



Barbados



Significant Achievements 2023

- A series on agro-tourism linkages and opportunities, led by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in collaboration with the Barbados Agricultural Society and the Barbados Environmental Conservation Trust, increased awareness of the value of linkages between the agriculture and tourism sectors by promoting agro-tourism business opportunities and success stories. It also highlighted the value of relationships between the hospitality sector and the farming community. As a result of the series, donors offered entrepreneurs their support in developing their businesses, and business activities between hotels and farmers increased. Furthermore, IICA's Chefs for Development Programme, which was launched with support from the Technical Center for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), called for continuing to promote the relationship between culinary activities and the farming sector.
- Youth Farm 2023 resulted in the national/regional certification of 25 young persons in aquaculture, livestock and general poultry rearing. These individuals are now equipped to contribute to the country's ongoing food security efforts. Through the eight-week training program, participants learned about production and marketing practices that will allow them to participate actively in the agriculture sector. The program is delivered with collaboration from the ministries of Education and Agriculture, as well as the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) Council.
- Eight exporters from Barbados participated in the Caribbean Virtual Agri-food Trade Mission, contributing to regional food security by supporting intra-regional trade. Participating businesses obtained access to extra-regional market opportunities and exporters received capacity-building support to effectively engage buyers and successfully navigate the trade mission. The Ministry of Agriculture, Caribbean Export, the Small Business Association, the Barbados Manufacturers' Association and other agencies provided support to the mission. The overall trade mission, which was managed by IICA and had approximately 202 participating businesses, generated an estimated USD 1.3 million in expected business. The trade mission was funded by IICA and FAO with support from various agencies, including the CARICOM Secretariat, the Caribbean Private Sector Organisation and COLEAD.
- The Institute increased awareness of agriculture's role and contribution to the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement through a dialogue that brought together stakeholders from at least 12 countries in the region. The dialogue also empowered countries to actively advocate for increased support for agriculture and to promote the sector's participation at COP28. In addition, participants were exposed to strategies for attracting climate financing and opportunities from the Barbados Initiatives.
- Capacity-building activities were carried out to increase production and trade among an estimated 125 persons from multiple sectors. IICA focused on building the capacities of the disabled community to become more active contributors to the community. An estimated 60 young persons received training in various aspects of production, which resulted in the construction of 5 production facilities. A second phase of the activity will build on this training and expand entrepreneurial initiatives.

- At the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Security, the Institute undertook capacity-building activities related to papaya production and apiculture in the country. IICA developed and published a papaya production manual, based on which training was conducted to enhance production and reduce the spread of bunchy top. Additionally, an industry development group was established with a view to driving the industry's growth. Cooperation activities included training for 15 potential investors in the apiculture industry in order to attract investment and increase honey production, thereby supporting food security and import substitution. The Institute also delivered training to 30 fish processors and fisherfolk in business planning and food safety, which allowed for expanding their access to financing and improving their productivity. Financiers were also made aware of the issues faced by fisherfolk and their support was engaged to assist fisherfolk in developing proposals for funding. One financing entity has launched a program to develop a financing product for fisherfolk. An estimated 30 women also built their capacities in the fields of marketing and food safety to improve their competitiveness, better capitalize on business opportunities and generate more revenue.
- IICA's advisory support facilitated the establishment of the first phase of the Barbados Innovation Center for Agriculture (BICA) in 2023, including the procurement of equipment, training of personnel in the use of equipment and promotion of digital agriculture. This first phase included the provision of items showcasing the use of technology to enhance production in the sector. The BICA will showcase the role of technology and serve to attract additional persons to agriculture who can incorporate technology and innovation. The BICA is modelled after the CIMAG in Costa Rica and has been funded by the Institute following a request by the Ministry of Agriculture. It is expected that the BICA will be a core component of the Government's establishment of a tissue culture and food production hub that will support the sector's growth.
- The Tabletop Simulation Exercise (TTSE) was conducted by the IICA in Barbados, with support from the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative funded by the USDA APHIS PPQ, as a means of preparing the country for the potential entry of priority pests such as the tomato leafminer. Key achievements included the commitment and participation of key stakeholders along the emergency response chain, who became more knowledgeable about the tomato leafminer, a pest that devastates solanaceous crops. In addition, the national pest emergency response system was evaluated and gaps were identified. Finally, private and public stakeholders received training in the methodology to conduct tabletop simulations, with a view to strengthening the country's capacity to safeguard its agriculture and natural resources and guarantee food and nutrition security.
- IICA, in partnership with the Barbados Agricultural Society, facilitated the review and promotion of sargassum as an input to support agricultural production and productivity. Through a symposium, experts from the country and across the region highlighted potential uses of sargassum as a soil ameliorant, compost, mulch and plant boost. Farmers increased their awareness of the potential benefits of incorporating sargassum into production practices. With sargassum being a major scourge to the marine ecosystem and tourism sector, the agriculture sector serves as a possible outlet for the seaweed waste. The symposium has led to proposals for additional research to validate certain preliminary findings.