



IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

Volume 3. No. 1 February 1996

IICA
BIBLIOTECA VENEZUELA

4 JUN 1996

Outlook for Collaboration

IICA/FAO

The Director General of FAO, Jacques Diouf and his counterpart in IICA, Carlos E Aquino, met on March 8 at the Headquarters of the Institute to identify complementary areas for collaboration

FAO and IICA are introducing sweeping changes to decentralize their operations and strengthen ties with each other and counterpart organizations.

Both Diouf and Aquino agree that guaranteeing food security for large segments of the world's population through sustainable production models is the principal challenge facing agriculture on the eve of the 21st Century. Currently, there are 800 million starving children in the world, and by the year 2003 there will be 3 billion more mouths to feed.

IICA to provide Technical Assistance to the ACS

At a meeting between Dr HAD Chesney, IICA's Regional Director - Caribbean Area and Dr Molina Duarte, Secretary General of the ACS, agreement was reached on the following:

- * IICA to provide technical support to the ACS on matters related to agriculture.
- * IICA and the ACS will enter into a formal agreement to facilitate the above.

This request for cooperation and assistance is sustained in the spirit of collaboration that aims to serve in a more effective way the respective governments, thus avoiding unnecessary duplication of work among our respective organizations.

Socio-Economic Policy, Trade and Investment

National

Following the conclusion and reformulation of the national project for Improving Policy Analysis and Planning, areas which are to benefit from strong follow-up support in a subsequent phase of the project include:

- * the future development and institutionalization of the Work Plan Management System in the MOA and the Division of Agriculture of the THA. The transfer and adoption of this system to other MOAs in the Region.
- * continued application of the AGSYS budget generation system in developing a database of commodity costing which may be used for further policy analysis in national agricultural agencies.

- * completion of commodity profiles for milk, rice and other substituted items.
- * continued support (in collaboration with the MOA) to the Division of Agriculture, THA. Under the previous project, IICA was involved in a number of initiatives to assist the Division in diagnosing the Tobago Agricultural Sector, strengthening its analytical capabilities, and supporting its efforts towards the generation of a new agricultural sector plan.
- * the adoption of a modular approach to the institutionalization of SIAPA in relevant agencies. A key agency in this case is the NAMDEVCO, which has already shown interest in using the Market Reporting Model developed under SIAPA².

Regional

Over the last two months, the planning schedule for the installation of AGSYS in the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) of OECS countries was completed. AGSYS installation and training was facilitated with funding from the OECS/ADCU. Workshop sessions were conducted for the MOA in Grenada, St Vincent, Antigua, Monsterrat and St Kitts to a minimum of 8 participants per country from the MoA, Planning and Trade and other personnel of the development bank and agriculture development related institutions. Sessions were also conducted in Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Two papers were presented at the G-77 Meeting in Guyana on: "Competitiveness and Trade: Conceptual Issues and Direction for LAC Countries" and "Agriculture and Food in Latin America: Situation and Perspectives for the Future".

The first section on the "Economic Assessment of the Banana Industries in the Windward Islands - Historical Perspective on the Performance" was completed. Compilations on the data base for the "IICA/FMTC Study on Competitiveness in the Lesser Antilles" and "The Review of the Macroeconomic Policies of Trinidad and Tobago" are on-going. Preparations for the review and reformulation of this project are on-going.

Tropical Fruit Project

The Regional Fruit Project (RFP) participated in the 92nd Fresh World Convention and Exhibition of the United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association in Louisiana, USA. The presentation (picture posters and slides) formed part of the exposition on the trade show floor, which featured over 120,000 square feet of the latest products, services and technologies of the global produce industry. IICA's display focused on the objectives of the RFP and its key achievements.

The Project Coordinator, E Monteverde, visited Jamaica to discuss with personnel from the Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation (JADF) the proposal for the

introduction of a tropical germplasm to Jamaica.

Three meetings of the CARIFRUIT Steering Committee were held to discuss the functioning of National Fruit Committees and the upcoming Fruit Meeting in June. Preparations are on-going towards hosting a workshop on Rapid Pineapple Multiplication in Guyana. A research proposal was sent to CNEARC in France to facilitate the student exchange programme for 1996.

The RFP will be Reviewed and Reformulated in-house. Preparations are on-going for same.

Sustainable Rural Development

Following the review of the national project on rural women, on-going support will continue towards strengthening selected womens groups. However, the technical cooperation programme will also be directed towards the strengthening of farmers' groups and commodity associations and expanded to include activities on rural youths. A critical area will be forecasting, development and consolidation of marketing opportunities.

Some of the key actors will be the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources, the National 4H Leaders' Council, the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago, the National Dairy Associations and selected women's groups.

The areas of cooperation will include the strengthening of the organizational, administrative and technical capacity of the human resource within the target groups through training, technology transfer, group exchange, development of feasibility studies and marketing plans, as well as, accessing supplementary financing to support the development of viable commercial initiatives.

The project facilitated the formal signing of an agreement with the Canadian Embassy for a grant of TT\$22,990 for the St Helena/Matlot Women's Group. This group, which has benefitted from IICA's support for the last 4 years, will use the funding to purchase equipment towards the establishment of a multi-purpose processing facility.

Staff Profile



Dr Patrick Antoine joined the office in Trinidad and Tobago in September 1995 as the Head of the Multinational Project on Socio-economic Policies, Trade & Investment. Prior to this and since July 1992, he was a Trade & Integration Specialist at IICA's Barbados Office.

Dr Antoine holds a BSc Honours Degree in Economics from UWI and MSc and PhD degrees from the University of Florida (UF), Food & Resources Department, USA. At UF, where he specialized in the areas of international trade, production economics, econometrics and agricultural policy, he was a Research/Teaching Assistant working on World Bank Projects and with the Caribbean Basin Advisory Group.

Dr Antoine, a Grenadian national, has worked in the Planning Unit/Ministry of Agriculture, Barclays Bank Plc., and lectured at the Institute for Further Education in Grenada. He is also attached to UWI/Barbados, where he continues to assist with Masters supervision.

At IICA, Dr Antoine has undertaken extensive studies in policy analysis and planning, competitiveness and in conjunction with the UF, developed and trained public sector personnel in IICA Caribbean Member Countries in the Computerized Agricultural Production Budget Generator (AGSYS) program. He has published numerous documents on issues relating to international trade, harmonization of fiscal incentives, competitiveness and socio-economic policies.

On the personal side, Dr Antoine is married and enjoys playing soccer, motor sport and music.