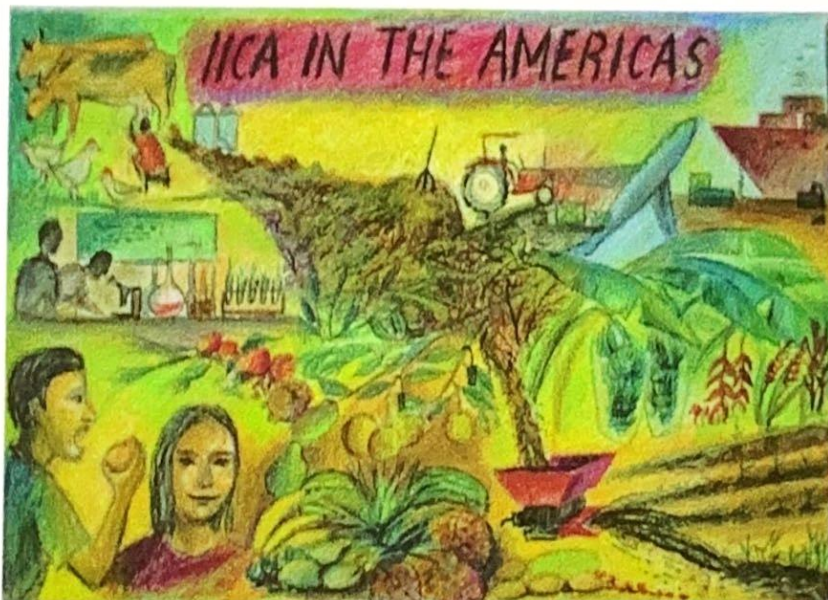




IICA SURINAME ANNUAL REPORT 2002



*January, 2003
Paramaribo – Suriname*

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PRESENTATION



*Ernani Fiori
IICA Representative
in Suriname*

During 2002 IICA's Technical Cooperation services to Suriname were adjusted by three important approaches and qualifications to encompass its actions with the needs and trends of the Agriculture Sector in the Country.

The first approach, a continuation of a strategy initiated in 2000, was to extend and amplify Technical Cooperation actions by developing actions in partnerships with other public and private sector organizations involved in agriculture and rural development. In this approach each entity contributed its own particular expertise and available resources, achieving together a much wider and more durable impact than would have been possible with independent action.

The second approach was in the area of organized planning of "IICA National Agenda for Technical Cooperation in Suriname" for the next four years (2002-2006) that was completed through a participatory process of consultation initiated in 2001 with more than 50 national and international organizations and individual stakeholders from the public and private sectors, NGO's and the University. This Agenda serves as a guideline instrument for IICA actions in Suriname.

The third approach was directed at bringing the Suriname Agribusiness Sector into the Regional and Hemispheric Information and Documentation Network in Agriculture. This action was enhanced also by the construction in 2002 of the IICA Center for Information and Distance Education for the Agro-business Sector in Suriname as an annex to the existing Office.

Under these three approaches, the IICA in Suriname accomplished another year of dedicated work and achievements in partnership with a variety of stakeholders.

As IICA Representative in Suriname I have the pleasure to present in this Report those achievements and express the thanks to the various professionals and personnel of IICA that made them possible together with many more individuals and organizations of the national and international community in Suriname.

Ernani Fiori
IICA Representative
in Suriname

During the year of 2002, IICA in Suriname continued working within the area of Trade and Agribusiness supporting the Ministry of Agriculture and the industry in general in their efforts to promote Fruit and Vegetable Production. Training included Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), done together with LVV to promote a better production and product quality to respond to the new trade rules under the current World Trade Organization round. Direct technical support was provided to growers in the transfer of technology from the Brazilian fruit industry and in assisting in developing marketing channels. The publication "Improving the Yield of Yellow Passion Fruit", originally produced in Dutch by IICA Suriname in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV), was translated by IICA into English for distribution to other Caribbean Countries.

Within the framework of the programme for improved Product Quality and Food Safety organized by PAHO Regional Office and various concerned Ministries, NGO's and private stakeholders, IICA Suriname supported the revision of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Legislation in Suriname. IICA continued the support to LVV's AH&FS activities and launched the project "Strengthening Caribbean Agriculture Quarantine Services" (SAQS) in Suriname, which is financed by the European Commission and implemented by IICA. IICA also continued the support for the implementation of the LVV-IDB-IICA Project on the development of national capacities for better attention to the World Trade Organization - Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (WTO-SPS) - requirements for improved trade opportunities for Suriname.

The Carambola Fruit Fly Project concentrated on the containment of the CFF in the areas where it persists: the Oyapock River margins in Cayenne and Brazil and Saramacca and Para in Suriname. These efforts were successful. Due to financial restrictions the CFF Project finalized its activities on December 31, 2002. New funds are being sought.

The emphasis in the Rural Development of the Interior, during 2002, together with LVV and the Ministry of Regional Development has been on training of 42 farmers of the interior village communities in the use of improved farming practices to achieve levels of sustainable rural development, increase cash incomes and food security, particularly through the adoption of agro-forestry principles. This program has been developed also under the agreement in place between the IICA Suriname and the Peace Corps Suriname. In collaboration with the environmental agency ECO 2000 and the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV), 72 farmers were trained in the production and use of compost – the objective being to ensure the maintenance and improvement of soil fertility in hinterland cultivation without recourse to chemical fertilizers.

With IICA's sponsorship and support, Suriname entered into the Regional and Hemispheric (Inter-American) Information and Documentation Network in Agriculture and Agribusiness (SIDALC). This local network was established and computer equipment was purchased and distributed to the six (6) chapter members.

The construction and equipping of the IICA Center for Information and Distance Education in Agribusiness as an annex to the existing IICA office, was another major activity of IICA Suriname. It was completed in June and went into immediate use for several events, the most important being the intensive training of the SIDALC 6 (six) operators and 66 (sixty-six) users. Within the scope of this new Center an Agreement was signed with the Suriname Foundation for Distance Education (EDUCONS) to put in place in partnership with IICA various activities in the important area of distance education.

IICA Suriname during 2002 supported, also, national professionals and technicians of the sector for their participation at important meetings, conferences and workshops in Suriname and overseas. A total of 43 Surinamese (apart from the ones already mentioned before in this introduction) attended 8 major events with IICA's assistance during this year.

Substantial effort was devoted to continue enhancing the image and the visibility of IICA in Suriname, particularly since this year of 2002 marked the 20th Anniversary of IICA in Suriname and the 60th Anniversary of IICA in the Americas. For these particular celebrations a Painting Contest was also held for Suriname youth on the theme of Agriculture and Rural Life. 54 young painters presented their paintings.

An illustrated brochure was prepared commemorating IICA's 20th year in Suriname. This commemorative brochure, presenting the main activities and efforts of IICA over two decades, was illustrated with the twelve best paintings from that contest for youth marking the 20th Anniversary of IICA in Suriname. The same 12 best paintings illustrated the IICA Suriname Calendar for 2003.

Two informative bulletins were published: "*PARTNERSHIP*" – for general distribution and "*KOBOOGO*" – for distribution in hinterland districts. Both instruments are to bring information about IICA and other important news and events related to agricultural developments in Suriname and the Hemisphere.

2. THE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION

2.1. Financial Aid and Technical Cooperation to Suriname

During the year many sources of aid funds and technical cooperation had being placed in favor of the needs of Suriname to facilitate its development in general and for the agricultural and interior development.

The Agricultural Sector Analysis in process of preparation by the LVV will be one important asset to guarantee the focus and the policy precision for the Sector. Also this Analysis may become a fundamental tool to guide and coordinate the different contributions of aid and technical cooperation agencies for that sector.

2.2. Economic and Institutional Environment

The government of Suriname has concentrated on reducing inflation, maintaining political stability and controlling public expenditure in order to move into a higher grade of development to ensure a better economical frame to attract foreign capital. Measures are being taken to design a plan for the privatization of state-owned companies within the immediate future.

The Central Bank introduced strict exchange controls in order to reduce wide inflationary swings which were experienced early in the year.

The Ministry of Agriculture, the leading agency in its sector, received in the financial year 2001/2002 only 3.2% of the total government budget. This situation make more difficult, sometimes, the possibility of the sector receiving more benefits from the aid and technical cooperation available.

The country's main agricultural exports faced problems of varying severity, specially the banana and the rice sectors.

3. THE IICA SURINAME COOPERATION AGENDA



Preparing the National Cooperation Agenda

In the context of the economic and institutional environment of Suriname, the process of institutionalization and capacity building that was established as the main trend of IICA Suriname's efforts since 2000 and during 2001, became more complex and challenging in 2002. This trend was enhanced with the finalization of the design of the National Agenda of IICA for Suriname. It was completed in July of 2002. This effort was launched in

September of 2001 through a broad process of participatory consultation with more than 50 stakeholders in IICA actions in Suriname. National institutions from the public and private sector together with international organizations, NGO's, the University and individuals involved in the agricultural and rural development sectors were consulted in a dialogue with the staff of IICA Suriname. In outlining IICA's strategy for the immediate future in Suriname emphasis was placed on IICA's following areas of competence:

- Trade and Agribusiness
- Technology Innovation
- Agricultural Health and Food Safety
- Sustainable Rural Development
- Information and Communication
- Education and Training

4.1 Trade and Agribusiness Development

The project supporting the Expansion of the Fruit Industry enjoyed a productive year, concentrating on improving the viability of agri-commercial commodity chains in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV). Nurserymen, Growers and Processors were trained in Good Agriculture Practices (GAPS) and in Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AH&FS) precautions.

Technical support was given to cashew and pineapple growers, inclusive of international technology transfer initiatives. A feasibility study on organic fruit production was carried out and a manual was prepared on hand-pollination of Yellow Passion Fruit for increasing yields. Ongoing efforts were devoted to the revitalization of the National Fruit Crops Committee (NFC).

There was a fortuitous extension to IICA's promotion of cashew as a fruit and nut crop for Suriname when the Ministry of Agriculture and the Embassy of India signed an agreement for the visit and preparation of a study on cashew cultivation in Suriname by an expert professional from India. In fact the IICA Office provided the basic accommodation and computer and secretarial services to this expert and promoted his contacts with the interested public and private sector entrepreneurs in Suriname and then in Brazil for an exchange program Suriname-India-Brazil.



Technology Exchange Suriname - Brazil

R/L: Dr. Adul Salam - Cashew Specialist from India, Dr. Francisco Bezerra - Director General EMBRAPA (Ceará), Hesdy Ormskerk - IICA Fruit and Vegetable Specialist

Within the framework of the Cashew study a technical Mission comprising the IICA Fruit Specialist and one Indian professional advisor visited Fortaleza (Ceará) in Brazil under the aegis of EMBRAPA, to study the technologies used there in the production, processing and marketing of Cashew and to discuss its applicability to Suriname.

In mid-December, IICA in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries (LVV), organized a workshop in which twenty-seven (27) food processors were trained in the principles and application of WTO/SPS Standards for ensuring Product Quality and Food Safety.

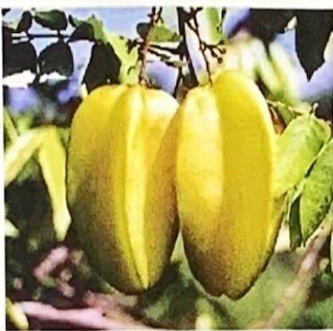
4.2 Agricultural Health and Food Safety

The IDB-LVV-IICA Project on Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AH&FS) continued to make progress but was slowed to some extent due to the temporary absence of the national counterpart. This was compounded by the shortage of human resources in AH&FS which has in this last year been overloaded by several different initiatives and associated financial resources supporting LVV. An analysis made by IICA Suriname disclosed that by the last quarter of 2002 there were eight different AH&FS projects in place in Suriname with a total budget of US\$ 1.3 million over a two-year period, with IICA Suriname being responsible for 60% of the activities.

These 8 projects are beyond the country's capacity to implement simultaneously within the allotted period if not well coordinated. This analysis was passed to the different authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture and other international organizations for consideration and to facilitate their coordination.

During the year a Memorandum of Agreement was signed between IICA Suriname and PAHO/WHO Suriname for mutual cooperation in areas of common interest. This agreement came to enhance and reinforce the actions already in place being conducted in a coordinated mode between the two organizations in favor of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, and other public and private organizations and NGO's related to AH&FS strengthening. In the implementation of this agreement the professional assigned by the Ministry of Health to coordinate its activities within that agreement received tactical support from the Representative of IICA in Suriname, the regional program coordinator and the AH&FS specialist, and logistical support from the IICA in the form of office accommodation and computer and secretarial facilities.

4.3 Control of Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF)



Carambola free of pests

The technical aspects of this project were successfully continued during the year by the Regional Coordinator and the national personnel assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV). A scientific evaluation mission in the first half of the year gave the project a good report and recommended that it should be continued for a further 2½ - 3 years. The Steering Committee revised these conclusions at its meeting in July 2002 and addressed a special strategy

to seek for additional finance due the possible termination of the funds assigned and committed by the different stakeholders and donors.

However, due to different international reasons, funds were not found in the required time and the project had to be closed down at the end of the year. It was proposed that the Ministry of Agriculture continues monitoring and doing minimal controls until it obtains new funds to regain its high level trend. IICA continued helping Suriname in the search for new sources of funds and for the execution of sustainable activities to keep at least the control of incidences of the pest, until new funds can be found.

4.4 Sustainable Rural Development

The Integrated Rural Development (IRD) Project administered by the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) and IICA in conjunction with the Ministry of Regional Development was subjected to a new approach and strategy in which LVV became the main player and decision-maker.

Reinforcing this trend LVV created a new division for interior development and designated an experienced extension officer to take charge of it.



Construction of a Gangasa (Village Kitchen)

Within this framework one technician (accommodated in the IICA office) undertook a new approach to agricultural training of the interior communities which is currently being evaluated by the participating institutions and the relevant communities.

Together with LVV and the Ministry of Regional Development, 42 farmers in the interior village communities were trained in the use of improved farming practices to achieve levels of sustainable rural development, increase cash incomes and food security, particularly through the adoption of agro-forestry principles. This program had been developed also under the special agreement in place between the IICA Suriname and the Peace Corps Suriname.

Community-based Extension Officers were trained, and are already working with the farmers. During the year, also, two more community centers ("gangasa") were constructed in the Upper Suriname River region, bringing the total completed to four of the five similar centers financed by the Canada Fund and constructed by voluntary village labor under the supervision of IICA.

In collaboration with the environmental agency ECO 2000 and the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV), 72 farmers were trained in the production and use of compost – the objective being to ensure the maintenance and improvement of soil fertility in hinterland cultivations, without recourse to chemical fertilizers.

4.5 Technology and Innovation



*Hand pollination
Yellow Passion Fruit*

Most of the activities reported within this strategic area occurred in aspects of the Fruit Project and the Integrated Rural Development Project. For example, in the Fruit Project there was the preparation and publication of a Manual on the Hand Pollination of Yellow Passion Fruit, and there was technical support to the Cashew Development Foundation (STIMOPRO) and Technology Transfer visits to fruit plantations in Brazil.

Within the IRD Project there was a series of courses for Interior Communities on the Cultivation of Urdi and Peanuts. Also, in collaboration with the environmental agency ECO2000 and the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV), seventy-two (72) farmers were trained in the production and use of compost.

In addition to this training in technology and innovation were the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) done together with LVV to promote a better production and product quality to respond to the new trade rules under the current World Trade Organization round.



4.6 Information and Communication

4.6.1 Center for Information and Distance Education in Agribusiness for Suriname



*IICA Center for Information and Distance Education in Agribusiness for Suriname
– an annex to the IICA main office building*

IICA Suriname made major advances in this area of technical cooperation in 2002. The first and most important achievement was the construction and equipping of the Center for Information and Distance Education in Agribusiness for Suriname. This was built as an annex to the existing IICA office. The center went into immediate use when completed in mid-2002. Three Suriname professionals, from the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV), the University of Suriname and EDUCONS (Foundation for Education and Communication in Suriname), were previously trained in Distance Education methodologies in Trinidad and two project proposals were addressed through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between IICA and EDUCONS.

4.6.2 Establishment and Implementation of SIDALC Chapter



Signing of the SIDALC Suriname chapter agreement
R/L: Mrs. I. Tsai Meu Chong (ADEKU Library), Mr. K. Kartosewito (ADRON), Mrs. C. Rahan-Chin (Faculty of Technology) Mr. E. Fiori (IICA), Mr. J. Sathoe (LVV) and Ms. K. Burke (CELOS)

The Suriname chapter of the Inter-American System of Information and Documentation on Agriculture and Agribusiness (SIDALC) was established and began the activities for its implementation as the training of its 6 operators and the first group of 66 (sixty-six) users. The Virtual Library in this way was put in place and program for its full implementation was designed. The Suriname Chapter of SIDALC includes the

University of Suriname (AdeKU) – Library and Faculty of Technology, Ministry of Agriculture (LVV), Center for Agricultural Research in Suriname (CELOS), the Anne van Dijk Rice Research Institute (ADRON) and IICA.

With this system, for the first time, different stakeholders from Suriname will be able to access agribusiness literature and information in any library or research institution in the hemisphere and the world and the Surinamese literature will be accessible to the same levels of libraries and research institutions.

4.7 Education and Training



Training interior farmers

The construction and equipping of the IICA Center for Information and Distance Education in Agribusiness as an annex to the existing IICA office, was another major venture of IICA Suriname to support the implementation of this area of cooperation. Its facilities, as mentioned before, were used to support the implementation of the SIDALC Program in Suriname. Much more is to be done in the course of the coming year in related areas of interest.

On another level and similar to what was reported with respect to “Technology and Innovation”, most of the activities that fall within this Strategic Area of Education and Training took place within the Fruit and Vegetable Project and the Rural Development Project. In the first case sixty (60) Fruit and Vegetable growers were trained in Good Agriculture Practices and twenty-five (25) Fruit Processors were trained in Good Manufacturing Practices concentrating on Quality and Food Safety Standards. Under the IRD Project seventy-two (72) farmers were trained in the Production and Use of Compost and, in a training event spread over a six-month period, forty-two (42) farmers were trained in the Production of Cash Crops.

5. OTHER COOPERATION ACTIVITIES

5.1 Preparation of the National Agenda for the IICA Technical Cooperation in Suriname 2002 – 2006

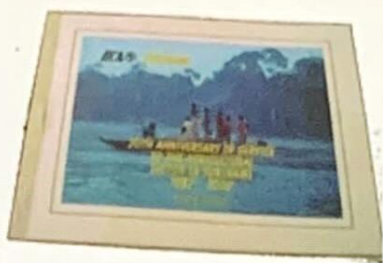
The IICA National Agenda 2002 – 2006 was completed in consultation with more than 50 organizations and individuals stakeholders as for instance the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV), the Ministry of Regional Development (RO), the Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (PLOS) and other Ministries, the University of Suriname and most of the NGO's and institutions in the private sector involved in agriculture and rural development. This Agenda will serve as a guideline instrument for IICA actions in Suriname.

5.2 Painting Contest for Suriname Youth

A painting contest was organized for Suriname youth on the theme of Agriculture and Rural Life to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of IICA Suriname and the 60th Anniversary of IICA in the Americas. The contest successfully contributed to strengthen the image of IICA in Suriname and especially to build the awareness at the young population of the importance of the sustainable agriculture and the rural life. The first prize painting in the national competition was also awarded second

place in the international contest commemorating IICA's 60 Years of Service in the Hemisphere.

5.3 Commemorative Brochure and 2003 IICA Calendar



IICA Brochure – Commemorating 20 years IICA in Suriname

A commemorative brochure presenting the main activities and efforts of IICA over two decades and illustrated with the twelve (12) best painting in the National Youth Painting Contest was prepared for distribution. IICA Suriname also prepared its 2003 Calendar to promote once again the IICA and its anniversary in Suriname and in the Hemisphere. The 12 best painting were also used to illustrate this calendar.

5.4 Publication of IICA Suriname Bulletins

Continuing efforts to raise and augment, the visibility of IICA in Suriname, the office published two issues of the information bulletins: "*Koboogo*" in Dutch mainly for people of the interior, and "*Partnership*" in Dutch and English for the general public and international distribution. These have been well received. It has been reported also that "*Koboogo*" is now used in the schools in the interior as an instrument of lecture and discussion among the students.



IICA Newsletters: Partnership and Koboogo

5.5 SAQS Project



L/R: Dr. M. Parris – Aaron – AF&FS Specialist, Mr. E. Fiori – IICA Representative in Suriname, Mr. G. Gangaram Panday – Minister of Agriculture, Mrs. R. Codfried – PS., Ministry of Health and Mr. B. Georges – SAQS Assistant Project Coordinator at the launching of the SAQS Project in Suriname

At the end of November 2002 the Regional Project - Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Service in the Caribbean (SAQS), was launched in Suriname with the inaugural meeting with the various stakeholders in the area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety, including the Ministries of Agriculture (LVV), Health, Trade and Industry and Planning and Development Cooperation. The scope of this Project is to promote the creation of one Regional Mechanism to articulate and promote the proper action among the Caribbean Countries in the area of agricultural quarantine services which are vital for increasing international trade opportunities.

5.6 Women's Movement

IICA Suriname supported two events with the women's movement of Suriname. One, supporting the exhibition of the National Women's Movement in the Women in Business Fair during the last week of October. The other, supporting the exchange

of ideas and contacts between the Women's Business Group and the women producers of villages in the Upper Suriname River area, with a view to developing the commercial marketing of traditional herbs and other items. IICA Suriname supported and promoted the participation of one representative from Suriname to the Saint Lucia meeting on Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers.

5.7 Rural Youth

For the very first time a Surinamese representative participated in the meeting on Rural Youth Network that was held in Saint Lucia in December 2002. IICA Suriname promoted and supported this participation. The idea behind this participation was to examine and to promote in Suriname the possible creation of a National Network of Rural Youth.

5.8 University Level Development (CACHE)

The promotion of the Caribbean Network of Agricultural Faculties (CACHE) is another important activity in which IICA Suriname and IICA Caribbean Regional Directorate have been placing special attention. Suriname's participation in CACHE was reinforced at the Regional Network conference in St Lucia in December 2002, with the participation of Dr Gregory Rusland in his dual role as Chairman of the Board of the Anton de Kom University of Suriname *and* as Chairman of the Caribbean University Network (CUN). This coincidence brought to the CACHE meeting the possibility of a stronger association between the two networks that could guarantee the strengthening and the sustainability of CACHE.

6. RELATIONSHIPS WITH STRATEGIC PARTNERS

6.1 Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries

The long-term partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) was deepened and there was excellent cooperation between the Minister, the Officers of the Ministry and IICA. The Ministry willingly assumed its responsibilities in joint activities related to the Rural Development Project. For this particular purpose the Ministry created a specialized department. LVV also served as a cornerstone for several other technical cooperation efforts of IICA Suriname in the areas of Fruit and Vegetable Promotion, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Information and Distance Education, among others and related with public and private sectors and civil society in general.

6.2 Inauguration of Suriname Chapter of SIDALC

For the installation and beginning operation of SIDALC, an agreement was signed between the IICA Office in Suriname and the Library of the University of Suriname, the Faculty of Technology, the Center for Agricultural Research (CELOS), the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) and the Anne van Dijk Rice Research Institute (ADRON). The librarian and her deputy of the ADEK library have assumed leadership of the Suriname chapter of SIDALC. Four chapter operators and five institutional users were trained and a plan of action was prepared for 2001 – 2003. This partnership will benefit many more institutions and persons in Suriname as it develops.

6.3 PAHO and Ministry of Health



Signing Memorandum of Understanding between IICA Representative, Mr. Ernani Fiori and PAHO/WHO Representative, Dr. Carol Vlassoff

In collaboration with PAHO/WHO Suriname, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Agriculture, IICA supported the revision of Agricultural Health and Food Safety legislation in Suriname. This support is being made within a framework of the program for Improved Product Quality and Food Safety carried out by PAHO Regional Office and various Ministries and NGO's and Private

Sector stakeholders in Suriname.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed between IICA Suriname and PAHO/WHO Suriname reinforced this partnership.

6.4 EDUCONS

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Foundation for Distance Education in Suriname (EDUCONS) and IICA Suriname involving two project proposals for the development and use of the IICA Center for Information and Distance Education in Agribusiness for Suriname. These two projects will be developed in 2003. This joint venture will be strengthened by both organization's capacities: IICA at the Regional and National Level and EDUCONS with its capacities at Paramaribo and at its Knowledge Centers platform.



Signing Memorandum of Understanding between IICA Representative, Mr. Ernani Fiori and EDUCONS Director, Mr. Glenn Geerlings

6.5. PEACE CORPS SURINAME

In a productive extension to the Agreement with Peace Corps, IICA Suriname was assigned a second professional Volunteer who began the specialized task of cooperation in the management of the Virtual Library and Information and Distance Education Center.

7.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

7.1 In Rural Development

The revitalization and expansion of the Integrated Rural Development project with the assistance of the Regional Specialists and with the transfer of tested methodologies from Brazil and other countries of the Hemisphere, will be a significant step forward in IICA's Technical Cooperation in Suriname.

7.2 Information and Communication Technology and Distance Education

Tremendous opportunities lie within these areas that could have important impacts in the agribusiness sector. IICA Suriname will invest strongly in these directions in the coming years.

7.3 Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AH&FS)

AH&FS will keep on being one of the very important topics in Suriname agenda in view of its importance as Suriname faces the new trade opportunities arising from the regional and hemispherical market integration process. In this way IICA will join and support the necessary efforts Suriname may need to implement in this area.

7.4 Fruit and Vegetable Promotion and Development

This area of the Ministry of Agriculture's strategic responsibility and the whole range of production that is possible in Suriname requires great support for its reengineering to achieve greater efficiency and competitiveness. IICA will continue supporting this area to help to enable Suriname to acquire the capacity to face the new rules of market quality and food safety requirements and competitive cost/benefit targets.

7.5 Support for CFF Control Project

While the main project was terminated at the end of 2002 for lack of funds efforts will be pursued by IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture to continue the project in order to reach a platform of successful control which was already nearly achieved by the end of 2002.

7.6 Implementation of Aid Funds from Various Sources

Financial resources are more and more available for agricultural and interior development in Suriname in the immediate future. Among these are funds from the Dutch Treaty Funds, from PAHO/WHO, from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), from the Caribbean Human Resources Development Program (CPEC), from the Canada Fund, from the European Commission, from Japanese Development Cooperation, IICA, and various others. IICA is already involved in the implementation of several projects funded with its own resources but also by those other sources and will undoubtedly be called upon to assist in the implementation of other new projects falling within its capacity. For all these alternatives IICA maintains its availability to help in all matters possible, if related to its capacities.

7.7 Agro-forestry and Organic Farming

Two important areas of development that are demanding great concern and attention from countries and organizations with competitive capacity to enter into the "pure quality and green" marketplace. Even if not directly involved as a solo institution IICA may help to promote the creation of working groups in those areas of major global interest, to help Suriname to examine its competitive advantages to engage in technologies that can guarantee an adequate management of its forest resources together with sustainable agriculture practices and in the area of organic farming.



In front (L/R): Jeffrey Follett - IICA/Peace Corps Volunteer, Caroline Gilds - Coordinator Food Safety Project, Mavis Sabajo - Project Secretary, Ermani Fiori - IICA Representative in Suriname, Hesdy Ormskerk - IICA Fruit and Vegetable Specialist, Yvonne Sital - Administrator, Sila Jagessar - House Keeper, Aldo Malavasi - IICA/CFF Regional Project Coordinator, Maxine Parris-Aaron, IICA Agricultural Health Specialist.
At the back (L/R): Christian Ogle - IICA/Peace Corps Volunteer; Gobien Sewpal - Gardener, Leo Sampai - IICA/LVV Rural Development Specialist, Irwin Telfer - Consultant, Brahma Ramsoedit - Driver, Melitia Rack - Executive Secretary, Morela Mijnsen - IICA/CFF Secretary, Alies van Sauers - IICA/CFF National Project Coordinator

LAST WORD

With the new approach of working with and through strategic partners in its Technical Cooperation Activities, IICA Suriname has gain efficacy and efficiency overcoming, to a significant degree, the problems of operating in a complex economic and institutional environment.

The IICA Suriname National Agenda for Technical Cooperation, extended by year-end to cover the period 2002 – 2006, brings the assurance that IICA's presence and contribution for the development of Suriname is strategically planned with the participation of the various relevant stakeholders.

**THE INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION
ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)**

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) was founded by the states of the Western Hemisphere in 1942 as an international technical organization, designated by the Organization of American States (OAS) as its specialized agency for the Americas, with the general objective of supporting the efforts of the Latin American, Caribbean and North American Countries in achieving sustainable agricultural development within the framework of hemispheric integration and as a contribution to human development within the agribusiness sector and rural communities.

The 2002 – 2006 Medium Term Plan (MTP) provides the strategic framework for orienting IICA's actions during this four-year period.

The Institute's cooperation services are grouped into five Strategic Areas that are: Trade and Agribusiness Development; Agricultural Health and Food Safety; Sustainable Rural Development; and Information and Communications.

IICA has its headquarters in San Jose, Costa Rica and offices in all the 34 Member Countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas (Commonwealth of), Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, The United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

Its Permanent Observers are: Arab Republic of Egypt, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, European Community, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Poland, Romania, Russian, Russian Federation and Spain.

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