



Barbados

Significant achievements in 2015

- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Water Resource Management (MAFFW) has improved its capacity to demonstrate innovation and technology in Protected Agriculture (PA) systems. The Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) provided material upgrades for two greenhouse structures at the Ministry and training for 30 persons, including officers from the Ministry, farmers and students. The Ministry benefitted under the SAGARPA programme with IICA and the Centro Regional de Servicios Integrales para la Agricultura Protegida (CRESIAP) whereby Protected Agriculture experts delivered a course in various aspects of greenhouse operation and management and types of Protected Agriculture systems.
- Value chains for two key Barbadian commodities were strengthened under the Intra-ACP Agricultural Policy Program financed by the EU and implemented by IICA. Baseline studies, including surveys and field interviews, were undertaken for the hot pepper and Barbados BlackBelly sheep sectors, and key stakeholders were trained in value chain analysis.
- IICA's participation in the annual national agricultural fair - Agrofest - resulted in strengthened collaboration with the Hospitality Institute, primary school teachers and students, the Ministry of Tourism, the Barbados Agricultural Society, crop and livestock farmers, agroprocessors, the distributive sector, and sensitization of the general public with respect to utilization of local produce and processed foods in cuisine. One hundred primary school children were sensitized to the importance of eating local nutritious foods at the Healthy Snack Seminar, and 350 participants attended the Plantation Breakfast. 50 students of the Hospitality Institute received credit towards their certification. The activity was financed by the Ministry of Tourism, Hospitality Institute and BAS with donations from the private sector.
- The institutional framework in the public and private sectors for the development and delivery of Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQs) was strengthened. IICA was certified as a Training Centre by the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council and worked with TVET to develop industry standards and course curricula, and with funding and support from the International Development Bank (IDB) and collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Labour to deliver certificate training to 95 youth and women entrepreneurs



and farmers in four courses: i) Agro-food Processing - Level 1; ii) Crop production - Levels 1 and 2; and iii) Rabbit Rearing - Level 2.

- Seventeen members of the Barbados Beekeepers' Association (BBA) were provided with new innovations in beekeeping through a training workshop delivered by IICA experts on PermApiculture using the Perone hives. Nine hives, including the demonstration hive constructed during the workshop, were built for members of the BBA.
- IICA, with funding support from the TVET Council, the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Education, provided training and upgraded the skills of 38 students who graduated with CVQs in Amenity Horticulture for the 4th edition of the IICA Youth Farm Summer Programme. The institutional framework for training and technology transfer in agriculture was strengthened through 13 private sector partners who provided internship opportunities to students.
- With the support of Chapingo University in Mexico, thirty farmers and MAFFW officers acquired new knowledge and skills in three methods of artificial insemination for the Barbados BlackBelly sheep, and are applying them on their farms. 11 lambs have since been born from the 6 ewes inseminated in the training programme and plans are underway to establish the Ministry's Livestock Research Station at Greenland as a world class breed improvement centre supplying certified genetic material.
- Climate change adaptation strategies were applied at a secondary school in implementing the UNDP-GEF project: *Best Practices in Sustainable organic agriculture at Deighton Griffith School*. IICA delivered training for 3rd, 4th and 5th form agricultural science

students in Organic Agriculture, constructed a ferrocement water storage tank, composting facility and an organic vegetable plot. The technical skills and capacity of the students was improved and the school infrastructure for sustainable agriculture has been upgraded with the installations.

- Over 200 public and private sector stakeholders from Caribbean countries, including plant quarantine officers, laboratory personnel, agroprocessors and fisherfolk in 15 Caribbean countries in the animal, plant and fishery sub-sectors benefitted from studies, regional workshops and training attachments aimed at increasing their capability to access EU and international markets under Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) arrangements. These activities are financed and organized under the 10th EU SPS Program being managed and implemented by IICA as the Executing Agency, in coordination with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, CARICOM Secretariat and other regional and national partners.
- Regional agribusiness and agrotourism value chains were strengthened through knowledge sharing workshops among 250 participants from the Caribbean and the South Pacific. IICA collaborated with the EU Technical Centre for Agriculture and Rural Cooperation (EU-CTA) and the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) to develop and manage the regional forum, identify speakers, and provide technical presentations on developing agribusiness and agrotourism value chains, establishing a Caribbean Culinary Alliance, and a SIDS (Small Island Developing States) Chef Development Platform.

