

IICA



Activities in Guyana

Year 1 No. 2, May, 1994

PARTICIPATORY ACTION PLANING

Dr. Leslie Simpson was contracted by IICA to prepare a review of research, extension and education/training in Guyana. This study is to be completed in June 1994 and will be the first step in the design of a project to modernize the production and marketing systems in Guyana by improving institutional activities in research, extension and training.

The study "Results of Socio-Economic Survey in Coastal Areas of Guyana" was put into circulation by IICA. This study presents information on 743 households between the Demerara and Berbice. The results determined that 68.8% of the population of the study area had incomes insufficient to cover a basic budget of food and other essential expenditures. The study was financed by IFAD and executed by IICA with assistance from the Ministry of Agriculture, IDS and others. Charles Carmichael, Agricultural Economist, was the principal author. Copies are available at IICA for the sum of G\$1,500.

STRENGTHENING RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Community meetings were held in 9 Amerindian communities to prioritise problems and identify short term actions and projects. Household surveys (624) were computerised and analysed.

Evaluation of two rural development projects was initiated in Region 2.

The VSO agreed to assign three volunteers in Region 2 to assist IICA/FUTURES project in agro-forestry and small business management over a 2 - year period.



Office space was made available to the GOIP/IFAD integrated project to carry out participatory research and project development in the Rupununi. Assistance was provided to GOIP in the organisation of an inter-agency Programme Monitoring Committee.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

A draft narrative of a documentary on "silage making" has been completed.

As a result of IICA technical assistance the Kaow Island Dairy is the first functional farm in the Bartica area using components of the St. Stanislaus Model.

Arrangements have been made with the local Livestock Officer to use it for field day training of cattle farmers from riverain areas.

Assistance was provided to the Coordinating Committee for Cattle Development in shortlisting specific activities essential to the development of the beef sub-sector.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TROPICAL FRUIT CROPS

The first draft of a project document for the rehabilitation of Government plant nurseries was prepared. Four nurseries were visited and assisted.

Two Guyanese fruit specialists participated in an IICA sponsored regional fruit crops workshop in Grenada during May 16 to 20, 1994.

A reconnaissance mission was made to 5 communities in the Rupununi where baseline information was collected, including soil samples; two possible sites for cashew production were identified and recommendations were made for establishment of a fruit nursery.

In coordination with GOSED/CBR (Baha'i) work was initiated on a video showing production practices for cashew and other crops in the Rupunni.

Flower induction treatment in pineapple using calcium carbide sludge was initiated in Canal Polders.

STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL HEALTH SERVICES

A new project to expand the IICA agricultural health activities in Guyana has been formulated and will be discussed with MOA staff in the near future. This project will integrate actions in Animal Health and Plant Protection.

Technical assistance was provided to FUTURES Fund in regards to the review of a Beef Production Improvement project submitted by the Rupununi Livestock Producers Association.

Laboratory results were obtained on serum samples submitted to French Guiana in November 1993. Of the 128 samples tested for Brucellosis, all were negative. Of the 33 samples tested for Enzootic Bovine Leukosis, 13 were positive. Data analysis began on laboratory results of the first 310 samples submitted for hemoparasite epidemiologic survey. An additional 190 samples need to be collected.

The Plant Quarantine Unit was provided literature on fruit fly management and eradication.

An inter-institutional team (IFAD, FAO, IICA, USDA/APHIS, Govt of Suriname and French Guiana) has recommended the eradication of the Carambola Fruit Fly (CCF) from Suriname and French Guiana. They also have recommended the establishment/expansion of a surveillance programme in Guyana and Brazil.

This joint effort is a pre-condition for the development of fruit production programmes in the three Guyanas.

Methods for eradication would build upon experiences in Guyana, Suriname and other countries which have eradicated the CFF.



IICA Activities in Guyana is a monthly bulletin with information on actions considered important to the agriculture development process. Editor-in-Chief: Jerry La Gra; Editors: Aletha Isaacs & Atma Shivbarran. 18 Brickdam, Georgetown, Guyana.; Phone 592-2-68347/68835 Fax 592-2-58358

IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System. It was founded in 1942 with the objectives to encourage, promote and support cooperation among its 33 Member States, in pursuit of agricultural development and rural well-being.

The Office in Guyana was opened in March 1975. Five complementary projects are on-going: Participatory Action Planning; Strengthening Rural Development; Supporting Development of Livestock Systems; Supporting Development of Tropical Fruit Crops; Strengthening Agricultural Health Services. The Office presently includes two international and four national professionals and nine general services staff.