



Achievements 2022

Belize



- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) successfully implemented the project entitled “Consultancy Services for the Development of an Online Training Platform for the Caribbean Climate Online Risk Assessment Tool (CCORAL) and Associated Translation Services-Belize” (EU GCCA/SER/003/CCORAL), whose contracting authority was the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC). Implemented together with Willis Towers Watson (formerly known as Acclimatise), the project involved transforming the classroom-based training program on the use and application of the CCORAL tool into an online course. It also included the development of a robust and flexible electronic platform with different learning features to provide training to a variety of stakeholders across the CARIFORUM region. The learning materials were produced in English, Spanish, French and Dutch. Training was also delivered to CCCCC staff to build their capacity to effectively manage the learning platform and be able to provide the relevant stakeholders with training on the use of the platform.
- The Institute supported the implementation of various activities in Belize within the framework of the CARICOM Green Climate Fund (GCF) AgReady project “Strengthening the Foundation for a Climate Responsive Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean”. Extension officers, farmers and public and private stakeholders participated in workshops and received training in MRV methods and tools that can be applied in the agriculture sector, as well as greenhouse gas emission inventories, data collection and estimation. Two validation sessions were also carried out to enable stakeholders to conduct and present a barrier analysis and a needs assessment for the development of an evidence-based and climate-responsive agriculture sector that is more attractive to private sector investors. The information collected during these sessions will contribute to the development of two concept notes for the GCF.
- Belize took part in a regional project within the framework of the 11th EDF SPS Measures project implemented by IICA in collaboration with the Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise (MoAFSE). The project focused on strengthening the country’s capacity to meet SPS standards for trade in agricultural and fisheries products, as well as improving the legal framework of the poultry and aquatic health sector. Regulations were upgraded and approved by the Attorney General’s Office and subsequently signed into law by the corresponding Ministry, for the benefit of Belize’s thriving poultry industry. Legal recommendations were provided on how to strengthen Belize’s aquatic health regulations in order to meet international standards, as well as how to improve international market access for Belize’s fisheries products.
- In collaboration with the ministries responsible for agriculture, education and health in Belize, IICA implemented a project to promote the consumption of locally produced fruits and vegetables and healthy lifestyles, which was funded by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives. As part of the project:
 - Five short videos on vegetable production (including seed sowing, trellising for tomatoes and sweet peppers, as well as control of pests and diseases using home remedies) were produced.



- Four videos to promote healthy lifestyles (including the nutritional benefits of a diet rich in fruits and vegetables as well as healthy recipes for the whole family) were produced.
 - Infographic materials, including posters and banners to support the project theme, and to be used as teaching tools, were also produced.
 - A two-day online national training program was delivered to 55 primary school teachers using presentations prepared by experts from the three collaborating ministries. Topics covered included the health benefits of a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, as well as how to run a school garden.
 - 25,000 seedlings (of six varieties, including lettuce, cabbage, tomato and melon) were distributed through the Ministry of Education to 44 school gardens. Nursery trees and gardening tools were also procured and distributed for use in school gardens in each of Belize's six districts.
- IICA provided the MoAFSE with technical and financial support to initiate germplasm collection for non-traditional fruit trees (including pitahaya, coconut, passion fruit, avocado and soursop), as well as coordinate technical capacity building and field exchanges between partner institutions and public and private industry stakeholders

to advance the non-traditional fruit tree industry in Belize. A rapid assessment was conducted and baseline information on existing germplasm collection banks was collected. Additionally, the varieties grown in Belize were visually categorized and characterized, and planting material required to establish local germplasm banks was identified. Through strategic partnerships with local and regional institutions, genetic material was locally sourced and germplasm was imported. Additionally, a series of voluntary guidelines for quality assurance in the supply and distribution of fruit tree planting material were developed. The MoAFSE also established three improved production models which incorporate proven techniques for greater competitiveness and sustainability. To this end, local and international facilitators delivered various capacity-building sessions on the overall management of selected non-traditional fruit trees, namely coconut, soursop and pitahaya. To further enhance capacity building, local and international field exchanges were carried out to foster the adoption of new, effective and modern approaches to improve the industry's performance and facilitate networking and communication among producers, processors and other stakeholders throughout the value chain. Participants also visited the National Center of Agricultural and Forestry Technology (CENTA) in El Salvador as well as various local farms in Belize.