



Annual **20**
Report **17**

Agriculture: Opportunity for development in the Americas

DOMINICA





Delegation in Dominica

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Acronyms

ACP	African Caribbean and Pacific
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
AI	Artificial Insemination
AICTU	Agricultural Information and Communication Technology Unit
AID Bank	Agricultural Industrial and Development Bank
APP	Agriculture Policy Programme
BAM	Banana Accompanying Measures
BSD	Black Sigatoka Disease
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CATIE	Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CCSA	Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
DEAR	Dominica Emergency Agricultural Recovery
DEXIA	Dominica Export Import Agency
DFID	Department for International Development
DYBT	Dominica Youth Business Trust
EDF	European Development Fund
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FonTC	Competitive Fund for Technical Cooperation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture
ICAFÉ	Costa Rica Coffee Institute
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
LOA	Letter of Agreement
MoAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
MTP	Medium Term Plan
MTPNP	Morne Trois Pitons National Park
NAO	National Authorising Office
PMCA	Participatory Market Chain Analysis
PROPEL	Promotion of Regional Opportunities for Produce through Enterprises and Linkages
RRA	Rapid Response Assessment
SFERA	Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WUSC	World University Service of Canada

Foreword



The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) has the pleasure to present its Annual Report for 2017. The purpose of this report is to show transparency and accountability to our major stakeholders in the agricultural sector and provide an overview of the main achievements of 2017. The region is vulnerable to natural disasters and last year the agri-sector saw three of the ECS countries decimated by Hurricanes Maria and Irma. Dominica which was most severely hit, experienced the reality of climate change on 18 September 2017.

Recognizing the role that agriculture plays in the socio-economic and development processes, IICA as a specialized agency in agriculture and rural development, will continue to maintain a strategic position within the sector to effectively provide efficient technical support. To that end, the Medium Term Plan for 2014 - 2018 is aimed at building competitiveness and sustainability of agricultural chains; support improved inclusion of stakeholders in agriculture and the rural milieu; build resilience of agri-food systems through comprehensive risk management; and support improved productivity and sustainability of family farms.

This annual report focuses on activities relating to productivity and growth in agro-enterprises, resilience, strengthening producer organizations, and agricultural health and food safety, in collaboration with local and international organizations. The Institute anticipates the continued close, partnership and collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, the private sector, farmer organizations, international organizations, and women and youth organizations in executing the Institute's programme for 2018.

To continue our support to the countries the Institute is working towards a comprehensive MTP for 2018 – 2022 directed by the incoming Director General Dr. Manuel Otero. The new perspective will take on a more strategic view by involving the countries in preparing IICA's position in the sector to improve its performance. This is expected to reposition the Institute towards new approaches in the development of agriculture in the hemisphere with a differentiation strategy towards the Caribbean region and the OECS.

As the Institute embarks on this new approach we look forward to the continued commitment of all stakeholders in agriculture and rural sectors, to provide technical assistance and leadership in developing and promoting sustainable agriculture in the Commonwealth of Dominica.

John H King

Representative in the ECS

Introduction

The 2017 Annual Report documents the major achievements of IICA in provision of technical assistance towards agricultural and rural development. The reporting period marks the penultimate year in the execution of IICA's Technical Cooperation Programme which is structured in the Country Strategy 2014 - 2018. The technical cooperation actions in the 2014 - 2018 Country Strategy are result-oriented and link to the four instruments of action (Flagship Projects, Rapid Respond Actions, Competitive Fund for Technical Cooperation (FonTC), Externally Funded Projects) outlined in the MTP 2014 - 2018. These actions are aligned with the 11 contributions that IICA supports.

A technical cooperation project proposal entitled “*Enhancement of the competitiveness of agribusiness and the improvement of livelihood of rural territories through building resilience in production systems and improved quality and food safety systems*” was included in the Country Strategy, and it proposed actions that will address these national priorities within the framework of IICA's mandate and technical concentration program and availability of resources. The financing of the Technical Cooperation Programme came mainly from IICA quota resources, however, a significant amount was derived from externally funded projects.

Hurricane Maria affected the implementation of the 2017 plan, particularly in the last quarter. New actions had to be introduced to support the rehabilitation and recovery process of the agricultural sector as a result of the extensive damage caused by the hurricane. Notwithstanding, the programmes executed in 2017 fell in the thematic areas of building resilience, food safety, agribusiness and commercialization, and agriculture territories, and rural well-being. IICA's technical actions placed emphasis on capacity building both in the private and public sectors, and rehabilitation of farm enterprises affected by the Hurricane. Its programme was achieved through partnership with major clients to include the Division of Agriculture, FAO, CARDI, UNDP, Dominica Bureau of Standards, and Dominica National Council of Women.

We would like to express gratitude to all partners both in the private and public sectors who contributed towards the implementation of IICA's National Technical Cooperation Agenda. We look forward to 2018, to continue our programme in Dominica towards the development of agriculture and rural well-being.

Kent E. Coipel

Technical Specialist/ Dominica

Executive Summary

The IICA Delegation in Dominica in 2017 continued to aggressively promote the repositioning of agriculture and the development of an appropriate enabling environment to ensure the sustainability of the agricultural sector. The Annual Report highlights the significant achievements with the technical cooperation programmes as follows:

- Under the EU 10th EDF Intra ACP SPS Project and in collaboration with the Project Management Unit within the IICA Delegation in Barbados, logistics support was provided for the enrolment of one senior officer of MoAF to pursue a Master's Degree in Food Law at the Michigan State University. This initiative formed part of the improvement of technical capabilities within the country, to advise on legislative modernization, harmonization and implementation of matters relating to Agricultural Health and Food safety.
- Through an FAO Externally-Funded Project, IICA provided administrative and technical support to MoAF in conducting clean up and land restoration activities as well as conducting a series of training on disaster risk management and land husbandry. Under the project, the office provided administrative and technical support in the implementation of an IICA/FAO Rehabilitation Project in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Erika.
- Through a horizontal cooperation effort the IICA Delegations in Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines worked closely to support the development of the coffee subsector in both islands. During the first phase IICA supported a comprehensive assessment of the coffee subsector. The second phase included the understudying of the coffee industry in Costa Rica.
- Support was provided in strengthening four producer groups in Dominica. The technical intervention included an assessment of producer groups to identify their strengths and weaknesses relating to governance and a follow up governance training workshop to strengthen the capacity of the executive members of these groups.
- Under the Family Farming Flagship Project, a national consultation was held with 28 representatives from public and private sectors to include MoAF, Ministry of Commerce, DEX-IA, Bureau of Standards, CARDI, agro-processors, exporters, and producers. The objectives of the event were to validate with the different interest groups the results achieved by a study of analysis of the value chain of the cultivation of dasheen (*sp. Colocassia esculenta*) carried out by CARDI in 2016, and to propose a plan of consensual work that demonstrates the extension needs in the chain of roots and tubers with an emphasis on dasheen.
- IICA, through its Technical Cooperation Programme and solidarity contribution of its staff,

supported the rehabilitation and recovery processes in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria through the provision of materials and equipment to reestablish and build the resilience of production units. Over 50 farm families and 5 producer groups involved in various agricultural subsectors benefited and a number of farm enterprises restored. This included replacement of five bee hives and the provision of bee supplement to service 215 hives, re-establishment of 5 acres of vegetables through the provision of seeds, fertilizers, chemicals and hand tools and equipment, and reestablishment of 25 rabbit cages and three sheep pens.

- Through a CARDI-IICA initiative, in support of the recovery and rehabilitation process in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica was assisted in improving seedling nursery infrastructure through the provision of three water pumps; seeds and seedling materials and technical support to quickly restore vegetable production. Eight communities and five producer groups were targeted and support provided in rebuilding and rehabilitation of their productive capacities. The initiative provided equipment, seeds, plant nutrients; materials to repair sheds and livestock units and agro-chemicals.
- The Institute hosted two Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture (CCSA) webinars to raise awareness on best practices in promoting and supporting climate smart agriculture under its resilience project. The capacities of 25 agricultural professionals were strengthened in climate smart agriculture and more specifically in the area of Ecosystem Based Adaptation: on-farm actions for addressing climate change and sub-sectoral climate change impacts in reference to the livestock and fisheries subsectors. The webinars have identified, developed, promoted and disseminated innovative technologies and strategies aimed at building resilience in the agriculture sector in Dominica.

About IICA



The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is the specialized agency of the Inter-American System for agriculture and rural well-being. It was founded on October 7, 1942. The Institute's headquarters are located in Costa Rica, and it has a delegation in the capital of each of its 34 member countries, as well as a Permanent Office for Europe in Spain. Its Director General is Dr. Manuel Otero, an Argentine veterinarian who heads a team of over 300 professionals specializing in agriculture and rural life and drawn from all parts of the Americas.

The Institution has two governing bodies:

- The Inter-American Board of Agriculture (IABA) is the highest organ of the Institute and is composed of all the Member States. (*Convention on IICA, Article 7.*)
- The Executive Committee composed of 12 Member States elected for a two-year term in accordance with the principles of partial rotation and equitable geographic distribution. (*Convention on IICA, Articles 8e y 13.*)

The Institute's

Mission: *To encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence.*

Vision: *To create a competitive, inclusive and sustainable inter-American agriculture that feeds the hemisphere and the world, while at the same time generating opportunities to reduce hunger and poverty among farmers and rural dwellers.*

Principles: *IICA is characterized by being innovative, purposeful, respectful, inclusive, transparent, committed to accountability, and environmentally responsible.*

Foundations of our Technical Cooperation

The MTP is a strategic planning instrument developed every four years, in such a way that it coincides with each Director General's term. This document clearly outlines the Institute's duties, expected results and the use of budgetary resources. It serves as a basis for guiding the technical cooperation the Institute provides.

Our Four Instruments of Action

- Flagship Projects Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS)
- Externally funded projects
- Rapid-response Actions (RRA)
- Technical Cooperation Fund (FonTC)

All the services and outputs we provide for the benefit of our 34 member countries are designed to promote a more robust public institutional framework, the development of modern policy proposals and the implementation of innovative projects and actions aimed at improving agricultural productivity, creating more business opportunities within agricultural chains, fostering well-being and inclusion in rural areas, and enhancing knowledge management and the training of human talent. The main thrust of IICA's work is summed up in the organization's delivery of the following eleven contributions to its member countries, aimed at:

1. Strengthening the capabilities of the Member States at the national, regional, multinational and continental levels to establish public policies and institutional frameworks in order to make agriculture more productive and competitive, improve management of rural territories, adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change, and promote food and nutritional security.
2. Implementing, through public and private institutions, technological, institutional and business innovations aimed at boosting the productivity and competitiveness of agriculture and the production of basic food-stuffs of high nutritional quality.
3. Increasing the capabilities of the public and private sectors to ensure agricultural health and food safety and thereby improve productivity, competitiveness and food security.
4. Strengthening the business and associative capabilities of the different stakeholders in agricultural production chains.
5. Increasing the capacity for area-based social management among stakeholders in rural areas, especially those involved in family agriculture, in order to improve food security and rural well-being.
6. Enhancing the capabilities of different stakeholders of agricultural chains and rural areas in the integrated management of water and sustainable use of soil for agriculture.
7. Increasing the capacity of public and private institutions to promote and implement measures for climate change adaptation and mitigation in agriculture, as well as the promotion of integrated risk management in agriculture.
8. Improving the efficacy and efficiency of food and nutritional security programs in the Member States.
9. Ensuring that producers and consumers benefit from greater use of native species, promising crops and native genetic resources with food potential.
10. Improving institutional capacity to reduce losses of food and raw materials throughout agricultural chains.
11. Strengthening the Member States' capacity for interaction and participation in international forums and other mechanisms for the exchange of knowledge and mobilization of significant resources for inter-American agriculture.

In 2017, IICA celebrated 75 years of existence as the specialized agency of the Inter-American System with a mandate to “encourage, promote and support our Member States in their efforts to achieve agricultural development and rural well-being through international technical cooperation of excellence.”



1.1 Overview of the Sector

The agricultural sector of Dominica in 2017 continued to grow despite the destruction by Tropical Storm Erika approximately two years earlier. The sector maintained its position as a major national socio-economic driver. It provided support to other sectors such as tourism, trade and employment and contributed significantly to national food security. The contribution of the agricultural sector to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was estimated at 15.3%. Major sub-sectoral interventions implemented and funded by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MoAF) and international agencies were crucial for the improvement of the sector during the first three quarters of 2017.

The passage of the category 5 Hurricane Maria on 18th September, 2017 severely impacted the agricultural sector as well as ongoing efforts to expand the agricultural sector. Based on preliminary assessments by MoAF, total damages caused by Hurricane Maria was EC\$149.2 million (US\$55.27 million) and losses amounting to EC\$335.8 million (US\$124.37 million). Livestock damage included 45 percent cattle, 65 percent pigs and over 90 percent broiler and layer chickens with an estimated value of EC\$8.68M (US\$3.21M). The pork sub-sector, the second main contributor to livestock in Dominica, suffered total damages and losses estimated to EC\$3.6 million (US\$1.3 million). Loss of small ruminants and beehives were valued at 50 percent and 25 percent respectively.

Total cost for the recovery need was estimated at EC\$196.8 million (US\$72,907,407). As a result, support strategies to the sector were more focused on recovery and rehabilitation actions to remedy losses caused by the disaster and towards making Dominica's agricultural sector more climate resilient.

1.2 Major Investments in Agriculture

Prior to the passage of Hurricane Maria in September 2017, the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica (GOCD) had proposed approximately EC\$22 million to be injected into the agricultural sector with the aim of achieving 3% growth. Interventions were designated for the banana/plantain subsector where during the first half of 2017 close to EC\$360,000 was expended for the repair of packing sheds; a step in the process of recertifying farmers for reentry into the regional and UK markets. It was envisaged that banana exports would commence October 2017.

Other areas for intervention included the root crop subsector for which EC\$2.2 million was allocated under the support to horticulture programme and the cocoa subsector which received EC\$1.2 million towards the rehabilitation.

Under the Banana Accompanying Measures (BAM) Programme, €300,000 was invested to strengthen the Livestock Development Unit Reproduction Laboratory to be able to perform Artificial Insemination (AI) and embryo transfer both at the unit and at farmers' holdings. Additionally, new breeds of sheep and goat were also introduced to enhance the diversity of local livestock population.

The BAM programme, through the Office of the National Authorising Officer (NAO) for the European Union Development Fund, donated approximately EC\$2.5 million worth of farm equipment (hoses, shovels, and a tractor among other equipment) to support agricultural farms and products.

Major investments were also made through the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) to procure feed processing equipment (shredder, hammer mill) for the production of feed locally.

Promotion of Regional Opportunities for Produce through Enterprises and Linkages (PROPEL) invested CAD\$500,000 in the sector for the development of areas such as branding and capacity building. Through this funding, the Dominica Export and Import Agency (DEXIA) also received support for the export of market-ready products, creating market linkages, technical training and market arrangements. The Dominica Youth Business Trust (DYBT) was also a beneficiary of this funding.

A three-year US\$1.2 million cassava project funded by the FAO and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) was launched in Dominica. Through this project, new varieties of cassava will be introduced into Dominica.

1.3 Post Hurricane Maria Initiatives

The GOCD, in collaboration with the Dominica Agricultural Industrial and Development (AID) Bank, provided financial support to farmers and fisher-folks who were affected by the passage of Hurricane Maria. This was done under an Agricultural Emergency Response Grant funded by the World Bank to the tune of EC\$18,817,400. Some 3,932 qualified farmers were expected to benefit from the facility.

The GOCD decreased the interest rate on soft loan facilities established at the AID Bank two years ago, from 3% to 2% for the purpose of facilitating the ease of access to funds by farmers.

The Government of Canada through the Canada's Disaster Responsive Fund provided The World University Service of Canada's (WUSC Caribbean) Dominica Emergency Agricultural Recovery (DEAR) Project with EC\$350,000 to support potato farmers affected by the hurricane. WUSC Caribbean supported by PROPEL and in collaboration with the MoAF and other donors implemented the project. Some of the initiatives included the introduction of new potato varieties and high-quality seeds, procurement of small equipment to support farmer groups; land preparation for potato establishment, technical support in pest management and to support DEXIA in the purchasing of potatoes from

farmers as well as potato storage and distribution to supermarkets.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Supporting Sustainable Ecosystem Project approved US\$280,000 to support the restoration of the livelihood of the communities, mainly producer groups, bordering the Morne Trois Pitons National Park (MTPNP). Groups and individuals benefited in infrastructural improvement, roofing materials, planting materials, greenhouses, water tanks and the purchase of chicks and young animals.

FAO mobilized a total of US\$700,000 through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Department for International Development (DFID); Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities (SFERA), and the Government of Brazil to support the rapid interventions and rehabilitation of the crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry sub-sectors. The support went towards the procurement of fencing material, animal feed and cooling equipment, rehabilitation of nurseries, and material to repair damaged boats.

IICA supported the rehabilitation and recovery initiatives through its Technical Cooperation Programme. This includes Flagship Projects, RRA and Externally Funded Projects, the details of which are captured in Chapter Two.

Humanitarian Support

Staffs from the IICA member states contributed to the humanitarian aid in the sum of US\$10,460, in addition to US\$1,000 donated by the Association of International Ladies in support of the rehabilitation effort in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. A decision was taken to extend support to producer organizations that the Institute was working with as well as staff members affected.

The main action involved was the procurement of agricultural inputs and building materials to include hand tools, fertilizers; bio fertilizers; seedling trays; brush cutter, post, galvanize, and fencing materials for distribution to selected producer organizations.

Chapter 2

Implementation of the Technical Cooperation Programme 2017

2.1 Flagship

i. Resilience

The Institute hosted two Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture (CCSA) webinars to raise awareness on best practices in promoting and supporting climate smart agriculture under its resilience project. The capacities of 25 agricultural professionals were strengthened in climate smart agriculture and more specifically in the area of Ecosystem based adaptation: on-farm actions for addressing climate change and sub-sectoral climate change impacts in reference to the livestock and fisheries subsectors. The webinars identified, developed, promoted and disseminated innovative technologies and strategies aimed at building resilience in the agricultural sub sectors.



Participants at the Caribbean Climate Smart Agriculture webinars

ii. Agricultural Chains

There was a continuation of the interventions that were undertaken under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) funded Agriculture Policy Programme (APP) regarding strengthening of the agricultural groups. Under the Agricultural Chains Flagship Project, IICA introduced a capacity assessment tool to assess the capacity of different producer groups and identify priority areas for capacity building. In an effort to support the strengthening of producer organizations, an assessment of three producer groups was conducted to identify their strengths



North-East Agricultural Women Movement & SOUL Cooperative Ltd members at the training

and weaknesses relating to governance, leadership and financial prudence. A number of management and governance issues were identified among the groups following the evaluation using an Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool. Consequently, a governance-training workshop was hosted and facilitated by IICA's International Specialist in Agribusiness and Value Chain, on group dynamics, market assessment; industry analyses, and good governance principles. Thirty (30) members from the North-east Agricultural Women Movement and SOUL Cooperative Ltd benefited from the training.

The Agricultural Chains Flagship Project also supported the rehabilitation of productive units through the provision of agricultural inputs including seeds and nursery supplies.

iii. Family Farming

Under Component 3 of the Productivity and Sustainability of Family Farming for Food Security and the Rural Economy Flagship Project, technical support was provided to strengthen farm families and technicians to improve their decision by adopting methodologies to guide their business development and agricultural services respectively.

A national consultation was held with 28 representatives from public and private sectors to include MoAF, the Ministry of Commerce, DEXIA, Bureau of Standards, CARDI, agro-processors, exporters, and producers.



IICA's International Specialist in Agriculture Innovation Management & participants at the national consultation

The objectives of the event were to validate with the different interest groups the results achieved by a study of an analysis of the value chain of the cultivation of dasheen (*sp. Colocassia esculenta*) carried out by CARDI in 2016, and to propose a plan of consensual work that demonstrates the extension needs in the value chain of roots and tubers with an emphasis on dasheen.

The event commenced with a brief opening session that included welcoming remarks from the IICA Technical Specialist followed by remarks by the Permanent Secretary in MoAF, who highlighted the importance of the event.

The technical session commenced with a presentation from the Head of the Agricultural Information and Communication Technology Unit (AICTU) of MoAF, who gave a panoramic overview of the current situation of crops: dasheen, sweet potato and cassava, in Dominica. IICA's International Specialist in Agriculture Innovation Management, used the Participatory Market Chain Analysis (PMCA) methodology to evaluate the processes along the value chains for dasheen and sweet potatoes. A marketing consultant, delivered a presentation on strategic planning for the effective marketing of agricultural

products, via web-ex.

The better part of the meeting involved interactive discussion among the participants. Three working groups were organized to look at specific areas along the value chain: production and inputs, value added and processing, and marketing and consumers. During the plenary session the results obtained by the groups were presented and discussed.

The Family Farming Flagship Project supported farm families through the producer organizations to rehabilitate their farming enterprises that were damaged as a result of Hurricane Maria.

2.2 Rapid Response Programmes

i. Coffee Development

Through a horizontal cooperation effort with the IICA Delegation in St Vincent and the Grenadines, IICA supported the development of the coffee sub-sector on both islands.



Team of experts and technicians during coffee study tour in Costa Rica

The Institute engaged a team of three experts including one technician from the Tropical Agricultural Research and Higher Education Center (CATIE for its acronym in Spanish) and two technicians from the Costa Rica Coffee Institute (ICAFÉ for its acronym in Spanish) to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the coffee subsector and to provide strategic guidelines in developing the coffee subsector in Dominica.

In advancing recommendations outlined in the assessment report, IICA supported the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in sponsoring a team of three technicians (two technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture and one technician from IICA) to participate in a 5-day study tour to understudy the coffee industry in Costa Rica. The study tour provided participants with a strategic focus for the planning and implementation of activities and actions required for the development of a viable coffee industry.

ii. Rehabilitation Post Maria

IICA approved a Rapid Response Action (RRA) titled “Agricultural Sector Rehabilitation Initiatives for Rural Communities of Dominica”, to support the rehabilitation of the agricultural sector in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. Emphasis was placed on assisting five producer groups in reestablishing their agribusinesses, boosting their food security, and reestablishing their income flows through the adoption of climate smart approaches.

The RRA also served to set the basis for a more detailed and extended institutional effort to long term actions through our Resilience Flagship Project and collaboration with other agencies. As a result, the RRA was executed alongside an IICA/CARDI Project as well as other technical programmes of the Institute.

Under phase 1 of the RRA, inputs and materials to support the rehabilitation process and to improve resilience on selected farms were procured for distribution to five producer organizations. A Fact Finding mission, involving two IICA International Specialists, to ascertain training needs and areas for further technical support was undertaken. During their mission they met with four producer groups, engaged in discussion with the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, agricultural advisors and technicians of the Division of Agriculture and donor partners.

The second and final phase will involve a capacity building workshop and preparation of concept notes to source funding in support of the building of resilience in the priority subsectors. These activities will

be undertaken during the next reporting period.

2.3 Externally Funded Projects

i. FAO

In response to a “Call for Support” by the Government of Dominica towards rehabilitation of the agricultural sector in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Erika, FAO through a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the IICA provided services to support the clean-up and land restoration activities.

The LOA enabled IICA to provide administrative, technical, and logistic services to the Ministry of Agriculture for the clearing up of farm access roads, forest trails/paths, river beds, and restoration of farm access roads, agricultural lands, ecotourism infrastructure, landslide areas and riverbanks. It also provided for IICA to support MoAF in conducting a series of training courses on Disaster Risk Management and Land Husbandry.

Under the project nine farm access roads were cleared and rehabilitated, to include the building of wheel tracks, earth movement, building of drains, removal of debris and fallen trees. A total of 20 forest/eco trails were cleared and rehabilitated.



IICA Technical Specialist and FAO Correspondent inspect one of the rehabilitated farm access roads

Additionally, the project provided for the repair of infrastructure along the trails, widening and clearing of debris, constructing foot paths and steps and reinforcing trails. Three (3) ecosites were improved including the replacement of benches, gazebos, rails, stone works, signage and improved access.

Six (6) training sessions were conducted in various communities to strengthen the capacities of extension personnel and farm workers on disaster risk management and good land husbandry practices. A total of 143 persons participated in the training sessions. A two-day workshop was hosted to improve the capacity of forestry technicians and trail maintenance workers on use of small equipment and maintenance of trails.



***Classroom Session (above) and Outdoor Session (Below):
Training of forestry technicians and trail maintenance
workers at the two-day workshop***



***Forestry technicians and trail maintenance workers who
participated in the two-day workshop on small equipment
& trail maintenance***

ii. EU 10th EDF Intra ACP SPS Project

Under the EU 10th European Development Fund (EDF) Intra ACP Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Project and in collaboration with the Project Management Unit within the IICA Delegation in Barbados, logistics support was provided in the enrolment of one senior officer within MoAF to pursue a Master's Degree in Food Law at the Michigan State University.

This initiative formed part of the improvement of the technical capabilities within the country to advise on legislative modernization, harmonization and implementation on matters relating to Agricultural Health and Food safety. Mr. Ryan Anselm, Technical Officer in the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, completed the Masters Programme in Food Law.



Mr. Ryan Anselm

3.1 IICA/CARDI Project Initiative

The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries sought the assistance of the major development partners in the region such as CARDI, IICA and FAO. These institutions have therefore been collectively and individually engaging officials of MoAF and stakeholders to identify the most pressing and immediate needs with respect to the recovery of the agricultural sectors. It is against this background that officials of CARDI and IICA met and agreed to collaborate with a joint programme of assistance within the framework of the IICA/CARDI Work Plan for 2017 which was being executed under the IICA/CARDI General Technical Cooperation Agreement.

Two major components were accomplished. One component focused on restoring productive capacity through provision of seed, germplasm and nursery infrastructure in support of MoAF's short term seedling production for distribution to vegetable farmers. Resources were directed to purchase supplies, equipment and material in support of rehabilitating seedling nursery facilities to include the purchase of water pumps, seeds, trays and other materials. The second component placed emphasis on rebuilding and rehabilitating the productive capacity of targeted communities and producer groups and thereby reestablishing their income flows through the provision of technical assistance and material support.

The IICA Technical Specialist and the CARDI Officer in Charge conducted a needs assessment of progressive farmer groups that the two institutions have been working with over the years. The groups were the Belles Farmers' Cooperative, Cochrane United Farmers Group, Bee Keepers Association, SOUL Multi-Purpose Cooperative Ltd., North East Women in Action, and Warner Farmers Group. Materials were purchased to improve infrastructure and small equipment such as chain saws and brush cut-



Rehabilitated seedling nursery at Portsmouth

ters, seeds and other agricultural inputs were procured.

3.2 University of Puerto Rico

IICA partnered with the University of Puerto Rico to support the rehabilitation of the apiculture industry in Dominica. The Hurricane completely damaged over 63% of hives on the island. Furthermore, the hurricane resulted in a destruction of forage species and therefore reduced significantly food available to the surviving bees. In an attempt to protect the remaining hives and by extension preserve the colonies, IICA worked with the University of Florida in procuring 1000 lbs of bee protein supplements and 650 lbs of sugar. The food supplements were distributed to 25 bee keepers, estimated at 3 lbs of protein and 2 lbs of sugar per hive. Only the bee keepers who possessed hives received support.



Bee protein supplements

IICA Sponsored Events for 2017

EVENT	DATE/VENUE	PARTICIPANT
Regional Coordination Training Workshop	January 24 - 25 Bridgetown, BARBADOS	Dr. Steve John Ryan Anselm
10th EDF SPS Project Final Conference	February 23 - 24 BARBADOS	Ricky Brumant Kent Coipel
Codex Alimentarius Colloquium for Latin American and Caribbean countries	March 7 - 9 Quito, ECUADOR	Dr. Al Mario Casimir
Leadership Training and Capacity Building in Governance for Producer Groups	April 4 - 6 BARBADOS	Kent Coipel
11 th Session of the Codex Committee for Contaminants in Foods (CCCF11)	April 3 - 7 Rio de Janeiro, BRAZIL	Dr. Al Mario Casimir
Marketplace Forum 2017	April 18 - 20 San Jose, COSTA RICA	Nelson Laville
Technical Meeting between Canada and Caribbean Region Codex Focal Points	June 13 - 14 Ottawa, Canada	Mara Abraham
10 th Meeting of Caribbean Plant Health Directors (CPHD)	July 11 - 14 Punta Cana, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	Ryan Anselm
40 th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC40)	July 17 - 22 Geneva, SWITZERLAND	Mara Abraham
Thirty-seventh Regular Meeting of the Executive Committee of IICA	July 18 - 19 IICA Headquarters COSTA RICA	Dr. Reginald Thomas
Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI) Plant Quarantine Principles Course	August 1 - 11 UWI St. Augustine, TRINIDAD	Al Anthony McIntyre
IPPC Regional Workshop	September 13 - 14 BARBADOS	Nelson Laville
SAGARPA Training	November 12 - 17 MEXICO	Josephine Stoute Nelson Laville
Coffee Study Tour	November 24 - December 1 COSTA RICA	Ricky Brumant Franklyn Joseph Kent Coipel
Regional Partners Meeting and 2 nd Communications TWG Meeting	December 2 - 5 TRINIDAD	Ryan Anselm

In the first two quarters in 2018, IICA will focus on completing activities under the Country Strategy 2014 - 2018 as well as to support the rehabilitation and recovery efforts in the agriculture sector in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. The major programmes proposed, therefore, are as follows:

- Under the RRA re Coffee Development in Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines, the Institute will support a study tour of the coffee subsector in Jamaica followed by a hosting of a national consultation to prepare a national plan for the coffee subsector. Additionally, two or three coffee varieties will be introduced in Dominica.
- Through an RRA, IICA will continue to support the rehabilitation of the agricultural subsectors through the introduction of adaptive technologies, strengthening of the capacity building of producer groups and through the formulation of concept notes to further advance building resilience in key subsectors.
- Under the Family Farming Flagship Project, the Institute will promote and introduce sustainable technologies such as organic input supplies in support of back yard farming systems
- Under the Agricultural Chains Flagship Project, IICA will continue to strengthen the capacities of producer organizations in governance, financial prudence, strategic planning and external relations.
- A major action during the quarter will be to contribute to the formulation of the new MTP 2018 - 2022 and the development of the National Work Plan 2018 - 2022.



Delegation in Dominica

2017





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