



Guyana

2019
Annual Report

Significant Achievements

- IICA facilitated improvements in productivity and food safety; increased factory certification and greater market access for agro-processing groups, through support provided to the thirteen-member Women Agro-processing Development Network and the Guyana Apiculture Society. The Institute provided technical and financial resources to enable agro-processors to participate in five local expos and marketplaces (e.g RACE, UNCAPPED and NGMC Market Day, in which more than 210 private entities participated). In addition to increasing market access (local and foreign), the cooperation boosted rural income generation, especially for the WADN and GAS Member Groups.
- The organization also provided technical support for the upgrading of the Mirabeau Abattoir in Grenada, through a Horizontal Cooperation agreement aimed at improving the slaughter process for cattle, swine and small ruminants, in order to satisfy internationally accepted food safety standards. Approximately twenty-five participants—administrative and operations staff, as well as public health officers—were trained in current food safety practices. Decisions were also made concerning the implementation of biosafety procedures to reduce and ultimately prevent cross-contamination of finished products leaving the abattoir. A procedural and emergency slaughter manual is presently being upgraded for implementation in 2020.
- In collaboration with the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI), IICA executed a joint initiative to scale up monitoring and control activities for the Carambola Fruit Fly in rural communities across Regions 6,8 and 9, which are mainly located near the Suriname and Brazil borders. The results of the surveillance activity revealed the positive detection of more than 4,000 male flies in traps that had previously been set in Orealla, Karasabai, Culvert City and Central Lethem, where their increased presence had been noted. This information was presented to Ministry of Agriculture officials and farmers at a national workshop and the participants agreed on a plan to address the situation.
- Capacity building in rural territories was also facilitated by the Institute, specifically for the Central Mahaicony Perth Village Farmers' Association. A group of approximately fifteen agro-processors participated in a seminar/workshop conducted by Assistant Professor Dr. Aubrey Mendonca of the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition of Iowa State University. The seminar was a follow-up to a previous workshop, held in 2014, and focused on the production of corned beef and salted pork. The technology is now resident in the group. In addition to the practical demonstrations, members were instructed on the recipe and methodology, which further enhanced their knowledge about the preparation of ham, bacon and sausages.
- IICA forged a relationship with the Basic Needs Trust Fund to initiate a Climate Smart Project. As part of activities taking



place during Agriculture Month, reconnaissance visits were made to 39 small farmers in Regions 1,2,3,4,5,6,9 & 10, with a view to providing thirty-four shade houses (of 18 ft x 24 ft each) with irrigation and the first set of seedlings for participants in the project. The project entitled, “Building Climate Resilience through Climate Smart Agriculture”, will aim to use shade houses and innovative technologies to ensure food security and create sustainable rural income in a changing climate.

- Two technology transfer internship workshops were held in collaboration with CATIE, and with funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the Ministry of Agriculture, targeting 24 technical officers from the Guyana Livestock Development Authority (GLDA) and the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI). The officers participated in specialized training sessions in crop and livestock production systems and took part in several field trips to designated commercial farms, focusing on cassava, citrus, cocoa and bovine production systems. Technicians were exposed to the use of post-harvesting and biotechnology equipment. Both the GLDA and NAREI will incorporate best practices into their work plan to modernize the agriculture sector.
- The Institute played an integral role as a member of the Planning Committee for Agritourism Week 2019, which was held under the theme “Linking Agriculture and Tourism for a Green Economy”. During an exposition that was organized as part of the Week, IICA delivered the keynote address,

which included details on the Institute’s Medium-term Plan. The event, which featured 72 exhibitors and was attended by more than 150 visitors, offered stakeholders and development partners an opportunity to take stock of their collective efforts to promote sustainable agri-tourism. The week’s activities played a critical role in fostering national dialogue on agri-tourism, especially given the clear mandate set forth by the ministers of Agriculture and Tourism in 2016. IICA will play a lead role in developing Guyana’s agritourism policy and implementation plan.

- IICA partnered with the Small Business Bureau to host an Entrepreneurs Pop-up Shop in the hub of the City of Georgetown. The event provided over 100 small businesses in Guyana with the opportunity to showcase their many products and services to the general public. The first of its kind, this activity served to highlight the products of local small businesses, and facilitated increased market awareness, access and competitiveness.
- IICA also celebrated its 44th year of service to the Government and people of Guyana and hosted its Annual Accountability Seminar as an Open Day and exhibition on the interventions and efforts undertaken by the Institute, in collaboration with its stakeholders and partners. The Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Noel Holder, delivered the featured remarks to the gathering, and Mr. Jean Ricot Dormeus, Representative of the Organisation of American States, expressed satisfaction with the technical cooperation programme that the Guyana Office is spearheading.

