

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS

2005 Annual Report

The Contribution of IICA to
the Development of Agriculture
and Rural Communities





St. Kitts and Nevis

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**THE CONTRIBUTION OF IICA TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND
RURAL COMMUNITIES**

2005

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No.
Preface	i
Acronyms	3
1.0 Introduction	4
1.1 Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis	4
2.0 Executive Summary	6
3.0 The State of Agriculture and Rural Life	11
4.0 Summary of the National Agenda	13
5.0 Results of the Technical Cooperation for 2005	14
5.1 Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade	14
5.2 Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health	16
5.3 Strengthening Rural Communities	18
5.4 Hemispheric Integration	20
5.5 Developing Human Capital	21
6.0 Inter-Agency Cooperation	23
7.0 Support provided to the development of National Plans and Strategies.	25
8.0 Future Opportunities for Cooperation	26
APPENDIX I - Six most important Events organised by the Office	27
APPENDIX II - Pictorial Highlights of 2005 activities	27
APPENDIX III - Articles received from the University of Florida for fruit fly Project	28

PREFACE

The Office of the Inter- American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in St Kitts and Nevis is pleased to present its 2005 Annual Report. This Report is reflective of the contribution of the Institute to the development of Agriculture and the Rural Communities in the country.

The various interventions that were made were in keeping with the new vision of the Institute which incorporated *the development of a culture of cooperation, partnership, shared responsibility and a common agenda to channel the energies of the member States towards a prosperous agricultural sector*. In this regards, the office is pleased to recognise the support provided to our National Agenda by our various local, regional and international collaborators and partners. These included the Ministries of Agriculture, Trade, Health and Tourism as well as the private sector collaborators on St Kitts and Nevis. Invaluable synergies were also derived from successful Partnerships, which were established with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Republic of China (RoC) Agricultural Technical Mission, The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the University of Florida, and the Organization of American States (OAS).

IICA St Kitts and Nevis will continue to work with national, regional and international partners who share the vision of a modernised and diversified agricultural sector, which can contribute to sustainable development, food security and prosperity in the rural communities.

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Augustine Merchant
Coordinator
IICA St. Kitts and Nevis

List of Acronyms

AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
CARDI	Caribbean Agriculture and Research Institute.
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States.
CDE	Centre for Development of Enterprise
CFLI	Canadian Fund for Local Initiative
CFNI	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
CHA	Caribbean Hotel Association
CTA	Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Development
CWA	Caribbean Week of Agriculture
EC	Eastern Caribbean
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAVA/CA	Florida Association for Voluntary Agencies/Caribbean Action
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GIS	Geographic Information System
NHFS	National Health and Food Safety System
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
OAS	Organization of American States
ROC	Republic of China
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
WTO	World Trade Organization

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis

The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis is made up of two islands separated by a narrow strait and situated at the Northern end of the Leeward Island chain of the West Indies. The island of Nevis lies 3 kilometres (km) South-east of St. Kitts, and is the smaller of the two islands. The total land area of the country is 261.6 sq km of which St. Kitts is 168.4 sq km.

The climate of the Federation is described as tropical maritime and the mean annual temperature is 27 degrees C. Most of the rainfall occurs between the months of May and November, which coincides with the hurricane season. The annual rainfall ranges from 51 inches on the coastal areas to 80 inches at elevations above 2000 ft.

The sugar industry was a major contributor to economic activity, with sugar exported to Europe. However, with the erosion of the preferential arrangements for the exportation of sugar and the unprofitable state of the sugar industry the government was forced to close the industry in 2005. Over the years some diversification has occurred, with tourism and related services, non-sugar agriculture, construction, financial services and light non-sugar manufacturing, developing as important areas of economic activity.

During the period 1995 and 2004, real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew at an average rate of 2.88%, fluctuating between a high of 6.49% in 2000 and negative growth of (0.28%) in 2002. (Table I)

St. Kitts and Nevis is a small open economy and produces a narrow range of goods and services. It relies heavily on imports to satisfy the demand for consumer and producer goods. Consequently, it suffers from a balance of trade deficit. However, annual negative balance of visible trade has improved from EC \$421.1 in 2001 to EC \$377.8 in 2004.

Table 1
St. Kitts and Nevis
 Gross Domestic Product, by Industrial Origin
 At Factor Cost, in Constant Prices
 (EC\$MILLION)
 1999-2004

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
I. PRIMARY ACTIVITIES	27.28	24.96	27.74	31.43	27.53	30.76
Agriculture	27.28	24.96	27.74	31.43	27.53	30.76
Mining & Quarrying	2.28	2.80	2.84	3.39	1.82	2.00
Manufacturing	61.34	71.77	76.48	73.41	73.42	78.82
Electricity & Water	9.15	10.16	10.56	11.59	12.82	13.88
Construction	79.84	103.16	107.47	101.41	88.63	89.74
Wholesale & Retail Trade	78.07	75.57	66.91	67.13	70.30	66.82
Hotels & Restaurants	31.02	23.75	24.68	23.79	31.23	41.41
Transport	39.62	41.08	42.52	45.89	45.66	54.91
Communications	54.61	58.50	59.69	55.62	55.01	57.30
Banks & Insurance	63.25	70.49	69.77	71.04	72.61	78.99
Real Estate & Housing	13.87	14.70	15.36	15.51	15.82	16.05
Government Services	81.77	83.84	86.00	89.31	88.45	90.77
Other Services	21.35	22.20	21.63	21.94	23.71	26.07
Less Imputed Service charge	42.31	48.02	47.53	48.94	49.51	54.45
Total	521.14	554.96	564.12	562.52	557.32	593.07
Growth Rate	3.94	6.49	1.65	(0.28)	(0.92)	6.41

Source: Statistical Unit

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The State of Agriculture and Rural Life

The economy of St. Kitts and Nevis continues to record a positive growth rate despite the many challenges posed by the recent closure of the sugar industry. Preliminary estimates for 2005 have projected a growth rate of 4% compared to 6.5% in 2004. The major impetus for the growth during the recording period emanated from the increased activities in tourism, non-sugar agriculture, manufacturing and construction. Within the agricultural sector, the output of sugar for the final crop was 10,729 tons. This represented a decline of 24.2% compared to 14,157 tons, which were produced in 2004.

In light of the closure of the industry, the Ministry of Agriculture has collaborated with its stakeholders and developed a strategic plan for the development of non-sugar agriculture over the period 2005 to 2009. This plan seeks to increase diversification in domestic food production and supports the commercialization of selected export crops. In addition, a Transition Management Office has been established to assist in mitigating the impact on the standard of living of rural people caused by the closure of the sugar industry. The TMO has therefore been involved in a number of social and educational programmes, which are aimed at ensuring that the standard of living of the former workers could be maintained and improved.

The National Technical Cooperation Agenda

The 2005 National Technical Cooperation Agenda was implemented according to the Institute's Thematic Areas of focus namely: Trade and Agribusiness development, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Sustainable Rural Development, Technology and Innovation, Information and Communication and Education and Training. The various activities, which were pursued, were in support of sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural poverty

Results of the Technical Cooperation for 2005

a) Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade

The IICA office has recognised the importance of competitiveness within the existing global trading environment. Consequently, it has promoted and supported national efforts, which are aimed at raising the awareness of policy and trade issues that are critical to sustainable agricultural and rural development. To this end, a number of workshops and consultations were organized in collaboration with other partners. One consultation dealt with issues related to the WTO, CSME and Food Security. Sixty two persons including farmers, bee keepers, agro processors and youths participated in this consultation and are now more aware of the challenges, requirements and opportunities which the trading of agricultural products in domestic and export markets present. Another consultation was held with various stakeholders to determine the status of the proposed interventions that were made to address the key constraints to agricultural developments that were identified through the Jagdeo's Initiative. The Inter- Ministerial Committee on Trade organised two Workshops for Senior Public sector officers. This was done in an effort to increase the flow of information and updates on current and emerging Trade issues. The Institute also continued to ensure the participation of two national technicians at the SPS Meeting in Geneva.

Agri-business persons including women and youths also benefited from local as well as regional trainings which were related to managing small scale enterprises.

The Institute has also continued to promote Agro-Tourism as a Strategy, which could enhance and positively impact agriculture and rural development in St Kitts and Nevis. Forty-five persons participated in an Agro-Tourism Symposium, which was held to explore opportunities for forging stronger and more effective links between both sectors. An agri-tourism committee has been established and is developing a framework for the operationalisation of the strategy. The work of the committee was elucidated as a result of members' participation in the agri-tourism workshop, which was held during the Caribbean week of agriculture.

(b) Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health

The Office continued its efforts to further strengthen and institutionalised an Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) System in St. Kitts and Nevis. The AHFS Committee met on three occasions and discussed current food safety issues. It also reviewed the **mode of operation** as prescribed in the Draft Bill, which was developed some time ago but has not been passed into legislation.

Sixteen (16) technicians participated in a local GIS/GPS workshop, which was organised by the Institute and benefited from theoretical and ‘hands-on’ training. They are now able to interpret and understand the applications and are able to incorporate them into existing pest and disease programmes.

The Office also sourced assistance for the Ministry of Agriculture Fruit fly Control Programme. As a result, the United States Department of Agriculture and the University of Florida provided equipment and materials valued at US\$5000.

The Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action (FAVA/CA) conducted on behalf of the Institute, an assessment of the disease status of bees on St. Kitts and Nevis. Twenty seven (27) beekeepers benefited from the training sessions, which focussed on the control of varroa mites.

The office also participated in a ‘Task Force’ which was established to control the Fire Ant. Fact sheets outlining control measures were disseminated and a survey was conducted to establish the geographical distribution of the pest. The FAVA/CA has approved a project to provide technical assistance in 2006.

(c) Strengthening Rural Communities

Within this inter-thematic area, the Institute continued to support the emergence of vibrant and competitive rural enterprises. Farmers, beekeepers, and agro processors were able to enhance their productivity and efficiency through technology transfer and training.

However, special focus was placed on women and youths. Seventy-three women participated in three agro-processing workshops, which were conducted in collaboration with the Republic of China (RoC) Mission. During the training some emphasis was placed on entrepreneurship and agri-business management. Some of the women are now adding value to primary products and have increased their incomes.

The Fahie's Women Group was particularly active during the reporting period. They organised field trips and participated in the Caribbean Week of Agriculture activities. The office organised training in project development and the group is now using the knowledge gained to develop a project so as to source funds for the construction of a dam for water harvesting.

The Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) collaborated with the Institute to strengthened rural communities. Through its Small Grant Program, an agro-processing group and a farmers' group each received US\$5,000.00 in order to procure processing equipment and drip irrigation materials respectively.

Sixty five (65) youths also benefited from several initiatives, which were jointly organised by the office and its partners. These training activities included information technology, plant propagation, basketry, irrigation, candle making and agro-processing. Support for some of these activities came from a grant of CDN \$10,846 which was provided by the Canadian Fund for Local Initiative.

(d) Hemispheric Integration

The office played a major role in the successful planning and coordination of the 5th Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA), which was held in St Kitts and Nevis. The CWA provided the Ministers of Agriculture and other stakeholders an opportunity to meet, interact and to continue the dialogue, to make the sector internationally competitive. Over 150 persons from throughout the region attended it.

The office also ensured that through national dialogue the consultative process which is an essential feature of the Jagdeo's Initiative was continued.

(e) Developing Human Capital

Many opportunities were provided for stakeholders to enhance their capabilities and capacities. The opportunities spanned the entire strategic areas of interventions and were pursued locally, regionally and internationally. As a result, the recipients of the training have acquired an improved level of knowledge, skills and expertise, which has improved the quality of life in the rural spaces.

(f) Inter-Agency Cooperation

The office collaborated with a number of agencies in the implementation of its National Agenda. Such agencies included The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), FAVA/CA, The University of Florida, CFNI, The Caribbean research and development Institute (CARDI), CFLI and the RoC.

3.0 THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE¹

The agricultural sector in St. Kitts and Nevis has traditionally been defined in terms of sugar and non-sugar production. Over the years, its contribution to real GDP has declined from 15.6% in 1980 to 5.2% in 2004. During this same period, the contribution of sugar fell from 9.2% to 2.1%. Despite this unfavourable trend the sector has been a major contributor to rural employment and foreign exchange earning.

The 2005 sugar crop brought to an end the production of sugar in St. Kitts and Nevis after over 350 years. For this final crop, the output of sugar fell from 14,157 tons in 2004 to 10,729 tons. A significant difference of 24%. Such a low level of output was due to the fact that only 60% of the crop was harvested. The volume of sugar exported therefore declined by 25% and this resulted in reduced revenue generated from the crop.

In an effort to reduce the ‘fall outs’ from the closure of the industry, the government has been implementing a comprehensive package of assistance for sugar workers. These includes: access to free medical care; the securing of pensions of retired sugar workers through the social security scheme; training and job attachments with a stipend of \$250 per work; duty free and tax concession to facilitate entry into farming, fishing and taxi operations and easy access to land for the purpose of farming. Other social programmes, which have been initiated, included seminars on *Managing Change, Financial Management*, as well as psychological counselling.

Since the closure of the sugar industry, the government is exploring the economic feasibility of using sugar cane to generate energy. In addition, plans have been initiated to use some of the historical assets of the industry to establish a sugar museum. Other enterprises, which are considered, include rum production, fresh water fish farming, shrimp farming, fruit juice processing and the production of cut flowers.

¹ Information extracted from the 2005 Budget

The development of non-sugar agriculture is critically important as St. Kitts and Nevis seeks to diversify its agricultural sector. During 2005, there were some setbacks in crop production due to the unfavourable weather and the high incidence of pests and diseases. However, with the implementation of the Ministry's 2005-2009 Strategic Plan it is anticipated that this situation would be redressed.

The livestock sub sector has continued to perform creditably and beef and pork production have contributed significantly to the country food security efforts. In addition, other activities, which are being pursued, involved the establishment of commercial farms, introducing new breeds of sheep, construct of dog proof areas for securing small ruminant and investigating the possibility of using sugar cane for feeding cattle.

Total fish landed in 2005 was 913,790 lbs with a value of EC\$6. Million. This represented a 37.9% increase over 2004.

4.0 SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL AGENDA

The National Agenda 2002-2006 was first prepared after wide consultation was conducted with representatives of key stakeholders to identify specific areas where IICA could focus its attention on. Since then, it was revised in 2003 to ensure that the areas of support and focus were in keeping with the country's national priorities. The National Agenda seeks to:

- Facilitate competitiveness and global trade.
- Strengthen rural communities.
- Promote food security and agricultural health
- Develop human capital.
- Support integration and horizontal cooperation, and
- Promote strategic partnerships.

The 2005 National Agenda was focused primarily on the following strategic interventions:

- a) Improving agricultural health and food safety institutions and system.
- b) Enhancing the co-ordination among institutions engaged in agricultural and rural development.
- c) Support to private and public sector initiatives to strengthen economic linkages between agriculture, tourism and value added.
- d) Training of technicians, farmers, youths and agro-processors in agri- business management and entrepreneurship.
- e) Broadening of the awareness and understanding of the issues related to the multilateral trading system and compliance with the requirements of the global market.
- f) Support education and training initiatives so as to build capacities.

5.0 RESULTS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR 2005

5.1 Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade

The Institute has continued to support national efforts, which are aimed at raising the awareness of Policy and Trade issues, which are critical to sustainable agricultural and rural development. In this regards, the Office collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture in Nevis, in hosting a trade symposium. The presenters were:

- i) Mr Greg Rawlins, Trade Specialist, Government of Italy Funded FAO, and CARICOM/CARIFORUM Food Security Project, who focused on “Food Security: Agricultural Development and Trade – Considerations for small developing economies such as St Kitts and Nevis”.
- ii) Mrs. Theresa Nisbett, Director, Ministry of International Trade, St Kitts, whose topic was “CSME-Challenges and Opportunities”, and
- iii) Mr Eric Evelyn, Quarantine Officer, Ministry of Agriculture Nevis, who spoke on the Topic “SPS Agreements and the SPS Meetings in Geneva”.

Sixty-two (62) persons including crop and livestock farmers, importers/exporters, agro-processors, beekeepers and students participated in the meeting and are more cognisant of the requirements, which are necessary to enhance competitiveness in the local and international markets.

The Inter-Agency Forum on Trade is comprised of senior public sector officials and provides a forum whereby government officials could be updated on current trade issues. The Forum met on three occasions during the year. It was used by the two nationals who attended the SPS Agreement Meeting in Geneva, to sensitize other members on the relevance of these meetings towards the sustainable development of

the sector. In addition, The Ministry of Trade officials have also used these meetings to inform members on the current status of the negotiation process.

The recent closure of the Sugar Industry has pointed to the urgent need to strengthen the linkages between Tourism and Agriculture. In this regards, the Institute has responded expeditiously and has intensified efforts to achieve this objective. One of the activities, which were undertaken, was the hosting of a national Agro Tourism Symposium. The goals of this Symposium were:

- i) To explore opportunities for forging stronger and more effective links between the agricultural and tourism sectors.
- ii) To lay the groundwork for the elaboration of a strategy to link both sectors.

At the conclusion of the workshop, a Committee was established to examine five (key) areas and to elaborate on a plan of action. A preliminary set of recommendations regarding the five key areas was developed and submitted to the Transition Office.

The Federation of St Kitts and Nevis hosted the 5th Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA). One of the main activities during the week was the convening of a three-day regional workshop entitled “Agriculture and Tourism – Partners in Development”. This Workshop was co-sponsored by the IICA, the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Co-operation (CTA), The Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE) and the Caribbean Hotel Organization. It brought together partners of the Agriculture and Tourism sectors to share and exchange successes, experiences and lessons learnt in the creation of agro-tourism products and services. In addition, it identified potential investment opportunities for agro-tourism enterprises in the Caribbean region and proposed strategies and policies for supporting these opportunities. One of the outstanding features of the Conference was the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which was signed between the Caribbean Hotel Association and IICA to promote Agro-tourism linkages in the Caribbean. The specifics of the objectives of the MOU are:

- *To jointly contribute to the economic viability of selected industries and enterprises in the Caribbean.*
- *Coordinate the programme of work of both organization so as to create the synergies required in implementing the Tourism Development Strategy for the Caribbean and the programme of the CHA, and in supporting the work plan of the Regional Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu in the wider Caribbean with the aim of being to forge a logical and cohesive framework for agro-tourism linkage development in the Caribbean.*
- *Foster linkages and transfer relevant information, technology and skills between IICA and the Caribbean member states serviced by the CHA and similarly between CHA and member states of IICA in North, South and Central America.*

Twelve persons from St Kitts and Nevis participated in the Workshop.

5.2 Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health

Agricultural Health and Food Safety are inextricably linked with trade. Consequently, the Institute has pursued actions that were aimed at protecting human, animal and plant health and ensuring safe food.

The West Indian Fruit Fly has become a significant pest in St Kitts and Nevis. Its destruction of a wide range of fruits is particularly significant as the country seeks to diversify its agricultural base. During the reporting period the office requested support from the University of Florida and the United States Department of Agriculture. In this regard, Dr. Oscar Liburd a fruit integrated Pest Management Specialist, is evaluating in the Federation a control strategy developed at the University. The technique involves the use of a low-risk insecticide – treated sphere that provides a safer way to control fruit flies without using conventional broad-spectrum toxic insecticides. The Caribbean Agriculture and Research Institute,

CARDI, is intimately involved in the Project and its entomologist is coordinating the local Committee.

The office supported the hosting of a local GIS/GPS workshop on “Pest and Disease Monitoring Detection” for eighteen (18) technical staff members from the Department of Agriculture. The following topics were discussed.

- i) What is GIS?
- ii) Some questions answered by GIS
- iii) An overview of spatial and temporal data in plant and animal health
- iv) Using the Magellan explorer GPS receiver
- v) Some practical application for the GPS receiver
- vi) Recommendations for follow-up.

One training Workshop in Good Agricultural Practices was held for twenty-eight (28) farmers. Consequently, producers are now applying the principles and protocols in their management system.

The Institute has continued to facilitate the participation of the Federation to the SPS Committee Meetings, which are held in Geneva. In this regards, two technicians participated in three meetings, which were held during the year 2005.

The Office also supported the meetings and logistical arrangement for the development of a food safety system. The National Food Safety Committee met on three occasions and discussed current food safety issues. It also reviewed the mode of operation of the Committee as specified in the Draft Food Safety Bill.

5.3 Strengthening Rural Communities

The Office hosted several meetings of the general membership of the Agricultural Youth Forum. Despite the many challenges, which were faced, a number of activities were pursued and a satisfactory level of success was achieved.

In February, two members of the Youth Forum participated in a Regional Workshop entitled, “Priority Setting, Organisational Development and Management”. Information derived from the Workshop was subsequently discussed and disseminated to other members of the group.

The St Kitts Branch of the Youth Forum contributed to the Agricultural Science programme of a local High School by presenting Agricultural Science textbooks. It also visited Nevis and assisted in the formation of a Branch on the island. Since its formation, The Nevis Branch has participated in the local food festival and in irrigation and agri-business workshops.

Ten (10) members of the Youth Forum also participated in a regional Conference entitled “Leadership Development and Policy Integration for Youth in Agriculture”. This Conference was one of the major activities, which were held during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture.

The office collaborated with the Republic of China Technical Mission in conducting two- (2) plant propagation Workshops for sixty (60) students in St Kitts and Nevis. Most of these students are now proficient in propagation skills.

Project Strong is a non-formal institution, which promotes basic education among socially marginalized and economically disadvantaged youth. It has been fully endorsed by the Government of St Kitts and Nevis and has received the support of IICA for its program. During the reporting period, the office assisted the Institution in developing a project entitled “Preparing Disadvantaged Teenagers for Self Employment.” This project was submitted to the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives (CFLI) and received a Grant of CDN \$10,846. CFLI’s contribution to this

initiative allowed the purchase of some office equipment, furnishings and materials for the Project Strong program. These included: a computer, (Monitor and CPU included), one Computer desk and chair, printer, Scanner and surge protector, digital camera, one refrigerator and stove, 6 sewing machines (with covers), material for basketry and general craft design (e.g. plywood, varnish, 15 dyes, 27 rattan grass, paint brushes, flats and basins), beekeeping equipment (e.g. 12 boxes, 120 frames, 12 wax foundations bottom boards and ‘queen’ excluders’) and 130 cases of jars.

The primary goal of the project is to facilitate skills training in viable areas such as beekeeping, needlework, basketry and agro-processing. A number of skills training workshops have been held in the various areas and these are on going. In addition, the students have been exposed to training in business management and entrepreneurship. Thirty-five students are benefiting from this programme.

Three rural women’s groups have been meeting regularly and have been very active. Seventy-three (73) of these women have benefited from training in agro-processing, Computer, Agri-business, project writing and entrepreneurship. In addition, The Fahie’s Women Farmers’ Association was taken on an educational trip to Nevis to look at hydroponics, water harvesting for irrigation, agro-processing and the marketing of crops by small farmers to a Five Star Hotel. The women are now utilising the project development skills, which they gained to develop a project to obtain funds for the construction of a dam for water harvesting.

The Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI) also contributed towards the development of rural women by providing a grant of US\$5,000 to procure materials and equipment for agro-processing.

The Department of Agriculture was successful in improving the technology of pineapple production on St Kitts. The Office complemented this effort by ordering from IICA, Trinidad, fifteen (15) copies of the publication “Optimising the Post

Harvest Handling and Maintaining Quality of Fresh Pineapples”. These were distributed to the farmers.

Twenty-two (22) farmers benefited from an irrigation workshop which was organised by IICA. This workshop was done in partial fulfilment of the CFNI requirement of the group for the US\$5,000 grant, which was obtained for the procurement of drip irrigation material.

Three (3) meetings were held with agri-business personnel with the aim of forming a local chapter of the Caribbean Agri-business Association. Fifteen (15) persons participated in each of these meetings and were involved in discussions regarding the role, scope and functioning of such an organization. The group also discussed and developed initiatives, which could be pursued over the short term and medium term. These initiatives will be pursued with the assistance of the various regional specialists within the Institute.

5.4 Hemispheric Integration

The IICA’s office co-chaired the planning for the 5th Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA), which was hosted by the local Ministry of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture in the Rural Milieu (CARDI, ICCA, FAO, and CARICOM). Ten (10) Ministers of Agriculture and over one hundred and fifty (150) participants who represented various regional and allied agencies, farmers’ organisations and other stakeholders attended the CWA. The Director General of IICA, Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite also participated in this very important event. The theme for CWA 2005 was, “Exploring Opportunities for Enhancing the New Agriculture”.

The regular Alliance Meeting was a feature of the Week of Activities. The main issues, which were discussed, were:

- Updates on the Jagdeo’s Initiative

- Agro-energy
- Agro-biodiversity
- Agro-Tourism
- Dimensions of food security
- Optimising aquatic products supply
- Climate, Change, natural disasters and agricultural production.

Other activities included a regional Trade Show, an Agro Tourism Conference and a Youth and Agricultural Policy Conference.

IICA has played a significant role in the promotion and follow up of the Summit of the Americas Process and the implementation of the Jagdeo's Initiative. In this regard, the office supported the National Consultative process, which resulted in the submission of:

- The National Status Report to the Summit Implementation and Review Group (SIRG)
- The Report on the Status of the proposed interventions to address the key constraints to Agriculture developments the CARICOM Secretariat.

5.5 Developing Human Capital

Capacity building is an important component of the St Kitts and Nevis National Agenda. In this regards, the office collaborated with several partners and facilitated training sessions for stakeholders. The training activities spanned the entire spectrum of the various strategic areas and have improved the level of knowledge, skills and expertise of the participants. Some of these training included:

- Sixteen (16) farmers are able to utilise the Computer to perform various operations.

- Seventy-three (73) women participated in three (3) agro-processing workshops and are now capable of adding value to a range of locally produce fruits and vegetables.
- Sixteen (16) women participated in a training workshop on project development and are now formulating a project, which is seeking funds to assist with water harvesting.
- Fifty-four (54) farmers, beekeepers, agro-processors and youths received training in agri-business management and entrepreneurship and are now benefiting from the same.
- Twenty-eight (28) farmers participated in training on Good Agricultural Practices.

Some of the beneficiaries of the various activities were encouraged to participate in local exhibitions, food festivals and fairs. These actions have increased the sales on the local market and have generated additional incomes for local agri-business entrepreneurs. In addition, the knowledge gained from the training has resulted in greater productivity and improved quality of products.

The office also chaired the United National World College Selection Committee. This Committee was responsible for selecting the most suitable person for a Scholarship to attend the Simon Bolivar United World College of Agriculture in Venezuela. Four persons applied for the Scholarship and were ranked according to predetermined criteria. The successful candidate is now undergoing training in Venezuela.

6.0 INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

The office collaborated with several national, regional and international agencies in the implementation of its technical Co-operation Programme for 2006. This not only strengthened inter-agency relationship but has enhanced the impacts of the various actions which were implemented.

6.1 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The IICA office collaborated with USDA in facilitating the participation of one technician to three (3) SPS Committee Meeting of the WTO in Geneva.

6.2 Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI)

Two projects were submitted to the CFNI for funding and each received US\$5,000 Grant Fund for the Project implementation. The office collaborated with CFNI in executing the project.

6.3 Florida Association of Volunteer Agencies/Caribbean (FAVA/CA).

At the request of the Institute, FAVA/CA provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture in evaluating the pest/disease status of beekeeping. Training was provided to beekeepers in the management of the varroa mites.

6.4 Canadian Fund for Local Initiative

The office prepared a project “Preparing disadvantaged Teenagers for Self-Employment” for Project Strong. Funding was provided by the CFLI to purchase some office equipment, furnishings and materials for the project.

6.5 Republic of China Technical Mission (ROC)

The office collaborated with the ROC in the hosting of three agro-processing workshops.

6.6 Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

The FAO provided support to a national Symposium on Trade Issues, which was facilitated by the office.

Other national, Regional and International Organizations, which were actively involved in joint actions were:

Local

- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Cooperatives
- Ministry of Tourism
- St Kitts Bee-keepers Cooperative
- Nevis Bee-keepers Cooperative
- Nevis Farmers Association
- Agro-Processing Association
- Flower Arrangement Association
- Project Strong

Regional

- Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute (CARDI)
- Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI)

International

- Organization of American States (OAS)
- United States Peace Corp.

7.0 SUPPORT PROVIDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES

The Office assisted the Ministry of Agriculture with the consultative process of the Jagdeo's Initiative. This was aimed at integrating the National Agricultural Policy into the regional agricultural framework. Additionally, it participated in the various dialogues held by the Department of Agriculture and contributed towards the development of the Medium Term Plan, 2005 – 2009.

The Institute also contributed significantly to the transition process, which resulted from the closure of the sugar industry. The government first order of business after the closure was the setting up of the Transition Management Office (TMO). This was designated as the vehicle to manage the transformation process. The office began operation in April of 2005 with the Institute providing the services of the Team Leader and a contribution of US\$10000 towards conducting pre-feasibility studies. These studies are aimed at exploring the economic use of the sugar cane crop for ethanol and cogeneration. The TMO also benefited from the continual guidance and support of the IICA staff both locally and regionally. In May 2005, it produced an activity plan which IICA technical staff reviewed and provided suggestions regarding its implementation. In June 2005, the Team Leader presented the work of the TMO to Donor Agencies.

During the CWA 2005, the Prime Minister, The Honourable Dr Denzil Douglas, recognised and congratulated the Institute for its contribution to the Transition Process.

8.0 FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

The office will continue to support the government's efforts at agricultural diversification and commercialization. Some of the areas, which provide future opportunities for cooperation include: **agro-tourism, agro-processing, floriculture, information technology agro-energy, project development, agri-business and entrepreneurship.** In addition, the Institute could continue to provide support to the transition process and assist with the retooling/retraining of those persons who would have been adversely affected from the fall-out caused by the closure of the sugar industry.

APPENDIX I

SIX MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE OFFICE IN ST. KITTS & NEVIS

2005

Official Name of Event	Date Held	Site of Event	No. of Participants
1). Consultation on WTO, CSME and Food Security	February 1	Cultural Centre, Charlestown	62
2). Fruit Fly Control Awareness program ¹	May 10	CARDI Office	10
- Technician Meeting (St. Kitts)	May 11	ZIZ TV Station	National
- Television Programme (St. Kitts)	May 12	Department of Agriculture, Nevis	6
- Technician Meeting (Nevis)	May 12	Nevis News Cast	Island-wide
- Television Programme (Nevis)	May 13	St. Kitts field visits	10
- Establishment of traps			
3). Workshop on pest and diseases of local bees ²	May 17	St. Kitts Beekeepers' Cooperative bee house	14
4). Agro-processing workshop for rural women	June 29	Old Road Community Centre, St. Kitts	28
5). Drip Irrigation workshop	August 24	Prospect, Nevis	25
6). Establishment of Nevis Chapter of National Youth Forum	July 19	Prospect, Nevis	16

¹ University of Florida Expert

² FAVA/CA Expert

APPENDIX II
PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS OF 2005 ACTIVITIES

Youths involved in Skills Training



Basketry



SEWING



Agro-Processing & Other Displays



Youths involved in Skills Training Cont'd



Beekeeping



Computer training



Fahie's Women Group



Training in Management and Entrepreneurship



Agro-Processing Workshop





Agro-Tourism Seminar



Irrigation Training



Headtable at Opening Ceremony of Alliance Meeting
L - R Dr. Jerome Thomas, Hon. Cedric Liburd, Amb. Randlin, Prime Minister Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas; Director General, Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite



Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, Director General greeting one of the Delegates



Delegates at Alliance Meeting



Dr. H Arlington D. Chesney, Director of Caribbean Affairs and Ms Una May Gordon Representative in the ECS



Hon. Dr. Denzil Douglas Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis

APPENDIX III

LIST OF ARTICLES RECEIVED FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA FOR FRUIT FLY CONTROL

- 400ml Malathion
- 75 Treated (1.0% Spinosad) yellow spheres with twist ties
- 25 Untreated yellow spheres with twist ties
- 100 Pheromone M yellow sticky traps (unbaited) with twist ties
- 58 Treated (4.0% Imidacloprid, ai) yellow spheres with twist ties
- 3 Old untreated controls
- 300 Biolure Ammonium acetate lures (FFA)
- 300 Biolure putrescine lures (FFP)
- 25 Multilure trap – plastic McPhail-type traps (PMT)
- Triton
- Aluminum tape