

Important achievements in 2016

- IICA prepared and submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Agriculture for the implementation of the National Agriculture and Food Policy 2015-2030. It included the appropriate institutional mechanisms for coordination and monitoring.
- Institutional strengthening of the Pesticides Control Board was ensured with the drafting of a medium term strategic plan, and following the production of manuals and training programs related to modernizing its systems, processes and operations for governance, annual planning, monitoring and evaluation, as well as human resources management.
- Through the organization of a national forum and a number of online conferences, the key technical personnel in 18 institutions within the agricultural sector have improved their understanding of climate change.
- IICA held a workshop to build the capacity of personnel from seven public sector institutions and commodity associations in agriculture through the Farmer Field School (FFS) methodology, and established one FFS with the Ministry of Agriculture involving small farmers in southern Belize.
- The Policy and Statistical Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture improved its performance after providing advisory services and capacity building to key extension personnel in the use of drone technology in order to enhance the accuracy of their data collection in the field.
- As part of the government's priority to improve family agriculture in southern Toledo, IICA documented the characteristics of the farming systems of 60 households in six communities, and sensitized farmers' groups and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) with a workshop on integrated farming systems in selected indigenous communities in southern Belize.
- Through the EU-funded regional program for the Caribbean, IICA strengthened the capacity of five national organizations and producer groups involved in agricultural well-being and food safety services in Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), food safety risk analysis, and Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS) in Belize.
- Through the drafting of appropriate guidelines and manuals, the human resources management and procurement procedures were strengthened in the Sugar Industry Research and Development Institute.

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