



# Antigua and Barbuda

2019  
Annual Report

## Significant Achievements

- IICA, in collaboration with private stakeholders and CARDI, promoted the use of local commodities, sweet potato and cassava mash, to make composite bread. This would provide alternative economic options and increase diversification, while offering a value-added component to root and tuber production, thereby enhancing food and nutritional security. Sixty persons received training, including agro-processors, food and nutrition teachers, students and bakers.
- IICA facilitated the hosting of the 2019 International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) Regional Workshop for the Caribbean, which took place in Antigua and Barbuda from 10 – 12 September 2019. Representatives from twelve Caribbean countries attended the workshop to review Draft Standards and a Commission on Phytosanitary Measures Recommendation; regional comments were formulated. A one-day seminar on Banana Fusarium Wilt-TR4 was held after the IPPC regional workshop, where a plant pathologist and Banana Fusarium wilt specialist from the Plant Health Research Institute (INISAV) of Cuba provided an overview of the TR4 and the current status of spread.
- In partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) and the Ministry of Education, IICA facilitated a Project Proposal Workshop for twenty Agricultural Science teachers and seven members of five NGO producer groups. The workshop sought to strengthen the capacities of participants in effective grant project proposal writing, as well as to assist them in building governance capacity; increasing resilience; supporting their membership; securing funding and capitalizing on market opportunities offered by various funding agencies. The training was also a means of assisting these groups to contribute to economic growth and sustainable development, thereby positively impacting the well-being of rural farmers.
- Technical assistance was provided to the Gilberts Agriculture Rural Development Center (GARDC) to assist in the training of fifteen persons, including vulnerable youth and farm attendants from the Ministry of Education's Agricultural Science program. The twelve-week initiative aimed to strengthen participants' capacities through a series of climate smart agriculture courses, with the main focus being the construction of a hydroponics unit and demonstrations on alternative climate smart farming practices. The program was conducted through a partnership between Sandals Foundation, IICA, CARDI and the Ministry of Agriculture's Extension Division.
- IICA supported the Plant Protection Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture in its ongoing program to eradicate and manage Giant African Snails (GAS) through a community outreach approach. The cooperation involved organizing eight town hall meetings, conducting a survey on the socio-economic



impact of the GAS on stakeholders and producing public awareness tools. As a result, 250 persons attended the town hall meetings to obtain useful educational information to combat this invasive species. The project led to the establishment of seven community cluster groups that expressed a willingness to assist the Ministry in collecting and monitoring the activities of the snails within their respective areas.

- Fifteen agro-processors benefited from increased market promotion and opportunities, having participated in the annual PiaAngo Fest organized by the Ministry of Agriculture. IICA created a marketing platform to highlight local mango- and pineapple-based products, by holding an agro-processing competition, in which participants created products, according to specific judging criteria. Over forty local products were on display during the competition and participants were given the necessary feedback on elements such as labeling and packaging, as well as an opportunity to capitalize on the market.
- IICA partnered with the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards (ABBS) to conduct a Preventive Controls Qualified Individual (PCQI) Workshop in-country, on behalf of the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance (FSPCA). The workshop, which targeted relevant government institutions/regulatory bodies, as well as MSMEs wishing to produce human food for export to the US, addressed relevant controls to reduce or eliminate the risk of sanitary and phytosanitary barriers to trade in agricultural products. Twenty persons from the private and public sector attended the workshop.
- Joint activities were undertaken to distribute inputs and supplies to farmers in Grand Bahama and Abaco Islands. IICA in Antigua and Barbuda partnered with CARDI to provide hot pepper seeds to assist producers in The Bahamas whose farms were devastated by Hurricane Dorian.
- Technical support was provided to the Ministry of Agriculture through a South-South cooperation activity with IICA Jamaica, involving field assessments of citrus groves affected by citrus greening disease, with the aim of assessing the capacity of local infrastructure to increase production of clean plants. This was supported by a workshop and a field trip to public and private citrus nurseries to observe citrus production and management. Technical support was provided by the Jamaica Citrus Protection Agency (JCPA) and that country's Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries. Twenty-nine technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture benefited from the training.
- The IICA Offices in Antigua and Barbuda; Trinidad and Tobago; Dominica and St. Lucia, in partnership with IAMovement, secured USD 1.8 million in funding under the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund to execute a regional project –“Strengthening Coastal and Marine Climate Resilience through Community Engagement and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Solutions in Upland Rural Watersheds”. The project, which will be implemented in 2020, aims to facilitate the development and successful adoption and use of cost-effective, nature-based and integrated soil management approaches within the project communities. In so doing, it will seek to address climate risks and to provide socio-economic benefits, thereby reducing pressure on marine and coastal systems.

