



Canada



Significant Achievements 2020

- The Interamerican Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), in collaboration with Global Affairs Canada, showcased IICA's photographic exhibition, "The Soul of the Rurality in Latin America and the Caribbean", during International Development Week. The exhibition, comprising over 28 images and statistics, offers visitors the opportunity to explore the reality of rural women in Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala and Jamaica. A joint effort between Vogue Brazil and IICA, the travelling exhibition has been shown successfully in San José, São Paulo, Buenos Aires, Madrid and Washington D.C. In commemoration of International Women's Day, the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum began hosting the exhibition in its Learning Centre in March 2020, where it will remain until May 2021.
- The [Cooperative Program in Research and Technology for the Northern Region](#) (PROCINORTE), a network of national agricultural research bodies in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico, supported by IICA, achieved many successes in 2020. For instance, a non-destructive testing system for avocado maturity was developed, in partnership with IICA, Mexico's National Institute for Forestry, Agriculture and Livestock Research (INIFAP), and CID Bio-Science, Inc. (Felix Instruments). This device enables the avocado industry within the Northern Region to improve the quality of the product, reduce waste and losses, and increase farmer profitability. Similar benefits have been found for Canadian cherries and Mexican mangoes. With the new Secretariat having moved to Canada, IICA Canada is committed to integrating regional cooperation in the Northern Region and transferring knowledge to other member countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. PROCINORTE hosted several activities, including two well-attended events. The first—on animal health—was entitled "Emerging and Re-Emerging Diseases of Livestock with High Economic Consequence for North America. The second one, "Priority and Emerging Issues in Tomatoes", dealt with plant health, addressing topics, such as the tomato brown rugose virus, which has only been found in Canada and the U.S.
- IICA signed agreements with various partners, such as the Société de coopération pour le développement international (SOCODEVI), the Compost Council of Canada (CCC), Cannexion and the University of Guelph. The SOCODEVI agreement aimed to support small rural indigenous agri-food cooperatives and municipalities. The CCC collaboration sought to strengthen organic recycling and compost industries and organizations to advance sector performance and sustainability, with a focus on the Caribbean. It also involved the Council's high-profile annual international organics recycling conference, where IICA co-hosted a session on soil health with World Food Prize laureate, Dr Rattan Lal. Cannexion, a private Canadian firm, worked with the Institute to strengthen agri-food businesses, cooperatives and organizations in the Andean goat value chain. IICA also secured the participation of a University of Guelph Assistant Professor in Rural Planning and Development (originally from Peru) on IICA's high-level Advisory Council for Food Security. The Representative of IICA Canada also serves as an advisor on food security.
- These initiatives were shared with the Group of Latin American Embassies (GRULA) in Ottawa, Canada, during a summer meeting with the Ambassadors. IICA also discussed its efforts to address food insecurity across the Americas during the pandemic, including its valuable Food Security Monitor, blog, hemispheric fora, regional seminars, two hemispheric agricultural ministerial meetings and its food supply platform.
- IICA co-hosted several virtual regional and hemispheric seminars that included the participation of Canadian speakers, who offered insightful perspectives regarding the challenges and needs they are facing amidst the current pandemic. Leading Canadian speakers included a Senior Gender Equality Specialist from Global Affairs Canada, sharing information on Canada's Feminist International Assistance Policy at the forum on "Rural Women and Equity During the COVID-19 Pandemic", as well as a young farmer and member of 4-H Saskatchewan, speaking at the forum on "Rural Youth Building the New Agriculture Post-COVID-19". IICA also launched a discussion series of five hemispheric webinars, with the participation of





various Canadian universities and leading academics from across the Americas, focusing on the region's food security future.

- Through partnerships with Canadian stakeholders and sister delegations, numerous project proposals were developed. For example, in the Andean region, IICA Canada partnered with Cannexion, proposing to promote rural agribusiness entrepreneurship, co-operative and/or associative models and trade, particularly by female farmers and processors. The initiative would strengthen the competitiveness of the Andean goat value chain, through commercial production, marketing, and the implementation of sanitary and food safety measures. Moreover, IICA developed a proposal with SOCODEVI, seeking to bolster rural and indigenous cooperatives and municipalities, as well as build more resilience in agriculture, communities and municipal governments, while fostering economic development in LAC. Another proposal with TFO Canada and the Ministry of Agriculture in Panama (MIDA) was designed to increase Panama's export capacity to enter and improve access to the Canadian market, by providing tools, advice and training to agri-food companies—particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)—on matters such as food safety regulations and requirements of Canadian buyers. At the request of Global Affairs Canada, three proposals were developed, focusing on COVID-19's impact on the Caribbean – one each for Jamaica, Guyana and St-Lucia. Finally, other proposals were prepared in conjunction with Cornell University and the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on the topic of “Transforming Knowledge Research in the Americas”—Avanzar 2030—along with several

proposals with a regional focus, addressing food safety and COVID-related issues in North America.

- After multiple efforts to connect with United Nations Food Systems Summit organizers, IICA was able to engage with them, with respect to participating in and supporting the Summit, which will be held in September 2021. A relationship was established with the Summit Chief of Staff in Kenya and other senior officials in Rome, with a view to IICA partnering with them and playing a leading role in representing the Americas at the event.
- The Institute co-facilitated an introductory Safe Food Canada webinar with Trinidad and Tobago and ExportTT. It was led by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) – Canada's regulatory authority tasked with safeguarding food, animals and plants. Pitched to HACCP-certified exporters across the Caribbean/CARICOM, the webinar helped to clarify Canada's import regulations for agri-food products, explaining the role of the CFIA, and import and export requirements. It provided a rare opportunity for the CFIA to advise exporters first-hand about the exact requirements needed to access the Canadian market.
- As part of IICA's larger outreach effort, multiple videoconference sessions were organized with Canada's leading donor agency, Global Affairs Canada (GAC), for the benefit of local IICA personnel in-country, to raise awareness and establish relations with GAC on the ground, exchange information on development priorities and on IICA's services, while defining opportunities for partnership. Numerous exchanges were held with the Caribbean, Haiti, Trinidad & Tobago, Honduras, Guatemala, and Bolivia.