



# Trinidad and Tobago



## Significant Achievements 2023

- Trinidad and Tobago benefitted from various initiatives undertaken by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), which contributed to meeting national development objectives related to agriculture, food safety, climate resilience, and community development. Results achieved included the following:
  - Over 200 stakeholders improved their knowledge, capacity and regional networks to protect livestock from disease outbreaks through training, webinars, technical meetings and facilitation in global frameworks that promote solutions for transboundary animal diseases, including African Swine Fever (ASF) and salmonella. Through joint work with partners such as the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH), Washington State University and the Government, access to technical experts was improved with a view to enhancing capacities related to livestock disease surveillance, diagnostics and compensation policies.
  - Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (MALF) procedures and capacity to improve crop health was strengthened, with officials better able to identify plant parasitic nematodes and enhance the surveillance of pests and diseases (such as the tomato leafminer, locust and fruit fly). This was achieved within the framework of the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI) project undertaken with USDA-APHIS and in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Health Organization (WHO), Codex Alimentarius and the University of Florida.
  - Under The Cropper Foundation (TCF) - IDB Lab project, led by IICA in collaboration with the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO), the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and the University of the West Indies (UWI), seven farmers received training and tangible support, including inputs and equipment, to improve climate resilience, soil health, and water efficiency .
  - Over 60 farmers and food processors benefitted from targeted training to ensure food safety from farm to market, and, in turn, meet standards for supplying the local market and the School Feeding Programme. This was achieved as part of the Mexico-CARICOM-FAO sub-project on Resilient School Feeding Programs, and with full collaboration from strategic partners, namely NAMDEVCO, the Ministry of Health (MOH) Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division and the UWI Faculty of Food and Agriculture.
  - At least 50 AgriSMEs benefitted from training, troubleshooting and market exposure through various platforms that have enhanced their product competitiveness and market access. Topics addressed included safe food handling; facility sanitation; accessing and utilizing the TTBizLink portal; pricing and negotiation; transport and consolidation; as well as capturing new market opportunities.
  - Members of the Charlotteville community in Tobago received training, participated in peer-to-peer networking and were provided with tangible tools and equipment to adopt nature-based solutions to climate challenges, such as using vetiver grass for soil erosion control. They also received assistance to generate livelihood opportunities by producing crafts and other value-added non-food products and services. This was achieved through the IICA-Caribbean Biodiversity Fund's Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) partnership project.
  - Public sector officials and the private sector engaged

*in a series of consultation processes and Train the Trainer sessions and workshops, which improved their understanding of GHG emissions, the importance of data collection, and methodologies and tools for data capture. These opportunities also enhanced their capacity to measure and report on agriculture-related greenhouse gas emissions, thereby contributing to global climate action efforts. These were some of the results of the regional GCF CARICOM AgReady project implemented by IICA in nine countries, including Trinidad and Tobago.*

- Roughly 40 AgriSMEs were provided with the opportunity to build up their export readiness through a “Roadmap to Export” series initiated with a consortium of key partners seeking to enhance the access of the “very small to small” category to regional and international markets. The series included sessions with high-level decision-makers and opportunities for AgriSMEs to interact with, promote and sample their products to decision makers from the business development, financing and marketing fields.
- Over 60 technical and field officers from MALF, NAMDEVCO and the Cocoa Research Centre (CRC) benefitted from IICA’s continued promotion of and training on the FarmVue and AgriFindr digital applications, as well as geospatial mapping tools, which have enhanced decision-making in agriculture. Training sessions for officers and technicians were conducted, focusing on record-keeping, decision-making, digital tools to identify soil erosion vulnerabilities and data-driven solutions to combat them.
- Cadmium levels in soil and leaves were sampled, tested and analyzed in over 100 cocoa farms to address crucial safety requirements for maintaining extra-regional export markets. Training materials were developed and distributed to farmers to raise awareness of and mitigate cadmium contamination. This was achieved within the framework of the 11th European Development Fund Program, supported by IICA and with technical leadership from the UWI-CRC.
- Concerted efforts to foster youth involvement in IICA projects led to the training of 150 youth in GAPs for safe crop farming under the Ministry of Youth and National Development’s Youth Agriculture Homestead Program; over 50 youth between the ages of 4 to 17 on climate change issues, through educational sessions on agriculture and climate adaptation; and 100 teachers under the 4-H program from eight counties, on food safety.
- A four-part dialogue series initiated and convened by IICA, and fully endorsed and hosted by the MALF, improved information exchanges and provided a platform for inter-agency collaboration on agriculture and rural development projects among key development partners. These dialogues were considered timely and necessary in agriculture and reaffirmed the importance of the public sector, private sector, civil society, and international development partners collaborating to drive the sector’s development, as set out in the T&T Vision 2030.