

Important achievements in 2016

- Increased knowledge for more than 80 counterparts in the Resilience theme through an interactive public exchange with officials of the International Institute on Sustainable Development (IISD) and the Institute for Global Food Security, McGill University. Participants gained information on climate change impacts which can directly and indirectly impact food production and food systems.
- IICA, through its Research and Internship Assistance Program (RIAP), supported the development of a series of twenty-two tutorial style videos on key concepts in food processing, product development and general food science. Topics covered targeted small scale food processors, students and instructors in educational institutions. Instructional videos were developed by a professor at Guelph University following a series of workshops sponsored under IICA Canada's RIAP program.
- The Secretariat for PROCINORTE, based in Canada, provided support to activities of the Task Forces in Plant Health, Tree Fruits, Genetic Resources & Animal Health. Notable highlights included a new initiative of the NORGEN Task Force (in collaboration with University of Laval and AAFC) on Indigenous Plant Genetic Resources, as well as joint research projects supported by USDA-ARS, where the thrust towards establishing strategic partnerships was particularly evident. The Secretariat also implemented a robust Communication Plan, significantly increasing the visibility and image of PROCINORTE among other PROCIs, industry & technical groups, in social media and on the internet. A notable "first" was the elaboration of a Monitoring & Evaluation Plan appropriate to the nature & role of PROCINORTE.
- A video promoting compliance and encouraging implementation of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)/Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) was developed for sharing with small scale producers in 5 commodity chains throughout Latin America. Following IICA's successful conclusion of the project related to capacity building of Peruvian and Colombian small and medium-sized enterprises to enhance export opportunities to Canada, additional funding was secured to share highlights of the advances made under the project. Focusing on the achievements in selected commodity chains in Peru & Colombia, the video production promoted compliance with sanitary measures and the potential value of export markets.
- Knowledge products (i.e. tools and methodologies) identified as being transferable from a Canadian Province – British Columbia to adaptation programs in LAC countries were produced and complemented. Documents included: "Jurisdictional Scan: British Columbia's Agricultural Climate Adaptation Programming" and a Technical Paper: Proposed Performance Management Framework for Agricultural Climate Adaptation Programs.
- IICA launched a project to enhance the value-added opportunities for small scale cacao producers from Peru and the Dominican Republic. The power of personal interaction was evident during a mission where a small cacao cooperative, CHOCAL, was the center of attention. Managed and operated by women, CHOCAL is demonstrating how to improve earnings locally by going up the value chain, producing certified, cacao products for both local and overseas markets. Their operations were captured in a Case Study which formed the

basis for the development of a generic business model to be used by other cooperatives seeking to add value to their operations. Representatives from Oro Verde, a cacao cooperative in Peru, participated in the mission and provided input to the optimized business model. Value chain participants such as suppliers of cacao beans, support services and importers provided practical and useful recommendations to ensure the business model is robust and meets requirements for its intended purpose.

- The susceptibility of foods to spoilage in Latin America and the Caribbean is compounded by inadequate cold storage facilities and marketing infrastructure. This knowledge motivated IICA, in coordination with the University of Guelph, Ontario, to share an innovation with more than 160 participants representing 17 countries through a webinar. Participants learned about an affordable innovation to extend fruit shelf life of a variety of fruits.

- IICA provided horizontal cooperation to Bahamas, Jamaica and Panama. Specifically:
 - The Government of Bahamas received support for its food and veterinary regulatory system through a workshop on strengthening Bahamas' efforts to implement international food safety standards through the Codex office and their veterinary regulatory system with the Canadian system as a model. An action plan highlighting key priorities and areas of focus to advance future work was prepared by national representatives in the Bahamas.
 - Jamaica strengthened ties with the Canadian Small Ruminant Sector through a fact-finding mission to Ontario, Canada. The Jamaican team comprised industry members who had the opportunity to meet and interact with representatives from the Canadian Provincial and Federal governments, academia, and other experts in the small ruminant sector, as well as genetics providers.
 - The Minister of Agriculture in Panama was sensitized to the enhancement and creation of greenhouse programs, services and research initiatives performed by Canadian Universities, Provincial and Federal organizations in the area of greenhouse production and technology.

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