

Agriculture Policy Programme Caribbean Action



Saint Lucia



Country Update



APP/PMU
The Intra-ACP APP is funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF)



APP Country Update – Saint Lucia

The Update highlights contributions of the APP from actions under the Scale Down Work Plan, that were grounded in-country with direct benefits to local stakeholders.



2 local youth given an opportunity for developing the enterprises and expanding their business networks

- Krystal Cox and Johanan Dujon were fully funded under the APP to participate the Youth in Agriculture (YiA) Business Forum as part of the D4D in Grenada [18th – 22nd January 2016]. The Forum targeted youth who own and operate agribusinesses and/or manage and play a vital role in a family-owned agricultural enterprise. Through the YiA Forum, the Youth from Saint Lucia were exposed to other business youth from the rest of the Caribbean, and they are now part of a post-forum youth-driven vibrant ‘network’.

The Grenada YiA Forum also provided opportunities to participants to promote their enterprises to their peers and agri-stakeholders in the Region and to be the start of a YiA database designed to ensure that they are targeted for subsequent opportunities for further training under the APP and other development initiatives. The young agripreneurs who participated in the YiA Business Forum have established a social network using the WhatsApp platform, through which they have maintained contact, continue to share valuable information and are pursuing options for commercial ventures. This networking platform has expanded as they have added other young agripreneurs to the group. Their open and genuine commitment to pass on the knowledge gained by providing training and mentoring to other youth at the national and regional level, the post-forum continuity achieved through the networking platform provides a good basis for continuity and sharing of the knowledge and benefits started in Grenada.

- Tsian Theophile, another young agripreneur and facilitator to a small group of innovative youth agripreneurs, was also given the opportunity to engage with regional planners to propose solutions to hindrances experienced by agripreneurs at the Component 1 (CCS) 9th Regional Planners Forum (RPF) on Agriculture, held in Trinidad and Tobago from June 7 – 10, 2016. As part of the RPF, a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs, was introduced and tested. This effort is a follow up to the APP-supported YiA Business Forum held in January 2016, and provided participants with tools for improving business operation and competitiveness. It is anticipated that building institutional capacity and fostering policy dialogue with youth farmers will assist in the development and implementation of policies and other initiatives to support young farmers and agripreneurs in Saint Lucia.

Support provided under. . .

Component 1 – CCS: ‘Support Involvement of Women and Youth in Dialogue on the Region’s Agriculture Issues’

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Component 2 – CARDI:

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Component 3: ‘Strengthen and link existing fora for multi-stakeholder dialogue to widen regional exposure and networking opportunities for small producers/ entrepreneurs’

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Agriculture Planners get more opportunities for regional and international policy networking

- Vincent La Corbiniere, Chief Agricultural Planning Officer (ag) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Cooperatives and Rural Development participated in the 8th Regional Planners Forum on agriculture in Grenada, [18th – 22nd January 2016]. Mr. La Corbiniere had the opportunity to network and dialogue with planners from the rest of the Region as well as heads and senior professionals from the key regional and international agricultural development institutions and private sector entities on topics of direct significance to agricultural development in Saint Lucia, including approaches for developing commodity-based industries, facilitation of intra-regional trade and critical areas for national and regional policy response. At that forum also, planners from the Region benefitted from the exchange of information and experiences on a comprehensive approach to integrated national and sectoral planning shared by Ms. Elizabeth Emanuel of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) where she not only explained the process of arriving at the 2013 Vision, but also provided planners with a CD containing full copies of the policy for their reference, and use, as appropriate.
- Mr. La Corbiniere was also afforded another opportunity, along with eight other planners from the Region, to participate in the 2016 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Outlook Forum in Arlington Virginia [25th – 26th February 2016]. Participants reported that the experience and exposure to the level of research, technical information, dialogue and networking was worth it and despite the economic differences between the US and other developed countries, and the Caribbean, there is need for a much greater level of investment and technical infusion into the development of agriculture.
- Mrs. Carleen Joseph-Atkins the Ministry of Agriculture was also provided the opportunity to participate in the 9th RPF from 7th to 9th June 2016, in Trinidad and Tobago, to engage and network with peers in the region and dialogue and exchange information of critical topics for agricultural policy response. This 9th RPF also provided the opportunity for MoA official to be introduced to a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs.

Support provided under. . .

Component 1 – CCS: ‘Support for policy capacity building and networking through a Regional Planners Forum (RPF)’

Ministry gets direct support to complete national agriculture policy & plan

An APP contracted firm, Glenford and Associates, is providing direct technical support to the Ministry of Agriculture Food Production, Fisheries, Cooperatives and Rural Development for the development of a National Agricultural Policy and Action Plan for Saint Lucia. The consultant assigned to work with Ministry officials by his team is Mr. Charles Carmichael. Mr. Carmichael will be guided by the Ministry and will contribute directly to the Ministry’s effort to effectively engage all actors towards the development of the final product.

Support provided under. . .


Component 1 – CCS: ‘Provide direct Technical Assistance to CARIFORUM countries to develop/ strengthen National Agricultural Policies / Plans’


- **This activity started in March 2016 and is expected to be fully concluded by September 2016.**



July 2016 ~ 2 ~ APP/PMU
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<p>Germplasm Production Structures & multiplication units refurbished A germplasm facility located at the CARDI Field Station, La Ressource in Dennery is currently being refurbished. Construction on the facility started in February 2016. The new structure is 40ft x 124ft (approximately 5000 sq ft) and will be outfitted with propagation bins, a saran netting roof, and a misting irrigation system. The structure will be used for propagation / multiplication of vegetables, tree crops (mainly passion fruit and wax apple) and root crops, particularly sweet potato and sweet cassava for the APP programme.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This activity ongoing. 	<p>Support provided under. . . Component 2, CARDI : ‘<i>Refurbish existing germplasm production structures & multiplication units</i>’</p>
<p>Validation & evaluation trials plots for root crops established Validation plot established in collaboration with the Babonneau Rural Women Producers in Bougis, Babonneau to evaluate the yields and productivity of sweet potato and sweet cassava. Plots were established in March 2016. For sweet potato, the Beaugard variety is being compared with a local variety (Five Finger) and for sweet cassava Uncle Mac and Y-Me are being compared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This activity is ongoing. 	<p>Support provided under. . Component 2, CARDI : ‘<i>Establish crop validation & evaluation trials for commercial & food value and adaptability to extreme weather conditions</i>’</p>
<p>Farmers receive training in rapid multiplication and management of Sweet Potato and Cassava germplasm Eleven (11) farmers of the Sunrise farmers group, ten (10) farmers of the Baboneau Cluster and ten (10) farmers of the Micoud Cluster (March) all CAFAN producers, were trained in sweet potato and cassava germplasm multiplication techniques. The training sessions were conducted during and January and February of 2016. CARDI will also make improved planting material for sweet potato and cassava (Beaugard, Uncle Mac, M.Col 22) available to farmers for their own on farm multiplication during the June – August 2016 period.</p>	<p>Support provided under. . Component 2, CARDI : ‘<i>Develop capacity of selected institutions and small producers/ entrepreneurs for multiplying and managing improved germplasm</i>’ & ‘<i>National and Regional Workshops; Farmer Field Visit for training in management of improved germplasm and animal breeds (agencies & producers)</i>’</p>

<p>APP Country Update – Saint Lucia <i>The Update highlights contributions of the APP from actions under the Scale Down Work Plan, that were grounded in-country with direct benefits to local stakeholders.</i></p>	
<p>Small farmers exposed to the benefits of appropriate small-scale equipment and improved practices Small farmers of Saint Lucia will be exposed to the benefits of appropriate small-scale equipment and improved practices for Sweet potato production. During the period July - August 2016 one (1) walk-behind tractor and implements will be made available through CARDI, to demonstrate to farmers the impact of cost and time efficiency of land preparation. The training will also be extended to include staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant private sectors stakeholders. The tractor will be managed by CARDI.</p>	<p>Support provided under. . . Component 2, CARDI : ‘Procure and demonstrate use of small scale equipment, tools and machinery for training demonstrations ‘</p>
<p>SME’s receive training in packaging labelling and product development Three local MSMEs, Robin Darrel - Darrel's Fudge, Lina Marie Senise Joseph – Cacao Sainte Lucie and Tsian Carr-Theophile - Eastern Timbers engaged in the processing of various agri-based value-added products were given the opportunity to attend a Regional training Workshop on Product Development, Marketing, Food Safety and GMP’s for SME’s [21st – 24th March 2016, Trinidad and Tobago]. Participants agreed that they required and benefited from the exposure and training in improved packaging and labelling design, use of appropriate semi-industrial equipment and infrastructure to improve good manufacturing practices in their enterprises. Hence continued and targeted interventions by development partners in this area will be of great benefit to them in enhancing their operation.</p>	<p>Support provided under. . . Component 3, IICA: ‘Improve design of packaging and labelling for select agri-food processing MSMEs (producer groups)’</p>
<p>SME’s receive technical assistance and equipment to support product development Local sweet potato producer groups will receive direct technical assistance from a local Business Development Officer (BDO) contracted through an agreement between CABA and the APP Components 2 and 3.</p>	<p>Support provided under. . . Component 3, IICA: ‘Purchase and distribute small-scale processing and packaging equipment for improved product handling, presentation and quality for select agri-food processing MSMEs’</p>

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Producer groups and networks capacity for governance and value chain development supported

The CAFAN secretariat concluded a LoA with the APP (Component 2 and 3) which makes provision for the contracting of the services of one (1) National Value Chain Facilitator (NVCF), Ms. Euthalia Cassel-Philgence who has been assigned to provide direct assistance to the local CaFAN membership for a period of six months, to support sweet potato producer group enterprises in areas related to production, export marketing, group governance and development, and credit readiness and investment profiling. Ms. Cassel-Philgence has participated in initial consultations on the CAFAN Execution plan and C2, C3 training activity at the recently concluded APP Regional Producer Group/Enterprise Governance and Group Dynamics training workshop [April 25-27, 2016] in St. Vincent and the Grenadines). At that workshop NVCFs received expert orientation on producer group governance, dynamics, financial assessment tools, and Good Agricultural Practices, and contributed to the development of subsequent training modules in Producer Group Organizational Development/ Dynamics - all to support their delivery of technical assistance to commodity-based producer groups.

- **The NVCF will be in-place until September 2016**

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Direct technical assistance to selected producer groups and commodity-based enterprises for value chain development through National Value Chain Facilitators'

MSMEs receive support for commercialization of composite baked products

A local professional Mr. Keith Errol Millar has been contracted through an IICA/APP C3 agreement between CABA and the APP Components 2 and 3 to provide support to the cassava roots and tubers industry. Mr. Millar has been assigned as a Business Development Officer (BDO) to the local CABA membership for a period of seven months, to support enterprises in areas related to production, export marketing, group development group governance and access to finance. He will also contribute to the development and implementation of Enterprise Business Plans and Investment Profiles in support of financing and commercialization of composite baked products. Mr. Millar has participated in initial consultations on the CABA Execution plan and C2, C3 training activity at the recently concluded APP Regional Producer Group/Enterprise Governance and Group Dynamics training workshop [April 25-27, 2016] in St. Vincent and the Grenadines). At that workshop BDOs received expert orientation on producer group governance, dynamics, financial assessment tools, and Good Agricultural Practices, and contributed to the development of subsequent training modules in Producer Group Organizational Development/ Dynamics all to support their delivery of technical assistance to commodity-based producer groups and business enterprises.

- **The BDO will be in-place until October 2016**

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Direct technical assistance for Root Crop Value Chain development

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MSMEs trained in producer group governance and producer-buyer networks highlighted

- Two stakeholders from Saint Lucia, Carmen Anita Nurse - Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers and Levi Paul Francis - Ministry of Agriculture received expert training at a Regional training Workshop in Producer Group Governance hosted jointly by C2 and C3 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, [April 25-27, 2016]. The local BDO will continue to support enterprises with a focus on enterprises engaged the roots and tubers industry within defined areas of activity covered by the CABA Execution Plan - including Producer Group Governance building activities and Buyer Networking.
- Ms. Cassel-Philgence (NVCF), Mr. Millar (BDO), Dunstan Demille (Massy Stores Saint Lucia), Julius Polius (PROPEL), Amanda Clarke (Consultant Experience Capitalization) and Tsian Theophile (SLAFY) participated in the *Strengthening Producer-Buyer Relationships: Networking Platform Experiences and Strategy Meeting* held in St. Lucia during the period 27-28 June, 2016. It was designed to facilitate joint planning and sharing of information so as to improve the organizational capacity of producer, women and youth through their insertion into value chains. The aim of the dialogue platform is the removal of obstacles to the production, marketing and distribution of commodities and to build capacity and institutional frameworks and systems for value chain development. The meeting in St. Lucia benefited from the already established producer-buyer relationship which exists between Massy Stores Saint Lucia and several local producers and was the focus of discussions. Experiences of producer-buyer relationships in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana were also highlighted.

Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Support National Producer-Buyer Networking and Group Governance Building activities'

SME's receive support to conduct financial investment profiles

Targeted local enterprises will be assessed in terms of credit-readiness and qualifying enterprises will undergo an investment profiling. The local BDO has already received initial training/orientation by FAST expert in enterprise credit-readiness assessment and investment profiling tools at the C2-C3 April 25-27, 2016 workshop in Saint. Vincent and the Grenadines. The credit readiness assessment is accomplished in two phases. Selected enterprises that have been deemed to have passed the first phase based on the availability of financial information would move on to the second phase of enterprise specific investment profiling. The application of tools by the NVCF and BDO, and final assessments and preparation of investment profiles of selected local qualifying producer/ enterprises will be completed by end of August 2016, in preparation for engagement with Financial Institutions (FIs) during the C3 Regional Agri-Value Chain Finance Forum to be held in Jamaica in September 2016. This is being undertaken within framework of C3 FAST-IICA and CaFAN-IICA-CARDI LoAs.

Support provided under . . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Prepare Financial /Investment profiles for selected commodity based Industries to strengthen information baselines and stakeholders engagement on value chain financing in CARIFORUM'

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Directory of major enterprises in the pineapple and small ruminants value chain published

Twenty Five (25) organizations within the pineapple value chain and eighteen (18) organizations within the small ruminant value chain were featured in an APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers. The Directory includes the contact information for key producer groups, supermarkets, restaurants, traders, exporters, agro-processors, and input suppliers involved in these commodity-specific chains. Forty (40) copies have been made available for distribution to stakeholders in Saint Lucia and the Directory will also be made available online on APP partner and Ministry of Agriculture websites.

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA: 'APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers'

MSMEs will get the opportunity, exposure and training required to improve their investment and credit profiles

A local communications expert, Ms. Amanda Clarke, was contracted by IICA/APP C3 to produce specific case studies and short videos of the successful financing mechanisms and experiences in the production input loan and marketing scheme spearheaded by MASSY STORES in Saint Lucia. This initiative will be documented and used for knowledge transfer and promotion for adoption in other countries in the region. The consultancy is intended to contribute to the enhancing of CARIFORUM financial service providers understanding of innovative agri-value chain financing schemes for MSMEs in order to catalyse changes in practice, help others not to repeat errors and facilitate the design of new intervention based on past experiences.

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, 'IICA: 'Experience capitalization on successful CARIFORUM-based financing schemes involving small producers/ entrepreneurs in value chains'

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Upgrade the Regional Agribusiness Platform (Carib-Agri Website www.agricarib.org) and support capacity of producers to use same for business and trade-related information</p>	<p>An upgraded website has been delivered to the CARICOM Secretariat. Website content uploads are being done, and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9th Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad & Tobago</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the content for the website.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Upgrade/expand the existing web-based Institutional Directory and Activity Integration Map developed under a previous IICA-CTA project</p>	<p>The consultancy is advanced and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9th Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad & Tobago. The Platform targets key agricultural development agencies which are part of the umbrella Agriculture Food and Nutrition Cluster (AFNC) and that provide development support to the sector. The information already gathered/provided by these agencies on their activities and initiatives will be coded and included in the database to enhance stakeholder knowledge on what's happening and foster greater institutional coordination.</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute information on projects to enhance the database.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Support AFNC (one F2F), virtual coordination meetings, logistics, communications</p>	<p>CARDI as Chair of the AFNC has been leading the process to manage monthly virtual meetings addressing a number of areas that are supported directly under the APP as well as complementary actions by other institutions. Since the start of 2014, a smaller core of agencies, comprising CARICOM Secretariat, IICA, FAO, CDB, UWI, OECS Secretariat, CRFM, CRFM, FAO, CARPHA, CaFAN and CABA have been holding monthly coordination meetings, of which four have been face-2-face. With support from the APP, in its short life the AFNC has managed to establish itself as a credible mechanism to foster collaboration on agency work activities to minimize overlaps and accelerate consensus on solutions to tackle common issues. Given that these key institutions provide direct support to agriculture in the countries, these meetings facilitate open dialogue and information sharing which could impact on delivery of support in country or could be based on sharing of successful experiences in country that could be replicated. Under the AFNC, teams have been created to champion the development process of priority commodities. These priority commodities and the lead agency are (a) Small Ruminants (CARDI), (b) Roots & Tubers (FAO), (c) Herbs & Spices (CABA)</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input through the CARICOM Secretariat and their local IICA and/or CARDI office, or directly through any of the key AFNC members.</p>

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Strengthen Coordination meetings, logistics, communications of the 4Thematic Groups (TGs)</p>	<p>The 4 TGs meet virtually and F2F on matters relating to their portfolio. As part of their functions, these TGs would need to liaise at the country level to determine the status of activities/initiatives being undertaken by Ministries of Agriculture, and other national, regional and international agencies, relating their specific portfolio. Countries have an important role in this information gathering process. The TGs and their lead agencies are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (CCS) 2 Business Development (IICA) 3 Climate Change & Natural Resource Management (FAO) 4 Human Resource, Research & Development (CARDI) <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input directly to the lead agencies identified.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - completed]</p> <p>Examine the adequacy of market infrastructure with focus on small producers</p>	<p>This study was grounded in five (5) countries - Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago. It sought to determine whether existing ‘physical facility or tangible facilitating arrangements’ are adequate to permit the flow of agricultural products from farm-gate to consumer. ‘Adequacy’ was measured from the supplier (farmer, retailer and/or vendor) and the buyer (individual consumers, retailers/wholesalers) perspectives, as well as any intermediary, for example packing houses. Based on the findings of the country assessments, several recommendations were offered for improving market infrastructure that will simultaneously improve the outcomes for vendors, including small producers and experiences for consumers.</p> <p>The recommendations should be reviewed in the context of recently initiated support to development of a national agriculture policy and plan.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - close to completion]</p> <p>Develop a Regional Policy framework for the Cassava-Based Industry</p>	<p>Initially, the ToR identified five (5) countries - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, to be ‘case studied’. While these are generally representative of the difference in the agricultural sector in CARICOM, there is recognition by the Consultant that this would not provide a sufficient basis for making policy for the entire Region. The new proposal would allow for the capture of salient aspects of the industry development in a wider regional sample, by grouping the countries in Haiti, Mainland countries (Belize, Guyana, Suriname) and other CARICOM countries (including the OECS and Barbados). Hence the role of IICA and CARDI offices in facilitating the Consultant with the information and experiences gathering process will be an important factor in ensuring success of this activity.</p> <p>The recommendations and approach to commodity-based industry development should be reviewed in the context of the recently initiated support to development of a national agriculture policy and plan.</p>

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Develop a Regional Policy Framework and a Business Plan for a Coordinating Mechanism for Herbs & Spices Industry</p>	<p>The countries to be ‘sampled’ as the basis for generating the body of information for analysis and recommendations will be specified on the submission of the Consultant’s Inception report. Given the regional thrust to develop links to the hotel and hospitality industry and the prominence of this industry in several countries of the region, while not all countries will be ‘sampled’ in the effort to develop of a regional industry development plan and coordinating mechanism, the results of this activity will have direct benefits for further enhancement of existing agri-tourism linkages throughout countries of the region.</p> <p>The initial findings should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Assess business facilitation mechanisms with a focus on trade limiting policy measures and transportation services systems</p>	<p>Given the longstanding priority placed on ‘alleviating’ these trade and logistical constraints, it is expected that the results of consultations will have direct application to countries’ efforts at systematically strengthening business and trade facilitation mechanisms for intra-regional trade in agricultural products.</p> <p><i>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be consulted during the process of country-visits and will have an opportunity to input into the recommendations.</i></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Build capacity of policy planners to integrate Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC) Adaptation into national agricultural development policies & programs</p>	<p>While only a limited number of countries will receive direct support in this area, in the form of development of Drought Hazard Annex to existing National Disaster Risk Management Plans, the process, experiences and information generated from the support will be shared and transferred to other countries in the Region. This can be done through regional training activities, including the Agri-Planners Forum, as well as incorporated into the planned national level support for developing policy frameworks and plans at the national (country) and industry levels (cassava, herbs & spices).</p> <p><i>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be afforded an opportunity to review the findings and recommendations, including the Drought Hazard Annexes to Disaster Risk Management Plans, being developed for Saint Lucia and Grenada.</i></p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Support Policy Networking and Knowledge Transfer through a Regional Agricultural Planners Forum</p>	<p>More structured opportunities will be provided for planners in Ministries of Agriculture to network and dialogue on a continuous basis as the main tool to strengthen their capacity to undertake routine planning functions, foster consensus for decision making on critical issues on the regional agenda and as a vehicle for transferring knowledge on specific policy-related topics through virtual and F2F training activities</p> <p>Activities continue in 2016.</p>

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C2 – CARDI; close to completion] Study/validation meetings on harmonization of trade standards for movement of select crop & animal livestock germplasm in the region</p>	<p>Through two separate, but complementary studies under C2, both completed in July 2015, CARDI is contributing to efforts at modernizing existing rules and regulations concerning trade in plant and animal material for easier movement while, at the same time, maintaining the lowest level of risk with respect to the transfer of pests and diseases within CARIFORUM. A F2F technical review meeting on plant germplasm trade protocols (to be convened on 7 December 2015) will explore the pest status and the risk of transmission for six priority crops, and a range of suitable options were selected and presented through six crop-specific “Protocols for the Transport of Disease-Free Planting Material in CARIFORUM”. The outcomes of this meeting and action on an agreed way forward will have far reaching implications for countries which have expressed an interest in obtaining improved germplasm for roots and tubers from both countries within and outside the region. A similar technical review will be undertaken for animal germplasm and given the current concerns with the spread of AI disease in poultry, the findings and recommendations of the protocols for moving animal germplasm across the region become even more relevant.</p> <p>The recommendations and protocols should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; in planning stages] Regional Agri-Value Chain Financing Forum to strengthen stakeholders engagement on Value Chain financing in CARIFORUM countries’</p>	<p>The outcome of the Credit Readiness exercise will determine those MSMEs and Development Finance Institutions from Saint Lucia that will attend the Regional Agri Value Chain Financing Forum to be held in Jamaica in September 2016. The forum will be hosted in collaboration with the CTA, and will include representatives from national and regional financial institutions, representatives of commodity producer, women and youth organizations and technical professionals from CARIFORUM countries. Enterprises selected to attend will include those that have undergone credit-readiness assessment and subsequently investment profiling (by BDOs using FAST Tools).</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; ; in planning stages] Working Capital Fund study for selected commodity based Industries</p>	<p>A two-day regional workshop, involving representatives of selected producer groups and enterprises involved in Roots and Tuber production, transformation and marketing initiatives (spearheaded by APP Beneficiary organizations along with selected NVCFs, BDOs and IICA National Specialists who are supporting producer groups and value-adding enterprises) is earmarked for Barbados in August. This workshop is linked closely with the work on credit worthiness assessments being undertaken under the APP-FAST LoA. Enterprises being cleared as credit worthy’ is an essential step in being deemed eligible for the financing.</p>