

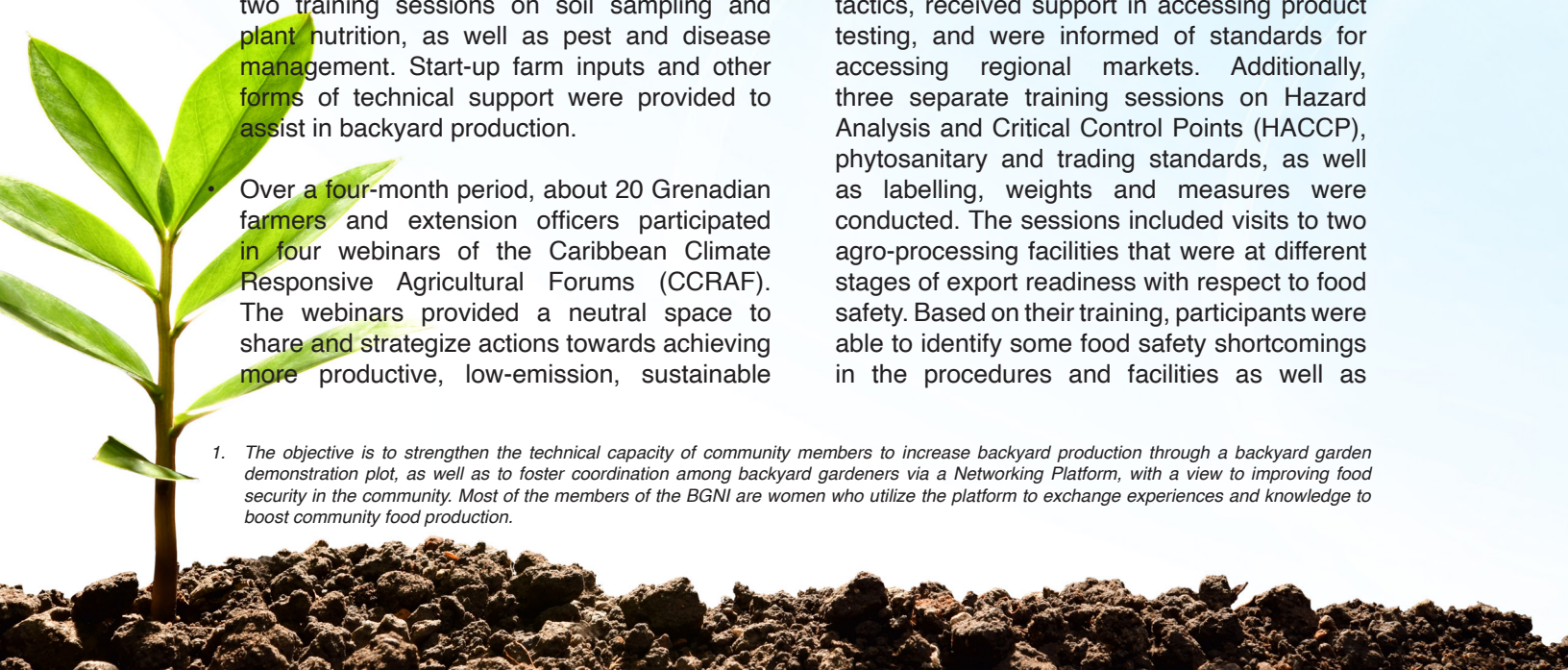
Significant Achievements 2021



Grenada

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) officially launched the first Backyard Gardeners Network Initiative (BGNI)¹ by holding a practical training session on gardening elements in the backyard in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry, and with support from two private-sector agricultural supply shops. As part of the IICA regional project entitled “Soil-centric Actions for Strengthening Food System Resilience and Promoting Regenerative Agriculture as a Climate Solution in the Caribbean”, 30 backyard gardeners received training in the establishment and maintenance of a backyard garden using the demonstration plot that was established for that purpose. Subsequently, the farmers participated in two training sessions on soil sampling and plant nutrition, as well as pest and disease management. Start-up farm inputs and other forms of technical support were provided to assist in backyard production.
- Over a four-month period, about 20 Grenadian farmers and extension officers participated in four webinars of the Caribbean Climate Responsive Agricultural Forums (CCRAF). The webinars provided a neutral space to share and strategize actions towards achieving more productive, low-emission, sustainable agricultural systems that are adapted to the changing climate of the Caribbean. The main areas of focus were soil and water management solutions for farms; the use of climate data to increase yields; the use of high-quality forage to improve livestock resilience; and experiences enhancing climate-responsive agriculture. Eleven individuals received certificates of participation, while four of the participants received awards in recognition of their overall performance.
- As part of the IICA regional project entitled “Facilitating the Trade Capacity of Caribbean Producers of Fresh and Value-Added Products to Capture Regional Markets”, 14 agro-processors learned about export strategies and tactics, received support in accessing product testing, and were informed of standards for accessing regional markets. Additionally, three separate training sessions on Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), phytosanitary and trading standards, as well as labelling, weights and measures were conducted. The sessions included visits to two agro-processing facilities that were at different stages of export readiness with respect to food safety. Based on their training, participants were able to identify some food safety shortcomings in the procedures and facilities as well as

1. The objective is to strengthen the technical capacity of community members to increase backyard production through a backyard garden demonstration plot, as well as to foster coordination among backyard gardeners via a Networking Platform, with a view to improving food security in the community. Most of the members of the BGNI are women who utilize the platform to exchange experiences and knowledge to boost community food production.



to propose solutions. Selected buyers and sellers also participated in a Caribbean Trade Exhibition.

- The Institute provided administrative and technical support to the Grenada Country Forum of the Caribbean Agricultural Extension Providers' Network (CAEPNet) through the Last Mile Project (LMP)². The forum successfully launched the LMP and re-launched the Country Forum via Zoom, with the participation of over 40 stakeholders from the agriculture sector, including the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Senator for Agriculture and Fisheries. The objective was to raise awareness of the Forum and LMP activities to assist in recruiting members. The successful execution of the 2021 workplan and budget resulted in the development of a five-year strategic plan, formulation of its bylaws and training for executive members.
- IICA implemented a new project in Grenada aimed at using the bioeconomic model for waste management, thereby promoting and expanding the development and commercialization of products derived from agricultural waste in order to increase private-sector investment and the generation of external resources. One online training session on the science of composting was conducted for eleven Grenadian farmers, backyard gardeners and other stakeholders who were interested in composting the organic waste produced in their kitchens, gardens or businesses. The spike in the number of Covid-19 cases during the latter part of the year delayed the scheduled composting activities following the online training session. Therefore, individual farmers who had participated in the initial training session on composting received support from IICA to establish composting sites. Four farmers participated and two composting sites were fully established. IICA has provided the owners of the two sites with materials to rehabilitate their composting bins and additional feedstocks, as well as technical support to successfully produce compost.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and the Grenada Tourism Authority, and with support from St. Andrew's Development Organisation, IICA implemented an agro-tourism project entitled "St. Andrew Culinary Tour - Capacity Building for Food Handlers and Documentation of Cassava - Farine Processing". The St. Andrew Culinary Tour 2021 came about as a result of Covid-19 restrictions that resulted in the cancellation of the annual Rainbow City Festival and Emancipation Celebrations. One of the objectives of the Culinary Tours is to showcase the excellence of culinary innovators, chefs, elderly cooks, and young entrepreneurs in the St. Andrew parish in Grenada. The Project facilitated four online training sessions in food safety for various stakeholders. The sessions, which were conducted by Ministry of Health officials based on PAHO's nine-module food safety training manual, had a total of 20 participants. The training of rural unemployed youth, chefs, culinary innovators and elderly cooks will generate sustained employment for marginal farmers and workers who will supply them with local root crops and vegetables for their menus. A video documenting the process of producing farine from cassava roots was also produced and will help to keep farine production alive in the village of Munich in St. Andrew.

2. Its objective is to mobilize, organize and build the capacities of public and private Rural Advisory Service (RAS) providers to deliver effective, innovative services, and to generate and contribute the knowledge needed to scale up climate-resilient good practices among smallholder farmers and promote favorable policies and investments in RAS.