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**A Report on the Contribution of the  
Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture  
to the Agricultural Sector of Jamaica during 2000**



Kingston, Jamaica

March 2001

## WHAT IS IICA?

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The Inter-American Conference on Agriculture held in Washington D.C. in 1930, under the aegis of the Pan American Union, put forward the idea of creating an Inter-American Institute for Tropical Agriculture. Twelve years later, in 1942, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences was born, formally inaugurated in March in Turrialba, Costa Rica, with the purpose of promoting research and training in tropical agriculture.

During the late 1960s and the early 1970s, the Institute expanded the scope of its action to include the entire hemisphere, establishing offices in each of the Latin American countries and in several Caribbean states.

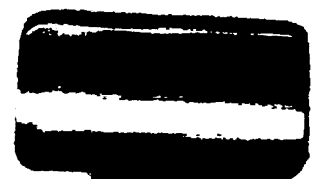
In 1980, a new Convention was opened for signature which broadened the purposes of the Institute and changed its name to the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) - an agency of the Inter-American system. Its mission is to encourage, facilitate and support technical cooperation among its 34 Member States and the organizations of the civil society, in order to promote the sustainable development of agriculture.

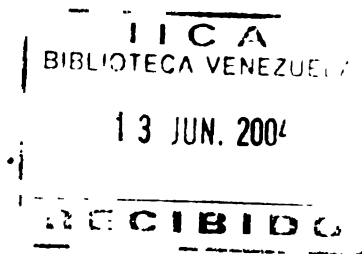
The Institute has earned the respect of governments and societies in the Americas and in other parts of the world for its leadership role in agricultural development in the Americas. The vision of the Institute 2002, is to be the leading Inter-American Institution,

providing technical cooperation in Agriculture, in order to bring about a comprehensive transformation of the agricultural sector in the Americas, a transformation that is necessary for achieving sustainable development. The position of leadership will be achieved with the quality of the Institute's human resources, its alliances with other organizations, and the effective use of advances in information technology, communications, education and training. This will enable the Institute to maintain its commitment to excellence in the provision of cooperation services.

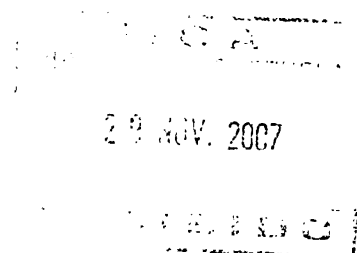
The Inter-American Board, IICA's highest governing body is made up of the Ministers of Agriculture of its 34 Member States and is the highest-level political forum for the definition of strategic guidelines for agriculture in the Americas.

The Government of Jamaica joined IICA in 1975. Since then, the Institute in collaboration with a number of agencies, particularly with the Ministry of Agriculture, has cooperated and participated in a diverse number of initiatives such as, supporting the rural development process, small business management training, including institutional strengthening of rural groups, the introduction of the appropriate innovative technologies for hillside farming, training at both the adult and youth levels, with supporting manuals and exchange visits and the diffusion of technologies for watershed management.





**A Report on the Contribution of the  
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during 2000**



**March 2001  
Kingston, Jamaica**

**IICA OFFICE IN JAMAICA**

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**March 2001**  
**Kingston, Jamaica**

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## ***Our Mission***

*“To cooperate with the Government of Jamaica, the private sector, national, regional and international institutions in order to improve competitiveness and promote the sustainable development of agriculture in Jamaica.”*

## ***Our Goals***

- ⇒ *To support better use and management of natural resources, particularly hillside lands and watershed areas.*
- ⇒ *To contribute to rural development, food security, poverty alleviation and social stability.*
- ⇒ *To improve middle management, technical capabilities and farmers skills.*
- ⇒ *To foster agribusiness development and private sector participation in agriculture.*
- ⇒ *To contribute to effective dialogue and coordination between Public and Private Sectors and Regional as well as International Agencies in Agriculture.*
- ⇒ *To strengthen the linkages between Jamaica's Agriculture and that of the wider Caribbean and Latin America.*
- ⇒ *To support activities, which enhance the competitiveness of the Jamaican Agricultural Sector.*

## INTRODUCTION

*The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) Office in Jamaica is pleased to present this report, which seeks to keep the agricultural sector informed about activities and programmes we carried out in 2000.*

*The Institute acknowledges the contribution of the private sector, national, regional and international organizations and the farmers of Jamaica in the achievements here reported. Special mention must be made of the cooperation of the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Roger Clarke and his staff in the Ministry of Agriculture, for their support of the work programmes of the IICA office in Jamaica. The hard work and commitment of the staff of the IICA office in Jamaica is also acknowledged and appreciated. We also acknowledge the editorial contribution of Ms. Dayner Clarke, Marketing Consultant, in the production of this report.*

*We hope that the information enclosed will serve as a record of our contribution to the sector, and will also provide a basis for cooperation with national, regional and international institutions and the private sector, which are involved in agricultural development in Jamaica.*



*Chelston W.D. Brathwaite  
IICA Representative in Jamaica*





*(l. to r.) Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, IICA Representative in Jamaica and The Honourable Roger Clarke, Minister of Agriculture, Jamaica discuss issues at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture.*

## **1.0 AGRICULTURE IN JAMAICA**

Jamaica is primarily a mountainous country with a land mass of 11,000 sq. km, 60 per cent having an altitude of over 250 metres above sea level. Approximately 25 per cent is forested, 45 per cent under crops and 3.5 per cent classified as urban.

The economy of Jamaica is largely dependent on the production of bauxite, alumina, sugar, bananas and tourism. These activities contribute nearly 50 per cent of the country's GDP and nearly 66 per cent of its gross foreign exchange earnings.

Preliminary national accounts data for 1999 indicate that real Gross Domestic Product (GDP), measured in 1986 prices, declined by 0.4 per cent. The agricultural sector

however, showed modest growth (1.9 per cent) after two consecutive years of decline. The slight increase in output and exports was credited to improved rainfall and the implementation of projects to improve the production and marketing of domestic food crops.

The sector continues to play a critical role in the economy of Jamaica, contributing 7.4 per cent directly to GDP in 1999 and considerably more if the value of food processing, sugar, molasses, rum and tobacco are considered. Employment in agriculture, forestry and fishing declined during the year by 1.8 per cent. Agriculture however, remains a major employer, exceeded only by the service industry and wholesale and retail trades; hotels and restaurant services.

The value of the more important traditional (sugar, bananas, citrus) and non-traditional exports was approximately US\$196.8 million compared with US\$ 195.7 million in 1998. Earnings continue to be affected by low world market prices and the depreciation in the value of the Euro against the US dollar.

The value of sugar exports continues to dominate agricultural export earnings despite concerns about the need to diversify the production, employment and export earning base of the agricultural sector. Investments in factory rehabilitation and field operations have achieved an increase in the volume of sugar cane produced and improvements in the processing efficiency of the sugar factories, resulting in a 10 per cent increase in sugar output.

### **Challenges and opportunities for Jamaica's agriculture**

Jamaica's agricultural sector faces considerable challenges and opportunities as it develops in a sustainable manner and contributes to the national economy. Several constraints and opportunities can be grouped into external and internal factors.

#### **▪ External Factors**

There are three major external factors that provide global, regional and national challenges and opportunities to Jamaica's agricultural sector.

**Globalization and trade liberalization:** The world is becoming increasingly integrated as globalization and trade liberalization accelerate. Following the Uruguay Round of negotiations and the establishment of the World Trade

Organization (WTO), new rules and regulations are governing international trade. These rules and regulations were intended to strengthen the world economy and lead to more trade, investment, employment and income growth throughout the world. The new rules have drastically reduced tariff barriers and seek to establish new standards for trade in products that incorporate social, health and environmental considerations. These new regulations and standards have often become new barriers to access the markets of developed countries by small economies like Jamaica that have enthusiastically adjusted their tariff barriers.

In the light of the evolving realities, Jamaica may have to review the entire package of support to the rural food producing sector and the rules of access to the local market.

Another aspect of the implementation of the new WTO rules has been the decline in the importance of preferential markets. Jamaica's agriculture sector has long depended on preferential markets in Europe and North America for its traditional export products, primarily sugar, bananas, citrus, cocoa and pimento. Decisions of the WTO regarding the preferential market in the European Union support that such preferential markets become less important and preferential trade agreements may totally disappear in the near future. The challenge to Jamaica is to re-orient its production, marketing, distribution and trading arrangements to diversify and export new products to compete in the former preferential markets.

Accompanying the process of increased globalization and trade liberalization are efforts to access economic integration in this hemisphere. The proposed Free Trade Area

of the Americas (FTAA) and the Single Market and Economy in CARICOM, are the major processes in place.

The challenge to Jamaica's agriculture is to compete with other Caribbean countries and the larger more efficient producers of agricultural products in Latin America, for markets in the hemisphere. In addition, Jamaica must maintain its competitive position in the domestic market.

**Advances in information and communications technology:** Rapid changes in information and communications technology offer new challenges and opportunities to the agricultural sector. They provide easy and immediate access to information on markets, trade opportunities, consumer preferences and competitors around the world. They also facilitate advertising, promotion and dissemination of information to current and potentially new clients and customers. The new technology, a driving force in the process of globalization and market integration, influences changes in the nature of the demand and supply of food in the local market. Institutions and individuals in Jamaica's agriculture needs to exploit the opportunities provided by the new technology to increase the competitiveness of its products and develop new market opportunities.

**Fair Trade and the greening of markets:** Increasingly, consumers are demanding products that are environmentally friendly, healthy and conform to accepted social norms. The new trade regulations of importing countries place great emphasis on human health and safety in the production and consumption of agricultural products. At the same time, the global trend in

sustainable development strategies is to place increasing emphasis on and respect for the environment and better use and management of natural resources. These issues and concerns offer an opportunity for Jamaica to manage diversification of agricultural production base in a manner which will conserve the environment while enhancing the beauty and sustainability of the rural environment.

#### ▪ **Internal Factors**

Jamaica's agricultural sector continues to be affected by several policy, institutional, management and infrastructural problems. The major ones are discussed below.

**Trends in Jamaica's farm sector:** As in all Caribbean countries, a long term trend in Jamaica has been the decline in the agricultural sector's contribution to overall economic development. This leads to declining employment in agriculture and resource productivity, increasing consumption of imported foods, continued high rural unemployment and aging of the farm population. These trends will likely continue but strategies are needed to increase farm productivity, contribute to increased food security and attract young people into farming.

**Reduced role of The State:** The private sector has a greater role to play in overall economic development as the public sector continues to decline in size and importance in the economy. As in most countries, Jamaica embarked on structural and economic reform programmes, which reduced the state's role in agriculture. This has been done through the reduction of subsidies, the deregulation of commodity boards, the divestment of state enterprises

and government-owned lands and the reduction in state support services, such as research and extension. While the private sector is expected to increase its role, the challenge to policy makers is to design appropriate strategies and provide the correct mix of incentives to increase private

sector participation in agriculture. This is needed particularly as a source of investment resources and the development of marketing channels.

IICA's efforts are designed to assist the sector in the process of modernization.



*Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica: Dr. Fenton Ferguson, Minister of State (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) and Dr. Richard Harrison, Chief Technical Officer (extreme right), on a visit to EMBRAPA's National Centre for Research in Cassava and Food Production, Bahia, Brazil, November 2000. This visit was facilitated by the IICA Offices in Jamaica and Brazil, under the CARILAC initiative*

## **1.1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY of 2001 REPORT**

### **Technical Cooperation Highlights**

During 2000, IICA Jamaica continued implementation of the Technical Cooperation Agenda, which was developed in 1998, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the agricultural sector.

The Agenda has as its objectives the following:

- To support better use and management of natural resources and the environment, particularly hillside lands and watershed areas.
- To contribute to rural development, food security, poverty alleviation and social stability.
- To improve middle management, technical capabilities and farmers' skills in the sector.
- To foster agribusiness development and private sector participation in agriculture.
- To contribute to effective dialogue and coordination between public and private sectors and regional and international agencies in agriculture.
- To strengthen linkages between Jamaica's agriculture sector and those of the wider Caribbean and Latin America.

The strategic areas for intervention as agreed in the Agenda are:

- i. To assist the Jamaican Agricultural Sector in its preparation for free trade and participation in the global economy.

- ii. To promote the sustainability of Hillside Farming Systems and Watershed Management.
- iii. To support agribusiness micro-enterprise with emphasis on the incorporation of women and youth in agricultural development.
- iv. To facilitate cooperation and interchange of technology and experiences between Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and Latin America.

In cooperation with the national authorities, regional and international representations in Jamaica, IICA Jamaica implemented a number of activities, which contributed to the development of the agricultural sector:

#### **i. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and hosting of 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture**

One of the major highlights of the year, was the celebration of 25 years of service to the agricultural sector of Jamaica. This was marked by the hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture (October 3-7). A report on IICA's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations is detailed in chapter 2.0

#### **ii. Agreement with the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery**

IICA and the Caribbean Regional Negotiation Machinery (RNM) signed a technical cooperation agreement to establish a strategic alliance aimed at assisting member states of the CARIFORUM to more effectively participate in the process of agricultural trade negotiations and particularly, in areas such as training and capacity building. The Agreement was signed by Sir Alister McIntyre, Chief Technical Adviser, RNM and Dr. Carlos E. Aquino, Director General of IICA at the

Prime Minister's Office, Kingston on May 22, 2000.

### **iii. Establishment of the Agribusiness Training Centre**

As part of its commitment to the advancement of agriculture in Jamaica, the IICA Office in Jamaica established an Agribusiness Training Centre at its office in Hope Gardens. The Centre was inaugurated on October 7, 2000: IICA Day. It will become operational in 2001, offering multimedia courses in the field of agribusiness, on CD-ROM and via the Internet, to clients in Jamaica.

### **iv. Ministers' study visit to Brazil**

IICA Jamaica facilitated the trip to Brazil of Dr. Fenton Ferguson, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG) and Dr. Richard Harrison, Chief Technical Director, MINAG, to view agricultural enterprise and technology in that country. During the period November 4-12, the officials visited the National Centre of Research in Cassava and Fruit Production in Bahia and Bahia's Enterprise of Agricultural Development (EBAD) among other agricultural institutions. On their return, they expressed great satisfaction with the organization of the tour and said that excellent opportunities exist for cooperation and interchange of technology between Brazil and Jamaica, especially in:

- Cassava processing
- Tropical fruit production and
- Equipment for small farm cultivation and agroindustry.

### **v. Agribusiness Awards 2000**

The Youth in Agribusiness Award 2000 was presented to Mr. Carl Duncan, Vice-President of Duncan's Mushrooms Ltd. at the Denbigh Agricultural Show, for his

pioneering efforts to produce and market mushrooms in Jamaica.

The Agribusiness Award 2000 was presented to the Jamaica Agro-Processors Association in recognition of their contribution to the development of the agro-processing industry in Jamaica. Dr. Juliette Newell of Tijule Company accepted the award on behalf of the Association.

### **vi. Globalization sensitization seminars**

The Agricultural Trade Specialist continued delivering WTO awareness seminars across the island in collaboration with personnel from the Ministry of Agriculture, the Agribusiness Council, the Jamaica Agricultural Society and the Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation. Significant focus was placed on youth as sessions were conducted at Knockalva and Elim Agricultural Schools, Ebony Park HEART Academy, Manning's High School and the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE).

### **vii. Forum on New and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Trade**

The 'Forum for the Discussion of New and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Trade' continued in 2000 with relevant issues being discussed. Among these were:

- The Future of Caribbean Agriculture.
- CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) - Implications for the Agricultural Sector of Jamaica.
- Needs Analysis of the Readiness of Jamaican Institutions for WTO-SPS.
- Financing Agricultural Production.
- Local Food Production for the Tourism Sector.



**viii. OAS grant for revolving credit loan fund**

Under the project: 'Support of Agribusiness Micro-enterprises with emphasis on the incorporation of Women and Youth in Agricultural Development', a grant of US\$90,000 was received from the OAS. This is being used to operate the Rural Women in Agriculture Informal Credit Project, to provide loans to women in the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers. This activity is carried out in collaboration with the OAS, RADA and the Integrated People's Cooperative Banking Network.

**ix. Mocho Goat Project**

The Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI) indicated their interest in supporting an IICA project, which seeks to promote goat production in the Mocho area of Clarendon. The JBI has indicated that a sum of J\$20 million over a 5-year period will be provided to support the project.

**x. Rio Cobre Goat and Vermicomposting Project**

Work continued on the development of the Goat Agroforestry Production System and a vermicomposting facility was established in the area, financed by the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ). In addition, technical assistance was rendered to the Rio Cobre Goat Breeders Association to improve local management capacity.

**xi. CPEC project proposals**

IICA completed the final draft of two project proposals, which were submitted to the Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development Program for Economic Competitiveness (CPEC):

- 'Strengthening the Extension Services in Jamaica by the Development of a Mobile Agricultural Research and Extension Service (AgriTech Express)' will be a collaborative effort with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA), the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) and the Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation (JADF).
- 'Strengthening the Business Capacity of Rural Women in Jamaica through the provision of Business and Computer Training'. This project seeks to improve the capacity of rural women in Jamaica to produce value-added products as well as increase the marketability and competitiveness of these products.

**xii. Technical assistance in library improvement**

The Information Specialist visited the Knockalva Agricultural School to assist in the improvement of the library there and lend advice and assistance for its development. IICA has made contact with local, regional and international sources of agricultural information in an effort to obtain book resources for the development of the school's library collection, which is critical at this stage. Technical assistance will be offered through IICA, with additional assistance to be garnered through library and information professionals of the Jamaica Agricultural Documentation and Information Network (JADIN).

The Office also presented a computer to the Agricultural Library at the College of Agriculture, Science & Education, as part of its efforts to strengthen agricultural libraries in Jamaica.



*Sharing a happy moment at the Alliance Meeting of Caribbean Ministers of Agriculture, held at the Jamaica Conference Centre, October 2000*

*(l. to r.) The Hon. Roger Clarke, Minister of Agriculture, Jamaica; Dr. Carlos Aquino, Director General of IICA; The Hon. Seymour Mullings, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Land & the Environment, Jamaica; The Hon. Anthony Wood, Minister of Agriculture, Barbados and Mr. Byron Blake, Deputy Secretary General, CARICOM Secretariat*

## **2.0 Celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IICA in Jamaica**

In 1975, Jamaica joined three other Caribbean nations - Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as a member of the *Inter-American Institute for Agricultural Sciences (IICA)*, an institution of the Inter-American system. It was the first Commonwealth Caribbean country to do so. The Institute became the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in 1980.

The IICA Office marked 25 years of committed service to the Jamaican Agricultural Sector by hosting the second Caribbean Week of Agriculture, which incorporated eight main events:

1. Agri-development Conference.
2. Meeting of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA).
3. Meeting of the Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE).
4. Meeting of the Ministers of Agriculture of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).



5. Meeting of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CNRWP).
6. Mini trade show on Tropical Fruit and Fruit Value-added Products from the Caribbean Region.
7. Meeting of Rural Development Specialists of IICA in the Caribbean.
8. Meeting of Ministers of Agriculture of the Caribbean Region.

The highlight of the week was the establishment of an alliance for sustainable agricultural development in the Caribbean. The Alliance is designed to:

- Reinforce the economic, social and environmental significance of agriculture at national and regional levels;
- Arrest the current trend of agriculture being sidelined and/or given less importance in the development of the national economy;
- Accelerate the integration of agriculture with the rest of the rural and national economy;
- Deepen the process of cooperation within the wider Caribbean and between the Caribbean and Latin America.

The first President of the Alliance is the Minister of Agriculture of Jamaica, The Honourable Roger Clarke.

A reception was held on IICA Day, October 7, at which six former Jamaican professional members of the Institute were honoured for their contribution to agricultural development in Jamaica:

1. Mrs. Hyacinth Chin Sue
2. Dr. Franz Alexander
3. Dr. Irving E. Johnson
4. Dr. Lyndon E. McLaren

5. Mr. Alexander C. McDonald
6. Mr. Vivian A. Chin

A document describing IICA's work during the 25 years was published. The document traces the history of the IICA Office in Jamaica from its establishment in 1975 to the present time. It includes messages from Dr. Carlos E. Aquino, Director General of IICA and The Honourable Roger Clarke, Minister of Agriculture, Jamaica. Dr. Aquino makes reference to the role of IICA's initiatives in Jamaica being designed not only to resolve the problems of agriculture unilaterally, but that the Institute seeks to cooperate with local, regional and international agencies in contributing to the overall economic development of Jamaica. Minister Clarke's message commends IICA for its work, which continues to assist in the development of sustainable agriculture in Jamaica. The body of the document highlights the major achievements of the Office, focusing on the projects carried out and how these have impacted on the agricultural and rural development of Jamaica. The document is available from the IICA Office in Jamaica. The text version of the document is accessible through the Electronic Library on our website:

[www.agroinfo.org/caribbean/iicacarc/jamaica](http://www.agroinfo.org/caribbean/iicacarc/jamaica)

Distinguished visitors to the office included Ministers of Agriculture from the Caribbean or their representatives who participated in 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture, viz.:

- The Hon. Roger Clarke, Minister of Agriculture, Jamaica
- The Hon. Anthony Wood, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Barbados

- The Hon. Cassius Elias, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, St. Lucia
- The Hon. Cedric Liburd, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Housing, St. Kitts & Nevis
- The Hon. Jeremiah Scott, Minister of Agriculture and Labour, St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- The Hon. Theresa Moxey-Ingraham, Minister of Commerce, Agriculture & Industry, Bahamas
- Senator Rupert Sterling, Antigua and Barbuda
- Dr. Swalley Mohammed, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Trinidad & Tobago
- Dr. Michael Tewes of the Belize Agricultural Health Association (BAHA).



*Honourable Ministers of the Caribbean and other officials at a session of the Alliance Meeting of Caribbean Ministers of Agriculture, held at the Jamaica Conference Centre, October 6, 2000, during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture.*



*(l. to r.) Dr. Carlos Aquino, Director General of IICA, Sir Alistair McIntyre, Chief Technical Advisor, Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM) and Dr. the Hon. Paul Robertson, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica at the signing of the Agreement between IICA and the RNM at the Office of the Prime Minister in Kingston, Jamaica, May 22, 2000.*

### **3.0 IICA and the RNM to cooperate on agricultural trade negotiations**

The IICA Office in Jamaica facilitated the signing of an agreement between IICA and the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (RNM). This technical cooperation agreement establishes a strategic alliance aimed at assisting the Member States of CARIFORUM to effectively participate in the process of agricultural trade negotiations and particularly in areas such as training and capacity building.

The agreement will:

- Strengthen the capacity of the two institutions and expand their technical cooperation programmes in the

Caribbean by forming an inter-institutional alliance to enhance the efficient use of the resources, capabilities and experiences of both institutions.

- Establish a framework and a legal basis for future specific Operative Agreements or contracts, which arise from shared concerns or which respond to proposals for cooperation by either party.
- Foster cooperation and collaboration between the RNM and the agricultural negotiating sub-groups of other countries and regional groupings of the Hemisphere for the purpose of facilitating information exchange, training, consensus building and as appropriate coordinated actions in areas pertaining to agricultural trade policy and agricultural negotiations.



*Officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Jamaica at the Forum on the Future of Caribbean Agriculture. (l. to r.) Mr. Aaron Parke, Permanent Secretary; the Hon. Roger Clarke, Minister and Dr. the Hon. Fenton Ferguson, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture.*

#### **4.0 Assisting the Jamaican Agricultural Sector in its preparation for Free Trade and participation in the Global Economy.**

This strategic area seeks to:

- Strengthen the institutional framework for the development of trade policy.
- Assist in the dissemination of information about the on-going negotiations with the WTO, FTAA 2005 and the CARICOM Single Market and Economy.
- Improve the capacity of public and private institutions to conform with the requirements of the WTO and related Agreements, especially the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Regulations.

- Contribute to the development of a National Policy on Agriculture.

The seven areas targeted for the year 2000 were:

1. Continue presentation of the National Training Course on Globalization and production of a Training Manual on Globalization and the Agricultural Sector.
2. Finalize the national pest list for Jamaica and the study of readiness of Jamaican institutions for compliance with WTO/SPS.
3. Develop information systems to support competitiveness studies and implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary systems.

4. Carry out analyses of competitiveness of Jamaican agricultural products with a view to improving competitiveness.
5. Cooperate in the formulation and development of a policy framework for the agricultural sector.
6. Continue the 'Forum for the Discussion of New and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Trade'.
7. Evaluate the impact of trade liberalization on the agricultural sector.

### **Introduction**

The new round of negotiations with the World Trade Organization (WTO) and other related multi – lateral and regional trading groups will have a deep and pervasive impact on the economy and especially on the rural sector. The trade project seeks to support efforts to transform the agricultural sector and better prepare it for participation in the rapidly globalizing economy.

For 2000, the following activities were carried out in this area:

### **National Training Course on Globalization**

A national training course on globalization has been established to increase the level of awareness of the new trading regulations among the farming and agro-processing community. The training course is intended to sensitize farmers, agro-processors and extension officers to the broad principles, market forces and opportunities that fuel and result from the process of globalization. Additionally, the course solicits the views of participants as to the possible desirable outcomes in the WTO and FTAA negotiations.

The course was extensively reviewed in 2000 and the scope expanded to include students of Agricultural, High and Comprehensive High Schools that offer agriculture as a subject. Presentations were also made to commodity groups as well as the Boards of Directors of the Jamaica Agricultural Society and the Agri-Business Council of Jamaica.

### **The Forum on New and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Trade**

Jamaica is simultaneously engaged in negotiations with the World Trade Organization, the Free Trade Area of the Americas and with its CARICOM neighbours for the establishment of a Single Market and Economy. The Forum allows for information on new developments that may affect the production and trade in agricultural products to be quickly communicated to decision-makers. The Forum also provides for the exchange of information, experiences and ideas between farmers, agro-processors and the Government and so assist in the development of a cohesive approach to issues that affect the sector. During 2000, the following fora were organized:

#### **1. Forum on the Future of Caribbean Agriculture**

Addressed by Dr. H. Arlington Chesney, Director, Caribbean Regional Centre and IICA Representative in Trinidad and Tobago. Two major recommendations emerged:

- National Accounts. The Forum suggested that present systems of classification and collection of National Accounting data severely underrepresent

the contribution of the agricultural sector to GDP and weaken the case for support to the sector.

- **National Agricultural Policy.** The Forum agreed on the need for a clear and comprehensive statement of policy, to give direction to the sector.

## **2. Forum on the CARICOM Single Market and Economy: Implications for the Agricultural Sector of Jamaica**

Addressed by Ms. Desiree Field-Ridley, Advisor to the Caribbean Community on the Single Market and Economy. The discussion was joined by Mr. John Browman, Advisor on Agriculture, CARICOM Secretariat. This Forum was largely educational, with participants focusing on obtaining information from the two staff members of the CARICOM Secretariat regarding the details of the new Protocols to be agreed and which will form the basis of the revisions to the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

## **3. Forum on a Needs Analysis of the Readiness of Jamaican Institutions to Comply with Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreements of the World Trade Organization**

The results of a study commissioned by IICA Jamaica and conducted by Dr Janice Reid were presented. An Executive Summary of the study was circulated and formed the basis of a lively discussion, which agreed on the need for:

- The active participation of the private and public sector groups in the deliberations of the various WTO/SPS Committees.

- A coordinated programme to ensure that legislation is enacted to enable enforcement.
- A programme of "traceability" of produce.

## **4. Forum on Financing Agricultural Production**

This took the form of a panel discussion led by Mrs. Brenda Cuthbert, Group Marketing Manager, National Commercial Bank; Ms. Charmaine Simm, Director – Projects, Industry, Tourism, Development Bank of Jamaica and Mr. Ashton Hewitt, Agri-Service Manager, Bank of Nova Scotia. The Forum agreed on the need for the financial institutions to invest in the sector themselves by providing education and training to their actual and potential borrowers. Participants called for a survey to be conducted to identify the primary causes of delinquency in agricultural loans.

## **5. Forum on Linking Agriculture and Tourism**

The Forum was addressed by Mr. Carlos Aquino Jr., General Manager, Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort; Mr. Wills Green, Resident Manager, Sandals Ocho Rios; Mrs. Janet Lawrence, Marketing Manager, RADA and Ms. Selena Tapper, Environmental Foundation of Jamaica. The Forum dealt at length with the present inadequate flow of information between farmers and hoteliers. In addition, the Forum identified the need for:

- A study of the food requirements of the tourism sector.
- Increased production of food, which conforms with the requirements of the



tourism sector and with regularity of supply and quality.

- Improved commitment by hoteliers to support local agriculture.

### **Agricultural Health and Food Safety Issues**

In May, a National Seminar on 'The WTO Agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Agreements' was co-sponsored and co-organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, The Ministry of Agriculture and IICA Jamaica, with technical assistance from the World Trade Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Caribbean Regional Centre of IICA. Immediately following the National Seminar and as a follow up to same, there was a meeting of public sector officials on 'Implementation of the WTO Agreement on SPS Measures' to assess the level of Jamaica's compliance and to chart a way forward.

### **Competitiveness of Agricultural Production**

- In June, July and August the IICA Jamaica hosted and supervised Ms. Rosalee Stephens of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of the West Indies. Ms. Stephens, a candidate for the M.Sc. in Agricultural Diversification (M.Sc.AD), conducted an analysis of the level of competitiveness of yam production for export. The initial investigations suggested a further need to examine the yam sub-sector and its role in the rural economy, beyond strict concerns of competitiveness.
- A project, 'Strengthening the Extension Services in Jamaica by the Development of a Mobile Agricultural Research and Extension Service (AgriTech Express)', aimed at developing the competitiveness of Jamaican farmers, has been produced and presented to the Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development Programme for Economic Competitiveness (CPEC).



*(l. to r.) Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, IICA Representative in Jamaica discusses issues with Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney, Director of the Caribbean Regional Centre of IICA and Representative in Trinidad and Tobago, who presented at the Forum on the Future of Caribbean Agriculture.*



*Mr. Aaron Parke, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, presents the Youth in Agribusiness Award 2000 to Mr. Carl Duncan, Vice-President, Duncan's Mushrooms, at the Denbigh Agricultural Show*

## **5.0 Supporting agribusiness micro-enterprises with emphasis on participation of youth and women in agricultural development**

This strategic area seeks to:

- Develop information support services and training programmes for agricultural microenterprises;
- Promote profit oriented activities among rural women and youth;
- Identify opportunities for rural agro industry and small agribusiness development in Jamaica.

The six areas targeted for the year 2000 were:

1. Support to the Network of Rural Women.
2. Establishment of Revolving Credit Fund in Cooperation with the OAS.
3. Implementation of Training Programme in Business Management and Preparation of Business Plans.
4. Selection of Agribusiness Entrepreneurs for Agribusiness Award.
5. Support the Youth in Agriculture School Garden Programme.
6. Support Yam Production and Post Harvest investigations.



During the year, the planned programme of activity focused mainly on the support for agribusinesses and micro-enterprises and placed specific emphasis on the support to the Network of Rural Women Producers and the Agribusiness Awards.

Activities of the unit were reduced during the period September through December, owing to the resignation of the Rural Development Specialist. A short term Consultant was hired to continue activities mainly on the OAS informal credit project and the development of the Rural Women Network.

### **The Network of Rural Women producers and the OAS Informal Credit Project**

External fund raising, which was seen as critical to the sustainable development of the Network, was realized with the award from the OAS of a grant of US\$ 90,000. An extraordinary meeting of the Council was convened to facilitate the establishment of the Rural Women in Agriculture Informal Credit Project and to expedite the granting of loans. The OAS facilitated the opening of an account for the Rural Women Informal Credit Project.

The late disbursement of the fund from the OAS coupled with the lack of an agreement with RADA for an effective management regime for the grant fund resulted in relatively low level of activity on the granting of loans.

Later in the year, a relationship was established with the Integrated People's Cooperative Bank Network (PC Bank) and an agreement was signed with the Clarendon branch of the bank for the management of the fund. This coupled with the

memorandum of understanding, which has been signed with RADA, should result in increased levels of activity and facilitate the effective disbursement to and the repayment of funds by beneficiaries.

### **The Credit Committee**

A Credit Committee comprising members of the national council and representative of the PC bank was established to guide the management of the fund. Its primary role is to review applications and other necessary supporting documents submitted towards the granting of loans. The committee developed standard information brochures, application forms, a model business plan, a step-by-step procedural manual and loan agreement forms to guide its operations in the management of the fund.

### **Training in Business Management**

A two-day workshop in Leadership and Business Management Skills was held at the Farmers Training Center, Twickenham Park, March 22-23. The institutions supporting the workshop were IICA, RADA and National Development Foundation of Jamaica (NDFJ).

The objective of the workshop was to equip the rural women with the knowledge of preparing their business plans. Twenty women representing the groups in the Network participated. Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, IICA Representative in Jamaica and Mrs. Joan Neil, OAS Representative in Jamaica attended an awards ceremony at the close of the workshop. Both presented the certificates of participation.

## **The Agribusiness Awards**

The annual awards to promote entrepreneurship, innovation and employment in the agribusiness sector were again presented to outstanding entrepreneurs in the field.

This year the Youth in Agribusiness Award 2000 was presented to Mr. Carl Duncan, Vice President of Duncan's Mushrooms Limited for his pioneering efforts to produce and market mushrooms in Jamaica. The award will enable the Duncans' to widen their scope by visiting other mushroom growing establishments outside Jamaica and final arrangements have been made for Mr. Duncan to visit establishments in Florida.

The year 2000 Agribusiness Award went to the Jamaica Agro-processors Association in recognition of their contribution to the development of the agro-processing industry in Jamaica. Dr. Juliette Newell of Tijule Co. Ltd. and President of the Association received the award at the Denbigh Agricultural Show.

## **Computers from Agrifuture**

Nine women's enterprises received computers from IICA Jamaica. The Rural Development Specialist distributed the computers based on a need expressed by the women at the launching of the Network of Rural Women Producers in May 1999. The computers, donated by the AgriFuture Foundation, will be linked to the Internet wherever possible, so that the women may have access to market information and technologies to improve the competitiveness of their products.

Enterprises that benefited from the gift are Reach Chip Factory, Sue's Cottage Industry, Flower Hill Bammies, Triumph, Duckensfield, Faith's Pen, Mountain Pass, Knockalva and Accompong Women's Group. The groups are involved in the production of fruit juices, bammies, tamarind balls, herbal teas, breadfruit, dasheen, banana and plantain chips.

The computers were placed in Primary and All-Age schools in each of the respective areas, so that children can also get exposure to computers.

## **Youth in Agriculture School Garden Programme**

IICA continued to support the development and activities of the National Youth in Agriculture School Gardens Programme and offered financial assistance to the programme in 2000.

## **Support Yam production and post harvest investigations**

In January of 2000, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) examined a sample of fresh yams shipped from Jamaica. Owing to the presence of an unregistered pesticide (*Imazalil*) that had been used on the yams, the US consequently placed a ban on the entry of yams into the US market. A Jamaican National Yam Task Force was then established to arrive at a national solution to the pesticide residue problems affecting the exportation of yam to the USA. The Rural Development Specialist was invited to serve on this National Yam Task Force. As part of the activities of the Task Force, the Rural Development Specialist and IICA facilitated the visit of Dr. Raymond McGuire, Research Plant Pathologist with

the USDA, in September. The visit was made in collaboration with the Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action (FAVA/CA). Dr. McGuire was invited to assist with a decay problem on yams (*Dioscorea cayanensis*). Dr. McGuire's proposed a three-step solution to the problem:

- Short-term: the use of sodium-o-phenylphenate (SOPP) or calcium hypochlorite for decay control of the yams;
- Medium-term: 1. the use of additional chemicals as alternatives for decay control: a project which can be handled by graduate students in the Department of Biotechnology and Biological Sciences at UWI;  
2. the evaluation of other fungicides with a view to obtaining registration of those products for minor use in the US. This could be done with cooperation from a state university in the US and/or the USDA;
- Long-term: 1. The application of the minisett technology to yam production in Jamaica and 2. The gradual

improvement of the crop through tissue culture work to eliminate viruses and improve quality.

#### Other Activities

- The Unit participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of IICA in Jamaica and provided support for the visit of the members of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CNRWP) to their Annual General Meeting and product exhibition. The AGM was held at the Hilton, Kingston during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture activities, October 3-7, 2000.
- The Consultant participated in the ceremony of recognition for the farmers who participated in the development training on the Sandals/RADA/IICA small farmers project.



*Ms. Olga Turner, member of the Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers showing off her products during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture*



*(l. to r.) Mr. Zithroy Annikie, Watershed Management Specialist, IICA, explaining the Goat Agroforestry Production System (GAPS) to Ambassador Madge Barrett, Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade (MFAFT); Vivia Betton, Director Bilateral Relations, MFAFT and Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, IICA Representative in Jamaica.*

## **6.0 Promotion of the sustainability of hillside farming systems and watershed management**

This strategic area seeks to:

- Consolidate and expand IICA's present work in other critical watershed areas;
- Access and adapt environmentally friendly technology from other Caribbean and Latin American countries;
- Facilitate linkages with PROCICARIBE and technology institutions in Latin America through CARILAC;

- Promote a community-based approach to natural resource use;
- Promote agroforestry programmes;
- Promote workshops and seminars for small farmers on new technologies for production and conservation of the environment.

The seven areas targeted for the year 2000 were to:

1. Support the development of economic environmental and social activities in the Rio Cobre Watershed area in cooperation with the national agencies.
2. Support the newly formed Rio Cobre Goat Breeders Association.

3. Provide training and establish demonstration plots in organic farming.
4. Develop a proposal for research and utilization of organic pesticides from local plants.
5. Expand vermiculture technology for the production of organic fertilizer.
6. Continue development of the Goat Agroforestry Production system in the area.
7. Provide training in soil conservation practices necessary for conservation of the watershed.

The Window of Sustainability (WS) Project has served as a catalyst for the development of low cost, environmentally friendly and sustainable agricultural technologies in the Rio Cobre area and the island of Jamaica as a whole. The project began in 1997 and ended in October of 2000. Here follows a summary of the achievements of the project over the period. The full final report is available at the Electronic Library on our website:

[www.agroinfo.org/caribbean/iicacarc/jamaica](http://www.agroinfo.org/caribbean/iicacarc/jamaica)

The project can be used as a model for development in other watersheds in Jamaica and other countries. The WS has shown how a relatively small amount of money, combined with collaborative efforts of stakeholders, can make a significant impact on a rural community. While each application of this model will differ due to local variables (economic opportunities, social situations, the political landscape, cultural history, etc.), the fundamental element for success is the collaborative, participatory approach.

During the life of the project the following activities were carried out:

### **Institutional Strengthening**

The Jamaican institutions have played a critical role in the execution of the WS project by coordinating activities that increase the level of environmental awareness. The major areas of cooperation are joint training activities, support of micro-projects, implementation of projects, preparation of publications, research studies, financial support to the project and any other mutually agreed area.

### **Strengthening of Local Organizations**

The Local Management Committee (LMC) was the primary community based farmer organization of the project area. Farmers involved with the LMC received training in farm management, micro-project development and implementation and environmental awareness. Members of the LMC:

- Formed four rural women's groups to increase the participation of women in the projects in the area.
- Formed the Rio Cobre Goat Breeders Association (RCGBA) to specifically target goat production.

### **Transfer of technology**

The most popular technology introduced was the Goat Agroforestry Production System (GAPS). GAPS is a semi-intensive goat production system made up of three components: a goat house, a fodder bank and a vermicomposting bin. IICA-GTZ developed a GAPS manual that is widely used by extension officers and interested goat producers on the island. Twenty GAPS have been constructed across the island as a direct result of the WS. The WS has promoted the use of vermicomposting

technology across the island. Eleven schools and over 30 local 4-H clubs have received this technology in the form of the Red California Earthworm *Esenia foetida* as well as other educational materials.

### **Development of Micro-projects**

The Rio Cobre Goat and vermicomposting Project was created by the RCGBA and funded at a level of J\$2.1 million by EFJ. This project was designed to address some of the major environmental problems facing the stakeholders of the Rio Cobre:

- Introduction of environmentally friendly and economically efficient agricultural practices;
- Creation of a sustainable plan to improve the environmental, social and economic conditions in the Rio Cobre watershed;
- Education of local farmers with respect to the impact of agriculture on the health of the watershed;
- Utilization of polluting farm and agro-industry waste in the creation of a marketable organic fertilizer.

### **Evaluation of the project**

In September, the project was evaluated by a team consisting of Dr. Martin Carnap of the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) and Dr. Dowlat Budrham of the Centre for Investment Projects and Programmes (CEPPI) at IICA Headquarters. These investigations indicated that the WS model in the Rio Cobre Watershed area has:

- brought together several national agencies to work together in an effective, collaborative network on hillside agriculture in Jamaica;
- been an important vehicle for training and institutional capacity building in the

area and for increasing awareness on environmental issues;

- been an important instrument in watershed management and small farmer participation and for rural development;
- introduced a successful enterprise for goat rearing in the form of the Goat Agroforestry Production Systems (GAPS), which has also generated interest among farmers throughout the country as well as in other Caribbean countries;
- contributed significantly to the formation and strengthening of the Rio Cobre Goat Breeders Association (RCGBA);
- contributed to the establishment of a vermicomposting processing plant, which will generate employment and boost the economy of the area.

The evaluation also indicated that more of a business approach is needed for the future, "to contribute to a stronger organizational framework and the development of processing and marketing activities."

The Rio Cobre Window of Sustainability Project has been a collaborative effort of:

- IICA
- GTZ
- Natural Resource Conservation Authority (NRCA)
- RADA
- Forestry Department
- Research and Development Division, Ministry of Agriculture (R&DD)
- Water Resource Authority (WRA)
- Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)
- United States Peace Corps
- Coffee Industry Board (CIB)
- Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI)





*(l. to r.) Mr. Lanlie Malcolm of the Jamaica Agricultural Society accepts his ticket from Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, IICA Representative in Jamaica. Mr. Malcolm attended a Dairy Herd Management Training Workshop in the U.S.A in September-October, under the FAS/USDA Cochran Fellowship Program. This initiative was facilitated by IICA Jamaica under CARILAC.*

## **7.0 Promotion of technical cooperation between Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and Latin America**

This strategic area seeks to:

- Provide opportunities for professionals from the wider Caribbean and Latin America to visit Jamaica and provide relevant technology and information;
- Provide a flow of relevant information and technologies from the wider Caribbean and Latin America to Jamaica;
- Provide opportunities for Jamaican nationals to visit the wider Caribbean

and Latin American countries to obtain relevant technology and information.

In 2000, the office facilitated visits for thirteen Jamaican professionals to attend seminars, courses or study tours abroad, as well as the provision of technical assistance from Latin American professionals.

### **Jamaicans who participated in seminars, courses and study tours abroad**

- i. Dr. Winston McCalla was contracted by the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Programme to prepare model animal quarantine legislation for CARICOM countries. Dr. McCalla travelled to Trinidad & Tobago to present his draft legislation at a

- meeting of the Caribbean Poultry Association on 'The Impact of Changes in Animal Health, Food Safety and Food Standards on the Caribbean Poultry Industry', March 15-16.
- ii. Dr. Richard Harrison, Chief Technical Director of the Ministry of Agriculture, travelled to New Orleans, USA, to participate in an IDB Conference on Development of Rural Economy and Poverty Reduction for Latin America and the Caribbean, March 24. Dr. Harrison represented Jamaica at the Annual Assembly of Governors of IDB/IICA.
  - iii. Mr. Alford Williams of the Coffee Industry Board attended a seminar on the Coffee Berry Borer in Mississippi, USA, May 1-6. The seminar was part of PROMECAFE's Integrated Management of the Borer (IMB) Project.
  - iv. Ms. Michelle Sherwood, Entomologist at the Bodles Research Station attended a Technical Meeting and Workshop on Papaya Mealy Bug (*Paracoccus marginatus*) in St. Kitts, July 24. At the workshop, Ms. Sherwood made a presentation on the status of plant protection in Jamaica.
  - v. Mr. Naim Khan, Consultant, participated as a resource person in a HACCP Training Workshop in St. Lucia, July 19-22.
  - vi. Mr. Franklyn Brown a farmer from the Rio Cobre Goat Breeders Association participated in the Global Dialogue Workshop Hanover, Germany, August 13-14. Mr. Brown took part in the presentation of the Window of Sustainability model of the Rio Cobre Watershed, in the Go-Basic Presentation of projects, which featured different forms of rural living and innovative technologies as practical solutions to the problems of rural development.
  - vii. Dr. Joseph Lindsay, Director, Bodles Research Station participated in the Second Meeting of The Regional Forum on Agricultural Research and Technology Development (FORAGRO), which was held in Mexico, September 6-8, under the theme: *Agriculture with Knowledge*. The objective of the meeting was to "discuss agriculture and the rural milieu as a strategic aspect of development in the Americas and, in this context, to incorporate knowledge, science and technology within a framework of equity and natural resources sustainability, in order to ensure the welfare of the population".
  - viii. Mr. Lanlie Malcolm of the Jamaica Agricultural Society attended a Dairy Herd Management Training Workshop in the USA, September 28 - October 1, under the FAS/USDA Cochran Fellowship Program. The 3-week programme carried Mr. Malcolm to the University of Wisconsin and California Polytechnic State University, where he obtained certification for the training, designed to increase technical capabilities through familiarizing participants with current practices.
  - ix. Dr. Fenton Ferguson, Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Dr. Richard Harrison participated in a study tour of Brazil under the CARILAC Agreement, November 4-12. During the period, the officials visited the National Centre of Research in Cassava and Fruit Production in Bahia and Bahia's Enterprise of Agricultural Development (EBAD)



among other agricultural institutions. The Ministers identified the following as opportunities for cooperation and interchange of technology between Brazil and Jamaica:

- Cassava processing
  - Tropical fruit production and
  - Equipment for small far cultivation and agroindustry.
- x. Mr. David Williamson and Mr. Venton Bucknor of RADA and Mr. Ricky Holness of CASE attended a Regional Workshop on Good Agricultural Practices for Fruits and Vegetables in Trinidad, December 4-8. The workshop, facilitated by IICA, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN), had as its main objective to train national personnel, including government extension officers and university and research institute personnel in improving the quality and safety of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- xi. Mrs. Juliet Duncan of Duncan's Mushrooms, wife of the Youth in

Agribusiness Award recipient Carl Duncan, traveled to Florida to observe mushroom production there, as an approach to improving their production of mushrooms in Jamaica.

#### **Technical assistance from Latin American professionals**

- xii. Srs. Armando Garcia and Raúl Muñoz of PROMECAFÉ/ANACAFÉ visited Jamaica to provide technical cooperation to the Coffee Industry Board (CIB) in the biological control of the Coffee Berry Borer, March 20-25. The visit was part of a two-phase project on the integrated management of the coffee berry borer that is being implemented in Jamaica. As part of the activities of that visit, an Integrated Management of the Borer (IMB) seminar for technical persons and producers was held. Actions of the CIB and CARDI were identified and approval of the farmers was obtained for these actions.



*IICA staff in the Agribusiness Training Centre at the IICA Office in Jamaica*

## **8.0 Provision of information services**

This area seeks to:

- Establish a programme on agricultural information and documentation to provide bibliographic, electronic and market information to the sector;
- Promote wider use of the Internet to access and disseminate information;
- Facilitate linkages to AGROINFO and network with Latin American and Caribbean institutions;
- Provide training opportunities in information technologies both at the professional and farmer levels;

- Support information needs in specific areas of the technical agenda of the Office;
- Promote training in the critical areas of the technical agenda of the Office.

The seven areas targeted for the year 2000 were:

1. Maintenance and updating of database of information resources available at the IICA Office in Jamaica.
2. Creating and maintaining a website for IICA Jamaica on Agroinfo.
3. Information services: provision of documentation and access to electronic information (on-site) available to all clients.

4. Coordination of workshops and seminars in Information Management & Technologies for library personnel (within the Network) and clients.
5. Preparation of training materials in the above events.
6. Functioning as the Secretariat for the Network of Agricultural Information and Documentation Units in Jamaica.
7. Developing and delivering network products and services to clients.

In 2000, the following activities were carried out in this area:

#### **The database**

During the year, the Information Centre satisfied over 100 information requests from inside and outside the Office. The library database, remained the basis of many of the searches for documentation and continued to grow, incorporating the collection of foreign language material, viz. Spanish, French and Portuguese.

#### **IICA Jamaica website**

The IICA Jamaica website was up and running from March of 2000 and grew steadily over the year. The webpage incorporates information about IICA Jamaica, its programmes and projects, with links to other useful sites on the web. Included is an important link to Agri2000, a metabase of bibliographic databases of agricultural institutions throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. The IICA Jamaica library database is also accessible via Agri2000 on the SIDALC website ([www.sidalc.net](http://www.sidalc.net)). The webpage also boasts a growing Electronic Library of recent IICA Jamaica documents. The site can be found on the Agroinfo Americas site at

[www.agroinfo.org/caribbean/iicacarc/jamaica](http://www.agroinfo.org/caribbean/iicacarc/jamaica)

As the website continues to grow in the coming year, it should make a significant contribution to IICA's role as a provider of information, both locally and globally.

The Internet remained a major source of information used both in the office and for clients and the Information Centre.

#### **Electronic services**

In April, the Information Centre launched a "Publications and Electronics Shop", which offers electronic services: photocopying, scanning and Internet use, to bonafide clients. The sale of IICA Jamaica publications and photocopying services proved profitable.

#### **Publications**

The Information Centre assisted with the preparation of publications, including the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary document: 'IICA in Jamaica: 25 Years of Service to the Agricultural Sector', by Dr. Lyndon E. McLaren and the study by Consultant Dr. Janice Reid: 'The Readiness of Jamaican Institutions for WTO SPS'. The Centre also continued to be instrumental in the publicity of the Office, with regard to the preparation of press releases, brochures and other promotional material.

#### **Networking**

IICA continued its collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, in the management of the Jamaica Agricultural Documentation and Information network (JADIN). In June, the Information Specialist, who is also the SIDALC Coordinator for Jamaica, attended

a workshop for Coordinators of SIDALC at IICA Headquarters in Costa Rica. Among the main topics discussed, was the development of the SIDALC website and the participation therein of the agricultural information units in each country. Consequently, six libraries from the Jamaica network are present on SIDALC's Electronic Directory of Libraries: Ministry of Agriculture (MINAG), College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE), Scientific Research Council (SRC), UWI Science Library, Ebony Park HEART Academy and IICA. Other network activities included:

- **Training**

In July, a training course in the use of CDS/ISIS for Windows was held at the IICA Office in Jamaica. Participants from the MINAG Library, the SRC Documentation Centre, the Library at HEART Ebony Park Academy and the

Library at CASE, all benefited from this training event.

- **Technical Assistance**

IICA began to assist Knockalva Agricultural School with the development of their library. The service was also extended to other members of JADIN to assist, as a network activity.

A meeting was held in December to discuss future directions and plans for 2001.

### **Agribusiness Training Centre (ATC)**

The Information Centre provided technical support for the establishment of the Agribusiness Training Centre. The Centre will offer multimedia instruction in Agribusiness, via CD-ROM and the Internet. It is equipped to provide training to a maximum of twelve persons at one time. Courses will begin in 2001.



*Mr. Hopeton Fraser, Acting President of CASE (middle) and Dr. Cheslton W.D. Brathwaite, IICA Representative in Jamaica (right), assist a student on the computer in the Agriculture Library at CASE. IICA presented the Library with a computer to assist with management of their information resources.*



*(l. to. R.) Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, IICA Representative in Jamaica presenting a collection of documents to Mr. Jaime Acosta Bernal and Mr. Franco Hernandez from the Internal Audit Division IICA Headquarters, San José, Costa Rica*

## **9.0 Technical support from the Caribbean Regional Centre, IICA Headquarters and other IICA Offices**

The IICA Office in Jamaica continued in 2000 to receive valuable assistance from the Caribbean Regional Centre in Trinidad and Tobago, other offices in the Caribbean, IICA Headquarters and the network of IICA officials in the hemisphere. Among the visitors/those who contributed to the office were:

1. The Director General, Dr. Carlos E. Aquino, who participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations along with the Minister of

Agriculture, the Honourable Roger Clarke, opened the Agribusiness Training Centre.

2. Dr. Arlington Chesney, Director of the Caribbean Regional Centre, who presented a forum on 'The Future of Caribbean Agriculture' and directed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations.
3. Dr. François Dagenais, IICA Representative in Barbados who contributed to the opening of the Agribusiness Training Centre.
4. Drs. Martin Carnap and Dowlat Budrham of the German Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) and the Centre for Investment Projects and Programmes (CEPPI) evaluated the Rio Cobre project.

5. **Ms. Judith Francis, Fruit Specialist of the Caribbean Regional Centre who organized and implemented a workshop on Tropical Fruit Propagation, Nursery and Orchard Management.**
6. **Dr. Sandra Vokaty, Coordinator, Agricultural Health in the Caribbean, presented the 'Status of WTO/SPS Compliance in CARIFORUM Countries' at the national seminar on 'WTO Agreement of SPS Measures'.**
7. **Dr. Armando Reyes, Executive Director, Agrifuture Foundation, who visited and contributed computers for the project on Rural Women.**

**Other professionals who visited and contributed to the office were Dr. Lizardo de las Casas, Mr. Michael Thibault, Mr. José Lois, Mr. Jaime Acosta and Mr. Franco**

**Hernandez (Internal Audit), Mr. Ramón González (Human Resources) of IICA Headquarters; Dr. Rafael Marte, IICA Representative in the Dominican Republic; Dr. Armando Reyes, Agrifuture Foundation, Washington, D.C.; Mr. Armando Garcia and Mr. Raul Muñoz, PROMECAFÉ;**

**Several professionals from the Caribbean Regional Centre participated and contributed to the Caribbean Week of Agriculture. These included:**

**Dr. Patrick Antoine, Ms. Marlene Antoine, Ms. Susana Dancourt, Ms. Diane Francis, Ms. Judith Francis and Ms. Veronica Simon.**

**The Office hosted several other participants from various countries and institutions who participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture.**



*Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, IICA Representative in Jamaica chatting with Mr. Ramón González, Deputy Director Human Resources, IICA HQ on his visit to the Office in Jamaica in November 2000*





*Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the College of Agriculture, Science & Education. (l. to r.) Mr. Hopeton Fraser, Actg. Principal, CASE; Dr. Chelston Brathwaite, IICA Representative in Jamaica and Dr. Trevor Dewdney, Chairman, CASE.*

## 10.0

### Inter-Agency Cooperation

During 2000, the IICA office in Jamaica continued to foster cooperation with national, regional and international agencies in Jamaica. The Representative and staff participated in a number of activities of inter-institutional cooperation. The more significant of these are:

#### Signing Memoranda of Understanding and agreements

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the College of Agriculture, Science and Education (CASE).

The overall purpose of cooperation between IICA and CASE is to support development of sustainable agriculture in Jamaica. This will be achieved through joint undertakings in research and outreach, training and enhancement of international programmes in all aspects of sustainable agricultural development.

During 2000, IICA provided the library at CASE with a computer to upgrade the management of their information resources; sponsored the participation of Mr. Ricky Holness in a course in Good Agricultural Practices, held in Trinidad and Tobago and awarded Miss Dale McPherson of Elim Agricultural School, a scholarship to pursue

studies for the Associate Degree in Agriculture at CASE.

▪ Cooperation with the OAS

Negotiations between IICA and the OAS on ways to compliment the Government's efforts to improve the socio-economic status of women and their families, resulted in the initiation of the 'Rural Women in Agriculture: Informal Credit Project' in May 2000.

It aims to develop a credit programme that is sensitive to the special circumstances of women using experiences in countries such as Honduras with the Solidarity Programme and Haiti's Kredifam Project. Priority will be given to loans with greatest potential to generate additional income and employment.

▪ Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA).

IICA and RADA signed a cooperation agreement to facilitate implementation of this credit facility. The expertise and competence of the two institutions will be combined in the provision of the technical and logistic support needed for project implementation.

**Participation in meetings, seminars and workshops**

- Participated in the Donor/Lenders Committee meeting on Environmental Issues in Jamaica, organized by the Canadian High Commission.
- Participated in the Trade Seminar on 'Trade Negotiations after Seattle'

organized by the Regional Negotiating Machinery.

- Participated in a seminar on 'Integrated Pest Management' organized by the Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation in Darliston, Western Jamaica.
- Participated in the Coffee Industry Board seminar on Biological Control of Coffee Berry Borer.
- Participated in the inauguration of the Sam Motta Goat Improvement Centre at Knockpatrick.
- Participated in the launch of the Forestry Action Plan prepared by the Forestry Division.
- Held discussions with JEA re: project funding under CARTF.
- Met with RADA officials to discuss the Mobile Agricultural Extension Services Facility as support for RADA's work.
- The Representative participated in the meeting of the Ontario Institute of Agrologists in Ontario, Canada, from April 12-15, 2000 and made a presentation on 'The Potential Contribution of International Strategic Alliances in Addressing Food Safety and Security Problems in the Caribbean'.
- Met with CARDI Review Team and made an input to the review process from an IICA Jamaica perspective.
- Met with Dr. Claudia Harvey, Director of UNESCO in Jamaica and Mr. Arsenio Jimenez, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Dominican Republic, re potential areas of cooperation.
- Attended the FAO workshop on 'An Approach to Food Security' at the Jamaica Conference Centre.
- Attended the meeting at the JAS to launch Farmers' Month.
- Participated in the WTO/SPS Seminar organized by the Ministry of Foreign



- Affairs in collaboration with MINAG and IICA with technical assistance from FAO and WTO at the Hilton hotel, May 24-26.
- Participated in the General Meeting of the National Food and Nutrition Coordinating Committee of Jamaica at CFNI.
  - Attended a public meeting on 'Towards a Watershed Policy for Jamaica' at the University of Technology.
  - Attended WTO Sensitization workshop for agribusiness members.
  - Attended Opening Ceremony for Green Expo 2000 at the National Arena.
  - The Representative attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Heads of the Pesticide Boards of the Caribbean at Le Meridian Jamaica Pegasus and presented the opening address.
  - Attended the launch of Phase 2 of the Eastern Jamaica Agricultural Support Project (EJASP) formerly Morant Yallahs Agricultural Development Project (MYADP).
  - Met with IDB and MINAG to discuss the IDB Support Service Project.
  - Attended the International Symposium on Utilization of Natural Products in Developing Countries: Trends and Needs sponsored by the Special Unit for Technical Cooperation in Developing Countries, UNDP and UWI, at UWI, Mona and chaired a panel discussion on the conservation of biodiversity.
  - Participated as part of the forum to discuss pesticide minimum residue levels in agricultural exports with COLEACP and JEA.
  - Participated in the forum 'Linking Agriculture and Tourism' at Ciboney Hotel in Ocho Rios.
  - Attended EXPO 2000 Global Dialogue Workshop in Hanover, Germany.
  - Attended ISNAR meeting in The Hague re Caribbean Project on Competitiveness
  - Participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture.
  - Met with Maria Protz and Dr. George Wilson to discuss the USAID project 'Ridges to Reef'.
  - Held discussions with Dr. Earle Roberts from the Sugar Industry Research Institute regarding training of their extension staff using CD-ROM technology.
  - The office participated in the "Jamaica Spice" exhibition held on July 29<sup>th</sup> in Ocho Rios. This exhibition was sponsored by the Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB) in cooperation with the JAS, RADA and the Agribusiness Council of Jamaica.
  - Attended Opening Ceremony of RADA's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in Hope Gardens.
  - Participated in the evaluation of the IICA/GTZ Window of Sustainability project.
  - The Representative acted as Moderator at the National Forum on 'Agriculture: Competing Successfully in the Global Marketplace' organized by RADA.
  - The Representative chaired the meetings of the Project on Biological Control of the Coffee Berry Borer, which is being implemented by CARDI for the Coffee Industry Board.
  - The Representative attended a meeting at the Jamaica Exporters Association regarding possible collaboration with COLEACP with respect to the pesticide initiative for entry of fresh fruits into Europe.

### **Presentations of awards and addresses**

- Made a presentation of IICA's work in Jamaica to the Department of Life Sciences at the UWI, Mona Campus.
- Presented the Opening Address at a Meeting of the Jamaican Organic Farmers Association.
- Gave main addresses at the graduation ceremonies of Elim Agricultural School and Treadlight Primary School.
- Addressed CARAPA's 3rd International Symposium on Herbal Medicines in the Caribbean.
- Gave the feature address at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jamaica 4-H Clubs.
- The Representative addressed the Board of Directors of the Midland PC Bank in Guys Hill on financing the agricultural sector and the role of small farmers.
- Presented a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship to a student from Elim Agricultural School - Ms. Dale McPherson, to attend CASE.
- Guest speaker at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Goat Breeders Society.
- Made a presentation on IICA's activities in Jamaica at the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, UWI, St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago.
- Presented the Agribusiness Awards at the Denbigh Agricultural and Industrial Show.
- Presented IICA Award to the Most Outstanding Student in the Graduating Class of 2000 at CASE.

### **Involvement in efforts to secure external resources to support the work programme**

- Held discussions with the JBI re: financial support for project proposed for Mocho Area.

- Met with officials of the Canadian Human Resources Development Fund in search of external resources to complement quota resources of the Office.
- Met with the IDB team re new agricultural support services projects for Jamaica.
- Held discussions with officials of the EFJ with respect to financial assistance for the Window of Sustainability project in Rio Cobre.
- Attended a meeting at JADF to discuss IICA proposal for a mobile facility- to support the extension services.
- The Representative held discussions with the Deputy Representative of UNDP, Mr. Harold Robinson to define joint areas of work within the context of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) of the World Bank.

### **Other activities**

- Held discussions with the Chemistry Department, UWI re: cooperation on research project on antioxidant properties of sorrel.
- Facilitated the visit to the Office of Ambassador Madge Barrett, Chief of Protocol, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Visited the Rio Cobre Window of Sustainability project with His Excellency Stan McLelland, United States Ambassador to Jamaica.
- Facilitated the visit of Dr. Francois Dagenais, IICA Representative in Barbados to discuss the operations of the training unit and the types of courses available. Met with officials from CASE, HEART and RADA.
- Hosted the IICA/FAVA/CA Regional Workshop on Tropical Fruits Propagation. Participants from the

region attended as well as from the Ministry of Agriculture, RADA and the private sector in Jamaica.

- Attended the Cattle Appraisal Day at YS Farms in St. Elizabeth.
- Held discussions with Mr. Winston Stona of Busha Browne Products re: production and marketing of goat cheese.
- Facilitated the visit of the three-member team from St. Lucia who visited horticultural enterprises in Jamaica.
- Met with Dr. Janice Reid to discuss the final draft of her study on agricultural health in Jamaica and the importance of the document to the IDB support project.

#### **Recognition of IICA's work by other agencies**

During 2000, the IICA office received commendations from agencies within the agricultural sector in Jamaica, in recognition

of the contribution of the Institute to rural and agricultural development.

- RADA presented a certificate of recognition acknowledging the achievement and contribution of the Institute to RADA
- The Morant Yallahs Agricultural Development Project (MYADP) presented a plaque to IICA in recognition of the significant contribution of the Institute to the success of the project.

#### **IICA Jamaica employee of the year**

Miss Donna Halstead, Administrative Assistant at the IICA Office in Jamaica, was nominated by this office as employee of the year 2000, for performing an outstanding job and contributing greatly to the image of efficiency which the office enjoys. Miss Halstead placed third in the Caribbean Employee of the Year award.



*(l. to r.) Mr. Albert St. Clair, Ms. Vita John and Mr. Anthony Gajadher, members of the St. Lucia Horticultural Cooperative Society Ltd., on a visit to the IICA office in Jamaica. The St. Lucia team visited Jamaica to obtain information and technology for promoting horticultural production in St. Lucia.*

## 11.0 Appendices

### A. PUBLICATIONS

IICA Office in Jamaica. Biblio 2000: IICA Library Database. Kingston, Jamaica: IICA, Office in Jamaica, 2000. (A2/JM-00/01).

IICA Office in Jamaica. Proceedings of the Series 'Forum on new and Emerging issues in Agricultural Trade'. Kingston, Jamaica: IICA, Office in Jamaica, 2000. (A2/JM-00-05).

McLaren, Lyndon E. IICA in Jamaica: 25 Years of Service to the Agricultural Sector. Kingston, Jamaica: IICA, Office in Jamaica, 2000.

Reid, Janice C. Needs Analysis of the Readiness of Jamaican Institutions for WTO-SPS: Consultant Report. Kingston, Jamaica: IICA, Office in Jamaica, 2000. (A2/JM-00-03).

Reid, Janice C. Needs Analysis of the Readiness of Jamaican Institutions for WTO-SPS: Executive Summary. Kingston, Jamaica: IICA, Office in Jamaica, 2000. (A2/JM-00-04).

### B. COLLABORATORS

- Agribusiness Council
- Banana Industry Board
- Canadian International Development Agency
- Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
- Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute

- Coffee Industry Board
- College of Agriculture Science and Education
- European Union
- Food and Agriculture Organization
- Jamaica Agricultural Development Foundation
- Jamaica Agricultural Society
- Jamaica Bauxite Institute
- Jamaica Broilers
- Jamaica Exporters Association
- Ministry of Agriculture
- National Commission on Science and Technology
- National Library of Jamaica
- Natural Resources Conservation Authority
- Organization of American States
- Rural Agricultural Development Authority
- Scientific Research Council
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Environment Programme
- United States Agency for International Development
- United States Peace Corps
- University of the West Indies

### C. STAFF OF IICA JAMAICA

Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite  
*Representative*

#### Technical Staff

Zithroy Annikie  
*Watershed Management Specialist*

Hyacinth Chin Sue  
*Rural Development Specialist*  
(Up to September)

**Kathryn Duncan**  
*Information Specialist*

**Una May Gordon**  
*Consultant in Rural Development*  
(from September)

**Byron Noble**  
*Agricultural Trade Specialist*

**Dr. Janice Reid**  
*Consultant*

**Christopher Smith**  
*Peace Corps Volunteer*

**Support Staff**

**Aston Daley**  
*Gardener*

**Sherene Clarke**  
*Accounting Assistant (from June)*

**Karen Gumbs-Barrett**  
*Accounting Assistant (up to June)*

**Donna Halstead**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Maureen Machado**  
*Executive Secretary*

**Andrea Marquis**  
*Secretary/Receptionist*

**Henry Powell**  
*Driver*

**Leonie Simmonds**  
*Office Attendant*

**Andrea Tucker**  
*Programme Secretary*

**D. ACRONYMS**

AMC	Agricultural Marketing Corporation
BAHA	Belize Agricultural Health Association
CFNI	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
CACHE	Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARIFORUM	Caribbean Forum
CARILAC	Programme for Horizontal Technical Cooperation in Agriculture between the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean
CARTF	CARIFORUM Agribusiness Research and Training Fund
CASE	College of Agriculture Science and Education
CEPPI	Centre for Investment Projects and Programmes
CIB	Coffee Industry Board
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
COLEACP	Liaison Committee for Europe and the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific States
CPEC	Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development Program for Economic Competitiveness
EFJ	Environmental Foundation of Jamaica
EJASP	Eastern Jamaica Agricultural Support Project
EU	European Union
FDA	United States Food and Drug Administration
JIFSAN	Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FAVA/CA	Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action
FORAGRO	Regional Forum on Agricultural Research and Technology Development
FTAA	Free Trade Association of the Americas

GAPS	Goat Agroforestry Production Systems	SIDALC	Agricultural Information and Documentation System for Latin America and the Caribbean
GEF	Global Environmental Facility		
GTZ	German Technical Cooperation Agency	SPS	Sanitary Phytosanitary
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point	SRC	Scientific Research Council
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank	TCA	Technical Cooperation Agency
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture	TG&V	Technology Generation and Validation
IOJ	Institute of Jamaica	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
JADIN	Jamaica Agricultural Documentation and Information Network	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
JAMPRO	Jamaica Promotions Company	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
JAS	Jamaica Agricultural Society	USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
JBI	Jamaica Bauxite Institute	USPC	United States Peace Corps
JEA	Jamaica Exporters Association	UWI	University of the West Indies
JSAS	Jamaica Society of Agricultural Sciences	WRA	Water Resource Authority
JTB	Jamaica Tourist Board	WTO	World Trade Organization
LAN	Local Area Network		
LMC	Local Management Committee		
MYADP	Morant Yallahs Agricultural Development Programme		
NAF	National Arboretum Foundation		
NCST	National Commission on Science and Technology		
NDFJ	National Development Foundation of Jamaica		
NRCA	Natural Resources Conservation Authority		
OAS	Organization of American States		
PCA	Pesticide Control Authority		
PMU	Project Management Unit		
PROMECAFE	Regional Cooperative Program for the Protection and Modernization of Coffee Cultivation in Mexico, Central America, Panama and the Dominican Republic		
PROCICARIBE	Programme for Cooperation of Institutes of Agricultural Science & Technology in the Caribbean		
PSOJ	Private Sector Organization of Jamaica		
RADA	Rural Agricultural Development Authority		
RCGBA	Rio Cobre Goat Breeders Association		
RNM	Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery		
SDI	Selective Dissemination of Information		

## E. OPERATIVE BUDGET 2000

The IICA Office in Jamaica managed an operative budget of US\$445,368.70 during 2000. Of this total, 86% corresponded to IICA's quota resources and 14% came from external funding including the European Union, GTZ and the Kellogg Foundation.



## F. WORK PROGRAMME 2001

### Strategic Areas

#### Objectives

Assist the Jamaican Agricultural Sector in its preparation for Free Trade and participation in the Global Economy	Supporting agribusiness microenterprises with emphasis on participation of youth and women in agricultural development	Promotion of technical cooperation between Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and Latin America	Promotion of training education and information services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen the trade policy and institutional framework;</li> <li>• Support the establishment of a trade policy information monitoring unit;</li> <li>• Disseminate information on trade regulations and agreements and their implications - World Trade Organization (WTO), Free Trade Association of the Americas (FTAA) 2005 and the CARICOM Single Market;</li> <li>• Strengthen public and private institutions in their preparedness for trade liberalization;</li> <li>• Increase and facilitate access to trade and market information to policy makers, entrepreneurs and producers;</li> <li>• Promote and coordinate an inter-agency forum (of public and private sector organizations) on trade policy issues;</li> <li>• Diffuse information on sanitary and phytosanitary issues (SPS) affecting agricultural trade;</li> <li>• Develop programme on pest-risk analysis and pre-clearance procedures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop information support services and training programmes for agricultural microenterprises;</li> <li>• Promote profit oriented activities among rural women and youth;</li> <li>• Identify opportunities for rural agroindustry and small agribusiness development in Jamaica;</li> <li>• Promote a credit facility for agricultural micro-enterprises.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for professionals from the wider Caribbean and Latin America to visit Jamaica and provide relevant technology and information;</li> <li>• Provide a flow of relevant information and technologies from the wider Caribbean and Latin America to Jamaica;</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for Jamaican nationals to visit the wider Caribbean and Latin American countries to obtain relevant technology and information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a programme on agricultural information and documentation to provide bibliographic, electronic and market information to the sector;</li> <li>• Promote wider use of the Internet to access and disseminate information;</li> <li>• Facilitate linkages to AGROINFO and network with Latin American and Caribbean institutions;</li> <li>• Provide training opportunities in information technologies both at the professional and farmer levels;</li> <li>• Support information needs of the specific areas of the technical agenda of the Office;</li> <li>• Promote training in the critical areas of the technical agenda of the Office.</li> </ul>

## ACTIVITIES 2001

Assist the Jamaican Agricultural Sector in its preparation for Free Trade and participation in the Global Economy	Supporting agribusiness microenterprises with emphasis on participation of youth and women in agricultural development	Promotion of technical cooperation between Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and Latin America	Promotion of training, education and information services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue presentation of the National Training Course on Globalization and production of a Training Manual on Globalization and the Agricultural Sector.</li> <li>• Develop information systems to support competitiveness studies and implementation of sanitary and phytosanitary systems.</li> <li>• Carry out analyses of competitiveness of Jamaican agricultural products with a view to improve competitiveness.</li> <li>• Cooperate in the formulation/development of a policy framework for the agricultural sector.</li> <li>• Continue the 'Forum for the Discussion of New and Emerging Issues in Agricultural Trade'.</li> <li>• Evaluate the impact of trade liberalization on the agricultural sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to the Network of Rural Women Producers.</li> <li>• Establishment of a Revolving Credit Fund in cooperation with the Organization of American States.</li> <li>• Implementation of Training programmes in business management and the preparation of business plans.</li> <li>• Selection of agribusiness entrepreneurs for the Agribusiness Award.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide opportunities for professionals from the wider Caribbean and Latin America to visit Jamaica and provide relevant technology and information.</li> <li>• Provide a flow of relevant information and technologies from the wider Caribbean and Latin America to Jamaica.</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for Jamaican nationals to visit the wider Caribbean and Latin American countries to obtain relevant technology and information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintaining and updating of database of information resources available at the IICA Office in Jamaica.</li> <li>• Maintenance of a website for IICA Jamaica on Agroinfo.</li> <li>• Information services: provision of documentation and access to electronic information (on-site) available to all clients.</li> <li>• Coordination of workshops and seminars in Information Management/Technologies for library personnel (within the Network) and clients.</li> <li>• Preparation of training materials in the above events.</li> <li>• Functioning as the Secretariat for the Network of Agricultural Information Units in Jamaica.</li> <li>• Developing and delivering network products and services to clients.</li> </ul>

## WHAT IS IICA?

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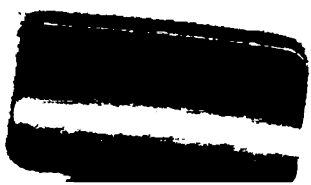
In early 1998, the IICA Office in Jamaica instituted a process for the redefinition of the focus of its technical cooperation programme in Jamaica. The process coincided with the appointment of a new Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable Roger Clarke, who defined modernization of the agricultural sector as the new mandate of his Ministry. In addition, IICA designated Dr. Chelston Brathwaite to the post of Representative of its office in Jamaica. The process of redefinition was consultative and participatory and began with consultations with the various entities of the sector and culminated in a seminar in July 1998 where representatives of the sector presented their views on what they perceived to be the future role of the Institute in Jamaica.

As a result of the consultations and the views expressed in the seminar, IICA Jamaica has produced a strategic plan to guide the future work of the Institute in Jamaica. The plan has, as its basic objective, cooperation with national agricultural institutions to improve the competitiveness of Jamaica's agriculture. The strategic areas for intervention are to:

- Assist the Jamaica Agricultural sector in its preparation for free trade and participation in the global economy.

- Promote the sustainability of Hillside Farming Systems and Watershed Management.
- Support agri-business micro enterprises with emphasis on the incorporation of women and youth in agricultural development.
- Facilitate cooperation and interchange of technology and experiences between Jamaica, the wider Caribbean and Latin America.

The member states of IICA are: Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela. Its Permanent Observers are: Arab Republic of Egypt, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, European Community, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Poland, Romania, Russian Federation and Spain.



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