



Annual Report **2008**

St. Kitts and Nevis

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

**Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
Office in St .Kitts and Nevis**

**IICA's Contribution to Agriculture and the Development of Rural
Communities in St. Kitts and Nevis**

Annual Report 2008

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
ADS	Agricultural Development Strategy
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
CAIC	Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States
CDE	Centre for Development of Enterprise
CFLI	Canadian Fund for Local Initiative
CFNI	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
CHA	Caribbean Hotel Association
COTED	CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development
CTA	Technical Center for Agriculture and Rural Development
CWA	Caribbean Week of Agriculture
EC	Eastern Caribbean
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FAVA/CA	Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies/Caribbean Action
GDP	Gross Development Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
HACCP	Hazard Analysis & Critical Point
LY	Lethal Yellowing
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PVS	Performance, Vision & Strategy
OAS	Organization of American States
ROC	Republic of China
SAS	Sugar Adaptation Strategy
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
WTO	World Trade Organization

PREFACE

The IICA Office in St. Kitts and Nevis is pleased to present to its stakeholders and collaborators the 2008 Annual Report of its contribution to the development of agriculture and rural communities. This report is in keeping with the Institute's management policy which is based on the tenets of transparency, accountability and achievement of results.

The national technical cooperation agenda was developed as a result of dialogue and consensus building with national authorities as well as other stakeholders. This was done in order to establish priorities and to ensure that they are consistent with those of the Federation.

I would wish to express sincere gratitude to our stakeholders and our local, regional and international collaborators. Special mention should be made of the Ministry of Agriculture on both islands, which provided the enabling environment and necessary support. This ensured the successful implementation of the country's technical agenda. The dedication and teamwork displayed by the Assistant Executive Secretary, Ingrid Mills is also acknowledged. The office looks forward to the continuation of concerted efforts to reposition agriculture in the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

.....
Augustine Merchant
Coordinator

1. Introduction

The contribution of non sugar agriculture to that of the sugar industry was secondary to national development prior to 2005. This was due to the dominance of the latter, which was of significant economic, social and environmental importance. It was a major source of the goods and services produced.

Table 1

**Percentage Contribution Agricultural Activity from
2000 – 2008 to GDP in constant prices**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Agriculture	4.5	4.92	5.59	4.96	5.16	4.78	3.73	3.93	3.66
Crops	2.77	2.92	3.37	2.85	2.73	2.24	1.20	1.26	1.25
Sugarcane	1.87	2.07	2.23	1.68	1.57	1.26	--	---	---
Other	0.90	0.84	1.13	1.17	1.16	0.99	1.20	1.26	1.25
Livestock	0.35	0.49	0.59	0.61	0.63	0.61	0.59	0.63	0.57
Forestry	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08
Fishing	1.29	1.43	1.55	1.40	1.72	1.85	1.87	1.96	1.76

Source: ECCB

Table 2

Breakdown of SSMC Employees as at end of 2001

Status of Employee	Age	Agriculture			Manufacturing			Staff			Total		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
Personal	Up to 45	199	108	307	190	21	211	29	33	62	418	162	580
Seasonal	Up to 45	413	0	413	213	26	239	0	0	0	626	26	652
Sub-total		612	108	720	403	47	450	29	33	62	1044	188	1232
Personal and Seasonal	Above 45 years	258	138	394	183	19	202	48	4	52	487	161	648
Total		868	246	1114	586	66	652	77	37	114	1531	349	1880
Grand Total		868	246	1114	586	66	652	77	37	114	1531	349	1880

Source: SSMC

The St. Kitts Agriculture Development Strategy (ADS) 2006-2013 was designed and approved after 2005 as one of the main vehicles of the macro-economic agenda to transfer the economy. The primary objective of the strategy is to “increased output significantly in a sustainable manner, focusing on the commercialization of both crop and livestock production in an attempt to transform the sector into one that is competitive and diversified.”

In the 2008 Budget Address, the Minister of Finance, Honourable Timothy Harris, reiterated the government’s commitment to achieving the objective outlined in the ADS, so as to, “ensure food security and satisfy export markets towards sustainable development in St. Kitts and Nevis.”

In the implementation of the 2008 agricultural programme, several challenges were encountered. These included the high cost of imported food stuff to meet local needs, the global financial crisis, unfavourable weather patterns, weak inter-sectoral linkages and the escalating prices of petrol and petrol products, which translated into high inputs and production cost of agricultural products. Despite the challenges, national, regional and international organizations included IICA, continued to be resolute in their efforts to assist the government in repositioning of the agricultural sector.

The 2008 Technical Cooperation Agenda for IICA St. Kitts and Nevis Office, focused on enhancing competitiveness and the repositioning of the agri-food sector through activities aimed at strengthening the value chain from farm to table. The activities included: Strengthening the capacity of the productive sector to meet the production, food security and quality specification of the tourism and other local markets; partnering of farmers and processors with buyers in the tourism and hospitality sector; and strengthening of the farmers’ group through capacity building and infrastructural development.

2. Executive Summary

The State of Agriculture and Rural Life

Preliminary data indicated that the economic activity in St. Kitts and Nevis expanded in the first quarter of 2008 following growth in 2007. However, this trend was adversely affected by the global financial crisis and the high price of food and petrol during the second half of the year. Agricultural output contracted mainly as a result of a decline in livestock population. In the livestock sub-sector, the largest decline was recorded for pork production, which fell by 50%. This was due to the fact that farmers shifted from pork production as a result of the high costs of imported pig feed. Fishermen were also making fewer trips. As a result, the number of fish caught decreased by 8.6%. By contrast, domestic crop production expanded on account of increases in output of several vegetables.

The National Technical Cooperation Agenda was implemented in accordance with the Mission of the Institute and under the thematic areas. These are: Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life, Trade and Agribusiness development, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Sustainable Rural Development and Technology and Innovation. The following results were achieved:

Repositioning agriculture and rural life

- Senior officials at the Ministry of Agriculture were provided with a forum at the Caribbean Week of Agriculture to dialogue with other stakeholders in the region, highlight successful experiences and promote the importance of agriculture.
- The Director of Agriculture and one of his senior staff have enhanced their leadership skills through their participation in the Forum for Young Leaders which was held at the Institute's Leadership Centre.
- Sixty eight farmers and agro-processors have a greater understanding of the current issues which impact their enterprises as a result of the various seminars and consultations which were conducted.
- The Agri-food sector expanded by 6% as a result of the actions which focused on incorporating production for the tourism market.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- The development of the cassava food chain in the Federation was greatly enhanced as a result of the resources which were provided to a small entrepreneur.
- Selected farmers and agri-producers have enhanced networking with potential clients and have increased product sales by 15% due to their increased participation in various festivals and special events.
- The marketing contract between the St Kitts Farmers' Cooperative and the Marriott Hotel has been strengthened and the sales of produce have increased as a result of training in crop scheduling and post harvest technology.

Promoting agricultural health and food safety

- The management programme for the Ministry of Agriculture Coconut Lethal Yellowing Disease Rehabilitation Project was enhanced as a result of the Institute's technical input to the Task Force, which was established and also the provision of planting materials valued at EC\$5000.00.
- Eighteen farmers are more aware of the principles and practices of Good Agricultural Practices and have incorporated them in their farming activities.
- Three veterinarians have enhanced their capacity to improve the surveillance of targeted animal health diseases through the regional Veterinary Epidemiology Project (VEP).
- Twenty persons from various government ministries participated in a Codex Alimentarius Workshop and are now better informed of the standard setting process and how to improve the functioning of the local committee.
- Strategies to improve the performance of the veterinary, food safety and phytosanitary protection services were developed at a visioning session for private and public sector personnel.

Promoting the development of rural communities based on the territorial approach

- The St. Kitts Farmers' Cooperative is better able to develop projects and source funding after they were guided successfully in securing Grant funds of EC\$49,000.00 to assist in capacity building and infrastructural development.
- The Nevis Agro-Processors Cooperative is better able to develop Projects and source funding after they were guided successfully in securing Grant Funds of EC\$56,000.00 to assist in capacity building, skills training, HAACP and infrastructural development.
- Twenty eight members of the St. Kitts Farmers' Cooperative and the Fahies Women Producers Association participated in an educational visit to Nevis and have been able to increase their networking.
- The Nevis Growers' Association was able to develop project proposals for funding after they were successfully guided in securing Grant Funds totaling EC\$58,000 to procure fencing wire, mist blowers, weed-eaters and other agricultural equipment for members.
- The Project Strong Beekeeping programme, which was initiated by IICA, has continued to be a source of revenue for the school. An additional hive and protective clothing were donated to the school.
- Sixteen persons including three youths were trained in soap making and are now utilizing some of the local fruits and vegetables in the manufacturing of soap.

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

- IICA collaborated with CARDI (CARDI/IICA Agreement) in procuring two shade houses which would be used for technology generation and transfer.
- The Institute procured a small stainless 2HP steel mill to grind a variety of agricultural foods.

3. The State of Agriculture & Rural Life in Country in 2008

a) Factors in the National Context

The Federation experienced economic growth in the first nine months of 2008 but at a slower pace relative to the period of 2007. The GDP increased by 2.5% compared to 2.9% for the same period in 2007. The global financial crisis and the high price of foods and petrol were the major contributing factors.

Generally, output was buoyed by increased activity in the construction sector and the tourism industry. Provisional data indicate a 36.9% increase in total visitor arrivals, relative to the corresponding period of 2007. However, this was due to an impressive increase in cruise tourist arrival. Hotel occupancy was disappointing. The consumer price index (CPI) rose by 5.2%. The food sub-index, which has the largest weight, rose by 4.6%. This was attributed to higher prices for fats and oils, dairy products and eggs and meat products.

The assistance received from the FAO Fund, Initiative on Sourcing Food Prices, (ISEP) helped small farmers and vulnerable households to mitigate the negative effects of rising food and input prices. The immediate objective of this project was to ensure the success of the following planting season and, in the longer term, demonstrate that by increasing the supply of key agricultural inputs, such as seeds and fertilizers, small farmers will be able to rapidly increase their food production. The increased food production helped to cushion small farmers by providing part of their food. In addition, surplus production was sold so as to generate an income which facilitated their access to other essential items.

A Country Poverty Assessment report commissioned by the Caribbean Development Bank in 2008 has indicated that poverty is on the decline in the Federation. It revealed that the poverty rate for individual stood at 23.7% as opposed to 30.5% when a similar exercise was conducted in 2000. The rate of indigence among individuals drops from 11% in 2000 to 1.4% in 2008. The proportion of persons living in poor quality housing moved from 30.5% in 2000 to 7.5% in 2008.

b. Changes in Agrifood Production

The Ministry of Agriculture was engaged in several food security initiatives, in light of the escalating cost of food items. These included the introduction of organoponic agriculture and the implementation of a home gardening programme. Consequently, agricultural output indicated an increase of 23.3% when compared to the same period in 2007. Crops such as tomato, watermelon, onion, white potato and carrots showed significant increases. The production of beef increased from 90,000 kilograms in 2007 to 108,000 kilograms in 2008. The production of Pork dropped slightly from 74,600

kilograms in 2007 to 71,700 in 2008. Mutton production increased from 8,600 kilograms to 11,000 kilograms.

During the first nine months of 2008, fish landings were estimated at 301,366 kilograms, which represented an increase of 28% over the same period in 2007. In an effort aimed at commercializing the fishing industry, the government commissioned the construction of a 40ft multi-purpose fishing vessel. The vessel will be the first of two boats that will be used to smooth the transition of the industry from primarily artisan to commercial fishing.

During 2008, several farmers were encouraged and were facilitated by the Department of Agriculture in exporting several commodities to the Northern Leeward Islands. The hardier commodities like potato and pumpkin were exported to Tortola, St. Maarten and Anguilla. The Dutch islands of Saba and Statia also received a consistent supply of vegetables from the Federation.

c. *Changes in Policies that affect Agriculture & Rural Life*

One of the critical undertakings of the government during the reporting period was the increase in minimum wage from EC\$250.00 to EC\$320.00 per week. In line with this enactment, the National Assembly passed the 2008 Social Development Levy Amendment Bill. This amendment was to Clause 32 subsection 2 of the Main Act and it replaced “less than \$15,000 with “of not more than \$16,640.” The change was necessary because the original law had exempted individuals who earned the minimum wage at the time of \$250.00 from paying the 3% Social Development Levy. With the increase in minimum wage, this law had to be amended so that persons earning the new minimum wage could continue to be exempted.

Legislation such as the Price Control Order No. 41 and the Consumption Tax Amendment order No. 11 were passed in an effort to stem the substantial increases in prices on food and non food items. In order to ensure compliance with the statutory orders a consumer awareness programme was instituted and surveillance activities were increased.

d. *Changes in the Institutional Framework for Agriculture and Rural Life*

The Agricultural Development Strategy of 2007 – 2011 outlined a new institutional and operational framework that incorporates various stakeholders to facilitate its implementation. This framework is intended to strengthen policy and planning activities in the sector, improve the enabling environment, consolidate and expand public and private sector linkages and improve coordination and implementation.

So far, the Policy and Planning Unit has been established. This has responsibilities for overall policy and planning in the sector, including policy and program review, monitoring, evaluation, the management of a data bank and information system on the

sector, program development and funding. One of its major shortcomings is that it is understaffed. It is anticipated that the other institutional changes recommended would be implemented shortly.

e. Major Developments in the Thematic Areas that affected the Performance of Agriculture and Rural Life.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety System is the thematic area which had the greatest effect on the performance of agriculture and rural life. This was because of the plethora of exotic pests and diseases, which posed numerous challenges. The coconut/palm complex, which was characterized by the death of numerous coconuts and palms, was a major concern. In addition, the Red Palm Mite was positively identified in 2008. In response to this, the Ministry of Agriculture collaborated with CARDI and USDA/APHIS to host a workshop on the identification and control of this pest.

The Lethal Yellow disease was also a major problem particularly on Nevis. Other pests, which were of concern included: Fruit flies, Giant African Snails, Mango Seed Weevil, Sweet Potato Weevil and the Amblyomma Tick.

4. Results of the Implementation of the National technical Cooperation Agenda in St. Kitts and Nevis 2008

a. *IICA's Contribution to the Repositioning of Agriculture and Rural Life*

The Institute participated in the Ministry of Agriculture Annual Review and Planning Meeting. This meeting has been an integral part of the Calendar of Events of the Ministry and is used as an “Accountability and Planning Seminar” for the Department of Agriculture and all the allied agencies. Seventy four (74) stakeholders and national authorities participated in the process of dialogue and consensus building and facilitated the development of the National Agenda.



Participants at Planning and Review Meeting

The 8th Caribbean Week of Agriculture took place in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from October 8th – 11th, 2008. This event, which had as its theme, “Transforming the Agricultural Sector through Value Addition,” provided a forum for senior officials at the Ministry of Agriculture to dialogue with other stakeholders in the region; highlight successful experiences and promote the importance of agriculture. During the period, 6 -8 October, an Agriculture Round Table (A.R.T.) entitled, “Connecting, Communicating and Cooperating to secure our Caribbean Agri-Culture” was staged and brought together entrepreneurs, investors, and media with heads of national, regional and international agencies and policy planners in an attempt to define a place for agriculture in national policy agendas. In addition, an Information and Communication Management (ICM) Policy and Strategy Workshop was held to provide a better understanding of the role of effective ICM among administrators and planners and how it could lead to better resource allocation and utilization for the ultimate benefit of researchers and farmers alike. Another event which was held during the week included the meeting of the CARICOM Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) for agriculture. This provided the forum for officials to deliberate on issues relating to initiatives being taken to tackle the soaring food prices, the implementation of a Common Fisheries Regime and European Union Market Access for banana.

Two young professionals from the Ministry of Agriculture participated in the Forum for Young Leaders, which was held at the Institute’s Leadership Centre in Costa Rica. As a result, they were able to expand their understanding of global issues and enhanced their leadership skills. Some of the topics which they were exposed to included:

- a) The development of rural communities
- b) Opening of agricultural markets
- c) Strengthening food safety systems in the Americas.

- d) Biotechnology and agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities
- e) Agro-energy and agriculture: Challenges and Opportunities
- f) Climate change and agricultural development
- g) The role of information technologies in modernizing global agriculture.
- h) The Leader of the 21st Century
- i) Leading institutional modernization
- j) Leadership communication strategies

A “credible information system” has been identified as one of the requirements necessary to support agricultural development and ensure continuity of actions. In this regards, two senior technicians at the Department of Agriculture participated in a workshop entitled, “Towards the Development of an Information Observatory for Agriculture and Rural Territories in the OECS.” This workshop was held in St Lucia. Based on the issues which were identified and analysed, a project proposal was developed and submitted for funding.

Twenty six (26) persons from the financial sector, investors and other players in the agriculture/agro-based industries participated in an OECS sub-regional video conference on the subject of agricultural investment, development and diversification. The conference was organized under the auspices of the St. Kitts-Nevis Chamber of Industry and Commerce in collaboration with the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA). The discussion which emerged from this video conference contributed towards informing a CARICOM Regional Agriculture Investment Forum, which was held in Guyana in June 6-7, 2008.

b. *Trade and Agri-business Development*

As part of the effort that was made to enhance the competitiveness of the agri-food sector, forty three persons were trained in entrepreneurship and are better able to manage their agri-businesses. One of the trainees included a member of the Fahies Women Agricultural Producers’ Association who participated in a Regional Workshop, entitled “Stimulating Entrepreneurship in Agriculture.” The workshop, which was held in St. Lucia from the 3 – 6 March focused on topics such as:

- Entrepreneurship development as an agricultural growth strategy.
- The role of government and private sector in agribusiness investment.
- Trade negotiations, the EPA and the implications for agribusiness development.
- The value chain and business opportunities in the EPA
- Case studies experiences and lesson learnt
- Business ideas to business plan.

On the 8th May 2008, the Ministry of Agriculture hosted an Eat Local Day/Commodity Fair. The main purpose of this activity was to create an awareness of the importance of the country’s food security capability. Consequently, the entire nation was encouraged to eat a meal, preferably lunch from all local ingredients. The highlight for the day was a large luncheon which focused on breadfruit as the main source of carbohydrate and pork as the

source of animal protein. The Institute contributed financially to this successful food security initiative.



Students at IICA's booth

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis celebrated its 25th Anniversary of political independence during 2008. One of the major activities of the celebrations was the National Agricultural Exhibition, which was held over a three day period. The main objective of the exhibition was to showcase agriculture over the past 25 years and to highlight opportunities for the future. The Institute was an important member of the steering committee and also provided financial and technical support to some of the agricultural organizations that participated in the event.

The Institute was also instrumental in arranging for the Caribbean Development Bank to assist the Ministry of Agriculture in conducting an assessment and developing a Management Plan for an agri-processing facility. The Facility was constructed by the Nevis Island Administration to accommodate the local agro-processors.

The office also contributed towards the development of the cassava food chain through the implementation of a FAO/IICA sponsored project entitled, "Cassava Food Chain Development in St. Kitts and Nevis." The project has improved food security, raise rural incomes and permit the transition to sustainable driven farming systems and supply lines. The objectives were to:

- Identify an opportunity for a viable business suitable for a small scale operation in rural agriculture/tourism food chain in St. Kitts and Nevis.
- To provide the necessary technical managerial and input support to a selected stakeholder to start up a new food income generating business.

The following interventions were made:

- Procurement of improved varieties of cassava
- A demand study for various cassava bread products was conducted
- Procurement of a stainless steel grater and press
- Training in food safety practices
- Procurement of packaging materials and labels

c. Strengthening Agricultural Health and Food Safety System

The office is cognizant of the importance of agricultural health and food safety in a rapidly changing and globalizing food economy. Consequently, efforts were made to strengthen the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety (NAHFS) system and to enhance the overall quality of its services. In this regards, the NAHFS Committee met twice for the year and

provided advisory services, discussed emerging pest problems and food safety and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) issues.

During the reporting period, sixteen private and public sector officials participated in a one day Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) Workshop. The main purpose of this workshop was to help the country to characterize its level of performance with regards to SPS, build a common vision with the private sector, and establish priorities. An Assessment Report, identifying priority intervention was made available.

The Codex Alimentarius Commission, the executive organ of the Joint Food Standards Programme of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) develops and publishes standards, guidelines and other recommendations for food production, composition, labeling and handling. At present, various factors limit the participation of St. Kitts and Nevis in the Codex Alimentarius Standard-setting process. It was in this connection that twenty persons from the public sector participated in a 2 day course entitled “The Codex Alimentarius Standard-Setting Process and You,” which was organized by the Institute.



Participants at Codex Alimentarius Workshop



Participants at Consultation

The Green Vervet Monkey continues to be one of the major threats to agricultural production in the Federation. During the reporting period, the office contacted the Barbados Primate Research Centre and Wildlife Reserve and the University of Wisconsin, National Primate Research Centre to obtain information regarding their experiences in controlling monkeys. This information was provided at a consultation which the Ministry of Agriculture, Nevis held in an effort to address this problem.

Lethal Yellowing (Ly) of coconut palm (*Cocos micifera* L.) was first confirmed in Nevis in 2006. Since then the disease has become well established on the South Western coastal area of the island and is fast spreading throughout the island. The destructive potential of L.Y. cannot be over emphasized; in addition to the



IICA's Coordinator (left) donating coconut palms to the Hon. Robelto Hector

rapid spread, LY kills rapidly, taking only 4 months from appearance of the first symptom until death of the average tree.

The coconut palm is grown on the island almost exclusively for aesthetic value as a landscape plant. No other tree can generate the tropical atmosphere developed by this palm. The maintenance of the island's tropical appearance is of great importance because of the heavy reliance on the tourist trade for revenue. As such, the L.Y. with its potential to eradicate the coconut palm threatens the economy of the country and has therefore created a great deal of public interest. The Institute has responded by importing 450 Malayan Dwarf varieties of coconut from Dominica and donated them to the Ministry of Agriculture on both St. Kitts and Nevis. The Malayan Dwarf is reputed to be the best resistant coconut palm variety available and the donation helped to initiate the Ministry of Agriculture Coconut Rehabilitation Programme.

d. Strengthening Rural Communities based on the Territorial Approach

In November, 2007, the St. Kitts Farmers' Cooperative Society Ltd and the St. Kitts Marriott Hotel signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the Cooperative to supply the hotel with vegetables. In order to ensure the efficient and successful operation of the process it was necessary for the Cooperative to be engaged in capacity building and infrastructural development. The office assisted the Society in developing a project proposal entitled, "The St. Kitts Farmers' Cooperative Society Limited Chill Room Storage Project." The purpose of the project as stated in the document was to:



L-R: *Hon Cedric Liburd, Augustine Merchant (IICA) Arabella Nisbett, President of Farmers' Cooperative*

- Provide a chill room to store harvested vegetables before marketing (**Appendix II**)
- Improve the presentation of product in the market place by procuring packaging and labeling materials. (**Appendix III**)
- Provide training in areas such as post harvest handling, group dynamics and financial management.

A Grant of EC\$50,000 was provided by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI).

The development of a New Agriculture based on Agro-tourism presents exciting opportunities for collaboration among the



Mr. Sam Powell addressing Consultation

private sector, government and international agencies on St Kitts and Nevis. One of the main activities that was undertaken was a consultation on agricultural marketing and product development. This consultation was sponsored by the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Institute. The discussion which emerged from the consultation contributed towards the ongoing development of a marketing strategy for agricultural products on St. Kitts. This strategy it is anticipated would assist in strengthening the linkages between tourism and agriculture.

The OAS and the Institute assisted two agri-tourism entrepreneurs in developing project profiles of their enterprises. They also facilitated their participation in an Investment Forum, which was held in Barbados. In addition, funding was provided to assist one of the entrepreneurs in printing a booklet which provides information about his enterprise.



Cover of booklet on Mansa's Farm

The Nevis Agro-processors' Cooperative was formed to offset some of the problems that were associated with diseconomies of scales experienced by individual agro-processors. However, one of the major constraints which they faced was the unavailability of an adequate facility. The Nevis Island Administration was cognizant of this and constructed a facility in 2008. The Institute subsequently assisted the Nevis Agro-processors' Cooperative in developing a project proposal to source funds to procure equipment for the facility. A Grant of EC\$56,000 was subsequently provided to procure equipment, provide training in food safety, group dynamics, financial management and governance.

Twenty eight (28) members of the St. Kitts Farmers' Cooperative and the Fahies Women Producers' Association were taken on an educational trip to Nevis to view the agricultural exhibition and open day. The main aim of this activity was to broaden the scope of the agro-entrepreneurs and to foster a closer relationship with their counterparts on Nevis. This has resulted in a greater level of networking among the agri-producers on both islands.

The office also assisted the Nevis Growers' Association in developing a proposal to request grant funding to procure fencing wire, mist blowers, weed eaters and other equipment. The Canadian Fund for Local Initiative provided a Grant of EC\$58,000. This project has contributed towards greater production and productivity of the farmers.



E. Thompson, President of Nevis Growers' Cooperative signs contract

In 2007 the Institute was instrumental in initiating a Beekeeping Programme for students at Project Strong. This programme has not only provided skills training but has been a source of revenue for the school. As part of the anniversary celebrations of the Institute, the office donated an additional hive and protective clothing to the school.



Student of Project Strong with donation

The office continued to provide skill training so as to increase the income generating capacity and empowerment of the people in the rural spaces. In this regards, sixteen (16) persons participated in a three day workshop on soap making utilizing local fruits and vegetables.

e. Technology and Innovation

A small stainless steel mill was purchased from Jamaica to reduce the drudgery and risk associated with the grinding of cassava. This mill is capable of producing 300lbs of cassava slurry per hour and is also capable of grinding a host of agricultural food including cocoa, dasheen, potatoes, coconut, banana and breadfruit. It is also valuable for juice extraction.



Stainless Steel Grater

5. Results of Inter-Agency Cooperation

The Institute has continued to collaborate with a number of agencies and institutions and the synergies, which have been developed, have contributed towards the development of the agricultural and rural spaces. The major agencies included the Organization of American States, Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Caribbean Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI).

Organization of American States (OAS)

The Institute worked closely with the OAS office in the implementation of the OAS funded project, “Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean.”



OAS Director, Mr. Starret Greene addressing Consultation

Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO)

Actions which were undertaken to enhance the development of the cassava food chain were funded by the FAO.

Caribbean Fund for Local Initiative (CFLI)

2008 was a very successful year for CFLI and IICA collaboration. Three projects valued at EC\$165,000 were funded by the Canadian Fund. In addition, because of the relationship which has developed, the office was requested by the Canadian High Commission office in Barbados to arrange a meeting with the High Commissioner and the three groups, which were recipients of grant funds.



R: Canadian High Commissioner at meeting with recipients of Grant Fund

Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

A request was made to the Caribbean Development Bank to assist in developing a management plan for the operation of the agro-processing unit. As a result, two consultants visited Nevis and subsequently submitted their report which outlined their plan.

Republic of China on Taiwan (ROC)



**Coordinator with ROC Ambassador
and Technical Staff**

The Institute continued its collaboration with the Republic of China primarily in the area of agro-processing. The new Ambassador, His First Secretary and the Chief of the Technical Mission paid a visit to the office and had intensive discussions regarding agricultural development in St. Kitts and Nevis. The Ambassador gave his assurance of the RoC's commitment towards strengthening the collaboration with the Institute. The Ambassador was presented with a copy of IICA St. Kitts and Nevis Annual Report.

The Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI)

The office collaborated with the CFNI in developing project proposals for possible funding. The proposals were situated within the context of improving nutrition, reducing poverty and the escalating food prices and targeted displaced sugar workers and students. The office also participated in a Caribbean National Coordinators' Conference: Food security in the Caribbean, Risks and Responses. The Coordinator participated in a panel discussion and presented a paper entitled, "*IICA's Perspective to promote Food Security, Nutrition and Health in the Caribbean*".

6. New Opportunities for Technical Cooperation

The Institute will continue to work in developing a programme for agro-tourism development. Opportunities are available in the six dimensions that were articulated in the National Agro-Tourism Strategy Document.

The development of value added products continues to provide opportunities for technical cooperation. In addition, the office will provide support to the diversification programme, which is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture.

7. Main Activities Organized by IICA

The most important events organized included:

(See Appendix I)

- Educational trip to Nevis by Agro-processors and women producers
- Sub-regional video conference on agricultural investment (St. Kitts and Nevis)
- Codex Alimentarius Standard Setting Process and You workshop
- Visit of Canadian High Commissioner to three (3) groups which received funding.
- Consultation on the Development of a marketing strategy for St. Kitts

APPENDIX I

FIVE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANISED IN 2008

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

Official Name of Event	Date Held	Site of the Event	Number of Participants	Place and Date of publication of the Report of the Event
Educational Trip to Nevis by Agro-processors and women producers	April 24	Charlestown, Nevis (Agricultural Exhibition)	28	IICA Office St. Kitts and Nevis April, 2008
Sub-regional Video Conference on Agricultural Investment (St. Kitts and Nevis)	April 30	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank	24	IICA Office St. Kitts and Nevis April 2008
Codex Alimentarius Standard Setting Process and You	June 18 – 19	Information Centre for Technology Basseterre	20	IICA Office St. Kitts and Nevis June 2008
Visit of Canadian High Commission to 3 groups which received funding	September 22	Department of Agriculture Conference Room Prospect, Nevis	28	IICA Office St. Kitts and Nevis September 2008 St. Kitts-Nevis Observer Newspaper
Consultation on the Development of a marketing strategy for St. Kitts	November 19	Ocean Terrace Inn	30	IICA Office St. Kitts and Nevis September 2008

APPENDIX II -

Drawing of Walk-in Chiller

AMERIKOOLER, Inc.
Manufacturers of Walk-in Coolers and Freezers

CUSTOMER NAME: FRIGID COOLERS, LLC
JOB NAME: 10X15X77COOLER-EXPORT
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'
DRAWN BY: AS
DATE: 8/13/2008
REV: 2
JOB NUMBER: 081696
P.O. # 08-09046
QUOTE#: 00-00000
P.O. # 08-09046

AK-GREEN DOT 225 HAS A 20 YEAR R-VALUE WARRANTY.

NOTE: WALLS AND CEILINGS
AK-GREEN DOT 225 ULTRA
H-DENSITY™ 4" EPS
K-FACTOR=0.18 FIRE RATING
OF 25, SMOKE DEVELOPED 300,
UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

FLOOR: 18 Gs SMOOTH ALUMINUM
AK-GREEN DOT 225, EPS INSULATION
FOR 600 LB/SQFT UNIFORMLY
DISTRIBUTED.

(1) 2 HP MDH020D730F-LSC156AMC2K
(169"0 @ 35" F BOX) R-22 R-22
HERMETIC REMOTE OUTDOOR UL SYSTEM
208-230/60/3

(2) ALUM. ANGLES OF 1 1/2" X 1 1/2" X 1 1/2"
(ONE ON EACH DOOR LEG, SECURED TO FLOOR.

DETAIL ⑥
VINYL SCREED ASSEMBLY AT BOX CORNERS

INSIDE BOX
VINYL SCREED NSF
DETAIL ⑦
24" ON CENTERS
BY OTHERS

DETAIL ⑦
VINYL SCREED NSF
ANCHORED TO FLOOR
WITH 1/4" X 1 1/2"
DRIVE PINS AT 24" O.C.
BY OTHERS

WALL PANEL
SEAL W/SILICONE
BY OTHERS

WALL PANEL
SEAL W/SILICONE
BY OTHERS

VERIFY ALL OUTSIDE DIMENSIONS OF
THE WALK-IN IN ORDER TO ALLOW A
MINIMUM 2" CLEAR (AIR) BETWEEN
WALK-IN AND EXISTING/PROJECTED
STRUCTURES

FOR APPROVAL

HAS NOTED

HAS SHOWN

REQUEST DATE

FOR ALL OR CONTRACTOR ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR ALL FINAL FIELD MEASUREMENTS.

Date: _____
Signed: _____

SECTIONAL VIEW

SECTIONAL VIEW

DOOR SECTIONAL VIEW

DOOR SECTIONAL VIEW

ITEM No	DESCRIPTION	QTY
1	5 OF 10', OF 6', 4 PCS RIGHT, 4 PCS LEFT VINYL SCREED NSF	2
2	(2) 1 1/2" LENGTH ALUM. FLOOR ANGLE 1 1/2" X 1 1/2" FOR DOOR LEGS	2

ACRYLIC COATED
GALVALUME ON TOP
OF CEILING

4" INSULATED STUCCO
EMBOSSED PANELS
ACRYLIC COATED
GALVALUME
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR

VINYL SCREED NSF
SEE DETAIL ⑧

APPENDIX III

St. Kitts Farmers' Cooperative Produce Labels

