

Significant achievements in 2014



Guyana

- Five demonstration greenhouses using the protected agriculture/climate smart approach were set up by IICA for vegetable production. The Ministry of Agriculture, Partners of the Americas, FAO and IICA collaborated on this project to have a greater impact, convincing eight farmer groups to establish varying sizes of shade house and over two hundred farmers were trained in this new method of crop production.
- The Trade Facility Organization (TFO) and IICA conducted six modules of export readiness training to prepare six selected agro-processors to increase their business activities in North America. One audit was conducted by potential importers from Canada, with three companies selected to begin exporting in late 2015. A second series of courses is being developed for late 2015 to continue assisting those companies that were not successful, and increase the number of exporters of agrifood products.
- Within the framework of the project: “Working Capital Programme for Rural Women Entrepreneurs in the Caribbean” to empower women agro-producers, the local Women Agro-producers Development Network (WADN), consisting of five women’s groups with 110 members in Guyana, benefited from purchasing selected packaging material in bulk and reselling to their members at competitive prices, resulting in a revolving fund being established and managed by the network members.
- Two demonstration biogas digesters were constructed at the Guyana School of Agriculture (GSA) and at the Ministry of Agriculture compound, with GSA using the methane as fuel for its student-operated agro-processing unit; the other unit is to be used at the Ministry cafeteria. Two biogas technology and use training seminars were conducted to promote adoption of the technology by 25 livestock farmers, in an effort to reduce animal waste contamination in water ways, and to benefit from the energy potential.
- Under the Carambola Fruit Fly (CFF)¹ project, and with financial assistance from IICA, as well as technical assistance from EMPRAPA, Brazil, servicing of traps was conducted in fifteen border communities. The potential loss is estimated at 20 million USD if the CFF is not managed. Beneficiaries are the fruit producers in Brazil, Guyana and Suriname.
- Under the CONACYT-IICA 100 scholarships program supported by the Government of Mexico, one student from Guyana is doing his master’s degree at a Mexican university.

1. The main objective of the project is to minimize the incidence and spread of this pest of economic importance in Guyana, Suriname and Brazil.