

Significant achievements 2018



Dominica

- Support was provided to eight producer groups to boost food security and re-establish income flows, through the adoption of Climate Smart approaches in the rehabilitation of farming and agribusinesses in Dominica, in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. The key interventions were achieved under a technical cooperation action entitled “Agricultural Sector Rehabilitation Initiatives for Rural Communities of Dominica”, which included the transfer and demonstration of resilient technologies, as well as the strengthening of the technical capacities of thirty persons (mainly producers) in the area of entrepreneurial resilience. IICA organized a workshop under the theme “Entrepreneurial Resilience with Emphasis on Composting, Rain Water Harvesting, Enterprise Development”.
- The technical capabilities of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries (MOAFF) to lead efforts to develop a more competitive coffee industry were enhanced through study tours to two coffee-growing countries in the Region. Two technicians from the MOAFF participated in a five-day visit to Costa Rica and one technician visited Jamaica for three days, to understudy the operations of coffee supply chains. This afforded them the opportunity to interact with chain actors and support agencies, and to observe the operations of the chain components first-hand. Subsequently, national consultations were held with other technicians, producers and private sector investors in the country to share the experiences gained from the tours. Additionally, a three-year work plan for the development of the coffee industry was formulated and a national consultation was held with critical stakeholders to discuss the draft plan. The fifteen participants in the consultation represented exporters, processors, farmers, technicians, a marketing agency, and CARDI.
- In support of innovation and extension for sustainable production and food security in family farming, the Institute collaborated with UWI in introducing vermicomposting technology and vermiculture, as an alternative approach for the production of compost materials and as an alternative income-generating activity for family farmers in Dominica. This assistance included strengthening the capacity of four technicians and extension officers from the Divisions of Agriculture, as well as twenty-two farmers and members of organic farming groups. Participants were instructed in capturing techniques, the safe handling of worms, the setting-up of traps and morphological characterisation and identification of the various worm species. They also learned about basic materials and conditions required for trapping earthworms, the



setting-up of vermicomposting units, and the basic features of two vermicomposting earthworm species existing in Dominica.

- The MOAFF requested that IICA be a partner of choice in building resilience in agriculture, by making Dominica the home for resilience in the subregion. The suggested approach involves the establishment of an Agricultural Global Resilience Centre that will demonstrate best practices to farmers and technicians in the region; guide validation and research; and support the transfer of technology to enhance resiliency. In response to Dominica’s request, IICA organized a breakfast meeting with the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries and the OECS Secretariat during Caribbean Week of Agriculture. The event sought to sensitise and inform OECS Ministers, key development partners and other important

stakeholders in the Caribbean about Dominica's intention to establish a Global Centre for Agriculture Resilience among Small Island Developing States (SIDS). As part of this activity, IICA prepared a Concept Note in support of Dominica's proposal, which will serve as a major response to build greater resilience in the agriculture sector. The meeting was a success, with key agencies, donors, the OECS and CARICOM Ministers expressing immediate support.

- A collaborative effort between IICA and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) entitled "Building Capacity of Producer Groups" was aimed at building capacity in strategic planning. The programme sought to build the governance capacity of producer groups, allowing them to better position themselves, be more resilient, support their membership, secure funding, and to capitalise on market opportunities. Areas for strengthening identified by the producer groups were strategic planning, governance, and the forging of external relations. Subsequent to the passage of Hurricane Maria, there has been a growing need for groups to communicate with stakeholders, in order to access grant funding and to share information. Two workshops were held in Dominica in support of this programme, and participants were exposed to various tools for use in assessing the current external and internal environment of organisations, as well as the value of communications, communications etiquette, identity building and image management, social media strategy, media relations, and the practical use of promotional tools.
- In support of the implementation of the national farm certification programme, IICA worked closely with the Dominica Bureau of Standards to strengthen the capacities of twenty prospective GAP farm assurers in the area of HACCP concepts and principles. Cooperation was done by way of training workshops - one fully sponsored by IICA and the other co-funded under the PROPEL Project. The programme was part of efforts to implement the Fresh Produce Quality Control Act 2009 that mandates that the Bureau monitor the quality and safety of fresh produce exports. A key requisite is the certification of farms and facilities from which the produce originates.
- Support was provided to the Dominica National Council of Women through the facilitation of a one-day workshop on financial accountability and management, targeting

a group of female vegetable farmers in Morne Prosper. Twenty-two members were taught about the importance of financial accountability, income statements, balance sheets and ethical considerations. Producer groups were exposed to assessment tools and issues such as visioning, objective setting, operations, implementation and budgeting.

- Thirty-six farmers - 24 women and 12 men – gained a greater understanding of group dynamics and governance through a collaborative effort with UNDP, under the GEF-funded project - "Supporting Sustainable Ecosystems by Strengthening the Effectiveness of Dominica's Protected Areas System". The Morne Trois Piton National Park (MTPNP), which was established in 1975 and designated a World Heritage Site in 1997, was the focus area for this project. Farming and other livelihood activities taking place near its borders are of primary interest. Ongoing challenges to the management of these protected areas in Dominica include unsustainable harvesting of wood resources, hunting, the spread of invasive species, unsustainable land use practices in buffer zones, and increased soil erosion and pesticide use. The topics were presented in a two-day workshop at which IICA's Technical Specialist served as a co-facilitator.
- Over fifty-three persons from both the public and private sectors gained a better understanding of the use of Vetiver technology. This was the result of a partnership that IICA forged with Vetiver TT Ecological Engineering Solutions Ltd., which led to a one-day training workshop on promoting vetiver technology in soil and water management, alternative uses of vetiver, quarry rehabilitation with vetiver and diversion of organic waste streams. Additional technical guidance was provided to the Division of Agriculture on land stabilization demonstration sites.
- Thirty-two exporters, technical service providers, and producers have become more informed about EU trading opportunities for the regional agrifood sector through the EPA. IICA collaborated with the Dominica Export Import Agency (DEXIA) and the Dominica Manufacturers' Association to host a National Consultation to strengthen awareness on the Economic Partnership Agreement, specifically looking at opportunities within the EU, a proposal for the removal of tariff barriers, strategies to improve transportation and logistics, and also affording the private sector an opportunity to present its perspective.

