



Jose Nagel
DICCAI

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This, our second issue of IICA IN Trinidad and Tobago, is a special and larger issue to enable inclusion of a relatively concise synopsis of our Medium Term Plan (MTP), 1994-1998. Obviously, all details and explanations are not provided. Accordingly, the office is willing to respond to any requests for additional information on the MTP.

IICA'S MEDIUM TERM PLAN (MTP)

IICA's Medium Term Plan (MTP) 1994-1998 was approved at the meeting of the Institute's Executive Committee in Costa Rica on September 12-14, 1994. This unanimous approval came after protracted and in-depth consultation and participation within the Institute and between the Institute and its clients, particularly its Member Countries and collaborating agencies. Trinidad and Tobago was represented at this historic meeting by Dr. Sam Howard, Director of Research, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (MALMR).

SETTING

The MTP was developed within an Assessment of Agriculture and the Rural Setting in Latin America and the Caribbean in the 1990's which defined **Sustainability, Equity and Competitiveness** as the three key elements within an Integrated Approach to Rural Development.

MISSION

IICA's Mission for the 1994-1998 period, is "to support the efforts of Member States in achieving Sustainable Agricultural Development within the framework of Hemispheric Integration and as

a contribution to Human Development in Rural Areas".

In keeping with this Mission, the Institute has identified three **Specific Objectives** and outlined a **General Strategy**.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

These are:

- Transformation of Production based on agricultural diversification, conversion and agroindustrial processing centred around technological innovations so as to increase efficiency and rural well-being.

- Transformation of Trade to improve market competitiveness of national and regional agri-food systems whilst promoting hemispheric integration.

- Institutional Transformation to redefine the "Public Function" of the private and public sectors and cooperation within and between the sectors.

GENERAL STRATEGY

This strategy aims to achieve:

- Participatory Technical Cooperation involving greater use of the appropriate human resources available internally and intensifying (as a matter of priority) the development of a "hands-on" relationship with public and private (including farmers) organisations involved with agricultural and rural development.

- Regional Differentiation to reflect the social, cultural, ecological, production and developmental peculiarities of IICA's Regions, Sub-regions and even countries.

- Targeting of Relevant Institutions in both the public and private sectors so as to consolidate institutional systems and make more efficient the delivery capacity of these institutions and IICA.

This will be effected through:

- a supply of Technically Excellent Cooperation by concentrating efforts on priority areas of strategic importance; and
- an enhanced capacity to respond selectively to the demands of Member States.

In keeping with the strategy, IICA's actions will be limited to four **Areas of Concentration**, supported by two **Specialised Services**:

1. Socio-economic Policies, Trade and Investments:
 - Socio-economic Policies
 - Domestic and International Trade
2. Science and Technology, Natural Resources and Agricultural Production
3. Agricultural Health:
 - International Sanitary and Phytosanitary Norm
 - Pest and Disease Management
4. Sustainable Rural Development:
 - Organisation of Farmers
 - Modernization of Rural Areas and Institutional Development

SPECIALISED SERVICES

These are:

Information, Documentation and Informatics:

- to facilitate the effective transfer of know-how, abilities and skills within IICA and between IICA and its clients. An Inter-American Reference Centre for Agricultural Information (CRIIA) will be established.

Training, Education and Communications:

- to intensify the formal and non-formal professional and technical teaching, learning process to assist in improving the capability of the resources of the Hemisphere's rural population.

To enable the efficient delivery of these actions and to ensure its relevance to the needs of its Member Countries, the Institute will adopt a definitive **Style** and use specific **Instruments of Technical Cooperation**.

STYLE

The chosen style of technical cooperation is characterized by:

- Participation within the Institute and between the Institute and its clients and collaborators.
- Decentralization with the creation of Regional Centres including one for the Caribbean that includes Haiti, Dominican Republic, Suriname and the English speaking territories.
- Flexibility to enable adjustment of actions in a ductile and timely manner to changes and demands.
- Concentration of a thematic, geographic and institutional nature to ensure a supply of excellent, high impact technical cooperation.

INSTRUMENTS

The selected instruments of technical cooperation include:

- Direct Technical Support
- Training
- Research and Studies

- Information Dissemination
- Cooperative Networks
- Discussion Fora
- Technical - scientific, financial and administrative brokerage
- Administrative Support and Cooperation Services

This MTP and the accompanying changes in the organizational structure represent a bold effort by IICA to adjust and respond to the dynamic (changed and changing) international economic environment in which the Hemisphere's agricultural and rural sectors now exist. Its successful implementation will ensure that IICA justifies its designation as the specialized agency for agriculture for the Inter-American System.

STAFF PROFILE



Marlene Antoine, National Professional, joined the IICA Office in Trinidad and Tobago on July 1, 1988 as Coordinator for the project entitled, "Small Business Management for the Rural Development Process in Trinidad and Tobago".

She has a BA (Gen) obtained from the UWI in 1980 and is currently reading for a Master's Degree in Agricultural Extension at the same university.

Marlene brought to the Institute, experiences and knowledge from the public and small business private sectors. She has a business background having played a major part in the planning, etc. of a family business. From 1980-1984, she was a Planning Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture with sole, direct responsibility for the design, pre-implementation and monitoring of externally funded projects.

On joining IICA, Marlene prepared two training manuals on Small Business Management and a booklet on Small Scale Business Opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago, and coordinated seventeen workshops for Extension officers and small farmers' groups throughout the country. The success of these activi-

ties was (and is) demonstrated by the use of the booklet as a "text book" by several related agencies and Marlene's busy agenda as a guest lecturer on the preparation of feasibility studies and appropriate record keeping for small businesses.

Since 1992, she has been the Coordinator for another national project entitled, "Enhancing the Participation of Women in the Rural Development Process in Trinidad and Tobago through Institutional Strengthening". She is responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of activities that will assist in the development of a high impact gender sensitive extension methodology for small scale, women producers and also increase the awareness of Extension personnel towards gender issues.

Marlene's work, which requires her to interface with national and international organizations in the area of agricultural and rural development, entails working closely with five rural women's groups. She assists them to improve their technical, administrative, group development and business skills so as to optimise their economic and social contribution to their rural communities.

Marlene also found time to act as "Officer in Charge" for a period of five months ending March 1994 during the absence of a Resident Representative.

She has widened her horizons by participating in short courses, including accounting, project planning, evaluation, development and training of trainers and gender planning for women in the Caribbean. She has also attended workshops in Dominica and Jamaica to explore the issues relating to rural development and rural women food producers.

She is very sensitive to the issue of the "double burden" that most women face and is a member of the Organization for Professional Women in Agriculture (OPWA).

Her view of life is that since one must work hard to succeed, one should as well enjoy one's work.

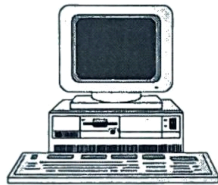
IMPROVING POLICY ANALYSIS AND PLANNING

Introducing SIAPA²

IICA's efforts in supporting policy analysis and planning in Trinidad and Tobago was boosted with the recent introduction of an enhanced version of its Information System for Agricultural Policy Analysis - SIAPA²

This enhanced system now offers new analytical utilities which can be readily customized to handle country specific agricultural policy issues. Among the main new offerings are models for Market Price Analysis and Reporting, Price Stabilization, Farm Level Analyses and Calculation of Terms of Trade.

These new utilities were programmed by Dr. Thomas Kerr, IICA's consultant on agricultural policy. During his



stay in Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Kerr trained the two Regional Specialists (Area of Concentration 1) in the new system. He also took the opportunity to present a paper in this area at the international conference on "Advances in Tropical Agriculture in the 20th Century - TA2000".

SIAPA² will be applied to some topical issues in the local agricultural sector, such as trade matters relating to liberalization of the economy, the need for the generation of intelligence reports and market/price forecasts for commodities being traded. These customized models will be made available to the Ministry of Agriculture and related agencies in the new year.

In related matters, the final report on the agricultural sector for Tobago was presented to the Division of Agriculture, Tobago House of Assembly and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources. This study is a first of this kind for Tobago and identifies a number of key policy areas to be addressed in the future development of the

island's agricultural sector. Subsequent to the study, IICA initiated discussions on possible areas for follow-up and identified three areas. Profiles of possible projects were prepared and submitted for funding.

REGIONAL FRUITS PROJECT

The year 1994 was one of intense work and inter-institutional collaboration for the regional project "Supporting the Development of Tropical Fruits in the Caribbean". This project is co-funded by IICA and the French Government and is managed from this office.

The project went a step further in the establishment of a Regional Fruit Network, with the opening of the initial three-member, CIRAD-IICA-UWI committee, to all national, regional, hemispheric institutions and individuals involved in the fruit industry. A representative from the private sector (Suriname) was nominated to the Committee. This move was complemented by the establishment of various associations and interest groups in several countries, such as, the Papaya Growers Association in Jamaica, Fruit Processors Association in Guyana, Cashew Task Force in Grenada, and the Citrus Task Force in Trinidad.

Two regional workshops, which brought together researchers, producers, extension officers and processors from the region, were successfully organized; one on pineapple production was held in Martinique (CIRAD-IICA), the other was the Third Regional Workshop on Tropical Fruits held in Grenada (ADCU-CARDI-IICA-Ministry of Agriculture).



Two regional multi-disciplinary surveys were also conducted with the participation of other regional institutions; one surveyed pests and diseases of pineapple in the Lesser Antilles (CARDI-CIRAD-IICA). The other surveyed fruit processing establishments in the Lesser Antilles, Jamaica and the Guyanas (CIRAD-

CARIRI-CRITT-IICA).

Several important national training events dealing with various aspects of production, processing, post harvest and pest and diseases on fruits were co-organized and supported by the project in Antigua, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Suriname and Trinidad.

Several students and young professionals on long-term attachments worked on specific studies in various countries: Antigua (1), Barbados (1), Guadeloupe (2), St. Lucia (1), Trinidad (5).

Movement of germplasm took place mainly between the French Antilles and Guyana and Trinidad. Special focus was on tristeza-tolerant citrus germplasm and exotic fruit species (Rambutan, Mangosteen, Sapotaceae).

Technical missions on cashew, pineapple and papaya were conducted by IICA

They contributed to the analysis and resolution of specific problems by the Ministries of Agriculture, farmers and other private and public institutions.

The project participated in the formulation of various regional projects of which two received funding for their implementation: one to extend the regional survey on fruit processing to the Dominican Republic and Cuba (IICA); while the other again "fights" the citrus tristeza virus in the Caribbean (CIRAD).

Dissemination of information was a major activity during 1994; this was achieved through the publication and distribution of 4 issues of the "Tropical Fruits Newsletter" and distribution of magazines published by COLEACP (COLEACP monthly Bulletin) and CIRAD/FLHOR (Fruitrop and Images of Research) as well as relevant articles and papers.

CARAPHIN

The Caribbean Animal and Plant Health Information Network (CARAPHIN) has been busy lately, demonstrating its surveillance database, CORRAL, at international conferences and meetings. De-

signed especially for developing countries, CORRAL can function as a national surveillance program for tracking plant and animal health problems identified during routine field investigations, or import and export inspections.

This provides senior regulatory officials with the information they require to manage disease control programs or to quickly identify new disease and pest threats.

The program was demonstrated recently at international fora, such as the International Symposium for Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (Nairobi,



Kenya), the Working Group on Informatics - Office International des Épizooties (OIE) Ft. Collins, USA, and the joint workshop on Information Systems of the North American Plant Protection Organization - NAPPO and FAO (Orlando, USA). Additional interest in the program has been expressed by countries in Africa, S.E. Asia and the South Pacific.

Dissemination of information has always been an integral part of the CARAPHIN project. In addition to semi annual regional summaries of surveillance information, CARAPHIN Plant Health and CARAPHIN Animal Health, the network publishes a newsletter (CARAPHIN News) highlighting articles of concern for agricultural, environmental and public health.

SUPPORTING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOP- MENT

The major training modules, which form part of a comprehensive technical coop-

eration package, were completed for three of the selected women's groups. Subsequently, two "Achievement Day" exercises were held on behalf of the San Francique Sports, Education and Cultural Council (SANSECC) Women's Group and the St. Helena/Matelot Women's Group. On both occasions, the participants presented a wide and attractive display of preserved items which were made as part of the programme. These occasions also served as highpoints on the calendar of events in the respective communities, being attended by family, friends and fellow villagers, and in one instance, by the Parliamentary Representative from the Ministry of Community Development. The training programmes were acknowledged as "deft combination of practical and theoretical skills" and "a first step on the road to achieving self employment".

The opportunity to meet other women farmers and persons associated with rural development was also enhanced by the Project Coordinator's visit to Jamaica to attend a IICA/IDB regional conference on "Rural Women Food Producers".

The conference vividly highlighted real life experiences of women farmers from Suriname, Guyana, Barbados and Jamaica and presented some of the findings of a survey of women food producers. One recurring theme was the official, statistical, under-recording of women's participation in agriculture and the attendant need for more data on women.

SUCCESSFUL DAIRY WORKSHOP

A successful National Dairy Workshop was held at the Central Experiment Station, Centeno, on October 27-28, 1994. Mr. Stanford Callender, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, presented the feature address to a packed Auditorium at the Opening Ceremony. The Working Sessions, which were held at the

Farmers Training Centre, were attended by over 50 practicing dairy farmers and technicians from public and private sector institutions involved in the promotion of the national industry.

The major objective of the Workshop was to introduce the participants to the principles of the St. Stanislaus Dairy Farm Model which has been successfully tested by IICA in Guyana and Suriname. The basic principles involve the optimisation of the uses of relatively cheap and locally available feed materials, such as, grass, and by-products, and improved husbandry practices.

Accordingly, the Workshop focussed on the description and assessment of the national industry, the feeds (pasture and other) available and the principles of feeding same, the veterinary and other husbandry practices and the role of co-operatives and associations in the development of the sub-sector.

The lecturers included overseas lecturers, Dr. Hector Munoz, from IICA Headquarters, who spearheaded the work on the St. Stanislaus Model in Guyana; Mr. Jim Cochran and Dr. Paul Jennings from Canada and Jamaica, respectively; and local lecturers from the Ministry of Agriculture, UWI Faculties of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine, and CARDI.

The farmers, as articulated by Mr. "B.P." Sankar Supersad of the Dairy Farmers Association, considered the Workshop to be "extremely useful, informative and timely". He attributed the Workshop's success to the "total involvement of the farmers at all stages of its planning and implementation".

For this, IICA expresses sincerest thanks to its collaborators, viz. MALMR, UWI and the Sugarcane Feeds Centre and the Members of the Organizing Committee, Messrs. Harry Ramlal, Floyd Neckles and Paras Neebar, and Drs. Reza Mohammed and Gary Garcia.

IICA IN Trinidad and Tobago is published once every two months with updates on the activities undertaken and managed by this office. Our aim is to encourage, promote and support the efforts of Trinidad and Tobago to achieve its agricultural development and rural well-being.

Editor-in-chief: H. Arlington D. Chesney; Editor: Naitram Ramnanan; Typesetter: Deborah Arthur.

IICA Office in Trinidad and Tobago, "Aero Services Credit Union Building", P.O. Box 1318, Port of Spain, Trinidad. Tel: 645-3031; Fax: 645-3070