



Bahamas

Significant achievements in 2011

- **Small Ruminants:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources (MAMR) is carrying out the small ruminant program (Embryo Transplant Project) as one of the steps to revitalize national sheep and goat production”.

The Office provided assistance to evaluate situation of nutrition of the small ruminants in the Family Islands. As a conclusion it was determined that there are no major diseases among the small ruminant animals, except for abscesses. Respecting nutrition, most of the sheep and goats are fed like cattle, offering them grass based diet. In order to reach their genetic and production potential, it was recommended to substitute imported supplemental feed with local legumes and high quality forages that can be produced in their own land. We counted with the assistance of Dr. David Sanchez Hermosillo, IICA’s Representative in the Dominican Republic and specialist in small ruminants.

- **Post-Harvest and agro processing:** The Ministry of Agriculture and BAIC started activities for adding value to products, mostly processing fruits and vegetables, with technologies that would allow complying with food safety requirements. In that sense they requested assistance from IICA about the initial set-up of a facility for that purpose, including design, lay out and the types of equipments needed. Donna Broomfield, a food scientist from Jamaica was hired by IICA and assisted BAIC and food processors in Nassau and various Family Islands.
- **Agribusiness and commercialization:** a) The Office supported the Second Andros Business Outlook, coordinated various activities with the Chamber of Commerce and IDB and conducted a 2 day workshop “Linking fishermen to the Market” for North Abaco Co-operative. Frank Lam, IICA’s Agribusiness Specialist of Miami’s office was in charge of these activities. b) The Government of the Bahamas/MAMR & BAIC has started a series of Family Island coconut productivity assessment with a view to revitalizing the coconut industry. Dr. Wayne Myrie, Coconut Specialist visited

Andros, Eleuthera, among other islands to diagnose coconut palms and found trees to be in good health but there was a lack of technical support and trained technical personnel in all aspects of coconut production.

- **Strategic Plan:** Consultations were made with main stakeholders in the Family Island to prepare a plan to support producers and agricultural development.