



Dominica

Significant achievements in 2010

- IICA worked closely with CARDI to address several challenges faced by protected agriculture, conducting research aimed at evaluating production systems, agronomic practices, variations in temperature, plant nutrient management and pest and disease management.
- The Institute and CARDI, with the assistance of the Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA), and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MOAF) and the National Association for Youths in Agriculture (NAYA), undertook a training program on soil-borne pests and diseases, greenhouse production, plant nutrition and water management.
- IICA, in collaboration with NAYA, organized a training workshop for nursery operators with the aim of improving the quality of vegetable seedlings leaving the nurseries. A vegetable seedling guide was also prepared to assist nursery operators in managing their operations more effectively and efficiently.
- The Institute provided support to the MOAF for the purpose of developing a modern national agricultural health and food safety system. IICA produced the Assessment Report on the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Operations in Dominica, including a number of recommendations for upgrading the national systems.
- IICA facilitated two workshops to strengthen the capacity of 83 farmers in the safe use of pesticides. The training was part of the prerequisite for certification of these farmers under the Global GAP system. As a result, these farmers now have a clearer understanding of how to use pesticides safely.
- In an effort to assist businesses to better position themselves to take advantage of opportunities within the international and regional market, IICA supported the

Dominica Bureau of Standards in undertaking HACCP audits in two food processing facilities.

- IICA provided fifty agro-processors in Dominica with information on new packaging technology and packaging material through a seminar taught by packaging experts from the Packaging Centre in Trinidad. In addition, the Institute, in collaboration with the Dominica Bureau of Standards, assisted agro-processors in sourcing and selecting suitable packaging material for their products.
- IICA assisted in the establishment of an “herbal shop” for the Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA) by securing funds within the Framework of Assistance Development Enterprises (FADE).
- IICA coordinated the establishment of a local chapter of CANROP within the legal structure of the Dominica National Council of Women (DNCW). IICA facilitated an Entrepreneurship and Business Development Workshop to empower over forty rural women engaged in agriculture activities. Furthermore, one project proposal on food security was prepared and was submitted to the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI), CIDA agency, for financing.
- The Institute assisted a young female entrepreneurs’ group, Hilltop Fruit Plus, in putting their agribusiness into operation. The group was able to equip their facility with the equipment and material needed to dry fruit, and enhanced their capacities in the area of food processing.
- IICA undertook an assessment of tourism products and services in the southeast village of Ravine Cyrique. Following this assessment, six sites were selected as being suitable and having potential for agrotourism development. IICA also hosted a training workshop to build awareness in 30 rural entities of the agrotourism business environment and of the way forward in developing agrotourism products within the community.
- IICA commissioned an assessment of six agrotourism sites in Dominica with a view to using these sites as model units to support the agrotourism strategy developed by the Institute.
- As part of an effort to reduce contamination emanating from pig production, the Institute re-introduced biogas technology: Two low-cost bio-digesters were established and IICA conducted a training seminar on their use was conducted for farmers and extension personnel.