

2006 Regional Report



La contribución del IICA a la agricultura y al desarrollo de las comunidades rurales en la **CARIBBEAN Region**



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture



IICA's Contributions to Agriculture and the Development of Rural Communities in the CARIBBEAN Region



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

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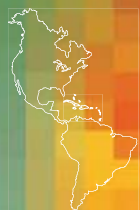
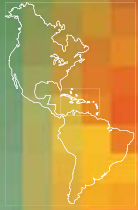


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Foreword

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is pleased to present its Annual Report for 2006 for the Caribbean, entitled “IICA’s Contribution to the Development of Agriculture and Rural Communities in the Caribbean Region”. This report marks the end of an institutional process of being responsive to the needs of clients and stakeholders, through the participatory preparation of National and Regional Agendas. The annual report and the accountability seminar reflect the Institute’s guidelines on accountability and transparency in the conduct of its activities.

The report is presented in two main sections. The first describes the Situation and Outlook for Agriculture in the Region and regional actions that add value to actions at the national level. These regional activities are described within the strategic areas of: Repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life, Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Strengthening of Rural Communities, Technology and Innovation Systems and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment.

The second section presents the Executive Summaries of the Annual Reports of our 14 member countries in the Caribbean.

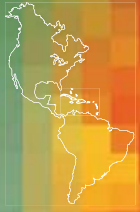
During 2006, the Institute remained committed to the repositioning of agriculture in the Caribbean. In this context, it actively supported the implementation of the Jagdeo Initiative as the region’s initial but focused response

to achieving the goals and objectives of the Regional Transformation Programme for Agriculture/Caribbean Community Agricultural Policy, the Hemispheric Agro Plan 2003-2015 and the Global Food Security Programme and the Millennium Development Goals. Within this major framework, during 2006, the Institute vigorously promoted the concept of the New Agriculture and initiated the process of forging an alliance with the media to enlist public support and empathy for the process of agricultural repositioning.

I wish to thank our stakeholders and clients for their oft-repeated sentiments of appreciation for the excellent work done. This has been possible due to the dedication, team work and commitment to excellence of the entire group of personnel – Representatives, Regional Specialists, National Professionals and support staff – working for the Caribbean in our Offices, and the Regional Directorate at Head Office. I wish to thank them most sincerely.

We at IICA, look forward to providing continued service to the agricultural sector in the Caribbean and making a positive contribution to sustainable development at both the national and regional levels. Accordingly, we would be pleased to obtain feedback from you on how to improve the Institute’s performance at both the national and regional levels.

H. Arlington D. Chesney
Director of Operations, Caribbean
Region and Advisor to the Director
General on Caribbean Affairs, IICA



I. Introduction

Responding to the continued opportunities and challenges offered by the agricultural sector in the Caribbean in 2006, the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) advanced its contributions to the development of agriculture and rural life through its actions at both the country and regional levels. The Institute continued to promote vigorously the New Agriculture and the opportunities associated with it. These opportunities included those derived from advances in agro-biotechnology, agrotourism linkages, the growth of the herbal industry, and openings in greenhouse technology and organics. IICA also embarked on a new area of potential importance for the region: agro-energy, with the preparation of a draft regional strategy that can be used as the basis for the development of an agro-energy industry in the Americas, with specific focus on the Caribbean region.

The Institute also initiated, at a workshop in Tobago, the process of reorienting the agricultural research and development strategy so that it could satisfy the requirements of the New Agriculture. This would include activities throughout the entire agri-product chain and the involvement of both the public and private sectors.

The Jagdeo Initiative (the Initiative) continued to serve as a guide for the preparation of the Institute's Caribbean regional work plan which endeavoured to respond to the 10 Key Binding Constraints identified therein. IICA continued to promote the Initiative at all levels throughout the year and capitalized on a media workshop, which it organized and hosted during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) in the Bahamas, to sensitize over 30 of the region's media personnel to the Initiative and to the importance of the regional efforts at revitalizing the agriculture sector in the Caribbean and addressing solutions to some of the many constraints faced by the countries.

With funding from CTA, the Institute embarked on a regional project "Building a Caribbean Agricultural Monitoring and Evaluation System" which represents part of an ongoing process of defining appropriate mechanisms for measuring the progress of the Agro Plan 2003-2015 and the Initiative. The Caribbean is the first region in the Americas to implement such a project that satisfies the mandates of both the Hemispheric and Regional Heads.

In October 2006, the Institute and the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources of the Bahamas, in association with the CARICOM Secretariat, CARDI and FAO, hosted its most successful

Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) to date. The focus of the week was Sustaining Marine and Agriculture Resources into the Future. Widened participation from different sectors and from the Caribbean, North and Central America and Europe, solidified the growing popularity of this event on the Caribbean calendar – as one that sets the stage for agri-initiatives and fora in the Caribbean.

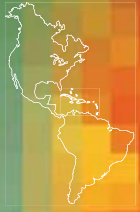
The Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu (the Alliance) continued to receive administrative, technical and logistical support from IICA, in collaboration with the CARICOM Secretariat (CCS) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The constituent members of the Alliance: the Forum of Ministers of Agriculture of the Caribbean, the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA), the Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth (CAFY), the Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE) and the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP), along with the Caribbean Regional Agricultural Policy Network (CaRAPN) all were represented at the CWA in October.

The Institute, through a combined effort of country offices, regional programmes

and projects, published a number of newsletters, technical documents and reports, under the various themes of work, which were widely distributed among stakeholders and beneficiaries. These are available from IICA country offices in the region. Information on the Institute and its programmes in the region can be obtained from the websites:

- IICA Country websites at www.iica.int
- Caribbean Regional Agricultural Policy Network (CaRAPN) – www.carapn.net
- Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP) – www.canrop.org
- Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) – www.cabaregional.org

The Institute began the process of developing a website that reflects the work of the IICA Caribbean region, which will add value to the already established country websites available on www.iica.int. The IICA Caribbean website, which will be launched in 2007, promises to provide increased access to a wider range of relevant information on the regional programmes as well as focus more specifically on the areas of the New Agriculture, which the Institute is promoting in the process of agricultural repositioning.



II. Executive Summary

In 2006, the Caribbean region was generally spared the wrath of natural hazards, such as hurricanes, extreme adverse weather conditions, and pest and disease outbreaks of economic significance. However, extensive flooding in Guyana and Suriname cost these countries millions of dollars in agricultural products. Overall, domestic agriculture showed relatively good performance, with expanded output, both in terms of volumes and range, of crop and animal products for local markets. However, the steady increase in prices of food and fuel made food security a rising concern in 2006, and more especially given the influx of visitors expected in the region for the 2007 Cricket World Cup (CWC). The general response was calls, at both the national and regional levels, for more affirmative action, definitive road maps, master development plans and long term policy. These were seen as essential to attract investment and stimulate agribusiness development in order to reinvigorate the agriculture potential, enhance food security, reduce poverty and develop a sustainable sector.

Amidst the generally slow or negative growth in traditional agriculture, there were some indications of recovery in: the expansion of banana production in Dominica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Suriname; exploration of a wider range of products from the sugar cane industry in Barbados and Guyana; strengthening of

linkages between agriculture and tourism; exploitation of opportunities in niche and specialist markets within and outside the region; greater appreciation of the potential of agro-biotechnology and the development of the 'new' agriculture products. These efforts, among others, led to a much better appreciation of the relationships between and requirements for developing a 'new' agriculture that is sustainable and contributes meaningfully to the economic development of the region.

The Institute continued to support the Jagdeo Initiative which sought to strengthen its coordination of regional priorities to provide more effective support to Member States in their actions to alleviate the 10 Key Binding Constraints and provide a firm platform for agricultural development within the CARICOM Single Market. In collaboration with ECLAC and with funding from the CTA, the Institute initiated a project to build a monitoring and evaluation agricultural information system that seeks to consolidate and strengthen existing information processes and systems in Caribbean countries to satisfy the need for monitoring and evaluating progress on the Agro Plan 2003-2015 and the Jagdeo Initiative. Emphasis was thus placed, inter alia, on strengthening capacity for good environmental and agricultural practices, disasterpreparedness, mitigation and relief, greater diversification and integration of agriculture with other economic activities and business development at all levels.

Through its Regional Agribusiness Programme (RABP), IICA continued to **promote trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness** in its Member States by facilitating the provision of an enabling environment for several public and private sector stakeholders to improve their economic competitiveness. A major component of this initiative is the support to CABA, in general, and the implementation of its Multilateral Investment Fund-financed project to retool small and medium enterprises. The Institute assisted organizations in the Bahamas and St. Kitts and Nevis in the preparation of draft policies and regulations and designed and implemented a Gap Survey of policies, legislation, regulations and protocols in the Eastern Caribbean States (ECS).

IICA's continued support to capacity development within agribusiness included the preparation of strategic plans for organizations in the Bahamas and Saint Lucia and the successful securing of four CIDA bursaries for young agriculturists from Saint Lucia, Dominica and Trinidad to gain new skills and knowledge in multi-media technologies via the Secretariat of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association. IICA carried out an assessment of 16 associations/networks in Saint Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis, concerning their readiness for modernization. A comprehensive strategy and work plan was submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture and Government of St. Kitts and Nevis to modernize, diversify and reposition non-sugar agriculture and the rural economy.

The Institute initiated a cooperation agreement with the World Council of

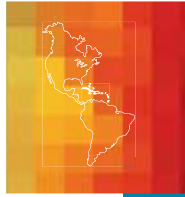
Credit Unions and the OAS Federal Credit Union aimed at increasing access by the rural poor to sustainable finances as well as to increase investments in agriculture and agribusiness.

In collaboration with other agencies, the Institute hosted the 6th Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) in Nassau, the Bahamas, which was attended by over 200 persons from across the region and internationally. It was recorded as the most successful CWA to date.

The Institute collaborated with several national, regional and international agencies in addressing **agricultural health and food safety** issues in the region and jointly hosted a major Meeting on Animal Diseases Surveillance and Preparedness: Focus on Avian Influenza in the Caribbean at which technical meetings of the CaribVET Network were also held.

The Institute developed its own strategy on Avian Influenza supported by a special website on www.iica.int and, with support from FAO, USDA/APHIS, conducted Avian Influenza simulation exercises in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. The Institute also played a critical role in furthering the implementation of the Caribbean Invasive Species Strategy – a multinational and multi-institutional initiative.

Together with FAO, IICA also hosted a regional consultation on draft ISPMs and conducted a regional workshop on the Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Materials in International Trade. Several workshops on Good Agricultural Practices were held in Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and



Tobago. Manuals on Good Agricultural Practices for several products and a manual on Herd Health management for small ruminant production were developed in collaboration with USDA/APHIS and the University of the West Indies.

Through funding under IICA's SPS Initiative of the Americas, the Institute continued to support representatives of all 14 countries in the region to attend the meetings of the World Trade Organization's Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary measures held in Geneva Switzerland.

In furthering its efforts at **strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach**, IICA supported Suriname and Guyana in preparing a draft Sustainable National Rural Development Policy. In Suriname, it supported the Suriname Bauxite Company, SURALCO, in the development of a project for the district of Moengo to maintain the quality of life in mined-out bauxite lands. An OAS-funded project to establish the potential of agrotourism as a contributor to both the quality of rural life and national and economic development is being implemented in selected Caribbean countries.

The Institute continued to support the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP). It facilitated a number of capacity-building workshops for the national networks and hosted CANROP's 5th Annual General Meeting and Institutional Awareness Workshop in Guyana in July 2006.

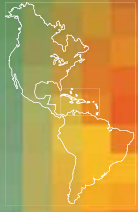
Principles of the territorial approach continued to be validated in two

communities in Jamaica and one in Guyana.

IICA furthered its commitments to introduce technology and innovation systems for the modernization of agriculture and rural life. It collaborated with several key regional and international institutions in addressing biotechnology and biosafety and other research and development issues in the Caribbean, by hosting two major regional biotechnology workshops and another in R&D. IICA also completed the strategy for the Caribbean Programme on Biotechnology and Biosafety (CPBB) and developed two regional biotechnology projects identified in the Needs Assessment exercise that was previously conducted for the region. The Institute also continued its support to CARDI through the funding of 14 jointly-identified projects.

The Institute continued its support to the development of the herbal business sub-sector, primarily through the provision of financial and administrative support to the Secretariat of the Caribbean Herbal Business Association (CHBA). Under this arrangement, the Pro-Invest-funded project on market and technology research on herbals of economic importance was completed, producing investment opportunity profiles and a number of technology briefs for major product categories in the international trade in herbal products.

IICA continued to promote greenhouse technology at various technological and capital level requirements and provide support to the development of the organic movement in the Caribbean, to stimulate commercial activity and investment in agriculture.



III. The state of agriculture and rural life in the **Caribbean** in 2006

In the Caribbean, except for the floods, which cost Guyana and Suriname millions of dollars in agricultural products, the region was generally spared the wrath of natural hazards, such as hurricanes, extreme adverse weather conditions and pest and disease outbreaks of economic significance.

In 2006, agriculture in some countries continued to experience slow growth, as in Barbados (1%), and declines, as in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname. Others reported fairly good growth rates. Overall, the situation in agriculture is reflected by the Caribbean Development Bank's conclusion that "the prospects for 2006 are reasonably favourable, driven largely by construction in anticipation of continued growth in tourism" (Overview of the Caribbean Economies in 2005). This implied that the agriculture sector would still be struggling to overcome either the

devastating socio-economic effects of the adverse weather conditions of 2004 and 2005 or further contraction and/or termination of traditional industries due to changes in trade policies of major trading partners, or that a combination of both had been stabilised, and hence performance in 2006 would have been fair to moderate.

Grenada was among the good performers, with agriculture rebounding, showing 20.5% growth following a 38.1% decline in 2005. This post-hurricane recovery was fuelled by approximately US\$1.1 million in 'soft loans' to agriculture under the Government's Agricultural Enterprise Development Programme (AEDP) and production support to revitalise banana, plantain, cocoa and nutmeg production under the post-Ivan Agricultural Recovery Programme (ARP). In Jamaica, agriculture grew by 17.6%, due partly to expansion in sugar, cocoa, coffee and bananas and the resumption of ackee exports to the United States after a one-year suspension by the USDA. In the Dominican Republic, a 9.9% growth

in crops and livestock represented the third consecutive year of steady growth, generating 26,000 new jobs. This made it one of the most dynamic sectors of the economy. This performance was attributed largely to production support programmes, particularly the Recovery Programme for the Production of Basic Foods (REPROABA) and increased financing of 22.2% compared to the same period in 2005, from the Agricultural Bank of the Dominican Republic (BAGRICOLA).

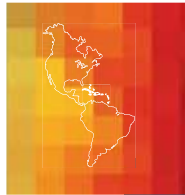
The situation in Haiti differed markedly from the other Caribbean countries. Politically, 2006 marked the end of a two-year transition period for Haiti, and a return to constitutional order. A new President was elected in February (Mr. René Garcia Preval) with a five-year constitutional mandate, and a new legislature - the 48th - came into effect. However, political and social instability continued with serious repercussions for agriculture and rural welfare. The instability impacted negatively on intra-national movement of goods, including agricultural products from rural areas to markets in the capital, with consequent adverse impacts on the cost of food products, particularly fruits and vegetables in urban areas.

Overall, domestic agriculture showed relatively good performance, with expanded output, both in terms of volumes and range, of crop and animal products for local markets.

Growth experienced in Barbados was due largely to non-sugar agriculture, led by poultry (6.3%) and fishing

(5.6%). Jamaica also showed growth in its food crop and livestock (mainly poultry) production, by 6.8% and 5.1%, respectively. In Saint Lucia, expanded domestic food production was buoyed by local purchasing, mainly from hotels and restaurants. Grenada also reported that domestic market was 'flooded' with vegetables as a result of concerted efforts at rehabilitating non-traditional agriculture, mainly fruits, vegetables and root crops. However, in all countries generally, non-traditional agriculture remained comparatively limited compared to the traditional sub-sector. This suggested little structural change in the sector.

The traditional banana and sugar industries exhibited mixed performance. Only Dominica, Saint Lucia, (the latter accounting for in excess of 54% of Windward Islands exports), Jamaica and Suriname reported meaningful expansion in banana production and exports. The expanding volumes of bananas exported under the Fair Trade label continued to drive the recovery of banana industries. Caribbean banana producers reaffirmed the importance of the industry to their domestic economy and pledged continued support to ensure its survival. The year 2006 was an adjustment for Caribbean banana exporters. It marked the introduction of the European Union (EU) Tariff-Only Regime (on January 1st) and towards years end, Ecuador launched a new attack on the new regime at the WTO, the first since it took effect. Ecuador complained of unfair treatment, by way of 176 euros (225.6 dollars) per tonne customs duty on bananas from Latin America. However, quoting data which showed an increase



in banana imports from Latin America during the first half of the year, the EU Agriculture Commissioner deemed that the complaints from Latin America were unjustified.

In 2006, CARICOM sugar industries were also at various stages of transition occasioned by changes in the EU sugar regime. Most had already developed integrated Action Plans for improving industry competitiveness, for diversification through value-added activities, involving use of the sugar cane plant, and for transition into other economic activities. Against this backdrop, Heads of Government, at their 27th Conference, reiterated the urgent need for the EU to make funding under their Financial Perspective, 2007-2013 adequate and readily accessible to facilitate implementation of the plans.

... agriculture is an "economic driver of growth"

Constrained performance notwithstanding, agriculture constitutes an integral element of the economic integration process. Indeed, it is identified as an economic driver of growth in the Caribbean Community as a whole, alongside energy, sustainable tourism and new export services. For CARICOM countries, this suggests that despite its past difficulties, its sub-sectors or cluster of activities continue, as Girvan points out, "to have the potential for sustained

growth of exports to international markets, or have substantial potential for growth in intra-regional trade, or can generate significantly expanded supplies of a key input underpinning international competitiveness in other activities... and be capable of imparting dynamism to other economies and to the Community as a whole".¹ The strategic importance of agriculture was also underscored in a mid-year (June) High-Level CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) Symposium, *Caribbean Connect*, held in Barbados. Consequently, issues pertinent to the CSM implementation were extremely relevant to the nature and pace of agricultural development in 2006.

"Growing hunger, rural poverty and malnutrition is unacceptable in a region as rich and endowed with resources such as ours"

President Bharrat Jagdeo, of Guyana, Lead CARICOM Head for Agriculture; 21 January

At the regional level, agricultural development was increasingly and organically linked to regional unity as a driving force in the implementation of the CSME. Economic integration is seen as an imperative strategy for optimising the development potential of the Region. The year 2006 was earmarked for the implementation of the Single Market (CSM). On January 30th 2006, Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, Guyana,

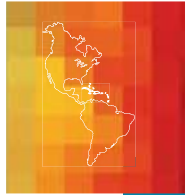
¹ Discussion on what constitutes an economic driver can be obtained from the report on the Symposium, entitled, 'Towards the Single Economy – Report', Norman Girvan [draft dated September 21, 2006].

Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, through the Declaration of the coming into being of the CSM, signalled to the region and indeed the rest of the world, that the basic framework of the Single Market is functional. The Declaration of Intent as signed by Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines signified their intention to join by the end of June 2006, provided that the mechanics of the Regional Development Fund were finalised. This Fund is intended to provide financial and/or technical assistance to countries, regions or sectors disadvantaged by the operations of the CSME. Its capitalization is aimed at two hundred and fifty million United States dollars (US\$250 million) with contributions from Member States and other sources such as donor agencies. Already Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago have pledged contributions totalling 17 million United States dollars (US\$17 million). The contribution formula that has been agreed to takes into consideration the CARICOM Budget Formula and Member States' respective economic size, economic well-being and share of benefits of the economic integration process.

Given its integral role in cementing and stimulating growth in the CSM, the revitalisation of agriculture assumed even more urgency in 2006. The critical issues of growth, food security, hunger, rural poverty and environmental integrity remained on top of the agriculture revitalization agenda, both nationally and collectively. The focus on the Jagdeo Initiative, as a vehicle to alleviate the 10 Key Binding Constraints (KBCs) in the

medium term, to revitalise agriculture and to strengthen its competitive potential, continued. The core strategy was to prioritise specific elements for immediate and urgent coordinated actions, while simultaneously supporting individual Member States' actions that contribute to the alleviation of these KBCs. Top priority was accorded to Financing and Investments (KBC #1), Outdated and Inefficient Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (KBC #2), Research and Development (R&D) (KBC #3), Strengthened and Organised Private Sector (KBC #4) and Disaster Management (KBC #6).

On the issue of increased financing, the tendency of funds being provided to facilitate the public as opposed to the private sector remained a major deficiency in regional funding mechanisms. The establishment of an Agricultural Modernisation Fund (AMF) within the RDF was one intervention proposed to bring balance to this situation. However, by year end, the AMF remained a concept. Success of the Initiative would require increased funding at both the national and regional levels, with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) taking a lead role. Consequently, the CORE Group, responsible for managing the implementation of the Jagdeo Initiative agreed that the CARICOM Secretariat (CCS), CDB, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and IICA would strengthen their cooperation mechanisms to ensure a more coordinated, holistic approach in the mobilisation of funds, the development of the AMF, and the planning and hosting of the Donor and Investment Conferences in 2007.



Efforts to alleviate the constraints related to ‘Outdated and Inefficient Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Systems’ continued to focus on operationalising the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHSFA) to coordinate, implement, monitor and evaluate national AHFS interventions. This function will include consolidating existing legislation and strengthening surveillance, monitoring and enforcement to build confidence in the safety and integrity of the agri-food system. The CARICOM Secretariat anticipated that CAHSFA should be operational by June 1 2007, once the draft legal framework for its establishment and the final structure and institutional arrangements are approved, and agreed financial contributions received from Member States.

The establishment of a committee to urgently develop the Regional Research and Development (R&D) Strategy was agreed to. The recommendations of an IICA/CARIRI regional workshop on *Optimizing the benefits of R&D for the Development of Agribusiness in the Caribbean* (May) sought to establish the best mechanism for coordinating research within and outside the farm and integrating it throughout the entire agri-food/product chain, including greater involvement of the private sector. Efforts to develop a regional R&D coordination mechanism to link the institutions in the region were expected to contribute to the CARDI/IICA initiative to implement an R&D strategy once developed. In keeping with the regional debate on agro-biotechnology and bio-safety, a Caribbean Regional Policy, Strategy and Programme on Biotechnology and

Bio-Safety (CRPS&PSS) was finalised through the collaborative efforts among regional (including CCS, CARDI, UG, UWI), hemispheric (including IICA) and international organizations. The establishment of a coordinating office for the Consultative Group for Agro-biotechnology in the Caribbean to have main responsibility for the implementation of the CRPS&PSS was recommended.

Notable R&D efforts driven by the need to accelerate development of the ‘new’ agriculture, included expansion in hydroponics (greenhouse) technology for a wider range of agricultural crops in Jamaica and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the upsurge of organic and niche products in Guyana, the introduction and expansion of breeding facilities for the pork industry in Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, and the recent breakthrough by the UWI St. Augustine campus and a Trinidad firm Kairi Blooms in developing bacterial disease resistant varieties of anthurium, with an estimated total production of roughly 2 – 3 million cut flowers, down from 10 million in the 1980s and 1990s. By the end of 2006, these efforts, among others, led to a much better appreciation of the requirements for developing a ‘new’ agriculture and the sustainable development of agriculture in the region and the importance of public-public, private-private, public-private and academia-private/public sector partnerships.

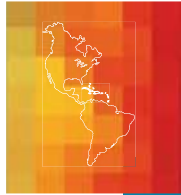
The growing need and call for the private sector to get more proactive and involved in agriculture repositioning remained a topical issue, particularly in

terms of generating investment funds, prioritizing R&D and other development imperatives. Apart from the few large conglomerates, such as, the food and beverage manufacturers, Grace Kennedy of Jamaica, and Ansa McAl and S.M. Jaleel of Trinidad, the agribusiness sector is still under-resourced and dependent on public sector programmes. The entire private sector – big and small – is fragmented and does not speak with one voice. The Jagdeo Initiative calls on member States to take urgent actions to alleviate this KBC of a ‘Fragmented and Disorganised Private Sector’. The private sector itself agrees that in order to alleviate this constraint, they must become more organized and co-ordinated. In this regard, the efforts of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) to organise and consolidate the agribusiness sector continued in 2006. In this task, CABA accelerated preparations to implement an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Multilateral Investment Fund (IMF) project aimed at strengthening Market Access Opportunities for Agricultural Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs). CABA was also considering the formation of Commodity Associations for rabbits, hot peppers, coconuts, sweet potatoes, cassava, pumpkins, golden apples and herbs. The Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) National Chapter of CABA (TTABA) was approved as the main implementing agency for the ‘T&T Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources’ (MALMR’s) Agribusiness Development Programme. The programme, launched in November, is meant to overcome the weaknesses faced in the agriculture industry and position agribusiness as a major pillar of the Government’s vision

of reaching developed country status by 2020. Plans to invest in commercial agricultural production, processing and marketing will be accelerated in 2007.

Indeed, increased private sector participation in agriculture, from both leadership and business perspectives, will contribute significantly to secure regional food supplies. This was the general conclusion in 2006 as the steady increase in prices of food and fuel became pressing issues in several Caribbean countries, primarily Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica and T&T. Indeed, in several instances, the domestically and regionally produced goods, more so than imported products, exhibited some of the highest price increases. This outcome was blamed on rising input costs and consequently costs of production, as a result of rising fuel prices. This placed agriculture and policy makers under much greater scrutiny from a diverse set of interest groups. There were repeated calls for the Caribbean companies, especially food and beverage manufacturers, to get more involved in the food production process, from input supplies to cultivation and processing, marketing and retailing. This was considered essential if sustained progress is to be achieved in national and regional food security with expanded intra-regional trade.

Additionally, the critical role of the private sector in generating business in all aspects of the new and expanded agriculture was underscored. This included more concerted efforts to create and sustain linkages to tourism and energy. With regard to tourism, several reports indicate that, in spite



of burgeoning tourism, the net gains from the industry are far below gross receipts. For example, it was estimated that, in Jamaica, an estimated 50% of every tourism dollar exits the economy. The Jamaican research suggested that domestic agriculture and country size were the two most important factors in determining the import content for the tourism industry. In 2005, Jamaica imported US\$602 million, with exports amounting to only US\$193 million. Field research revealed that most of the food consumed by tourists was imported; a trend which has also become prevalent among domestic consumers. If Jamaica and other Caribbean countries are to maximise the benefits from tourism development, then ways must be found to increase backward economic linkages, including utilization of local food products in the tourism industry. High levels of leakage in tourism also existed in the Bahamas (85%) and Barbados (50%).

In the context of both rising food prices and high leakages in tourism attributed to food imports, food security remained a burning issue in 2006 given concerns with the over US\$3 billion food import bill. Dominica's food import bill jumped from US\$10 million in 1990 to US\$19.2 million in 1994, an increase of over 104%, and to US\$165 million in 2005. Generally, the most imported items were dairy and meat products, alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, grains and grain products, vegetables and fruit products with increases both in terms of volumes and range of options. It is widely believed that a large factor in the growing food import bill is the rapid promotion and growth of tourism in

several Caribbean countries. Indeed, this is in line with the CDB's conclusion of continued growth in tourism fuelling the economic prospects for the region in 2006. In fact, the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) had estimated growth in tourism of 16.4% of the GDP in the Caribbean region for 2006, and predicted that Caribbean Travel and Tourism would grow by 3.9% per annum, in real terms, between 2007 and 2016. The major source markets are expected to grow (Canada +20%, US +7%, EU +11%). Cruise tourism is also expected to increase by 10% over the same period.

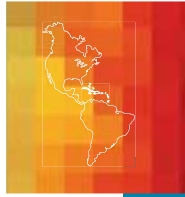
Since 2002, the IICA Office in Barbados has been the focal point for promotion and development of AgriTourism Linkages in the Caribbean. It has concentrated on addressing critical issues identified from consultations with key stakeholders, research and studies. In 2006, IICA collaborated with the Organization of American States (OAS) to implement a three-year (2005-2008, US\$444,000) regional project with participating countries, promoting increased linkages between Tourism and Agriculture. The seven participating Caribbean Countries are Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Commonwealth of Dominica, Barbados, T&T, Guyana and Suriname. This project seeks to create economic opportunities, enhance the sustainable development of both the tourism and agricultural sectors and build resilience in rural communities. IICA was also able to secure funding (£40,000) from the Commonwealth Secretariat to conduct an 8-month study on Culinary Tourism for Barbados, beginning in April 2007. This should

strengthen tourism as an additional and growing market for food products from agriculture. Forging agriculture-tourism linkages will capitalize on the inherent ability to diversify the Caribbean economy, stimulate entrepreneurship, catalyse investment and assist in wider social development in local communities. Such linkages, along with others, such as, energy, offer unprecedented opportunities to stem and reverse the declines in traditional agriculture and stimulate the rapid growth in 'new' agriculture in Caribbean economies.

Resilience of rural communities and agriculture to disasters is also an essential element of sustainable development. At the special Agriculture COTED in January 2006, Ministers of Agriculture reaffirmed the need to have a consolidated and integrated approach to disaster management in agriculture and validated the necessity of undertaking such research to guide the development of practical interventions. Disaster Management represented an area where several organisations, including the Association of American States (ACS), the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), IICA and FAO complement the activities of the region's Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA), as they relate to agriculture. CDERA has already developed a strategic plan (Risk Management Strategy) for the region which will be reviewed and discussed in 2007. IICA continued its work with respect to mitigating mechanisms, through agricultural insurance. In April, FAO launched a US\$25.9 million

Caribbean Hurricane Preparedness Project aimed at redirecting assistance from recovery to assisting countries in implementing mitigating strategies to minimise the effects of natural hazards on agriculture. The project included the establishment of plant and seed banks in selected Caribbean countries to allow for availability and distribution of plant material to minimise disruption in food supply after a hurricane or flood. In addition, the ACS's 12th Meeting of the Special Committee on Natural Disasters (June 2006) also launched a project for a High-level Conference on Preparedness, Mitigation of the Effects and Recovery from Natural Disasters in the Greater Caribbean. The purpose of the new project would be to exchange experiences, lessons learnt and best practices in the areas of natural disaster risk reduction, mitigation and recovery within the region, as well as determine areas of intra-regional co-operation in both ambits and strengthen Members' national preparedness capabilities.

Resolving issues related to inadequate land and water management systems was also given special attention in 2006. Serious flooding in Guyana, Jamaica and Suriname during the year, following similar serious occurrences in other Caribbean countries in 2005, placed the issue of improving water management squarely on the region's agricultural development agenda. Rainwater harvesting and irrigation technology were widely discussed in the region in 2006. At a regional workshop (Tortola, March) discussion focused on developing a process for a Regional Strategy for Rainwater Harvesting in the Caribbean. A significant recommendation was



that rainwater harvesting should be included as part of the Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy (IWRMS) by all countries of the region. A potential source of funding for the development of this strategy is the Integrated Coastal Area and Watershed Management (IWCAM) Project, which has funds allocated for the development of the IWRMS in pilot countries. Among the organisations involved in this area are FAO, the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

A topic that evoked much dialogue and is directly and integrally related to KBCs #2, 3 and 6, was the application of biotechnology and biosafety in Caribbean agriculture. All Caribbean States (with the exception of Jamaica [signed], Guyana and Suriname [not signed]) have ratified the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and are in the process of developing National Bio-Safety Frameworks (NBF). The Protocol addresses only the trade in live GMOs and not the safety of all GM food, in general. It thus requires the country of export to seek approval from the country of import for Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) to be used for processing or directly in food or feed. Development of the capacity to conduct risk assessment of LMOs, proper biosafety for handling and transit of LMOs and risk communication with the general public is also part of the NBF. There have been many national studies, policy frameworks and regional

biosafety meetings in the Caribbean. Research and Development (R&D) in the Caribbean in agro-biotechnology included excellent work on disease-resistant papaya, disease-resistant anthuriums and pathology in yams, hot peppers and tomatoes. CARICOM has mandated CARDI to coordinate activity relative to the use of GMOs. IICA has initiated dialogue amongst relevant scientists in the Caribbean on the adequate management and commercial use of agro-biotechnology and aspects of biosafety. This has resulted in the development of a Caribbean Agro-Biotechnology and Biosafety Strategy (referred to earlier) and the development of projects to effect its implementation. This model is being used by IICA to create “coordinating” blocs in the Americas.

However, there is still insufficient support for agro-biotechnology, including investment in the potential of bio-energy. Concerns over the loss of some Caribbean breeds and virtual lack of measures to maintain genetic stock with superior growth and meat characteristics, such as the frizzled chicken and naked-necked village fowls of Antigua and Barbuda and the Creole black pig (such as in Haiti), also occupied the agro-biotechnology debate. Fortunately, the value of other local animal breeds, such as, the Barbados Blackbelly Sheep (BBS) and the St Croix White, continued to be well recognised and genetic stock secured and improved.² Such actions taken and being explored by Barbados with respect

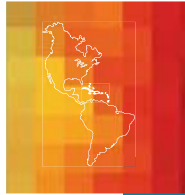
² *Extracted from comments and information circulated through the FAO Barbados Office online forum.*

to the BBS include production efficiency increases, protection of intellectual property rights and the production of value-added products bearing the BBS logo.

Another area of significant debate was the extent of the role of 'organics' in the 'new' agriculture. It is generally believed that organic farming only accounts for a very small percentage of total agriculture in the Caribbean; while there are still some areas where few or no agro-chemicals are used, lack of state regulations for organic farming makes it difficult to distinguish agricultural products in a true organic system from those produced with chemicals or even with little chemicals use. However, because of relatively small size and the need for higher value small volume "niche" products, going organic was being widely promoted as a viable development option for agriculture in the region. This is partly due to positive impacts on the environment and human health, and the apparent seamless links to agricultural and environmental tourism and its impact on sustainable development. Indeed, earlier in the year, Dominica indicated its interest in pursuing an 'Organic Island' concept, expecting to be the first country in the world to pursue such a development model and achieve such a status.

The other KBCs are also critical to the successful repositioning of agriculture in the Caribbean. In addressing the issues of limited intra-regional trade related to KBC #7 Inadequate (export) transportation, a study was undertaken to clarify and document the concerns of shoppers and other issues that

impact transportation of agricultural and other produce within the Caribbean and beyond. In presenting the study to the Council of Trade and Economic Development (COTED) towards the end of 2006, the main findings were that all member states had utilized appropriate, reliable and competitive air and sea freight space to North America and Europe. The possible exceptions were Suriname (for air freight to Europe) and Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago (for sea freight to Europe). However the study confirmed the general opinion that transportation was the major bottleneck to increased intra-regional trade. The findings indicated that the available intra-regional sea freight services for fresh produce requiring refrigeration were generally inappropriate in terms of transit times and trans-shipment risks. It also concluded that the level of intra-trade in perishable products was insufficient both in terms of volumes and high-end value product types, thus limiting the viability of dedicated air or sea freight services. These findings hold implications for the focus and directions of interventions in agriculture aimed at enhancing and expanding intra-regional trade in agricultural products. They suggest that, among other things, concerted efforts must be made to expand and secure the supply capacity that would support dedicated air and sea freight services that facilitate continuous trade flows within the region. Other complementary actions must also be taken to spur trade in agricultural products within the region, including product handling guidelines and trade protocols that assure product safety and quality and agricultural health. Vibrant intra-regional agricultural trade is critical



to stimulate agricultural production and food security in CARICOM and will be an essential mechanism to bind the single market and ultimately, the single economy. Strong regional integration has been emphasized as a critical strategy for the development of the region and for its balanced integration into the global economy.

The time frame for the Jagdeo Initiative is 2015. This is in keeping with the target of both the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Agro Plan 2003-2015. The region has 8 more years to achieve substantial progress in the 10 KBCs. This will be critical to establishing a stable platform for the development of sustainable agricultural and rural sectors. It will also be pivotal in making agriculture a significant socio-economic force in accelerating regional integration and adapting to more liberalised trading arrangements.

...commitment to global integration and negotiations on agriculture hinged on obtaining meaningful expression to the development dimension

Despite the slow progress in 2005, trade negotiations continued to occupy the national and regional agenda in 2006. Still reeling from the adverse impacts of the Uruguay Round trade liberalization on their traditional banana and sugar industries, Caribbean countries continued with their cautious approach. However, commitment to global integration, through the World Trade Organisation (WTO) negotiations

on agriculture and the EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) negotiations remained strong. The need to ensure the 'development dimension' in the structure and provisions of the WTO and EPA negotiations was central to this commitment. In 2006, there was virtually no further progress in the WTO talks, with contentious issues of agricultural subsidies and market access being major stumbling blocks. As the April modalities deadline approached, CARICOM countries remained concerned over the inability of the major players to strike agreement on core issues related to full modalities. As a leading grouping of small, vulnerable economies, CARICOM was of the view that its development interests were not receiving adequate attention. The April 30, 2006, deadline for farm modalities and the submission of a comprehensive draft was again, missed, so too was the submission of schedules based on these modalities by 31 July. As a consequence, the negotiations were suspended in July, rendering the December deadline an impossible target. The continued failures throughout the year to achieve a breakthrough in the WTO negotiations received mixed responses. On the one hand, it relayed negative signals with respect to genuine commitment to the spirit of the Round and the capacity of the WTO to manage the negotiations. On the other, it was seen as providing additional opportunity, and time, for countries and blocs to formulate and adopt more flexible positions in relation to issues of importance to developing countries and hence facilitate the achievement of the development goals of the Doha Round.

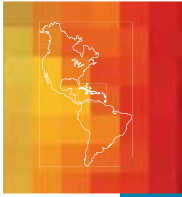
The EU-EPA negotiations continued but with few meaningful conclusions in terms of firm commitments by both negotiating parties – the CARIFORUM countries and the EU. The sequencing of market strengthening relative to market opening and the pace of market opening in relation to the internal and external realities facing CARIFORUM countries was underscored. In April, similar sentiments as for the WTO negotiations were expressed with respect to the apparent lack of meaningful expression to the development dimension in the EPA negotiations, given the EU's assurance at the April 2004 launch of the negotiations, that the EPA would be an instrument of development and would respect and support the Region's own integration process. Heads of Government urged CARICOM banana exporting countries to take steps to determine a collective approach to the treatment of bananas in the EPA, including political will to support the ACP initiatives, to convince the EU that bananas should be listed as a sensitive product. By year end, there was broad consensus on the structure and scope of the EPA, with the agreement that a development chapter must be included in the EPA legal text and that the theme of development - substantive provisions on development - must be reflected in all aspects. CARIFORUM and EU negotiators sought to provide political impetus and guidance to bring about the successful conclusion of the EPA negotiations. However four main challenges, to be resolved in 2007, remained. These are: the nature of commitments within the EPA (region-wide or at the level of the individual CARIFORUM States); the negotiation

of tariff liberalization for goods; the negotiation of commitments for trade in services and investment; and the design and operationalisation of the cooperation activities in effective and timely support of EPA implementation. A 2007 EPA negotiating schedule was agreed to so as to ensure resolution of these outstanding issues and the entry into force of the EPA by January 1, 2008.

As the negotiations continued, the preferential market access schemes on which Caribbean countries have traditionally depended for duty free access to the major markets of North America and Europe came under increasing challenge in the WTO, from both developed and developing countries. Requests for waivers by the US and the EU to extend preferences under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA or CBI), and the ACP import regime for bananas, respectively, placed the future of these current schemes in jeopardy. The difficulties experienced in securing approval for waiver renewals underscored the challenge and intense scrutiny to which such unilateral preferential schemes are subjected to in the multilateral trading system.

... whither goest the Caribbean agriculture?

In the context of the situation in agriculture in 2006 and the implications for its future development, two perspectives are worthy of highlighting and demand that considered attention be



paid to their resolution³. One is that the Caribbean needs to develop mechanisms that anticipate future scenarios while simultaneously developing adequate responses and safeguards to position itself competitively, to ensure sustainable levels of food to meet the current and future needs of its people, and to protect or find alternatives for their livelihoods which are directly or indirectly linked to agriculture. More importantly - whither goes the Caribbean agriculture? How can it or should it be directed in this age of rapid scientific and technological change. What is the input of the scientific community and research and development - nationally and regionally?

The other perspective recalls that the situation with respect to the challenges of the banana industry is not new. In fact, the issues that surrounded the debate arose more than 25 years ago in relation to what the region needed to do with bananas, sugar or any other traditional agricultural commodity. The central point reinforces the notion that agriculture was and continues to be a 'crisis industry'. Every time Caribbean sugar and bananas are threatened in the protected markets, the Caribbean region raises its arms in protest, with a flurry of diplomatic efforts to resolve the problem. When the markets are not threatened, the governments continue with business as usual - no change in policies, no efforts (or very little) to modernize or make these sectors more productive, market-driven and less dependent on

preferential trade arrangements. This raises a pertinent question as to what would have been the situation and actions in the sugar industry had the EU maintained its original regime. Would the industries have been self-driven to define development plans that would lead to their improved efficiencies over time?

The outlook raises the alert that it is not sufficient to isolate the situation of bananas and sugar from the rest of agriculture. Primary agriculture in the Caribbean (as in most other countries) has not expanded significantly for a long time. However, the real issue is that, over a long period, successive governments in all the countries adopted various policies and strategies, particularly macro-economic policies, that favoured industrialisation and services and did not foster the sustained development and transformation of agriculture. The more visible common thread was the guaranteed access to protected markets for a few commodities among the receiving countries. Even with sound policies and strategies, agriculture will not be developed unless there is a strong political and institutional commitment, reflected through the allocation and effective use of increased financial and human resources. The series of regional plans, starting with the Regional Food Plan in the 1970s, have produced few or zero results in the sector, precisely because of the insufficient commitment of resources by the governments. The development of US and EU agriculture

³ Edited and adapted from contributions on the FAO Barbados Office online forum; Judith-Ann Francis (CTA) and Dowlat Budhram (IICA).

has been due largely to huge financial commitments by those governments, sustained over many, many years. The most recent Plan – the Jagdeo Initiative – must actively recognise and make full use of the lessons derived from the Caribbean and the EU and US experiences if it is to be successful.

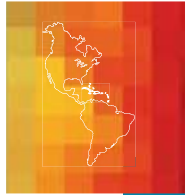
‘If we fail to find money to invest in agriculture, it will not be very long before we will be forced to find far much more money to deal with the consequences of our neglect’

Mr. Charlesworth Samuels, Minister of Agriculture, Antigua and Barbuda, 17 October

The situation in agriculture, its apparent lack of positioning within national development priorities, issues of food security and price stability and the general need to increase productive capacity in agriculture became even more pressing in the context of the influx of visitors expected in the region for the 2007 Cricket World Cup. The general response was calls for ‘long term policy’, more ‘affirmative action’, more definitive ‘road maps’, and ‘master development plans’ both at the national and regional levels. This was essential to attract investment, stimulate agribusiness and reinvigorate the agriculture potential to enhance food security, reduce poverty and position the sector towards sustainable development. In this regard, the responses of the Governments of Jamaica (GoJ) and T&T were commendable.

■ For the Fiscal year 2006-2007, the GoJ increased its allocation for agricultural projects by J\$4.1 million, to a total of J\$1.73 billion. This increase facilitated increased spending on crop and livestock production related assistance, R&D and farmer training. In June, it again zero-rated a number of agricultural items from the 16.5% General Consumption Tax (GCT). The allocation of J\$250 million from the National Insurance Fund to support loans to farmers at single digit interest rates and the Bank of Nova Scotia/Development Bank of Jamaica launch of an agricultural development facility also reflected the high priority accorded to agricultural development in that country. Indeed, national lobbying by the media (Gleaner Newspaper) under its Editors Forum theme “Reclaiming Agriculture” and the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) played a leading role in these positive outcomes. This is also in keeping with a three-year rolling Agricultural Development Strategy (2005-2008), the objectives of which are to contribute to sustainable growth and development through employment, export earnings and food security; to halt the decline of the sector; to restore levels of productivity; to promote expansion of products with viable markets; to promote agro-industries, and to provide meaningful livelihoods, especially for young people in rural areas.

■ The T&T government launched its public-private sector led investment National Agri-Business Development Programme to contribute to a



“significant reduction in rising food prices, create thousands of jobs and obtain food security as early as next year”. The strategic framework is to significantly expand farming potential mainly at the level of small and medium-sized farms and a small number of large farms of over 100 acres. The Government agreed to provide the private sector with TT\$172 million to implement the programme through TTABA. This is in keeping with Trinidad and Tobago’s plans to redevelop its agriculture within the framework of the National 20/20 Vision Plan. The programmed interventions for addressing core constraints are contained within the 5-year National Medium Term Investment Plan with overall objectives to increase farm profitability, strengthen Marketing Systems and Linkages to Demand Centres, and improve international competitiveness.

All countries participated in the UN-FAO led development of National Medium Term Investment Programmes (NMTIPs) with the subsequent crafting of Bankable Investment Projects (BIPs). Several countries also engaged in reviews and/or reformulation of agricultural policy and strategic plans in 2006. These are highlighted below:

- The Barbados 2005-2025 National Strategic Plan features agriculture as being of great economic and social importance, with a critical role in ensuring that an acceptable balance is achieved in terms of food imports and domestic food production and enhancing foreign exchange

earnings.

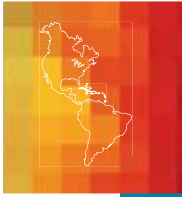
- Antigua and Barbuda espoused a renewed vision that promotes agriculture as “a vibrant and dynamic sector, driven by small and medium-scale commercially oriented competitive agro-business enterprises, guaranteeing food security nationally, while capitalizing on niche markets externally, with high quality products, produced by environmentally conscious farmers and agro-processors”.

- Dominica’s agricultural development process is being guided by a redefinition of a vision for the food, agriculture and natural resources system that consistently provides safe and nutritious food, generates high incomes through a wide spectrum of innovative and competitive business activities and makes positive contributions to rural prosperity, poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability. This is in keeping with the national Medium Term Growth and Social Protection Strategy (MTGSPS) that sets the course and direction for Dominica’s economy over the next five years and outlines the macro-economic framework within which agriculture must be repositioned.

- In Grenada, the policies which the government proposes to implement are directed at modernizing the sector to make it more efficient and competitive. A strategic framework has been developed for removing the identified constraints and achieving the desired objectives. The strategic framework for addressing the constraints

targets eight areas: institutional modernization; research development (R&D) and transfer; investment and credit; trade and market development and promotion; new and value-added products and development; natural resource management; infrastructure improvement; and disaster management.

- In Guyana, in the absence of a specific single agricultural policy, the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2001-2010 Policy Framework has outlined a strategy of agricultural diversification as one of the primary means of increasing rural incomes, employment and foreign exchange, and reducing rural poverty. This strategy endorses a focus on production of non-traditional commodities for local and export markets, thus expanding the agricultural base of the economy.
- For St. Kitts and Nevis, the July 2005 decision to cease the production of sugar for export under the EU/ACP Sugar Protocol Agreement – a three century long tradition - was among the most momentous decisions ever made in the country. This has created a medium to longer term challenge to provide significant opportunities to reconfigure the economy to become more productive, responsive and competitive. In this regard, government policy is to significantly increase non-sugar agriculture production in a competitive and sustainable manner through the development of farmers. Production will be market led and the penetration of new markets will be an area of focus.
- The Saint Lucia National Development Policy for Agriculture, recently completed, emphasizes the need to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of agriculture; promote the adoption of improved/ appropriate technological packages; expand and diversify the agricultural, forestry, and fisheries base and increase value-added by promoting agro-industrial development. Modernization of the legislative and policy framework for optimal agricultural production and trade is also critical.
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines initiated a revision of its 1997-2006 Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Strategic Plan for Agricultural Diversification and Development. The revised document will focus on reducing risk in new investment activities. The ‘new’ agriculture will be developed on a policy platform of agriculture diversification around bananas. The policy points towards the modernization and enhanced competitiveness of the agricultural sector to achieve growth and development objectives.
- In Suriname, a five-year Medium Term Plan targets the agricultural sector as one of prime importance, as reflected in the Agricultural Support Programme (ASP). The priority areas for investments in the ASP include water and other infrastructure rehabilitation and management, development of credit facilities to support private sector investments in processing and agro-industry, investments to expand production,

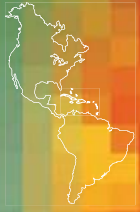


raise productivity levels, and enhance health and safety standards in the sector. It is envisaged that the free movement of goods and services and the open sky policy will provide considerable opportunities to further develop the fruit, vegetable and ornamental and flower production for export.

The development challenges to the food, agriculture and natural resources system can be categorized as macro-economics, natural resources and the environment, commodity production and marketing, agro-industry and institutional issues. These are common across the Caribbean. However, the coincidence of the national policy goals with regional and hemispheric initiatives provides for a guarantee of support on the regional and hemispheric front. Indeed, opportunities exist within some five areas for countries to benefit from regional, hemispheric and international partnerships with OECS, through its Agriculture Plan, with the CARICOM-led Jagdeo Initiative, the Caribbean Fisheries Regional Mechanism (CRFM),

the Summit of the Americas Agriculture Agenda 2015, the UN FAO Food Security Programme and the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), especially Goals 1, 3, 7 and 8.

The Caribbean needs to mobilise its collective support for the sustained development of the 'new' agriculture. Such mobilization is not impossible, and has been done in other areas, which have less long term development impact in terms of benefits to the wider economy and society, including income distribution effects. What agriculture and indeed, at this point in time, the Jagdeo Initiative needs is an equal level of genuine attention, time, speed, effort, resources and commitment as that mobilised for the preparations to host the 2007 Cricket World Cup. Such a regional response would send a powerful signal that agriculture is indeed, an important, investment-worthy and strategic sector for the region's integration process, growth prospects and sustainable development and high on the agenda of the region's development priorities.



IV. Results of the implementation of the Regional Technical Cooperation Agenda in the **Caribbean** during 2006

IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

A collaborative effort between UN ECLAC and IICA as the main executing agencies of the CTA-funded project: Building a Caribbean Agricultural Monitoring and Evaluation Information System (MEAgrISys) was initiated in early 2006. This project responds to (a) the Ministerial Agreement of Guayaquil (August, 2005), which endorsed the need for developing an information system to follow-up and measure progress towards meeting the objectives of the Agro Plan and the Jagdeo Initiative and (b) the demands and recommendations for a functional and responsive information system in agriculture that emerged from the previous above-mentioned regional

actions, as well as other related activities at the national level. Notwithstanding several efforts to develop information systems in agriculture, this system is the first such mechanism of its kind and one which is designed to meet the information requirements of the 'new' agriculture. It emphasizes the capture of both quantitative and qualitative information to record, measure and evaluate the contributions made by each of the countries towards alleviating some of the constraints faced by the sector thus providing a more comprehensive assessment of the situation and performance of agriculture. Its primary goal is to lead the progressive and systematic improvement of the decision-making process for agriculture and rural life through timely and reliable information.

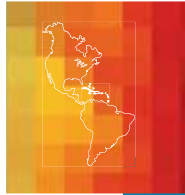
In 2006, the project conducted three regional workshops with participation from 11 national Ministries of Agriculture from across the region and the major regional, hemispheric and global partner organisations involved in agriculture and rural development in the region. As a result of these and other project activities, the AgroPlan and the AgroMatrix, which form the base for the information system and which illustrate the renewed concept of agriculture and rural life, were actively promoted and hence became more widely understood. There was a growing acceptance of the AgroMatrix as a good tool to (a) conceptualize national, regional and hemispheric agricultural and rural development policies and strategies, (b) develop interventions aimed at addressing specific issues (including diversification, promotion of competitive clusters and raising growth and incomes in the sector, and rural prosperity), and (c) promote linkages among the interrelated elements of the system, such as with agro-tourism, agro-forestry, agriculture and health.



Implementing the project has led to wider consensus for a proper functioning agricultural information system for measuring progress of regional (Jagdeo Initiative) and hemispheric (Agro Plan 2015) commitments. It has also sensitized national authorities to the need to establish the necessary infrastructure to collect the data and information, including the need for closer liaison between the Ministerial Delegate and the Information Units. IICA's involvement in this project will contribute substantially to knowledge management, both within the Institute and for agriculture in

general, initially through the preparation of a comprehensive regional report on the Performance and State of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Caribbean (S&O) in 2007.

Knowledge management in agriculture was also improved through the continued management of the Caribbean Regional Agricultural Policy Network (CaRAPN) website - www.carapn.net. Through this website, information on policy-related development, issues and initiatives, and general information of critical importance to agriculture is documented and made more accessible to stakeholders. It is the only source of detailed and continuous information on the Jagdeo Initiative. One of IICA's strengths has always been the continuous circulation of critical information on agriculture to enable better-informed decision making. For the Jagdeo Initiative, which was still relatively new in the region, the dissemination of information was a focus of the two issues of the *AgriView* newsletter in 2006. These issues featured the major global mandates for agricultural development that need to be well known and understood by all stakeholders, including the AgroMatrix, the major responses at the regional and sub-regional levels to revitalize agriculture and a summary of the essential aspects as they relate to five of the 10 Key Binding Constraints. One issue of *In a Nutshell* on Youth in Agriculture was also published to acknowledge the critical importance of youth for both revitalising and sustaining agriculture in the Caribbean and thus encourage the agricultural community to support development initiatives of and for youth.



Over the years, the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) has provided the best opportunity for the stakeholders of the region to meet, dialogue and achieve consensus on issues and initiatives that impact on and will assist in advancing the sector in the region. It also provides the opportunity for producers around the region to showcase the fruits of their labour to a regional audience at the Trade Show and Exhibition. The CWA continues to be one of IICA's contributions towards the promotion of agriculture and rural life in the Caribbean. In 2006, the CWA was held in the Bahamas under the theme: Sustaining

Marine and Agricultural Resources into the Future. The major events at the Bahamas CWA were conferences on agro-biotechnology, agriculture in the media, youth in agriculture, Alliance workshop, where the topic of agro-bioenergy was introduced as a potential development option for some countries in the region, and a trade show, which included a variety of seafood.

The Institute provided the Ministry of Agriculture of St. Kitts and Nevis with a comprehensive Strategy and Work Plan to modernize, diversify and reposition non-sugar agriculture and the rural economy.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

*IICA's **Caribbean Regional** Agribusiness Programme supports the establishment of policies for agribusiness development in the region. The programme also focuses on the facilitation of opportunities for greater investment in agribusiness and provides capacity building and other support services to achieve these. The institute provides support to the operation of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA).*

...Enabling Environment

Several countries of the ECS and the Bahamas were assisted in their efforts to define a new policy and legislative framework for the positioning of organizations and individuals towards achieving competitiveness in their enterprises. These included the Government of the Bahamas and eight fishers/farmers/service cooperatives,

which were provided with New Draft Regulations (84 provisions) and New Draft Uniform Bye-Laws (60 sections), designed to improve economic competitiveness. The Department of Cooperatives in the Bahamas was also provided with an HRD strategy and strengthened in its capacity to support and regulate farmer and fisher

organizations in tandem with the Ministry of Agriculture. The assistance provided to Dominica towards the development of a revised national policy for agriculture resulted in the preparation of a comprehensive Situation and Outlook for the sector and a draft Dominica National Agricultural Policy Framework 2007-2025 for further dialogue and refinement in 2007.

IICA also designed and implemented a Gap Survey in six OECS Member States regarding the approval, implementation and enforceability status of draft harmonized policies, legislation, regulations and protocols. A list of Fiscal Incentives for Agro-enterprises was drafted and presented to the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis. Public and private sector officials in three countries (the Bahamas, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia) were sensitised to the importance of strengthening the policy, legislative and regulatory framework for national competitiveness.

The Institute initiated discussions with the Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce (CAIC) regarding increased collaboration with the Institute in promoting improved attention to the Agricultural and Rural sectors with emphasis on SMEs.

...Capacity Development

Various associations and their members, including the Department of Cooperatives in the Bahamas, the Chamber of Agriculture and the Pork Association and Pork Cooperative, in Saint Lucia, benefited from strategic planning support for better agribusinesses.

The Institute also supported the planning, member outreach and AGM processes of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA). Consultations were held with CABA Chapters in Antigua-Barbuda and Guyana with a view to increasing participation in CABA and accessing CABA-MIF funds.

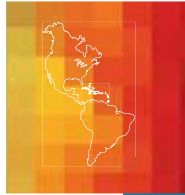
During 2006, the Institute assessed 16 associations and networks in three OECS countries in relation to readiness for modernization and competitiveness. These included farmers' and fishers' organizations in Saint Lucia, farmers' organisations and an agrotourism venture in St. Kitts and Nevis and farmers' and fishers' cooperatives and the National League of Cooperatives in the Bahamas.

IICA identified six CIDA bursaries for young agriculturists, members of the CAFY, from Antigua-Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago who gained new skills and knowledge in multi-media technologies through a two-week programme conducted by Media-21 Ltd., Trinidad, coordinated with the CABA Secretariat.

Over 140 entrepreneurs benefited from 8 training and educational sessions in Agribusiness.

...Commercialization

A strategy for increasing GAP Certification and Business Skills Development for farmers was prepared for Saint Lucia's Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and business plans with



financial projections were developed for two Saint Lucian agro-enterprises managed by rural youth and women, with a view to attracting new investment. These are: KAMCS Bottled Coconut Water (youth) and Olivia Felicien's Farm (rural woman).

IICA provided guidance to financial institutions in Saint Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis and encouraged them to increase their annual loan contributions to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). An Agribusiness Credit Risk Appraisal Instrument was also developed for Antigua. Further, following a three-day visit to local firms and producers in Suriname, a strategy for increased domestic and CSME trade in agriculture products was presented for implementation by the Suriname private sector and ministries.

In 2006, the Institute initiated relationships with the Regional and International Credit Union System in an effort to facilitate increased access by the rural poor to sustainable financial services and to increase investments in agriculture and agribusinesses. Discussions were initiated towards the development of a co-operation agreement with the World Council of Credit Unions and the OAS Staff Federal Credit Union for partnering with IICA in promoting rural prosperity and food security. As a follow-up to this action, 10 leading credit unions were sensitized to increasing social development, skills training and loan funding for rural and agro-enterprises.

Under the Caribbean Transformation programme, co-operation was

intensified with the Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA) with a view to integrating and strengthening market penetration by the regional hot pepper industry.

...Agrotourism linkages

Under the regional OAS/IICA project "Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean", inventory determination and market studies were completed in seven countries: Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. These served as background material for the production of a DVD documenting the various experiences in agrotourism throughout the region.



Several seminars introducing agrotourism were also held. The project created a website for the Caribbean Agro-Trade Network which can be accessed via <http://www.caribbean-agro-trade-network.com>. The website provides an online exchange for producers and buyers of food and non-food agri-products and services.

A national strategy and action plan for Agrotourism in Barbados was developed in a multi-stakeholder workshop hosted by IICA in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Ministry of Tourism. In St. Kitts and Nevis, IICA developed a Living Sugar Museum Concept which was presented to Ministry of Tourism.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

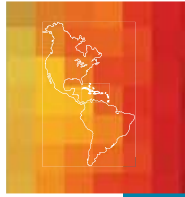
*IICA's **Caribbean Regional** Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Programme supports the national and regional programmes that further strengthen administrative capacities, legislative and regulatory frameworks as well as upgrade the capacities of ahfs personnel and other professionals, to understand and respond to issues that arise.*



During 2006, agricultural health and food safety personnel from all 14 countries in the region participated in four meetings (January 30–February 2, March 27–31, June 26–29 and October 9–13) of the World Trade Organization Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures held in Geneva Switzerland. Attendance at these meetings was made possible through funding under IICA's SPS Initiative of the Americas.

Prior to the Initiative, attendance of capital-based personnel at the SPS Committee meetings was minimal with only a few countries sending representatives to some of the meetings. Since its inception, the Initiative has had significant impact and participating countries have reported advances in the area of SPS. The following are some of the advances:

- Attendance at SPS Committee meetings has afforded countries in the region the opportunity to participate in the discussions and have a say in the decision making process. This is significant because many decisions are taken at international fora such as the SPS Committee that affect countries in the region and, many times, because of their absence, they are not able to make an input.
- There has been a general improvement in the understanding of SPS issues and the rights and obligations under the WTO/SPS Agreement.
- Several countries have established Enquiry Points / Notification Authorities in compliance with the SPS Agreement.
- Countries have established multi-agency/-sector National SPS Committees, National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Committees or otherwise have set up or improved existing Food Safety Committees resulting from the increased understanding of the importance of SPS issues and the need to involve all stakeholders (including the private sector) in the discussion.
- Consistent attendance at the meetings has provided an invaluable opportunity for conducting bilateral meetings and networking with counterpart officials from other countries with which the Region trades.



...Focus on Avian Influenza

In collaboration with USDA/APHIS, PAHO, the CARICOM Secretariat, FAO, IICA, the Caribbean Poultry Association, CaribVET and CIRAD, IICA held a joint Meeting on Animal Diseases Surveillance and Preparedness; Focus on Avian Influenza in the Caribbean and a technical meeting of the CaribVET Network, the Caribbean Chief Veterinarians/Chief Public Health Veterinary Officers/Chief Environmental Health officers was held in Trinidad and Tobago, April 3-7. Over 80 persons attended from IICA Member States, the French West Indies islands of Guadeloupe and Martinique, Cuba, Turks and Caicos Islands and the Cayman Islands.

The main objectives of the meeting were to review current practices employed in poultry production and marketing of live birds in CARICOM and determine the best practices and standards for AI prevention and control.

This was followed by a three-day planning meeting on the development of an Avian Influenza Strategy for IICA's support for combating this major exotic disease in the Hemisphere. This was held at IICA Headquarters, May 2-4. The IICA AI strategy was circulated in July and a website on Avian Influenza was announced and can be accessed at <http://www.iica.int/AvianInfluenza/default.asp>. The strategy covers the following areas:

- Strengthening veterinary services
- Promoting the participation of the

poultry sector in the implementation of actions at the national and regional levels.

- Risk communication.
- Creation of awareness among political leaders.

A regional Avian Influenza simulation exercise was conducted in Jamaica and a national exercise was held in the Dominican Republic. Over 80 persons, including Chief Veterinary Officers from nine CARICOM countries, participated in the regional exercise. In the Dominican Republic, in addition to the local veterinarians, veterinarians from Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Haiti also participated. These activities were implemented by IICA in collaboration with FAO, USDA/APHIS and the governments of the respective countries.

In addition, technical support was provided for the development of national plans for the prevention, preparedness and emergency action for Avian Influenza for countries such as the Dominican Republic and Guyana.

...Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs)

Several workshops on Good Agricultural Practices were held in Barbados, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, draft GAPS manuals for several products were developed. Further, a draft herd health management programme for small ruminant production has been developed



by IICA in collaboration with USDA/ APHIS and the University of the West Indies.

...Invasive Alien Species

IICA continues to support the Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group (CISWG) through attendance and participation in the meetings. In support of work in this area, workshops were held on Mites of Economic Importance (including the Coconut Palm Mite) and the Black Sigatoka Disease. Technical support was provided for the creation of an operation manual for the control and eradication of Classical Swine Fever for the Dominican Republic and the Regional AHFS Unit assisted Haiti in the preparation of a project document for fruit fly control and monitoring

...International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures

A regional consultation on draft International Standards on Phytosanitary Measures (ISPMs) and a regional workshop on ISPM #15, Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Materials in International Trade, were conducted. This was a joint activity between IICA and FAO. It is expected that several countries in the region will be implementing ISPM #15 in the near future.

... Veterinary Services Assessment

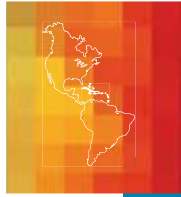
A joint assessment of Jamaica's Veterinary Services Division, led by IICA, was conducted in collaboration with OIE

(World Animal Health Organization) during the period December 11-22, 2006. This assessment was requested by Jamaica's Ministry of Agriculture and Lands. The assessment was the first in the region using the new OIE assessment tool which is an adaptation of the Performance, Vision, and Strategy (PVS) tool developed by IICA. The team of assessors included two auditors from the OIE, personnel from IICA and persons from Jamaica's Cabinet Office.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

The Institute prepared a draft strategy for the development of an agro-energy programme for the Caribbean Region and identified IICA's role therein. A summary was presented to the Alliance workshop at the Caribbean Week of Agriculture. Agro-energy, which has the potential to create new job opportunities particularly for farmers displaced within the sugar industry and should provide opportunities to obtain carbon credits, is one component of the 'new' agriculture.

Continued support was provided to the IICA Office in Suriname in the development of a strategy and development project for the district of Moengo in the wake of the imminent closure of Suriname Aluminum Company (SURALCO) operations. The proposal entitled: Exploitation of Opportunities for the Sustainable Development of the People of Moengo within the Framework of the Rehabilitation of Mined-Out Bauxite Lands was presented to the Ministry of Agriculture, company officials, and other stakeholders.



Through its regional SRD Unit, IICA participated as a member of the Green Legacy Team (GLC) of Barbados, provided technical support and developed a project proposal for greening the Fontabelle area in Bridgetown, St. Michael. The GLC is a subcommittee of the Barbados Legacy Programme that was preparing for the Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007 and beyond.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

The Institute continued to assist in promoting the Rural Territorial Concept among key stakeholders, including governments, partners and targeted communities. In Suriname and Guyana, a template for the preparation of a Sustainable National Rural Development Policy (SNRDP) was prepared and provided for review and possible use in the development of a sustainable rural development plan.

In Barbados, the Rural Development Commission (RDC), in collaboration with IICA, identified the “First Free Village” of Rock Hall, as an area for the application of the Territorial Approach for Sustainable Rural Development in 2007. A plan to support rural enterprise development activities in Rock Hall and to identify business opportunities in heritage tourism will be developed by the Enterprise Development Committee of the RDC and will be supported by IICA.

IICA worked closely with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development in charting a programme that would encourage cooperative farming in Barbados; a “Diagnostic Assessment of

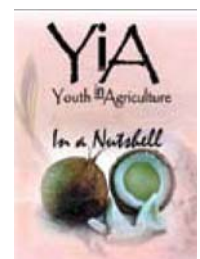
Farmer Organizations in Barbados” Data Capture Form, the conduct of the survey and holding a brainstorming meeting with the executive board of five farmer groups. This survey is being used to determine their weaknesses and challenges, and the results will be used to develop training modules for the strengthening of farmer organizations on the island and the conduct of the training by IICA and other resource persons.

...Rural women entrepreneurs

In continued support of rural women producers in the Caribbean, IICA held an Institutional Awareness Workshop (IAW) in Guyana to help strengthen the institutional development of the Caribbean Network of Rural Development Producers (CANROP). Network chapters were able to develop stakeholder analysis profiles and national action plans, out of which an integrated regional plan was developed. The workshop was attended by delegates from nine of CANROP’s National Chapters. Additionally, the delegates were trained in using and managing the CANROP website (www.canrop.org). CANROP’s 6th Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in conjunction with the IAW workshop and a new executive board was elected to manage the affairs of the Network.

...Growing young agripreneurs

Additionally, the annual CAFY workshop was held during the CWA in the Bahamas; its recommendations included a comprehensive programme for reintroduction of agriculture at the primary and secondary school levels and a strategy



for continued research at the national level by National Chapters to identify additional areas of interest among youth involved in the agricultural industry. Branding of products produced by young Agripreneurs to improve marketability was also recommended. The YiA In a Nutshell also provided some indications of the types of opportunities that are available for youth to “be their own boss”.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life



During the period under review, the Institute continued its efforts to address the Key Binding Constraint of Inadequate Research and Development focusing on coordination of the Caribbean Programme for Biotechnology and Biosafety (CPBB), support to the herbal business sub-sector, promotion of organic agriculture and coordination of the IICA/CARDI technical cooperation programme including the promotion of research and development (R&D) networking.

...Agrobiotechnology



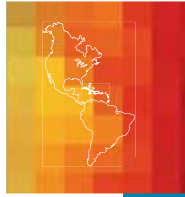
The strategy for the CPBB was completed and two priority projects, which were identified in the needs identification and assessment exercise previously undertaken for the Region, were prepared. The Institute collaborated with the University of the West Indies in mounting a workshop on the commercialization of anthurium varieties improved through the application of biotechnology. The regional industry stakeholders developed the strategy and plans for the rehabilitation of the popular

cut-flower industry. IICA has been included as a member of the private sector led industry working group to advance the process.

As part of the CWA programme, the Institute collaborated with regional and international partners in mounting a major regional workshop to highlight the ongoing agro-biotechnology research with potential high impact on agricultural development. The workshop also agreed on the priorities for agro-biotechnology research to assist agricultural development in the Region.

The Regional workshop on Agricultural R&D Coordination entitled Optimizing the benefits of Research and Development for enhancement of the Region’s Agribusiness was held in Tobago in May 2006 and brought together the key stakeholders from the Ministries of Agriculture, regional and national research institutions the universities, international organizations and the private sector. The workshop established a framework for R&D priority setting, the modalities for increased collaboration among regional research institutions via a revamped PROCICARIBE and also identified elements of a policy framework for agricultural R&D in the Region.

IICA strengthened its collaboration with the Caribbean Research and Development Institute (CARDI), the University of the West Indies, the Caribbean Institute for Industrial Research (CARIRI), the Scientific Research Council of Jamaica, the Dominican Agricultural Research Institute (IDIAF) and the Innovation and Biotechnology Institute (IIB), the



UNEP/GEF regional contact point and other selected major national institutions in addressing biotechnology and biosafety and other R&D issues in the Caribbean.

... Herbal Industry

The Institute continued its support to the development of the herbal business sub-sector through the provision of financial and administrative support to the Secretariat of the Caribbean Herbal Business Association (CHBA) which is hosted in the Trinidad and Tobago Office. Under this arrangement, the Pro-Invest funded project on market and technology research on herbals of economic importance was completed. The research identified market opportunities and appropriate technologies for developing a range of herbal products and led to the completion of investment opportunity profiles for dried herbs and spices, essential oils, herbal beverages and cosmeceutical products. Further, a several technology briefs were developed on the major product categories in the international trade in herbal products. In order to address the raw material requirements for producing these products commercially, the research work also included the development of agronomic manuscripts and cost of production estimates on targeted herbal crops including Aloe vera, Mauby, Ginger, Lemon grass, Noni, Seamoss, Sorrell, Sarsaparilla, Tumeric, Chadon beni and Oregano. These investment opportunity and agronomic profiles were presented in two workshops held in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana respectively and will be made available throughout the Region.

The Caribbean Herbal Business Association worked closely with its National Chapters, international donors and other collaborators in promoting various facets of the industry throughout the Caribbean. Work continued on the development of the Caribbean Herbal Business magazine, the first edition of which is scheduled to be issued in February 2007. The Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA) provided grant funding for the development of a catalogue of Caribbean herbal products to assist intra and extra-regional trade in these products.

...Greenhouse technology

A template on developing business plans demonstrating the commercial viability of introducing greenhouse technology packages was prepared and used in Barbados by farmers to prepare investment projects. The Planning Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Barbados and IICA entered into an agreement to publish the package in the form of a CD ROM and a booklet.



A status report on IICA's involvement in the promotion of greenhouse technology was presented to the Projects Division of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), which is seeking to collaborate with IICA to promote greenhouse technology in the region. A committee consisting of a representative of CDB, FAO and IICA has been set up to work collaboratively in support of the expansion and use of the technology in the Caribbean. The committee will develop joint projects which are likely

to attract funding from the CDB and other sources.

...Organic Farming

The growth of the regional mechanism for organic agriculture, the Caribbean Regional Organic Agriculture Movement (CROAM), increased in 2006, as two new chapters were formed and launched in Saint Lucia (HOAM) and Dominica (DOAM). Additionally, the Institute designed and facilitated a training workshop in improving governance structures and regularizing the membership base of the new chapters. This included a hands-on workshop for the Hewanorra Organic Agriculture Movement (HOAM) in preparation of a project entitled Combating land degradation through the development of organic agriculture in Saint Lucia which was submitted to the Global Environment Facility/Small Grants Programme for funding. The project has been funded and is currently being implemented.

Approximately 25 frontline extension officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the St. Vincent Banana Growers Association, enhanced their capabilities to respond to the technological challenges of the agricultural sector as a result of their participation in a very successful workshop on Principles of Organic Farming for Entrepreneurs at the Anglican Pastoral Centre, Kingstown, May 2-5, 2006. In a practical demonstration of IICA's programme of horizontal technical cooperation, the workshop was hosted by IICA, in collaboration with the Ministry

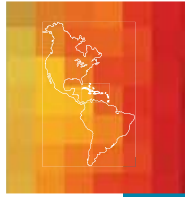
of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and facilitated by Joseph Peltier, Regional Rural Development Specialist, IICA Office in Barbados, and Pilar Ramirez, Consultant in Organic Farming, from the IICA Office in the Dominican Republic. The workshop provided participants with the tools to build capacity in certification and standards, plant health and nutrition, pest and disease management, marketing, organic seed production, packaging and labelling, and good organic agricultural practices.

Results of inter-agency cooperation

Cooperation with FAO

IICA collaborated with FAO in the Secretariat of the Alliance and the Core Group (appointed by the CARICOM Conference of Heads) for the implementation of the Jagdeo Initiative – both bodies being responsible for leading the development of agriculture in the region.

IICA participated in and made a presentation at a conference entitled Caribbean Conference on Education for Rural People: Food Security, Agricultural Competitiveness and Sustainable Livelihoods, organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization and UNESCO in Saint Lucia. The presentation entitled “Food security, agricultural competitiveness and sustainable livelihoods: rurality and sustainable livelihoods” focused on the links between poverty and inequality in various Caribbean Countries, an analysis of the main poverty groups in the Caribbean, the new rurality, and



sustainable livelihoods and proposed several critical issues for consideration in empowering the poor. The presentation will form part of the proceedings of the workshop and will be available on the FAO website.

Cooperation with PAHO

The Joint Meeting: Animal Disease Surveillance and Preparedness - Focus on Avian Influenza (AI) in the Caribbean was held in collaboration with FAO as well as several other regional and international agencies and institutions: CARICOM Secretariat (CCS), Caribbean Poultry Association (CPA), CaribVET Network, CIRAD, Livestock and Livestock Products Board (LLPB), PAHO, the French Embassy, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Cooperation with other regional and international organizations

■ CARIRI

IICA collaborated with the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) to organize and host the regional workshop: *Optimizing the benefits of Research and Development for enhancement of the Regions Agribusiness* in Tobago in May 2006. The relationship is also aimed at initiating the dialogue to improve the linkages between on-farm and value-added research.

■ CARDI

IICA continued its collaboration with CARDI, primarily through the

implementation of joint projects. Both institutions were also mandated to work together to produce an R&D strategy for the Caribbean.

■ CTA

IICA's continued relationship with the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) yielded the execution of several events under the IICA CTA projects in 2006. These included:

- Continuation of the Contract to Support the Agricultural Policy Process in the Caribbean, through the CaRAPN, which focussed on supporting the Jagdeo Initiative. CaRAPN has been providing support for the conceptualisation, development and implementation of the Initiative, to contribute to the creation of an economic and business environment that facilitates entrepreneurial activities in agribusiness. The project included:

- 'Pre-feasibility Studies for selected Agribusiness Clusters in the Caribbean' to contribute to the stimulation of investment in agribusiness, particularly among women and youth.
- a workshop on '*Dissemination of Agricultural Policy Information in the Mass Media*' which was attended by 30 persons, and contributed to an approved relationship



between agriculture technicians and the media for better media coverage of major issues relative to the repositioning of agriculture in the Caribbean, with specific reference to agricultural policy issues and initiatives. A special newsletter recording the presentations and recommendations of the workshop is available.

- the AgriView and In a Nutshell publications continued to be printed.
 - the carapn website www.carapn.net continued to be developed and maintained; it hosts special pages for the Jagdeo Initiative and the MEAgriSys project.
- Commencement of the project: *Building a Caribbean Agricultural*

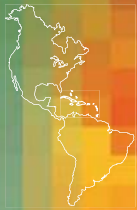
Monitoring and Evaluation Information System (MEAgriSys). A special page has been established for information and updates on this project on the carapn website.

■ OAS

IICA continued its execution of the Organization of American States (OAS)-funded project *Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean*.

■ UWI

IICA collaborated with UWI and received its support in matters relating to biotechnology, including two workshops and technical assistance in the development of the Caribbean Programme for Biotechnology and Biosafety.



V. Executive Summaries by Country



Antigua and Barbuda

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness



- Coordination of a meeting of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Intellectual Property and Commerce Office in the Ministry of Justice with the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), on the steps to protect crops under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.
- Support to the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Committee which develops local standards for fruits and vegetable, mainly targeted towards export.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- Inspection of bee hives and determination of their health status with regard to pests of economic and quarantine importance to initiate the modernization process of agricultural health and food safety systems.
- Improved the capability of the Beekeepers Cooperative to properly manage emergencies and emerging issues and to add value to bee products,

and maximize market opportunities for the industry.

- Provided technical assistance to the National Food Safety Committee in consultations on the draft Acts which will set up the necessary legal framework for improved agricultural health and food safety systems.
- Increased capabilities of the Central Marketing Corporation in Safe Pesticide Use and Practices.
- The quarantine systems of plant, animal and public health were assessed to determine their present status, plan how to move the system towards providing better service, and improve port officials' understanding of the requirements of international plant, animal and human port health and quarantine systems.
- Technical officers in the Ministry of Agriculture were assisted to attend the World Trade Organisation Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee meetings in Geneva. The capability of the country to honour its obligations under the agreements has been improved.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Provided technical support for the launch of the Bethesda Rural Women Group, as a member of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers.
- The Antigua and Barbuda Agriculture Youth Forum received training in St. Lucia on the development and management of projects and strategic management, and participated in the Youth Policy Development Workshop held during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in St. Kitts.
- Provided technical support to the forum on implementing a propagation nursery project.
- Extension of the presence of the youth forum to the sister island of Barbuda, where local groups can now network and share experiences and improve their income-earning capacities.
- Support to develop a strategy for the Caribbean Agribusiness Association to deal with praedial larceny.

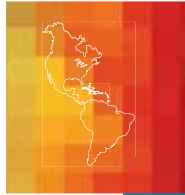
Developing human capital

- Series of training sessions developed for agro-processors and potential agro-processors to improve their capability to manage viable enterprises as well as others, such as processing of animal products, costing and pricing, record keeping, and good manufacturing practices.

- Data for a study on value-added products from small ruminants was gathered for development of a regional project in this area.
- Support for the participation of an officer from the Ministry of Agriculture to attend workshops related to Dissemination of Software for Managing WTO Enquiry Points and Need Assessment and Identification in Biotechnology.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Coordination of a five-day sub-regional workshop in vermicomposting as a means for developing inputs for organic production.
- Assessed requirements of the system and to determine how the Antiguan producers can realize their potential in organic production.
- Provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Pesticides Control Board during their Pesticide Awareness Week activities in September.
- Representation on the National Focal Group for the Global Environment Facility which promotes the development of projects that focus on sustainable environment management practices.



Bahamas

IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life



- Through the national consultation process our clients effectively articulated their priorities, which supplement and/or harmonize with the medium term plan and goal-driven strategic plans.
- Decision makers were able to obtain a better idea of the scope of key issues from a regional prospective and to get a first hand view of a small sample of value added products from the region during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture.

Promoting trade and competitiveness of agribusiness

- Two exhibitions organized and also radio talk shows, and supported agribusiness training for members of the Bahamas Producer Association and Cooperative agents and leaders.
- In partnership with the Bahamas Agricultural Industrial Corporation (BAIC), support was provided for the Arts and Crafts Women Cooperative for several training events.
- IICA encouraged the bottle tomato cooperatives to consolidate and move their cooperatives to an improved processing mode.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- A guideline on emergency animal health issues, one of IICA's support documents for agricultural health, was formally discussed by the Ministry's professionals.
- IICA and PAHO collaborated with the national authorities in the group for the Avian Influenza discussion and participated in its emergency preparedness plan.

Promoting sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- The use of sustainable fishing techniques has been promoted with the North Abaco fishing cooperative in collaboration with the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute (CFNI).

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources has concurred to assign someone to be involved in tissue culture and biotechnology. The introduction of a needed improved seed production system and other new aspects of agriculture were promoted.

- Students and teachers from New Providence and Family Islands know about the importance of agriculture and the wide range

of opportunities for them in agriculture, including hydroponics and preparedness for disaster management.



Barbados

IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life



- Contribution to the repositioning of the agricultural sector was possible through: encouraging agricultural diversification under its agrotourism strategic area, raising awareness that primary agriculture is only one part of an entire agri-food chain of inter-related activities, and promoting the modernization of the sector through the use of greenhouse technologies.
- IICA helped change the negative cultural mindset on agriculture by hosting an exhibition “Home Grown and Hand Made”, highlighting the linkage and business opportunities for agriculture and art.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

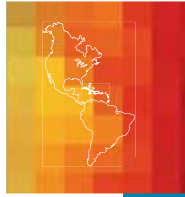
- The Agrotourism programme with the OAS Agrotourism Project allowed the completion of inventory

and market studies in Barbados and six other Caribbean territories, the production of videos documenting the various agrotourism experiences and the hosting of related seminars and workshops.

- A national strategy and action plan for Agrotourism in Barbados was developed in a multi-stakeholder workshop co-hosted by the Ministries of Agriculture and Tourism.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- IICA helped to establish the National Agricultural Health and Food Control Authority, provided tremendous support on the National CODEX Committee, chaired the CROSQ Regional Technical Committee on Foods and played an integral role in the preparation for Barbados' implementation of the international Wood Packaging Standard.
- The control of the Giant African Snail was addressed and the NIPP for Avian Influenza was developed



(in collaboration with PAHO and FAO) with the participation of IICA.

farming as well as detailing a plan for trials of appropriate seed varieties for use in local greenhouse conditions.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- A model greenhouse was erected at AgroFest to illustrate agricultural management practices related with reduction of soil erosion and effective harvesting of rain water.
- IICA worked with the Green Barbados Legacy Team (GBLI) on designing greening projects prior to and following the 2007 Cricket World Cup.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- The “First Free Village” of Rock Hall was identified as an area for the application of the Territorial Approach for Sustainable Rural Development for 2007.
- Jointly with MAR a programme was charted that would encourage cooperative

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- IICA contributed to the National Council for Science and Technology consultation on Regional Science Technology and Innovation Policy.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Energy and the Environment, the Institute participated in the Land Degradation Exhibition in the Jubilee Gardens by erecting a model greenhouse.
- School gardening was encouraged with a private sector-led initiative by SuperCentre Ltd.
- A regional fact-finding mission was conducted concerning Youth in Agriculture, as well as the 9th Regional Assembly of CACHE in Barbados.



Dominica

IICA’s contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- The capabilities of public and private sector stakeholders to pursue

and implement an improved policy framework to reposition agriculture were improved, supporting the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and the Environment.

- A revised draft National Agricultural Development Policy for the Commonwealth of Dominica 2007–2025 was in line with the Agro Plan 2003–2015 and submitted to the relevant ministry for scrutiny.



- A regional and sub-regional dialogue to implement decisions of the OECS Agricultural Policy and the Jagdeo Initiative was supported.



- Information on agricultural policy, bio-prospecting, and activities of the Institute concerning workshops and seminars were provided with quarterly press releases published in various local newspapers.

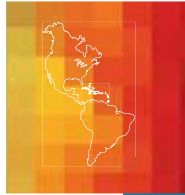
Promoting Trade and the Competitiveness of Agribusiness

- IICA supported mechanisms to strengthen private sector involvement in agricultural planning and development so as to diversify the agricultural product base and stabilize the decline in the sector, including the consolidation of all agribusinesses as a single entity, the draft constitution for the establishment and operation of the Dominica Agribusiness Association (DABA INC.), as well as the consolidation of the Dominica Foundation of Herbal Researchers and Practitioners (DFHRP) and the Dominica Herbal Business Association (DHBA) with the local chapter of CHBA.
- A coordinated approach to the development of sustained linkages between agricultural and other

economic sectors is being pursued by the successful implementation of the OAS/IICA project Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agriculture Sector in the Caribbean.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- Towards the rationalization, development and upgrading of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Systems, IICA actively participated and provided administrative support to meetings of the National Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee (NSPSC).
- IICA supported harmonizing and rationalizing the National AHFS legislation and standards concerning safe agricultural products being offered to consumers in domestic and export trade in Dominica, by being appointed to serve on the National CODEX Committee as Chairman.
- Priority areas to focus efforts and resources for the Division of Agriculture with regards to Veterinary Services were identified, through assessment using the Performance, Vision and Strategy (PVS) tools developed by IICA and OIE.
- As a result of the initiative of the Americas Programme, stakeholders in the agriculture and related sectors have increased their understanding and adoption of the operations and requirements of international setting bodies.



Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- IICA supported the capacity-building efforts of Clemson University in applications of biotechnology for conservation and utilization of Dominica's rich biodiversity.
- A consultation on Biodiversity Prospecting and Access to Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge conducted jointly with Archbold Tropical Research and Education Centre (ATREC) on behalf of Clemson University improved the awareness of the participants on the political, legal and technical issues.
- Twenty-eight participants from public, private, traditional healers, indigenous and non-governmental organizations increased their knowledge towards acceptance and participation in new technologies and processes adapted for expanding business opportunities in the sustainable utilization of Dominica's genetic resources and traditional/indigenous knowledge.

Strengthening rural communities

- The finalization of the Integrated Development Programme for the Carib Territory was possible due to IICA's support and guidance.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- A first Business Labs Training of Trainers Workshop focusing on Small and Medium Enterprise Development with emphasis on Rural Tourism with the National Association of Youth in Agriculture (NAYA) and the Young Americas Business Trust (YABI) improved capacities and capabilities of youth.
- In collaboration with the EU Agricultural Diversification Programme administrative and financial support was facilitated for a one-week Technical Exchange visit to access information and technologies of organic production, processing, marketing and certification in the Dominican Republic.



Dominican Republic

Contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Studies were carried out on the true contribution of the agricultural sector to the GNP and on the state and outlook of agriculture and rural life in the Dominican Republic.
- Assistance was provided to the Steering Committee to coordinate the agricultural sector reform and

modernization process, in conjunction with participating institutions and working groups. During the process, a policy framework for the agricultural sector, an institutional reform proposal, and a first draft of the plan of medium and short-term measures were prepared.

- Progress was made in elaborating a proposal for a framework law for the agricultural and rural sector, and various draft acts were prepared on animal health protection, plant health protection, and amendment of the Seeds Act.
- Legislation on the protection of the producer of new varieties of plants was promoted and the country's accession to the respective international agreement (UPOV) was ratified.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

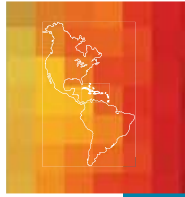
- Studies were made for the rice, garlic, onion, milk, pork and beef agri-food chains
- Support was given to the entrepreneurs participating in the First Agro-exports Platform; two-thirds of them continue exporting. In addition, a study was completed on the country's exportable agricultural supply.
- Cooperation was provided for the organization of direct technical assistance and training

programs offered by the Clusters Network, promoted by the National Competitiveness Council and the Dominican Agribusiness Board (JAD).



Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- Support was provided for developing the institutional capacity to apply SPS and a contribution was made to allow the country to participate in the meetings of the WTO SPS Committee
- The regulations concerning the registration of veterinary medicinal products and establishments was elaborated and approved by Decree 521-06.
- The project for the control and elimination of classical swine fever was prepared and is being applied by the DIGEGA; also, support was provided for the campaign against this disease.
- A proposal for the Emergency preparedness and response plan for highly pathogenic avian influenza in the Dominican Republic was drawn up and, together with the Livestock Directorate, the first simulation exercise of the introduction of avian influenza in the Dominican Republic was carried out.
- IICA contributed to the organization of two bilateral technical meetings between Haiti and the Dominican Republic to discuss aspects of the



emergency preparedness and response plan for highly pathogenic avian influenza.

- Two workshops were held on Registration of Veterinary Medicinal Products and Establishments and 100 veterinarians were trained as veterinary establishment managers (“regentes”) accredited by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Four workshops were held on regional plans for response to animal health emergencies, in which 120 technicians and farmers, leaders of the Health Defence Groups, were trained

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- With the support of IICA, the country moved ahead in the process to be included on the European Union’s list of third countries.
- The National Organic Agriculture Programme and the National Organic Agriculture Council were reinforced through the establishment of the National Register of Certification Agencies and Operators, as well as training, technical assistance, and horizontal cooperation.
- With the support of GTZ and the EU, two pre-audits were made of the organic agriculture control system, and the resulting recommendations led to modifications in the presidential decrees on which the legal framework

for organic agriculture is based.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Support was provided for the international seminar: Gender and Sustainable Rural Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the elaboration of several project profiles.
- In the context of the agricultural sector reform and modernization process, the Rural Development Consortiums were designed; these are mixed executing agencies of a territorial nature.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- 70% of the project: Non-destructive methods and molecular markers for the determination of appropriate dates for harvesting five varieties of avocado pear has been completed; it is being executed by IDIAF, and financed by FONTAGRO.
- Support was provided for a seminar on agricultural extension, the training of trainers, and the engineering of training devices.
- Cooperation was provided to several institutions, such as IIBI, IDIAF and ACADEMIAS to enhance their capabilities in the area of biotechnology and biosafety practices, and a proposal to establish the Biosafety Commission was prepared.



Grenada

IICA's Contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Constituents of the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu (The Alliance) were strengthened/revitalized, and national authorities supported in their efforts to alleviate some of the Key Binding Constraints to Grenada's agricultural development.
- Increased agriculture sector stakeholders' understanding of the Jagdeo Initiative and its implication for the development of Grenada's agricultural and rural sector.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Increased capability of the national chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) to attract external funds for implementing developmental projects.
- Improved trade competitiveness of the local herbal industry through acquisition of quality packaging material by the Grenada Network of Rural Women Producers (GRENROP).

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- Improved coordination of agricultural health and food safety activities,

through effective functioning of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety (NAHFS) Committee.



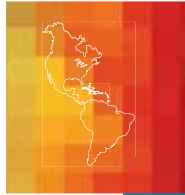
- Farmers' capability to produce safe foods enhanced through training and follow-up actions provided, relative to Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs).

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Increased prospects to obtain the necessary funds for implementation of a Sustainable Land Management (SLM) Demonstration Project Proposal, through efforts of the national SLM Committee on which IICA is represented.

Strengthening rural communities, based on the territorial approach

- Youths in the rural St. Andrew's parish have increased their lobbying power through their decision to join the Grenada Agricultural Forum for Youth (GAFY).
- Improved quality of agro-processed products, through training in and implementation of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs).
- Agriculture/tourism linkage strengthened, through facilitation of dialogue between hoteliers and farmers, and initiative taken to plan a food festival.



Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- The national chapter of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women

Producers (CANROP), known as GRENROP, is better positioned to access external funds to implement a project proposal to acquire modern farm equipment for establishing a Farm Labour Company.



Guyana

IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life



- Implementation strategies for the Jagdeo Initiative were discussed with national authorities and authorities participated in international events that contributed to the repositioning of agriculture.

and heard her presentation “The Fruit Sector: An Example of a Strategic Approach to Agricultural Diversification in El Salvador”.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- The Rural Women’s Network (RWN) improved capabilities in hydroponics and strategic planning, as well as business and skills training. It hosted jointly with IICA the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CANROP) Annual General Meeting.
- Participants in a seminar on Agricultural Diversification in Guyana exchanged experiences with IICA Specialist in Competitiveness

- Improvements were made in quality, production levels and marketing as an ultimate goal, as a result of a joint effort with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) and private-sector entities. Activities to this effect included disease surveys, monitoring and surveillance, the identification and preparation of production and marketing standards for a number of products, and training in Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) and Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP).

- Assistance was provided in investigating a poultry “stunted growth” syndrome which was affecting the local poultry industry.

Promoting the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment

- Under the Kellogg Foundation-funded Lake Communities Project, Supporting the Expansion of Income Generation Activities in the Lake Communities in Guyana, significant efforts were made in the area of the sustainable management of natural resources.
- The hydroponics vegetable production programme promoted the use of discarded material, such as cans, bottles and paddy shells, which would otherwise cause pollution.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- The 'Tri-Lakes Farmers' Association comprising members of the three

communities - Mainstay, Tapakuma and Capoey was formed as part of the Kellogg funded project.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Over 200 participants, including women and youth, were trained and several have started to produce and market vegetables after training workshops and expansion activities carried out in conjunction with the St. Stanislaus Training Centre (SSTC).
- IICA was involved in transferring technology, using botanicals for the control of the Acoushi ant, *Atta* sp., a leaf-cutting ant. A Neem-based product was used and farmers were trained in the formulation of baits.



Haiti

Contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- Elaboration of the 2006-2010 National Technical Cooperation Agenda in collaboration with strategic partners from both the public and the private sectors.
- Preparation of a report on the situation and perspectives of agriculture and rural life in Haiti.

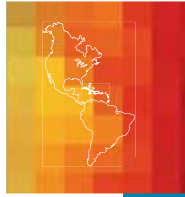
- Participation in a high-level working group, under the leadership of the Minister of Agriculture, to define a state policy on Haitian agriculture.



Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Facilitation of the participation of a large Haitian delegation in the celebration of the 6th Caribbean Week





of Agriculture. The presence of the Haitian private sector stood out at the trade fair organized during this event.

- Technical assistance to the Ministry of Tourism to incorporate agro-tourism into the tourism master plan being prepared for Haiti.
- Support for increasing exports to the United States, through two talks offered to members of the public and private sectors by IICA experts from the Miami Office.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- Vaccination of 600,000 pigs and implementation of the national epidemiological monitoring network under the project: Control of Classical Swine Fever, financed by USAID.
- Technical assistance to MARNDR for the elaboration of two project documents for control of pests, such as fruit flies and fire ants. These projects have been prepared with the participation of national specialists and IICA experts based in the Caribbean region.
- Introduction of biological pest management and the use of trapping in the integrated control of the coffee berry borer; installation of nine small rural laboratories for the production of parasitoids in the country's principal coffee-producing areas and

distribution 5000 Brocap traps to the coffee growers' cooperatives. The project: Integrated Control of the Coffee Berry Borer is financed by the European Union (EU).

- Establishment of a centre for mass production of healthy banana tree saplings using seedlings resulting from stem fragments and training of about 50 banana producers and MARNDR technical personnel in this new technology.
- Start-up of a national information and communication strategy on avian influenza, with the financial support of USAID.
- Logistical support for the participation of Haiti in the WHO meetings and also to the Haitian SPS committee.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- Organization, in partnership with CATIE, of a workshop on Carib trees, with the aim of preparing a manual on the trees of the Caribbean region.
- A seminar on Good Agricultural Practices for students of the Faculties of Agriculture of the CACHE network.
- Organization of workshops on the management of risks and disasters for beneficiaries of the project: Support for

Victims of Flooding in the Rural Areas of Gonaïves, financed by USAID.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- A US\$15,000 credit fund was set up for 600 rural women under the project PWOTOKOL, financed by the Kellogg Foundation. Other groups have received material to help them modernize their agricultural equipment and increase their productivity.
- Distribution of a large amount of mango plants of the “Madame Fransik” variety under a programme for reforestation with fruit trees addressed particularly at young people and women.
- Participation of around 30 rural women in training sessions on fruit processing.

- Introduction of 23 improved species of vegetables in five rural communities where the programme ProHuerta is being developed in collaboration with Argentine cooperation in Haiti.

- Consolidation of a programme to improve family poultry production by distributing more than 2,000 chickens to farms.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Rehabilitation of two small irrigation areas, totalling 715 hectares.
- Reinforcement of associations of water users with training seminars on irrigation water management.



Jamaica

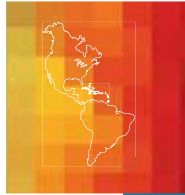
IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- IICA has been collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture in its priority investment programs, such as the Veterinary Services, Crop (Sweet Potato) Research and Development, participation in

WTO/SPS negotiations, and crafting of its Sustainable Rural Development policy framework.

- Repositioning the country's agricultural sector has meant actions like a National Consultation to determine Jamaica's priority issues as well as facilitate the drafting of IICA's Medium Term Plan; participation in





the Dialogue Forum series convened by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) and active support for events that promote the sector.

- The institute facilitated the participation of MOA&L and the private sector in the implementation of the OAS funded project Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- In collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture and Lands and Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the trade and competitiveness of agribusiness was promoted via the Clearing House Forum which focuses on private sector involvement in the trade negotiation process.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- To assist in strengthening the agricultural health and food safety systems, IICA participated with the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands and other agencies in a real-time simulation exercise of an outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

- With the OIE and the MOA&L, IICA assisted in an assessment of the Veterinary Division.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- The promotion of integrated rural development based on the territorial approach focused on assisting two specific communities, namely Elim in St Elizabeth and Charles Town in Portland: considering mainly training workshops in organization, conflict management and institutional building.

- A detailed review of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP) performance of the credit scheme was completed and their abilities were strengthened in business management and soap-making.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- To catalyze the Priority Investment Programme of the Ministry's Agricultural Development Strategy in the area of Root Crop Production, IICA supported the programming of funds under an agreed Sweet Potato Technology Research and Development Fund (Ministry of Agriculture, the Christian Potato Growers Cooperative Association and CARDI).



St. Kitts and Nevis

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- IICA conducted an extensive consultation with stakeholders on St. Kitts and developed an Agricultural Development Strategy and an Implementation Plan for the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Several agrotourism initiatives were supported including: hosting of a visioning session for stakeholders of the Fothergills Heritage Village and meetings were convened with leaders of producers' organizations and the tourism sector.
- Various components and activities of the OAS/IICA Project, Strengthening of the tourism sector through the development of linkages with the agricultural sector were implemented.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- IICA collaborated with the Republic of China in agro-processing training and introduced a food safety/HAACP module.
- Dialogue was facilitated within the Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Committee.
- Information was distributed through radio and television programs as

well as printed material on Avian Influenza and Food Safety tips.

- Various stakeholders acquired improved level of knowledge from workshops that were conducted with the assistance of FAVA/CA on the management of fire ants.

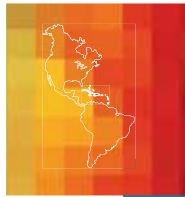


Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- IICA supported the work of the National Biodiversity Committee and the development of the National Biosafety Framework and assisted in conducting a pre-feasibility study for agro-energy as a partial option for renewable energy.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- IICA empowered various groups both individually and collectively, including members of the Fahie's Women Agricultural Producers who participated in several workshops, project formulation and effective fund raising. This included a EC\$25,000 grant to procure equipment and other inputs to enhance their productive capacity.
- Collaborated with the Youth Skills Department in the implementation



of the UNESCO sponsored project, Youth in Business. Participants were exposed to technical and business training with a focus on starting a business. The Institute organized other specific training activities in entrepreneurship.

- Fifteen marginalized youths of Project Strong were able to deliver on a contractual arrangement to produce school uniforms and gift baskets as a result of a skills-training project, which was initiated by the Institute. Youths have graduated with marketable skills and have been utilizing the skills in their various communities.

- Supported the launching of the Nevis Growers' Cooperative Society Ltd. The launching also showcased agricultural produce from a drip irrigation project, which was funded by the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute and IICA. One youth was provided with a loan of EC\$4,000 to enhance his farming enterprise.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- The Institute conducted a diagnostic evaluation of the Ministry of Agriculture and developed a strategic plan for its restructuring.



St. Lucia

IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life



- IICA's actions led to an increased understanding and continued implementation of the Agro Plan 2003-2015, the Key Binding Constraints as identified by the Jagdeo Initiative, the OECS Agriculture Strategy and the MAFF Strategic Framework for repositioning Agriculture and Rural Life.
- Continued dialogue towards the implementation of the new strategic framework for agriculture was

facilitated through the MAFF/IICA and WIBDECO sponsored national consultations.

- The institute continued its support to build knowledge capacities and advance the ministerial agenda within the MAFF and the Secretariat of OECS by facilitating their participation in national, regional and hemispheric dialogue.
- Efforts towards the determination of the True Contribution of Agriculture to Economic Development continued with a training of trainers' workshop.

- The IICA/MAFF sponsored seminar series Saint Lucia Agriculture Facing the Future continued with an examination of the “Potential Impact of the CSME on Agriculture Development and Farmer Organizations in Saint Lucia”.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- IICA enhanced the enabling environment for increasing trade for local produce with a focus on the development of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and emphasis on linkages, in particular with the tourism sector.
- IICA's efforts resulted in increased understanding, capacity development and strengthening of cooperative actions to solve finance and marketing problems.
- IICA aimed at effecting improvement to foster institutional partnerships between financial institutions and the rural and agricultural sectors.
- The capacity of rural women enterprises was enhanced and the Pig and Bee Producers' Cooperatives' capacity strengthened to identify and plan for the challenges and opportunities within the industry.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

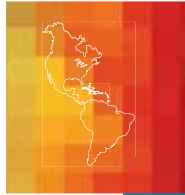
- The IICA-supported National Agricultural Health and Food Safety

and Standards Committee (AHFSSC) focused on strategies to enhance and increase cooperation amongst the public sector agencies and also amongst the public and private sectors.

- The capability of the veterinary service to assess the service and to make recommendations that will enable it to take full advantage of new opportunities and obligations of globalization was strengthened through a workshop organized for private and public sector veterinarians.
- A Food Safety Strategy document was prepared from which a national food safety strategy can be developed, other draft procedures for good agricultural practices for pigs and small ruminants were prepared for discussion with the Veterinary Services.
- Support for Saint Lucia officials to attend meetings of the World Trade Organization/Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Committee has resulted in both public and private sector actors increasing their capacity to understand the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreement.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- IICA supported the drafting of regulations for the national biosafety framework which was placed before the Attorney General's Chambers and participated actively in the development and support to the



National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Committee.

- A study towards the Development of an Environmental and Natural Resources Management Strategy for IICA in the Caribbean was commissioned.

(CANROP) has moved from a base of one community to five groups.

- The effectiveness of community groups and the strengthening of their institutional mechanism to identify challenges and ensuing solutions were enhanced.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- The introduction of the wider concept of the territorial approach to rural development continued in 2006 with actions focused on people development and their social organizations.
- The Saint Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth (SLAFY) has increased membership from 9 to 55 and the National Chapter of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- The knowledge capacity of the Hewanorra Organic Agricultural Movement (HOAM) was enhanced and their efforts advanced towards certification.
- Attracting youth to the sector continued with the greenhouse project to promote the use of the technology among Grades 4 to 6 at the Fond Assau Primary School.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life



- Through a process of dialogue and consultation with the major stakeholders in the agricultural sector, IICA prepared a revised National Technical Cooperation Agenda for St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Members of the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) are poised to benefit from the implementation of the CABA/MIF Project.

- In collaboration with CARDI, succeeded in encouraging the participation of members of CABA (SVG) Chapter Inc. at the First Caribbean Agrifood Convention Enhancing Regional Trade and Investments in the Agrifood Sector, and the 6th Caribbean Week of Agriculture.
- Beekeepers have been motivated to resume their beekeeping activities as a result of their participation in a training workshop on Integrated Pest/Disease Management.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- The constituent elements of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System in St. Vincent and the Grenadines continued to function in the spirit of team work, through their participation in the meetings of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Committee.

Strengthening rural communities

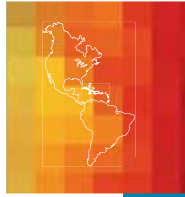
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Network of Rural Women Producers (SVGNRWP) improved its planning and execution of activities through the convening of meetings of its Executive and the general membership.
- Inputs for the St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Agricultural Forum for Youth (SVGAFY) 2006 Annual Work Plan were obtained through its participation in the Annual Executive

Meeting of the Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth (CAFY) and the 6th Caribbean Week of Agriculture.

- Entrepreneurs in rural communities will soon have increased opportunities for investment taking advantage of the closer coordination between the Ministries of Agriculture and Tourism and the private sector in support of enhanced agrotourism linkages.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- In the spirit of inter-institutional cooperation and networking, as well as informing major stakeholders, IICA assisted in organizing, shared work plans and participated in the Meetings of the National Coordinating Committee for Agricultural Research and Development (NCCARD).
- The enhanced capacity in vegetable production of Rabacca and surrounding areas was the result of the commissioning of two greenhouses and the graduation of several agri-entrepreneurs, youth and women, from a two-week training workshop in greenhouse technology. The project was implemented with resources provided under the IICA/CARDI Agreement.
- Frontline extension officers from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and the St. Vincent Banana Growers' Association enhanced their capabilities to respond to the technological challenges of the agricultural sector.



Suriname

IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life



- The Agricultural Sector Plan is more accessible to the international community after its translation from Dutch into English.
- IICA conducted workshops and meetings with the private and public sector involved in agriculture, to update the National Agenda for Technical Cooperation and maintained a presence in the media.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- Products from the agricultural sector in Suriname were identified that could be exported to the CARICOM market.
- IICA collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare a Diversification Programme for Small Rice Farmers in the District of Nickerie and identified alternative income-generation activities.
- Nickerie District received guidance on diversification based on alliances with other institutions.

Strengthening of the agricultural health and food safety systems

- IICA collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture on the monitoring and

surveillance of the Carambola Fruit Fly (*Bactrocera carambolae*).

- Suriname's agriculture detected a new exotic pest in the tomato production, namely the tomato fruit borer (*Neoleucinodes* sp.) that required our support in the preparation of a plan to mitigate the effect of this pest.
- A National Emergency Plan for Avian Influenza was prepared with the Ministry of Agriculture and other partners.
- Suriname participated in the WTO/SPS requirement workshop in Switzerland.

Promoting sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- The possibility for Suriname to be part of the Amazon Initiative was evaluated in the workshop Sustainable Land Use in the Amazon Region and the Amazon Initiative organized collaboration with CELOS.
- The participants of the XII Reunion of the Red TROPICEN on the phyto-genetic resources in the tropics of South America were provided with tools to evaluate its use and management (IICA, CELOS, PROCITROPICOS).

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- A plan for alternative income generation for bauxite mined-out areas in the Moengo District of Marowijne was prepared with partners from the public and private sector.
- Two important studies were conducted in the Agro-tourism Project, to identify the potential for linkages between agriculture and tourism.
- A video was prepared to show the potential of Suriname in the different aspects of agrotourism, among which were, culinary, wellbeing, health, culture, etc.
- The community of POWAKKA received technical assistance to improve their production, which consisted of soil preparation, composting, seedlings, community organization management.

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Organization of American State (OAS) in Suriname and the Pan-American Development Foundation (PADF), to bring relief to some communities in the Hinterland affected by flooding.
- A project in the Brownsberg Area, funded by WWF Guyana, for alternative income to gold miners to reduce the negative impacts in the nature reserve park was implemented.
- Suriname's participation in regional networks such as CAFY and CANROP was strengthened.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- To encourage youngsters to join the agricultural sector, two school gardens are being implemented with the financial support of the Lions Club of Para, using interactive CD material.

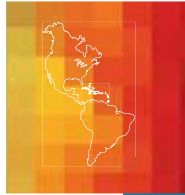


Trinidad and Tobago

IICA's contribution to the repositioning of agriculture and rural life

- The Ministry of Agriculture Lands and Marine Resources (MALMR) received a research/information

package that seeks to advance the development of the sector, including: Status and Outlook of Agriculture and Rural Life in Trinidad & Tobago and the True Contribution of Agriculture to the Economy of Trinidad & Tobago.



- In accordance with institutional mandates, the National Technical Agenda was reviewed and synchronized with Trinidad and Tobago's Vision 2020 Plan for Agricultural Development.
- Participants from across the region were sensitized to the project to establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Agricultural Information System which seeks to consolidate and strengthen existing information processes in Caribbean countries to satisfy the need for monitoring and evaluating progress in the Agro Plan 2003-2015 (UN/ECLAC, CTA, IICA).
- Within the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources, IICA delivered a series of project management workshops to train agricultural and extension officers in four counties in North Trinidad and ten planning officers in the Agricultural Planning Division.
- IICA strengthened its relationship with the Faculty of Science and Agriculture of the University of the West Indies (UWI) through training and internship on agribusiness.
- IICA collaborated with CABA, CARDI, NAMDEVCO and the Ministry of Trade and Industry's Food and Beverage Industry Development Committee (MTI/FBIDC), on the First Caribbean Agri-Food Trade Convention held in South Trinidad.

Promoting trade and the competitiveness of agribusiness

- To establish a way forward for the coordination of research and development within the agribusiness sector, IICA and the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) organized and hosted the regional workshop Optimizing the Benefits of Research and Development for the enhancement of Agribusiness in the Caribbean.
- Under projects funded by the European Union, IICA supported operations of the Caribbean Herbal Business Association (CHBA) Secretariat, including investor-friendly technology briefs and herbal business profiles for four major product categories and seminars entitled Business Opportunities for the Caribbean Herbal Industry in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.
- NAMDEVCO has a survey to determine the demand for fruits and vegetables in supermarkets.

Strengthening agricultural health and food safety systems

- The Agricultural Health and Food Safety programme continued to provide training in topical areas of interest and importance to the development of AHFS in the region, including Avian Influenza, Mites of Economic Importance and Good Agricultural Practices (GAPS).
- The Dairy Herd Health Manual was completed and distributed to schools, Ministry personnel and farmers.

Promoting the sustainable management of natural resources and the environment

- IICA contributed to the development of the organic agriculture sector with the preparation of plans for development of three model organic farms, located on Government demonstration stations.

Strengthening rural communities based on the territorial approach

- Support to the women's groups in rural communities continued through technical and administrative support to the Network of Rural Women Producers for regular and Annual General Meetings and in the reorganization of their micro-credit scheme.

Introducing technology and innovation for the modernization of agriculture and rural life

- Under the guidance of the completed Strategy for Biotechnology and Biosafety in the Caribbean, project proposals on capacity building and institution establishment were

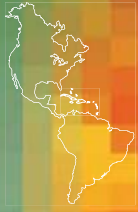
prepared to initiate implementation of the strategy.

- To maintain the momentum in this rapidly growing area of Biotechnology in the Caribbean region, IICA spearheaded the organization of a regional workshop, hosted at the 6th Caribbean Week of Agriculture, and supported the University of the West Indies with a workshop on the commercialization of biotechnology improved anthurium varieties for revitalizing the cut flower industry in the Caribbean.

- Agrotourism linkages were promoted, providing administrative and logistical support through the first phase of the OAS project.

- IICA revisited a project of the Tobago House of Assembly – for which funding was approved in 2006 – and commenced work on a feasibility study to develop an agrotourism attraction at Hope Farm in Tobago.

- A study that surveyed machine and technology use in the agricultural sector of Trinidad and Tobago, was prepared to assess the level of capitalization and technology transfer in the farming sector in Trinidad and Tobago.

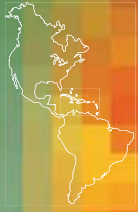


Apéndix 1:

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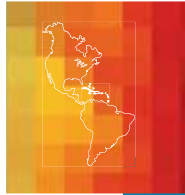


Appendix 2:

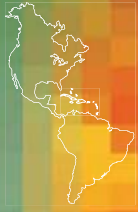
Acronyms

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AHFS	Agricultural Health and Food Safety
AI	Avian Influenza
AMF	Agricultural Modernization Fund
CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
CACHE	Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture
CAFY	Caribbean Agricultural Forum of Youth
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CAIC	Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce
CANROP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
CARAPA	Caribbean Association of Researchers and Herbal Practitioners
CARAPN	Caribbean Agricultural Policy Network
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIRI	Caribbean Industrial Research Institute
CATN	Caribbean Agro-Trade Network
CBERA	Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act
CCS	Caribbean Community Secretariat
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDE	Centre for the Development of Enterprise
CEDA	Caribbean Export Development Agency
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute

CDERA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
CGABC	Consultative Group for Agro-biotechnology in the Caribbean
CHA	Caribbean Hotel Association
CHBA	Caribbean Herbal Business Association
CHG	Conference of Heads of Government
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CISWG	Caribbean Invasive Species Working Group
CPBB	Caribbean Programme on Biotechnology and Biosafety
CRA	Caribbean Rice Association
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CROAM	Caribbean Regional Organic Agriculture Movement
CTA	Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organization
CWA	Caribbean Week of Agriculture
DOAM	Dominica Organic Agriculture Movement
ECS	Eastern Caribbean States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCT	General Consumption Tax
GFG	Giraudel Flower Group
GoJ	Government of Jamaica
HOAM	Hewanorra Organic Agriculture Movement
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IDIAF	Dominican Institute for Agricultural and Forestry Research
IIB	Institute of Innovation and Biotechnology
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
ISPM	International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures
IWRMS	Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy
IWCAM	Integrated Coastal Area and Watershed Management Project
JAS	Jamaica Agricultural Society
LLPB	Livestock and Livestock Products Board



MDG	Millennium Development Goals
NRWP	Network of Rural Women Producers, Guyana
OAS	Organization of American States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PAHO	Pan-American Health Organization
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PROCICARIBE	Caribbean Research, Science and Technology Networking System
RDC	Rural Development Commission (Barbados)
SLMB	Saint Lucia Marketing Board
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SURALCO	Suriname Aluminium Company
TTABA	Trinidad and Tobago Agribusiness Association
UG	University of Guyana
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UWI	University of the West Indies
WTO	World Trade Organization
WTTC	World Travel and Tourism Council



Appendix 3: List of professional staff in the Caribbean

Antigua

Julie-Ann Laudat, Technical Coordinator

Bahamas

Marikis Alvarez, Representative

Alarice Grant, Development Specialist

Barbados

Ena C. Harvey, Representative

Carol Thomas, Regional Specialist, Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Joseph Peltier, Regional Specialist, Sustainable Rural Development

Dominica

Kervin Stephenson, Technical Coordinator

Dominican Republic

Rafael Marte, Representative

Victor del Angel, Technical Coordinator

Manuel Messina, Specialist in Trade and Agribusiness Development

Fior D'aliza García, Administrator

Freddy de Jesús Buten (SEA-IICA). Information Systems

Carlos Vargas (Consultant). Information Systems

Teresa Romero (BAGRICOLA-IICA). Information Systems

José A. Moreta P. (SEA-IICA). Trade Chains

Faustino Rijo (SEA-IICA). Trade Chains

Juan A. Oscar Hernández Peguero (Consultant). Export Platform

Dileccio Vanderlinder P. (SEA-IICA). Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Pilar Ramírez (Consultant). Organic Agriculture

Felipe Porro (SEA-IICA). Organic Agriculture

Martín Estrella (IICA-SEA). Organic Agriculture / Milk Bank

Ana Julia Reynoso (IICA-IDIAF). Technology and Innovation

Rossanna Figueroa (Consultant). Public Relations / Milk Bank

Luz Adelma Guillén Castro (SEA-IICA). Reform of Agricultural Sector
Juan Ramón Rodríguez (SEA-IICA). Reform of Agricultural Sector
Ziomara Reyes (SEA-IICA). Reform of Agricultural Sector
Rafael Ledesma, Education/CACHE
César Cruz, CACHE

Grenada

Cosmos Joseph, Coordinator

Guyana

Cromwell C. Crawford, Rural Development Specialist/Acting Representative
Maxine Parris-Aaron, Agricultural Health Specialist
Hector Munoz, Associate Professional
Christopher Warui, Contracted Agronomist
Autry Haynes, Contracted Agronomist

Haiti

Alfredo Mena, Representative
Frantz Nelson, Programme Coordinator
Rachelle Pierre, Louis Chéry Rural Development Specialist
Keith Flanagan, Project Coordinator, PPC/USDA Project
Wesley Jeune, Field Coordinator, PWOTOKOL Project
Dieudonné Eugène, Project Coordinator, Scolyte Project
Joseph Délinois, Ministerial Delegate
Colette Blanchet, Caribbean Region

Jamaica

Trevor W. Murray, Representative
Shauna Brandon Rural Development Specialist
Robert Reid, Agribusiness Specialist (Joined in November 2006)

St. Kitts and Nevis

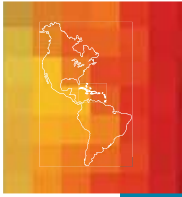
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Una May Gordon, Representative
Vincent Little, Regional Project Specialist
Everton Ambrose, Specialist in Plant Protection
Melville Edwards, Regional Specialist, Agribusiness

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Godwin Daniel, Coordinator



Suriname

Michelet Mascary, Representative
Hesdy G. Ormskerk, Fruit and Vegetable Specialist

Trinidad and Tobago

Aaron Parke, Representative
Wayne De Chi, Agricultural Health and Food Safety Specialist
Diana Francis, Regional Consultant, Trade Policy
Edric Harry, Policy Analysis and Planning Specialist
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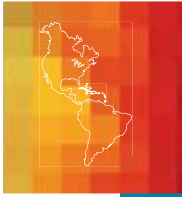
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