings once a year.

In 2000, the Organisation of American States, by means of General Assembly Resolution 1728, recognised the Inter-American Board of Agriculture as the primary ministerial forum for analysing and building consensus on policies and strategic priorities for the improvement of agriculture and rural life in the Hemisphere.

The Institute's Executive Body is the General Directorate and its Headquarters is in San José, Costa Rica. The Director General of IICA for the period 2001-2009 was Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, a citizen of Barbados. A new Director General was elected by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in October, 2009 for the period 2010-2014. The new Director General is Dr. Víctor Villalobos, a citizen of Mexico.

The Institute has a network of Offices in its 34 Member States and a Permanent Office for Europe, located in Madrid, Spain, which promotes relations with strategic partners. It also has an Office in Miami, Florida, United States of America, which directs the Inter-American Programme for the promotion of Trade, Agribusiness and Food Safety.

IICA's Mission is to provide innovative technical cooperation to its Member States with a view to achieving their sustainable development in aid of the peoples of the Americas. The Institute is seeking to assume a leadership role in the Americas in the areas of Agriculture and Rural Development, and to become a partner of choice by virtue of the quality of the technical cooperation it provides to its Member States, and its contributions to Sustainable Agricultural Development, Food Security and Rural Prosperity.



GUYANA



Population	751,223 (Census 2002)
Size	214,970 square km
Location	Between 1° & 9° North Latitude and 57° & 61° West Longitude
Time Zone	GMT - 04:00
Currency	Guyana Dollar (G\$)
Per capita GDP 2009 (rebased series)	US\$2,308.50
Nominal GDP 2009 (rebased series)	G\$359,549 million
Real GDP 2009 (rebased series)	G\$296,419 million
Inflation Rate	Dec '08-Sep '09: 3.4
	Aug '09-Sep '09: 0.3
	Jul '09: 2.3
	Aug '09: 3.1 Sept '09: 3.4
Average Exchange Rate (Mid Rate)	Oct '09: G\$ 202.86 to US \$1
	Nov '09: G\$ 202.88 to US \$1
	Dec '09: G\$ 203.03 to US \$1

Source: Bureau of Statistics - Guyana 2010

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FOREWORD

As we close the chapter on 2009, we take the opportunity to thank all our partners in the agricultural and rural milieu for their invaluable contributions and support towards the achievement of the results of our Office.

In 2009, the country and our Region faced the global challenges of the financial market melt-down, food security, fuel and climate change. We supported the country's efforts to combat these global challenges through enhancing our working relationships with the Government of Guyana, particularly through the Ministry of Agriculture and its agencies, producer organisations, individual farmers, the commercial sector, cooperation agencies, and academia.

This report outlines the technical cooperation programme of the Office in the country in line with the Institute's key thematic areas of *repositioning agriculture and rural life, agribusiness development, agricultural health and food safety, technology and innovation in agriculture, and promoting the sustainable development of rural communities.*

In the thrust towards supporting the on-going agricultural modernization programme in Guyana as well as in response to the global financial situation, the Office worked assiduously to forge new networks and mobilize external resources for project implementation. Towards this end, the Office participated in the competitive bidding process for two major components of the ADP, and signed three MoU's with other cooperation agencies targeted at promoting trade and agribusiness, pest risk surveillance, and the development of an agricultural risk and insurance strategy for the country.

As in previous years, the report also provides a synopsis of the status of agriculture and rural development in Guyana for the year in review.

We join the rest of the IICA family in saluting Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, as he demits office as Director General, for his outstanding contribution to IICA and to the Hemisphere over the last eight years, and to welcome the new Director General, Dr. Víctor Villalobos.

The inauguration of the new Administration coincides with the beginning of a new decade and new and renewed policies mandated by the Inter-American Board of Agriculture in Jamaica, October 2009. Our work programme for 2010 will not only be guided by the mandate of the new Administration, but must also be congruent with the policies of the Government of Guyana in general and the Ministry of Agriculture in particular. We therefore look forward to an exciting and productive period for Agriculture in Guyana and the Hemisphere.

Finally, none of the activities and the results reported in this document would have been possible without our dynamic Team at the IICA Office in Guyana. I would like to express my profound gratitude to Team IICA Guyana for their commitment and dedicated support in executing our 2009 Work Programme.

Ignatius Jean
Representative

List of Acronyms

AAACP	All African Caribbean Pacific Agricultural Commodities Programme
ADP	Agricultural Export Diversification Programme
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
AMIS	Agriculture Market Information Service
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CASRI	Caribbean and African Self Reliance International
CCRIF	Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility
CDEMA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
CESO	Canadian Executive Service Organisation
CFF	Carambola Fruit Fly
CHF	(*Previously known Canadian Hungerp Foundation. Now, CHF Partners in Rural Development)
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CIMH	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
CLAYUCA	Latin American and Caribbean Consortium to Support Cassava Research and Development
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
CWA	Caribbean Week of Agriculture
EDWC	East Demerara Water Conservancy
EMPRETEC	Entrepreneurship for Technology
ETG	Economic Transformations Group Inc.
EU	European Union
FADQDI	La Financière Agricole du Québec - Développement International
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FAVACA	Florida International Volunteer Corps
GAPA	Guyana Agricultural Producers' Association
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GFYA	Guyana Forum for Youth in Agriculture
GGMC	Guyana Geology and Mines Commission
GRDB	Guyana Rice Development Board
GSA	Guyana School of Agriculture
GTA	Guyana Tourism Authority
GTIS/USAID	Guyana Trade and Investment Support/ United States Agency for International Development
GUYSUCO	Guyana Sugar Corporation
GUYWID	Guyanese Women in Development
IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
IPED	Institute of Private Enterprise Development
LCDS	Low Carbon Development Strategy

List of Acronyms

MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MIF	Multilateral Investment Fund
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NCS	National Competitiveness Strategy
NGMC	New Guyana Marketing Corporation
NWG	National Working Group
OAS	Organisation of American States
PAHO/WHO	Pan-American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation
PoA	Partners of the Americas
PWAPA	Pomeroon Women Agro Processors Association
READ	Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Development
SMS	Short Messaging Service
SSCF	St. Stanislaus College Association Farm
STDF	Standards and Trade Development Facilitation
TFO	Trade Facilitation Office of Canada
THAG	Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana
UG	University of Guyana
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
US	United States
USA	United States of America
USDA/APHIS	United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
VEP	Veterinary Epidemiology Programme
WINCROP	Windward Islands Crop Insurance Ltd

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1. Introduction

Guyana intensified its efforts at repositioning its economy, particularly in the light of the global economic, financial and food crises, through a National Competitiveness Strategy (NCS) and a Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS). The agricultural sector, which accounts for approximately 25 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), continued to play a key role in these restructuring programmes along a low carbon, value added and export development thrust. Towards this end, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) launched its Agricultural Export Diversification Programme (ADP) and the Rural Enterprise and Agricultural Development Project (READ). The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Office in Guyana directed its core areas of cooperation in line with the MoA's focus. This Report summarises the main contributions of the Office in fulfilling its obligations under the Cooperation Programme with Guyana.



Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life

- IICA assisted the MoA in exploring possibilities for developing an agricultural risk management strategy for the country through the facilitation of specialist missions to Guyana, including an IICA Technical Specialist Mission: La Financière Agricole du Québec - Développement International (FADQDI of Canada); and the organisation of a Symposium on Agricultural Risk and Insurance through collaboration with the MoA, World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and other strategic partners, which attracted 15 international presenters and 100 local participants.
- IICA provided all relevant information and support services to ensure the participation of the country's delegates at the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) Meeting in Jamaica.
- The results of the promotion of Youth in Agriculture programmes in the country included: Two Guyanese youth participated in the Annual IICA Young Leaders in Agriculture Forum at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica; a Young Leader, from the inaugural programme, completed a six-month internship at the IICA Office in Ecuador; four final year students of the University of Guyana (UG) completed a two-month internship at IICA in the country.

Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness

- IICA collaborated with the MoA, National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and FAO in conducting the surveys and report writing on two studies on market demand and value chain risk assessment for cassava; and facilitated the participation of technical specialists in the Latin American and Caribbean Consortium to Support Cassava Research and Development (CLAYUCA) Conference in Colombia, in support of Guyana's cassava development programme.
- With IICA support, two representatives each from three Women's Agro-Processing Groups were trained in agro-processing by Entrepreneurship for Technology (EMPRETEC), in collaboration with the Canadian Executive Service Organisation (CESO).
- IICA partnered with the National Working Group (NWG) on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in facilitating the training of members of the Kuru Kururu Farmers' Association in Apiculture (Beekeeping); 20 hives were established and 30 gallons honey harvested in 5 months after establishment.
- IICA assisted the Hauraruni Farmers' Association and the Guyana Forum for Youth in Agriculture (GFYA) in developing project proposals for mobilizing resources to start hydroponics farming and seedling production.
- A three-year Cooperation Agreement between IICA and Trade Facilitation Office (TFO) Canada was launched in Guyana, to facilitate exposure of Guyanese exporters of fresh and processed produce to Canadian market opportunities and requirements for international competitiveness. A total of 46 exporters were trained.

Promoting Agricultural Health and Food Safety

- IICA and United States Department of Agriculture/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA/APHIS) signed a one-year Agreement to assist the MoA with border surveillance for the Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF); 59 field staff of the MoA were trained in CFF Surveillance and Control Methods.
- The Institute facilitated the participation of MoA Officials and Technicians in Regional and International Meetings: Veterinary Epidemiology Programme (VEP) Meeting in Trinidad, CaribVET/Chief Veterinary Officers' Meeting in Jamaica; IICA/USDA-APHIS/Florida International Volunteer Corps (FAVACA) Regional Training on Identification of Coleopteran Pests in Grenada.
- IICA submitted the final country report on the Standards and Trade Development Facilitation (STDF) Project to the MoA.

2. EXECUTIVE summary

Promoting the Development of Rural Communities Based on the Territorial Approach

The Institute completed the Organisation of American States (OAS)/IICA Agro-Tourism Project with an Agro-Tourism Accountability Seminar and the delivery to the National Authorities of a Community Tourism Engagement Strategy Document for Lake Capoey. Through IICA's support for the development and promotion of the Tri-Lakes Agro-Tourism Experience, Lake Mainstay Village received the Minister of Tourism, Industry & Commerce/Guyana Tourism Authority (GTA) Agro-Tourism Award 2009, in recognition of the Village's new products – Organic Pineapple Farm and Factory Tour, and the Nature/Heritage Trail.

Promoting the Introduction of Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life

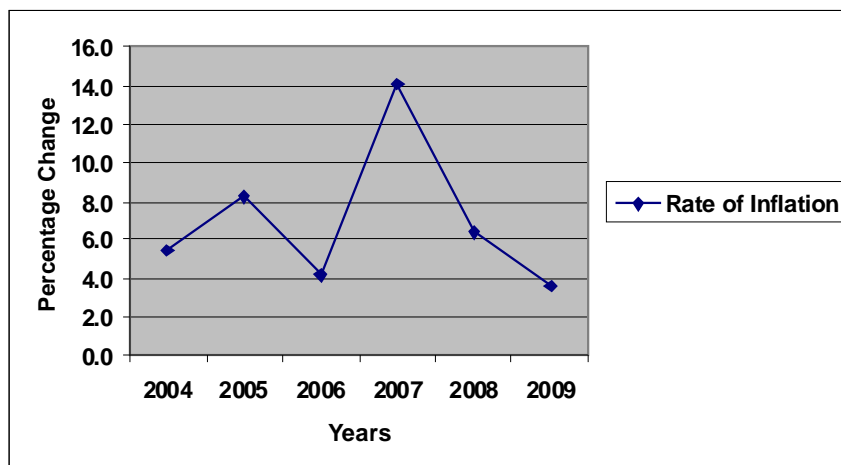
- IICA, in collaboration with the Partners of the Americas (PoA), trained five community farming groups in methods of hydroponics farming and provided technical support to these groups in establishing hydroponics units.
- IICA partnered with NARI to conduct field trials for hydroponics systems to review and recommend appropriate media and fertilizers.
- As part of its promotion of bio-energy, IICA provided technical support and facilitated the importation of plastics for the construction of low-cost biogas digesters by clients of the Institute of Private Enterprise Development (IPED), resulting in four digesters installed to date.
- Through IICA's coordination, UG was the beneficiary of the “Library in a Box Teal – LanTEEAL 2.0 System” from the University of Cornell, made possible through IICA cooperation with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA).



3. the state of agriculture And rural life in guyana in 2009

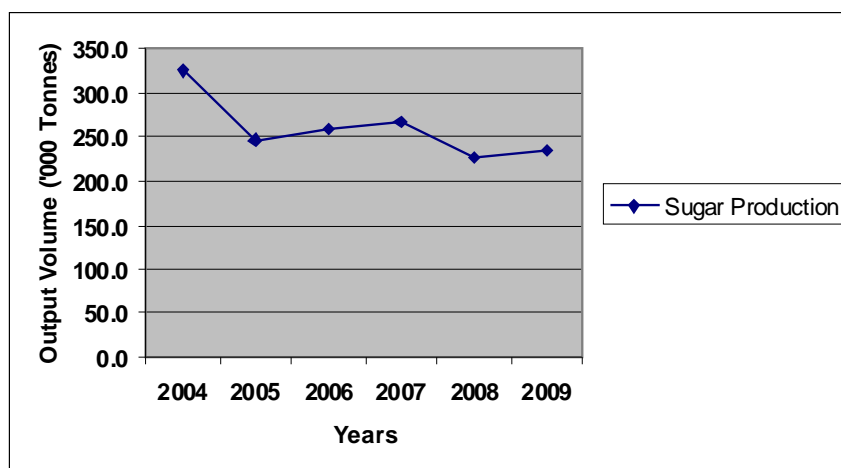
3.1 The Context for Agriculture and Rural Life

Modest economic performance in the key sugar industry sector, along with the enduring global economic slump, coalesced to result in equally modest growth in Guyana's economy in 2009. Guyana's economy grew by 2.3% in 2009 as compared to 3.1% in 2008. Inflation was recorded at 3.6% at the end of 2009 compared to 6.4% in 2008.



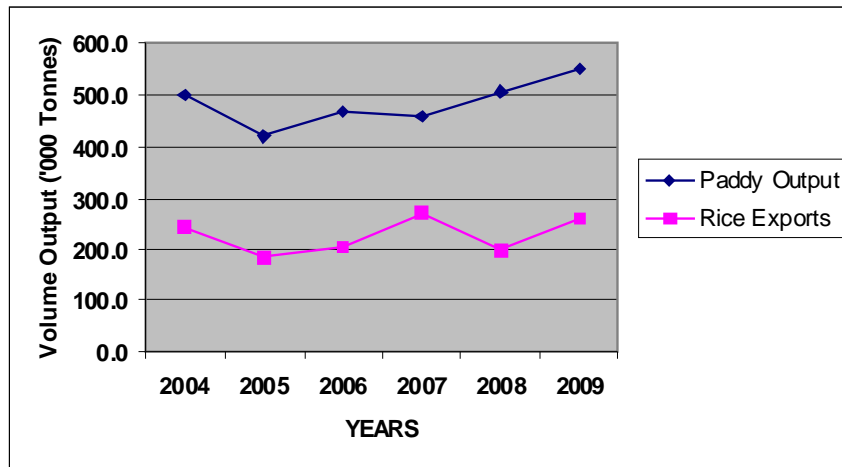
The contribution of the sugar sector fell short of the targeted 290,000 tonnes to actual production of 233,736 tonnes in 2009.

The volume of sugar exported increased by 3.4% to 212,131 tonnes even as export receipts declined by 10.2% as compared to 2008, reflecting a 13.1% decline in the average export price of sugar brought about by the third and final step in the European Union (EU) price cut. Overall export earnings amounted to US\$119.8M for 2009.

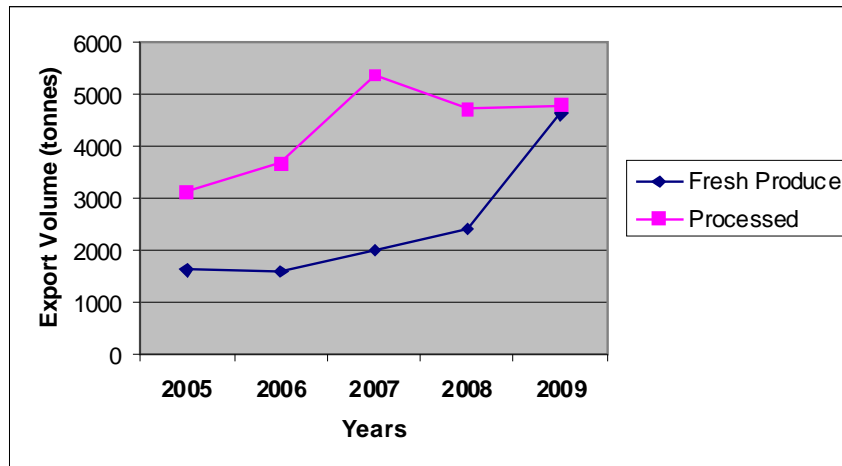


3.2 Changes in Agrifood Production

As regards the rice industry, the performance in 2009 was noteworthy. The output figure of 552,508 tonnes represents a fair increase on that of 2008 of approximately 9%. Another outstanding result is that the industry recorded 33% growth in exports. Even with this performance in exports, export earnings for the sector contracted by 3.3%, reflecting a decline of 27.3% of the average export price.



Performance in the non-traditional sector continued its upward trend during 2009. Compared to 2008, export volume of fresh produce increased from 2,398 tonnes to 4,628 tonnes, which represents a 93% growth in export volume. Performance in the processed non-traditional agricultural products was less spectacular, recording growth of approximately 2%. Collectively, export in the sector grew by an admirable 32%. The value of exports amounted to approximately US\$5.3M in 2009, representing a decline of approximately 32%. This decline in export value, in light of the sharp increase in export volume, may be explained by the falling off of export prices following on the elevated prices in 2008.



3.3 Changes in Policies that Affect Agriculture and Rural Life

The Rice Factories Amendment Bill No. 35 of 2009 was passed. The Act was amended to ensure that manufacturers (millers) do not owe any debts to farmers, amounting to over 5% of the value of paddy supplied, unless approved by the Guyana Rice Development Board (GRDB). The Act now allows for each farmer to be paid at least 50 percent of his/her individual sales within two weeks of a transaction. In addition, the millers must pay the remaining 50 percent to each farmer within 42 days. If there is failure to comply with this given time frame, millers will risk having their licence revoked.

The passing of the Forestry Bill, No. 21 of 2007 was a significant development in 2009 as part of Guyana's continued drive to further mitigate the effects of climate change. This Act seeks to provide for sustainable management of the forestry sector, as well as preservation of Guyana's forests, and is seen as an important component in the country's LCDS. It also provides for a legislative platform for the compliance necessary for the attraction of associated incentives for avoided deforestation.

3.4 Changes in the Institutional Framework for Agriculture and Rural Life

The non-governmental and non-profit entity, Guyana Agricultural Producers' Association (GAPA) was re-launched in May. This institution is poised to advance the non-traditional agricultural farming sector, including small-scale producers, and is expected to play a key role in the diversification programme the MoA has embarked upon. An important area of focus of the entity is that of encouraging and promoting farmers'/producers' groups and organisations so as to enable them to be better positioned in accessing the requisite support, such as technical, marketing and overall capacity-building initiatives.

The FAO **appointed its Representative to Guyana in July, 2009.** The presence of the FAO Representative in Guyana is expected to further bolster technical cooperation activities with the MoA and improve and increase collaborative initiatives among technical cooperation agencies in agriculture and other related institutions.

Following the participation of delegates from Guyana at the CLAYUCA Annual General Meeting in Colombia, and a subsequent visit to Guyana by officials of CLAYUCA, the country has secured membership in the organisation. CLAYUCA was established in 1999 as an organisation to forge strategic alliances between public and private sector institutions to facilitate the exchange of experiences and information, the transfer of improved technologies, and support to planning and financing cassava and research and development activities.



3.5 Major Developments in Thematic Areas that Affected the Performance of Agriculture and the Rural Life

Trade

Diversification of Guyana's agricultural markets and support for rice producers was enhanced through the signing of a Trade Agreement between the Governments of Guyana and Venezuela. This agreement is for the supply by Guyana of 10,000 tonnes of paddy and 40,000 tonnes of white rice at a total value of G\$3.7 B.

Agribusiness

Government's thrust to diversify the agriculture sector to ensure sustainability and enhanced production continued to be strengthened with the signing of two consultancy contracts. One was signed between the MoA and the GFA Consulting Group of Germany with an Agreement totalling G\$197M to foster and enable private sector entrepreneurship into agribusiness. The contract has a three-year duration and will be undertaken by 15 experts. The project is being financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The main deliverables of the consultancy include:

- o Management services to three agribusiness chain bodies (aquaculture, fruits and vegetables and livestock);
- o Development of strategic and annual operating plans;
- o Product and market research studies for each of the focus clusters, organisation of technological missions to upgrade agribusiness processors and farmers' knowledge of modern technologies.

The second contract, valued at US\$950,000, was signed with an Italian consultancy firm, Agrotec Spa, to provide consultancy services for the agricultural health and food safety component of the ADP. The consultancy services will set the platform for positioning the country to adopt superior plant and animal health care systems and food safety standards along the various food value chains. Among the deliverables of the contract are the provision of guidance in the development of a comprehensive policy and a strategic plan for agricultural health and food safety, the establishment of a data base and information system, and strengthened epidemiology surveillance.

Local entrepreneurs have been responding to Government's call to adopt new technologies to mitigate the effects of climate change and to improve crop production. One local entrepreneur has invested over \$40M into a hydroponics venture in Georgetown. Hydroponics farming is gradually being accepted as a sound farming technology in helping to mitigate the effects of climate change.

Natural Resources and Environment

In June, President Bharrat Jagdeo launched Guyana's LCDS, aimed at promoting economic development, while at the same time combating climate change. The launch of the strategy triggered a three-month national consultative process that led to the adoption of the strategy by the Government. The President also took the LCDS campaign to major capitals around the world and to several international fora. The LCDS scored the biggest success to date, when a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with Norway in November, for US\$250M, in support of Guyana's climate change model over the next five years.

3.5 Major Developments in Thematic Areas that Affected the Performance of Agriculture and the Rural Life

The President led a delegation, which comprised public officials and civil society representatives, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Copenhagen in December to present the LCDS.

Investments and Financing

In light of the vulnerability of much of Guyana's Agriculture to the vagaries of climate change, heavy focus is being placed on drainage and irrigation. Towards this end, substantial budgetary provisions were made for this sector in 2009. Among the more significant of these provisions was an allocation of G\$2B for the construction of a new outlet, which will serve as an alternative opening for the drainage of the East Demerara Water Conservancy (EDWC). G\$7.9B was allocated to construct, rehabilitate and maintain drainage and irrigation structures, and G\$247.7M for strengthening hydro-meteorological capabilities.

The Guyana Sugar Corporation (GUYSUCO) commenced the construction of a packaging plant and upgrade of the Enmore Sugar Factory. It is expected that on completion of this project, this factory will yield over 40,000 tonnes of high-quality branded direct consumption sugars for the retail trade.

Sustainable Rural Development

A US\$643,000 (G\$128.6M) Hinterland Rice and Beans Project was launched in Region 9. This project is a joint collaboration between the Governments of Guyana and Spain, through the Spanish Development Agency, and will see the establishment of cultivation over a three-year period of black eye beans, among others, and upland rice. The project will support rural development in Amerindian communities of the Rupununi Savannahs, with Moco Moco, Karauaranau, Awarawaunau and Quarria being targeted during the first year. The project will then be replicated in other Amerindian communities in the following two years.

Technology and Innovation

The MoA, through its agency, the New Guyana Marketing Corporation (NGMC), launched the Agriculture Market Information Service (AMIS). This initiative by the Government was launched in conjunction with a local cellular telephone provider. The AMIS system allows farmers, agro-processors, exporters, agri-business investors and Guyanese in general to access the market prices of commodities through the use of the Short Messaging Service (SMS) offered by the telephone company. It also has the capability to provide weather reports and currency conversion. The system has a capacity of 300,000 subscribers. As part of this initiative, the MoA has committed to providing 150 cellular handsets to farmers in the hinterland communities.

3.5 Major Developments in Thematic Areas that Affected the Performance of Agriculture and the Rural Life

NARI sold Texana rams to 24 livestock farmers, as the MoA progresses with its diversification programme. In 2008, an MoU was signed between the British Texel Sheep Society and NARI to introduce the Texel breed of sheep into Guyana. The methods selected for the introduction of the breed were embryo transplant for the pure bred animals and laparoscopic artificial insemination for the Texana. The sale of the Texana rams represents a significant milestone in the progress of the project.



The new US\$3.5M Doppler Weather Radar Station was commissioned in October. It will allow for improved weather forecasting. The services of the Doppler Weather Radar are already being put into use as data is being posted on the Internet and made available to television stations. The radar signals extend to about 400 kilometres in all directions. The Weather Station was financed by the EU under the Regional Weather Warning System, signed in 2003.



4. Results of the implementation of the national technical cooperation agenda

a. IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life

Architecture for Agricultural Insurance in Guyana

Under the framework of the Jagdeo Initiative, IICA is one of the agencies with the responsibility to assist the Member States of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) with managing risk in Agriculture - a Key Binding Constraint. In August, an IICA technical mission comprising Dr. François Dagenais, Director of External Finance and Investment Projects, Mr. Kervin Stephenson, Regional Specialist – Projects, and the Representative in Guyana, conducted four days of consultations with key stakeholders in the public and private sectors in Guyana on the prospects for an agricultural insurance and agricultural credit system.

In October, IICA followed up on this activity by coordinating the visit of a Specialist Mission - FADQDI. The initial objective of the Mission was to review the country's laws and regulations related to risk management in agriculture, particularly through programmes for crop insurance and farm financing. In addition, at the request of the Minister of Agriculture, a draft proposal for the development of a crop insurance architecture tailored to the agricultural sector in Guyana was prepared by FADQDI and submitted to the MoA.



IICA facilitates briefing between FADQDI consultants and Officials of the MoA

a. IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life

As part of the sensitization and education process of advancing the risk management agenda, IICA, in collaboration with the World Bank and the MoA, organized a **Symposium on Agricultural Risk and Insurance in Guyana**, December 7-9. This included the participation of 100 key stakeholders, with presentations from agricultural risk and insurance professionals of the World Bank, IICA, FAO, representatives of the public and private sectors, as well as experiences of agricultural insurance from other parts of the Caribbean and the Americas, including Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility (CCRIF), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and Windward Islands Crop Insurance Ltd (WINCROP). One of the significant outcomes of the Symposium was the development of an Action Framework by the four (4) Working Groups, titled: *Action Framework for Agricultural Risk Management and Insurance in Guyana*. This document was submitted to the Minister of Agriculture for consideration.



4. Results of the implementation of the national technical cooperation agenda

a. IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life

Participation in the IABA

IICA provided all relevant information and support services to ensure the participation of the country's delegates at the IABA in Jamaica.

Youth in Agriculture

The Office coordinated the selection and participation of two young leaders from Guyana in the Annual IICA Young Leaders in Agriculture Forum at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica in September. Mr. Aditya Persaud, Policy Research Assistant at the MoA and Ms. Dillon Husbands, Researcher in the Department of Agriculture at UG, were Guyana's representatives at the 2009 Forum. Mr. Selywn Anthony, a Young Leader from the inaugural programme, completed a six-month internship at the IICA Office in Ecuador.

The Office continued the student internship programme with UG and hosted 4 final-year students: three from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry and one from the Faculty of Social Sciences (Economics major).

In March, the winners of the 2008 Schools Hydroponics Competition, Linden Foundation Secondary School (10 students and a teacher) were taken on a one-day tour of agricultural institutions. This tour, one of the IICA prizes for the first place winners, was coordinated by the Sustainable Rural Development Specialist and included visits to the IICA Office; NGMC Office, Shop and Sophia Pack House; Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA); NARI - Laboratories and Livestock Breeding Station; and the Satyadeow Sawh Aquaculture Station at Mon Repos.



b. Promotion of Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness

Cassava Development

As part of the thrust of the MoA towards diversification of the agricultural sector, NARI, in collaboration with the FAO and the EU All African, Caribbean and Pacific Commodities Programme (AAACP), hosted a workshop in February: **“Strategy for Cassava Enterprise and Industry Development”**. IICA supported this initiative through a presentation by the Sustainable Rural Development Specialist, on *“Risk Management and Root Crop Production in Guyana”*. The workshop recommended that the cassava value chain should be developed along the lines of food (value added), feed stock and fuel; furthermore, that cassava should become a product that can help with alleviation of poverty and the sustainable development of rural communities.

IICA provided technical and logistical support in conducting the surveys and report writing on two studies which were commissioned in market demand and value chain risk assessment for cassava; and facilitated the participation of technical specialists in the CLAYUCA Conference in Colombia in support of Guyana's cassava development programme.

The Office coordinated the participation of the delegate of the MoA at the Trade Mission - Agriculture and Technology for Latin America and the Caribbean - in Murcia, Spain.

With IICA support, two representatives each from three Women's Agro-Processing Groups were trained in agro-processing by EMPRETEC, in collaboration with CESO.

IICA partnered with the NWG on the MDG's and the UNDP in facilitating the training of members of the Kuru Kururu Farmers' Association in Apiculture (Beekeeping); 20 hives were established and 30 gallons honey harvested in 5 months after establishment.

IICA assisted the Hauraruni Farmers' Association and the GFYA in developing project proposals for mobilizing resources to start hydroponics farming and seedling production.

A three-year Cooperation Agreement between IICA and TFO Canada was launched in Guyana in October. This cooperation helps in providing exposure to Guyanese exporters of fresh and processed produce to Canadian markets.

IICA provided logistical and administrative support for market analysis and initial training by TFO Canada of 46 exporters, processors and manufacturers of packaging materials.

IICA partnered with Economic Transformations Group Inc. (ETG) in the competitive bidding process for the MoA - ADP component: Agribusiness Entrepreneurship.



*Launch of TFO-IICA Cooperation Programme
Dr. Maxine Parris-Aaron, TFO Consultants, Canadian High
Commissioner, Minister of Agriculture and IICA Representative*

4. Results of the implementation of the national technical cooperation agenda

c. Strengthening of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

IICA contributed to the MoA's flood relief effort in rural communities on the East Coast of Demerara through provision of technical assistance and veterinary medical supplies for treating farm animals in affected areas.

The Office participated in the competitive bidding process for consultancy services for the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Component of the ADP, funded by the IDB US\$21M loan.

With the support of the Regional Specialist for Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS), the final Country Report on the STDF Project was completed and submitted to the MoA.

IICA and USDA/APHIS signed a one-year agreement to assist the MoA with border surveillance for the CFF (*Bactrocera carambolae*). This is a follow-up to a previous programme by the agencies to eradicate CFF between 1997 and 2001. CFF was not eradicated, but controlled to a reduced geographic distribution. This new programme will seek to determine the extent of establishment of the pest in the country, particularly along the country's borders with Suriname and Brazil.

In anticipation of the start of the surveillance programme, fifty-nine (59) field staff of the MoA were trained in CFF Surveillance and Control Methods by IICA, in collaboration with the MoA, the CHF Partners in Rural Development and USDA/APHIS. In addition, the Office facilitated the importation of materials donated by USDA/AHPIS for the programme.



IICA continued its support for the participation of the country in several regional and international fora, including the VEP training in Trinidad, CaribVET/Chief Veterinary Officers' Meeting in Jamaica and IICA/USDA-APHIS/FAVACA Regional Training on identification of Pests in Grenada.

d. Strengthening Rural Communities Based on the Territorial Approach

The Office completed the OAS/IICA Agro-Tourism Project with an Accountability Seminar at which a *Community Tourism Engagement Strategy Document* for Lake Capoey was delivered to the National Authorities. Following the formal proceedings of the Seminar, participants were treated to the “Tri-Lakes Experience”, i.e. the package tour designed by the Tri-Lakes with IICA assistance. This includes a tour of the villages, the nature/heritage trail, organic pineapple farms, and Amerindian culinary delights, beverages and folklore. The participants included Government Officials, President of the Tourism and Hospitality Association of Guyana (THAG), Executive Director of the GTA, Members of the Diplomatic Corps, the OAS Country Director, Toshias of Lakes Mainstay, Capoey and Tapakuma and their Residents, and the Media.



After several years of support and coaching from IICA in areas of management and compliance for Good Manufacturing Practices, the Pomeroun Women Agro Processors Association (PWAPA) commissioned their agro-processing facility in March. The facility was established through collaboration among the MoA, EU, Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), NGMC, NARI and IICA. The IICA AHFS Specialist was directly involved with training the women in organisational skills, management and health and food safety towards eventual commissioning of the factory. The products manufactured by the PWAPA include preserved fruits, jams, pepper sauce, seasonings and cakes.



4. Results of the implementation of the national technical cooperation agenda

e. Introducing Technology and Innovation for the Modernization of Agriculture and Rural Life

The Hydroponics training programme and adoption of the technology gained momentum with the return of the IICA Field Assistant from a Hydroponics and Biogas training programme at Earth University in Costa Rica. IICA collaborated with the PoA in training community groups in designing and establishing hydroponics systems, which included follow-up technical support. Among the beneficiaries of the programme were Hauraruni Farmers' Friendly Society, Guyanese Women in Development (GUYWID), Mal Friends Group, Number 29 Village Co-operative Group, Joshua House and the field staff of CHF Partners in Rural Development.



IICA, in partnership with NARI, conducted field trials for hydroponics systems to observe the performance of selected crops in various hydroponics media and fertilizer treatments. The technical baseline information generated from the study will be used to guide farmers in decision-making on the adoption of hydroponics systems.

IICA showcased hydroponics and biogas technologies at several activities held in observance of Agriculture Month (October). Some of these activities included AgriFest (national agricultural exhibition), World Food Day Exhibition hosted by FAO, and the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) launching of its agricultural demonstration plots at Mahdia.



As part of its promotion of bio-energy, IICA provided technical support and facilitated the importation of plastics for the construction of low-cost biogas digesters by IPED's clients, resulting in four digesters installed to date.

Through IICA's coordination, UG was the beneficiary of the "Library in a Box Teeal – LanTEEAL 2.0 System" from the University of Cornell, made possible through IICA cooperation with the CTA.

5. Results of inter-agency cooperation

IICA intensified its strategic partnerships to enhance the effective delivery of the Cooperation Agenda in the country.

a. UN Agencies: Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Pan-American Health Organisation/World Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other Agencies

The Office maintained its contacts with the UN Agencies in the country through participation in several of their planning and reporting activities.

An FAO Country Representative was appointed in Guyana in July. This has already resulted in collaboration with IICA on programmes with the MoA, including FAO providing a consultant for the Agricultural Risk and Insurance Symposium in December, IICA support for the FAO World Food Day Exhibition, and collaboration on the Cassava Survey.

b. Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

The Office maintained regular contact with the local IDB Office to foster strategic partnerships and worked with community groups who were beneficiaries of IDB assistance.

c. Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat

The IICA Office in Guyana serves as the focal point for coordination between IICA Headquarters and the CARICOM Secretariat. In 2009, the Office assisted and participated in several activities organised by the Secretariat, including: the Regional Plant Health Specialists Meeting in March, the Regional Public-Private Sector Consultation: Promoting Agribusiness within the CSME, in May, the Thirty-Second (Special) Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) {Agriculture} in September, and the CARICOM/FAO Workshop on the Formulation of a Regional Policy for Food and Nutrition Security in the Caribbean, in December.

The presence of the IICA Coordinator for the Caribbean Regional Agenda at the Secretariat has enhanced the relationship between the Office and the CARICOM Secretariat.

d. Organisation of American States (OAS)

The OAS Office in Guyana continued its support to the Office in the implementation of the Agro-Tourism Project in Guyana.

e. The World Bank

IICA collaborated with the World Bank in organising, with the MoA, the first Symposium on Agricultural Risk and Insurance in Guyana. The Bank also facilitated the participation of four of its technical experts and regional experts in the Symposium.

5. Results of inter-agency cooperation

f. *Partners of the Americas (PoA)*

IICA support for the PoA remains in effect through a Letter of Understanding which allows for collaboration on various initiatives, including the implementation of the Farmer-to-Farmer Programme in Guyana. This relationship has been further strengthened through an Agreement between the IDB and the local Chapter of the PoA, signed in December, 2009.

The PoA Guyana Chapter is the beneficiary of an IDB Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) grant to execute a Shade House Vegetable Production and Marketing (with Hydroponics Technology) Programme. An Advisory Committee was established to have oversight of the execution of the project. The Advisory Committee comprises a representative each from PoA, Caribbean and African Self Reliance International (CASRI), IICA, St. Stanislaus College Association Farm (SSCF) and three representatives of the farming community. Additionally, through the IICA/PoA Agreement, the project will benefit from IICA technical and logistical support.

The project goal is to improve the economic welfare of rural households and the disadvantaged through self-employment. It is hoped that this will be achieved through providing know-how, guidance and support mechanisms to self-sufficient entrepreneurs with sustainable low-cost shade house vegetable production facilities.

g. *Guyana Trade and Investment Support/United States Agency for International Development (GTIS/USAID)*

The GTIS Project was established by the GoG and the United States (US) Government. This USAID-funded project provides support to public and private sector organisations and enterprises to increase competitiveness and to exploit emerging export marketing opportunities arising from international trade agreements.

IICA collaborated with GTIS in establishing a Working Group comprising the MoA, NGMC, CHF Partners in Rural Development, PoA, GTIS and IICA, which would coordinate production and export linkages between SHIGAM Inc. and local producers. SHIGAM is an agricultural consulting and operator company with recent investments in Guyana. The company specialises in growing and marketing top-quality fresh vegetables, fruits and herbs. SHIGAM has secured markets in the United States of America (USA) and the Caribbean Region for papaya, melons, pineapple, bell peppers, tomatoes, etc., and has already commenced production at Timehri and the Linden-Soesdyke Highway. The "GTIS Working Group" assisted with identifying farmers' groups with the capacity to participate as satellite farms to supply SHIGAM. One such group to benefit from the programme is the Hauraruni Friendly Farmers' Society, which has signed an MoU with GTIS and a contract to supply SHIGAM.

h. *Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)/Canadian High Commission*

Through CIDA, the Office was able to establish contact with TFO Canada which resulted in an MoU signed between IICA and TFO Canada to assist Guyanese exporters of fresh and processed produce access the Canadian market. The Office and CIDA have reciprocated participation in activities: CIDA participated in the Agro-Tourism Accountability Seminar, TFO/IICA Sensitization of Exporters' Seminar and the Agricultural Risk and Insurance Symposium, while IICA participated in the Canada Trade Seminar in October and the Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund Seminar in November.

5. Results of inter-agency cooperation

i. Canadian Executive Service Organisation (CESO)

The Office benefited from two CESO volunteers (specialists in agro-processing and marketing) who assisted in training of rural women in agro-processing techniques and creative packaging using local and indigenous materials.

j. Entrepreneurship for Technology (EMPRETEC) Guyana

IICA sponsored representatives from three agro-processing groups and technical trainers in attendance at an EMPRETEC training course facilitated by CESO Volunteers.

k. National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI)

The Office implemented several components of its work programme through collaboration with NARI. The FAO-sponsored Cassava Market Survey was coordinated by NARI with technical guidance and support from the IICA Sustainable Rural Development Specialist through design, data collection, analysis and reporting.

IICA supported the participation of NARI officials in several regional and international fora, including the CLAYUCA Conference in Colombia, the Bio-Tech and Bio-Safety Workshop in St. Vincent, and the Regional Workshop on the Identification of Coleopteran Pests in Grenada. IICA participated in NARI's Annual Research Conference and FAO/AAACP Workshop.

IICA partnered with NARI in conducting field trials to observe the performance of selected crops grown in hydroponics systems in response to specific nutrients and growing media in Guyanese conditions, the results of which will be used to enhance the promotion of the technology in the country. Some of the results have been remarkable and were displayed at two major national exhibitions – GuyExpo and AgriFest.

l. University of Guyana (UG)

The Representative and the new Vice-Chancellor have met to explore areas for cooperation. The Office continued the internship programme for UG Students. Of four students hosted, three were from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry and one from the Faculty of Social Sciences (Economics major). Through IICA cooperation with the CTA, the University benefited from the “*Library in a Box Teal – LanTEEAL 2.0 System*” from the University of Cornell.

m. St. Stanislaus College Association Farm (SSCF)

The SSCF is a longstanding partner of the Institute in the country. We continue to share technical expertise and other resources for the training of farmers, students and technicians. As in previous years, several tours and training seminars were conducted for farmers and students at the Hector Muñoz Agricultural Training Centre on the SSCF farms.

n. CHF Partners in Rural Development

IICA partnered with CHF Partners in Rural Development in several training programmes, which included training of CHF field staff in hydroponics technology and training of field staff of the MoA in CFF surveillance techniques.

6. Results of Horizontal technical cooperation

The IICA Office in Guyana contributed significantly to several Regional AHFS programmes through the direct involvement of the AHFS Specialist as a member of the technical coordinating committees of CaribVET and the VEP. The AHFS Specialist gave support to the Regional Specialist for AHFS and the Office in Trinidad and Tobago in planning and hosting the VEP Project Emergency Response Training Workshop in May. Support was also given to the Office in Jamaica to host the CaribVET and VEP meetings and training seminars.

The Office received technical support from the Hemispheric Specialist on Agro-Tourism in the execution of the OAS/IICA Agro-Tourism Project through technical consultants in website development for linking the Office to the Regional Agro-Tourism Website, and monitoring and evaluation of the project. The Representative contributed to the Regional Agro-Tourism accountability seminar in Barbados.

The MoA benefited from an assessment of the country's legal and regulatory framework for agricultural insurance through the collaboration of the IICA Office in Canada, the Director of External Finance and Investment Projects and the Office in Guyana. A three-person team from FADQDI visited Guyana in October to conduct the study.



Mr. Ignatius Jean, IICA Representative, Mr. Marc Ferland, Mr. Jonathan Boudreau, Mrs. Paule Lavoie of FADQDI

The Representative was part of the Caribbean delegation which participated in the CTA's Annual Seminar on "The Role of Media in the Agricultural Development of ACP countries", during October, in Brussels, Belgium. **The CTA Seminar was modelled on the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) Round Table held in the Bahamas, 2006 and St. Vincent, 2008. IICA's contribution to this process was acknowledged by the CTA particularly through the participation of two IICA Staff Members: the Representative as one of the panelists in the opening session, and the media briefing; and several presentations and technical support in organisation of the Seminar from the Regional Specialist – Policies and Trade Negotiations, Ms. Diana Francis.**



Ms. Diana Francis at CTA Seminar



Mr. Ignatius Jean, IICA Representative, Ms. Tumi Makgabo, South African Journalist, and Dr. Hansjorg Neun, Director CTA

7. New Opportunities for technical cooperation

Consistent with the unfolding agricultural diversification programme of the GoG, IICA will focus on a number of areas in support of this process:

- Continue the implementation of the TFO Canada Agreement, which is aimed at increasing access to Canadian markets by Guyanese exporters of fresh and processed agricultural produce;
- Intensify the work started with the GTIS/USAID Working Group on production and export development;
- Continue its support to the MoA in pest and disease risk surveillance, particularly through the implementation of the USDA/APHIS CFF Surveillance Programme;
- Collaborate with the MoA and the NGMC in building capacity in small enterprise development among farming/rural community groups. This will include:
 - Support to organic agriculture, particularly organic pineapples in Regions 1 and 2;
 - Training of resource personnel in organic certification preparedness;
 - Scoping of project ideas in rural communities.
- Support to youth in agriculture through collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture and Education, UG and GSA. This cooperation will include:
 - Ministry of Education - Continuation of Annual Secondary Schools' Hydroponics Competitions;
 - GSA - Hydroponics and Small Business Entrepreneurship Programme;
 - UG:
 - Collaboration in agricultural research and development projects;
 - Student internship programme;
 - Facilitation of networking with other tertiary institutions in the Hemisphere.
- Building on the collaboration with MoA, FAO and NARI, IICA will continue research in cassava value chain development;
- Embark on the development of cost-of-production models to benefit farmers, extension officers and other stakeholders to improve decision-making in enterprise development;
- Revitalize the activities of the Alliance Chapters in the country in collaboration with the MoA and GAPA. In addition, IICA will assist the Alliance Chapters in preparation for their participation in the CWA, scheduled for October, 2010 in Grenada;

In light of the ongoing agricultural transformation programme and the food security agenda, it is recognized that the media is a key partner in this process. IICA will therefore seek to engage the media through a Round-Table on Agriculture.

8. Main Activities Organised by iica

five most important events organised by the iica office in Guyana in 2009

Official name of Event	Date held	Site of the event	Number of participants	Place and date of publication of the report of proceedings of the event
1. OAS/IICA Agro-tourism Accountability Seminar and Tour	28/03/09	Lake Mainstay Resort, Essequibo	40	Lake Mainstay Resort, Essequibo. Report dated April 6, 2009
2. Accountability Seminar	17/04/09	Pegasus Hotel, Georgetown	52	Georgetown, Guyana. Report dated May, 2009
3. IICA/MOA/AHPIS Carambola Fruit Fly Training Seminar	17-21/08/09	Guyana School of Agriculture, Mon Repos, ECD	59	Georgetown, Guyana. Report dated September, 2009
4. TFO Canada/IICA Stakeholder Sensitization Forum: The Canadian Market for Fresh & Processed Fruits and Vegetables	29/10/09	Pegasus Hotel, Georgetown	46	Georgetown, Guyana, Report of AHFS Specialist, and local Newspapers, October, 2009.
5. Agricultural Risk and Insurance Symposium	7-9/12/09	Pegasus Hotel, Georgetown	101	Georgetown, Guyana, Report dated 15 th December, 2009