



Achievements 2022

Trinidad and Tobago



- Through continuous training, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) enhanced the capacities of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (MALF) and the Ministry of Health (MOH) to conduct strategic disease surveillance and diagnostics, as well as deliver rapid responses to protect livestock from animal diseases. Webinars, online training, twinning programs and meetings coordinated by IICA provided over 200 stakeholders with access to technical expertise, technological advancements and biotechnological tools. Topics covered included the Global Framework for the Progressive Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases, African swine fever (ASF), Quality Management Systems specific to salmonella species, among others.
- Through the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI) collaborative project, IICA and the USDA-APHIS supported MALF officials in networking and improving their knowledge to address current and emerging pests and diseases that threaten productivity, yields, farm incomes and exports. Specifically:
 - Three MALF crop protection officials participated in a University of Florida course to identify plant parasitic nematodes that impact productivity and trade. They received lures and traps to enhance their surveillance of the tomato leaf miner.
 - Over 20 MALF and MOH officials participated in eight Codex Alimentarius colloquiums and the corresponding FAO/WHO Committee meetings.
- Public and private sector stakeholders involved in crop health improved their knowledge through their participation in Inter-American Coordinating Group in Plant Protection (GICSV) webinars on biocontrol and climate forecasting with a focus on locusts, as well as in consultation processes with the Minor Use Foundation on the establishment of regional pest and crop priorities.
- Three National Enquiry Points also participated in the WTO SPS Committee.
- MALF officials participated in regional initiatives to develop a List of Priority Pests of mutual concern to the U.S. and the Greater Caribbean, a fruit fly database on the Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD) website, and a strategic Plant Health Agenda for the Caribbean region. They also promoted the use of the Caribbean biosecurity interception system to compile non-compliance issues.
- In collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards and other public and private sector partners, IICA facilitated technical expertise and networking to assist the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) in developing three draft commodity standards for hot pepper, pineapple and pumpkin, to complement the TT GAP standards.



- A number of farmers throughout Trinidad and Tobago, micro and small food processors, and community stakeholders benefitted from targeted training through online and face-to-face workshops on food safety from farm to market. While COVID-19 placed pressure on global food supplies, local food production received a boost from the growing interest in home and community gardening and the increase in local fresh produce as part of the School Feeding Programme (SFP). Within the framework of the Mexico-CARICOM-FAO sub-project on Resilient School Feeding Programs, and with full collaboration from strategic partners, namely NAMDEVCO, the MOH Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division and the University of the West Indies (UWI) Faculty of Food and Agriculture (UWI-FFA), the Institute provided training in:
 - food safety for 30 trainers from MALF, the Food Security Division of the Tobago House of Assembly, and National Schools Dietary Services Limited; and
 - farm hazard and risk identification, good agricultural practices, worker hygiene and application and handling of agrochemicals for 55 farmers.
- Under The Cropper Foundation (TCF) - IDB Lab project, implemented by IICA in partnership with NAMDEVCO, UWI-FFA, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) and MALF, seven farmers improved their capacity to assess their climate vulnerabilities and make decisions to build their climate resilience, as well as received material support to take climate action. Formal testing and analyses enabled the farmers to understand the quality of their soil and water, which will guide their decision making regarding inputs to improve soil health, namely compost, limestone, inoculation of beneficial microbes and mulch, and to enhance water efficiency, specifically through drip irrigation.
- AgriSMEs benefited from continuous business networking, training, troubleshooting, market exposure and support for product quality enhancement via WhatsApp, virtual webinars and face-to-face sessions. These business ecosystem building efforts benefitted just under 100 persons, particularly AgriSMEs, and some critical development service providers that support agriculture, food safety and agricultural marketing through equipment and supplies.
- Men, women and youth of the Charlotteville community in Tobago received hands-on training in the use of vetiver grass for a number of practical and cost-effective purposes. This was achieved through an ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) project funded by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund's EbA Facility and managed by IICA.
- The GCF CARICOM AgReady project implemented by IICA in nine countries, including Trinidad and Tobago, facilitated a series of Train the Trainer sessions, and provided subsequent training sessions for local stakeholders related to the need to measure and report data on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, including from agriculture. Some key outcomes were the identification of possible data collection strategies for Trinidad in light of limited resources and the establishment of a network of interested persons to support a pilot data collection process. This will allow for strengthening systems to inventory and integrate agriculture-based information into the Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub based in Grenada. Thanks to the Hub's linkages with the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), Trinidad and Tobago GHG data would be included in global measurements of GHG emissions.