The organizational, management and productivity levels of 30 dairy goat farmers have been increased throughout Trinidad and Tobago, through a series of capacity building programmes and other strategic interventions, including workshops on husbandry practices; marketing and entrepreneurship; nutrition and feeding; pen design and construction; marketing, packaging and labelling, in collaboration with the University of the West Indies, the Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society; the Ministry of Agriculture Land and Fisheries; the Food and Drugs Division of the Ministry of Health; and other stakeholders from the private sector.

A roadmap and knowledge products were made available for the development of the dairy goat industry in Trinidad and Tobago, with the preparation of a dairy goat business plan and marketing strategy; a dairy goat production manual and fact sheets on eight different types of forage species, in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society and Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

22 persons from several institutions, including the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries; the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management; the Environment Management Agency, the University of the West Indies; the University of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as participants from Guyana, acquired techniques at a workshop held by IICA to undertake risk mapping through the application of modern risk mapping tools to key risk parameters.

The first characterization study on Family Agriculture in the Caribbean region was completed based on field work conducted in Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines and serves as a basis for the development of differentiated public policy in support of family agriculture. The study defines the unique nature of family agriculture in the Caribbean in order to provide policy makers with greater understanding of its contribution to food security; the challenges to be addressed and policy measures required to improve the output from that sector.

The capacity of 160 persons, including staff members of the Tobago pack-house, extension officers and farmers on the island has been improved to ensure that high quality agricultural produce reaches consumers, through a series of training workshops that focused on packinghouse and post-harvest management, microbiology and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture, Marketing, Marine Affairs and the Environment.

Draft Animal Health Regulations were prepared for adoption by the Ministry of Agriculture, in keeping with the requirements under the World Trade Organization (WTO) agreement on the application of SPS measures and the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

A revised draft Beekeeping and Bee Products Bill was completed to facilitate compliance and harmonization with regional and international obligations by Trinidad and Tobago in order to facilitate trade in honey.
The status of pest and diseases of the beekeeping industry was updated through a national apiculture survey of active apiaries, using Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology for sample collection and laboratory analyses.

The Network of Rural Women Producers were beneficiaries, under the APP Programme, of a commercial oven and dough mixer to improve the efficiency of their commercial bread and pastry making venture, based on the utilization of root crops and other types of fruits. The Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society was also a beneficiary, under the same programme, of five portable milking machines for milking four goats at a time, which will improve the efficiency of their milking operations.

28 persons from eleven farmer organizations, including the Network of Rural Women Producers; the North Manzanilla Farmers’ Group; the Matelot Farmers’ Group; the Aripo Youth Development Group; the Fishing Pond Farmers’ Group; the National Food Crop Farmers’ Association; the Brasso Seco Tourism Action Committee; the Organic Agriculture Society of Trinidad and Tobago; the Toco Foundation and the Paria Farmers’ Group, have acquired the tools and information necessary for strengthening the management and cohesiveness of their groups, through a workshop on governance organized by IICA.