



Bahamas

Significant achievements in 2015

- With support from the 10th European Development Fund - Sanitary and Phytosanitary (EDF SPS) Project, financed by the European Union, and from other international sources, Bahamas strengthened its institutional capacities through training, technical support and sponsoring participation in international forums related to SPS, WTO, *Codex Alimentarius*, among others, thereby enabling the institutions and technical staff to better perform and comply with international agreements and conventions.
- In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, as well as dependencies such as the Bahamas Agriculture and Marine Sciences Institute (BAMSI) and the Bahamas Agriculture and Industrial Corporation (BAIC), innovative processes were introduced, which include the operational and sanitary improvement of the abattoir managed by BAIC, in collaboration with Texas Tech University. Additionally, along with the Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán, under an IICA-SAGARPA project, a need analysis was carried out and a tissue culture laboratory was designed. The process for training of staff from BAMSI, BAIC and other institutions to operate the lab was initiated.
- IICA strengthened the associative and managerial capabilities of sector organizations with the formulation of the Strategic Plan of the Bahamas Network of Rural Women Producers (BAHNROP), whose implementation is set to begin in 2016.
- IICA supported the Bahamas Agribusiness Cooperative in preparing and negotiating an Urban Agriculture project with the Ministry of Agriculture, which, along with international donors has committed counterpart funds. Additionally, IICA assisted other farmers' organizations in institutional strengthening, among other initiatives, which has enabled them to provide better services to their membership.
- The Institute strengthened its capacities for closing the gap in financing for agriculture through the implementation of several activities at the regional and local level, including the organization of a workshop that allowed for the establishment of an agenda for improving access by producers to financing in The Bahamas and linking producers and local institutions to international sponsors.
- The chains of small ruminants, vegetables, cassava, sweet potatoes, honey, among others, were strengthened



through implementation of the 10th EDF APP Project, through chain diagnostics, need analyses, development of plans, training in animal nutrition, good agricultural practices, permapi-culture, and beekeeping using several types of hives, IICA staff, partners and consultants. Research projects with CARDI to improve varieties of cassava and sweet potatoes were made available to farmers. At least 200 producers were trained and assisted in several islands. Planting material from CARDI in St. Vincent and Clayuca in Colombia was imported in order to explore new varieties of cassava and sweet potatoes. Support was provided to import 100 sheep from Texas for BAMSI; research was done on the presence of salmonella and assistance was provided for improving animal nutrition, farm management and meat processing, among other areas.

- Advances and innovations were explored through research in aquaponics to improve methodological tools and knowledge as an option for territories with problems of access to good soil and water. IICA, in collaboration with an intern from Earth

University, carried out research on the two main projects through the Aquaponics Research Center and the Center for Sustainable Development, and helped to advance the production of a manual for operating small projects. Continuous technical assistance was provided to existing projects and new investors.

- The “Perone beehives” were introduced to promote more sustainable bee-keeping activity, with at least 75 producers trained in permapi-culture and traditional beekeeping, and several others already using this model and the techniques provided through two training sessions and through direct assistance with the cooperative being formed.
- Capacity development was provided to at least 100 women in backyard farming, economic empowerment, food security and sustainable development for rural women through joint work with BAHNROP and the Women’s Bureau of the Ministry of Social Services, with activities in three islands.

