



XIX Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture

AN INSTITUTION RICH IN **HISTORY** THAT IS **BUILDING**
THE FUTURE OF **AGRICULTURE IN THE AMERICAS**

San Jose, Costa Rica | October 25-26, 2017



Barbados

Most significant results 2010-2017

- **IICA: educational and training center.** The Youth Farm Summer Programme, developed by IICA, provided training and upgraded skills in Amenity Horticulture of about one hundred students, who obtained National and Caribbean Vocational Qualifications. Innovative methods in food production were taught to ensure compliance with AHFS in food operations. Areas covered included good agricultural practices, organic agriculture and protected agriculture, among others, as a means of improving national food security. The program also allowed for strengthening the institutional framework for training and technology transfer, due to the internship opportunities provided to students by private partners. In 2015, IICA was certified as a Training Centre by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Council (TVET) of Barbados, which had been a strategic partner throughout the program. With funds from IDB and in collaboration with the Ministries of Education, Agriculture and Labor, the Institute trained farmers and young and women entrepreneurs in agrifood processing, crop production (two levels) and rabbit rearing.
- **Linkages with tourism.** Linkages between agriculture and tourism were also boosted at the regional and international levels, by creating or enhancing knowledge sharing in agribusiness and agrotourism value chains (through workshops with participants from other Caribbean nations) and the establishment of liaison committees in several ECS countries. The development of a Caribbean Culinary Alliance, the design of a platform to increase knowledge sharing by chefs from the Caribbean and Pacific, and the delivery of inputs to Guyana's Coconut and Rum sector, were some actions spearheaded by IICA.
- **Facing climate change.** With the aim of providing a tool for resilience and adaptation to climate change and increasing the availability of water, IICA supported the building of ferro-cement water storage tanks in farming communities. Technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture, private-sector stakeholders, farmers and students received



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training in building the infrastructure as part of a UNDP GEF project. In order to deal with climate change, IICA also promoted protected agriculture systems, in this case, not only by providing training to extension officers, farmers and students, but also material upgrades for two greenhouse structures at the Ministry of Agriculture to improve the Ministry's capacity to demonstrate innovations in this area. Under the program initiated by the Institute and SAGARPA (Mexico), experts from CRESIAP delivered a course for the operation and management of this type of facility.

- **AHFS actions.** Implementation of the SPS project financed by the European Union has strengthened the institutional framework for AHFS in Barbados and coordination at the regional level. Improvement of capabilities with respect to standards, legislation, protocols and guidelines to access European and other markets was the objective of meetings, training programs, forums and webinars organized by IICA with national and regional partners, such as the CARICOM Secretariat and others.
- **Enhancing sheep production.** Implementation of the APP project by IICA (financed by the EU) and coordination facilitated by the Institute with Mexican research centers, such as Chapingo University, has allowed for strengthening the Blackbelly sheep value chain. European funds have been used to build baseline studies (including surveys and field interviews) and train stakeholders, while Mexican researchers have transferred knowledge and skills in artificial insemination and sheep breeding.
- **Production of own food and healthy snacking.** Food and nutrition security was promoted among schoolchildren through workshops and demonstrations about the importance of healthy eating and snacking, and among adults through the exhibition of best practices in family agriculture in order to inspire the use of homegrown and homemade products in households.