



**St. Lucia**

**2019**  
Annual Report

## Significant Achievements

- In collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Agriculture and Fisheries of Jamaica, IICA trained a total of 39 local stakeholders (including farmers, nursery operators, extension officers and lab technicians) in the management of Citrus Greening Disease (Huanglongbing). Our cooperation built the capacity of technicians in Saint Lucia to identify the disease and to become familiar with response mechanisms, including those successfully utilized in Jamaica, such as laboratory techniques for shoot tip grafting to produce clean planting material and measures to maintain in-field production. The project emphasized the need for sustainable, long-term actions for the effective control of HLB, which would warrant the adoption of an entirely new approach to the citrus industry in Saint Lucia.
- The Institute continued to support several rural youth enterprises through its technical cooperation program for Saint Lucia. As a result of IICA's interventions—planning for upscaling, establishment of market linkages, and resource mobilization—the business “Funky Fungi Mushrooms” was able to secure a loan from the St. Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association's (SLHTA) Tourism Enhancement Fund; established more than 15 new market linkages, including retailing at 4 outlets; tripled production and generated over EC\$21,000 in sales in 2019 alone.
- In collaboration with Guru Inc., a local youth enterprise, IICA developed the Guru marketing application to support improved market coordination between farmers and buyers. A fully functional beta system was developed that allows farmers to see the current and potential future demand of buyers and to respond in real time. It also allows for farmer production tracking and planning, review of marketplace participants (both buyers and sellers) and negotiation of prices and delivery dates. The system is currently undergoing a three-month testing period with Massy Stores Saint Lucia Limited and a cadre of 20 farmers, with the support of the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Under the project entitled “Building Resilience of the Honey Sector to the Impacts of Climate Change through Genetic Security and Adaptation of the Best-proven, Climate Smart Production Methods”, with funding from the Japan-Caribbean Climate Change Partnership (JCCCP), and in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Mille Fleur Honey Producers Cooperative and the Iyanola Apiculture Collective, IICA supported the participation of 30 beekeepers in a two-week training program on queen rearing and instrumental insemination. The program was conducted by Simmons Apiary in the UK. As a result of this training, beekeepers have now dramatically improved their ability to raise hive productivity, by replacing queens with younger queens; improving the temperament of hives by introducing more docile queens; as well as increasing their capacity for expansion from one or two splits per year



to breeding an average of 80 fertilized queens with brood per year. Beekeepers from Suriname also participated in and benefited from this effort. Project outputs included a teaching manual<sup>1</sup>, instructional videos and several reusable learning objects.

- Through funding under the Greater Caribbean Safeguarding Initiative (GCSI), the Institute, in collaboration with the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDA-APHIS), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Caribbean Agriculture Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA), hosted a capacity building workshop for 23 technicians from the Eastern Caribbean in the use of web-based systems to support the generation, sending and receipt of electronic phytosanitary certificates. GeNS systems (generic ePhyto national systems) allow for reduced time lags and transaction costs associated with paper-based/traditional phytosanitary certificate production processes.
- Responding to a request by local stakeholders, IICA continued its efforts to develop a functional and cost-effective system for farm certification, focusing on the fruits and vegetables category. To this end, the Institute collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture in Saint Lucia and the Saint Lucia Bureau of Standards in developing certification procedures; identifying existing systems/resources that can be used in the certification process to keep operational costs at a minimum; and establishing draft fee structures and payment systems.
- In collaboration with IICA in Dominica, a series of cost-effective tools and resources were developed to demonstrate to farmers their ability to meet key requirements of the draft certification system. The expected high additional costs associated with meeting the requirements of the certification standard have been a long-standing impediment to better adoption of standards. To assist in dispelling this perception, the Institute identified cost-effective options for meeting national standards, including options for potable water storage, sanitation, and safe storage of agrochemicals.
- Cocoa was identified as a priority sector for agriculture in Saint Lucia, and thus the Institute's cooperation efforts supported the Prime Minister's Performance Management and Delivery Unit in planning and designing a sector development strategy for cocoa. This included participating in a series of strategic meetings, focus groups and one-on-one meetings with the technical team, as well as presenting a situational overview of cocoa in Saint Lucia. To date, this technical support has been instrumental in the preparation of a draft plan for the development of the cocoa industry.
- IICA spearheaded the development of a country dossier for Saint Lucia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture. The country profile was presented by the Institute at the 2019 meeting of the International Cocoa Organization (ICCO) Ad hoc Panel in April 2019. The development of the country profile supported the recognition of Saint Lucia as a 100% supplier of fine flavour cocoa.

---

1. *The manual details climate smart practices for beekeepers, as well as gives practical in-document guidance for decision making on climate-related risk identification and mitigation.*