

# Significant achievements 2018



## Saint Kitts and Nevis

- The West Indian fruit fly poses a major threat to agriculture in St. Kitts and Nevis and is a concern to the Federation. The larvae of the fly damage fruits and some vegetable species, making them unfit for human consumption and trade. This in turn has a negative impact on farm incomes and on the national economy. The Institute provided technical cooperation by way of a regional entomologist, who provided training on how to detect, identify and manage the fruit fly, informing participants about host range, rearing of adult flies, basic trapping methods and on how to identify fruit flies of economic importance.
- IICA intensified its efforts to assist the Department of Agriculture to increase the utilization of mangoes. Previously, the pulp extraction process was manual, which was time-consuming and very unproductive. However, IICA introduced a mechanical pulper, which is more efficient, productive and labor-saving - producing 75 pounds of pulp in five minutes. In addition, six members from two cooperatives and two staff members from the agro-processing facility have now been fully trained in operating the pulper. IICA was instrumental in ensuring that the product is now properly packaged, labelled, and is now sold locally, primarily. Trial shipments were made to Anguilla and St. Maarten.
- The Institute, in collaboration with the Small Enterprise Development Unit (SEDU) provided support for a 10-day Essential Oil Workshop for young entrepreneurs. The purpose of the workshop was to build the participants' capacity in the extraction of essential oils and hydrosols from local plants and in the creation of soothing and therapeutic products, including hair and body oils, scrubs, balms, soaps, lotions and creams. IICA sourced the facilitator for the workshop, providing packaging and labeling material for the products, and conducted sessions on product marketing, costing and pricing. The Institute also assisted with other logistical arrangements.
- In order to bolster efforts to quickly rehabilitate the agriculture sector following the devastating hurricanes of 2017, IICA provided over EC\$100,000. This fund was used mainly to repair 16 greenhouses and to supply seedlings, fertilizer, poultry rations, and beehives. One of the major initiatives sought to build resilience in the farming system, through the construction of an aquaponics system, which combines



aquaculture and hydroponics to grow fish and plants in an integrated system. The plants are grown in PVC spouts, which can be removed and secured, in the event of a hurricane. This “closed loop” system increases water efficiency. Garden Pool in the USA and FAO assisted IICA in the construction of the aquaponics system.

- Food security concerns surrounding the abandonment of traditional food sources by locals in favor of imported, processed food; nutrition-related challenges; and the escalating annual food bill, prompted SEDU, in collaboration with IICA, to host a workshop on canning and preserving food for home use and for profit. IICA sourced the facilitator and provided labels, packaging and logistical support for the

workshop. Participants were able to learn about the health benefits of food preservation and to get hands-on knowledge about the preparation of various marketable products. Ten entrepreneurs have started small businesses as a result of this training.

- IICA continued to propagate the increased adoption of greenhouse technology in the general farming population, as well as among students in secondary and primary schools. Twenty farmers participated in a workshop on crop fertilization and seven high schools and four primary schools became more involved in employing greenhouse technology. The produce is now being used in the government's school feeding program, as part of a policy

to address the increasing rate of non-communicable diseases (NCD).

- The hurricanes of 2017 virtually decimated the hives of the Beekeepers Cooperative on both islands, causing a considerable drop in the production of honey. Consequently, IICA held a two-day workshop that trained beekeepers to make perone hives. Twenty-eight hives were constructed and distributed to the participants. Furthermore, two workshops were held on building capacity in the governance of the Beekeepers Cooperative. Topics discussed were financial management, the role and responsibility of individual board members, meeting procedures, and preparation of minutes. Fifteen beekeepers participated in the training.

