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**A REPORT ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE
INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)
TO AGRICULTURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES
IN THE CARIBBEAN**

IICA in 2002, committed to promoting & supporting



*... good practices along the entire
food chain*

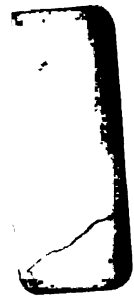
*... new products and
competitiveness in trade*

*... training and education of
stakeholders*

*... dialogue and consensus for
effective decision making*



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ANNUAL REPORT 2002

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Message from the Director of Operations –Caribbean Area
and Advisor to the Director General on Caribbean Affairs

The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) is pleased to present this report to its stakeholders, collaborators/partners and clients in the Caribbean and beyond. This report highlights the initiatives at the national and regional levels that further the aims of the Institute's Medium Term Plan and Caribbean Regional Agenda and the Regional Transformation Programme for the agriculture sector in the region, and supports the development of Agriculture and Rural Life in the Caribbean.

The period of this report saw the advent of a new administration in IICA, with the election as, Director General of the second Caribbean national, Dr Chelston W D Brathwaite of Barbados. Amongst the new initiatives introduced are the institutionalisation of IICA National Agendas in each member country that were developed in a total participatory manner, the requirement for each Office to report annually to its stakeholders and clients utilising both a formal written report and a meeting forum; discussion of its Annual Work Plans and a Performance Management and Evaluation System. These initiatives are aimed to ensure that IICA's programmes are demand driven, client and shareholder responsive, transparent and accountable.

Accordingly, IICA continues to participate and support regional programmes that address common problems faced across the Region. This coordinated work program and its regional impact is reflected in the report.

Tribute must be paid to our many partners/collaborators and the various Ministries of Agriculture for their efforts and assistance to IICA in realizing our accomplishments documented in this report. For example, at the International level: FAVACA/CA, the Centre for Development of Enterprise, The Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Food and Agriculture Organisation, at the bilateral level the governments of Brazil, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Spain, United Kingdom and the United States. At the regional level: the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute, the Caribbean Epidemiology Centre, the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development, the CARIFORUM Project Management Unit, the CARICOM Secretariat, the Eastern Caribbean States' Secretariat, the Caribbean Development Bank the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, the Organisation of American States, and the members of the Alliance, viz, CABA, CACHE, CNRWP, the Caribbean Forum for Youth in Agriculture and PROCICARIBE.

The yeoman service and dedication of the IICA Staff in our 14 Offices in the Caribbean to satisfy the needs of our clients and provide solutions to problems facing the Agriculture Sector is praiseworthy as is the support provided by the technical and administrative staff of our headquarters. The funds received from external sources, as well as, the quota contributions from Member States are duly acknowledged.

We present this report as a true reflection of our work and contribution to enhancing the development of agriculture and the development of rural communities in the Caribbean.

We pledge the continued availability of our resources to fully support the Region's efforts to reposition agriculture within the relatively short period of time as indicated by the WTO and other trade agreements.

Dr. H. Arlington D. Chesney

Executive Summary

This report highlights IICA's results at the regional and national levels for 2002 according to the various Institutional Themes, *viz*, Trade and Agribusiness Development, Technology and Innovation; Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Sustainable Rural Development, Education and Training, and Information and Communication. These results are all located in the context of the mandates of Agriculture and Rural Development given by the Hemispheric Heads of State and Government in 2001, the Ministerial Bavaro Declaration in November 2001, in the Dominican Republic, and the Ministerial Caribbean Declaration and show that IICA continues to make a significant contribution to the development of the region's agriculture and rural spaces. The results are preceded with a critical review of agriculture in the context of the regional economy.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

For the year in review, this agenda continued to support networking for improved policy making in agriculture, by facilitating, with the Caricom Secretariat, the 4th meeting of the Alliance for Sustainable Development in Agriculture and the Rural Milieu of the Wider Caribbean and by spearheading efforts at re-thinking and re-shaping agriculture in the OECS sub-region. Efforts at enhancing the understanding of the agricultural trade agreements and negotiations through training and active participation in the dialogue and information dissemination were continued, including technical assistance to assist with preparation for the FTAA negotiations in agriculture. Similar emphasis at the country level was instrumental in providing training and disseminating information relating to the various trade negotiations, especially alerting countries to meeting their WTO obligations. Direct support to the private sector, such as, the pork producers association in Jamaica, was equally critical to increasing their role in the negotiations process.

Strengthening of Agri-businesses through CABA at the regional and national levels was a major action in 2002, with the establishment of several national CABA chapters. In many instances these chapters were able to establish linkages with other sectors such as tourism. The diversification process in the OECS countries promoted and supported the development of linkage industries like agro-tourism. The development of specific national industry plans, such as, fruits and vegetables in Suriname; fruits and root crops in the OECS; and a Business Development Plan for the South West Development Agency in Trinidad to develop 300 acres of state lease lands also formed part of the technical support provided.

Technology and Innovation

Within this strategic area, IICA's continued efforts at expanding the fruit industry and improving technology transfer management systems in the Caribbean included training workshops in eight member states to enhance the knowledge and skills of stakeholders as a means of improving the quality in range of fruit and fruit products to expand market share. Joint action with the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE), the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation and the Commonwealth secretariat and the Government of Jamaica, resulted in an International Workshop "Caribbean Herbs Business Forum" held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, December 2-5, 2002. The forum examined marketing, legislative, technology and research and development issues for advancing the Caribbean Herbal Industry. Joint IICA/CARDI efforts were targeted at projects executed to enhance regional agriculture at the industry level. Support for the PROCICARIBE mechanism continued to achieve a better coordination in research and management. Oversight to the CDB funded and Caricom Secretariat managed project on analysis of selected industries in the Caribbean, including small ruminants, papaya, hot peppers, sweet potato and coconut, continued.

Direct technical support was provided to stakeholders in several industries, specifically, citrus, pineapple and passion fruit.

Specific technology needs at the country level were addressed with local initiatives reinforced with support received from the regional and hemispheric programmes. These were wide ranging from goat production in Jamaica, dairy development in Trinidad and Tobago to organic cocoa in Grenada and Guyana; bee keeping and fruit and vegetables and irrigation technology in the OECS; and citrus and pineapple in Trinidad and Tobago.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

This programme continued its work in promoting a greater understanding of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary issues especially within the context of the WTO Trade regime. Efforts at modernizing the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety system and initiatives undertaken to combat threats to agricultural health and food safety produced positive results. Twelve Caribbean countries benefited from a series of national seminars on SPS and Food Safety. A regional workshop on International Standards for Phyto-sanitary Measures was held in Trinidad with participation from 13 Caribbean countries. IICA obtained funding from the USDA that enabled participation of two persons from each Caribbean country in the WTO SPS Committee Meeting in Geneva from November 4-8, 2002. Efforts to modernize and improve the efficiency of the Agricultural Health and Food Safety systems in the region continued with the 2nd meeting of the Canada/Caricom Alliance on Food Safety, which was held in Belize from July 3-7. At the request of the Caricom Ministers of Agriculture, a pre-feasibility study for the creation of the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) was completed and a complete feasibility study initiated with support from Caricom and FAO. Supported the establishment of a National Food Safety Committee in St. Lucia. A Salmonella risk reduction in Table Eggs began in six Caribbean Countries. IICA also co-organized and co-hosted a regional workshop on "Improving Competitiveness of Table Eggs in the Caribbean". Participants from 14 countries upgraded their skills in Qualitative Pest Risk Analysis for plant health. Work on Good Agricultural Practices was conducted in several islands.

Almost all countries in the region received assistance at strengthening their National Agricultural Health and Food Safety System, through training in SPS, HACCP, GAP and Pest Risk analysis and safe use of pesticide. In Guyana and Suriname training was conducted in GAP and HACCP in collaboration with national authorities. Separate animal and plant disease simulation exercises were held in Trinidad and Tobago to test the country's emergency response to plant and animal diseases. The National Food Safety Commission in Jamaica benefited from institutional strengthening, as was legislation in Suriname. Initiatives were also taken to control or prevent the spread of specific pest and diseases, such as, fruit flies in Grenada, Black Sigatoka and Giant African Snail in the OECS, Carambola Fruit Fly in Suriname, Pink Mealy Bug in Haiti and Classical Swine Fever in the Dominican Republic.

Sustainable Rural Development

IICA's priorities in this area concentrated on fostering development of socially disadvantaged groups in the rural territories, especially rural women and youth. The Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CNRWP) and Caribbean Forum for Youth in Agriculture (CFYIA) and their respective national chapters were key in enhancing the financial and social esteem of these two groups. The CNRWP has greatly enhanced its lobbying capabilities resulting in commitment of the Ministers at the 4th Meeting of the Alliance to recognize its national chapters. At its Annual General Meeting in St. Lucia, the CNRWP agreed to pursue a business instead of a development, bias. Two week-long handicraft training sessions was completed in Tobago facilitated by trainers from the

Guyana Network. In responding to the need for greater youth involvement, youth from the region assembled in Barbados in June 2002, to explore strategies that will encourage and incorporate greater youth involvement in the decision making process and increased participation in agriculture. The youth representatives agreed to focus on issues affecting youth in agriculture at the national level by spearheading initiatives, such as, field visits, involvement in commercial activities and promoting the agribusinesses. The CFYIA was subsequently established in December 2002, in St. Lucia.

Efforts at the national level aimed at reducing rural poverty focused on promotion of agri-entrepreneurship and rural cooperatives engaged in production and processing of small scale processing and packaging activities, which included handicraft manufacturing in Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. Rural Women's and producers groups were strengthened, for example, Cocoa, Coffee, Cashew and Cassava producers' groups in Guyana. Youth Fora were launched in several countries and in the OECS beekeeping was promoted as a viable economic activity for youth.

Education and Training

The focus of this area was three-fold; firstly, achievement of a graduate better suited to the required profile for agriculture and rural development. This is being done through the Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE) which emphasizes the need for the review and subsequent reengineering of the curricula of its members. Secondly, continuing education, the provision of specific technological, informatic and procedural information to a large number of agri-entrepreneurs, managers and technicians. This is being accomplished through focused seminars, lectures workshops and the Agri-entrepreneurs Distance Learning Network. Five courses were offered via the Internet and CDROM in the Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago centers. Centres were also established in Bahamas, Guyana, St. Kitts and Nevis and Suriname which will begin offering courses in 2003. Funds were received from the OAS to offer scholarships to approximately 300 students. Twelve new courses were almost completed. Six participants from the region benefited from USDA sponsorship to pursue two short courses in "Produce Inspection, Certification and Marketing" and "Feeds Inspection and Certification". Many offices also upgraded their staff skills to better serve their clients, especially in the areas of information technology and the Spanish language.

Information and Communication

The IICA Newsletters and other publications are a major source of information on agriculture in the Caribbean. Distributed widely were two issues of the AgriView, one issue each, of In a Nutshell, and Caraphin News. The Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas hosted a regional workshop on electronic production of documents and management of agricultural bibliographic databases which has enhanced the capacity of the National SIDALC Networks to develop virtual libraries and put their national databases on the SIDALC site. Most offices are actively participating in the SIDALC Network. Regional newsletters and other publications are distributed at the local level. Some offices produce their own newsletters to meet the unique needs of their clients, for example, PATERSHIP and KOBOGO in Suriname.



1. Introduction

*I*ICA in the Caribbean continues to make a significant contribution to the development of the region's agriculture and rural spaces. This is being done in the context of the Mandates of Agriculture and rural Development given by the Hemispheric Heads in 2001, the Ministerial Bavaro Declaration in November, 2001, in the Dominican Republic and the Ministerial Caribbean Declaration. Consequently, the Institute was in the forefront of the efforts to realise a deeper Caribbean Integration, especially among the non-English and English speaking countries. In this regard, it facilitated trade by addressing deficiencies in quarantine systems and promoting a fuller understanding and participation in the Trade Negotiation process; The Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Rural Milieu of the wider Caribbean welcomed the Region's Rural Youth, which was the only group of stake holders missing from the Alliance; CABA continued to promote agriculture through development of various sub-sectors, such as, poultry and pork; The Caribbean Distance Learning Centre provided training to agri-entrepreneurs in Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago; The Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers and the Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth are being positioned to be the voice for these generally disadvantaged groups with the decision makers at national and regional levels.

The report is presented in the following sections: the Status of the region's Agriculture, the Regional Agenda for Technical Cooperation, Highlights of Actions completed within the regional and national programmes: Trade and Agribusiness Development, Technology and Innovation, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Sustainable Rural Development, Education and Training, and Information and Communication.

2. The Status of the Region's Agriculture

Some success amidst decline

The close of 2002 was greeted with a general sense of insecurity and uncertainty, which pervaded all aspects of the agricultural sector. Natural disasters, including Tropical Storm Lily and severe drought conditions, affected agricultural production and exports in several Caribbean countries. At best, growth in overall agricultural output was low, with a number of countries, including the OECS sub-region, Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, reporting a continuation of negative growth from the last quarter of 2001. For most, the lower level of real aggregate output resulted mainly from declines in the traditional export industries, with slow expansion in non-traditional and domestic food production also contributing to this depressed performance.

However, there were some notable success stories throughout the region, particularly within the livestock sub-sector. A buoyant domestic agriculture sub-sector in Trinidad and Tobago was fuelled by efficiency-enhancing developments in the pork and poultry industries and improved integrated pest management in the citrus industry. The poultry industries in Guyana and Jamaica also showed noticeable improvements in output, due to improved production and organisational efficiencies, no doubt benefiting from regional integration coordinated by the Caribbean Poultry Association.

In other countries, some aspects of diversification efforts are beginning to bear fruit. In Barbados, investments in non-sugar agriculture have spurred the growth of fresh produce exports, led to a mushrooming of small to medium sized agro-processing enterprises and have forged noticeable

linkages with the tourism and hospitality industry. Similar investments in Grenada, targeted at the livestock and fishery sub-sectors, are also expected to increase their relative contribution to aggregate agricultural output. Such investments, coupled with recovery in the nutmeg and banana, led by the initiation of shipment of organic bananas to the United Kingdom, contributed to preliminary growth estimates of 4% for agriculture in Grenada in 2002. There has also been some expansion in the sugar industry in Guyana, both in acreage and range of products. The Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee industry performed relatively well taking into consideration the almost complete demise of the coffee industries in Latin America. This exemplifies the benefits for branding for regional agricultural products.



Generally, however, recovery in 2002 was seriously compromised by the onset of the 2001 September 11 terrorist attack on United States which created a heightened sense of insecurity and affected all economic activity, including agriculture and tourism, on which the economies of the Caribbean are most reliant. The aftermath of these attacks have been the emergence of new generation of regulations that had less to do with trade and more to do with concerns of national security. These new regulations had and continue to have far-reaching implications for

agricultural exports in the US market, a major outlet for Caribbean agri-food exports.

Challenging times

Beyond the unfavourable climatic conditions and the domestic deficiencies, the constrained performance of agriculture in the region must also be viewed in the context of the challenges linked to the ongoing processes of globalization and trade liberalization. These processes have resulted in greater interconnectedness among a diverse grouping of developed and developing countries, and have unearthed both opportunities and inequalities in the global economic system. This general sense of unease about globalization, including rapid modernization and trade liberalization, was especially prominent in the Caribbean agriculture and food industry.

Since the mid-1990s, agriculture in the Caribbean had been forced into a state of disequilibria as the dictates of globalization and trade liberalization have undermined the very core of its existence, that being the traditional industries of banana, sugar and rice. Since the early 1990s, market insecurity for bananas, occasioned by the US challenge of the UK banana regime, triggered a social and economic crisis in the Windward Islands and by wider OECS sub-region. The depth of the crisis has been uneven among countries and has been particularly severe in Dominica, where falling banana exports, coupled with steadily rising government expenditures, led to the severe economic and fiscal crises that are being addressed by a largely unpopular IMF Stabilization and Adjustment Programme.

The extension of the banana challenge to the special UK sugar market arrangements also hastened the deterioration in the Caribbean sugar industries. Indeed, with the exception Guyana, in 2002, government and industry officials in Trinidad and Tobago, St.Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica, and to a lesser extent, Barbados were increasingly preoccupied in analyses of the future of their industries and particularly how to avert the serious and adverse social, environmental and economic consequences that in the smaller economies could impact on key economic sectors, particularly tourism. Even in Guyana, where improvements in the traditional sugar and rice industries have been sustained, like other Caribbean countries, agriculture is still challenged to transform into more flexible, diversified agriculture within a demanding free trade environment.

What lies ahead

As agriculture economy becomes more and more integrated into the world economy, the Caribbean can expect very little breathing space. Already the negotiations to establish the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) by 2005, particularly the objective of elimination of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, have created a heightened sense of urgency for domestic agriculture. High tariffs have been the main protective mechanism against competing imports and the prospect of fully opened borders to countries such as, the United States, Canada, Brazil and Mexico, has far reaching implications for the continued viability of many of the region's building-block domestic agricultural industries which provide income-earning opportunities along the entire food chain.

In this regard, quite apart from the need to ensure continued security of current market access for agricultural products in the US, Canadian and European markets, the analysis undertaken by the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), which suggests a greater than proportional annual decline in the output directed to the domestic market than for output going to exports markets, is of critical concern and relevance to all in the agriculture and food industry. This suggests that local food products are increasingly being displaced by imports. To arrest and reverse this trend, the emphasis can no longer be on expanding exports but more so, on securing and increasing market share for local production in domestic markets in order to stimulate agricultural and rural development, enhance the food security status of the regional population and save vital foreign exchange and reduce the rural-urban migration with the well known consequences of crime and burgeoning civil defence budgets.

The issue of foreign exchange savings as it relates to the food import bill has become a major responsibility of agriculture. Food imports are among the heavy expenditure items. Given that many Caribbean countries rely heavily on external trade for a significant portion of government revenues, the emerging trade environment characterized by tariff reduction and eventual elimination has severe implications for the pace and progress of economic development, particularly as it relates to the widening of the fiscal deficit in several countries. As growth has slowed down or turned negative, tax revenues have stagnated or declined. Governments have been under pressure to augment employment and income by increased spending. Already, Dominica and Jamaica have taken steps to cut spending and raise additional taxes. The implications of increasing food imports alongside reduced revenues derived from international trade taxes must therefore be a foremost consideration as the region engages in regional, hemispheric and global free trade negotiations on agriculture. The option of maintaining/increasing government revenues through increased borrowing, which increases the deficit, holds significant implications for the level and nature of investment and development programme in agriculture, and in turn for economic growth and development in the region.

It is being increasingly acknowledged that achieving balanced economic growth, social stability and equity requires the sustained development of agriculture and rural communities. However, the sad irony is that evaluating the importance of agriculture based largely on its relative contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) has created the false illusion that agriculture is part of the economic problem, and not an integral part of the economic solution. This perception no longer holds for 21st Century agriculture and regional stakeholders, from the farm to the policy level, are challenged to create the requisite mechanisms that will foster and sustain the essential integration of agriculture with all spheres of economic activity, social well-being and environmental health. It is only through well targeted and collective action in agri-food system, that agriculture can be 'graduated' from the status of a 'problem sector' to an indispensable part of the solution that will enable the region to effectively face what lies ahead.

3. Regional Agenda for Technical Cooperation (2002-2006)

The IICA Caribbean Regional Agenda emanates from the Regional Ministerial Declaration and Plan of Action and the 14 National Declarations and Plans of Action. It also addresses several phenomena that are influencing and will continue to influence the direction and scope of the development of the region's agriculture. These include existing and potential trade agreements and the biotechnology and information revolutions. Consequently, it has been designed taking into consideration:

- a. national activities that may most efficiently be undertaken by two or more countries collectively;
- b. actions/issues that are of regional import and/or consequences; and
- c. actions of a prospective nature that will impact on the development of agriculture in the near future

MISSION AND VISION

The Mission is to provide co-operation services to facilitate regional dialogue among Member States to reposition Caribbean agriculture to operate sustainably and competitively in the global market for the maximum and equitable benefit of the Caribbean peoples.

The Vision is to become an effective partner in the quest to transform and reposition the Caribbean agri-food system to one that is competitive and equitable within a sustainable and holistic framework.

4. Highlights of Our Actions in 2002

4.1 TRADE AND AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Supporting networking for improved policy making in agriculture

Continued secretariat duties with CARICOM for the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu of the wider Caribbean through the preparation and circulation of the proceedings of the 4th Meeting held in Barbados in June, 2002. The Report contains summaries of the main issues discussed as well as areas agreed to, which require follow-up actions. In the absence of a formal institutionalised regional forum for agriculture, the Alliance plays a critical role in promoting dialogue and information sharing among Ministers, policy makers, agribusiness, research and education and women and youth involved in agriculture and rural development. Work was initiated with the assistance of the CTA for the conduct of a Workshop in Suriname in January, 2003, with the intent of establishing a Regional Agricultural Policy Network.

Consolidating actions towards the sustainable development of agriculture was the theme of a sub-regional meeting spearheaded by the IICA-ECS Office to address the special difficulties experienced in agriculture in that sub-region and to craft strategies to respond to same. A paper, titled "Re-thinking and Re-Shaping Agriculture in the OECS" was prepared as discussion paper to inform and assist in the preparation of an OECS Agricultural Development Strategy by the OECS Secretariat. The paper emphasized that any policy framework to revitalize OECS agriculture must be based on a clear understanding of the complex interactions, which exist within the sector and lessons learnt from the experiences of the past two decades. IICA was amongst the partners selected to craft a Policy and Plan of Action for the repositioning of agriculture in the sub-region.

Raising awareness and enhancing understanding of the agricultural trade agreements and negotiations

After nine years into the implementation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreements and the introduction of the Free Trade area of the Americas (FTAA), Caribbean countries are still grappling with issues related to compliance and impact of the reform programme on their agricultural sectors.

As part of the IICA-UWI Summer Internship programme, an exercise aimed at determining the level of compliance with the commitments under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) was undertaken for Trinidad and Tobago. This exercise served to raise awareness and educate a UWI



Venturing into the export market

undergraduate student who had negligible prior exposure, to liberalization of agricultural trade through the WTO AoA, thus contributing to the development of the human resource base in agriculture. It also assessed information of the level of Trinidad & Tobago's compliance up to 2002.

Stakeholders in Antigua and Trinidad and Tobago were sensitized and updated on the international and regional environment for agri-food trade through national seminars, which focused on the existing WTO

Agreements, the ongoing WTO, ACP/EU and Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations and other non-trade global developments that are influencing the nature of agriculture and

agribusiness. Within Trinidad and Tobago, the Tobago community, in particular, benefited from the exposure to a broader range of issues ranging from trade liberalization to advances in biotechnology and information technology, through the broadcast of the seminar on television.

Technical assistance to facilitate preparation for the FTAA negotiations on agriculture

2002 marked a critical phase in the FTAA negotiations in that countries were to submit their base tariff offers for reduction commitments. Most regional agro-industries, as well as, the Ministries of Agriculture experienced difficulties in undertaking the necessary exercise for the December 14 deadline. Through joint action with the Agribusiness program, members of CABA, as well and other important stakeholders have been fully sensitized on the need to take a very proactive approach in the preparations process. In fact, stakeholders have begun to lead the process, taking the initiative in preparing industry proposals and justifications to inform the preparation of tariff offers for the FTAA negotiations. Industries, such as the coffee producers in Trinidad & Tobago, received direct technical support for the preparation of its FTAA base tariff offers.

Supporting the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA)

IICA, in its role as Executive Secretariat, continues to provide Secretariat, technical and financial assistance to the CABA regional body and its national chapters. The network continues to facilitate information exchanges among the various agriculture sub sectors in the region. Supported the process of refining the New Vision for the enhancement of agribusiness in the Caribbean by CABA accepted by the general membership and some key international financial institutions. IICA will support the continuing process leading to the obtaining of resources to allow the implementation of its objectives.

Support was also given towards the establishment of new National Chapters in the Bahamas, St Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines and the consolidation of existing chapters in Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. Support was also provided to the preparatory work aimed at the establishment of two regional associations, the Caribbean Herbal Business forum and the Caribbean Network of Farmers' Organisations.

CABA continued the process of developing the sensitive lists for the Region in collaboration with organisations representing the various sub-sectors, such as, the Caribbean Poultry Association, the Caribbean Dairy and Dairy Products Association and the Caribbean Pork Association. With support and encouragement from IICA, the Pork Producers of Trinidad and Tobago (PPATT) was launched in November. CABA is now actively represented in Caribbean Association of Industry and Commerce in matters related to agriculture in the region.



Launch of the PPATT

Providing information on ongoing and emerging trade-related issues

Agriculture now operates in an information age with knowledge as an essential and undisputed factor in production and competitiveness. Providing information, as it relates to trade issues and developments that could influence agriculture, food and rural development, continued to be an important aspect of the work program.

The "In a Nutshell" series has proven to be a popular medium through which stakeholders

can access more detailed information on specific technical topics. New issues in 2002 focused on the topic of genetic engineering in agriculture and food production and the importance of good agricultural practices (GAP) in food production and marketing. The issue on genetic engineering was distributed to stakeholders in 2002, with the issue on GAP to be distributed in 2003.

In 2002, trade related information in the AgriView quarterly Newsletter focused on updating readers on developments in the WTO and FTAA negotiations, as well as, promoting a broader concept of agriculture that transcends the farm.

4.2. TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Supporting Fruit Industry Expansion in the Caribbean and Support to Improving Technology Transfer Management Systems in the Caribbean were the two major projects within the area of Technology and Innovation.

Technology Transfer and Capacity Development

Training workshops were conducted in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago to enhance the knowledge and skills of stakeholders to improve the quality and range of fruit and fruit products to expand market share. Approximately 200 persons, including farmers, processors, extension officers and marketing personnel benefited from training. Training was done by IICA personnel in collaboration with facilitators from the Universities of the West Indies and Suriname, Ministries of Agriculture and private consultants.

A major international workshop entitled "Caribbean Herbs Business Forum" was held in Montego Bay, Jamaica from December 2-5, 2002. This was executed in collaboration with the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE), the Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (CTA) the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Government of Jamaica. Over 80 persons from the



Caribbean herbal workshop participants

Caribbean participated in the forum along with 40 delegates from North and South America, Europe and South Africa. The marketing, legislative, technological and research and development, issues which are required for advancing the development of the Caribbean Herbal industry, were identified and discussed. The Forum also provided Caribbean delegates with the opportunity to develop business partnerships with North American and European companies and share and learn from their experiences in developing the herbal sub-sectors in their countries.

The programme also undertook a technical evaluation of the cocoa industry in Grenada to determine the feasibility of converting to organic production systems. In Suriname the focus was on evaluating the existing production systems for establishing organic pineapple fields.

Research Management and Coordination

IICA continued to provide support to CARDI through funding provided under the IICA/CARDI Agreement. During 2002, emphasis was placed on ensuring that projects submitted under the IICA/CARDI Agreement met the established criteria and contributed to industry development. Two

projects were approved for Trinidad and Tobago, which would lead to an improvement in the livestock industry while supporting the development of the research capacity.

The PROCICARIBE mechanism was also supported through the hosting of an Executive Committee meeting of Regional Coordinators which addressed the management and structure of PROCICARIBE and the development of a project outline for an integrated project which cut across the thematic and commodity networks. It was determined that the networks should be evaluated in 2003 and a strategy developed to strengthen PROCICARIBE. It was also agreed that the PROCICARIBE would focus on developing the Commercial Potential of selected commodities by concentrating on enhancing the availability of high quality planting material and breeds.

A Post Graduate Research Student Project, which focused on analyzing the pineapple commodity chain in Trinidad and Tobago was completed and submitted for evaluation. An integral and appreciated part of the process was the presentation of preliminary findings of the research work to farmers and other stakeholders to identify gaps and refine data as needed. In addition to support to the pineapple industry, direct technical support was provided to assist regional stakeholders develop their citrus and passion fruit industries

IICA continued to provide project oversight to the CDB funded and CARISEC managed project on



Technology transfer in pineapple

analysis of selected industries in Caribbean – coconut, small ruminants, papaya, hot peppers and sweet potato. This forms part of the industry development strategy programme under the Regional Transformation Programme (RTP) for Caribbean Agriculture. IICA has given leadership the coconut and papaya industries.

Information Dissemination

The IICA Tropical Fruits Newsletter was compiled and forwarded to the publishers. Distribution would be effected in 2003. The preliminary draft of the IICA Fruit Processing Manual was completed, reproduced and used as a training manual in Dominica, St. Croix, St. Kitts and

Nevis and Suriname. Final editorial changes are to be made prior to publication and distribution in 2003.

Resource Mobilization

Funds in excess of US\$100,000 were garnered from CDE, CTA and the Commonwealth Secretariat for the execution of the Caribbean Herbs Business Forum.

The Caribbean Human Resource Development Programme for Economic Competitiveness (CPEC) approved a project to develop the organic industry in Antigua/Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago to the value of Canadian \$ 278,630.00. CPEC's contribution is Canadian \$ 151,505.00. The project will focus on Development of the Organization and Management Capacity of Stakeholder Organizations in Diversification of Exports to the Caribbean through the Development of Organic Horticulture.

4.3. AGRICULTURAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

IICA's Agricultural Health and Food Safety continued its work in promoting a greater understanding of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary issues especially within the context of the WTO Trade regime. Efforts at modernizing the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety System and initiatives that were undertaken to combat threats to agricultural health and food safety produced positive results.

Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Measures

Increasing the Understanding and compliance with WTO Agreement on SPS Measures among Government officials and the agribusiness sector was a major area of focus. In this regard, a series of national seminars on SPS and Food Safety were conducted in CARIFORUM countries including: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Nevis, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.



Signing of the SAQS project

Assistance was also offered to these countries for the formation or strengthening of national agricultural health and food safety committees. The seminars were conducted by the EU/CARIFORUM funded IICA implemented project "Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services in

the Caribbean" (SAQS) which was approved by the European Union in July 2002 and began operations in September 2002.

A regional workshop on International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from October 9-11, 2002. FAO provided the funding and IICA contributed with logistical support. Thirteen Caribbean countries participated. New IPPC standards 'Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pest and Supplement to ISPM No11: Analysis of Environment Risks' were addressed and comments were offered. Recommendations for follow up were also made.

WTO SPS presentations were made at national Seminars on WTO Related Matters and Implications for the Agricultural Sector in Antigua, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. Over 100 persons from the respective Ministries of Agriculture benefited from the training.

IICA facilitated the participation of two delegates from each Caribbean country at the WTO SPS Committee meetings in Geneva from November 4 – 8, 2002. Funding was provided by USDA and administered by IICA. This support will continue for two additional SPS Committee meetings in 2003.

Modernizing the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems

Efforts to modernize and improve the efficiency of the agricultural health and food safety systems of the region continued in 2002.

The 2nd meeting of the Canada/CARICOM Alliance on Food Safety was held in Belize on July 3 to 7, 2002. The theme of the meeting was "Strengthening Food Safety Partnerships". Under the auspices of the Canada/CARICOM Alliance on Food Safety, delegates from Guyana and Trinidad and

Tobago were sponsored to attend the Codex Committee on Food Labeling Meeting in Halifax, Canada on May 6 to 10, 2002.

At the request of the CARICOM Ministers of Agriculture, the feasibility study for the creation of Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency continued, in collaboration with Regional Project Specialist. The feasibility study will be concluded in early 2003 and presented to the Alliance and COTED meetings in May.

Activities began in six Caribbean countries, viz., Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, under the Project 'Salmonella Risk Reduction in Table Eggs in the Caribbean'. The project was funded by USDA and PAHO/WHO. Project leaders in each country are fellows in the IICA Executive Leadership Series on Food Safety. A presentation was subsequently made at a PAHO/CAREC Workshop on Salmonella Surveillance and Diagnosis.

IICA in collaboration with the Caribbean Poultry Association, Association of Trinidad and Tobago Table Egg Producers, Trinidad and Tobago Livestock and Livestock Products Board, and the University of the West Indies, co-organized and co-sponsored a regional workshop on "Improving Competitiveness of Table Eggs in the Caribbean" from November 12-15. Over 80 persons attended. GAP guidelines, a marketing strategy and quality grading standards were developed for Caribbean Egg Producers. A draft regulatory protocol was developed for Salmonella enteritidis positive farms.

Key technicians were updated at a Regional Workshop on Qualitative Pest Risk Analysis for Plant Health, held in Trinidad on June 25-28 in Trinidad. This was a joint exercise between the USDA /APHIS/FAS and IICA. Fourteen countries participated in the training workshop. Resource persons were provided by USDA/APHIS.



Inspecting produce at the CARICOM jetty

Discussion papers on a Certification Protocol, Checklist for Inspectors and Trace-back were presented at the Sub-regional Meeting of the OECS Project on GAP in Antigua. A proposal was prepared and submitted for the restructuring of the Plant Protection Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture in Antigua and Barbuda. The establishment of National Food Safety Committee in St. Lucia was supported and the St. Lucia Bureau of Standards was designated as the lead agency.

Work continued in Trinidad and Tobago on the development of "Good Agricultural Practice" for hot peppers and pumpkin, with the assistance of a graduate student of the University of the West Indies. In Guyana, a Training Course and Workshop on GAP and HACCP was undertaken, in collaboration with resource persons from the MFCL, Food and Drug Analyst Department of the Ministry of

Health, National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and the National Dairy Development Programme (NDDP). Producers and processors together with their extension field technicians attended this activity. Participated in inspections and audits of seafood facilities and made presentations in the area of food safety. Media presentations on GAP were presented on TV and radio.

A one day workshop on agrochemical registration and control was conducted for staff of the Plant Protection Unit, with the assistance of competent staff of the MFCL and NARI. A project was prepared to access funding for the Plant Protection Unit of the MFCL. For the establishment, production and processing of CODEX Standards. Posters also produced and placed at ports of entry. A training workshop was held on Surveillance and Management of Fruit Flies and Citrus Pests and Diseases.

A "Table Top" Animal Disease Emergency Simulation Exercise, in collaboration with PAHO/WHO/NEMA and the MALMR was held on March 7, 2002. An exercise for Plant Health Emergencies was held in Trinidad and Tobago on November 13. The objectives of the simulations were to test Trinidad and Tobago's Emergency Response Capabilities and Animal to Plant Health Emergencies and to continue to validate the respective National Emergency Preparedness Plans. Over 60 persons participated in each workshop.

In Suriname, HACCP training for animal health and livestock officers was combined with GAP training and was facilitated by officers of the Ministry of Health. HACCP and poultry processing standards are being prepared by the Suriname Poultry Association, using standards from Caribbean Poultry and Guyana Poultry Associations. Plant Quarantine Workshops were held in Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis.

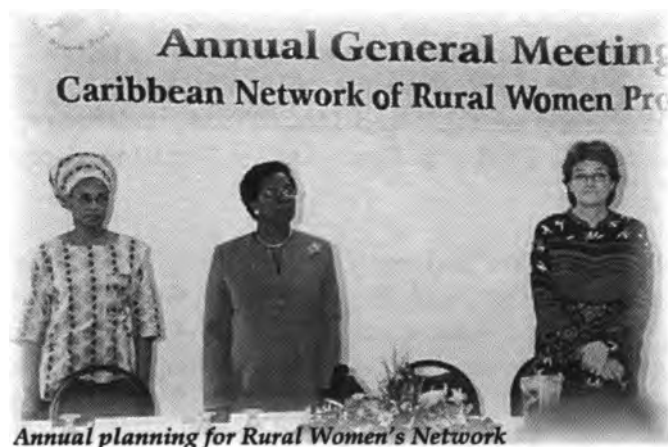
Addressing Emerging Issues

Following the initial detection of *Anastrepha* fruitfly in Grenada, emergency funds were approved and project implemented in Grenada for control of fruitflies. Entomologists visited, trained technicians and the first consignment of biocontrol agents released. Surveys continued in Guyana to determine the status of Black Sigatoka and the Giant African Snail. A national workshop on Citrus Canker was co-hosted by IICA, FAVA/CA and the MALMR, from August 5-9, 2002 in Trinidad and Tobago. Resource persons were provided by FAVA/CA. The workshop recognized this disease of citrus as an emerging issue and focussed on surveillance and identification.

Information and Communication

CARAPHIN News No. 23 was published and distributed. The CARAPHIN Plant and Animal Health Reports for 2001 were compiled and distributed. Information on emerging issues in animal health, plant health and food safety were sent to technical personnel in Ministries of Agriculture via regular email alerts.

4.4. SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT



IICA's priorities for Sustainable Rural Development activities concentrated on fostering the development of social groups in the rural territories, especially rural women and rural youth. The Caribbean Network of rural Women Producers and Caribbean Agricultural forum for Youth and their respective national chapters were used as the key vehicles in enhancing the financial and social esteem of these two groups.

Rural Women

In building upon the previous initiatives, 2002 represented a watershed period for the development of the Caribbean Network of the Rural Women Producers. It progressed significantly towards becoming administratively independent, while at the same time, promoting commercial viability among members.

At the Board Meeting in St. Michael, Barbados, agreement was reached on a number of strategic areas, such as, the establishment of the Regional Revolving Credit Facility with an operational basis, such that, each national chapter is responsible for the disbursements among members.

The Network has greatly enhanced its lobbying capabilities. This is evidenced in the preparation and submission of a resolution to the *4th Meeting of the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu*, which called on the Ministers with responsibility for agriculture, to recognize the national chapters and to make annual budgetary provisions to support their annual programmes.

Continuing in this mode, the Network agreed at its Annual General Meeting, Gros Islet, St. Lucia, to institute a programme of sensitization among members and the wider communities on "Exploring Trade Liberalization and Its Impact on Women Producers", a theme which was briefly addressed by the Caribbean Policy Development Centre. The Opening Ceremony was attended by Her Excellency, Dame Pearlette Louisy, Governor General of St. Lucia who supported the resolution that the Network takes on a more commercial bias, (as opposed to developmental). The Network responded to the challenge by facilitating the participation of two small-scale producers at a regional Trade Exhibition in St. Lucia and reaching agreement upon the establishment of exclusive distribution rights among the members.

Definitive action was completed on the proposal for the establishment and maintenance of a website as a vehicle to sensitize the public of the objectives of the organization, offer assistance to members in starting and developing their own businesses and as a marketing hub for members allowing the advertising of products and services to be exhibited and made available for interested buyers and investors.

The other major line of work has been to facilitate the transfer of technology, though the completion of two Handicraft training sessions, each of one week's duration, utilizing tutors from Guyana to train producers in Trinidad and Tobago

The prestige of the Network was also enhanced by official representation by Bibi Andrews and Maria Sharma at the 3rd World Congress of Rural Women, Madrid, Spain.

Rural Youth

Youth in the region took up the call made by the Alliance in 2002 with the formation of the CAFY. In June of 2002, the youth from the region assembled in Barbados to explore strategies aimed at involving youth in the decision making process and encouraging increased youth participation in agriculture. The general consensus among the youth was that to address the issues affecting youth in agriculture, they would have to return to their respective countries and establish national fora.

As a result of the first meeting of the youth, a number of initiatives were developed ranging from field visits, promoting the industry to youth representation at policy development fora, namely the Alliance meetings. By the second meeting of the youth in December in St. Lucia, the youth were on

the path of officially establishing national fora. In addition, a constitution to guide the Forum was also developed. In the first year of the Forum's establishment, the focus was on establishing an appropriate structure.

4.5. EDUCATION AND TRAINING

IICA's programme in Education and Training had three major goals. Firstly, the achievement of a graduate that better fits the required profile for agriculture and rural development in the first half of the 21st Century. This is being done through CACHE. Secondly, continuing education, the provision of education in specific technological information and procedures to a large number of agri-entrepreneurs, managers and technicians. This is being done through the Caribbean Agri-entrepreneurs Distance Learning Network. Thirdly, the exposure of representatives of the public and private sectors to the technological information, trade, legislation, etc.; factors that are impacting on the repositioning of agriculture and enhancement of the quality of rural life. This is being done through workshops, seminars, short courses, etc., and is reported on in the specific Thematic areas.

Caribbean Council for Higher Education in Agriculture (CACHE)

IICA continued to provide Secretariat services to CACHE whose main activity continued to be the promotion of the need for the review and subsequent reengineering of the curricula of its members. This sensitisation was achieved through presentations from various university personnel in the Americas on their experiences in this area. In addition, a Workshop on this topic was held for the Universities in Haiti. A complementary activity was a presentation on more student friendly teaching practices at University level.

The capacity of faculty members was strengthened through exchange visits and participation in workshops dealing with the preparation of electronically delivered Distance Learning Courses.

Efforts at developing a meaningful relationship with the Caribbean University Network, which embodies all aspects of university development, was initiated. The financial situation of CACHE also improved during the year.

Caribbean Agri-entrepreneurs Distance Learning Network

The Caribbean Agri-entrepreneurs Distance Learning Centre with significant financial support from the OAS, became fully operational offering courses via the Internet and CD Roms in Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. Centres, which were established in Guyana, St Kitts and Nevis and Suriname in the latter part of the year will offer courses in 2003. With the assistance of scholarships from the OAS over 250 students were trained in Farm Management for Technicians, Managers and Owners (three separate courses); Health and Occupational Safety; Introduction to E-Commerce; Organic Farming and Information and Extension Methods in Agriculture.



Distance learning... the new training tool for success

In addition to scholarships, the OAS funded project supported training courses for

writers and use of multimedia in the production and preparation of distance courses produced by both UWI and IICA. The training benefited technicians and scientists from universities, tertiary agricultural schools, CARDI, Ministries of Agriculture and IICA.

The preparation of 12 new courses was initiated during the year with funds provided by the OAS project and the IICA/CARDI Agreement. Nine were completed and three almost completed.

Student Internships

Under the IICA/UWI Agreement, which affords students at the under graduate and post-graduate levels to pursue short term internships at IICA, four under-graduate and two postgraduate students completed attachments in 2002.

Cochran Fellowship Program

One participant each from Dominica, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Barbados, involved in standards and produce inspection attended the short course on "Produce Inspection, Certification and Marketing", and a Jamaican national attended the course on Feeds Inspection and Certification. These courses were conducted by USDA and organised through IICA's Office in Washington, D.C.

4.6. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Newsletters

The IICA Newsletters are a major source of current information on agriculture in the Caribbean. Two issues of 1000 copies each of the AgriView Newsletter were published and distributed. One issue of 1200 copies of the CARAPHIN News was published. 1000 copies of In a Nutshell were disseminated.



Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas (SIDALC)

The SIDALC Network in collaboration with the FAO hosted a regional workshop on course/workshop on electronic production of documents and management of agricultural bibliographic databases, which was held at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica, May 20 to 23, 2002. This course is helping the national networks to develop virtual libraries and to put their national databases on the SIDALC site.

4.7 PROJECT PREPARATION

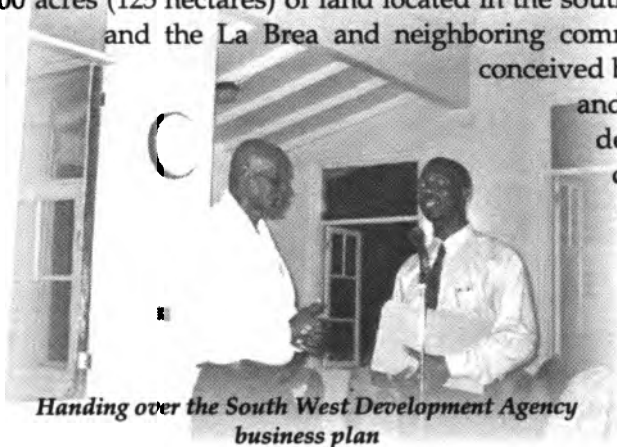
Efforts in the area of project preparation in the Caribbean were varied aimed at attracting funding to develop new projects that would: promote institutional modernization, strengthen regional trade, promote inter-sectoral linkages, especially in the areas of agro-tourism; and supporting the region's efforts at modernizing and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of its agricultural health and food safety systems; supporting the financial sector in the OECS in the development of on Agri-business Credit Risk Management Analysis Instrument; Supporting the regional effort at providing distance learning education to the agricultural and rural sectors; Supporting the poverty reduction effort; and Developing IICA's internal capacity and capability for Project Preparation.

A Management Audit was conducted and a Restructuring/Re-engineering Plan developed for the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries (MALFF) of Grenada. The exercise was undertaken in response to a request made by the MALFF for technical support from IICA in the conduct of a Management Audit of the MALFF with a view towards the elaboration of a

Restructuring/Re-engineering Plan aimed at increasing overall organizational efficiency and effectiveness of the MALFF. The Plan, which was accepted by the MALFF is specifically aimed at increasing the efficiency and improving the effectiveness of the services delivered by the MALFF.

A feasibility study was conducted for the expansion in regional trade in bananas between St. Lucia and selected Caribbean islands namely Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda. The exercise was undertaken in response to a result made by the Government of St. Lucia for technical support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) aimed at diversifying the market for bananas to ensure the long-term sustainability of the industry. The exercise was being undertaken against the background of the challenges faced and the opportunities that can be exploited by the banana industry as a result of dynamic changes taking place in the international environment; and the importance of the banana industry to the economy of Saint Lucia, in terms of its contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), foreign exchange earnings and employment. The feasibility report was presented to and accepted by the banana industry of Saint Lucia. A strategic Business Plan is being developed to exploit the market opportunities identified.

A comprehensive Business Plan was prepared for the development of an Agro-tourism Complex on 300 acres (125 hectares) of land located in the south-west region of Trinidad and Tobago in general and the La Brea and neighboring communities in particular. The business idea was



conceived by the South West Development Agency (SWDA) and is aimed at the stimulation of economic development in the area. The Business Plan was developed in response to the major social and economic challenges facing the communities of the South West Region of Trinidad and Tobago as well as the opportunities available for these communities to make a meaningful contribution to economic developing in the country.

In collaboration with the thematic area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety work started on the development of a Feasibility Study for CAHFSA, utilizing the conceptual framework document as the base. Special attention was given to the evolution of institutional options for CAHFSA.

Support was given to the development of a Credit Risk Management Analysis Instrument that could be utilized in the appraisal of investment proposals from the agricultural sector. The instrument was developed in response to a request from the Eastern Caribbean Institute of Banking (ECIB) to IICA to provide technical support in the development of such an instrument. The Regional Project Preparation continued its efforts to promote Distance Education and Training in the Caribbean by supporting two activities during the year. A course was developed in CD-Rom format on Youth Entrepreneurship and is now available for use in the Caribbean Distance Learning Programme.

Project preparation support was provided to the development of a UNESCO funded Project entitled In recognizing this reality, this project entitled "*Enhancing the Participation of Youths in the Economic Development Process of the Eastern Caribbean States*" which is aimed to contributing to UNESCO's efforts in Breaking the Cycle of Poverty among Marginalized Youths. Specifically, the project will identify and train at least 80 young persons in selected technical skill areas, while at the same time

empowering and partnering them through entrepreneurship development, to establish economic enterprises by which they can generate incomes for improving their livelihoods. The project will be implemented in four countries of the ECS these being Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica and St. Kitts and Nevis with IICA as the executing agency.

4.8 OTHER TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN 2002

On the request of the regional governments IICA assisted in conducting a technical review of CARDI to assist in the restructuring of that institute.

On the occasion of IICA's 60th Anniversary all the offices undertook special activities that promoted the agriculture sector in the region.

5. Country Reports

This section highlights the actions of the Nine Cooperation Agencies, that are found within the Caribbean Region.

5.1 Bahamas

Introduction

The Bahamian economy is heavily dependent on tourism and financial services to generate foreign exchange and create employment. Tourism provides an estimated 60% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and employs about half of the Bahamian work force. Financial services, the second-most important sector, accounts for about 15% of GDP.

The Agricultural and Fisheries sectors together account for about 5% of both GDP and employment. Exports from the Fisheries sector, mainly lobsters, account for about 25% of domestic exports. The agricultural sector contributes about 5% to domestic exports, with most agricultural products being consumed on the domestic market. The Bahamas imports more than \$250 million in foodstuff each year, representing about 80% of its food consumption.

Trade and Agri-business Development

The poultry and pork industries, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government (MAFLG), took steps to improve quality standards by moving towards the development of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system. To this end, a multi-sectoral committee on which IICA is represented was established.

A study documenting the Agricultural Health status of the Poultry and Pork industries was completed. An implementation matrix based on the study was presented to the MAFLG. The importance of the results thus far is that a plan of action exists to guide discussions with potential donors to determine and rationalize funding for implementation.

Support was provided to the formation of the Bahamas Agricultural Producers' Association (BAPA). The BAPA is expected to be the Bahamas' link with the Caribbean Agri-business Association (CABA).

With respect to preparation for entrance into the World Trade Organization (WTO) by Bahamas, the office participated in a Workshop for the development of Sub-Sector profiles for submission to the WTO and sponsored the Feature speaker at a luncheon associated with the workshop

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

The Pan American Health Organization/ World Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) established a Committee, chaired by IICA and including representatives from the Ministry of Health and the MAFLG, to draw up a Logical Framework for the design of a National Food Safety system. The Logical Framework, as well as, Terms of Reference for a coordinating mechanism were completed. These will be presented to the Ministries responsible for Agriculture and Health.

Support was provided for a seminar on the European Union funded project "Strengthening Animal and Plant Quarantine Systems (SAQS)". This project could contribute to efforts at improving food safety in The Bahamas.

Sustainable Rural Development

The modernization of the Rural Sector is being achieved through working with the Bahamas Cooperative League Limited (BCLL) and the Department of Cooperatives with support from the Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action (FAVA/CA). A strategic analysis of Producer/Supplier Cooperatives with pertinent recommendations was completed.

Information and Communication

There has been an Increase in the scope and effectiveness of the MAFLG/IICA



Communication Center. Staff received training in the Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas (SIDALC) and made recommendations for upgrading the technology at the center. A proposal was made for producing a Newsletter three times each year jointly with the MAFLG. The Communications Specialist participated in a workshop to identify IICA's information and documentation resources and the services and products provided. The aim is the establishment of an IICA Agricultural Libraries System for the country.

Education and Training

Improved means of distribution of skills-related material to better prepare the rural sector to deal with a changing environment is being addressed. The Bahamas will participate in IICA's Regional Agricultural Distance Learning Project.

Bahamas, gearing up for distance learning

Other Cooperation Activities

Arrangements were made for a number of persons to attend meetings, training programmes, workshops and Seminars in support of other IICA Units as well as other Organizations.

Plans and Programmes for 2003

The opportunities for the future are rooted in the stakeholder Consultations in review of the National Agenda and the Declaration and Plan of Action resulting from them.

The programme for 2003 will continue the development of the Communication Center and the Distance Learning project to improve the information flow to the rural sector. Industries with potential for being competitive will be targeted and appropriate technology introduced. The food safety situation will be addressed as the main sector, Tourism, can be adversely affected if citizens or visitors are exposed to food borne illnesses. Training of personnel within the office and in the public and private sectors will be continued.

5.2 Barbados

Introduction

The agricultural sector continues to make significant contributions to the Gross Domestic Product (Bds\$158.1 million), foreign exchange earnings (\$83 million – 1997, employment (4.3% of labour force), rural development, social stability and food security (25.9% of domestic consumption), as well as indirect contributions to the promotion of linkages with the tourism, environmental, and cultural sectors. In his Financial Statement and Budgetary Proposals, 2002, the Prime Minister, Hon. Owen Arthur stated *“There is no doubt that the agricultural sector is the most vulnerable of all of our productive sectors”* and that *“Agriculture is too vital to our way of life for us to lose faith in it, or to allow it to vanish”*.

The IICA Office in Barbados has been given a very special mandate, which is to establish an Agro Tourism Linkages Center. The establishment of such a Centre is based on the recognition of the complementarity among agriculture, rural territories and tourism, and the need for the development of inter-sectoral linkages as an essential component of development strategies. Exciting initiatives are already developing for the linkage of “Signature” Barbadian products with the tourism and hospitality sector. During the year, the IICA Office in Barbados collaborated with its technical partners to develop concrete work programmes for joint actions in support of agricultural health and food safety and sustainable agricultural and rural development. The Office also continued its programme of work in Distance Learning through the Caribbean Agro-Entrepreneurs Distance Learning and Training Centres in Barbados and the Caribbean, with significant support from the OAS.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

Our strategies focused on fostering Agro-Tourism linkages through Partnership meetings, and institutional strengthening of Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) with respect to the gathering, analysis and dissemination of production and trade information. In collaboration with the Barbados Agricultural Development & Marketing Corp (BADMC), the Barbados Sheep Farmers Inc. and the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA), the IICA Office in Barbados hosted its First Partnership Meeting, aimed at promoting the utilization of Black Belly lamb by the hospitality and foodservice sectors. The Meeting launched a 2-month pilot project to utilise lamb at two of Barbados’ top hotels, Sandy Lane and Coral Reef. Partnerships were also initiated through the participation of several stakeholders in a Linkages Exhibition which culminated our 25th Anniversary week of celebrations in October. The IICA Office also continued its programme of support to the MAR by providing technical assistance to the Planning Division on the development of computerized information system to support commodity/Enterprise Profitability and Productivity studies, and also by sponsoring the participation of an officer to WTO/SPS meetings in Geneva in November, 2002.

Technology and Innovation

Strategies in technology and innovation focused on Research and Development and Enterprise Development in Health Tourism and Herbs. The IICA Office supported the participation of Earth Mother Botanicals and UWI at the Caribbean Herb Business Forum, December 1-6, Jamaica. The meeting was jointly sponsored by IICA, the Commonwealth Secretariat, the Centre for Development of Enterprise (CDE), Brussels, and the CTA, Holland.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Our programme in this area focused on the formation of a national inter-agency committee on Agricultural Health and Food Safety to lead the process for the establishment of a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (NAHFSA) in Barbados. Under the European Union (EU) funded project "Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Systems" (SAQS), the office hosted a 2-day national consultation in November, 2002 at which this committee was selected. The establishment of this NAHFSA will allow Barbados to achieve three critical objectives, namely (1) to meet national demands related to food safety concerns; (2) to ensure the safety of the tourism product; and (3) to fulfill obligations under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Measures (SPS) Agreements. The IICA Office also provided sponsorship for the participation of officers of the MAR to four regional meetings on Agricultural Health and Food Safety in 2002. These were the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Alliance on CODEX and Food Control Systems in Belize, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) /IICA Workshop on Pest Risk Analysis, in Trinidad, the Caribbean Sub-Regional Workshop on Draft International Standards for Phyto-Sanitary Measures, in Trinidad, and the Giant African Snail Workshop in St. Lucia.

Sustainable Rural Development

The IICA Office continued to work actively with the Organic Growers and Consumers Association (OGCA) to promote the development of organic farming, and trade in certified organic produce. An inter-agency Agro-Tourism Linkages committee was also established and a programme of work initiated for the Scotland District. The results in this strategic area also included support for the training and education of rural farmers for improved production through Distance Learning, technical assistance to the Association of Women in Agriculture (AWIA) and sponsorship of rural women and youth to two meetings of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers (CNRWP) and the Youth Forum, held in Barbados and St. Lucia.

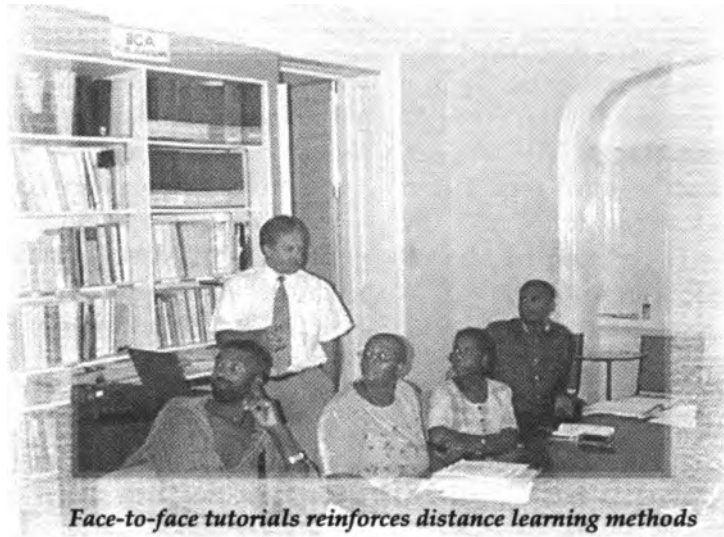
Information and Communication

Several activities were carried out with the aim of heightening the profile of the IICA Office in Barbados and IICA's vision for agriculture. Several of these were conducted during the week of celebrations of IICA's 60th Anniversary in the Hemisphere and its 25th Anniversary in Barbados in October, and included radio and television interviews, publication of a newspaper supplement, development of a 25th Anniversary CD-ROM, lectures to schools, and a Linkages Exhibition. A four-programme documentary series on IICA and Distance Learning Programmes was also produced in conjunction with the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) produced and aired at prime time. IICA also participated in a televised panel discussion on Genetically Modified Foods. The production of a 15-minute video, highlighting Agro-Tourism Linkage opportunities in Barbados and the Caribbean Region was also initiated. The Office also initiated a community project aimed at identifying community strengths in agro-tourism and sources of information on indigenous ethnobotanic products.

Education and Training

The IICA Office in Barbados continued its work in support of the Caribbean Agro-Entrepreneurs Distance Learning and Training Center (ADLTC) in Barbados and the Caribbean. Scholarships were provided to rural women, youth and agricultural entrepreneurs to pursue courses in Hydroponics, Organic Farming, eCommerce and Farm Management. The CA, Barbados was also been responsible for two externally-funded projects in the development of distance learning courses. These are an IICA/CARDI project which involved the preparation of three courses on dasheen, hot peppers and onions, and an Organisation of American States (OAS) funded project through which nine new

courses have been developed. The OAS project also included the provision of equipment, scholarships, and workshops for training of course writers and technicians. Education efforts were also directed to the hospitality sector through lectures on agro-tourism linkages and food safety and tourism. IICA's commitment to encouraging Youth in Agriculture resulted in various activities, including the establishment of the Barbados Youth Forum, a field tour for agriculture science



students and teachers, award of prizes and gifts to schools. Education and training efforts also extended to the institutional strengthening of MAR through support of participant to a workshop on Introduction to Distance Writing for Professionals in Food and Agriculture in Trinidad, and the **FAO/WAICENT/SIDALC Course/workshop on the Electronic Production of Documents and Management of Agricultural Bibliographic Databases in Jamaica.**



5.3 Dominican Republic

Introduction

In the economy and the society of the Dominican Republic agriculture is one of the most important productive sectors contributing 11% to the GDP. The sector also has an important role in food production for domestic consumption accounting for approximately 70% of the national demand. Agriculture generates employment for 17.6% of the labour force. It is also a sustainable avenue for the distribution of the economic wealth of the country.

In 2002, the economy of the Dominican Republic, according to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) reported an increase of 4.0%. The Central Bank reported an inflation rate of 10.5% for the year mainly due to an increase in electricity rates and the depreciation of the US dollar.

The data of the Central Bank of the Dominican Republic for the period January to September 2002 indicates that the agricultural sector decreased by 1.2%, as a result of a 2.9% decrease in the crop production sub-sector, while the livestock, forestry and fisheries sub-sectors increased by 0.4% and 3.4%, respectively.

During the first nine months of the year, rice, beans, sweet potato, yams, dasheen, banana and oranges registered levels of production that were higher than 2001. The production of Chinese vegetables for export, coffee and cocoa was also higher. In the livestock sector, production of beef, pork, fresh milk, and table eggs were higher. Recording lower production were: sugar cane, tobacco, beans, maize, potato, cassava, tomato, plantain and pineapple. In the livestock sector, poultry production contracted.

Trade and Agri-business Development

An increase in the knowledge and capacity in agricultural issues of the trade negotiating team was verified. Under the leadership of the State Secretary for Agriculture (SSA), a team of qualified negotiators comprising of 24 professionals from both the public and private sector attended various educational and training events during the year where they received information relevant to enhancing their negotiating capacity and to refine their position for the various trade negotiations including the Free Trade Area of the Americas, World Trade Organization, Central America, CARICOM, and bilateral agreements with Canada, United States of America, Venezuela, Panama, Ecuador and Chile. On the other hand, in 2001 studies were conducted in the Dominican Republic, on rice, beans, milk, poultry and fertilizers, to determine definitively which of the main agricultural products produced in the Dominican Republic are competitive and can be produced in a sustainable manner. These studies were used by organizations and groups of the agricultural sector and by the country. Also, continued support to the country was given through the Secretaries of State for Agriculture and Foreign Affairs to comply with their commitments with the WTO in correcting technical evaluation reports, following the recommendations of the Summit of the Americas, the post Uruguay Trade Negotiations and to ensure compliance with the commitment on agriculture, such as, bimonthly and quarterly negotiations of the FTAA and WTO.

Technology and Innovation

The strategic alliance with the Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute of the Dominican Republic was strengthened through the support offered for the formulation, approval and financing of the project "Methods for Non Destructive and Molecular Markers for determining the appropriate harvesting dates for five varieties of avocados (*Persea Americana* Mill)". A three-year contract was

signed. This project is part of the agreement of IICA/IDB with the Fund for Agricultural Technology (FONTAGRO) and some intervention of the Centre for Post-harvest Studies of the National University of Chile.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

The capacity of the country to improve its food safety was strengthened with the training of 41 agriculture professionals that participated in a training course on Good Agricultural Practices, which was hosted by JIFSAN (the University of Maryland) and the United States Department of Agriculture, the IICA Office and the Secretary of State for Agriculture. A joint program was initiated and it included 10 new courses on the theme. The national system for the internal movement of animals, plants and agricultural products was completed. The SSA, Producers' Association and the



Controlling classical swine fever

Pork Industry were supported in the management of complimentary resources for the control and eventual eradication of Classical Swine Fever in the country. Through the administration and technical participation in the "Project to strengthen the Agricultural Health", the IICA office supported the SSA in the organization of services in agricultural health. The IICA Office in the Dominican Republic was also collaborated in the efforts to obtain external funding from the USDA to continue the program of control and eventual eradication of Classical Swine

Fever executed by the SSA in the country.

Sustainable Rural Development

The Office contributed to the inter-institutional integration to facilitate the participation of rural women in productive activities through PADEMUR, the Office of the First Lady of the Republic, the Secretariat for Women, NGO's and other institutions, allowing the training of rural women and the completion of project profiles to alleviate rural poverty. The Office contributed to raise the level of nutrition and health of rural families and to create an awareness of the benefits of reforestation in the area of the border. It was as well the liaison in channeling the joint efforts and the integration of families participating in the Milk Bank "The Milk that Reforests" together with the Foundation for the Integrated Development of Pedernales and the Community Development Foundation (FUDECO). These joint efforts have allowed an increase of the level of nutrition and health among families and created a new consciousness about the reforestation in the deforested area of the border. In the consolidation of a model that allows the integration of the business sector, public institutions, Non Governmental Organizations and rural communities that fight poverty in the area of the border and enhance the capacity of the beneficiaries in the development of the community and in generating income, was achieved.

Education and Training

Through the activities with the member institutions of REDCA and CACHE, a solid position on the topic of education and training in agriculture and forestry, was achieved. This conducted to a review of the curriculum and advances were made in the organizational strengthening for the changes in

the area of study. Workshops, conferences and short courses for training centres targeted at agribusinesses and agribusiness organizations were offered.

Information and Communication

The counterpart institutions in the agricultural sector showed new capacities, 63 technicians and support personnel received training which contributed to the strengthening of their capacity in the use of software. They all learned how to use Windows Platform, Word, Excel, Power Point and the Internet. Also, the Network on Documentation and Information Centre in the Dominican Republic (RECDIA) was consolidated, with respect to the development of new mechanisms to look for sites of documents and information through training events.

Other Technical Actions

The office gave technical and logistical support to other offices in the Caribbean in activities, such as: developing a project proposal titled "Strengthening the technical and managerial capacity of small agricultural producers and agricultural professionals in the Caribbean in the use of modern information and communication technology," cassava production technology and the processing of cassava and technical and logistical support for the participation of Dominican producers and agribusinesses at the Caribbean Herbs Business Forum.

Publications

The Office produced in 2002, five studies on sensitive agricultural products. The documents refer to rice, beans, milk, poultry and fertilizers.



5.4 Guyana

Introduction

The National Agenda for Guyana was fashioned with IICA's collaboration, through a series of consultations on the priority topics in agriculture identified by the National Development Strategy 2001-201-, the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the Alliance for Agriculture, and the national priorities as presented by President Bharrat Jagdeo in early 2002. The National Agenda is the reference point for strategic actions undertaken by the IICA Office in Guyana in 2002, and will apply beyond. These strategic actions inform activities in the areas of trade and agribusiness development, agricultural health and food safety, sustainable rural development, training and education, information and communication, and technology and innovation.

Despite the fact that implementation of the National Agenda only began in June, 2002, the programme has yielded measurable, positive results, and has contributed significantly to the on-going efforts at development and modernisation of the agricultural sector. In recording the achievements reported, the Office freely acknowledges the indispensable role played during the year by its several institutional partners.

Trade and Agribusiness

The Office, working in collaboration with the UK Department for International Development (DFID), the National Agricultural Research Institute (NARI) and the Mabaruma/Hosororo Organic Cocoa Growers Association (MHOCGA), assisted the farmers in realizing increased yields of cocoa in 2002, and in consolidating continued access to a niche European market for the commodity. The cocoa, which is marketed in Holland, is presently classified as "organic in transition", and substantial progress has been made and is continuing towards its eventual certification as "fully organic".

- Coordinated consultations among stakeholders leading to the preparation, discussion and acceptance of the IICA Guyana National Agenda, which will serve as the reference document for future development activities.
- Participated with the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA), Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock (MFCL), NARI and other stakeholders in the development of a draft national policy for organic agriculture.

The Guyana Chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) was established in May, 2002, and efforts are on-going to assist it to become fully functional.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Fifty MFCL staff members from all administrative regions received intensive training in GAP and HACCP requirements, and this information is now being extended to farmers and processors by trained Ministry personnel. This has led to better understanding of GAP and HACCP fundamentals among producers and processors, and is yielding improvements in the quality of food produced.

Staff of the Plant Protection Unit of the MFCL was trained in issues related to the handling, use and misuse of imported agro-chemicals, and are relaying this information to targeted stakeholders. Support was provided for the harmonization of the Plant Quarantine and Plant Protection Acts, resulting in a consultation and the drafting of a document which is nearing finalisation.

Two Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and two Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) training sessions were held for vegetable and food producers in selected regions, and some of the beneficiaries have already adopted the improved practices.

Sustainable Rural Development

Establishment in August of the Rural Development Resources Centre by incorporating the functions of GAIN and the SIDALC Centre, thereby availing stakeholders of access to a local library and agricultural libraries, and information on locally-available funding sources.



A budding organic cocoa farm in Mabaruma

Improved organizational management for more effective and equitable economic activities was achieved with farmers in Mabaruma (cocoa), St. Ignatius (cashew), Wakapoa (coffee), St. Deny's (cassava) and Rupununi (peanuts); as well as with the independent Network of Rural Women.

Modification of imported technology used for the processing of cashew nuts in St. Ignatius, resulting in a less hazardous working environment for processors.

The local Rural Women's Network (RWN) was supported and institutional ties with the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers encouraged, resulting in economic and cultural exchanges between Guyanese women and similar groups in Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and Dominica. The Office supported the RWN's participation in the 3rd congress of Rural Women in Spain. These interactions provided the opportunity for gaining information regarding market access in those countries for Guyana handicraft and other products.

Meetings were held with members of the Guyana Forum for Youth in Agriculture. The Office supported the participation of a youth representative in Caribbean Forum activities.

Training and Education

In reference to the commitment to facilitate improved IICA personnel skills:

- the Information Specialist received training in AGRIS methodology;
- the Information Specialist attended several one-day workshops in new information technologies;
- one Secretary attended a workshop on interpersonal skills;
- all General Services Personnel received training in computer use.

Among non-institutional stakeholders there was training:

- * in GAP and HACCP requirements;
- * in enterprise development undertaken with cocoa farmers in Mabaruma;
- * for staff of the Plant Protection Unit in the handling, use and misuse of imported agro-chemicals;
- * in pest/disease diagnosis and the use of "new" agro-chemicals;
- * of 20 farmers in computer use in Mabaruma/Hosororo, Region 1.

Information and Communication

Establishment and activation of the Rural Development Resources Centre following the incorporation of the SIDALC and GAIN, thereby creating a nascent vehicle for greater access to information and improved capability for communication among stakeholders.

Unprogrammed Activities

The Office has participated in and supported a number of unprogrammed activities during the year. For example, technicians have made contributions to the fortnightly seminars mounted by the IWOKRAMA Rainforest Programme. Other agencies with which the Institute collaborated include the Guyana Office for Investment (GO-Invest), Conservation International (CI), Guyana Dairy Development Programme (GDDP) and the Women's Study Unit of the University of Guyana.

Plans for 2003

Among on-going project, IICA will continue in 2003 to work closely with NARI, the MHOCGA, RDC, among others, to consolidate the gains reported for the organic cocoa project, concentrating on improving yields through an expansion of the acreage under cocoa, as well as via the implementation of measures to improve productivity. Also, as already agreed, IICA will oversee the inclusion of a diversification component to engender sustainability of gains realised, and provide income to farmers between cocoa harvests.

The Office will also continue its collaboration towards the development of the Caribbean AgriBusiness Association (CABA), Rural Women's Network (RWN) and Rural Development Learning Centre (RDLC), as well as work towards fully achieving the objectives of modernising the agricultural health and food safety facilities, laws and regulations; promoting the development and improvement of domestic and export markets; strengthening civil society organisations; and increasing education and training on sustainable agriculture, among others.

In relation to projects not yet on the ground, development will be enhanced by operationalising the proposed Animal and Plant Disease Surveillance Unit and undertaking a National Rural Household Livelihood Survey to gather information for decision-making.

Opportunities for further collaboration also include exploitation of the potential for agro-tourism, product transformation (agro-processing) of selected commodities, and the development of apiculture as an element of diversification from traditional agriculture.

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5.5 Haiti

Introduction

The agricultural sector in Haiti is one of the key pillars of the Haitian economy. Its contribution to the GDP is estimated at about 24%. Several factors impede this sector's development, namely the low revenue of the farmers, the absence of basic infrastructure, lack of job opportunities and destruction of the environment. All this is causing a large reduction of the farmers' income. However, certain institutions are involved this sector to improve its performance. Through various co-operation programmes that are being undertaken in Haiti, IICA's participation is very important in the development of the sector

This report shows the results of the various activities carried out by the IICA's office in Haiti during 2002, to support the Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector. The results of these activities can be summarised as follows:

Trade and Agri-business Development

During 2002, the office continued to promote the organisation of meetings among members of the private sector and to encourage alliances of the businesses working in the sector with the purpose of attracting investment. It also sponsored the participation of Haitian businessmen and technicians in regional meetings. The office served as a liaison between the private sector groups and the Government, as well as with the private food processing businesses.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

In this area, a network of Animal Production and Health agents were trained at the national level allowing them to work in their community.

A strategy of control was placed to fight against Hibiscus Pink Mealy Bug. In this regard, at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, several technical missions and seminars were carried out in Haiti. On the other hand, this office implemented, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and the support of CIRAD, PROMECAFE and CODOCAFE, a strategy to control the Coffee Berry Borer.



The Mealy bug. . an exotic but unwelcome visitor.

Around twenty varieties of banana and plantain, which are resistant to the Black Sigatoka, were introduced in Haiti. These varieties are in the process of being tested and, depending on their adaptability level in Haiti and their resistance to the disease will then be distributed throughout the country.

Negotiations have concluded with the Agricultural Department of the United States (USDA) for the implementation of a Project for the Reinforcement of the Infrastructure for Agricultural Health and the Fight against the Classical Swine Fever in Haiti. This project will begin in 2003 and its budget is US\$4.9 million.

Sustainable Rural Development

With respect to Sustainable Rural development, the office continued to support various rural organisations, through training sessions in the country.

New groups were formed in the framework of the KREDIFANM project and others are in the process of being created. Some steps for the application of this methodology in other areas of the country are in progress.

Thanks to the support of IICA and with the collaboration of partners of the sector, such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Planning, Coffee Co-operatives, exporters and producers, the Haitian Coffee Institute and the National Coffee Foundation are in their final state of creation.

Technology and Innovation

In coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, this office introduced improved varieties of seedlings in Haiti. These seedlings were distributed and validated in several plots of land throughout the territory. They were then multiplied and cultivated for commercial purposes.

With regard to animal production, improved breeds of poultry have been imported and distributed to rural families. The office also acted as a link to make it easier for the NGOs to acquire improved breeds of goats and cattle from the Dominican Republic.

This office also served as a liaison between the CRIDNET network and Haiti and with funds provided by the network, it was able to get involved in the training of Haitian technicians and producers and in the introduction of improved varieties of rice.

Education and Training

In regards to education and training, the office continued to provide support to key entities in the organisation of seminars, courses and training sessions. During 2002, IICA contacted several institutions and grants were obtained to train Haitian students.

Additionally, the office supported the participation of technicians, specifically those from the Ministry of Agriculture and the private sector, in international seminars organised by IICA at the regional and international level. At the same time, the local CACHE chapter continues to receive IICA's assistance in the co-ordination of meetings.

Information and Communication

In 2002, the office provided broadcasting messages for producers in remote areas of the country. It is also important to mention that there was an active participation of the technicians of the IICA office in broadcasting radio and television programmes.

Press releases were published in various local newspapers, providing information on the activities of the Institute at the international, regional and local levels. Some pamphlets and other technical messages were prepared and published for producers.

In addition to these results, the office has, throughout the year, undertaken other programmes of cooperation, as follows:

Development of the Bi-Lateral Co-operation between Haiti and the Dominican Republic

- Contribution to the organisation of the first Organic Agriculture Day in Haiti.

5.6 Jamaica

Introduction

Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined by an estimated 0.2 per cent during January-March 2002, compared with the same period in 2001, according to the estimates of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). The lower level of real aggregate output during the review quarter resulted mainly from declines in Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing, Mining & Quarrying and Miscellaneous Services. For the quarter, January-March 2002, real GDP in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing declined by an estimated 4.5 per cent, compared with the corresponding period of 2001. The PIOJ's Index of Agriculture Production showed a year to year reduction of 4.0 per cent in gross output for the sector.

IICA's commitment in Jamaica is based on the fundamental importance of the agricultural sector and the rural areas of the country and its people. It further stresses that this is a task that needs to be addressed by everyone concerned to promote sustainable development of the agricultural sector and rural areas. In consultation with private and public sector institutions, the areas of: Trade and Agribusiness, Sustainable Rural Development, Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agricultural Information were identified as major priorities.

Work continued with the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA), and its local branch, the Agribusiness Council (ABC), the Jamaican Exporters Association (JEA), and other private sector organisations to strengthen the participation of agricultural producers and agro processors in the trade processes and to improve the competitiveness of particular industries. IICA remain committed to support the design and development of specific industry oriented strategies for its specific and concrete development.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

The IICA office has supported CABA and the ABC in the definition of basic issues that can guide the approach to design strategies for the development of the agribusiness sector. It is expected that IICA will continue to support these institutions to further these basic ideas. IICA has supported the creation of the Pig Producers Association and has contributed to a better understanding of the industry situation with a basic study that formed the base for the development of an industry strategy. The Office has further supported discussion of the creation of the Caribbean Pig Producers Association. A workshop was implemented in collaboration with the private sector to promote a better understanding of the available tools in trade analysis and development of market offers in the negotiating process. The recommendation is to implement training courses at all levels with the private and public sector and to strengthen the analytical capacity to improve participation in the negotiating process.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Participated in assessments leading to initiation of the implementation of strengthened quarantine systems in the Caribbean and in Jamaica that will facilitate and promote safer trade, improved market access and contribute to improved food safety. Presently there are several activities being programmed for implementation in collaboration with the National Food Safety Commission in terms of training and technical assistance. A Mission was carried out by the Regional Agricultural Health Specialist to review IICA's current involvement in the subject and identify and recommend possible future activities or projects. The basic proposal implies the development of an industry approach to support industries strategies for the improvement of food safety and quality and therefore product competitiveness in the market place.

Technology and Innovation

With the Jamaica Bauxite Institute (JBI), in the implementation of two production projects for goats and spices in an original and direct approach to promote agricultural production and increase farmer's income. The Mocho Goat project has recently imported dual purpose pure bred goats



Improving the quality of breeding stock

which will contribute to an increase in the goat herd size with a target for 250 goats by year 2004. This will generate animals for distribution to farmers. Training, assistance and farmer selection will complement the distribution of goats to support full impact of farmers' activities.

IICA has been selected, by the JBI, to implement a project out of an Agreement between JBI, WIDALCO and Walkerswood, to produce spices on recovered mined-out lands. The project will organise farmers and assist them, in collaboration with RADA to lay out their fields and introduce a drip irrigation system that will increase yields

and expand the planting season for some of the introduced crops. The market is being secured by contracts between farmers and the Walkerswood Company.

Sustainable Rural Development

For many years, IICA has been in the promotion of Sustainable Rural Development with farming communities, the organisation of Rural Women and Rural Youth, where the combined support of several international organisations, like the OAS, the USDA, CIDA and the European Union, have been integrated in a very unique way. It is expected that the issues of rural development will be supplemented with strong efforts to reduce poverty in the rural areas and particularly for the more sensitive actors - Women and Youth.

IICA has been in close dialogue with the PIOJ and RADA to contribute to the definition of a holistic approach to sustainable rural development. In this context, a workshop was implemented with wide participation from a number of key sectors. The workshop produced recommendations that will be the pivotal element to initiate the design of the strategy.

Education and Training

The Agri-Distance Learning and Training Centre operated by this office has recently completed the first year of courses offered in the following areas: Organic Farming for Entrepreneurs, Farm Management, Information & Extension Methods in Agriculture and an Introduction to E-Commerce. A total of 67 students from within the agricultural sector participated in the courses, which are delivered via the Internet and CD-ROM. The second year of courses began in December 2002. A review of the present issues in education and training in the sector, particularly in relation to the promotion of agricultural and rural development in Jamaica, was implemented. The report that came out of the activity indicated the basis for a renewed programme to strengthen the Distance Learning Centre and set up a project that will introduce new institutional partners and an expanded variety of training courses.



5.7 OECS

Antigua and Barbuda

Introduction

Generally, the sector has much potential for growth but is constrained by the availability of water, high cost of production, lack of an adequate marketing system and market intelligence, ineffective and inefficient institutional framework for planning, programming and management of the sector. Although the contribution of the agriculture represents only 3.5% of GDP the greater contribution is through the employment of persons in the sector. Antigua and Barbuda experienced a drought in 2002 and this greatly affected agriculture production. Both crop and livestock farmers were adversely affected by the weather. Arising out of this situation, Farmers in creek side area have entered into a joint venture-ship with the Ministry of Agriculture towards the creation of larger water catchments. The result is an increase in water holding capacity of upper big creek from 5 million gallons/19 million liters to 11 million gallons/42 million liters. It is expected that this initiative will be repeated in other areas of the island.

The Office supported the increased emphasis by the Ministry of Agriculture on the formation of cooperatives and other farmers groups, by bringing in a consultant to gather information for Credit Risk Analysis from the institutions that give credit to farmers. The past year has seen the strengthening of the farmers groups that are functioning and the development of a new group. Farmers are beginning to recognize the benefits of forming associations and groups. As seen by the farmers in big creek area.

The agro-tourism linkage project funded by the FAO was set up to utilize the potential to develop synergies between the two sectors. It is now in its second year of implementation. This is an area for closer collaboration for national agricultural development.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

The major achievement in this area was a one-day seminar on "The World Trade Organization and the Implication for Agriculture in Antigua and Barbuda" held in October. This seminar also commemorated IICA's 60th Anniversary. Participants drawn from the Ministry of Agriculture, farmers and other private sector were sensitized to multilateral trade negotiations. This seminar, also undertaken in collaboration with the Regional Trade project, laid the foundation for increasing the sector's capacity to meet the WTO and FTAA agreements. There have been two follow-up meetings to further involve agricultural technicians and the producers in the negotiations that are currently in process. Discussions were held with a number of stakeholders on the formation of a National Agribusiness Association. It is expected that this association will ultimately improve the sector's competitiveness and efficiency.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

The project "Assistance to Institutionalize Good Agricultural Practice for Selected Commodities in the OECS" was launched in June and a series of training workshops have been held in this regard. A National Consultation was held in November to start the process towards formation of a single agricultural health and food safety agency. Additionally, a second consultation on an "Animal Emergency Disease Plan" was held in November. Generally, Antigua and Barbuda have made giant strides in 2002 towards meeting obligations for the WTO SPS. The Office sponsored the attendance of two officers to the SPS meeting in Geneva. This was the first time Antigua was represented at such a meeting.

Sustainable Rural Development

A meeting was held to discuss the formation of a National Youth Forum in Agriculture. Youth from the rural areas were the main attendees to this meeting as they recognize the tremendous potential for the Forum to improve the livelihood of the communities in which they live. IICA assisted an agro-processor to attend and exhibit products at a Trade Show in St. Lucia with the expectation that the entrepreneur will be better positioned to improve her standard of living.

Technology and Innovation

IICA collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture in a conference on "Expanding Markets for Antigua and Barbuda Fresh Produce, Meeting Quality, Food Safety and Organic Production Standards". One hundred and twenty persons received training in improved crop production and use of modern technology. Subsequently, an Organic production group has since been formed.



Participants in capacity building workshop.

Information and Communication

The Office has been providing information on various aspects of agriculture and rural development. Many of the Institute's publication and other information were displayed at the Agricultural Showcase held to celebrate Antigua and Barbuda's 21st Anniversary of Independence.

Education and Training

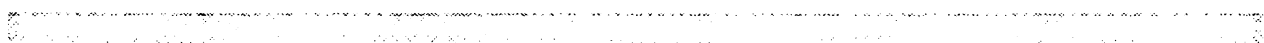
A proposal to develop a local node of the distance-learning center was investigated. The proposal was well received by the persons interviewed. The possibility of becoming members of CACHE was also discussed.

Other Topics - Agriculture Sector Plan

The Agriculture Sector Plan for 2001-2005 was finalized and adopted this year. The objective of the Agriculture Sector Plan is to provide a blueprint for the development of the Sector over the next five years. This plan arose in large part out of recommendations of the IICA Sector Analysis 1998-99.

Plans and Programs for Next Year

The National Agenda for 2003 will continue to provide training in multilateral trade negotiations and to give support to the formation of a planning unit in the Ministry of Agriculture. Areas of focus will include the formation of a national agricultural health and food safety agency, and training in Good Agricultural Practice. Training in project development and finance management will increase the capability of rural entrepreneurs to improve their living standards. The launching of a distance-learning center will go a long way towards reducing poverty and promoting food security. Support will be given to the formation of a National Agribusiness Association.



Dominica

Introduction

The Dominican economy is facing the greatest challenge to its existence since independence from Britain. Not only is the market for bananas becoming increasingly more competitive and demanding, but also the current system for market protection in the European Union is scheduled for removal within the next three years. Despite the decrease in the contribution of agriculture to the GDP, employment and the percentage of exports in 2002, the IICA office in Dominica continued to actively promote the repositioning of agriculture through a number of activities implemented under the six strategic areas.

The following highlights the contribution of IICA to the modernization of agriculture by the various thematic and supporting areas of action.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

IICA's technical cooperation in Dominica focused on support to agricultural trade negotiations by sponsoring and organizing a national workshop entitled 'Understanding Critical Trade Issues in



ECS Rep. making a point in Critical Trade Issues Workshop

Agriculture - Realities, Expectations and Opportunities'. Due to limited resources, the workshop was done in collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery (CRNM), The OECS Secretariat, Ministry of Trade & Industry, Ministry of Agriculture & the Environment and the private sector.

The two-day workshop was successfully implemented as a result of the strategic alliances established and was attended by 48 participants from the private and public sectors.

Support was given to facilitate and participate in the OECS Globalization Readiness Conference 2002 where a framework for OECS trade policy was developed. The workshop was organized by the Dominica Association of Industry and Commerce (DAIC) in collaboration with the Association of Eastern Caribbean Exporters (AECE) and was attended by 61 participants from the OECS. The workshop highlighted a number of relevant issues that both the private and public sectors, along with labour and civil society, need to address urgently in order to take advantage of the opportunities presented by external trade negotiations. The need to facilitate national consultations between the various stakeholders was also reinforced.

The both workshops contributed significantly to promoting regional dialogue and information exchange amongst the OECS in matters related to agricultural negotiations and trade.

The Agro-Processors' Association of Dominica (APAD) was launched to strengthen 34 agro-processors in Dominica, by building alliances with existing institutions like CABA, and by implementing joint procurement of inputs and providing advocacy. Efforts are being made to include IICA as a honorary member to provide exposure to opportunities for growth in agro-processing.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

The review of the draft Plant Protection Legislation for Dominica with an FAO legal consultant was done for two days in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Trade, Ministry of Legal Affairs and the private sector. This was to enable Dominica to meet the requirements of the WTO agreement on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures (SPS agreement) and the new revised text of the IPPC.

The CPEC project implemented by the Pesticide Control Board (PCB) and coordinated by IICA achieved the following in 2002:

- 1) Initiated and developed Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) protocols for Hot Pepper, Tomato, Dasheen, Sweet Potato, Plantain, Mango and Pineapple production, in collaboration with CARDI.
- 2) Organized and participated in four national workshops attended by 53 farmers and 11 exporters with emphasis on GAP, including pesticide management and safety, hazards, ground history, water quality, sanitation and hygiene, and fresh produce standards.

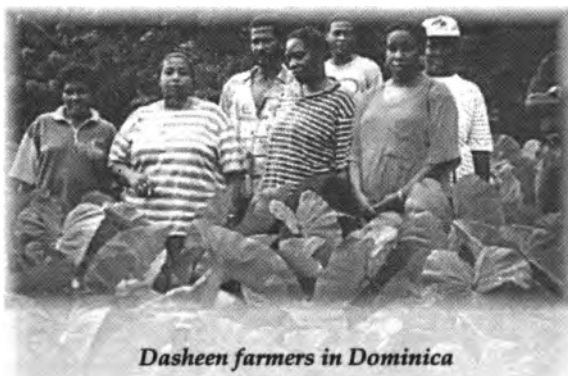
Alliances between CARDI, The Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Agriculture, Dominica Banana Producers (DBP) and IICA ensured successful implementation of the workshops.

Administrative and logistic support was given to the Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services (SAQS) project in implementing two one-day national workshops on SPS and Food Safety and on The Formation of Agricultural Health and Food Councils. Active participation by the Ministers of Health, Ministers of Trade and the Minister of Agriculture indicates the opportunities that exist for the development of sustainable partnerships between the various ministries within the public sector. The Access Bulletin continued to be distributed to complement the work of SAQS by providing information on decisions that affect trade regarding health and food safety issues.

Administrative and logistic support were provided in organizing preliminary discussions in implementing national consultations for developing National Emergency Plans for plant and animal health by SAQS (PIU).

Technology and Innovation

A national three-day workshop entitled 'Promoting the Development of a Sustainable Agro Processing Industry in Rural Communities in Dominica' for selected crops (Dasheen, Cassava, Arrowroot, Pineapple, Mangoes and Paw Paw) was held in collaboration with the Tobago House of Assembly, Dominica Rural Enterprise Project (DREP), Produce Chemist Laboratory, APAD and Windward Islands Farmers Association (WINFA).



Dasheen farmers in Dominica

Fifty one participants from the rural communities from both private and public sectors were exposed to the marketing standards (product specifications, labeling and packaging), GAP, Good Manufacturing

Practices (GMP), traceability and the latest technologies involved in the processing of root crops and fruits.

In response to a request from Nature Island Pineapple Producers Association (NIPPA) to assist in identifying and developing strategies for development of a sustainable pineapple industry, a rapid assessment of the pineapple industry was done in collaboration with CIRAD.

Sustainable Rural Development

Participation in the preparation of a draft UNESCO funded project for St. Vincent, St. Kitts, Grenada and Dominica entitled 'Enhancing the Participation of Marginalized Youth in the Economic Development Process'.

The provision of guidance to the formation of a Youth Forum in Dominica by supplying a draft youth constitution, access to information, and facilitating the formation of an eleven-member Advisory Youth Chapter to officially launch a Youth Forum Chapter in 2003.

Education and Training

The IICA office in Dominica facilitated the attendance of technical professionals from the Ministries of Agriculture and of Trade in the following workshops and seminars for 2002:

1. GAP Training Workshop in St. Lucia under the CPEC Project.
2. GAP Training Workshop in St. Kitts under the CPEC Project.
3. GAP Meeting in Antigua.
4. Second Meeting of Canada/CARICOM Alliance on Food Safety in Belize.
5. Citrus Canker Workshop in Trinidad.
6. FAO ISPM Meeting in Trinidad.
7. Giant African Snail Workshop in St. Lucia.
8. WTO/SPS Committee Meeting in Geneva, Switzerland.
9. Traceability Seminar in St. Lucia.
10. OECS Agriculture Ministers Meeting in St. Lucia.

The IICA Office in Dominica facilitated the attendance of technical professionals from the private sector and youth in the following workshops and seminars for 2002:

1. Private sector entrepreneur (NIPPA) attended Fourth International Pineapple Symposium in Mexico.
2. Youth facilitated by provision of sponsorship to attend Agricultural Youth meeting in Barbados and to attend Caribbean Youth Forum launching in St. Lucia.
3. One Private and one public professional attended launching of CABA chapter in St. Lucia.
4. Six private and two public professionals/technicians attended Caribbean Herbs Business forum in Jamaica.

The Technical Specialist received training on:

- Elements of Project Development.
- Meeting the Challenge of Effective ACP Participation in Agricultural Trade Negotiations: The Role of Information and Communication.
- Strengthening the Resource Mobilization and Project Development Capacity of Regional Networks.

Information and Communication

The IICA office in Dominica implemented a programme of events to celebrate IICA'S 60th anniversary and 18th anniversary for the IICA office in Dominica.

It hosted a Radio Interview in collaboration with the CRNM on the WTO Agreement on Agriculture and Intellectual Property Rights, and another concerning the Challenges Involved in Repositioning Agriculture and The New Role of IICA as a Development Agency.

A Television interview was done in collaboration with the regional specialist for Technology and Innovation on The Role of IICA in the Development of Agriculture for Economic Growth in the Commonwealth of Dominica.

A Newspaper supplement to celebrate IICA's 60th anniversary (including history and questions & answers about IICA), along with congratulatory messages from both the private and public sectors was done in collaboration with the Sun Newspaper. Three press releases in newspaper articles in the local media were dedicated to IICA'S 60th anniversary, as well as an overview of the SAQS Project and the Caribbean Herbs Business Forum.

Plans and Programs for 2003

- To foster an efficient trade policy process support will be focused on institutional capacity building, so as to help structure the process and make it sustainable, rather than solely strengthening the capacity of individuals by providing direction in the formation of a dedicated team of private and public sector professionals in International Affairs and Trade.
- APAD would like to gain membership within CABA with intentions of establishing a local chapter of CABA in Dominica.
- Introduce and promote the concept and philosophy of Total Quality Management (TQM) in all operations of the fresh produce industry in Dominica.
- In collaboration with the SAQS project IICA office in Dominica would like to develop and use harmonized sanitary and phytosanitary measures in the quarantine services based on international standards established by the WTO/SPS agreement.
- Development of products and business plans for micro enterprises exposed to the Agro processing workshop in 2002.
- There is a need to analyze the results of the pineapple survey conducted in 2001 to determine the way forward for the pineapple industry.
- Launching of the Agricultural Youth Forum in Dominica.
- Implement project funded by UNESCO entitled "Enhancing the Participation of Marginalized Youth in the Economic Development Process". Activities for the project include improving the capacity of the targeted youth, improving credit access and improving the services of the institutions involved.
- The establishment of Distance Learning Center under phase two of the OAS project entitled "Strengthening the Technical and Managerial Capabilities of Caribbean Agrifood Entrepreneurs and Professionals through the use of modern Information and Communication Technology.
- Information provided to the public through the use of the radio, TV and newspapers on activities of IICA.



Grenada

Introduction

The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries (MALFF) is the major public sector institution of the agricultural sector. It has a wide range of responsibilities, and provides a variety of services to producers, processors and marketers. Recently, the MALFF initiated action towards a restructuring process aimed at increasing its structural and functional efficiencies.

A number of private sector institutions and regional/international agencies provide significant support to Grenada's agricultural and rural development process. The crops subsector, dominated by the traditional export crops (nutmeg, cocoa and bananas), accounts for approximately 72% of the agricultural sector's contribution to Gross Domestic Product (GDP); the livestock subsector accounts for only seven per cent while the fisheries and forestry subsectors account for 17% and 4%, respectively. Overall, the sector contributed 8.2 per cent to GDP in 2001, and experienced negative growth rates of 2.5 per cent and 3.31 per cent in 2000 and 2001, respectively. However, based on preliminary data from the Central Statistical Office, the agriculture sector is expected to register positive growth of 4.48 per cent for 2002, and the economy is expected to grow by 0.6 per cent.

Despite its declining contribution to GDP (13.4%, 11.2% and 8.2% in 1990, 1995 and 2001, respectively), Grenada's agricultural sector continues to play a vital role in the country's economic and social development. The sector accounts for more than 25% of the country's domestic exports; provides employment for approximately twelve per cent of the total labour force; and is strategically important in Grenada's food security programme. The sector's importance is expected to increase tremendously, given government's current thrust towards encouraging and supporting the strengthening of linkages with the tourism sector, and the increased production of value-added products for both the domestic and export markets.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

A National Advisory Council for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and the Rural Milieu was formed. This Council, comprising a wide cross section of stakeholders representatives from relevant public and private sector institutions, is mandated to review and analyze government's agricultural and rural development policies, and to advise the relevant Minister on same. A National Youth in Agriculture Forum was formed, in collaboration with the 4-H Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture. It will serve mainly as a lobby group for youth involved and interested in agriculture, and promote modernization of the sector. Nine agri-entrepreneurs, including representatives of three agro-processing cooperatives, received training in Use of the computer; Record Keeping; and Use of Best Practices. Two of the trainees have since purchased and are using their own computers to assist in managing their respective enterprises.

Technology and Innovation

A technical evaluation was conducted on the feasibility of producing organic cocoa at selected cocoa orchards in Grenada. Results of the evaluation were positive, and will serve to inform follow-up actions toward supporting government's policy to institutionalize organic agriculture as a means of modernizing traditional enterprises.



Organic cocoa a viable alternative

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

A process was initiated towards enhancing Grenada's capacity to comply with Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) measures under the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement with respect to trade in agri-food commodities. This took the form of a 2-day seminar/consultation under the EU-funded project *Strengthening Agriculture Quarantine Services in the Caribbean*. Twenty-three senior personnel from public and private stakeholder institutions participated. The objective is to establish a National Agricultural Health and Food Safety entity.

Sustainable Rural Development

A project proposal and a training module were prepared for the Grenada Association of Beekeepers (GAB). The proposal, with a budget of EC\$35,000.00, was approved and funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries (MALFF). Its implementation has been successfully initiated by the GAB. The training module, complementary to the proposal, relates to a "Beginners Course in Commercial Beekeeping", targeting unemployed youths interested in beekeeping.

Information and Communication

A distance learning and information node was established at the local IICA Office, and training and information offered in "Organic Farming", "Farm Management" and "E-Commerce". From a total of 28 registered course applicants, only 16 successfully completed the courses.

Other Technical Programs

The preparation of a Management Audit Restructuring Plan for Grenada's Ministry of Agriculture was done by IICA's Regional Projects Specialist, based on a request from the Ministry. If implemented, the Plan would result in increased institutional efficiency and effectiveness.

Training of Farmers and Agricultural Technicians in Good Agricultural Practices. This activity was implemented under the CIDA-funded subregional project *Assistance to Institutionalize Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) for Selected Commodities in the OECS*, coordinated by IICA and managed by the Pesticides Control Boards of the OECS. The project's goal is "to increase the economic competitiveness of the OECS through trade in consistently healthy, hazard free, safe and wholesome crops selected for export development". During the year, two senior technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Grenada Bureau of Standards, respectively, received overseas training in GAPs and subsequently trained 23 agricultural technicians locally.

Plans and Programs for 2003

Activities initiated in 2002 will be continued in 2003. New activities will be started, based on the National Cooperation Agenda, which will be updated to reflect new priority issues put forward by agricultural sector stakeholders. However, much emphasis will be placed on the Strategic Area *Technology and Innovation*, especially in relation to the technological development of hot pepper, sweet potato and cassava.



St. Kitts and Nevis

Introduction

In 2002, the Office in St. Kitts and Nevis aggressively pursued the Action Plans, which were documented in the National Agenda for the Federation. These Plans clearly outlined a series of interventions in the various Strategic Areas. In light of the successful implementation of the plans, tremendous results have been achieved. These have contributed towards the promotion of sustainable agricultural development, food security and rural prosperity.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

The National Youth Forum was established as a mechanism that will encourage and mobilize the youths as active partners in food production and the entire marketing chain. In addition, it will provide an important avenue for advocacy and dialogue on policies and programmes geared towards sustainable development of agriculture.

St.Kitts and Nevis benefited significantly from trade policy initiatives organized by IICA. These included the presentation of a paper on, *"The effects of Trade liberalization on Agricultural Development of St.Kitts and Nevis"*. In addition, extensive discussions were held with the East Caribbean Institute of Banking regarding a proposed workshop to explore approaches to manage risks associated with credit financing in Agriculture. A Credit Risk Instrument was developed and presented to the Bank for its perusal and comments.

The Institute participated in a conference, which was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture in collaboration with a Team of FAO/CDB consultants. The purpose of the conference was to identify ways of enhancing agricultural diversification in St.Kitts and Nevis. Consequently, a document entitled, *"St. Kitts and Nevis Agricultural Diversification Project"* was prepared by the FAO/CDB and presented to the government.

Technical assistance was sourced through FAVA/CA to assist the Ministry of Tourism, Nevis in developing an agro-tourism Project. The various stakeholders were met and an initial assessment and evaluation has been made. This project is on going.

Technology and Innovation

Technicians from the Ministry of Agriculture were able to enhance their capabilities in important areas by participating in two regional workshops entitled:

- *"Electronic Production of Documents and Management of Agricultural Bibliographic Data Bases"*
- *"Introduction to Distance Writing for Food and Agricultural Professionals"*

The office participated in meetings of the Fruit Crops and Vegetable Committee of PROCARIBE and was able to source germplasm critical to the development of the Fruit Crop Programme.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Agricultural health and food safety as they apply to trade and as a health concern, are extremely important issues that have been given increased attention by St.Kitts and Nevis. Personnel from the Ministries of Agriculture and the farming community benefited from national, regional and international seminars and workshops on the following topics: Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures; Good Agricultural Practices; Pest Risk Analysis; Plant Quarantine; Traceability; Food

Safety; and Giant African Snail Control. In addition, the Member State is being assisted in developing an emergency plan for exotic livestock pest and diseases.

The office collaborated with FAVA/CA in the implementation of a Bio-Control Project for Fruit Flies on St. Kitts and Nevis. The two entomologists provided one week of appropriate training for the local technicians. IICA, Mexico provided financial resources to assist with the rearing of the parasitoids. It is anticipated that the experience and skills gained from this Project will be used to assist other member states in the sub region, which are affected by the Fruit Flies.

As part of its contribution to the commercialization of peanut, the office prepared a manual entitled, "The Production and Marketing of Peanuts on St. Kitts".

Rural and Sustainable Development

The office continued to focus on strengthening the productive capacities of various groups and organizations. In this regard, the newly formed St.Kitts Beekeepers' Cooperative was able to procure equipment valuing CDN\$12,000 from a grant which the Institute assisted in securing. In addition, an evaluation was done by FAVA/CA on the disease status of bees on both St.Kitts and Nevis. The Nevis Beekeepers' Association was provided with a computer to assist in establishing an information database. The Association has been recently informed that a Grant of US\$10,000 has been approved for the procurement of equipment.



Taking the 'sting' out of practical of bee-keeping

The office also successfully collaborated with a Farmer's Group and the Ministry of Agriculture, Nevis in the formulation of a US\$ 10,000 irrigation Project that has been approved.

The Ministry of Community Affairs was assisted with the establishment of a Community Computer Laboratory. The lab, which has Internet access, is used for the training of computer Courses for members of the Community.

An evaluation was conducted on the status of Agro-processing in St.Kitts and Nevis. As a result of certain needs, which were identified, a 4-day workshop was held. Thirty-seven persons benefited from this workshop and are able to produce better quality-controlled products.

Education and Training

The government has indicated that training and education would be important vehicles for the transformation of the agricultural sector. In support of this emphasis, the Institute officially opened its Agricultural Distance Learning Centre on October 25, 2002. National Capacity was also developed through the training of one officer on the preparation of multi-media Courseware.

Plans for 2003

The following outlines the plans for 2003 by IICA's Strategic area:

Trade and Agribusiness Development

- Seminar/training for agricultural technicians and policy makers on the multilateral trading system
- Inter-Agency Forum on the impact of Trade liberalization on local agricultural development

- **Institution strengthening for the National Youth Forum**

Technology and Innovation

- **Facilitate Training in fruit trees propagation**
- **Support training in soil and water conservation technology**
- **Support the construction of simple facility for the multiplication of pineapple planting material**
- **Assist in procuring exotic Germplasm for fruit crop development Programmes.**

Agricultural Health and Food Safety:

- **Facilitate the establishment of the National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Entity**
- **Development of an Animal Disease Preparedness Plan**
- **Implementation of Bio-Fruit fly Control Programme (Ongoing)**
- **Support to the Ministry of Agriculture Pest Control Operators Certificates Training**
- **Facilitate the Institutionization of Gap's in selected commodities**

Sustainable Rural Development

- **Provide support to the Ministry of Tourism for**
 - a) **Agro-Tourism Plan**
 - b) **Landscape design for historical site**
- **Provide training in Agro-Processing**
- **Conduct business management and group dynamic workshops**



St. Lucia

Introduction

Agriculture continued to play an important role in the development of the economy in Saint Lucia, providing employment for 25% of the working population. Notwithstanding, the devastating impact of liberalization in banana trading in the EU market significantly influenced the sector's capacity to contribute to social and economic development. As a consequence agriculture now provides just under 8% of GDP down from 13.93% in 1992. It is of interest to note however that the employment content of the sector has in fact grown by just under 2% since 1995, which underscores the importance agriculture.

The underlying factor for the sharp decline in the contribution and attractiveness of agriculture was attributed to the declines in contribution of the banana sub-sector. Over the period, 1997 –2001, banana revenues fell by more than 50%. A 65% increase in domestic purchases of fruits and vegetables, as well as significant increases in livestock, fishing and forestry could not offset the overall declines in agriculture.

In an effort to mitigate the negative impact of the declining incomes in rural communities, the Government of Saint Lucia in 2002 sought to stabilize and stimulate growth in the banana sub-sector, by putting additional sources of funding for bananas. The intention was to encourage banana to modernize for increased production and productivity in order to achieve higher levels of competitiveness in international trade. Under a European Development Fund the Government has also embarked on a Rural Credit Facility. The purpose of the program is to encourage rural enterprise development in areas marginalized by the declines in banana revenues.

Finalization of the National Agricultural Policy, provided a new framework for the elaboration of programs and projects to achieve the following policy objectives: increase efficiency and competitiveness of agricultural enterprises, promote the adoption of improved and appropriate technologies, enhance the capability to effectively exploit available market opportunities, enhance the national food security status, stimulate new opportunities for employment, income generation and general human resource development in rural areas and to better conserve the natural resource base. In addition the technical capability of the Ministry of Agriculture was strengthened through the creation of a Corporate Planning Function. A computerized system of farmer profiles including farmer registration is expected to contribute to better planning for transfer and adoption of technology, marketing and for defining policy on incentives. Other important resources available to the Ministry include the establishment of improved marketing and inputs support infrastructure through its Inland Reception and Distribution Centres (IRDC), the establishment of a Quality Control Inspectorate for Fresh Produce Exportation, and a cadre of extension officers trained in modern extension methods and modern practices such as Good Agricultural Practices. Agriculture in Saint Lucia is also set to benefit from several sub-regional initiatives at the level of the OECS Secretariat including, a review of agricultural legislation in the sub-region, increasing knowledge base in rules of trade resulting from the creation of the WTO, institutional strengthening and technical assistance to agro-processing enterprises and to increase food security in the sub-region.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

The enabling environment for agribusiness was strengthened with the launch of the Saint Lucia Chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA), providing stakeholders with a forum for discussion and action. Already the Chapter has spearheaded an initiative to forge stronger linkages between the agriculture and tourism sectors through increased purchases of local fresh

produce. With the growing importance of the non-banana sub-sector, the local Chapter promoted the creation of a vegetable and root crops network within CABA and was elected to the directorship of the regional body in December. This initiative has the potential to speed up the development of industry profiles and projects for vegetables and root crops. Necessary instruments for negotiating increased investment and the use of modern technologies in these commodities. Increasingly the non-traditionals are gaining importance in this traditionally banana dependent economy. In the area of capacity building, training and information provided complimented other activities in the Ministry and have resulted in increased capacity in the Ministry of Agriculture to better understand the WTO related issues that impact on agriculture and to pass relevant information to encourage and promote transformation among farmers and other agri-business persons. Recommendations to restructure the St Lucia Agriculturist Association and the accompanying recommendations for a 5-Year Business Plan were operationalized. The new management structure, which was recommended, has started to materialize with the appointment a new CEO and the Business Plan submitted to a local lending institution.



IICA-CARDI-MoA collaborate on Commodity production system

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Capacity building among farmers and technicians in order to institutionalize Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for increased competitiveness was successfully undertaken in collaboration with the MOA and the St Lucia Bureau of Standards. As a result of a series of training sessions and the dissemination of training manuals on GAPS for selected commodities, all extension officers now have the knowledge base to provide training and selected officers have GAP

training and GAP benchmarking as part of their regular work-plans. The systems approach, which has been adopted, include inspection procedures and self-monitoring by farmers. An important outcome of the capacity building has been an agreement in principle by the Bureau of Standards to establish Codes of Practice which will be accepted by EUREPGAP market destinations and by the food inspection agencies in North America. This initiative will facilitate the large number of small farmers who export to all three-market destinations.

In addition, the Saint Lucia Hotel and Tourism Association responded positively to information disseminated on food safety issues and collaborated to promote the importance of food safety in the agri-food sector. This further strengthened the on-going efforts to establish quality standards for fresh produce for the hospitality sector and to deepen discussions aimed at increasing the purchase of local produce by the hotels.

In the area of quarantine, initiatives undertaken to address the threat of the Giant African Snail in the Saint Lucia, included a public awareness campaign and resulted in the preparation of an Action Plan for the Giant African Snail. This Action Plan was endorsed by the Ministry and was operationalized through the creation of a Task Force to deal with the management and control of the pest.

Sustainable Rural Development

Targeted rural women involved in agro-processing increased their capacities to process fruits and vegetables having received small-scale processing and packaging equipment under an IICA coordinated activity. The equipment facilitated the use of improved technology, including

packaging and labeling. Networking was strengthened among local women's groups, as well as with other groups within the Caribbean Network of Rural Women, resulting in exchange of visits and experiences. Two projects prepared on behalf of national institutions, designed to improve the status of rural women and of unemployed youth were accepted by those institutions, for submission for funding. The Agro-tourism group continued efforts to increase profitability and enhance sustainability of farms through the establishment of stronger marketing arrangements for increased purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables by local hotels.

Training and Education

Capacities were strengthened through training and education provided in agricultural health and food safety, (GAPs, traceability systems in fresh produce, developing codes of practices for fresh produce, management and control of exotic diseases, post harvest in fresh produce, sanitary and phytosanitary issues, food safety) technology (organic farming, propagation of selected root crops) trade and agribusiness (project identification, e-commerce, the WTO Agreements on agriculture and the follow-up meetings and agreements) sustainable rural development (project identification and formulation for micro-enterprises). As a result, three projects were prepared and submitted, technicians and farmers have demonstrated capacities to organize and manage an organic farm, technicians have demonstrated capacities to train farmers in e-commerce and agribusiness persons are demonstrating much improved understanding of the issues of globalization and the multi-lateral trading system.

Information and Communication

The Information Centre at the IICA Office continued to be an important source of information for farmers, technicians and students. In particular fruit and vegetable farmers were assisted to manage production operations better, through the application of practices researched at the IICA Information Center. A brochure providing information on innovative water management systems for small-scale agricultural production systems especially in rainfed farming is in demand, although the extent of the application needs to be assessed. There is increased public awareness in matters related to agricultural health and food safety, WTO -related matters, Caribbean agriculture, and the tropical fruit industry in the region resulting from brochures and materials made available to the public through the Centre.

Other Technical Programs

Following a series of consultations, the National Agenda for Saint Lucia was developed under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Agenda is action-oriented and focuses on the transformation of the technical resources of several strategic partners, into competitive agri-food products and services. However the strategy adopted in the development of the Agenda ensured that in its implementation the results of IICA's interventions would be sufficiently distinct to facilitate evaluation of the competitiveness of the Institute. As a result the expectations of the Ministry of Agriculture are that the IICA will contribute to the realization of the following: capacities to manage and implement change in policy, legislation and institutions to facilitate growth and international competitiveness in agribusinesses; an adequate agricultural and food safety system; agri-based products and services which are competitive in the market place; and increased diversification in agri-based economic activities in agricultural dependent farming communities.

Plans for 2003

Support to trade and agri-business development will focus on the facilitation of training and education for increased technical capacities to participate in the discussions on the multilateral trading system and to encourage positive change in resource use and in attitudes of producers and

processors. Assistance will be provided to develop linkages which will foster the diversification of banana exports and products within the region, and to the identification of financially viable ventures in the agro-processing sub-sector, as well as to capacity building among agri-business and enterprises in areas, such as, technologies and practices for marketing agri-food products, entrepreneurship, and development of business plans for targeted commodity groups and enterprises.

In the area of sustainable rural development, assistance will be provided to develop and implement sustainable development community projects, to strengthen the capacities of stakeholders for decision-making and product development and the development of standards for fresh and processed agri-food products. Support will also be provided in the development and implementation of projects and programmes to increase information flows to rural communities and in the sharing of experiences in agriculture and rural life among stakeholders.

In the area of technology and innovation, the focus will be on improved production technologies to reduce cost of production and increase productivity in targeted commodities, assistance in the transfer of successful IPM technologies and in accessing appropriate technologies for the safe handling of meats. The instruments of cooperation will be training, education and information.



St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Introduction

The IICA Office in St. Vincent and the Grenadines forms part of the consolidated IICA Office in the East Caribbean States (ECS) with headquarters in St. Lucia.

During 2002 the office implemented activities in support of agriculture and the development of rural communities, taking into account the Institute's Strategic Areas of Focus, in an approach which was holistic, integrated and participatory. The activities were carried out against a background in which agriculture is contributing a declining share of G.D.P., falling from an average of 12.6% during 1996-2000 to an estimated 9% during 2001. The vital banana industry was severely affected by a prolonged drought in 2001 and the passage of Tropical Storm Lily in 2002, with consequential negative impact on farm incomes, employment and foreign exchange earnings. Agricultural diversification, import substitution, food security, poverty alleviation and trade liberalization are major challenges faced by the sector.

In its contribution to addressing these challenges in the medium term, and at the request of the new Director General, the office embarked on a series of consultations with the major stakeholders in the Community of Agriculture and Rural Life in the preparation of a National Technical Cooperation Agenda for the 2002-2006 period, following guidelines suggested by the Director General. The Agenda has as its main focus national priorities, which are consistent with the Institute's Strategic Areas of Focus, namely: Trade and Agribusiness Development; Technology and Innovation; Sustainable Rural Development; Agricultural Health and Food Safety; Education and Training and Information and Communication.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

The Office's Coordinator served on the planning committee and participated in a High Level National Workshop on Trade and External Economic Relations, hosted by the Government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the CARICOM Secretariat and the University of the West Indies. The office collaborated with its strategic partners in the public and private sectors in hosting a seminar/workshop on Critical Trade Issues in Agriculture, at which 50 participants from the public and private sectors, NGOs and Civil Society were sensitized in global, regional and national issues related to the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, the WTO/SPS Agreement and the other issues affecting trade in agricultural commodities. The office also initiated and facilitated dialogue among representatives of agribusinesses with a view to the establishment of a local chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA). The local chapter was launched on December 13, 2002.



Dasheen production in Grenada

Technology and Innovation

The office hosted several meetings of the PROCICARIBE Networks at which specific attention was paid to the production and marketing of priority crops, such as dasheen, pineapple, mango, sweet potatoes, hot peppers and lime, by personnel from the Ministries of Agriculture and Trade, farmers and exporters. In the case of arrowroot production, the office, in collaboration with the office in Belize, provided logistic support to the Arrowroot Industry Association in its acquisition of improved genetic material from Belize.

Sustainable Rural Development

In this strategic area the office collaborated with the Cooperative Division and the National Development Foundation in working with several micro agro-processors in their efforts to meet the statutory requirements for registration as a cooperative, and with WINFA and the National Youth Council towards the establishment of a local chapter of the Regional Forum of Youth in Agriculture. Small farmers increased farm incomes through the production of hot peppers under contractual arrangements facilitated through the collaboration of the St. Vincent Marketing Corporation, the Ministry of Agriculture and the IICA Office.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

The IICA Office facilitated the enhancement of the technical capacity of personnel in the Ministry of Agriculture in this strategic area through their participation in a number of training activities at home and abroad.

Personnel participated in a Pest Risk Analysis Workshop in Trinidad, a workshop on Good Agricultural Practices in St. Lucia, the Second Meeting of the Caribbean Sub-Regional Workshop on Draft International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures in Trinidad, the SPS Meetings of the WTO in Geneva, a Workshop on the Giant African Snail in St. Lucia, and at home, the training of extension officers, farmers and exporters in Good Agricultural Practices and the initial sensitization of policy makers at the launching of the EC-CARIFOFUM Project: Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services (SAQS) in the Caribbean.

Education and Training

Over 200 persons, including officials and technicians from the Ministries of Agriculture, Trade and Health, the Bureau of Standards, NGOs, farmers and exporters, participated in education and training events organized by the office.

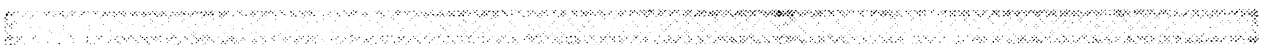
Information and Communication

The office provided information to its partners, clients and the general public on the activities of the Institute, both local and hemispheric, in the print and electronic media and distributed over 150 copies of publications such as AgriView, Access IICA-SPS News Report, In a Nutshell and the IICA 60th Anniversary Brochure - 1942-2002 - Promoting Prosperity in the Rural Communities of the Americas.

Plans for 2003

During 2003, the IICA Office in St. Vincent and the Grenadines will continue to collaborate with its strategic partners in the implementation of the National Agenda. It will focus attention on:

- a) improving understanding of, and participation in, the multilateral trading systems, of personnel in both the private and public sectors;
- b) contribute to the technological improvement of the arrowroot industry;
- c) promote the institutional strengthening of the Agricultural Health and Food Safety Council, the Micro Manufacturers Cooperative Society, the Forum for Youth in Agriculture and the local chapter of CABA; and
- d) facilitate training of micro agro-processors, farmers and exporters in agribusiness management.



5.8 Suriname

Introduction

The government of Suriname concentrated its efforts on reducing inflation, maintaining political stability and controlling public expenditure in order to move into a higher grade of development to ensure a better economic structure to attract foreign investment. Measures are being taken to privatize state-owned companies within the short term. The Central Bank introduced strict exchange controls to reduce inflationary swings. The country received aid funds from various sources for technical cooperation to facilitate its development with particular reference to the agriculture sector and the interior. A technical analysis of the sector was undertaken to refocus the policy direction of the sector. The country's main agricultural exports faced problems of varying severity, especially the banana and the rice sectors.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

During the year of 2002, IICA in Suriname continued working within the area of Trade and Agribusiness supporting the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV) and industry in general in their efforts to promote fruit and vegetable production. Training included Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), done together with LVV to promote better production and product quality to respond to the new trade rules under the current World Trade Organization round. Direct technical support was provided to growers in the transfer of technology from the Brazilian fruit industry and in assisting in developing marketing channels. The publication "Improving the Yield of Yellow Passion Fruit", originally produce in Dutch by the IICA Suriname in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture (LVV), was translated by IICA into English for distribution to other Caribbean Countries.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Within the framework of the programme for improved Product Quality and Food Safety organized by PAHO Regional Office and various concerned Ministries, NGO's and private stakeholders, IICA Suriname supported the revision of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS) Legislation in Suriname. IICA continued to support LVV's AH&FS activities and launched the project "Strengthening Caribbean Agriculture Quarantine Services" (SAQS) in Suriname, which is financed by the European Commission and implemented by IICA. IICA also continued the support for the implementation of the LVV-IDB-IICA Project on the development of national capacities for better attention to the World Trade Organization – Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary (WTO-SPS) – requirements for improved trade opportunities for Suriname.

The Carambola Fruit Fly Project concentrated on the containment of the CFF in the areas where it persists: Oyapock River margins in Cayenne and Brazil and Saramacca and Para in Suriname. These efforts were successful. Due to financial restrictions, the existing CFF Project finalized its activities on December 31, 2002. With cash and in-kind resources provided by LVV, USDA and IICA, the Guyana, French and Brazilian governments, the project is scheduled to continue in a reduced form with emphasis on surveillance. When additional funds are obtained, eradication activities will be continued.

Sustainable Rural Development

Emphasis was on the Development of the Interior. Together with LVV and the Ministry of Regional Development IICA was involved in training 42 farmers of the interior village communities in the use of improved farming practices to achieve levels of sustainable rural development, increase cash incomes and food security, particularly through the adoption of agro-forestry principles. This program has been assisted by the agreement in place between IICA,



Construction of Gangasa village kitchen

Suriname, and the Peace Corps, Suriname. In collaboration with the Environmental Agency, ECO 2000, and LVV, 72 farmers were trained in the production and use of compost – the objective being to ensure the maintenance and improvement of soil fertility in hinterland cultivation without recourse to chemical fertilizers.

Information and Communication

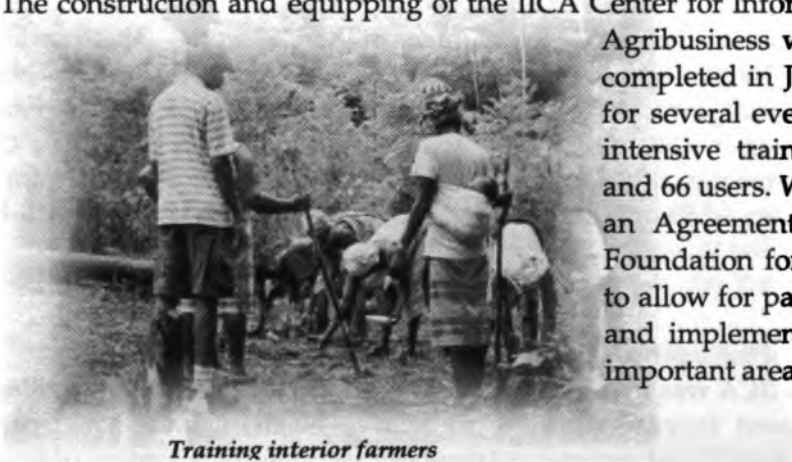
With IICA's sponsorship and support, Suriname entered into the Regional and Hemispheric (Inter-American) Information and Documentation Network in Agriculture and Agribusiness (SIDALC). The local network was established and computer equipment was purchased and distributed to the six members.

The construction and equipping of the IICA Center for Information and Distance Education in Agribusiness as an annex to the existing IICA Office, was another major activity of IICA Suriname. It was completed in June and went into immediate use for several events, the most important being the intensive training of the six (6) SIDALC operators and sixty-six (66) users. Within the scope of this new Center an Agreement was signed with the Suriname Foundation for Distance Education (EDUCONS) to establish in partnership with IICA various activities in this important area of distance education.

An illustrated brochure was prepared commemorating IICA's 20th year in Suriname. This commemorative brochure, presenting the main activities and efforts of IICA over two decades, was illustrated with the twelve best paintings from that contest for youth marking the 20th Anniversary of IICA in Suriname. The same 12 best paintings illustrated the IICA Suriname Calendar for 2003. Two informative bulletins were published: "PARTNERSHIP" – for general distribution and "KOBBOGO" – for distribution in hinterland districts. Both publications give information about IICA and other important news and events related to agricultural developments in Suriname and the Hemisphere.

Training and Education

The construction and equipping of the IICA Center for Information and Distance Education in Agribusiness was another major activity. It was completed in June and went into immediate use for several events, the most important being the intensive training of the SIDALC coordinators and 66 users. Within the scope of this new Center an Agreement was signed with the Suriname Foundation for Distance Education (EDUCONS) to allow for partnerships in the conceptualisation and implementation of various activities in the important area of distance education.



Training interior farmers

Other Technical Programmes

IICA Suriname supported national professionals and technicians of the sector for their participation at important meetings, conferences and workshops in Suriname and overseas. A total of 43 Surinamese (apart from the ones already mentioned before in this introduction) attended eight major events with IICA's assistance during the year.

Substantial effort was devoted to continue enhancing the image and the visibility of IICA in Suriname, particularly since 2002 marked the 20th Anniversary of IICA in Suriname and the 60th Anniversary of IICA in the Americas. For these particular celebrations a Painting Contest was also held for Suriname youth on the theme of Agriculture and Rural Life. 54 young artists submitted their paintings.

During this period of 2002, IICA Suriname continued its support to make possible the participation of Suriname at the Alliance for Sustainable Development of Agriculture and Rural Milieu for the Caribbean Region through its different chapters as Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture, Caribbean Agribusiness Association, Caribbean Rural Women Network and Caribbean Rural Youth Network.

The same was done to support the participation of Suriname at the whole efforts and recommendations emanated from the Summit of Americas at the level of its implementation toward the Agriculture Sector and Rural Development of the Americas.



5.9 Trinidad and Tobago

Introduction

The agricultural sector in Trinidad and Tobago is recognised as a key pillar in the island's economic development thrust. The latest economic data¹ suggest that the performance of the sector continues to be less than satisfactory with the contribution to gross domestic products (GDP) having increased minimally from 3.1% for October 2000 – March 2001 to 3.4 % for the corresponding period in 2002. This sub-optimal growth has been attributed to a number of factors including structural transformation of the economy, developments in international trade environment and the so called Dutch Disease² whereby rapid developments in the Petroleum/Energy Sector tend to thwart development of other sectors. In addition, the international events in 2001, mainly the terrorist attack of September 11 on the United States contributed to the dampening of the local economy, which was exacerbated by the political uncertainty that existed during the year.

The case of Trinidad and Tobago clearly demonstrates that for sustainable development to be achieved, greater emphasis has to be placed on developing agriculture and the rural spaces simultaneously with the other sectors. It is in this context, that the work of the Institute has gained momentum with increasing demands on its services by the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (MALMR), as well as, other collaborators and stakeholders in the sectors.

In response, the Institute armed with a new vision for facilitating the repositioning of agriculture and the sustainable development of rural spaces has focussed its assistance through six strategic areas, *viz.* Trade and Agribusiness Development, Technology and Innovation, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Sustainable Rural Development, Education and Training, and Information and Communication. The following summarizes the major achievements by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) in Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2002.

Trade and Agribusiness Development

The IICA office made an effective contribution by assisting the stakeholders to keep up with the fast pace of changes taking place in the WTO Negotiations on Agriculture and in enhancing their understanding of these changes and implications for the local economy. Through seminars held by the Caribbean AgriBusiness Association (CABA) awareness of global developments that impact on local agriculture was heightened. Stakeholders were reminded of the need to ensure that their commitments under the existing WTO Agriculture Agreement are completed within the time frame specified. To facilitate this, an assessment of the status of compliance of Trinidad and Tobago was undertaken. In this regard the office provided information on ongoing and emerging trade-related issues directly to clients and the general public via the AgriView Newsletter and the "In a Nutshell" series. Commodity organisations were very grateful for the support received from IICA and CABA to assist the respective industries in preparations for the negotiations. As a result members have taken the lead in the process by preparing industry proposals and justifications to inform the preparation of tariff offers for the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA) negotiations.

The Trinidad and Tobago chapter of CABA initiated the process of increasing collaboration among the stakeholders in order to engender proactive participation in the Global Trade Negotiations. In this regard, the chapter facilitated a meeting of members and the Ministers of Trade and Agriculture. This meeting appraised the Ministers of the work of CABA and the plight of the various agricultural sub-sectors with respect to various trade issues. The Ministers applauded the proactive actions of

¹ Review of the Economy, 2002. Ministry of Finance, 2002.

² Planning Division. Sector Policy for Food Production and Marine Resources. MALMR, 2001.

the CABA members and promised the support of their respective ministries. The Chapter also facilitated the participation of its membership in several national and regional trade shows, which is expected to result in increased opportunities in trade. The membership was also pleased with CABA's efforts to highlight the issues of funding for agri-business in Trinidad and Tobago.

Assistance was provided to the South West Development Agency (SWDA), an umbrella community group in the La Brea Area to develop its agricultural business plan and to articulate same to its community members on February 28th, 2002. The plan aims to engage the communities in an integrated mix of agro-tourism and agribusiness enterprises, to be implemented on 300 acres of state-lands for which the Agency is now seeking a long term lease. Among the enterprises proposed in the plan are production and processing of short-term vegetables and food crops, fruit crop production, and the rearing of small livestock. The development of enhanced natural forests for outdoor recreation as well as the use of abandoned dams in the area to create water sport facilities were also identified as means of further exploiting the tourism potential of the La Brea Region. A cost/benefit analysis of the plans indicated that these enterprises can be profitable after the first five years, with total cost approximating TT\$1.03 million and total benefits expected benefits approximating TT\$1.3 million in the fifth year.



Regional youth engage in planning to increase their involvement in agriculture

IICA continued to increase its focus on mechanisms to attract and increase youth participation in agriculture and agribusiness. Consequently, a Regional Forum for Youth in Agriculture was launched in December in St. Lucia to facilitate same. Since then, national Chapters have been established in St. Kitts & Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago, with similar efforts initiated to establish Chapters in the other Caribbean countries in early 2003. These National chapters are also expected to develop strategies for achieving the objectives of the Regional Forum. IICA has committed to continue support the forum in its activities to engage more youth in the business of agriculture.

Technology and Innovation

Within this Strategic Area, the Institute promoted technologies for enhancing local production and competitiveness in the areas of herbs, dairy production, fruit and tuber crops. Most notable was the co-hosting of the Caribbean Herbs Business Forum, December 2-5, in Montego Bay, Jamaica. Representatives from over 130 companies and organisations from 33 countries discussed ways to develop the Caribbean herb industry. In the end Caribbean Herbs Business Association (CHBA) was formed to promote regional cooperation in the research, development and selling of herbals from the Caribbean. Promotion of the St. Stanislaus Dairy Production model demonstrated positive results in 2002. These included improved performance of milking cows, increased stocking rates, reduction in mortality rates and enhanced management skills. Two workshops on "Producing High Quality Seeds for Commercial Yam Production highlighting the miniset technology have resulted in a request for further technical assistance and planting materials. Accordingly, the office has initiated steps to secure raw materials as well as small scale irrigation equipment to establish demonstration plots.

The Institute continues to provide strong support to the local fruit industry. This included participation in the Citrus Task Force (CTF) to coordinate the development of the citrus industry plan through the inter-institutional/industry collaboration. In association with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (MALMR), a National Pineapple Stakeholders meeting was held to discuss results of postgraduate research student project on the analysis of the pineapple commodity chain. Farmers appreciated participating in the discussion and sharing in the results disseminated. Ongoing collaboration with the National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO) to develop trade in fresh produce, which included a Presentation at a NAMDEVCO Workshop on "Quality, Food Safety and Packaging Requirements of Fresh Agricultural Produce." Forty participants representing traders, hotels, supermarkets, producers, benefited. Continued support was provided to the University of the West Indies (UWI) postgraduate student in completing M.Sc. research and thesis report titled "Pineapple Commodity Chain: Economic Study of the case of Trinidad and Tobago". The results will be used to assist in the development of an industry plan.

Agricultural Health and Food Safety

Ensuring food safety is important to maintaining export market share and to protect the health and well being of domestic consumers. In order to improve the national food safety system, IICA in collaboration with the European Union/Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (EU/CARIFORUM), initiated the project "Strengthening Agricultural Quarantine Services in the Caribbean" in September 2002, which will significantly enhance the country's position in this regard. The project has already initiated actions to strengthen the national food safety committees in Trinidad and Tobago, among other CARIFORUM member states. IICA co-hosted a regional workshop on International Standards for Phyto-sanitary Measures in Trinidad and Tobago; four participants from the MALMR attended and actively participated in the development of international standards. IICA also co-hosted a workshop on Qualitative Risk Analysis for Plant Health. Participants from the MALMR reported that the workshop enhanced the Ministry's understanding of pest risk analysis. The Food Safety initiatives of the MALMR also received a boost from the participation of its staff in the Canada/Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM) Alliance on food safety, which was held in Belize, July 3-7, 2002.

Reduction of Microbial risk was the focus of IICA sponsored/supervised M.Sc. research student's project on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). As a result protocols for peppers and pumpkins are being developed. The Institute also undertook several activities to sensitise stakeholders of the concept of GAP.

The national capacity to confront emergency pest and disease problems was enhanced with the training of several persons on citrus canker identification and prevention. This was also supported by two Table Top Emergency Simulation exercises, one for animal diseases and the other for plant diseases. These exercises contributed significantly to the island's emergency response capabilities and to the refining of the national emergency plans.

Sustainable Rural Development

The process of enhancing the empowerment of individuals and groups in the rural development process continued with the organizational strengthening of a number of community/women's groups. These efforts focused on the umbrella association of the Network of Rural Women Producers (NRWP). The Institute provided administrative, secretarial and financial assistance to the network for the development of a revolving credit scheme to support commercial initiatives by individuals. In addition to the networking support and group exchanges attention was given to the



Training small scale entrepreneurs in good food processing practices

promotion of an aggressive marketing program by the participation of small-scale producers in national trade shows and exhibitions. Members of the network also benefited from the preparation of grant proposal to secure external supplemental financing for commercial and community initiatives. The Institute also promoted the participation of small-scale producers in a series of regional trade exhibitions and training programmes, which focused on business management and handicraft; the latter utilizing tutors from Guyana.

Strategic alliances with other developmental agencies have resulted in strengthened collaboration with these agencies. The following

highlights the results of this collaboration: The University of the West Indies (UWI) has assisted in the dissemination of the new concepts in rural development, namely the "New Rurality" and "Territorial Competitiveness" and on the propagation and dissemination of the Mulberry; the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) has actively participated in the promotion of the Mulberry as a forage crop; the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD) has collaborated on market promotions for small scale, rural producers and on training for community groups; and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources has collaborated on the hosting of agro-processing training sessions for community groups.

The Institute also supported the MALMR in its development of a "Youth Apprenticeship Programme for Agriculture". The framework outlined the key elements of an apprenticeship programme for engendering greater involvement of youth in agriculture in Trinidad and Tobago. The concept, which was successfully implemented in 2002, involved the placement of young persons as interns in a range of successful public and private sector agriculture and agribusiness entities in order to enhance their skills and understanding of the process, as well as, to temporarily supplement the labour supply of these enterprises.

Education and Training

In 2002, IICA pioneered Distance Learning for the local agriculture sector. This resulted in the following achievements: One hundred and eleven students were registered during the year; 82 Students were trained in computer literacy and 89 students completed courses in Farm Management for Owners; Farm Management for Technicians; E-Commerce; Health and Occupational Safety; Information and Extension Methods in Agriculture. A ceremony was held to highlight the achievement of the students, as well as, recognise the support of our collaborators.

Information and Communication

The Institute continues to be a major source of information to the local agriculture sector with the regular publication of the AgriView and CARAPHIN News. Two issues of the In a Nutshell series, a newspaper supplement and over twenty media releases have served to keep the national community abreast of the major developments in agriculture. The IICA Annual National Seminar Series: A Community Approach to Promoting Agribusiness and Trade was launched with three fora being held with an average participation of over eighty persons. The SIDALC network was further strengthened in 2002. Following a training workshop in Jamaica in which two participants attended,

plans have been finalised to repeat this training in early 2003 which will result in a virtual library with full text being established early in 2003.

Other Technical Programs

- a. **Regional Transformation Programme:** As a member of the Committee of Lead Agencies responsible for the implementation of the Regional Transformation Program (RTP) for Agriculture, IICA was given responsibility for completing Competitiveness Studies on two commodities - papaya and coconuts that were identified as priority products within the region. Work on the two studies was initiated.
- b. **IICA/CARDI Agreement:** Within the framework of the IICA/CARDI Agreement, efforts were made to streamline the networks operating under PROCICARIBE and to ensure that approved Research & Development (R&D) projects are synchronized with the Regional R&D priorities.

Publications

- From the 'Green' to the 'Gene' Revolution Transforming Agriculture: DFrancis, IICA - Trinidad and Tobago
- The Mulberry. A. Benn, Consultant
- Technical Evaluation of the Feasibility of Producing Organic Cocoa in Grenada. PChesney
- Report of Technical Assistance in the Development of Quality and Food Safety Systems for the Meat and Poultry Industry - The Bahamas. JAFrancis, IICA - Trinidad and Tobago
- Agriview: Vol. 7, #3; Vol. 8, #1; Vol. 8, #2

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ACRONYMS

ADLC	Agricultural Distance Learning Centre
ADLTC	Agri-Distance Learning Training Centre
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Information Service
APSA	Animal Production and Health Agent
APT	Associate Professional Trainee
BAPA	Bahamas Agricultural Producers' Association
BADMC	Barbados Agricultural Development and Marketing Corporation
BAS	Barbados Agricultural Society
BCLL	Bahamas Cooperative League
C/LAA	Caribbean/Latin American Action
CABA	Caribbean AgriBusiness Association
CACHE	Caribbean Council of Higher Education in Agriculture
CADLC	Caribbean Agricultural Distance Learning Centre
CAHFSA	Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
CaRC	Caribbean Regional Centre
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDE	Centre for Development of Enterprise
CET	Common External Tariff
CFCS	Caribbean Food Crops Society
CFE	Carambola Fruit Fly
CFIA	Caribbean Fruit Industry Association
CIDI	Inter-American Council for Integral Development
CNIRD	Caribbean Network of Integrated Rural Development
CNRWP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
CPA	Caribbean Poultry Association
CPEC	Caribbean Regional Human Resource Development programme for Economic Competitiveness
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation
CYIFA	Caribbean Forum for Youth in Agriculture
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FAVA/CA	Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for Caribbean Action
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas
GAP	Good Agricultural Practices
HACCP	Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IICA	Trinidad and Tobago Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
MAR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MALFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries
MAFLG	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Local Government
MFCL	Ministry of Fisheries, Crops and Livestock
MALMR	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
MoAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
NAHFSA	National Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency
NARI	National Agricultural Research Institute
NDDP	National Dairy Development Programme

NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OAS	Organisation of American States
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
PPATT	Pork Producers' Association of Trinidad and Tobago
PROCICARIBE	Caribbean Research, Science and Technology Networking System
RADA	Rural Agricultural Development Authority
RPPPU	Regional Projects, Planning and Programming Unit
RTP	Regional Transformation Programme
SAQS	Strengthening Agriculture Quarantine Services in the Caribbean
SIDALC	Agricultural Information and Documentation System for the Americas
SSA	Secretary of State for Agriculture
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UWI	University of the West Indies
WTO	World Trade Organisation



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