



Significant achievements in 2017

Agriculture Opportunity for development in the Americas

Antigua and Barbuda



- IICA provided technical cooperation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs (MoALFBA) in order to:
 - a. Conduct the agriculture sector damage assessment for Barbuda in the wake of Hurricane Irma, jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI). This involved assessment of the livestock, crop, and apiculture sectors, as well as agricultural infrastructure. The information collected was collated and submitted to the World Bank for review and recommendation.
 - b. Build capacity under the Innovation and Extension for Sustainable Production and Food Security program by focusing IICA's efforts on developing the knowledge and skill set of 25 extension officers and farmers in the production, maintenance and research analysis of vermicomposting to address the innovative approach towards agriculture, use of earthworm as an adaptation measure on family farms.
- IICA collaborated with CARDI to:
 - a. Improve the capacity of farmers in Barbuda in productivity and production of roots and tubers. Under the Agriculture Policy Programme (APP) a number of new production techniques for roots and tubers were introduced in the region; however, they were never transferred to Barbuda. 22 farmers participated in the two-day capacity-building workshop. They were able to acquire knowledge in the use of the mini stem propagating method for sweet potato and cassava. They also acquired knowledge on how to properly build the sweet potato weevil trap utilizing recycled materials. Participants were given packs of pheromone for their respective on farm activities.
 - b. Support the Food and Nutrition Department of the Ministry of Education, The Rural Women's Group and other government agencies (Prison, Fiennes Institute) in building capacity in bread baking utilizing sweet potato and cassava. The training focused on utilizing local roots and tubers to make bread and other baking by-products. Twenty women benefited from this training. Under the APP the utilization of local commodities to develop new enterprise and market opportunities was also a focus.
 - c. Submit a project entitled "IICA-CARDI Proposal for Post Hurricane Rehabilitation of the agricultural sectors", designed to complement and supplement other initiatives planned and ongoing in the affected countries, with particular reference to initiatives being led by the respective Government authorities and the OECS Commission. Both IICA and CARDI identified a number of communities and producer groups targeted for assistance under this rehabilitation proposal. Materials such as fencing post, wires, hive boxes, lumber and feeds have been procured and distributed to Farming Families. Fifteen persons so far have benefit from this project.
- IICA continued its technical collaboration with the Global Environment Fund (GEF) on the project entitled "Solar Energy as an Innovation in Agro Processing", supporting the Rural Women's Group ANBNROP. The main results were: i) ANBNROP have increased their knowledge of good manufacturing practices and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP);

ii) Members have a SOP manual with templates for records needed to achieve Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and are knowledgeable about their use; iii) They can prepare simple tasks on the computer such as business cards, letter head, and labels and iv) They have increased their capacity to use excel as a tool for business management.

- The Institute hosted four Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture Webinars under its resilience project. On average, ten persons from the different national authorities and the private sector participated in each of the four webinars. The webinars identified, developed, promoted and disseminated innovative technologies and strategies aimed at building resilience in the agriculture sector in Antigua and Barbuda. At the final forum in 2017, participants pointed to the need to assist farmers in the recovery process following a climate change induced event.

- IICA supported four rural producer groups in Antigua and Barbuda in an effort to improve management and governance of those groups to enable them to play a more meaningful role in the development of their members and communities, as well as in the reduction of poverty. Following an evaluation using an Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool, a number of management and governance issues were identified among those groups. This led to a workshop entitled 'Strengthening Resolve: Commitment, Communication, Collaboration and Conflict Resolution for Producer Groups', through which 22 participants rediscovered their passion and purpose by working together to lead effectively and remove the barriers to collaboration. Similarly, at the end of the Effective Communication session, participants were able to identify the phases and steps in developing a communication plan for their groups.



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