

# ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

2005 Annual Report

The Contribution of IICA to  
the Development of Agriculture  
and Rural Communities



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 St. Vincent and the Grenadines**

St. Vincent and the Grenadines is an archipelago located 10.56' West Longitude and 13.15' North Latitude and forms part of the Windward Islands in the Eastern Caribbean. It comprises the main island of St. Vincent and well over 30 smaller islands and cays (9 are inhabited) collectively called the Grenadines. The total land area is 150 square miles (388 sq. km.) of which St. Vincent is 133 square miles. The population is approximately 110,000 with an estimated per capita income of EC \$10,249 in 2004.

The island enjoys a tropical climate with a mean annual temperature of 26 °C. Rainfall is highest in May to December and ranges from 70-90 inches in the coastal areas, to 260-275 inches in the mountainous interior.

The primary economic activities are based on the exploitation of agricultural land and marine resources. Agricultural production still dominates economic activity although there have been some structural adjustments resulting in the decline in agriculture's importance with the growth in the construction, transport, tourism and financial services sectors.

During the period 2000-2004 the economy grew at an average rate of 2.74% per annum, fluctuating between a low of -0.09% in 2001 to a high of 5.37% in 2004.

Because of the narrow range of goods and services produced the island depends heavily on imports. Annual negative balance of visible trade has deteriorated from EC \$304.4 M in 2000 to EC \$509.7 M in 2004.

**Table 1****St. Vincent and the Grenadines****Gross Domestic Product by Economic Activity****At Factor Cost, in Constant (1990) Prices: 2000-2004 (EC \$M)**

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004 (P)	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Agriculture	74.02	12.08	68.35	11.16	73.66	11.66	72.01	11.02	68.26	9.91
Mining & Quarrying	1.55	0.25	1.66	0.27	1.61	0.25	1.69	0.26	1.94	0.28
Manufacturing	37.93	6.19	40.05	6.54	37.62	5.95	37.89	5.80	39.00	5.66
Electricity & Water	37.84	6.17	42.08	6.87	43.18	6.83	46.43	7.10	49.71	7.22
Construction	54.48	8.89	58.35	9.53	56.68	8.97	61.32	9.38	70.34	7.21
Wholesale & Retail Trade	108.34	17.68	111.99	18.29	115.43	18.27	120.24	18.40	132.04	19.17
Hotel & Restaurant	15.30	2.50	14.84	2.42	13.65	2.16	12.87	1.97	13.58	1.97
Transport	83.55	13.63	84.43	13.79	89.65	14.19	96.61	14.78	103.36	15.01
Communication	68.22	11.13	59.91	9.78	62.59	9.91	70.50	10.79	72.63	10.55
Banks & Insurance	60.17	9.82	55.61	9.08	61.23	9.69	58.22	8.91	60.48	8.78
Real Estate & Housing	16.15	2.64	16.39	2.68	16.64	2.63	16.89	2.58	17.14	2.49
Government Services	94.29	15.39	96.61	15.78	100.22	15.86	102.72	15.72	105.31	15.29
Other Services	10.52	1.72	10.94	1.79	11.45	1.81	12.36	1.89	13.1	1.90
Less Imputed Service Charge	49.51	8.08	48.89	7.98	51.82	8.20	56.22	8.60	58.24	8.46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>612.85</b>		<b>612.32</b>		<b>631.79</b>		<b>653.53</b>		<b>688.65</b>	
<b>Growth Rate</b>	<b>2.01</b>		<b>-0.09</b>		<b>3.18</b>		<b>3.44</b>		<b>5.37</b>	

Source: St. Vincent &amp; the Grenadines' Central Statistical Office

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## 2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The IICA Office in St. Vincent and the Grenadines is administratively a constituent part of the consolidated IICA Office in the Eastern Caribbean States (ECS), with Headquarters in St. Lucia.

During 2005, the Office implemented activities in support of sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity within the framework of the Institute's 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan, its Regional Agenda for the Caribbean, the Work Programme of the IICA Offices in the Eastern Caribbean States and the 2002-2006 National Technical Cooperation Agenda for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The activities were carried out against a background in which agriculture is contributing a declining share of GDP, falling from an average 20% in the early nineteen nineties to approximately 10% in 2004. The rapid decline in Agriculture's contribution to the economy correlates very closely with the dramatic fall in the production and export of banana, the dominant export crop. While efforts are being made to stabilize the industry, strategies are being adopted to diversify the sector by the expansion of traditional and non-traditional crops and agro-industrial production.

During 2005, in addressing the challenges faced by the sector, the Office continued the implementation of the 2002-2006 National Agenda with actions which contributed to:

*a. Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade*

The Office, in collaboration with the Strategic Area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety and the USDA, facilitated the participation of St. Vincent & the Grenadines in the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> meetings of the SPS Committee of the WTO in Geneva. Since participating in these meetings St. Vincent and the Grenadines gained the experience and confidence to challenge the EU extra-territorial imposition of its EurepGap Measures, in violation of Article 13 of the SPS Agreement.

Senior personnel at the National SPS Enquiry Point and the National Notification Authority are now able to use updated, sophisticated WTO compatible software to transmit and access documents via the internet as a result of their participation in a Regional Workshop in WTO Notification Dissemination Software hosted by IICA, in collaboration with the USDA, Trinidad and Tobago, August 11-12, 2005.

Several micro agro-processors are now better able to compete in domestic and export markets through improvements in the packaging and labeling of their products. The IICA Office facilitated their participation in a workshop convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce & Trade, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005, specifically to enhance their competitiveness through improvement in the presentation of their products.

*b. Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health*

The Office facilitated the participation of Mr. Everton Ambrose, Specialist in Plant Protection, IICA Office in St. Lucia, in a workshop in St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the **Development of a Regional Integrated Pest Management Programme for the West Indian Fruit Fly**, March 21-23, 2005. On a field trip to observe the Ministry of Agriculture's Programme for the control/eradication of the Fruit Fly, IICA received high commendations from the Ministry of Agriculture and regional participants for its contribution to the success of the programme in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The IICA Office collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries and the Agricultural Input Warehouse in convening a training workshop to enhance the capacity of 25 pest control operators in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, May 4-5, 2005. The workshop was held in response to the increasing concerns over the safety of workers, the health of consumers and the protection of the environment and was targeted at public and private sector persons engaged in the application of pesticides at both managerial and technical levels.

At the end of the workshop participants successfully completed an evaluation exercise of knowledge gained during the workshop which demonstrated that they were better equipped to function as pest control operators.

Through the support of the Directorate of Technology and Innovation, the IICA Office facilitated the participation of Mr. Cornelius Richards, Senior Forest Supervisor, in the COP/MOP<sub>2</sub> meeting in Montreal, Canada, May 28 – June 3, 2005. Mr. Richards' participation is expected to enhance St. Vincent and the Grenadines' capacity to implement the requirements of the **Cartagena Protocol** on Biosafety.

*c. Strengthening Rural Communities*

IICA hosted several meetings of the executive and of the general membership of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers (SVGNRWP) in pursuit of the execution of activities in the Chapter's Annual Work Plan. These activities included the opening of a bank account and paying its subscription to CANROP, the preparation of a database of its members and submission to the CANROP Secretariat, the training of members in basic computer literacy, a field trip to projects of the Ministry of Agriculture, fund raising, a display of products at World Food Day Activities and Vegetable Production.

The Rural Women Producers of St. Vincent and the Grenadines received national and Caribbean recognition when their nominee, Mrs. Nelcia Celesti Robinson won the IICA Caribbean Award for the **Participation of Women in Rural Development**. Mrs. Robinson was presented with a trophy at an awards ceremony during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in St. Kitts and Nevis, October 6, 2005.

Two members of the Executive of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Agricultural Forum for Youth (SVGAFY), with IICA's support, participated in a workshop on **Priority Setting, Organizational Development and Introduction to Project Development and Management** for members of the Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth (CAFY)

in St. Lucia, February 23-26, 2005. On their return, they convened a workshop, again with IICA's support and that of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, to impart the knowledge gained to other members of the Forum and to prepare the Forum's 2005/2006 Work Plan. The Forum also received further institutional strengthening when the Office facilitated the participation of its President at a workshop in **Leadership Development and Policy Integration for Youth in Agriculture** which was held in St. Kitts and Nevis, October 2-7, 2005.

Organic Agriculture in St. Vincent and the Grenadines received a boost when the IICA Office facilitated the participation of an extension officer and an organic farmer in a regional workshop on **Organic Fertilizer Production and Composting**, Dominica, February 21-25, 2005. The Chief Agricultural Officer has reported that the extension officer will be assigned fulltime in support of organic farming while the organic farmer has reported success in a pilot vermi-composting project.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines will soon benefit from an OAS Funded Regional Project entitled: **Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean**. Both Ministers of Agriculture and of Tourism signed letters of commitment to the Project on behalf of the Government and their respective Ministries. Though St. Vincent and the Grenadines was not among the first seven Caribbean Countries to benefit in Year 1 of the Project, IICA facilitated the participation of two officers from the Ministries of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries and of Tourism and Culture, in an Agro-Tourism Workshop entitled: **Agriculture and Tourism: Partners in Development**, St. Kitts and Nevis, October 3-5, 2005. Both officers have been identified to play leadership roles in the thrust to develop Agro-Tourism Linkages.

*d. Hemispheric Integration*

The IICA Office convened a meeting of the constituent members of the National Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu on April 20, 2005, at



which several initiatives of the Government in relation to agricultural and rural development were discussed. The Office's Coordinator used the opportunity to make a PowerPoint Presentation on the 2004 Annual Report: *The Contribution of IICA to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines*. The Institute was highly commended by members of the Alliance, not only for its contribution to agriculture and rural development, but also on its policy of reporting on its activities to the major stakeholders in the community of agriculture and rural life. Participants made some recommendations to counteract the negative impact of some agricultural practices on the environment.

The Office's Coordinator assisted the **Ministerial Delegate** in the **Summits of the Americas Process** in reporting on the actions taken and the challenges faced by St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the implementation of the Agro 2003-2015 Plan in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Office also facilitated the participation of the Minister of Agriculture and the Ministerial Delegate in the Third Ministerial Meeting and Thirteenth Meeting of the IABA held in Ecuador, August 29 – September 2, 2005. The Office's Coordinator and the CARDI's Country Representative assisted the Ministry of Agriculture in reporting on the status of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the implementation of the **Jagdeo Initiative**.

The IICA Office convened and hosted several meetings of the Executive of CABA (SVG) Inc. The focus of the meetings were discussions and implementation of the participation of the President in the meetings of CABA in Jamaica, in January and March; the payment of membership dues to CABA; the commitment of the Chapter to the implementation of the CABA/MIF Project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines; the convening of a Strategic Planning Workshop and the participation of members of the Chapter in two investment seminars convened by the **Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Mission Taiwan and the National Investment Promotions, Inc.**

The Director General of IICA, accompanied by the Director of Operations, Caribbean, and the IICA Representative in the ECS, visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines on July

15-16, 2005. The Director General and his team held brief discussions with the Ministers of Agriculture and of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister. The highlight of the visit was a joint press conference convened by the Minister of Agriculture at which the Director General made a presentation in which he emphasized the important role of agriculture in the social and economic development of the countries of the hemisphere.

e. *Developing Human Capital*

The IICA Office, with the financial support of the Rural Agricultural Development, Coordination and Irrigation Consolidation Programme (RADCICP) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, facilitated the training of the members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers (SVGNRWP) in basic computer literacy. Most of the women are now able to communicate by means of the internet.

The Office's Coordinator assisted the Venezuelan Ambassador in the selection of a candidate for training in Farm Administration at the Simon Bolivar United World College of Agriculture.

The Office facilitated the participation of a member of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines Agricultural Forum for Youth to share experiences with other OECS alumni at a **CRISP End of Project Event** in Barbados, March 17-18, 2005, in terms of the utilization of the knowledge and skills gained from an Agribusiness Management Training Workshop held in 2004.

The Office also facilitated the placement, as an intern, of a second-year student of Agribusiness Management at the University of the West Indies (UWI), at the Produce Division of National Properties Ltd., a State-owned Company with responsibility for marketing agricultural produce. The Internship was mutually beneficial.

*f. Environmental Management*

Beekeepers in St. Vincent and the Grenadines will receive training in integrated pest/disease management in early 2006. This is as a result of the recommendation of a consultant/volunteer from FAVA/CA who visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines on February 20-26, 2005, at the request of the IICA Office, to provide technical assistance to the beekeeping industry. The consultant/volunteer confirmed the presence of the *Varoa Spp* in most colonies examined and to which is attributed the decline in the bee population. FAVA/CA has already approved another request from the IICA Office for the consultant/volunteer to return to St. Vincent and the Grenadines to continue the inspection of apiaries and to conduct a training workshop for beekeepers.

*g. Institutional Modernization*

The IICA Office provided support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in convening two meetings of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Committee. While the first meeting, June 5, 2005, discussed routine agricultural health and food safety issues, the second meeting, November 9-10, 2005, took the form of a workshop at which Everton Ambrose, Specialist in Plant Protection, IICA, St. Lucia, facilitated an assessment of the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Services in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The assessment will be used to identify weaknesses in the services and as a bench mark to measure the progress in the short to medium term, in the efficacy of the agricultural health and food safety services.

### **3.0 THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES IN 2005**

#### **3.1 Recent performance in the expanded agricultural sector**

During the past decade agriculture's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines has shown a marked decline, as structural changes in the economy occurred resulting in greater dependence on other sectors such as transport, construction and services, particularly the hospitality and offshore financial services. Whereas the agricultural sector contributed approximately 20% of GDP in the early nineteen nineties by 2004 its contribution had fallen to approximately 10%.

Despite its decline in recent years, the banana industry continues to be the major contributor to rural employment and foreign exchange earnings. In its efforts to consolidate banana production as the major plank in its agricultural diversification programme, the Government has embarked on a three-year banana rehabilitation programme, which is expected to result in an increase of exports from the current 25,000 tonnes per year to 42,000 tonnes per year by 2008.

Additionally, the Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, has demonstrated its commitment to the diversification and commercialization of the agricultural sector and the expansion of agro-industrial capacity by providing the enabling environment, including donor support (European Union, Republic of China on Taiwan, FAO), and investment capital for the establishment of a hatchery, a cassava processing plant, a coconut water bottling facility (with private sector participation), and a "value added" packaging facility, mainly for dasheen and other root crops.

Other crops which feature in the diversification drive, such as plantains, arrowroot, dasheen and hot peppers also make significant contributions to

employment and foreign earnings, while livestock and fishing contribute significantly to food security, import substitution and rural prosperity.

**Table 2**  
**Agricultural Contribution to GDP at Factor Cost (1990 Prices)**  
**2000-2004 (EC \$M)**

	2000		2001		2002		2003		2004 (P)	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Agriculture	74.02	12.08	68.35	11.16	73.66	11.66	72.01	11.02	68.26	9.91
Crops	52.28	8.53	47.39	7.74	54.87	8.68	50.59	7.74	46.93	6.81
Livestock	5.31	0.87	5.41	0.88	5.49	0.87	5.59	0.86	5.70	0.83
Forestry	3.65	0.60	3.69	0.60	3.73	0.59	3.77	0.58	3.81	0.55
Fishing	12.78	2.09	11.86	1.94	9.57	1.51	12.06	1.85	11.82	1.72

Source: St. Vincent & the Grenadines' *Central Statistical Office*

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### **3.2 Critical issues in the international and national context that impact agriculture and rural life**

The decline in the production and export of bananas and the consequential negative impact on rural employment and foreign exchange earnings continued in 2005. Banana exports fell from 19,389 tonnes, valued at EC \$26.2 M for the period January – September 2004 to 13,631 tonnes, valued at EC \$18.6 M for the corresponding period in 2005, representing a 30% and 29% decline in volume and value of exports, respectively.

The Government has embarked on a three-year banana rehabilitation programme to boost production and export. However, confidence in the industry is likely to be further eroded as a result of the implementation of the European Union's proposal of 176 EUROS per tonne tariff to be applied to dollar bananas in 2006 as a protective measure for the banana industry in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the rest of the Windward Islands.

The challenges of trade liberalization and globalization will place serious constraints to the competitiveness of the agricultural sector. This will be further exacerbated by the small size of farms, the aging farm population and declining arable lands. The 2000 agricultural census revealed that of a total of 7,380 farms only 69 or 1% exceeded 25 acres, and 32% of farmers were over 55 years old. While rural unemployment is in excess of 15% of the labour force, youths are unwilling to offer their services to augment the aging farm population. Further, the total agricultural lands have declined by 40% from 29,696 acres in 1985/86 to a mere 17,789 acres in 2000.

### **3.3 The status of living conditions in rural communities**

Despite the relative decline in agriculture's contributions to foreign exchange earnings and the generation of employment, living conditions in the rural communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines remained fair.

The Government achieved its stated objective of universal access to secondary education in 2005, when all students who sat the annual common entrance examinations gained access to secondary schools when the new school year began in September. In its efforts to improve on the current 83% adult literacy rate, the Government has also embarked on an adult literacy crusade throughout the country, which has had a very favourable response.

Water, electricity and telephones are available to approximately 90% of rural households. Radios, television sets and gas stoves are present in virtually all households. In addition to a considerable number of family owned vehicles, a private sector transport system allows for the timely and efficient movement of people and goods throughout all communities.

However, the road infrastructure is in such a dire state of disrepair that the Government recently secured a loan of EC \$25 M to supplement the budgeted resources for its ongoing road rehabilitation programme.

Sports, drama, music, religion, traditional festivals and politics contribute to the recreational and social life of the communities, while the law enforcement agencies endeavour to curb the increase in crime, gun-related violence and drug trafficking and addiction.

#### 4.0 SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL AGENDA

On assumption of office on January 15, 2002, the new Director General of IICA, Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, immediately set about to ensure that the Institute implements a fully participatory approach in the preparation of the 2002-2006 Medium Term Plan, by requesting that the Representatives/Coordinators in all thirty-four (34) member countries prepare a National Technical Cooperation Agenda.

The guidelines provided for the preparation of the National Agenda, included a review of pertinent documentation at the national level, a consultative process involving organizations in the Public and Private Sectors, Non-Governmental Organizations and Civil Societies, Universities and Agricultural Colleges and the preparation of a draft document, after reaching consensus among the major stakeholders, identifying the areas of IICA's collaboration in support of the country's national priorities which are consistent with the Institute's areas of focus and support services.

In preparing the document, the Representatives/Coordinators were advised to take into account IICA's New Vision, Mission, Objectives and Guiding Principles as articulated in the Director General's document: *Repositioning IICA to Meet the Challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*.

The 2002-2006 National Technical Cooperation Agenda for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, revised in September 2003, was prepared in accordance with the guidelines provided by the Director General and approved at IICA Headquarters.

In the consultations with key stakeholders in the community of Agriculture and Rural Life, which formed the basis for the preparation of the National Technical Cooperation Agenda, the recurring themes articulated where IICA's intervention and collaboration would have greatest impact included:



- a. Enhanced coordination among institutions engaged in agricultural and rural development.
- b. Strengthening and capacity building of institutions in both the public and private sectors.
- c. The importance of broadening the awareness and understanding of issues related to the WTO and compliance with the requirements of the global market.
- d. Training of technicians, farmers, exporters and agro-processors in agribusiness management.
- e. Poverty alleviation through projects focusing on rural women and youth.
- f. Enhanced capacity of the Public and Private Sectors to respond to the presence/entry of exotic pests and diseases.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as a member of the Technical Cooperation Agency in the East Caribbean States, is ideally placed to share in the implementation of projects elaborated to address these issues at the national or sub-regional level. They have, therefore, been included in the National Technical Cooperation Agenda as they are consistent with the Institute's Strategic Areas of focus and support services.

## 5.0 RESULTS

Progress in the implementation of the 2002-2006 National Technical Cooperation Agenda was reported in the Annual Reports of 2002-2004: **The Contribution of IICA to Agriculture and the Development of Rural Communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines**. Implementation of the Agenda continued in 2005 with the following results:

### 5.1 *Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade*

#### 5.1.1 Participation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the SPS Committee Meetings of the WTO

The IICA Office, in collaboration with the Directorate of the Strategic Area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety and the USDA, facilitated the participation of the Chief Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, at the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Meetings of the SPS Committee of the WTO in Geneva, March 7-10, 2005 and June 26 - July 1, 2005, respectively. The Office also facilitated the participation of the Trade Officer II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce & Trade in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Meeting.

The continued participation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in the SPS Committee Meetings of the WTO has contributed significantly to the country meeting its obligations under the Agreement. An ad hoc committee comprising representatives from the public and private sectors meet regularly to dialogue on SPS issues of relevance to St. Vincent and the Grenadines e.g. Notification to the WTO of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries as the National Enquiry Point for the SPS Agreement and the Bureau of Standards as the Enquiry Point for Technical Barriers to Trade, to fulfill transparency obligations under the Agreement.

The CAO's regular participation in these meetings provided the opportunity and confidence for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, joined by Jamaica, Peru and Argentina to challenge the European Union (EU) in its application of its EurepGap requirements. St. Vincent and the Grenadines noted that some of these EurepGap requirements which have SPS implications, have been introduced by private entities as a condition of trade, in violation of the provisions of Article 13 of the Agreement.

#### 5.1.2 Enhancement of electronic communication capacity of National Enquiry Points

The IICA Office facilitated the participation of Mr. Kemston Cato, Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries (SPS Enquiry Point) and Mr. Clarence Harry, Trade Officer II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce & Trade (National Notification Authority) at a workshop convened by IICA, in collaboration with the USDA, in Trinidad and Tobago, August 11-12, 2005. As a result of their participation, Messrs. Cato and Harry are now able to use updated sophisticated software to improve electronic transmission and access documents via the internet, compatible with the electronic communications format of the WTO.

#### 5.1.3 Support to Micro Agroprocessors

The IICA Office facilitated the participation of several micro agro-processors at a workshop convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2005. The workshop was convened with the objective of enhancing the capacity of the micro agroprocessors to access both domestic and export markets through the improvement of their packaging and labeling. The IICA Coordinator made a short presentation at the opening of the workshop in support of the initiative, in which he emphasized the relevance of the workshop in improving the competitiveness of the national agroprocessing subsector, in the expanded Caribbean Single Market and Economy (CSME).

## 5.2 **Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health**

### 5.2.1 Support to the Control/Eradication of the West Indian Fruit Fly

IICA facilitated the participation of Mr. Everton Ambrose, Specialist in Plant Protection, IICA Office in St. Lucia, in a workshop in St. Vincent and the Grenadines for the **Development of a Regional Integrated Pest Management Programme for the West Indian Fruit Fly**, March 21-23, 2005. Participants included representatives from FAO, CARDI, USDA, Barbados, Trinidad & Tobago and all IICA Member States in the ECS, except Grenada.

The workshop included an overview of the biology, ecology and distribution of *Tephritid* Fruit Flies in the Caribbean and the development of an Integrated Pest Management Programme for Fruit Flies. The strategy discussed included eradication, control, including biological control, and the use of the **Pest Free Area** concept.

The highlight of the workshop was a field trip to Layou, Cumberland/Spring Village along the Western Coast of St. Vincent to observe the implementation, with practical demonstrations, of the Fruit Fly Eradication/Control Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries. IICA received high commendations for its contribution to the success of the control/eradication programme, not only in the provision of training, supplies and equipment but also on its annual monitoring and evaluation, with recommendations for improvement of the programme.

Mr. Ambrose was interviewed by the Communications/Information Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, in which he discussed IICA's involvement in the Fruit Fly Surveillance Programme in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

### 5.2.2 Capacity Building among Pest Control Operators

The IICA Office, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries and the Agricultural Input Warehouse (AIW), convened a training workshop for **Pest Control Operators** in St. Vincent and the Grenadines at the Anglican Pastoral Centre, Kingstown, May 4-5, 2005. The Workshop was held in response to the increasing concerns over the safety of workers, the health of consumers and the protection of the environment and had as its objective the enhancement of the technical capacity of persons engaged in the application of pesticides, whether at the managerial or operational level, as a prerequisite for entry into an advanced course of training for **Certification of Pest Control Operators**.

There were over 25 participants, and included representatives of private sector pest control operators, commodity associations, farmers organizations, produce exporters, input suppliers, farmers and technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries.

Participants were trained in areas of:

- Laws, Regulations and Ethics of Pesticide Application;
- Principles of Pest Identification and Control;
- Pesticide Classification and Formulation;
- Pesticide Labelling;
- Pesticide Poisoning and Emergency Prevention;
- Application Equipment;
- Worker and Consumer Safety;
- Environmental Protection;
- Handling, Storage and Disposal of Containers; and
- Record Keeping.

The workshop was facilitated by Everton Ambrose, Specialist in Plant Protection, IICA Office in St. Lucia, and was ably assisted by resource persons drawn from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries and the Ministry of Health and the Environment.

At the end of the workshop participants demonstrated that they were better equipped to function as pest control operators by successfully completing an evaluation exercise of knowledge gained during the workshop.



*Participants at the Workshop for Pest Control Operators, Kingstown, May 4-5, 2005*



*Mr. Philmore Isaacs, Chief Agricultural Officer (second from left) and Mrs. Pamela Browne, Permanent Secretary (third from left) presenting Certificates of Participation to Pest Control Operators, Kingstown, May 5, 2005*

As an indication of the importance the Ministry of Agriculture attached to the workshop, Mr. Philmore Isaacs, the Chief Agricultural Officer, and the Hon. Girlyn Miguel, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, delivered addresses at the official opening ceremony, and at the closure of the workshop, Mrs. Pamela Browne, Permanent Secretary, officiated at the presentation of **Certificates of Participation** to the beneficiaries.

### 5.2.3 Capacity Building in Agricultural Biotechnology and Biosafety

At the request of the Director of Technology and Innovation, the IICA Office facilitated the participation of Mr. Cornelius Richards, Senior Forest Supervisor, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries in the COP/MOP<sub>2</sub> Meeting in Montreal, Canada, May 28 – June 3, 2005. Mr. Richards's participation is expected to enhance St. Vincent and the Grenadines' capacity to comply with the requirements related to the implementation of the **Cartagena Protocol** on Biosafety.

## **5.3 Strengthening Rural Communities**

### 5.3.1 Support to the Institutional Strengthening of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Agricultural Forum for Youth (SVGAFY)

The IICA Office facilitated the participation of Messrs Kyrion Barker and Ruthvin Harper, Secretary and Public Relations Officer, respectively, of the SVGAFY at a training workshop on **Priority Setting, Organizational Development and Introduction to Project Development and Management** for members of the Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth (CAFY), St. Lucia, February 23-26, 2005.

Messrs Barker and Harper reported on improvement of their priority setting skills, enhanced organizational management skills and an increased understanding of the project development and management cycles.



*Members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Agricultural Forum for Youth (SVGAFY) at the **Workshop on Priority Setting and Programme Planning**, Argyle, April 22, 2005*

As a result of their enhanced capacity in these areas they convened and facilitated a one day workshop on Priority Setting and Programme Planning, April 22, 2005 at which other members of the Forum were exposed to these concepts and the Forum's 2005-2006 Work Plan was prepared.

IICA supported the Forum in convening the workshop and in securing sponsorship from the RADCICP Programme of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries to defray workshop expenses.

The IICA Office also facilitated the participation of Ms. Desserie Huggins, President of the Forum, at the workshop in **Leadership Development and Policy Integration for Youth in Agriculture** which was held in St. Kitts & Nevis during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture, October 2-7, 2005.

Ms. Huggins reported that the workshop was very inspirational and provided her with a better understanding of her leadership role as President of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Agricultural Forum for Youth.



### 5.3.2 Support to the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers (SVGNRWP)

The IICA Office facilitated the participation of Mrs. Norgie Tucker, President of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers (SVGNRWP) and Public Relations Officer of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP) at a CANROP Executive Board Meeting in Tobago, April 11-12, 2005. The meeting was convened to revise and fine tune the CANROP 2005 Action Plan with responsibilities assigned to the Regional Body and National Chapters.

At meetings of the Chapter, convened with the IICA's support on April 27, and August 11, 2005, Mrs. Tucker reported on activities being planned and executed by the Chapter based on the Annual Work Plan. These included:

- The opening of a bank account with a balance of US \$231.34 which represented the members' registration fees;
- The payment of US \$100.00 to CANROP as Membership Fees;
- The preparation and submission to the CANROP Secretariat of the CANROP Data Form which provides information on members, their products and contact information;
- Attendance at the meeting of the National Alliance;
- Display of products at World Food Day activities;



*Display of food products by members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers – World Food Day, Kingstown, October 14, 2005*

- Possible participation in Caribbean Week of Agriculture in St. Kitts and Nevis;
- Training of members of the Chapter in basic computer literacy which commenced on May 9, 2005;
- A field trip to projects being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on August 24, 2005;
- A fund raising “Local Food Sale” on September 30, 2005; and
- The production of Cauliflower and Broccoli for the domestic/tourism markets.

Mrs. Tucker expressed appreciation to IICA for its support to the Chapter in executing its work programme.

The IICA Office facilitated the signing of an Agreement between the CFNI on behalf of PAHO/WHO and Ms. Cecile Williams, President of the **Spring Village Agroprocessing Group** for the implementation of a broiler production project. The Office also delivered on behalf of CFNI a cheque in the amount of US \$4856.00 to Ms. Williams in the presence of the Chief Agricultural Officer and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries to implement the Project.



*Members of the SVGNRWP at the start of their field trip – Kingstown, August 24, 2005. Hon. Girlyn Miguel, Minister of Agriculture (far left) and Philmore Isaacs, Chief Agricultural Office ( far right)*



*Members of the SVGNRWP about to receive seedlings of cauliflower and broccoli propagated with the assistance of the Chinese Agricultural Technical Mission (CATM), Buccament, November 17, 2005*

At the suggestion of the IICA Coordinator, Mrs. Tucker and Ms. Williams are in discussion with the objective of the **Spring Village Agroprocessing Group** becoming affiliated with the SVGNRWP.

### 5.3.3 Support to Organic Farmers to produce and utilize organic fertilizers

The IICA Office, with the support of the Regional Rural Development Specialist, IICA Office in Barbados, facilitated the participation of Mr. Carlos Bynoe, Extension Officer and Ms. Jacqueline McClean, organic farmer, in a regional workshop on **Organic Fertilizer Production and Composting**, in Dominica, February 21-25, 2005. The workshop was facilitated by Professor Sun Zhenjun of the China University in Beijing.

In submitting the report on the workshop to the Chief Agricultural Officer, the Office's Coordinator suggested to him that he may wish to engage in dialogue with the **Solid Waste Management Unit** in the production of organic fertilizer at the Unit's Landfill at Diamond.

The Chief Agricultural Officer has indicated that Mr. Bynoe will shortly be assigned full time in support of organic farming.

Ms. McClean has reported success in a pilot vermicomposting project. She plans to expand during the tourist season when there is increased demand for her products.

### 5.3.4 Nomination of Vincentian Nationals for IICA's prestigious Inter-American Award in Agriculture and Rural Life

The IICA Office continued the process begun in late 2004 for the nomination of deserving Vincentians for the 2003/2005 IICA Awards in the Rural Sector.

From the nominations received, the National Selection Committee nominated Mr. Kyron Barker and Mrs. Nelcia Robinson for the **Caribbean Agricultural Medal** and the **Caribbean Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development**, respectively.



Mrs. Robinson won the award for the **Participation of Women in Rural Development** and was presented with a trophy at an Awards Ceremony during Caribbean Week of Agriculture in St. Kitts, October 6, 2005.

*Mrs. Nelcia Robinson, Coordinator, Caribbean Association for Feminist Research Action (CAFRA) – Trinidad, being congratulated by Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney, IICA's Director of Operations - Caribbean Region, on her receipt of the **Caribbean Award for the Participation of Women in Rural Development**, St. Kitts, October 6, 2005*

Mrs. Robinson was nominated by the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers.

#### 5.3.5 Assessment of the Small Ruminant Industry in St. Vincent and the Grenadines

At the request of Dr. Vincent Little, Regional Project Specialist, the IICA Office provided information on the Small Ruminant Industry in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The Office also provided coordination and logistic support when he visited, April 11-14, 2005, to conduct field investigation and collect additional information for the development of a sub-regional (ECS) Small Ruminant Project.

### 5.3.6 Contribution to discussions in repositioning Agriculture in the Windward Islands

The Office's Coordinator participated in a workshop under the theme: **The Windward Islands: Wither the Rural Sector and Wither the Support** between the Windward Islands rural policy makers/authorities and the EU/DFID, regarding key strategies required to achieve successful adjustments in the rural sector in response to changing world trade arrangements. The workshop was held in Barbados, June 14-15, 2005.

The most significant output of the meeting was the general consensus that the OECS Secretariat's Agricultural Strategy document contained the major elements for repositioning agriculture in the subregion and that the EU will engage the OECS Secretariat and National Governments in dialogue with a view to operationalize the strategy, subject to its approval by OECS Ministers of Agriculture.

### 5.3.7 Commitment of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines in Support of Agro-Tourism Linkage Project

At the request of the IICA Representative in Barbados, the Office solicited and received the support of the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines to the OAS Funded Regional Project entitled "**Strengthening of the tourism sector through the development of linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean**". The Ministers of Agriculture and of Tourism signed letters of commitment to the Project which were forwarded to the IICA Representative in Barbados.

Though St. Vincent and the Grenadines was not included among the seven Caribbean Countries to benefit during the first year of implementation of the Project, IICA facilitated the participation of Mr. Ruthvin Harper, Agricultural

Assistant, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries and Ms. Racquel Hamlet, Planning Officer, Ministry of Tourism & Culture in a three-day Agro-Tourism Workshop entitled **Agriculture and Tourism: Partners in Development**, during Caribbean Week of Agriculture in St. Kitts, October 3-5, 2005.

The workshop, which was co-sponsored and co-organized by the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) brought together partners of the agriculture and tourism sectors to share and exchange successes, experiences and lessons learned in the creation of agro-tourism products and services, identifying investment opportunities and propose strategies and policies to support these opportunities.

Mr. Harper and Ms. Hamlet have been identified by their respective Ministries to play leadership roles in the national thrust to develop agro-tourism linkages.

#### **5.4 Hemispheric Integration**

##### **5.4.1 Support to the Ministerial Process in Agricultural and Rural Life within the Context of the Summits of the Americas Process**

The IICA Office assisted Mr. Philmore Isaacs, St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Ministerial Delegate in the Summits of the Americas Process, in reporting the actions taken by St. Vincent and the Grenadines during the first phase (2003-2005) of the implementation process of the 2003-2015 Hemispheric Agenda. The Office also assisted the Ministerial Delegate in completing a matrix identifying the major challenges in the implementation of the Agro 2003-2015 Plan in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Both reports were forwarded to Dr. P. Lizardo de Las Casas, Director, Office for Follow-up of Summit Process at IICA Headquarters, on behalf of the Ministerial Delegate.

The Office also facilitated the participation of the Hon. Girlyn Miguel and Mr. Philmore Isaacs, Minister and Chief Agricultural Officer and Ministerial Delegate, respectively, of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, in the Third Ministerial Meeting and Thirteenth Meeting of the IABA held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, August 29 – September 2, 2005.

#### 5.4.2 Support to the Implementation of the Jagdeo Initiative

The Office's Coordinator, with the support of the CARDI Country Representative, assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries in reporting on St. Vincent and the Grenadines' progress in the implementation of the Jagdeo Initiative.

#### 5.4.3 Meeting of the National Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu

The IICA Office convened a meeting of the National Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu (the National Alliance) at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries on April 20, 2005. Members present included representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, CABA (SVG) Inc., the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Agricultural Forum for Youth (SVGAFY), the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers (SVGNRWP), the St. Vincent Technical College, Commodity and Farmers Organizations and farmers.

Discussions centered on follow-up to issues raised in 2004 e.g. progress on the establishment of a Soil Testing Laboratory at Campden Park; the contribution of the newly established hatchery toward self sufficiency in broiler production; the preparation of a business plan for the establishment of a Poultry Processing Plant; the soon to be commissioned Coconut Water Bottling and Cassava Processing Plants, the public/private sector partnership in the coconut water

bottling plant and negotiations underway for similar public/private sector partnership for the management of a “value added” facility for root crops and vegetables; the nomination of candidates for the Inter-American Awards in the Rural Sector and Caribbean Week of Agriculture, scheduled for St. Kitts and Nevis in October.



*IICA Coordinator, G. Daniel (sixth from left) presenting the 2004 Annual Report: **The Contribution of IICA to the development of Agriculture and Rural Communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines** to members of the National Alliance, Kingstown, April 20, 2005*

The IICA Coordinator used the opportunity of the Alliance meeting and made a PowerPoint presentation of the 2004 Annual Report: **The Contribution of IICA to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.**

The report was well received and evoked some discussions, particularly on environmental management. Participants voiced environmental concerns such as the hazards caused by the burning of discarded tyres and used diathene and the high usage of pesticides. They recommended the adoption of organic farming with the inclusion of livestock and the inculcation of environmental awareness at the level of the schools.

IICA was complimented, not only for its contribution to agriculture and rural development, with limited resources, but also on its policy of reporting on its activities to the major stakeholders in the community of agriculture and rural life.



5.4.4 Support to the Caribbean Agribusiness Association – St. Vincent and the Grenadines Chapter, Incorporated (CABA [SVG] Inc.)

The IICA Office convened and hosted several meetings of the Executive of CABA (SVG) Inc. The highlights of the meetings were discussions and implementation of:

- The participation of the President in the Meetings of CABA in Jamaica (January 12 and March 10). Congratulations on his election as Vice President of the Regional CABA at the meeting of March 10;
- The payment of membership dues to CABA;
- The Signing of a letter committing the Chapter to be the sub-executing agency for the CABA/MIF Project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
- The convening of a three-day Strategic Planning Workshop which was facilitated by Dr. Vincent Little, Regional Project Specialist, IICA Office in St. Lucia; and
- Participation of members of the Chapter in two investment seminars convened by the Chamber of Industry & Commerce, the Taiwanese Mission and the National Investment Promotions Inc. The seminars were held on February 15 and April 8. Investment opportunities of special interest to the Agribusiness Sector included the production and processing of Jujube, dasheen dasheen, tomato, and orchids, the production of biodegradable cups and lunch boxes, import/export business, tuna exports and light industries.



*Dr. Vincent Little (standing) with members of CABA (SVG) at the Strategic Planning Workshop, Kingstown, April 11-14, 2005*

#### 5.4.5 Visit of the Director General of IICA to St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director General of IICA, accompanied by Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney, Director of Operations, Caribbean Region and Ms. Una May Gordon, IICA Representative in the ECS, visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines, July 15-16, 2005 in fulfillment of his commitment to visit the member states of IICA during his current administration.

The Director General and his team held brief discussions with the Ministers of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries and of Foreign Affairs, Commerce & Trade and the Prime Minister, visited the new insectory at Campden Park, was Guest of Honor at lunch hosted by the Minister of Agriculture and enjoyed a scenic drive through Dauphne/Marriaqua/Argyle/Prospect in the interior and Eastern coastline of St. Vincent.



*The Hon. Girlyn Miguel, Minister of Agriculture (right), in discussion with Dr. Chelston W. D. Brathwaite, Director General of IICA, and his team (Dr. Chesney on his left, Ms. Gordon on his right). The Chief Agricultural Officer and Permanent Secretary are in foreground.  
Kingstown, July 15, 2005*

The highlight of the visit was a joint press conference convened by the Minister of Agriculture at the Conference Room of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries.

In his presentation, the Director General first apologized to the media for the late start to the press conference and went on to emphasize the importance of the agricultural sector to social and economic development, its contribution to nutrition, food security and the independence of a sovereign country, referring to the sector as the “bedrock of the society”. The Director General reiterated the commitment of the Institute to the modernization of the sector with emphasis on

diversification, value addition, standards and linkages to other sectors of the economy, particularly the tourism and hospitality sectors. He informed the media that IICA's support to St. Vincent and the Grenadines goes beyond the local personnel stationed here, but encompasses the expertise available in all 34 member states of the Institute.

#### **5.4.6 Horizontal Technical Cooperation**

The IICA Office in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in collaboration with the IICA Office in Dominica, facilitated and provided coordination and logistic support to a Mission from the Produce Division of National Properties Ltd. and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries to Dominica, November 21-23, 2005. The purpose of the Mission was to get an understanding of the structure and function of DEXIA and to observe agronomy, particularly the postharvest handling and packaging of dasheen and hot pepper.

### **5.5 Developing Human Capital**

#### **5.5.1 Training of Rural Women Producers in Basic Computer Literacy**

The IICA Office submitted a Project Proposal to, and received support from, the Rural Agricultural Development, Coordination and Irrigation Consolidation Programme (RADCICP) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries for the training of thirty (30) members of the SVGNRWP in Basic Computer Literacy.

The Office identified the Computer Training Service Provider and negotiated the terms of engagement on behalf of the RADCICP Programme.



*Members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers receiving computer training, Kingstown*

The training course was of thirty-two (32) hours duration over eight (8) weeks. The women were divided into two groups of fifteen (15), one group attended classes on Mondays and Wednesdays while the other attended on Tuesdays and Thursday, both groups from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon each day. The course began on May 9, 2005 and ended on June 30, 2005.

Twenty-six of the women, ranging in ages from their late thirties to early fifties, enthusiastically grasped the opportunity to become computer literate, many of whom are now communicating with their children and other relatives by e-mail.

#### 5.5.2 Selection of a candidate for tertiary level training

The Office assisted the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in interviewing and ranking candidates for selection to the Simon Bolivar United World College of Agriculture Scholarship for the Diploma in Farm Administration – Venezuela, September 2005.

The Venezuelan Ambassador submitted the rankings resulting from the interviews to the Simon Bolivar United World College for final selection. The successful candidate, Mr. Garnet Jeffers, is now studying in Venezuela.

### 5.5.3 Shared Experience in Agribusiness Development

#### 5.5.3.1 CRISP End of Project Event

The IICA Office facilitated the participation of Ms. Inetta Arthur at a **CRISP End of Project Event** in Barbados, March 17-18, 2005. Ms. Arthur is a member of the SVGAFY and a beneficiary of a training workshop on Agribusiness Management sponsored by CRISP in July 2004.

Ms. Arthur was able to share experiences with other OECS alumni of the Training Programme in terms of the utilization of the knowledge and skills gained and the impact of the training in the management of the broiler production enterprise in which she was engaged.

#### 5.5.3.2 Support to the IICA/UWI Agribusiness Internship

At the request of the IICA Representative in the ECS, former Regional Specialist in Agribusiness Development, the IICA Office facilitated the internship of Ms. Nisha Glasgow, a Vincentian second-year student in Agribusiness Management at the UWI. Ms. Glasgow's internship was with the National Properties Ltd., a state owned company with responsibility for marketing agricultural produce. As part of her internship Ms. Glasgow also assisted the CABA (SVG) Inc. in the preparation of its Strategic Plan.

Both the Management of National Properties Ltd. and Ms. Glasgow reported that the internship was mutually beneficial.

## 5.6 Environmental Management

### 5.6.1. Support to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries to resuscitate the beekeeping industry



*Tomas Mozer (centre) inspecting hives with beekeeper, Morris Nicholson (right), Bequia, February 21, 2005*

As follow-up to this activity which was initiated in 2004, the IICA Office provided coordination and logistic support to Mr. Tomas Mozer, Consultant/Volunteer who visited St. Vincent and the Grenadines, February 20-26, 2005, through the auspices of FAVA/CA, to provide technical assistance to the beekeeping industry in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

During his visit, Mr. Mozer surveyed apiaries in Bequia and on mainland St. Vincent and confirmed the presence of the *Varoa Spp* in most colonies examined and to which is attributed the decline in the bee population, not only in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, but throughout the region.

Mr. Mozer demonstrated a professional knowledge of the dynamics of the bee population and interacted well with beekeepers and the officials in the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries. The Office's Coordinator, in submitting Mr. Mozer's report of his findings and recommendations to the Chief Agricultural Officer, advised him to consider the implementation of Mr. Mozer's recommendations for the revitalization of the beekeeping industry, in particular, **support to the inspection/extension services and the retraining of beekeepers in integrated pest/disease management.**

The Ministry has intensified its extension services to beekeepers and there is evidence of stabilization of the bee population.

FAVA/CA has responded positively to another request from the IICA Office, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, for Mr. Mozer to return to St. Vincent and the Grenadines early in 2006 to conduct further surveys/monitoring of apiaries and a training workshop for beekeepers in **integrated pest/disease management**.



*Mr. Mozer (right) met with the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Girlyn Miguel (centre), and the Chief Agricultural Officer, Mr. Philmore Isaacs) at the debriefing session, Kingstown, February 25, 2005*

## **5.7 Institutional Modernization**

### **5.7.1. Support to the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Committee**

The IICA Office assisted the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in convening a meeting of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Committee on June 13, 2005 and a workshop on November 9-10, 2005.

At the meeting of June 13, members were informed that the **Plant Protection Act of 2005** was passed in Parliament and gazetted, while the draft **Pesticide Act** and draft **Food Safety Act** were still at the Attorney General's Office. The Chairman reported on his participation in the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the SPS Committee of the WTO and members discussed and reached agreement on St. Vincent and the Grenadines' challenge, at the next meeting, of the European Union's EurepGap Certification requirements. Participants also discussed the

requirements for exporting and importing countries for the treatment of wood packaging materials, the participation of the Committee in the CFNI's **Food Safety Awareness Campaign** and the need for increased vigilance of the quarantine services in the inspection of imported agricultural products.

The meeting of November 9-10, took the form of a workshop at which Everton Ambrose, Specialist in Plant Protection, IICA, St. Lucia, facilitated the self-assessment of the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Services in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The sixteen (16) participants representing the major stakeholders in the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Services assessed the services provided, from the perspective of the four components of **Human Resources and Capital, Inter-action with the Private Sector, Access to Markets and Technical Capability**.

The assessment will be used to identify areas of weaknesses in meeting regulatory requirements and the services provided, and as a bench mark against which future assessments will measure improvements in the efficacy of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Services in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.



*Participants at workshop to assess the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Services of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Kingstown, November 9-10, 2005*



## 6.0 INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

### 6.1 *United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)*

The IICA Office collaborated with the USDA in facilitating the participation of the Chief Agricultural Officer, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, and the Trade Officer II, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade at the 32<sup>nd</sup> and 33<sup>rd</sup> Meetings of the SPS Committee of the WTO in Geneva. IICA also collaborated with the USDA in hosting a **Regional Workshop on WTO Notification Dissemination Software** in Trinidad and Tobago at which two senior personnel from the National SPS Enquiry Point and the National Notification Authority in St. Vincent and the Grenadines attended.

### 6.2 *Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA)*

IICA collaborated with the CTA in hosting two workshops on **Priority Setting, Organizational Development and Introduction to Project Development and Management** and **Leadership Development and Policy Integration for Youth in Agriculture**, in St. Lucia, February 23-26 and St. Kitts and Nevis, October 2-7, respectively, at which three members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Agricultural Forum for Youth participated.

### 6.3 *Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA)*

The IICA Office collaborated with CABA in facilitating the participation of the President of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (St. Vincent and the Grenadines) Chapter, Inc. {CABA (SVG) Inc} in meetings of CABA in Jamaica, January 12 and March 10, 2005 and the Agreement of the Chapter to be the Sub-Executing Agency for the implementation of the CABA/MIF Project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

#### 6.4 *University of the West Indies (UWI)*

The Office collaborated with the Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension Services of the UWI in placing a second year student in Agribusiness Management as an intern with a State-owned agricultural marketing company.

#### 6.5 *Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)*

The IICA Office collaborated with the FAO and CDB in facilitating the participation of two Vincentians in a regional workshop on **Organic Fertilizer Production and Composting** in Dominica, February 21-25, 2005.

#### 6.6 *Florida Association of Volunteer Agencies/Caribbean (FAVA/CA)*

The IICA Office collaborated with FAVA/CA in making available to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries a consultant/volunteer to provide technical assistance to the beekeeping industry in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

## **7.0 SUPPORT PROVIDED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES**

The Office's Coordinator participated in meetings of the **National Coordinating Committee for Agricultural Research and Development (NCCARD)** at which agreement was reached on the priority agricultural research and development activities for 2005 and 2006. These activities are to be undertaken, mainly by CARDI and the Ministry of Agriculture, through specific committees focusing on vegetables, fruits, hot pepper and root crops.

The Office assisted the Ministerial Delegate in the Summits of the Americas Process in reporting on the actions taken by St. Vincent and the Grenadines and identification of the major challenges in the implementation of the AGRO 2003-2015 Action Plan. Similar assistance, with the support of CARDI, was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture in reporting on St. Vincent and the Grenadines' progress in the implementation of the **Jagdeo Initiative**.

## **8.0 FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION**

The implementation of the Government's agricultural diversification programme, through the Agricultural Diversification Implementation Unit, with funding from the European Union, provides an excellent opportunity for the Institute to support the Government's efforts, particularly with regard to agro-tourism linkages, agri-entrepreneurial development, food security and poverty alleviation.

The institutional strengthening of the constituent members of the **National Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture and the Rural Milieu**, namely, the local chapter of CABA, CANROP and CAFY could provide the medium through which the members could participate meaningfully in strengthening rural communities, developing human capital and institutional modernization.

We will continue to collaborate with National Properties Ltd, a state-owned company with responsibility for marketing agricultural produce, in our effort to contribute to the creation of employment, foreign exchange earnings and increasing rural prosperity.

## APPENDIX 1

### FIVE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE IICA OFFICE IN ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES IN 2005

Official Name of the Event	Date Held	Site of the Event	No. of Participants
1. Meeting of the National Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu	April 20, 2005	Conference Room of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, Richmond Hill	14
2. Training Workshop for Pest Control Operators	May 4-5, 2005	Anglican Pastoral Centre Kingstown	25
3. Training in Basic Computer Literacy (Rural Women Producers)	May 9 – June 30, 2005	COMPUTEC Computer Lab Kingstown	30
4. Technical Assistance to the beekeeping industry (survey of apiaries)	February 20 – 26, 2005	St. Vincent Mainland and Bequia	15
5. National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Services Assessment Workshop	November 9-10, 2005	Conference Room of the Fisheries Division Kingstown	16