



Achievements 2022

Antigua and Barbuda



- With funding from the Australian High Commission's Direct Aid Program, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) coordinated and implemented the rehabilitation of a community garden, thereby supporting a local NGO in Barbuda through an innovative climate smart project. The aim was to provide governance interventions and to implement climate smart actions to increase sustainable livelihood opportunities in communities. It will foster an innovative, technology-focused AHFS approach, with upgrades that will impact over 15 beneficiaries, 96% of them women, who will manage the vegetable production facility to assist in satisfying the local demand in Barbuda.
- A regional initiative by IICA, in partnership with the Barbados Delegation, and in collaboration with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, assisted six students and two teachers to participate in the IICA Youth Farm programme, emphasizing the instruction of students in essential farming knowledge, as well as farm and business management skills development. Through the TVET Council in Barbados and the National Technical Vocational Centre, participants attain NVQ and CVQ Crop Production and Livestock Rearing level 1 qualifications, which will assist them in the agriculture sector.
- The Institute supported a regional initiative funded by the EbA Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, in partnership with IAMovement and a local NGO – the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Center (GARDC). The climate adaptation resilience project seeks to assist vulnerable communities to adopt nature-based solutions to reduce non-climate stressors that contribute to land degradation. Over 30 persons have benefited through several capacity building sessions. Two green vetiver grass businesses were established as a result of capacity building training sessions on green business development, which also enhanced beneficiaries' skills in marketing, branding, product development and business planning.
- The Global Environmental Fund (GEF) financed a training intervention by a Master Beekeeper from St. Lucia, to support the Antigua Beekeepers Cooperative (ABC) and IICA technicians in terms of apiculture management and queen rearing. An assessment was conducted to determine the most suitable location for rearing queen bees. A technological component was also introduced, through the Hive Keep in Caribbean mobile app, aimed at improving local beekeepers' hive management planning programs.
- The Institute supported two local NGOs, the Antigua Beekeepers Cooperative (ABC) and the Old Road Seventh Day Adventist Church (ORSDA), in securing external resources for project funding. The ABC project aims to implement innovative



strategies to improve the population and health status of the honeybee and to control the Varroa mite, to facilitate sustainable beekeeping in Antigua and Barbuda. On the other hand, the ORSDA will focus on strengthening community development, by introducing climate smart agriculture, through hydroponics production. The projects, which will be executed in 2023, will aim to improve the livelihood of members of local community-based and non-governmental organizations, in response to a request by the ministers of Agriculture at a donor meeting organized by IICA in 2020.

- IICA supported the Ministry of Agriculture, through their Plant Protection Unit, by conducting a stakeholder workshop to evaluate emergency response plans for two plant pests of regional and national priority. The workshop took the form of a tabletop simulation exercise on emergency response to incursions of the tomato leafminer (*Tuta absoluta*) and brown rot of potato (*Ralstonia solanacearum* Race 3, biovar 2). The workshop was held in collaboration with the Technical Working Groups on Emergency Response and Safeguarding of the Caribbean Plant Health Directors Forum (CPHD) and with the capacity-building project of the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI), to secure the United States and Caribbean borders from pest incursions. Over 30 stakeholders benefited, including plant quarantine inspectors and officers, extension officers, crop and livestock farmers, crop research and agriculture station

personnel, communication and laboratory personnel, administrators (Director of Agriculture, Permanent Secretary), nursery operators and input suppliers, as well as representatives of the trade and environmental sector, the Barbuda Council, the coast guard, customs, and partner organizations (CARDI).

- The Institute supported CAB International, by providing strategic implementation assistance to generate the data, analysis and information required to determine risks associated with specific trade pathways for invasive species and to develop recommendations for managing these risks. The initiative also sought to build capacity for national and regional response; for the formulation of strategies and action plans; and to inform operators in the pet/aquarium and horticulture trade about legal options and codes of conduct.
- The Minister of Agriculture and other high-level representatives within the Ministry participated in several high-level webinars organized and coordinated by IICA, including activities related to post COVID-19 challenges in the region. These events offered an opportunity to highlight the need for new approaches to strengthen food production and to demonstrate the support that the Institute had provided in the fight against food and nutritional insecurity in 2020 – a year that had negatively affected the tourism sector, the engine of Caribbean economies.