

# Achievements 2022

## Barbados



- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) completed its annual Youth Farm Programme. The program provided 30 participants from Barbados and 8 participants from Antigua and Barbuda with training in crop, livestock and aquaponics production. In 2022, as part of IICA's 80th Anniversary celebrations, the Institute facilitated the participation of the individuals from Antigua and Barbuda. IICA coordinated the activity and received funding from the Ministry of Education and the TVET Council to support the intervention, which resulted in 38 participants receiving certification in agricultural production. The intervention also contributed to increasing the number of youth equipped to enhance food and nutritional security in the country. IICA also promoted an urban and mobile backyard aquaponics unit to contribute to food security at the national and community levels. An online community of backyard producers was established to foster networking and the sharing of information.
- The Institute supported the participation of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Security in various fora that strengthened the relationship between the Institute and Caribbean countries, including:
  - the 27th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP27) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC),
  - the Africa Green Revolution Forum in Rwanda,
  - the Africa-Americas Ministerial Summit, and
  - the Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA.
- IICA developed a program to boost trade and marketing by micro, small and medium-sized agri-entrepreneurs.

At total of 10 agro-exporters enhanced their capacity to engage in export planning and marketing, and received support to improve labels and brand image. In addition, the exporters participated in the Caribbean Agri-Food Virtual Trade Mission which sought to enhance access to markets and connect buyers to sellers. The intervention contributed to increasing food security in the region and reducing the dependence on extra-regional imports.

- In 2022, the Institute led efforts to provide training in backyard gardening to stakeholders from various communities, which allowed for enhancing community food and nutritional security. An estimated 25 persons received training in backyard crop production while another estimated 25 persons were trained in chicken production. Training was conducted at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture and as part of IICA's participation in a national poverty alleviation program, under which backyard gardening in urban spaces is a priority. The chicken production training was carried out in alignment with the national poverty alleviation program, and included the distribution of chicks to persons in the community.
- The Institute procured equipment and machinery as part of the initial work to establish the Barbados Innovation Center for Agriculture, which will closely resemble the CIMAG in Costa Rica. IICA procured two drones, a farm bot and virtual reality headsets; expanded internet capabilities at a facility; and set up audiovisual equipment and other items. It is expected that the facility will increase awareness of and interest in agricultural production through the promotion of technology and innovation.

- The Institute coordinated the execution of the Caribbean Virtual Agri-Food Trade Mission. In its second year, the 2022 edition saw an increase in participation of over 30 percent, with 171 companies participating in the meetings and negotiations. The trade mission forms part of the efforts to foster intra-regional trade, expand access to overseas markets, and reduce the food import bill. Participants also received capacity-building support to prepare them to participate in the trade mission. Exporters received training in negotiation, pricing, branding and other key areas to boost and better capitalize on market opportunities.
- IICA continued to coordinate the execution of the 11th EDF SPS Measures Project. With the aim of assisting the region in modernizing agricultural health and food safety (AHFS) systems for improved agricultural trade, the project seeks to improve compliance by CARIFORUM States with international SPS measures, standards, and procedures.
  - With a view to modernizing the current SPS regulatory environment, the AHFS policy framework was strengthened by upgrading legislation in 3 countries. Specifically, a Regional AHFS Policy and Action Plan and a National AHFS Policy were developed and approved by the CARICOM Council of Ministers. Furthermore, three countries (Belize, Guyana, and Saint Lucia) received support to upgrade their national legislation in the areas of plant health, animal health and food safety. More than 200 beneficiaries were involved.
  - Interventions also focused on assisting public and private sector stakeholders in implementing necessary trade processes and procedures to comply with SPS measures. Particularly noteworthy was the technical assistance provided
- Through resources provided by the Institute, efforts were undertaken to promote and enhance food and nutritional security in Barbados through a food security policy developed by Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, IICA Director General Emeritus. The policy, promoted and discussed among the 51 members of the Parliament of Barbados, will serve to inform decisions related to food security in the country.
- To twelve small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in targeted value chains (herbs and spices, roots and tubers and coconut) across 10 countries. Specifically, audits were conducted, and action plans to improve food safety management systems were developed. A GAP Audit online course was also developed to support the export of fresh produce.
- With a view to improving SPS capacity in the fisheries sector, a Roadmap/Operationalization Framework for SPS Coordination in the Fisheries Sector was developed and endorsed by the Ministerial Council of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM). This important framework contributes to improving the effectiveness and efficiency of SPS controls in the fisheries sector. To further support the fisheries sector, technical assistance was provided to two fishing operations in Guyana and Suriname to improve their compliance with sanitary regulations; over 100 factory workers were trained.
- Lastly, the Project recognized that improving the laboratory testing capacity of the fisheries sector is critical for trade. To that end, two (2) laboratories in Belize and Grenada received training and technical guidance in residue and environmental monitoring.