

Significant achievements in 2014



Saint Lucia

- IICA, in collaboration with FAO, assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Cooperatives and Rural Development in the rehabilitation of 5000 meters of agricultural drains, four fish ponds, 8000 meters of riverbeds, and the stabilization of 8000 meters of river banks through tree planting and simple engineering works in the response efforts to the passage of the Christmas Eve Trough of 2013.
- IICA, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program: Global Environment Facility UNDP GEF Small Grants Programme, supported the Saint Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth (SLAFY) in the implementation of a sustainable charcoal production project which created employment for six rural youth and also developed and promotes an environmentally sustainable model for the exploitation of forest resources.
- IICA assisted farmer organizations, rural women agroprocessors and youth farmers affected by the passage of the Christmas Eve Trough to rehabilitate their agribusinesses and reestablish their income flows through the supply of agricultural equipment, tools, and inputs. A total of 53 persons benefited directly. These included members of the St. Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP), the St. Lucia Agricultural Forum for Youth (SLAFY) and the Grace Farmers' Cooperative.
- The performance of agribusinesses owned by members of the St. Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP) was strengthened through access to loans under a small loan revolving scheme established under the IICA project "Working Capital Programme for Rural Women Entrepreneurs in the Caribbean". 13 women received small loans averaging USD560 for the procurement of small semi-industrial equipment, supplies and inputs. 60 members of the SLNRWP benefited from product labels.
- IICA, in collaboration with the Australian Agency for International Development, supplied 12 pure bred goats and sheep to the 45 members of the Small Ruminant Cooperative Society Limited, and one 12 hp irrigation pump was supplied to benefit 60 members of the Saint Lucia Pineapple Cooperative Society Limited to supply irrigation water to their pineapple demonstration plot.
- The Helping Out Our Primary and Secondary Schools (HOOPSS) Programme¹, is an initiative of the St Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth in collaboration with IICA and the Ministry of Agriculture and complements the schools' curriculum for agriculture and has overlapped with other related subject areas (including economics, business and others) at the secondary school level, by adding value to the school based assessments. Through HOOPSS, both students and teachers have given positive feedback on its usefulness in broadening the understanding of agriculture's scope as well as supporting valuable life skills training. The School Feeding Programme was enhanced through the HOOPS program and the commercial linkages established between schools and agricultural marketing outlets in Saint Lucia.

1. The programme is aimed at improving nutrition by strengthening the school feeding systems, encouraging training in agriculture (research, record keeping, marketing) and providing career encounters by exposing the students to career choices available in agriculture.