

Main achievements

2012

Jamaica

- The CIDA funded project “Improving Jamaica’s Agricultural Productivity (IJAP)” was successfully brought to a close. Through this project, the Ministry of Agriculture was able to construct 40 greenhouses and two pack houses. Other outcomes of the project included the rehabilitation of six beach fish-landing facilities; the deployment of lobster condominiums in five sites, the construction of artificial reefs in two fish sanctuaries; and the training of 239 greenhouse growers and extension personnel, as well as 1,631 fisher folk and 30 fisheries officers.
- Through the successful implementation of the EU-BSP Apiculture Project, the country now has an improved pest and disease management system for the Apiculture (beekeeping) sector. As a result, the incidence of American Foul-Brood Disease is under effective control. IICA’s support in the implementation of this project enabled beekeepers in six parishes to be trained in apiculture and business management. Additionally, IICA facilitated the establishment of commercial apiaries for the two beekeeping associations; a refurbished apiculture laboratory at the Bodles Agricultural Research Station and the documentation on apiculture pest and diseases, beekeeping regulations and American Foul-brood protocol.
- A total of 24 farmers, supermarket meat cutters, butchers, technicians of the MOAF were trained in the fabrication of small ruminant (sheep and goat) carcasses and hygienic slaughter. Consequently, the Farming community and other stakeholders in the small ruminant industry have improved their standards and quality, while adhering to the National Standards at the stages of slaughtering, grading and meat fabrication.
- IICA was contracted to conduct an assessment of the National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPO) and the Food Safety System using the Performance, Vision, Strategy (PVS) tools, within the framework of the Agricultural Competitiveness Programme (ACP) financed by the Inter-American Development Bank and executed by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MOAF). The Institute provided the base line information on the status of the Plant Health and Food Safety Systems in Jamaica and assisted with formulating a modernization strategy.
- The country has enhanced its technical capacities in greenhouse production and sorrel harvesting through Mexican horizontal cooperation coordinated by IICA. Experts from the Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán (CICY) and Universidad de Chapingo shared experiences and agreed to collaborate with respect to the control of Lethal Yellowing Disease in coconuts, operation and maintenance of sorrel harvesting equipment and study tours in Mexico for Jamaican greenhouse growers.