



# St. Vincent and the Grenadines

2019  
Annual Report

## Significant Achievements

- IICA strengthened the institutional capacity of the Bureau of Standards (SVGBS), the Ministry of Agriculture and other sector stakeholders to develop and operate a food certification system, by providing training and capacity building interventions. This was achieved through a multi-country project (SVG, St. Lucia and Dominica), which prepared an action plan for short- to medium-term interventions and delivered training in Good Agricultural Practices, while offering technical support to the technical advisory committee that has been established to lead the country's efforts in this regard.
- The Institute also developed a Rapid Response Action (RRA) to provide technical support in this area. Under the RRA, technicians from public and private sector organisations received capacity building training in HACCP, to assist in the development of quality assurance and audit requirements of their organisations. IICA, the SVGBS and the Ministry of Agriculture also hosted three technical sensitization forums for farmers and other stakeholders, to inform them about the proposed food certification system and to discuss the implications for their agricultural enterprises, particularly, with regards to Good Agricultural Practices.
- IICA implemented a producer group development programme, based on a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with FAO, which strengthened the capacity of stakeholders in farmer organisations, placing them in a better position to participate in commercial activities in the food supply chain. The Institute offered training and a capacity building program for producers in three organisations, focusing on the areas of governance and leadership, agribusiness management, cooperativism and post-harvest management. A five-week pilot programme was also instituted, through which the groups were contracted to supply three primary schools with agricultural commodities for the School Feeding Programme, giving them commercial experience in conducting this type of activity.
- The beekeeping sector is now better equipped to undertake its apiary expansion drive in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, as a result of the establishment of a queen-rearing apiary that will supply queen bees to producers. IICA, under a LoA with FAO, and working in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, coordinated activities to establish the apiary at the Orange Hill Training Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture. The forty-hive facility is the only queen-rearing apiary in the country, with the aim of supplying these bees to beekeepers.
- Also under an LoA with FAO, and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of National Mobilization, Social Development, Family, Gender Affairs, Persons with Disabilities and Youth, IICA worked with



disadvantaged youth at the Liberty Lodge Boys Training Centre to provide training in seedling production for four young residents at the centre. Through this activity, a protected agricultural structure was rehabilitated, and the youth were given six weeks of hands-on training in the production of vegetable seedlings.

- Stakeholders in agrotourism identified four priority areas for policy intervention and development of the sector in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. This was the result of a two-day agrotourism policy-setting workshop, organised by IICA, under contract with the CTA, with the participation of the Ministries of Agriculture and of Tourism and the OECS. The

sixty public and private sector stakeholders were given the opportunity to share their views and to establish priorities for development of the sector.

- The capacity of twenty-one stakeholders from four public sector organisations to assess the climate resilience of communities was strengthened through a capacity building support intervention for technicians, involving training in the use of a new resilience assessment methodology. The four-day workshop was attended by representatives from the Ministries of Agriculture, Economic Planning and of National Mobilization, as well as from IICA and CARDI.