

Significant achievements 2018



Guyana



- IICA played a pivotal role in facilitating discussions among three Member States in the hemisphere (Guyana, Brazil and Suriname), for the conceptualisation of a Carambola Fruit Fly Surveillance Project. The project is intended to serve the interests of these three bordering countries, increasing participants' level of knowledge about the carambola fruit fly as a quarantine pest of economic value and sensitising the general public about the importance of establishing an active surveillance program. This is in support of a new project in CFF surveillance and eradication, which will commence in 2019, with IICA as the executing agency.
- The Institute, in partnership with the Central Mahaicony Perth Village Farmer's Association, conceptualised and submitted an alternative energy project proposal to the New Zealand Government, which was awarded grant funding under the criteria of Sustainable Farming. This paved the way for the installation of a 3.36 kw Solar Electrical System, through a project entitled "Alternative Energy". The initiative will contribute significantly to reducing the production costs of value added products, benefitting the 35 farm families in the Association.
- IICA provided technical assistance and secretarial services for the review and editing of the draft food safety bill. This involved the formation of a technical multi-sectoral committee, including the Ministry of Agriculture, several public health departments, as well as international organisations such as IICA, FAO and PAHO/WHO. Additionally, technical support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture for the undertaking of an Economic Cost-Benefit Analysis for the establishment of a Food Safety Authority.
- IICA facilitated the hosting of the 9th Caribbean Beekeeping Congress on 19-23 November 2018. The 152 local and international participants, from both the public and private sectors, were exposed to apiculture husbandry and management practices. This was supported by two educational field visits to different ecological environments, two training videos on the Cost of Production for Apiculture and the Results of the Perone Hive, and presentations of technical papers from Guyana, St. Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Florida, and the Bahamas. The Congress enabled the Guyana Apiculture Society to attract 27 new members and generated resource material for the development of a new course in Apiculture at the Guyana School of Agriculture.
- IICA partnered with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on its TeleFood project: "Empowering Students through School Gardening and Enhancing Food and Nutrition Security in Schools across Guyana". The project was implemented in four residential schools across the country - in Charity, Bartica, Wisburg and Linden. More than fifty students and twenty-five teachers were trained in protected agriculture and shade-house management. In addition to the training, four shade-houses were established at the schools to enhance food and nutrition security.
- Technical and financial support was provided for training and the equipping of two agro-processing facilities, as part of their food security and rural business enterprise devel-

- opment programmes. Approximately 50 residents from the Moco-Moco and Wowetta Villages in the Rupununi, Region 9, will be employed at each of the factories, working in teams of eight to ten, on a rotational basis. The support provided by IICA will facilitate the provision of food for approximately 4,000 residents in the two villages, in the event of drought or flooding.
- IICA Guyana covered the costs of production training for twenty Ministry of Agriculture technicians and thirty farmers and agro-processors from Region 4. The training facilitated capacity building; contributed to economic growth and sustainable development; and positively impacted the well-being of the rural farmers.
 - In collaboration with Action Coach, a private entity that offers coaching for micro- enterprises, business plans were developed for three agro-processing businesses and priorities reviewed for five other agro-processing businesses. The businesses are located in Regions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 9 and the initiative will positively impact over two hundred enterprises.
 - Under the CCS-IICA technical cooperation agreement, the following actions were taken in response to a COTED ministerial request:
 - o Analysis and recommendations prepared for improving food safety and the operational management of the Grenada abattoir;
 - o Participation in CWA 2018 and preparation of a technical report on the week of activities, capturing key decisions of the Alliance and COTED Ministerial Meetings; Follow-up actions of the Business Development Thematic Group included the organisation of a seminar on regional transportation and logistics, in collaboration with private sector agencies throughout the region. Consultations sought to identify specific actions to tackle challenges in these areas.
 - o South-South Cooperation involved technical fact-finding missions to Brazil and Argentina. As a result, two projects were identified (water harvesting and management of invasive species).

