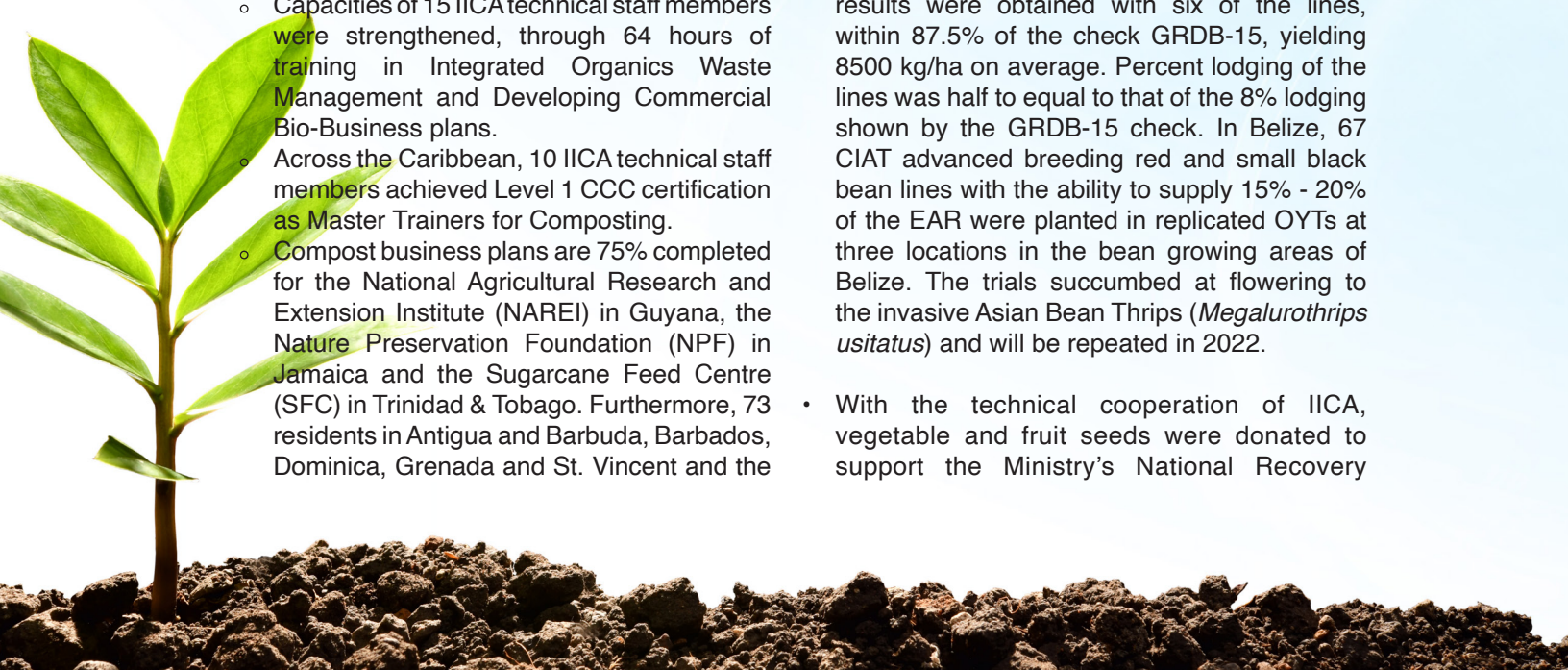


Significant Achievements 2021



Jamaica

- IICA continues to develop the circular economy to diversify income from agriculture in CARICOM, with implementation of four new components in collaboration with the Compost Council of Canada (CCC):
 - IICA initiated a CARICOM Compost Quality Standard with the CARICOM Regional Organization for Standards and Quality (CROSQ), which will facilitate for the first time intraregional trade in compost that meets international standards. Some 147 stakeholders from 16 countries, 14 Bureaus of Standards, CROSQ, the Caribbean Agricultural Health and Food Safety Agency (CAHFSA) and the CARICOM Secretariat are participating in the process.
 - Capacities of 15 IICA technical staff members were strengthened, through 64 hours of training in Integrated Organics Waste Management and Developing Commercial Bio-Business plans.
 - Across the Caribbean, 10 IICA technical staff members achieved Level 1 CCC certification as Master Trainers for Composting.
 - Compost business plans are 75% completed for the National Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) in Guyana, the Nature Preservation Foundation (NPF) in Jamaica and the Sugarcane Feed Centre (SFC) in Trinidad & Tobago. Furthermore, 73 residents in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were trained in the practice and science of composting.
- IICA continues to lead the CARICOM Biofortification Network (CBN) in the development of biofortified staple crop varieties to address the adverse effects of hidden hunger and noncommunicable diseases in the region. Multilocation Observation Yield Trials (OYT) to develop iron biofortified red and small black bean varieties and zinc biofortified rice varieties were conducted in Belize and Guyana, respectively. The 17 GRDB candidate rice lines, showing the ability to supply 40% - 50% of the daily estimated average requirement (EAR) for zinc, were assessed in Regions 2, 3, 5 and 6, in replicated OYT) in Guyana. Very promising results were obtained with six of the lines, within 87.5% of the check GRDB-15, yielding 8500 kg/ha on average. Percent lodging of the lines was half to equal to that of the 8% lodging shown by the GRDB-15 check. In Belize, 67 CIAT advanced breeding red and small black bean lines with the ability to supply 15% - 20% of the EAR were planted in replicated OYT) at three locations in the bean growing areas of Belize. The trials succumbed at flowering to the invasive Asian Bean Thrips (*Megalurothrips usitatus*) and will be repeated in 2022.
- With the technical cooperation of IICA, vegetable and fruit seeds were donated to support the Ministry's National Recovery



Programme for Tropical Storms Grace and Ida. In collaboration with the Rural Agricultural Development Authority, the seeds procured were for four varieties of cabbage, two varieties of carrot, three varieties of lettuce, four varieties of bell peppers, four varieties of tomato, four varieties of watermelon and cantaloupe. The seed donation will benefit the over 100,000 farmers that suffered an estimated JMD 1.6 billion (USD 10.3 million) in losses from the passage of the storms. The storms did not make landfall in Jamaica.

- IICA provided technical assistance to the Jamaica Baptist Union's (JBU) Grow Castor Bean Project, under an IDB funded programme. During 2021, the IDB funded IICA consultancy completed an Agronomy audit of the JBU project's castor production system to identify causes of sub-optimal performance, as well as developed and submitted a cropping calendar to optimize crop management and productivity. Furthermore, development of an App version of the Cropping calendar was initiated with the JBU, which will significantly improve monitoring and evaluation of crop production cycles for continuous improvement. IICA also sourced a suitable castor variety and initiated the import process to establish demonstration plots to train farmers to grow the improved castor variety.
- A draft plan for an anti-microbial resistance surveillance programme for the livestock sector in Jamaica has been completed and is being reviewed by IICA and Ohio State University subject matter

experts. The draft surveillance plan outlines the priority livestock sub-sectors, foodborne pathogens and steps involved (such as the monitoring schedule, critical inspection points, sampling methodology, laboratory testing, roles and responsibilities) in monitoring the manifestation of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in the livestock sector.

- Under a MOU between IICA and the University of Technology, Jamaica (UTech), IICA created a Rural Tourism online course on the Institute's e-learning platform, which was delivered to students enrolled in UTech's Master in Integrated Rural Development (MIRD) program. The IICA course, which is an elective in the MIRD's Rural Entrepreneurship specialization, will enable current and future students in the programme (comprising staff from an array of government agencies, among others) to develop and operate rural tourism enterprises, to help expand income earning opportunities in rural communities.
- IICA coordinated the participation of local officials in meetings of international standard setting bodies (Codex, the World Organization for Animal Health - OIE, the World Trade Organization's SPS Committee), allowing the country to contribute to and remain abreast of international discourse on matters pertaining to food safety, animal health and international trade in agricultural products. IICA also facilitated training in Phytosanitary Intelligence and Biosecurity, as well as sensitization on African swine fever and the U.S. Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), thereby strengthening local capacities in these subject areas.