



## Belize

### Technical Cooperation

Non-programmed activities: 1

IICA resources projects: 3

External resources projects: 3

### Main contributions during 2013

- IICA contributed to strengthening the agricultural extension unit of the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute (SIRDI) of Belize, which established participatory extension methodologies based on farmer field schools involving 1000 sugar cane farmers; this has resulted in an increased area of more than 4000 acres planted with improved sugar cane technologies.
- IICA validated the impacts of the RED-SICTA project, some of which include a 30% increase in productivity of corn and beans, increased food security and greater income for farmers. Based on these results, support was provided to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Agriculture (MNRA) in developing a strategy for scaling up improved technologies for food security, which will provide direct benefits to 2500 small farmers and 20 communities dominated by indigenous groups in the Southern region of Belize.
- IICA provided technical support to develop and implement the Belize Rural Area Development Strategy (BRADS), within the framework of ECADERT. Within this strategy, three major projects were implemented in the Belize River Valley, which contributed to improving the livelihoods and prosperity of about 3000 families in fifteen communities.
- A training program was implemented on organic farming and commercialization, through which thirty extension field staff and 1200 farmers were trained.
- IICA provided technical assistance to the MNRA to develop a framework for a national agriculture and food policy for Belize. The strategic objectives include: food and nutrition security, competitiveness of the agricultural sector, conservation of natural resources and biodiversity, adaptation and mitigation to climate change and rural prosperity.