



Jamaica

Significant achievements in 2010

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Institute commissioned a study to determine the optimum number of abattoirs required in the country, recommended locations and design, and financial and administrative models for their operation. The results of the study provided useful information which the Ministry used to make decisions regarding the modernization of the infrastructure and operations of the abattoirs.
- IICA hosted a workshop on Good Practices for Participation in SPS forums. During the workshop, local participants discussed protocols from the major international standard-setting bodies and the effectiveness of Jamaica's participation in the international SPS standard-setting process.
- Thanks to the cooperation provided by IICA within the framework of the "Improving Jamaica's Agricultural Productivity Project (IJAP)" project, funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), 70 greenhouse farmers, 12 research assistants, 13 extension officers from the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), 12 research technicians, 37 fisheries extension officers, among other participants, were trained. Under the project, 40 commercial greenhouses and one post-harvest and packing facility for products grown in greenhouses and outdoors were built. At the Ministry's Bodles Research Station, research began on greenhouse crop production, especially ginger, tomato and bell peppers.
- IICA evaluated six possible sites for the deployment of artificial reefs, resulting in the selection of the three best reef deployment locations. Twenty juvenile lobster-breeding shelters were also deployed and two fishing beaches were rehabilitated.
- The Institute assisted the Jamaica Greenhouse Growers Association (JGGA) to further develop the content management platform for their website. This enhanced and facilitated the sharing of and access to technical, production and marketing information among members. IICA also provided technical guidance to the newly

elected executive of the association and assisted with capacity building, which included facilitation of a strategic planning session for the executive.

- In response to a request from the Jamaica Pig Farmers Association, IICA developed a model pig unit. This model has been used for training and promotional activities undertaken by the Association. Blueprints of the model are also being prepared by the Jamaica Social Investment Fund for its beneficiaries who wish to invest in pig rearing. The Executive of the Association also received training in leadership, management and group dynamics. IICA has also facilitated stakeholder meetings for the pork industry to discuss various issues and garner consensus on solutions to address current and future challenges.
- Following the completion of the European Union-funded phase of the Buff Bay Valley Agro-Tourism Programme in December 2009, the Institute undertook efforts to put into operation the facilities built during the EU-funded phase.
- IICA promoted eight meetings among stakeholders in the agrotourism sector to sensitize relevant institutions and their personnel to the benefits to be gained from closer linkages between agriculture, rural communities and the tourism sector.