

# IICA



ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE  
OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL

MAY 3-5, 1989

IICA OFFICE IN GUYANA

**OFFICIAL VISIT OF DR. L. HARLAN DAVIS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL  
AND DR. REGINALD E. PIERRE, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (CARIBBEAN)**

**G U Y A N A  
MAY 3-5, 1989**

**I T I N E R A R Y**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 3**

**10:00 hrs** Arrival at Timehri International Airport  
To BIDCO House - Accommodation & Lunch

**14:30 hrs** To IICA Office for Preliminary Meeting with Staff

**15:30 hrs** Visit to CARICOM Secretariat:  
Courtesy Call on Mr. Byron Blake,  
Director of Industry & Economics

**19:30 hrs** Cocktail Reception at Georgetown Club

**THURSDAY, MAY 4**

**09:30 hrs** Visit to Ministry of Agriculture:  
Courtesy Call on Hon. Dr. Patrick L. McKenzie,  
Minister of Agriculture

**12:00 hrs** L U N C H

**15:00 hrs** Visit to Argentine Embassy:  
Courtesy Call on His Excellency  
Ricardo Pedro Quadri, Ambassador

**16:00 hrs** Meeting with IICA Staff

**19:30 hrs** Diplomatic Dinner and Reception

**FRIDAY, MAY 5**

**10:00 hrs** Visit to Ministry of Foreign Affairs:  
Courtesy Call on Hon. Rashleigh Jackson,  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

**11:00 hrs** Press Conference

**12:00 hrs** L U N C H

**14:00 hrs** Field Trip

**16:30 hrs** Departure to Trinidad & Tobago



**ISSUES PERTAINING TO THE OFFICIAL VISIT  
OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL**

**G U Y A N A**

**MAY 3-5, 1989**

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**COUNTRY PROFILE**



## COUNTRY PROFILE

### GEOGRAPHIC SITUATION

Guyana is situated on the north-east, of South America. It is bordered on the north-east by the Atlantic Ocean, on the east by Suriname, on the south-west by Brazil and on the north-west by Venezuela. Its total area is 83,000 square miles (210,000 sq. km.).

Guyana can be divided into four natural regions. First, is the low coastal plain which runs generally south-east/north-west for a distance of 270 miles and varies in width from 10 to 40 miles. It is divided into sections by four of the main rivers of Guyana: Berbice; Demerara; Essequibo and Pomeroon rivers: With only 5% of the land area, it contains 90% of the population and produces about 80% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It lies below high tide level and is therefore protected by expansive sea defences and covered by intricate systems of drainage and irrigation. The ocean front along the coast and the mouths of the rivers are subject to heavy silting which forbids access to vessels of more than 20-foot draught.

South of the coastal plain lies Guyana's second natural region - the sand and clay area. This area varies in width but extends up to 100 miles in places. The white sands support forest cover but are almost pure quartz. It is in this band of white sands which extends into Suriname that Guyana's most extensive deposits of bauxite are found.

The third natural region, the highland area is in the southern and western parts of the country. It is an area of forest-covered mountains. The mountain ranges include the Imataka in the northwest, the Kanuku and the Sierra Akarai in the south and the Pakaraimas in the western interior, their highest point being Mount Roraima, 9000 feet above sea level. The Kaieteur Falls, some 800 feet in height and considered to be the highest falls in the world, is found in this area.

The Rupununi Savannahs situated in the south-east of Guyana form the fourth natural region. The forested Kanuku Mountains divide the area into two: The North Savannahs (about 2,000 square miles) and the South Savannahs (2,500 square miles). Large-scale beef cattle ranching is located in this area.

Guyana has an elaborate network of fast-flowing rivers, broken by rapids and waterfalls which hinder navigation and

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development along the larger rivers of the interior areas. Most of these rivers which branch out into an abundance of creeks and tributaries have their sources in the mountain ranges and flow northerly and easterly across the country and into the Atlantic Ocean.

## CLIMATE

Guyana is situated in the tropical zone. The climate on the coast is healthy and uniform due to the sea breezes. The hottest season is usually from August to October, but extreme heat is rare. The usual temperature on the coast is between 75 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit (24 to 30 degrees Celsius). Humidity ranges from 75 to 95 percent throughout the year. Along the coast, the average rainfall ranges from 80 to 100 inches during two main wet seasons, April to August and November to January, whereas in the south-west Savannahs precipitation is sometimes as low as 60 inches mainly between April and September.

## HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

According to the Appendix to the Budget Speech, 1989, the population of Guyana in 1988 was 755,600. The annual growth rate between 1970 and 1980 was estimated at 1%, and in 1988 it was down to -0.01.

Guyana has a multiracial population which is a direct result of its immigrant history. The major races are of East Indian and African descent which together account for 88% of the population (Indo-Guyanese 53% and Afro-Guyanese 35%). The other population groups are: Amerindians, the indigenous inhabitants of Guyana who are largely concentrated in the interior regions of the country, especially in the Rupununi Savannahs and along the borders with Brazil and Venezuela (although there are new settlements nearer the coast); the Chinese, Portuguese and others of European descent who reside largely in the urban areas.

Guyana also has a small but growing mixed group which is the result of interracial marriages and mating.

The official language of Guyana is English, which is spoken by the entire population, and is taught in all schools and used in all daily economic and social activities.

However, a larger portion of the population speaks creolese, a derivative of English containing some indigenously coined words and phrases with a few foreign introductions. Creolese has a wide variety of rhythms and inflections which are peculiar to the specific parts of the country from which the various forms of the dialect originate.

Guyana has a high literacy rate, estimated at 91.6% in 1970. (UNESCO Statistical Yearbook, 1982).



The principal towns in Guyana are:

- (i) Georgetown: the capital city with an estimated population of 170,950 situated on the east bank of the Demerara River at its confluence with the Atlantic Ocean. Georgetown is also the principal port, commercial area and administrative centre of the country.

In Georgetown there are many fine buildings and churches which reflect the colonial history of the city. For instance, the chequer-board layout of the city, as well as the massive sea wall, are heritages of its Dutch colonial past, while the Public Buildings (where Parliament sits), the Supreme Court Buildings, the Stabroek Market (opened in 1881) and many private dwellings reflect the English influence.

Georgetown has had the reputation of being "The Garden City of the Caribbean" with its main streets lined with palms and flowering trees. It also houses St. George's Cathedral, the main church of the Anglican Diocese, which is reputed to be the tallest wooden building in the world.

- (ii) New Amsterdam: (formerly the capital of the Dutch colony of Berbice which now forms part of Guyana) until recently was the second most important trading centre in Guyana. This town is located on the east bank of the Berbice river about 114 km east of Georgetown with an estimated population of 20,000.

- (iii) Corriverton: (184 km east of Georgetown) - estimated population of 26,497 - is situated on the west bank of the Corentyne river which forms a border between Guyana and Suriname. Corriverton is a bustling township which has as its major economic activities, sugar and rice production, timber and trading. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that it is Guyana's only town which is dominated by a sugar estate.

- (iv) Linden: with an estimated population of 51,285, is Guyana's only industrial town and is situated approximately 108 km inland up the Demerara River in the sand and clay belt of the country. Bauxite mining is the principal activity of this area.



It is estimated that 32.5% of the total population of Guyana live in urban areas with the remaining coastal population distributed in numerous rural villages which span almost the entire north coast of the country. The sizes of the villages vary from as few as 200 to as many as 3,000 inhabitants.

A notable feature of the rural population of Guyana is that it is strongly concentrated in ethnically homogenous villages.

Houses both in the towns and villages are usually built of wood and erected on stilts, not only because historically wood has been easily available, but also because the coastal plain has been subjected to occasional flooding. This mode of construction is a traditional safeguard against flooding in times of excessively heavy rainfall.

The interior districts of the North West, Mazaruni-Potaro and Rupununi, cover an area of 112,000 sq. km with a population of over 34,190. Access to these areas is not very easy as there is no road network linking Georgetown with these hinterland regions. However, overland travel (by trail and river) is possible or alternatively, quick access is possible by air.

The North West District has a number of farming communities: Mazaruni-Potaro area has gold and diamond mining along with subsistence farming as the major economic activities, Rupununi Savannas are noted for cattle ranching.

Generally, the scenery in the interior is extremely pleasant with undulating hilly sections, rain-forested regions and cascading rapids and waterfalls on swift-flowing rivers.

## RELIGION

Guyana has three main religious faiths: Christian, Hindu and Muslim, which are all officially recognised, even though Guyana is a secular state. Places of worship for each of these faiths are widely available on the coast and in the hinterland townships.

Each of these religious faiths has festivals which are officially designated as public holidays and marked by special religious broadcasts.

The largest Christian groups are Anglican and Roman Catholic. Others are: Methodist, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Baptist, Assemblies of God, Pentecostal, Moravian, Bretheren, Christian Science, Seventh Day Adventist, Church of Christ and Jehovah's Witness.



## HISTORY, POLITICS AND ADMINISTRATION

Guyana - "Land of Many Waters", was given its name by its first inhabitants, the Amerindians, who arrived in this country in pre-historic times. Guyana has also been known as El Dorado, the site of the mythical City of Gold.

The coastland of what is now Guyana was first explored by the Spanish in 1499 and 1500. The Spanish attempted a settlement in 1530 but this was swiftly and permanently aborted as a result of Carib resistance. However, a Dutch settlement was established in 1581 on the Pomeroon and subsequently in 1621, Essequibo, the largest of Guyana's counties, was declared a Dutch Colony when the settlement was consolidated by the Dutch West Indian Company.

The Dutch success stimulated the interest of the English and French in colonizing this territory, and between 1621 and 1796 the Dutch retained their hold on the territory, specifically Berbice and Essequibo (although at times England and France managed to gain temporary possession). In 1796 the territory was captured by an English fleet sent from Barbados and was restored to the Dutch in 1802, but retaken by England in the following year.

Between 1831 and 1966, England developed the colony as a sugar producing country with a coastal plantation system in which various forms of labour were used. Since efforts to employ the indigenous inhabitants (Amerindians) proved unsuccessful, slaves from Africa and later indentured labour from Portugal, China and India were used. Little repatriation of indentured labourers led to their settlement in large numbers on the coastal plain around the sugar plantations, thus giving rise to the multiracial nature of the Guyanese population and also to the concentration of the population on the coastal plain.

The politics of Guyana are also heavily influenced by the historical factors already mentioned. In 1940 the first nationalist movement emerged under the joint leadership of Dr. Cheddi Jagan (presently leader of the Opposition), and the late Mr. Forbes Burnham (former Executive President).

The movement, however, suffered a serious setback in 1953, a few months after winning the general elections, with the suspension of the Constitution under which the legislative and electoral system functioned. This led to a split in the nationalist movement with the emergence of two separate groups - one led by Dr. Jagan and the other by the late Mr. Burnham. The two parties which have emerged from these factions have continued to dominate Guyanese politics.

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Guyana became an independent nation within the Commonwealth in 1966, and a Republic with a titular Head of State, a fifty-three (53) member Parliament, and cabinet led by a Prime Minister in 1970.

In 1980, a new Guyana Constitution was introduced which provides for an Executive Head of State, a sixty-five (65) member National Assembly (of which fifty-three are elected members) and an administrative structure which involves the following:

- at the executive level, four Vice-Presidents (of whom one is Prime Minister and the remaining three are Deputy Prime Ministers and other Ministers as appointed by the President)
- at the local government level ten Regional Democratic Councils, each headed by a Chairman with responsibility for overall management, administration and co-operation of activities within the ten regions into which Guyana has been sub-divided.

#### **INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS AND BILATERAL MISSION ACTIVITIES**

The Resident Representative of the UNDP co-ordinates the activities of the UN Participating and Executing Agencies in Guyana. The PAHO/WHO maintains a country mission through the presence of a Country Representative in Guyana. Other multi-lateral aid agencies such as the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), the European Economic Commission (EEC) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) also have representatives in Georgetown.

The Secretariat of the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM) which covers thirteen (13) English-speaking countries and territories of the Caribbean, including Guyana, is also located in Georgetown.

Bi-lateral technical assistance and other forms of aid to Guyana, apart from multi-lateral institutions, are provided by Brazil, Canada, India, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, all of which have diplomatic representations in Georgetown.

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**PROFILES OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**



**HIS EXCELLENCY HUGH DESMOND HOYTE  
PRESIDENT OF THE CO-OPERATIVE REPUBLIC OF GUYANA**

**Date of Birth:** March 9, 1929

**Place of Birth:** Georgetown, Guyana

**Education:** St. Barnabas Anglican School, Georgetown  
Progressive High School, Georgetown  
University of London  
Middle Temple, London

**Qualifications:** B.A., University of London  
Bachelor of Laws

**Career:**

**1948-57:** Teacher in Guyana and Caribbean

**1962:** Returned to Guyana. Opened Law practice.  
Appointed Secretary, Guyana Bar Association

**1964:** Appointed Member of Legal Practitioners' Committee

**1966-69:** Chairman of Customs Tariff Tribunal  
Chairman of Timber Grants Wages Council  
Appointed Vice-President, Guyana Bar Association

**1968:** Elected to Parliament under People's National Congress (PNC)  
Government. Beginning of political career.

**1968-70:** Minister of Home Affairs

**1971-72:** Minister of Finance

**1972-74:** Minister of Works and Communications

**1974-83:** Minister of Economic Development

**1983:** Appointed Vice-President with responsibility for Economic Planning  
and Finance

**1983-84:** Transferred to Ministry of Agriculture; re-designated Vice-President,  
Production

**1984:** Appointed Prime Minister and First Vice-President

**1985:** Assumed office as President on the death of the former President,  
L.F.S. Burnham



**HIS EXCELLENCY HAMILTON GREEN  
PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Date of Birth:** November 9, 1934

**Place of Birth:** Georgetown, Guyana

**Education:** Smith Memorial Congregational School, Georgetown  
St. Stanislaus College, Georgetown  
Queen's College, Georgetown

**Career:**

**1950:** Joined People's National Congress (PNC)

**1961:** Entered full-time politics

**1962-74:** General Secretary, People's National Congress

**1968:** Elected to Parliament

**1969-80:** Minister of Works, Hydraulics and Supply  
Minister of Public Affairs  
Minister of Co-operatives and National Mobilisation  
Minister of Health, Housing and Labour

**1980-83:** Vice-President, Public Welfare  
Vice-President, Production

**1983:** Appointed Vice-President, Social Infrastructure and First Deputy  
Prime Minister

**1985:** Appointed Prime Minister and First Vice-President





**HONOURABLE RASHLEIGH E. JACKSON  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Date of Birth:** January 12, 1929

**Place of Birth:** New Amsterdam, Berbice

**Education:** Central High School, Georgetown  
Queen's College, Georgetown  
University College of Leicester, United Kingdom  
University of Leicester, United Kingdom  
Columbia University, New York, USA  
Carnegie College of Diplomacy

**Qualifications:** B.A. (General), London  
B.A. (Hons.), London  
Post-Graduate Certificate in Education, Leicester  
Carnegie Fellow in Diplomacy

**Career:**

**1948:** Joined Guyana Public Service

**1957-64:** Master, Queen's College

**1965-69:** Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**1971:** Vice-Chairman to XXVI United Nations General Assembly Session

**1972:** Secretary-General to Preparatory Secretariat for Conference of Foreign Ministers of Non-Aligned Countries

**1973-78:** Permanent Representative of Guyana to the United Nations

**1974:** President of United Nations Council for Namibia

**1975-76:** Representative of Guyana on United Nations Security Council

**1978-** Appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs



**HONOURABLE DR. PATRICK M. LAURENCE McKENZIE  
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE**

**Date of Birth:** May 21, 1931

**Place of Birth:** Calcutta Village, Mahaicony, East Coast, Demerara

**Education:** University of Tuskegee, USA

**Qualification:** D.V.M.

**Career:**

**1965:** Graduated from Tuskegee University with departmental honours  
Returned to Guyana  
Joined Ministry of Agriculture as Veterinary Officer

**1972-76:** Deputy Director and Director of Livestock Project Division,  
Bank of Guyana

**1976:** Appointed Principal Agricultural Officer (Veterinary and Livestock  
Sciences), Ministry of Agriculture

**1981-83:** Deputy Chief Agricultural Officer

**1983-86:** Chief Agricultural Officer  
Retired from Public Service

**1986:** Awarded Golden Arrow of Achievement for service in Veterinary  
Medicine and Development of Livestock Industry  
Recalled to Public Service.

Appointed Senior Minister of Agriculture

**1988:** Appointed Minister of Agriculture



**TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME 1989**



## TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME 1989

The current IICA technical cooperation programme in Guyana, developed in consultation with the national authorities, takes cognisance of the Government's Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) and especially of the very critical role and importance of agriculture to the success of this Programme. In this context, there is agreement that the current focus of IICA's technical cooperation programme in the country is consistent with and supportive of Government's agricultural and rural development policies and priority programmes. The 1989 Operations Plan seeks therefore to reinforce and institutionalise current programmes and projects and to initiate action in at least one new priority area in rural development that has been under definition and concertation over the past year. The principal areas of technical cooperation for 1989 are briefly identified as follows:

- i) PROGRAMME: III  
Title: Supporting the Generation and Transfer of Technology for Fruit Tree Crop Production in Guyana

Follow up on what is essentially a second phase of the Fruit Crop Demonstration Propagation Unit Project initiated in 1986

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and completed in 1988. This second phase (1988-1992) has the objective of supporting Government's programme of agricultural diversification, specifically through the generation and transfer of appropriate technological packages for fruit tree crop production systems. The project was developed as a national component of a multinational project based in Barbados. However, following the Programming Meeting at Headquarters, it will now be reformulated and integrated into a broader multinational project involving Barbados/Guyana and the OECS Countries.

ii) PROGRAMME: III

Title: Supporting the Development of Integrated Livestock Systems in Guyana and Suriname (Improving Dairy Production Systems)

This is proposed as a second phase of the "Small Farmers Dairy Production Project" which terminated in 1988 after a period of

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five years. The new project will continue to expand and institutionalise the important achievements of the past five years but has been broadened to include aspects of dairy/meat production and integrated small livestock/crop/pasture production systems. It is proposed as a national component of a Guyana/Suriname multinational project.

iii) PROGRAMME: III

Title: Integrated Rural Community Development -  
St. Francis Mission

This is a new project officially started in April 1989, with the signing of the Government of Guyana/IICA Agreement and promises to be an area of major focus and importance over the next few years in keeping with the Government's increasing interest in this type of approach to agricultural and rural development. The project area, St. Francis Mission, is the first of possibly three rural areas already identified by the Ministry for

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this type of technical cooperation assistance. The project is to be financed largely from Government (PL 480) and Quota funds. External agency funding is under negotiation.

iv) PROGRAMME: V

Title: Strengthening the Veterinary Field Services for Epidemiology, Dairy Herd Health and Fertility

A project document was prepared in early 1987 and submitted to external agencies for possible financing (CIDA, IDB and EEC). There has been no positive response but the matter is being pursued. During the second half of 1988, a Short-Term Activity, Quota-funded, was initiated to be completed in March 1989, designed to assess the occurrence and spread of Bovine Tuberculosis in Guyana and to design a project for control.

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Quota funds have been provided (1989) for recruitment of an IPP (Animal Health) and it is proposed to reformulate the earlier project and to incorporate as a major component proposals emanating from the Short-Term Bovine Tuberculosis Activity.

A suitable candidate, Juan Leon of Chile, has already been identified for the IPP position and an offer has been made to him effective April 15, 1989. His response is pending.

v) PROGRAMME: I  
Title: Collaboration and Support of Planning and Management Agencies and Systems for Agricultural and Rural Development

A Short-Term Activity with the aim of collaborating and supporting the Ministry of Agriculture in the following actions:

- a) creation of an agricultural/rural management information system; and

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- b) supporting and collaborating with the national Agricultural Planning Unit and other national planning and management agencies to strengthen and improve planning and management capability.

#### Level of Collaboration and Cooperation

During the past year, the projects executed by the Guyana Office realised over 85 percent of programmed results and intermediate objectives. In fact, the Small Farmers Dairy Project terminated its final year of execution with a level of achievement of nearly 90 percent.

Contributing to this success has been the level of cooperation and support from the highest national authorities and the national counterparts. The continued enthusiasm and interest of the farming community also contributed in no small measure to the positive results achieved by the project.

This level of cooperation and collaboration is expected to continue throughout 1989 and Government's confidence and

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support have been demonstrated in no uncertain way by the assignment of substantial funds to the IICA Office in Guyana for the first time towards a major collaborative effort in support of the Guyana/IICA technical cooperation programme.

The IICA Office maintains an excellent relationship with all external agencies with offices in Georgetown, as well as the national and regional agencies engaged in agriculture, especially NARI, NDDP and CARDI.

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MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATIONCountry's Quota Payments

As of January 12, 1989, the following was the status of Guyana's quota payments:

<u>Prior_Years_1984</u>	<u>After_1984</u>	<u>Total</u>
US\$29,328.00	US\$107,448.00	US\$136,771.00

The above situation is the result of several years of outstanding payments due to the difficult foreign exchange circumstances experienced by the Government. With a view to finding a solution to the problem, an arrangement was worked out between the IICA Office in Guyana and the Government - approved by Head Office - whereby:

- The IICA Office advises the Ministry of Agriculture of its intention to make a foreign currency exchange of US\$X -, usually approximately US\$5,000 available monthly - to be deposited with the Guyana National Cooperative Bank.

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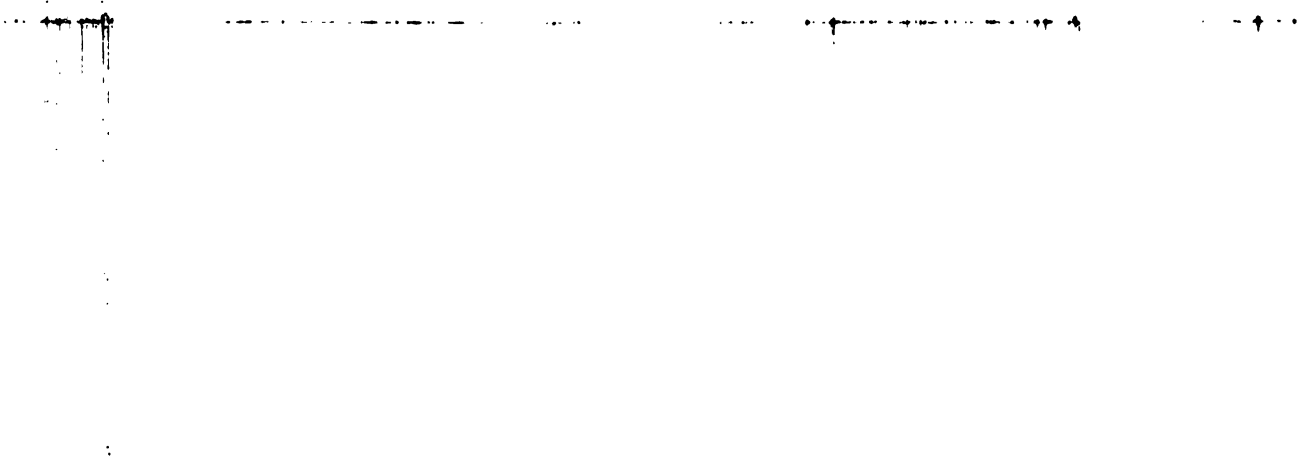
- The Ministry of Agriculture requests authorisation from the Bank of Guyana to purchase the foreign currency deposited by IICA. On the approval of the Central Bank, IICA receives the Guyana dollar equivalent; the Ministry receives the IICA US\$ deposit.
  
- The Ministry uses the US currency to purchase a US Bank Draft made out to IICA.

The mechanism works well except during periods when the IICA Office has a surplus of local currency. This has been the situation since the latter months of 1988, due in part to the sale of two vehicles. As it is not desirable to have an excessive amount of local currency the mechanism has been temporarily inoperative.

#### Executive Committee Meeting

In view of an increasing work load, especially following on the last national budget and the commitments consequent on the Government's new Economic Recovery Programme, Dr. McKenzie, as Minister of Agriculture, has indicated his intentions to have Mr. Parvatan, Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, assume direct responsibility for IICA matters.

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Consequently, Mr. Parvatan may be attending the Executive Committee Meeting to become more closely acquainted with the internal operations of the Institute.

#### Office Accommodation

The Office building is leased by IICA and the monthly rentals are paid by this Office. In view of the age of the building and general condition of disrepair, consideration has for some time now been given to seeking alternative accommodation. This however considers, *inter alia*, the following:

- the increasing scarcity of suitable accommodation in Georgetown (residential housing or office premises);
- rapidly increasing rental rates (suitable accommodation in Georgetown currently ranges from US\$1,200 - US\$1,500;
- Government's outstanding quota contribution.

In view of the above, a proposal was made to the Minister of Agriculture for the Government's purchase of the building and transfer to the Institute as partial (or total) payment

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of arrears. The Government has accepted this proposal, and the Minister of Agriculture has been requested to pursue the matter. However, a settlement (between Government and proprietor) has been very slow in view of the inability of the Central Bank to provide the necessary foreign exchange as required by the proprietor who resides outside the country.

In view of the progress which has already been made and the stage of the negotiations, we have been caught, so to speak, in a "hold position" of not wishing to pursue too hastily with alternative options and reluctant to undertake some essential repairs and improvements in view of an uncertain outcome.

In the meanwhile, the situation remains quite unsatisfactory and expects to become even more so over the next few months when two additional staff members will be recruited - one IPP (Animal Health Specialist) and one NP (National Integrated Rural Development Specialist). We may well be persuaded to reconsider other options - and the opportunity of a settlement on outstanding arrears.

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Recruitment of Animal Health Specialist (Vet.)

A suitable candidate has been identified and an offer of employment has been made to him effective from April 15, 1989. A response from him is awaited. He is Dr. Juan Leon, a Chilean.

Over the past year, the IICA Office has been collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture in the organisation of a field survey to determine the spread and incidence of Bovine Tuberculosis in Guyana. The Ministry's Animal Health Division is responsible for the actual field survey which should be completed by mid-year.

The Animal Health Specialist, when recruited, will provide technical support to the foregoing effort which will be incorporated as a component within a broader-based animal health project to be reformulated. The general aim of the new project will be to collaborate, support and strengthen the national animal health services in Guyana (and Suriname).

Guyana, it should be noted, has numerically a reasonably well staffed Veterinary service, with a number of Vets trained in Cuba. However, the organisation and delivery of veterinary and animal health services is poor.



Regional Matters (CARICOM Secretariat)

The Ministerial Sub-committee of the Standing Committee of Ministers responsible for Agriculture (SCMA) will meet in Dominica on May 5, 1989. This will be preceded on May 4 by a meeting of the agencies involved in implementing the Regional Action Plan of the Caribbean Community Programme for Agricultural Development (CCPAD).

The meeting will develop implementation and monitoring arrangements for the CCPAD and propose same to the Sub-committee.

IICA is invited to send a representative to the meetings on May 4 and 5, and to prepare briefs on the status of the following projects:

- Regional Animal Health Information and Monitoring System
- Development and Harmonization of Standards for Agricultural Products
- Agro-product Development for Traditional Export and Domestic Food Crops
- Plant Health Information and Monitoring System.





**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1989 BUDGET SPEECH**



## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 1989 BUDGET SPEECH

1. On March 31, the 1989 Budget was presented by Minister of Finance, Carl Greenidge, under the theme "Facing the Challenge of Economic Recovery" and the central tool will be the Economic Recovery Programme (ERP) which is to be based on domestic effort and support from the international financial community over the next three years.
2. Under the ERP, the targets to be achieved include:
  - Growth of real GDP by an average of 4% per year
  - Reduction in inflation rate to 10%
  - Reduction in external current account deficit to 20% of exports
  - Reduction in non-financial public sector deficit from 40% to 20%
  - Increase in net international reserves by US\$15m/year.
3. Some of the important measures to achieve these targets include a 230% devaluation of the Guyana dollar to a rate of G\$33 to US\$1 from the previous G\$10 to US\$1, and a liberalization of import and exchange mechanisms. There will be a sterilization of excess liquidity in the banking system to discourage credit expansion for consumption, but this measure should not affect credit facility for agriculture. Bank rate will be increased to 35% and will affect current and future transactions at all lending institutions.

Taxation will be increased and tax exemptions reduced in a move to raise Central Government revenues from 40% to 50% of GDP, to meet the G\$8.8b projected expenditure. Public Corporations showing losses, such as:

- 1) Guyana Transport Services Ltd.
- 2) Guyana Fisheries Ltd.
- 3) Guyana Rice Milling & Marketing Authority
- 4) Guyana Stockfeeds Ltd.

or those showing marginal profits, such as:

- 1) Guyana National Engineering Corporation
- 2) Sanata Textiles Ltd.
- 3) Livestock Development Company
- 4) Guyana Airways Corporation

will be divested or encouraged to seek external private sector participation to optimise production capacity.

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To support the ERP, US\$1.9b is required, and will be mainly used for rescheduling and settling external payment arrears. It is projected that the IMF will be pivotal in the provision of new grants, loans and debt relief to service outstanding debts, restore confidence, generate managerial and technical skills, and to rehabilitate, install and maintain social and productive infrastructure.

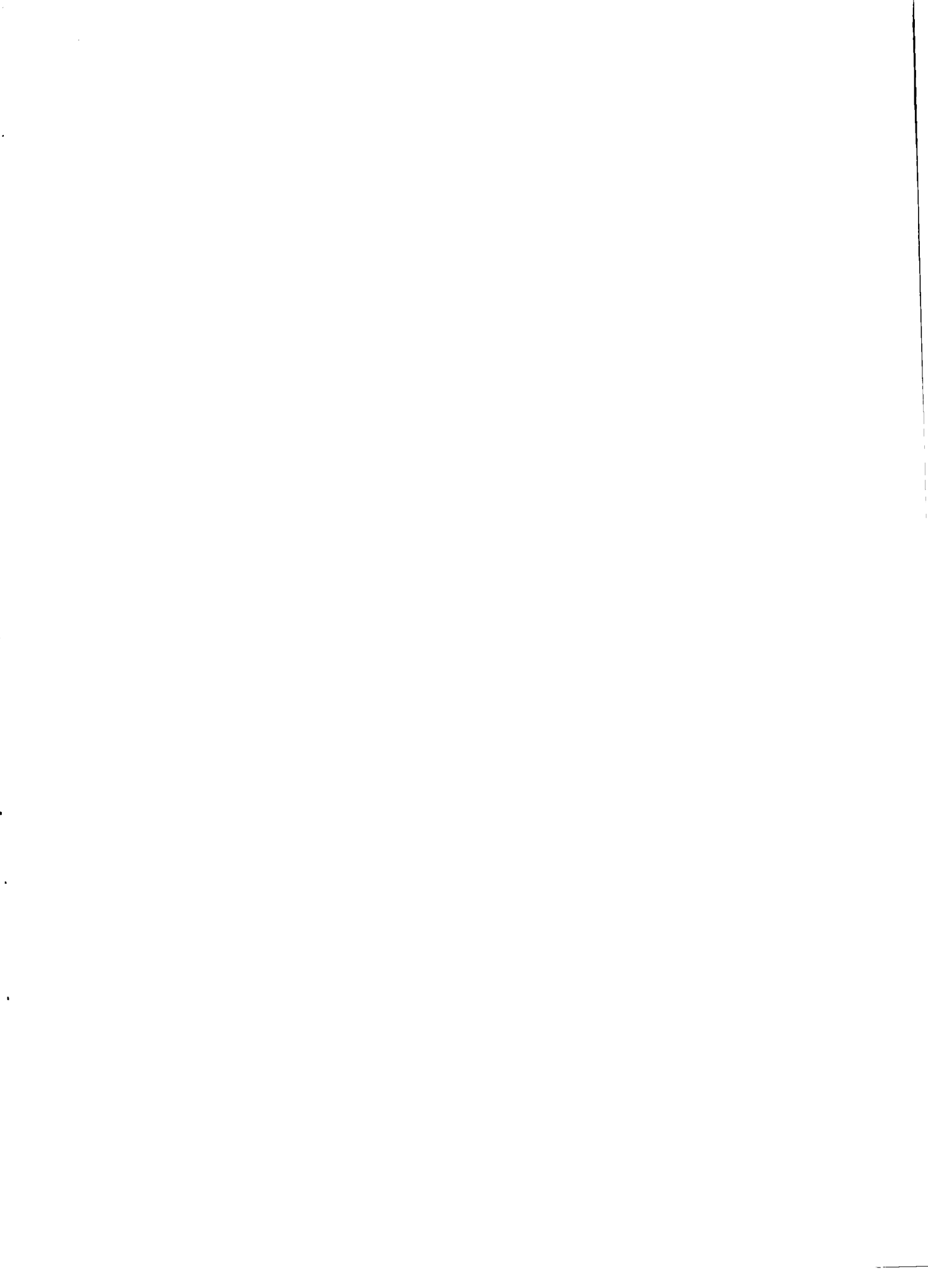
The effect on consumers is expected to be cushioned by an across-the-board 20% salary increase and a rationalization of income tax relief and benefit from compulsory national insurance scheme (NIS). There will also be a Social Impact Amelioration Programme (SIMAP) designed to bring relief to the more vulnerable consumers in the society through projects to provide employment, income and other social benefits to students, pensioners, housewives and unemployed persons.

## 4. Aftermath

In response to the Budget, there have been public protests and demonstrations, focusing mainly on the effects on consumers by the disparity between the 20% salary increase and the spin-off of the 230% devaluation. The price for petroleum products resulted in a sharp increase in fares which forced many workers to resort to walking. As the purchasing power of the workers' wage/salary is low, non-essential items must be foregone to get maximum basic benefit. The prices of alcoholic beverages and cigarettes, for instance, have become quite prohibitive and out of reach of consumers. The Ministry of Agriculture has mounted a "Grow More Greens" campaign and workers and rural families are being encouraged to begin planting, or extending their backyard gardens of vegetables for their own use as a measure of dealing with the high price of food.

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**CARICOM/IICA COOPERATION PROGRAMME**





PROGRAMME AREA/ PROJECT	STATUS	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	REMARKS
<p>CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY PROGRAMME FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>- An Assessment of the Impact of Macro-economic Policies on the Agricultural Sector (PPM 1)</p>	<p>This project, which forms part of the CCPAD has been the subject of discussions between CARICOM Secretariat, IICA and UWI. It has been agreed that this, along with project SPP2, "Support for Agricultural Planning Units in Ministries of Agriculture, CARICOM Secretariat and OECS Secretariat" would form the subject of a comprehensive project on policy analysis and planning. This project proposal is currently being drawn up by IICA</p>	<p>IICA to complete preparation of project proposal for discussion with CARICOM Secretariat and UWI.</p> <p>Funding agency (possibly CIDA) to be identified and proposal submitted.</p> <p>IICA to report to the Meeting on its overall involvement in the project.</p>	<p>In response to the decision by the Common Market Council to include the agricultural and service sectors in a revised scheme for the Harmonisation of Fiscal Incentives to Industry, this project will have as one of its main objectives, the development of proposals for regionally harmonised incentive scheme for agriculture.</p> <p>Preliminary work has already started on the effects of fiscal policies on agriculture, using data from two Member States.</p>



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PROGRAMME AREA/ PROJECT	STATUS	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	REMARKS
ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INFORMATION SYSTEMS	<p>At the Eleventh Meeting of the SCMA in May 1988, in Trinidad and Tobago, the SCMA endorsed a project on Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Monitoring for the Caribbean proposed by IICA.</p> <p>The project began on 1 July 1988, and as one of the major initial activities, a Workshop on Animal and Plant Disease and Pest Monitoring for the Caribbean Region was conducted on 17-18 November 1988 in Trinidad and Tobago. A strategic plan for the project, which was prepared by IICA and the staff of the University of Guelph, was considered by the Workshop from which the following recommendations emanated:</p> <p>(1) the implementation of a series of model "mini" projects, each of which would address priority issues for one or more of the participating countries. These might include survey methods for specific pests; production impact studies; and economic impact assessments;</p>		



PROGRAMME AREA/ PROJECT	STATUS	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	REMARKS
	<p>(ii) the establishment of a network of plant and animal health epidemiologists for the exchange of information, methods and experiences in monitoring and surveillance of plant and animal health diseases;</p>		
	<p>(iii) the establishment of a regional centre of expertise in agricultural epidemiology;</p>		
	<p>(iv) the establishment of a regional surveillance system for pests and diseases of interest to CARICOM, Haiti and Suriname.</p>		
	<p>The project now has two components:</p> <p>(a) a regional reporting system for a priority list of animal and plant pests and diseases;</p>		



PROGRAMME AREA/ PROJECT	STATUS	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	REMARKS
	<p>(b) the strengthening of the human resource base for disease and pest monitoring by developing the Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network (CARAPHIN) proposed initial activities of which are the development of deiry production and health monitoring projects suited to the needs of small producers and the provision of support for design and data management activitiss of mango seed weevil and fruit fly surveys.</p>		





PROGRAMME AREA/ PROJECT	STATUS	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	REMARKS
<p>REGIONAL AMBLYOMMA ERADICATION PROGRAMME</p>	<p>The USAID/USDA Demonstration Programme to determine the feasibility of eradicating the tick from Antigua and Barbuda through a co-operation agreement between USAID and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.</p>		<p>A Paper is presented under Agenda Item 8(c).</p>
	<p>Work has begun on the wild life component of the programme. The economic impact assessment and the eradication components of the programme are to commence shortly.</p>	<p>SCMA is asked to note the status and to mandate the Secretariat to take the necessary follow-up action.</p>	
<p>- Monitoring and Surveillance System and Emergency Control Programme</p>	<p>FAO is preparing a TCP to address the request for interim assistance and control of Amblyomma. This programme proposes to undertake surveys in non-infected territories to determine the incidence of the tick and to establish a monitoring and surveillance system. It would also provide a measure of control in infested territories prior to the implementation of the wider regional eradication programme.</p>		



PROGRAMME AREA/ PROJECT	STATUS	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	REMARKS
<p>- Wider Regional Eradication Programme</p>	<p>Eight national projects have been prepared and circulated to Member States. This programme will be a follow-up to the pilot programme in Antigua and Barbuda and the TCP project of FAO.</p>		
<p>- Convening of Donor Conference</p>	<p>A Donors' Conference is to be convened when the results of the USAID-funded pilot project are available.</p>		
<p>LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT</p>	<p>Following on discussions held between CARICOM Secretariat, IICA, and the University of Guelph, a project proposal was prepared and submitted to CIDA for funding consideration (December 1988)</p>	<p>IICA has been requested by CARICOM Secretariat to follow-up the project with CIDA.</p>	<p>This proposal will contribute to the execution of the following CCPAD projects:</p>
	<p>The project, for an amount of Can.\$5.0 mn. has three components, namely:</p>		<p>CPL 1 - "Production and Distribution of High Quality Breeding Stock for cattle, sheep and goats;</p>
	<p>a) Genetic Improvements 1.4 mn. b) Nutrition 0.6 mn c) Training (REPAHA) 2.4 mn d) (Administration) <u>0.4 mn</u> 5.0 mn</p>		<p>CPL 2 - "Improvement and Maintenance of the Nutritional Status of Livestock; and</p>
	<p>IICA would be responsible for delivering technical co-ordination; providing direct support to the operational agencies; and the management of funds allocated to the technical and administrative operation</p>		<p>CPL 4 - "Expansion of Regional Programme for Animal Health Assistants (REPAHA)</p>



PROGRAMME AREA/ PROJECT	STATUS	FOLLOW-UP ACTION	REMARKS
RESEARCH COORDINATION AND NETWORKING	<p>The proposed project which was endorsed by the Eleventh Meeting of the SCMA has been submitted by CCS to the IDB through the CDB. IDB was requested to support, in the first instance, a consultancy with terms of reference indicated in Paper</p> <p>The UIS is proposing the convening of the Caribbean Agricultural Research Coordinating Committee (CARCC).</p>		
DEVELOPMENT AND HARMONISATION OF STANDARDS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS	<p>In accordance with the decision of the SCMA at its Eleventh Meeting, May 1988, CARICOM Secretariat wrote IICA, letter dated 12 July 1988, regarding the preparation of draft regional standards for primary agricultural products. A list of commodities for initial consideration was included together with some information on national standards for Jamaica.</p>	<p>IICA has been requested by the CCS to report on the status of preparation.</p>	<p>IICA will indicate the current status in its report to the SCMA under Agenda Item 9(c).</p>

FECHA DE DEVOLUCION			

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Autor

Issues pertaining to the  
Título official visit of the deputy  
director general Guyana

Fecha Devolución	Nombre del solicitante







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