



XIX Regular Meeting of the
Inter-American Board of Agriculture

AN INSTITUTION RICH IN **HISTORY** THAT IS **BUILDING**
THE FUTURE OF **AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**

San Jose, Costa Rica | October 25-26, 2017



Trinidad y Tobago

Most significant results 2010-2017

- **A strengthened dairy goat industry.** Building of commercial, logistical and productive capabilities was the objective of the actions taken by IICA to strengthen the dairy goat industry. Areas such as husbandry, marketing, entrepreneurship, nutrition and feeding (including nutrition based on local foodstuffs), packaging and labelling, value adding (such as goat cheese production), complying with standards, management and sanitation were covered through joint work with organizations such as the Ministries of Health and Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, the University of the West Indies, the Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society, and the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI). In collaboration with the latter two partners, IICA also prepared a dairy goat business plan and marketing strategy, a dairy goat production manual and fact sheets on different types of forage species. Major stakeholders within the industry formed, with IICA's guidance, a Small Ruminant Value Chain Committee to further develop the industry.
- **Trade in honey facilitated.** IICA provided support in the process to facilitate trade in honey and honey products in Trinidad and Tobago, through an assessment of sanitary and phytosanitary conditions and capabilities for trade liberalization. It also provided a framework to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries and completed a draft Beekeeping and Bee Products Bill to ensure compliance and harmonization with regional and international regulations.
- **Agro-processors with increased business capabilities.** Agro-processors, as well as technicians and extension workers from the public agricultural sector now have stronger knowledge and capabilities for their activities relating to packaging, labeling, post-harvest management, HACCP, entrepreneurship, AHFS, resource mobilization, marketing, value adding and food handling and processing. For example, IICA supported women and youth groups from the cocoa industry to produce, process and market chocolate bars made from cocoa beans. Meanwhile, other producers received technical assistance to establish and operationalize a cocoa house as an attraction in



their agro-tourism drive, and another group of agro-processors used IICA's training to launch a new brand of community-based cocoa and coffee products.

- **A tool for guiding investment in agriculture.** The Institute developed a Cost of Production tool to be used as a guide to investments and policymaking decisions in agriculture. The tool was successfully implemented in order to analyze profitability in the cassava industry and other pilot projects, upon the request of the Ministry of Food Production, and was received as a useful asset to design project proposals by Agribusiness Management students from the University of West Indies and technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture.
- **Improving risk management.** IICA guided institutional collaboration to improve risk management in agriculture, in order to be better prepared for extreme environmental and climatic conditions. Stakeholders involved in risk management enhanced their capabilities in risk mapping and agreed to provide timely and relevant information to farmers and other institutions through the use of a communication protocol.
- **Toward greater awareness of AHFS.** IICA promoted awareness of agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) issues among agricultural stakeholders in Trinidad and Tobago, in areas such as animal health, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), food production, foodborne diseases, biosafety and biotechnology, black sigatoka, good manufacturing practices, good agricultural practices, and regulations such as the US Food Safety Modernization Act and Codex. The Institute prepared a draft of animal health regulations for the Ministry of Agriculture and assisted with improving capabilities in surveillance of foodborne diseases and AMR through advanced training courses for public veterinary officers at Ohio State University, with resources from the SPS Project financed by the European Union.
- **Women empowered to add value to their production.** Training in value adding for rural women's groups was carried out regularly by IICA, especially for products made from mango, cocoa beans, root crops and goat's milk, and activities such as commercial bread and pastry making. The acquisition of capabilities in business, management and cohesiveness in these groups was made possible through the intervention of IICA and its partners.