



Canada

Significant achievements in 2011

- **CIDA Funded Project on Micro-Finance and Agricultural Insurance in Haiti: *Security*.** During the year negotiations with Développement International Desjardin, and la Financière agricole du Québec Développement International were successfully undertaken and concluded with the signing of a consortium agreement for the implementation of the project. This enabled the requisite activities for the Cdn\$19m project to commence. The Terms of Reference for IICA Canada were also developed, and the office has been undertaking activities accordingly.
- **IICA Canada 2011 Internship Program:** Nine Internships were completed in Canada, Mexico, Brazil and Barbados by students and professionals from across the Americas. Sponsored by IICA Canada, research work carried out ranged from isolating bioactive compounds in native plants to identifying genes for parasitic resistance in the sheep. These projects provided opportunities for researchers to gain experience and new knowledge.
- **Technical Assistance Program Expertise Database:** Databases of funding opportunities as well as Canadian expertise were initiated, providing useful information to IICA member states. The collation of such information provides a resource pool for public and private sector personnel, academia and researchers who may have technical and financial challenges or are seeking partnerships.
- **Internship Program Evaluation Results in Restructured Programs:** A revised Research and Internship Assistance Program was developed as a result of findings emanating from an Impact Assessment conducted on the former “Internship Program”. Along with this is a more standardised program for Technical Assistance and support for Agricultural Events Program.

- **AAFC Makes Commitments to IICA:** Commitment from Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Minister Gerry Ritz, to support IICA in its capacity building projects for ensuring “sound science” is used in decision-making regarding trade in the Americas. As a result, eight projects were co-ordinated and prepared for submission to the AAFC in areas such as Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Inspection and Risk Assessment and Low Level Presence of genetically modified organisms.