



Guyana



Significant Achievements 2020

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) continued to support rural development, through a partnership with the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA). Under the initiative, technical services for the rearing of dual-purpose poultry were provided to the Perth Mahaicony Farmers Association. Rural women benefitted from the distribution of one hundred (100) birds, poultry pens and equipment, through grant funding. Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, the project facilitated the sale of poultry meat and eggs, thus helping to alleviate the loss of income and food security.
- IICA entered into a new alliance with the WeLead Caribbean Women's Entrepreneurial Project, providing technical assistance to rural women in Region 2, in the form of capacity building in entrepreneurship, marketing management, business plan formulation and business profile development. The project also rendered assistance in cost of production analysis and coaching for the presentation of business pitches.
- The Institute collaborated with the Basic Needs Trust Fund Implementation Agency (BNTF-IA) and the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) to construct twenty-eight (28) shade houses across Guyana, with the aim of building resilience and food security in rural communities. This was possible with the financial support of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB). Beneficiaries received training in shade house management; group dynamics and governance; food safety and quality; marketing; plant nutrients and water management. This type of collaboration will continue in 2021, to expand the use of this proven technology.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFA&IC), CARICOM, the Guyana Manufacturing and Services Association (GMSA) and the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA), IICA identified trade opportunities for Guyana in the Caribbean. The country presented its "Guyana is open for business" strategy and confirmed its commitment to reduce the CARICOM food import bill by approximately 25% over the next five (5) years. Public and private sector engagement of this kind is productive and supports regional integration. IICA will continue to serve as a bridge for initiatives like this and to provide technical support to undertake concrete and effective actions.
- IICA also partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), the Ministry of Tourism, Industry and Commerce (MINTIC), the Europe-Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Liaison Committee (COLEACP) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) during Agri-tourism Week, with the successful hosting of the forum "Linking with Agriculture for a More Sustainable Tourism Sector beyond COVID-19". The Government presented its post-pandemic plan, which will include the participation of the private sector and IICA to prepare an agro-tourism policy and strategy to guide the development of Guyana's tourism sector.
- The Delegation facilitated collaboration between the Women Agro-processors Development Network (WADN) and the Munk School of Global Affairs at the University of Toronto. Through this initiative, an intern worked virtually from Canada with IICA and WADN staff to prepare spreadsheets for data collection by both the WADN Office and the individual WADN Member Groups. These data management tools have reduced the use of ledgers and the amount of time spent to generate data pertaining to production and sales.
- As CARICOM's focal point, under the General Technical Cooperation Agreement (GTCA), IICA Guyana contributed to the CARICOM COVID-19 Agri-Food Action Plan that highlighted the immediate actions of Member States to mitigate the effects of the pandemic at the national and regional levels, as well as additional actions needed to support the region's food and nutrition security post- COVID-19. IICA also organized several high-level meetings with Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture to allow Member States to discuss a proposed financial architecture for the period during and after COVID-19; increasing trade; support to agricultural workers amidst





the pandemic; an Extension App to respond quickly to beneficiaries' needs; a Government to Government (G2G) App to improve communication and trade opportunities; and a Donors Forum to connect Member States with financial institutions/donors.

- In collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), IICA embarked on a capacity building initiative for producer groups in six (6) Caribbean countries. To this end, the Mocha-Arcadia Multipurpose Cooperative Society (MAMCS) and the Parika-Namryck-Ruby Farmers Progressive Organization (PNRFPO) were identified as the two (2) producer groups in Guyana to benefit from capacity building in the areas of advanced governance, entrepreneurship and marketing. The project also promoted and fostered the creation of local and regional market opportunities. More than three hundred (300) agro-processors benefited from access to a new online marketing platform and twenty (20) agro-processors received support to improve their packaging and labeling.
- Moreover, the FAO-IICA partnership spearheaded the implementation of the project "Introduction of Some Pro-

ted Agriculture Technologies for Farmers in Region 3, Parika", in a bid to foster climate change mitigation and adaptation practices within flood-prone farming communities. Forty (40) farmers, including women and youth affiliated with the Parika/Namryck Farmers Association, were the direct beneficiaries, receiving material to construct a low-cost shadehouse, as well as seedlings, farm tools and technical support. Technical sessions were offered on shadehouse management; marketing; pest and disease control; water and soil management; and on food safety and quality.

- The Delegation was also involved in a project for the development of biofortified rice (Zn) for the Caribbean Community (Rice trials in Guyana took place in partnership with the Guyana Rice Development Board, GRDB). Many countries in the Caribbean and indeed the world are plagued with hunger and malnutrition, due to the quality and choice of ingredients. IICA's special COVID-19 fund for the Caribbean Region supported this COTED-approved project for the production, adoption and consumption of biofortified crops, as part of a strategy to tackle non-communicable diseases in CARICOM.