



Agriculture

Opportunity for development
in the Americas

Belize



- IICA successfully negotiated a project with the European Union, the Banana Growers Association and the University of Belize, for productivity enhancement of banana farms through integrated soil fertility management in the banana belt area of Belize. The total value of this project, which commenced on December 1, 2017, is Euro 2 302 023.
- The Institute provided technical expertise to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development and Immigration (MAFFESDI) in the development of a National Agriculture Extension and Research Strategy (NAERS) 2018-2022. This process involved various consultations with strategic stakeholders within the Ministry, as well as with key partners and farmers.
- IICA provided technical support to the MAFFESDI in identifying the most important information needed by the farmers and developed a strategy for the exchange of information between them and the extension service of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- The capacities of 44 extension and research staff of the MAFFESDI were strengthened through training in leadership and extension methodologies, and IICA also collaborated to develop a training framework (training curriculum) in an effort to strengthen and improve the delivery of agricultural extension to farmers.
- IICA conducted an assessment and evaluation, by gathering information on the current status of ICTs, and provided recommendations to the MAFFESDI to improve and innovate the current ICT assets and methodologies used internally and externally. These recommendations, aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of the Ministry, focused on four key areas: infrastructure, human resources, training, and communications and visibility.
- The capacity of 54 public, private and development partners, including farmers, was strengthened through their participation in four Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture forums organized and executed by IICA.

- More than 700 students from three primary schools in Belmopan benefitted from the establishment of school gardens, through collaboration between IICA and the MAFFESDI.
- The Agro-processing unit of the MAFFESDI is better equipped to assist producers thanks to a manual developed by IICA on good manufacturing practices that provides guidelines for standard operating procedures.
- IICA established and hosted the first roundtable for international development partners interested in aligning efforts and exploring opportunities for collaboration on joint initiatives to strengthen the agriculture sector in the country, based on the priorities of the Government. A total of 16 agencies are members of this roundtable including the British High Commission, the Brazilian Embassy, the Chilean Embassy, the Embassy of Mexico, the Embassy of Peru, the Embassy of Taiwan ROC, CARDI, FAO, EU, IDB, INCAP-PAHO/WHO, OIRSA and UNDP.



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