

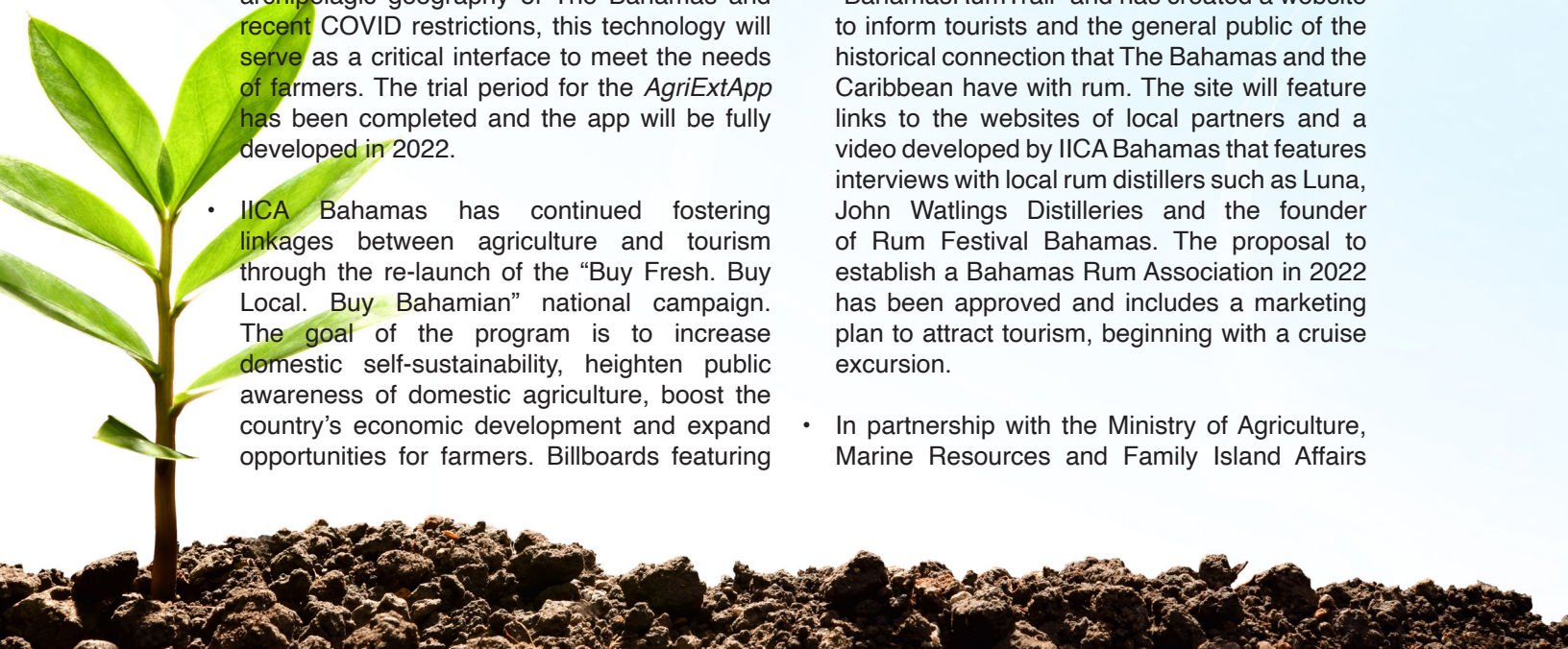


Significant Achievements 2021



The Bahamas

- Together with the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources (MAMR), the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) developed a pilot ICT application to support extension and advisory services in The Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The app (*AgriExtApp*) enhances communication and the exchange of information between farmers, extension workers and other stakeholders in the agriculture sector. During this pilot phase, a fact sheet with supplementary information and links related to small ruminants in The Bahamas was uploaded and made available to users. Farmers and extension officers also tested the messenger feature of the app, which enables farmers to communicate directly with extension officers and liaise with other farmers. Due to the archipelagic geography of The Bahamas and recent COVID restrictions, this technology will serve as a critical interface to meet the needs of farmers. The trial period for the *AgriExtApp* has been completed and the app will be fully developed in 2022.
- IICA Bahamas has continued fostering linkages between agriculture and tourism through the re-launch of the “Buy Fresh. Buy Local. Buy Bahamian” national campaign. The goal of the program is to increase domestic self-sustainability, heighten public awareness of domestic agriculture, boost the country’s economic development and expand opportunities for farmers. Billboards featuring local farmers with local produce were posted throughout the island of New Providence and will serve as a proof of concept for the rest of the country. Additional billboards are expected to be placed in Eleuthera, Grand Bahamas and Abaco in 2022. The Tourism Development Corporation; the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Family Island Affairs; and The Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation are participating in the initiative.
- IICA Bahamas also developed *the Bahamas Rum Trail* to increase economic opportunities and further develop agritourism as a pillar for the economic growth of various beneficiaries, such as bed and breakfasts and the local cuisine, transportation, and entertainment sectors. IICA has secured the domain name “BahamasRumTrail” and has created a website to inform tourists and the general public of the historical connection that The Bahamas and the Caribbean have with rum. The site will feature links to the websites of local partners and a video developed by IICA Bahamas that features interviews with local rum distillers such as Luna, John Watlings Distilleries and the founder of Rum Festival Bahamas. The proposal to establish a Bahamas Rum Association in 2022 has been approved and includes a marketing plan to attract tourism, beginning with a cruise excursion.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources and Family Island Affairs



- (MAMRFA), IICA continued implementing the project entitled “Working Towards Sustainable Development Goal 13: Climate Action Through the Use of Climate-Smart Technologies”. As part of the project’s objectives, the first biogas workshops were held on the islands of New Providence and Grand Bahama. The objective of the workshops was to train farmers in the design and installation of low-cost farm biodigesters and the production of biofertilizers. Demo biodigesters were installed on a pig farm on Grand Bahama and a poultry farm on New Providence. Approximately 50 persons received training in both workshops. The theoretical portion was recorded and uploaded to the MAMRFA’s YouTube channel in light of COVID-19 restrictions. In addition to the Climate Action Project, and at the request of the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Authority (BAHFSA), IICA Bahamas and a special committee collaborated with the IICA Delegation in Canada and the Compost Council of Canada to develop a project concept for “Audit and Inventory for Organic Waste Streams Industries” for the country. The waste stream audit will focus on five sectors: Agriculture, Manufacturing and Processing, Forestry, Fisheries and Tourism. The waste stream audit will aid in identifying the potential for new streams of revenue for the government, creation of new industries and economic empowerment for budding entrepreneurs.
- IICA Bahamas continued to support the Ministry of Education’s Agricultural Science Program, which provides technical assistance to agri-science teachers in the development of the agricultural science curriculum as well as in judging its annual speech and poster competition. The Institute also facilitated a training session entitled “Introduction to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)” for 15 girls ages 13 to 17, who form part of the FEM STEM Bahamas program. The training received will enable the participants, who are interested in agro-processing, to identify pathogens associated with their products as well as to comply with international food safety standards. FEM STEM Bahamas is a youth-based nonprofit organization geared towards high school girls that provides the fundamentals for self-growth and career development, specifically in the fields of science, technology, mathematics and engineering (STEM).
 - IICA partnered with the Bahamas Agricultural Health and Food Safety Authority (BAHFSA) to facilitate and sponsor the Produce Safety Alliance (PSA) training session for farmers from 5 islands in The Bahamas. A total of 24 participants received certificates of completion from the Association of Food and Drug Officials (AFDO). The course was designed for fruit and vegetable growers and other stakeholders interested in learning about produce safety, the FSMA Produce Safety Rule, Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), and co-management of natural resources and food safety. The PSA Grower Training Course provides a means for meeting the requirements of the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and is recognized by the Food and Drug Administration. The training received will provide growers with greater access to international markets and will enable them to strengthen ties to the domestic hotel and cruise ship markets.
 - Following the approval of the Project Identification Form (PIF) concept note phase of the project entitled “GEF 7 Integrated Landscape Management for Addressing Land Degradation, Food Security and Climate Resilience Challenges in The Bahamas”, IICA partnered with the Department of Environmental Protection and Planning (DEPP) to design the full project proposal to be submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in December of 2021. The proposed project objective is to enhance climate-resilient food production across productive agricultural landscapes through sound Integrated Landscape Management and Land Degradation Neutrality approaches in The Bahamas. The project will be implemented over the course of 48 months. It will cover 7 islands of The Bahamas and four (4) components, which will focus on strengthening the enabling environment for the achievement of land degradation neutrality through improved policy and governance; demonstration of sustainable land management, regenerative climate-smart agriculture production systems, practices and technologies; incentivizing uptake and replication of SLM and climate resilient agriculture; and enhancing monitoring and knowledge management systems for land degradation neutrality assessment and agricultural production resilience.