



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



Saint Lucia

Most significant results 2010-2017

- **Strengthening apiculture.** Beekeepers were trained by IICA in permapiculture and production of Perone hives, allowing them to increase their ability to build and adapt low-cost bee-keeping technology to add value to the production of honey and pollen products. The Institute also supported the Saint Lucia Agricultural Forum for Youth (SLAFY) in the creation of an apiary, training in business management and honey production, and by supplying tools, equipment and other resources to construct and populate the hives. The project was financed by the Australian Embassy Direct Aid Program.
- **Pineapple value chain improved capabilities.** The pineapple industry in Saint Lucia received assistance from IICA to draft and implement a strategic development plan. It included training in proper crop husbandry and production technologies (through demonstration plots with conventional and organic agricultural practices), identification of domestic and regional markets (with grant funding from the European Union), establishment of a dialogue platform among stakeholders, and the acquisition of an irrigation pump to supply irrigation water to one pineapple demonstration plot (in collaboration with the Australian Agency for International Development).
- **A more resilient small ruminant industry.** Improving the climate resilience of the small ruminant value chain in Saint Lucia was made possible with the assistance of IICA. Examples of the Institute's work in this area were training in herd management, nutrition, record keeping, biosecurity, housing, and a validation workshop to develop a climate-proofed action plan for the industry. It also provided technical support for the establishment of a forage bank and supplied 12 purebred goats and sheep for the Small Ruminant Cooperative Society Limited (in collaboration with the Australian Agency for International Development) and new forage species to 20 farmers for the creation of forage banks. Increasing local forage production was a major



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recommendation for improving climate resilience of the small ruminant value chain, as determined by stakeholders through an assessment done in 2015.

- **Women agro-processors with increased resources.** IICA established a revolving scheme to facilitate small loans (averaging USD 560) for agro-processors in the Saint Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers, in order to assist them in the expansion of product lines and improving packaging and labeling, including the purchase of small semi-industrial equipment, supplies and inputs. The Institute also provided training in business skills and agricultural health and food safety.
- **Enhancing youth access to opportunities in agriculture.** Several projects carried out by IICA, or with its collaboration, involved working with young people, especially through the Saint Lucia Agricultural Forum for Youth (SLAFY). Sustainable charcoal production, strategic planning, proposal writing and funds procurement were some of the initiatives supported. Among these, the joint implementation of the Helping Out Our Primary and Secondary Schools (HOOPSS) Program, along with SLAFY and the Ministry of Agriculture stands out. The program was aimed at improving nutrition and creating new agricultural leaders by strengthening the school feeding systems, encouraging training in agriculture and providing career awareness by exposing students to choices of professions available in agriculture.
- **Adaptation of agriculture to climate change.** IICA promoted awareness and dissemination of knowledge about the impacts of climate change in agriculture and the importance of boosting adaptation measures in the sector. As part of the actions, members of the Ministries of Agriculture in Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Grenada were trained in methodologies and tools for sustainable soil management and improvement of their efficiency in agricultural production. The Institute also delivered training to ECS countries in understanding climate-proofing methodologies for agricultural development planning, and along with the Mexican Government, coordinated a program to expand protected agriculture, mainly for the vegetable sub-sector.