



Barbados

2019 Annual Report

Significant Achievements

- The apiculture industry of Barbados and the wider Caribbean was strengthened through the training of more than one hundred public and private sector actors in beekeeping practices; development of a 2019 pollen and nectar calendar; conducting of a baseline survey and the development of beekeeping and queen rearing manuals. Moreover, APICARIBE, the triangular cooperation project between Argentina, Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis, was completed, having facilitated diagnostic visits by Argentinian experts, the training of stakeholders and provision of recommendations for upgrading the national apiculture sector, for example, by increasing laboratory capacity.
- IICA strengthened linkages between the agrifood sector and tourism by hosting a national agritourism policy workshop; developing a culinary survey in collaboration with McGill BFSS and organizing a CTA-funded regional workshop on agrotourism, which attracted 45 participants. It identified regional priorities for proposal development; provided technical support for five national workshops in Suriname, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Grenada and Jamaica and mobilized external resources from CTA to prepare national proposals for submission under the 11th EDF for Barbados, Suriname, St. Lucia and St. Vincent. The Institute also hosted the 14th annual Plantation Breakfast & Healthy Snacks Seminar at AgroFest 2019, in collaboration with students and staff of the Hospitality Institute.
- With support from the New Zealand High Commission and IICA, the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to breed high quality Barbados BlackBelly Sheep was enhanced through the retrofitting of the artificial insemination laboratory at Greenland Livestock Research Station and the training of five public and private sector veterinarians and lab technicians in collection, processing and storage of BBB semen. The management capacity of the facility was also improved through the introduction of established Standard Operating Procedures.
- As part of the IICA Youth Farm Programme, the Institute increased the availability of qualified young farmers to support the agrifood sector in Barbados and the region, through the training and certification of twenty-six students from twelve Barbadian secondary schools and four external candidates from the Dutch Caribbean. Participants received certification in CVQ Crop Production - Level I, NVQ Livestock rearing - Level I, and CVQ Aquaculture Grow Out Operations - Level 1. The Barbados TVET Council, the Ministry of Education, the Gwendoline Van Putten School (St. Eustatius), and the Barbados Environmental Conservation Trust provided approximately US\$35,000 in funding for the program. A Future Farmers Forum was held in collaboration with McGill University's Barbados Field Study Programme.



- The Institute enhanced the entrepreneurial capacity of forty students, through the UWI SEED (Student Entrepreneurial Empowerment Development) Project, by offering a technical lecture on Entrepreneurial Opportunities in Agriculture. It was involved in planning for the roll out of projects at the Centre for Food Security and Entrepreneurship, as a member of the Steering Committee. The Delegation also offered a 10-week internship for a final year BSc. in Agriculture student from UWI, with support from private sector partners.
- Priority actions for promoting climate financing for agriculture, with special reference to smallholder farmers, and opportunities to raise the profile of agriculture were identified during a regional workshop co-hosted by CTA-IICA-CARDI. Forty-one regional planners and development agency partners were in attendance.