

ANNUAL REPORT *2009*

IICA's Contribution to the
**Development of Agriculture
and Rural Communities**

Antigua and Barbuda





IICA's contribution to the development of agriculture and rural
communities
in Antigua and Barbuda

March, 2010

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1 INTRODUCTION

The IICA Office in Antigua and Barbuda focused its work mainly on three of the Institute's strategic priorities: strengthening agriculture health and food safety systems, repositioning of agriculture and rural life and promotion of trade and competitiveness of agribusiness. To a lesser extent work was also conducted in relation to the other strategic priorities: strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach, introducing technology and innovation for the modernisation of agriculture and rural life, and promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.



Hot peppers used in local hot sauces



Local mangoes on display at National Mango Day

The year 2009 saw the deepening of the global economic crisis and the price of agricultural inputs becoming very expensive without a concomitant rise in the income earned by local producers. Requests for land for farming increased as persons were turning to the soil where they could grow food and possibly earn an income. All of this occurred in a year with very low rainfall levels, the latter half of the year experienced severe drought conditions. For the period July to November 2009, the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Office recorded only 36.04 inches/915.42mm of rain, the lowest since 1993 and the sixth lowest since 1928.

However, in spite of the many challenges faced by the sector, the Ministry of Agriculture reported that the value of production for 2009 was for the fisheries subsector: EC\$49.22/US\$18.37 million; for the crops subsector: EC\$32.9/US\$12.28 million and for the livestock subsector: EC\$28.8/US\$10.75 million; with a total value of EC 110 million/US\$41.4 million.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Producers in the agriculture sector were able to improve their income earning capability through a donation of agricultural input supplies, made available by IICA and distributed by the Ministry of Agriculture to affected farmers, in response to farm losses suffered under hurricane Omar in late 2008.
- Senior officers in the Ministry of Agriculture have enhanced their capacity to analyse issues affecting the development of the sector. This was achieved through technical assistance provided to the ministerial delegates in the preparation of the national report of progress and challenges for the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life.
- Two youth strengthened their capability to become stronger leaders in the development of the agriculture sector, through their participation in the IICA's Forum for Young Leaders held in Costa Rica.
- IICA's clients and partners in the country have agreed to the priorities for intervention and accepted the national annual report through their participation in the Accountability Seminar.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses

Producers and agro-processors have increased their income earning opportunities through their participation in the following events: the Fourth Christian Valley Mango Festival; the IICA Most-Outstanding Agro-processors Award Competition, and a Food Preservation Workshop. The events provided opportunities for the sale of local fresh produce and processed products.

Promoting agriculture health and food safety

- Food service providers have improved their ability to prepare safe food for consumers through participation in a series of training in the *Five Keys to Food Safety*. This was done in collaboration with Central Board of Health in the Ministry of Health.
- The Veterinary and Livestock Division has improved its ability to monitor and control animal health issues through participation in the regional Veterinary Epidemiology and Para-epidemiology Project (VEP), which seeks to improve the surveillance of two major animal health diseases.
- Pest Control Operators have improved their ability to provide better services to their clients through participation in a National Certification Course for Pest Control Operators organised by the Pesticides Control Board and University of Florida with technical assistance from IICA.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

The Antigua Beekeepers Cooperative has increased its capability to revive the bee industry through technical assistance provided to its members for implementation of a project funded by the Global Environmental Facility/Small Grants Programme. Technical assistance was provided to develop a public awareness programme and to organise interest group meetings and training for new bee keepers.

Promoting the development of rural communities based on a territorial approach

- One youth has been given the opportunity to develop his understanding of agribusiness management through a scholarship for a three year programme in Agribusiness Management at the Simon Bolivar United World College in Venezuela. The Institute promoted the programme and assisted the college with the selection of a candidate, in collaboration with the Venezuelan Embassy in Antigua.
- Strengthening of the agriculture science programme in schools has been achieved through their participation in the First Inter-school Garden Competition organised by the Antigua and Barbuda Agriculture Forum, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education, with technical assistance from IICA.

Promoting the introduction of technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

The capacity of agribusiness enterprises to use modern techniques for production was improved through a training programme in Protected Agriculture, organised by the local chapter of the Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA), with technical assistance from IICA. As a follow up to the protected agriculture training, a Green House Growers Group was formed and is developing plans for launching into this technology.

3. **THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA IN 2009**

a) The context for agriculture and rural life

The global economic situation with respect to rise in prices of grain and crude oil raised concerns nationally about food security. To address these concerns, the government embarked on two major programmes. The first was a National Food Plan for the agriculture sector, which was developed following the First Prime Minister's Inaugural National Agricultural Symposium, held in 2008. The plan is now in its first year of implementation. The plan seeks to address the consensus arrived at during the Symposium:

- To augment production and productivity within the sector while sustaining acceptable levels of food, nutrition and income security for the country
- To promote sustainable use and conservation of our natural resources and employ environmentally friendly technologies and practices
- To establish and strengthen the enabling legislative environment to support the development process both in the short and long term
- To facilitate a compliant export programme for selected commodities
- To secure the social and economic well being of our rural communities and vulnerable groups within the population.

The first phase of the National Food Plan focused on selected crop commodities; namely onion, carrot, tomato, sweet pepper, egg plant, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, head lettuce, cucumber, butternut, pumpkin, melon, sweet potato, yam cassava, corn, pineapple, fruit, herbs and spice, sorrel, cotton, and hot pepper. These commodities were produced primarily by fifty-two (52) commodity specialists, who received training in good agriculture practices, improved production technologies and improved farm management practices to ensure a more even supply of food. In phase two, the focus will be on livestock and in phase three, on fisheries.

The second programme to address the food security concerns was the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP) sponsored by the Food and Agriculture Organisation. This initiative provided key farm inputs for home based producers and backyard gardeners, it targeted 1200 households. The ISFP has resulted in greater access to food for persons in the lower income bracket. Additionally, it is stated that these households accounted for 30% of total crop production.

Government's ability to meet expectations of the agriculture sector has been limited by two main constraints in the sector:

1. *Human resource constraint* :

- Weak extension functions and system
- Lack of adequate numbers of trained personnel
- Lack of project planning, development and implementation skill sets

2. *The inability of the input-output marketing system and its infrastructure to support production:*

- Uncoordinated and sometimes deficient supply of agro-inputs
- Lack of compliant post-harvest handling and storage facilities
- Lack of onion drying, curing and storage systems
- Lack of improved technology for enhanced competitiveness

Addressing these constraints is critical to the development of a strong and vibrant agriculture sector in the country.

b) Changes in agri-food production

The agriculture sector realized production values of EC\$49.22/US\$18.37 million, EC\$32.9/US\$12.28 million and EC\$28.8/US\$10.75 million, respectively, in seafood, crops and livestock produced, which the Ministry states is an increase over the previous year's production (data was not available). This was felt to be due to the National Food Production Plan and the Initiative on Soaring Food Prices (ISFP). There was an increase in applications for lands for farming. In the latter part of the year the Ministry of Agriculture announced a new project to target forty young farmers who would produce onions for local consumption and for export. The Ministry indicated that four Caribbean countries showed an interest in intra-regional trade in onions and carrots.

c) Change in policies that affect agriculture and rural life

In 2009, the Ministry of Agriculture initiated a policy to increase private sector investment in agriculture. To support this initiative, the Ministry granted greater tax concessions to farmers and made more land available for farming. A number of new tractors and implements have been ordered to assist with timely land preparation, and other equipment needed for expanding production have also been ordered. In the area of livestock production, two Barbados Black Belly rams were imported from Barbados to improve the local stock. Two rams were also imported in 2008, a total of four pure bred rams are now available for the livestock breeding and upgrade programme.

A proposal for a multi-purpose laboratory is being refined. This laboratory will offer analytical services in plant health, animal health, and metrology. When this facility is

constructed, it will significantly improve the agriculture health and food safety services available in Antigua and Barbuda.

d) Changes in the institutional framework for agriculture and rural life

Following the recent enactment of the Fisheries Act, regulations are currently being developed to ensure sustainable use of the country's marine resources. Training of fisher folk in improved fishing methods that are sustainable is an ongoing programme.

The Sustainable Island Resource Management Mechanism (SIRMM) project which was launched in 2008 has already resulted in increased public awareness for the need to protect the environment and conserve biodiversity. Under this project the Body Ponds area, one of the most extensive and important watershed and which has been under constant threat by grass fires, is being rehabilitated. The legislative framework for sustainable environmental management is being strengthened under the project as well.

A National Physical Development Plan is being developed and within it are recommendations for *A Land Use Policy* which will set the policy guidelines for agriculture land development. The draft document and the recommendations have to be passed by Cabinet before it becoming policy.

The following Acts have received first reading in parliament and will be passed into law early in 2010: The Plant Protection Act and the Food Safety Act. The passage of these acts will provide the legislative framework to enhance the country's agriculture health and food safety systems.



Craig & Ruleta at the 2nd Young Leaders Forum



Judging of IICA Most Outstanding Agro-processors



Hand over of Hurricane Omar Supplies



Winners of IICA Most Outstanding Agro-processors



Carmen Payne presents at food preservation workshop



Lionel Michael presents at Food Safety Training



Julie-Ann Laudat presents at food preservation workshop



Practical demonstration at Pest Control Training

PHOTO GALLERY



Proud graduates of beekeepers training course



All Saints School 2nd place winner school gardens



Grammar School 1st Place winner of school gardens



Sir Mc Chesney George School 3rd place winners



Jennings Secondary student tends her garden



Derrick Smith, Owen Clashing & Hon. Hilson Baptiste, opening of Protected Agriculture workshop



Teacher, students and judges at Princess Margaret



Owen Clashing, Robert Reid & Derrick Smith on Dalma Brown's farm

4.

RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGENDA IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA IN 2009

Repositioning of agriculture and rural life

Hurricane Omar donation

Producers in the agriculture sector have improved their income earning capability as a result of a donation of agricultural input supplies. The donation was in response to farm losses suffered under hurricane Omar in late 2008, when many crops were washed away by floods. The sector suffered over EC\$11 Million/US\$4 million in losses as a result of flooding. The agricultural inputs donated included seeds, fertilizer, pesticides and irrigation equipment. The inputs were handed over to the Ministry of Agriculture in a brief ceremony, where the Minister and four representatives of producers expressed their gratitude to the Institute for the timely donation of much needed supplies. The inputs allowed a speedier recovery of affected farms, with producers coming back into production in relatively quick time and being able to recoup lost income.

Week of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas

Two senior officers in the Ministry of Agriculture have enhanced their capacity to analyse issues affecting the sector, through participation in the highest forum for charting a course for agriculture in the hemisphere. This was achieved through technical assistance to the Ministerial Delegates, as they prepared the national report of progress and challenges of the agriculture sector in advance of the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas. The Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process (GRICA) is comprised of the Ministerial Delegates designated by the 34 Ministers of Agriculture of the Americas. They coordinate efforts to follow up on and implement presidential mandates and commitments (defined by the Summits of the Americas) and hemispheric ministerial agreements on agriculture and rural life (adopted by the Ministerial Meetings in the Week of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Americas), and reach agreement on proposals for updating the agreements.

The Minister of Agriculture has improved his knowledge of the process that sets the agenda for agriculture at the hemispheric level, and made an input into that agenda. This was achieved through IICA's support for participation in the Week of Agriculture, from October 26-30th 2009 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. A number of meetings took place during the Week of Agriculture. These were the meeting of the GRICA, the Fifth Ministerial meeting-attended by the ministers of agriculture in all of the IICA member countries and the Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA). The Minister also attended the IICA Executive Committee meeting held in July, this being the second year that the country was represented on this important body.

Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture

Two youths strengthened their capability to become stronger leaders in the development of the agriculture sector, through their participation in the Second Hemispheric Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture held at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica, in September. The youths, Mr. Craig Thomas, acting Assistant Supervisor of the Agriculture Science Department in the Ministry of Education and Ms. Ruleta Camacho, Senior Environment Officer in the Environment Division in the Ministry of Agriculture, participated in the one week forum which sought to develop young leaders' capacity for a global vision of the themes associated with the development of sustainable agriculture.

Mr. Thomas is a member of the Antigua and Barbuda Agriculture Forum for Youth and was the first president of the group. Thomas is optimistic about the prospect of sustainable development in the Agricultural Sector, he said in a press release "We are now seeing the importance of Agriculture, the age average of persons entering agriculture has dropped and a number of young people are venturing into the field." This is welcoming news, since agriculture is fast adapting to new technologies. "What we are doing is looking at Agriculture as a business. Young leaders in agriculture are being created." Thomas said. The roles of young agricultural leaders were being examined and issues such as group management and conflict resolution were discussed during the working session. The agricultural science technician is of the view that once those challenges are overcome, "We are on our way to sustainable agriculture". He said that the young is being targeted since "you cannot teach old people new tricks. Teaching agriculture science in the schools would go a long way in sustaining the sector." Thirty-four countries attended the Hemispheric Forum on Leadership in Agriculture, targeting young leaders who are involved in the sustainable development of agriculture in the Americas.

Accountability Seminar

IICA's clients and partners in the country have agreed to the priorities for intervention and accepted the national annual report through their participation in the IICA 2008 Accountability Seminar. The seminar was held on June 10th at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute at Dutchman's Bay, Coolidge in Antigua. There was a total of forty participants. Also in attendance was the Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Housing and the Environment. The session was chaired by the Head of the Veterinary and Livestock Division on behalf of the Permanent Secretary.

The ECS Representative presented remarks on behalf of the Institute and the Technical Specialist presented the report which highlighted the main areas of work accomplished by the office in 2008 and the proposed activities for 2009. As part of the report presentation, the following beneficiaries were called to give their perspective on the activity they participated in and the benefits derived: Denise Hodge spoke on the IICA Young Leaders Forum (2008); Gloria David commented on the FAO-IICA project for agro-processors; Zakia Goodwin Diaz: VEP Coordinator, spoke on the VEP project; Lionel Michael and Alvin Langlais spoke on the SPS Initiative of the Americas and Antigua and Barbuda Beekeepers Cooperative respectively.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusinesses

Christian Valley Mango Festival

Producers and agro-processors have increased their income earning opportunities through their participation in the fourth Christian Valley Mango Festival and the IICA Most-Outstanding Agro-processors Award Competition held during the festival in 15-16th August. The agro-processors displayed their products very attractively, and reported total sales of all the agro-processed products they had on hand. During the second day of the festival, the IICA Most-Outstanding Agro-processors Award Competition was held with a team of three judges and five participants. The first place winner was Ms Gladys Bailey, the second place winner was Ms. Gloria David (Sister Glo's) and third place winner was Mrs. Margaret Georges (Joycie's). The competition has become an avenue to showcase creativity and to launch new products and is one of the highlights of the Mango Festival.

Food Preservation Workshop

Agro-processors and Home Economic teachers enhanced their knowledge of food preservation techniques, utilizing local fruits, in a Food Preservation Workshop held on 9th July, as a lead up to the Mango Festival. The facilitator was Mrs. Carmen Payne, President of the Antigua and Barbuda agro-processors Association and retired Home Economic teacher. Pineapples and mangoes were the main fruits featured in the training. The training was conducted at the Cades Bay Government Station with fields of Antigua Black Pineapple in the background. The Institute also provided technical assistance and assisted in the coordination of a National Mango Day. The opportunity was used to promote the work of the Institute, in a live television programme on National Mango Day.

Promoting agriculture health and food safety

Food safety training

Food service providers have improved their ability to prepare safe food for consumers through participation in a series of training in the Five Keys to Food Safety. This was done in collaboration with Central Board of Health in the Ministry of Health. The training activity has become a requirement for food service providers in the country. In 2009, the first cohort of trainees from 2007 returned to renew their training, along with first time trainees. The Central Board of Health issues a food badge valid for two years upon completion of the training. The food inspectors have reported at least 50% improvement in food safety practices of food vendors since training commenced in 2007.

Veterinary Epidemiology and Para-epidemiology Project

The Veterinary and Livestock Division has improved its ability to monitor and control animal health issues through participation in the regional Veterinary Epidemiology and Para-epidemiology Project (VEP), which seeks to improve the surveillance of two major animal health diseases. The diseases identified for Antigua and Barbuda were Avian Influenza (AI) and Bovine Tuberculosis. In the first year of the project the following were achieved: Staff training in sample collection and handling and the use of the AI rapid

test, GPS mapping of all commercial poultry farms in Antigua, upgrade of a sample processing room, VEP Coordinator training in basic epidemiology and emergency disease management and elaboration of a surveillance protocol for Avian Influenza. The project has been moving very slowly, but the VEP Coordinator is optimistic that in time Antigua and Barbuda will be much further ahead of where it is now with regards to monitoring and surveillance of these diseases.

Pest Control Operators training

Pest Control Operators have improved their ability to provide better services to their clients through participation in a National Certification Course for Pest Control Operators organized by the Pesticides Control Board and University of Florida with technical assistance from IICA. The Institute assisted in the coordination of the training, at which over 60 pest control operators and farmers passed exams and received certificates in pest control. The four course facilitators were members of staff of the University of Florida in Gainesville Florida. The course had both theory and practical components.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

The Antigua and Barbuda Beekeepers Cooperative has increased its capability to revive the bee industry through technical assistance provided to its members for implementation of a project funded by the Global Environmental Facility/Small Grants Programme. Technical assistance was provided to develop a public awareness programme and to organize interest group meetings and training for new bee keepers. Ten persons expressed an interest in bee keeping and six completed a three week training course in basic bee keeping. A number of media releases were published and brochures on the importance of bees as well as how to protect their living environment, were made and distributed under the project.

Promoting the development of rural communities based on a territorial approach

Simon Bolivar United World College Scholarship

One youth has been given the opportunity to develop his understanding of agri-business management through a scholarship for a three year programme in Agribusiness Management at the Simon Bolivar United World College in Venezuela. The Institute promoted the programme and assisted the college with the selection of a candidate. This was done through the Venezuelan Embassy in Antigua. Mr. Aldofo Pena was the recipient of this scholarship. Over the last 15 years, the Institute has assisted in the selection of six young persons for this programme; five have already graduated and are employed in the public sector - four as teachers and one as a technical officer in the Veterinary and Livestock Division.

Inter-school Garden Competition

Strengthening of the agriculture science programme in schools has been achieved through their participation in the First Inter-school Garden Competition organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Agriculture Forum for Youth (ABAFY), the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Education, with technical assistance from IICA. Planning for the competition started in the last term of the 2008-2009 school year, with several meetings being held with members of ABAFY and teachers. Seven schools were due to participate, but in the end only five were judged, including one school in Barbuda. The Institute provided airfares for two of the judges to travel to Barbuda. Only crops were judged this year and plans for continuation of the program with inclusion of livestock are being detailed. The judges consisted of four agriculture officers and two young farmers. The prize giving ceremony is due to take place early in 2010 and the Institute will provide some of the prizes. The Institute also coordinated efforts at reviving the ABAFY and several meeting were held in this regard. The Institute also provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Education's Agriculture Science Projects Coordinator in preparing proposals for protected agriculture structure in six secondary schools. Funding is being sought for these proposals.

Antigua and Barbuda Agro-processors Association

The Antigua and Barbuda Agro-processors Association has strengthened their organization and has now become a registered entity under the laws of Antigua and Barbuda. Technical assistance was provided to the Association to finalize their By-Laws and also to coordinate their participation in the First Antigua Culinary Festival. Assistance was also provided to develop a project concept for a central processing facility for the group. Several organizations assisted in the work with the agro-processors: Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA), Caribbean Agri-business Association (CABA), the National Development Foundation (NDF) and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Promoting the introduction of technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

Protected Agriculture Workshop

The capacity of agribusiness enterprises to use modern approaches for production was improved through a training programme in Protected Agriculture, organised by the Caribbean Agri-Business Association (CABA), with technical assistance from IICA. Twenty persons, including farmers, Agriculture Science teachers and two lending institutions participated in the training. The main facilitators were Mr. Derrick Smith of Christiana Potato Growers Association in Jamaica and Mr. Robert Reid, IICA Regional Agribusiness Specialist. The training was conducted over three afternoons. A field trip planned for the third day had to be cancelled due to heavy rains the night before.

As a follow up to the protected agriculture training, a Green House Growers Group was formed and has developed plans for launching into this technology. A group of seven persons: six producers and one technical officer in the Ministry of Agriculture, the latter sponsored by CABA; went to Jamaica for one week in August to receive hands on training in green house production. CABA has plans to set up one structure as a model for teaching and demonstration purposes.

5. RESULTS OF INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

Implementing the VEP project

The Veterinary and Livestock Division now has enhanced capability to respond to emerging diseases of livestock and to conduct early detection programmes. This was achieved through the regional Veterinary Epidemiology Project and Para-epidemiology (VEP) which had as its main beneficiary the countries of the Caribbean Amblyomma Programme (CAP) and was launched early in 2008. The main aim of the project is to set up an early detection and rapid response mechanism for Bovine Tuberculosis and Avian Influenza. This project is a collaborative effort of the CAP countries, USDA/APHIS, CIRAD/French Ministry of Food and Agriculture and IICA. The IICA Office presented one lap top computer system to the Ministry of Agriculture for use in the project. Additionally, the VEP Coordinator attended two training workshops in the USA as part of the project: the Live Bird Marketing System continuing education course that was held in Athens Georgia in August and the International Veterinary Epidemiology Course, held in September 21-30, 2009, in Fort Collins Colorado.

Coordinating the Rain Water Harvesting workshop

Technical Officers in the ministries of several Caribbean countries now have a better understanding of optimizing water use for the sector. The Institute was involved in the planning of a regional Rain Water Harvesting Workshop sponsored by Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI). The one week workshop was held at the Verandah Resort in Long Bay, Antigua in June and looked at options to maximize rainfall collection systems for use in expanding production systems in agriculture.

Supporting the Global Environmental Facility/ National Focal Group

The office continued to be a member on the National Focal Group which looks at proposals for projects seeking funding from the Global Environmental Facility. The Technical Specialist received a certificate of appreciation for her participation on this group over the past four years, from the Global Manager of the Small Grants Programme.

6.

NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION

- Training of agro-processors and producers in value addition as a means of increasing their revenue stream.
- Conduct training courses for agri-business persons to held to enhance the competitiveness of their enterprises.
- Provide technical assistance to support the strengthening of agricultural health and food safety systems.

7.

Main activities organized by IICA Antigua

Official name of the event	Date held	Site of the event	Number of participants	Place of publication of the report of event
1. Presentation to the Ministry of Agriculture of Hurricane Omar Relief Supplies	March 9 th 2009	Agriculture Extension Division, St. John's Antigua.	8 persons	N/A
2. IICA 2008 Accountability Seminar	June 10 th 2009	Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Institute, Dutchman's Bay, St. John's	40 persons	N/A
3. 2009 IICA Most Outstanding Agro-processors Award Competition	August 16 th 2009	Christian Valley Agriculture Station, Christian Valley	5 persons	N/A
4. Food Preservation Workshop	July 9 th 2009	Cades Bay Agriculture Station, Cades Bay	20 persons	N/A
5. Training Workshop in Protected Agriculture	July 6 th -8 th 2009	Antigua Fisheries Ltd, St. John's	20 persons	N/A

8. List of Publications

1. The Contribution of IICA to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities 2009 Annual Report, IICA Office in Antigua and Barbuda. 2009

9. Acronyms

ABAFY	Antigua and Barbuda Agricultural Forum for Youth
ABIA	Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority
ABIB	Antigua and Barbuda Investment Bank
AHFS	Agriculture Health and Food Safety
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
CARDI	Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute
CAP	Caribbean Ambylomma Programme
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CIRAD	Internationale en Recherche Agronomique pour le Développement
EC\$	Eastern Caribbean Dollar
ECS	Eastern Caribbean States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GPS	Global Positioning System
GRICA	The Group for the Implementation and Coordination of the Agreements on Agriculture and Rural Life of the Summits Process
IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ISFP	Initiative on Soaring Food Prices
NDF	National Development Foundation
NFG	National Focal Group
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
SIRMM	Sustainable Island Resource Management Mechanism
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SPSC	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
VEP	Veterinary Epidemiologist/Para-Epidemiologist Project

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