

# Significant achievements 2018



## Grenada

- The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) collaborated with the Grenada Ministry of Agriculture to train butchers and staff at the Mirabeau Abattoir in food safety principles, in an effort to strengthen their capacity in the prerequisites to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) certification of the abattoir. Seventeen participants underwent training, which prepared them to prevent any food safety issue that may have arisen due to the increased number of animals processed at the abattoir during the Christmas season. This training was one of the recommendations of an IICA assessment conducted at the facility.
- In an effort to bolster some of the Ministry of Agriculture's actions in the field to combat the devastating Citrus Greening disease that resulted in reduced production and the suspension of operations to propagate citrus plants for growers, national authorities requested IICA's support, in the form of a symposium to chart the way forward. IICA sought technical assistance from Jamaica – which already has a citrus certification programme in place – and St. Vincent and the Grenadines – which is in the process of developing its certification programme -, to share their experiences in managing the disease with the stakeholders in Grenada. Twenty-six stakeholders, comprising farmers, input suppliers, supermarket personnel, agronomists, quarantine officers, and extension staff of the Ministry of Agriculture, strengthened their capacity to manage the disease, both at the propagation stations and on the farms, and developed an action plan for managing the disease, thus containing its spread.
- IICA collaborated with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to strengthen the governance and management of three producer groups in Grenada, in areas such as communication, efficiency, and effectiveness among their members. Thirty producers benefitted from these capacity building activities aimed at improving the internal structures and management of their organisations.
- IICA joined with the Ministry of Agriculture to conduct a workshop for farmers and extension officers, to promote the use of alternative materials for composting, among them Sargassum seaweed; methods of composting; and measures to reduce food safety risks when using organic manure on covered crops. The senior extension staff from the Ministry

of Agriculture and IICA identified emerging and applicable farm technologies and practices, demonstrating how best to transfer these technologies and practices to farmers. Forty extension officers, farmers and agricultural trainees strengthened their capacity in the use of organic materials for farm inputs, participating in both theoretical and practical on-farm sessions, in which they were able to observe first-hand the conversion of organic materials to compost.

- With support from the IICA-Canada 2018 Research and Internship Assistance Program, a two-day agro-processing workshop for small-scale processors and entrepreneurs was held, with emphasis on local fruits and vegetables of commercial importance. Seventeen agro-processors and entre-



preneurs, including women and youth, strengthened their capacity in extending the shelf life of foods. The workshop included hands-on training and classroom-style instruction, focusing not only on procedures to extend the shelf life of fruits and vegetables, but also on the types of equipment and tools needed in the process.

- IICA also joined forces with the Ministry of Agriculture to build the technical capacity of agricultural assistants and extension officers to assimilate and transfer information to farmers, using appropriate extension methodologies. An on-the-job assessment by IICA revealed that there was insufficient peer-to-peer sharing of extension methodologies, and that there was a need to pass on expertise in proven and tested extension methodologies to agricultural assistants, in keeping with the Ministry's effort to enhance its succession planning. The activity involved the coaching of agricultural assistants by senior extension officers in three different subject areas: soil health, post-harvest handling, and shade house management. Twenty-one extension officers, agricultural assistants and farmers benefited from this training, which complemented the Ministry's efforts to develop its knowledge capital.
- The Grenada Ministry of Health and the Grenada Bureau of Standards, with funding from the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), collaborated with IICA and conducted a two-day workshop for practitioners in the public and private sectors on Food Safety Risk Analysis. The workshop involved both classroom and field exercises that afforded participants the opportunity to observe food safety principles at two commercial outfits. The twenty-two practitioners strengthened their capacities in the assessment of food safety risks, and in managing and communicating such risks. Armed with this knowledge, they will now be able to advise farmers, agro-processors, and food handlers on best practices in food safety, to prevent illness among the population due to the consumption of contaminated foods.
- Members of the then defunct Grenada Association of Beekeepers, along with new beekeepers, many of whom were women, welcomed a training exercise on governance, which was hosted by IICA in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture. The training sought to set the stage for the re-activation of the association. Participants were introduced to the key considerations in forming an organisation, both from the point of view of the individual and of the organisation itself. Twenty-four beekeepers were taught the basic principles of group formation and about the responsibility of members in the development and promotion of the organisation's strategic objectives to employ a 'whole of group approach' to governance.
- IICA also teamed up with the Ministry of Agriculture to instruct twenty-one poultry processors in biosecurity and food safety, based on the principles of HACCP. This was the first in a series of training exercises for poultry processors organised by the Ministry of Agriculture, in order to reduce human health risks associated with contaminated poultry and ensure compliance with the standards required for safe foods, as demanded by the retail trade.

