



Saint Lucia

Significant achievements in 2010

- IICA supplied tools and equipment to the Engineering and the Water Resources Management Units of the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries (MALFF) to enhance service delivery to the sector. In addition, IICA provided five shade houses to the MALFF to boost the seedling production capacity of its main fruit and tree crop nursery. These projects were funded through grant assistance from the European Union Special Framework of Assistance 2005 program (SFA) and were implemented by IICA and the Banana Industry Trust (BIT).
- The rehabilitation, expansion and development of selected industries in Saint Lucia were advanced through the technical support provided by IICA in the implementation of the projects, in partnership with the BIT and the MALFF. During 2010, five industries benefitted from that support and from the assistance provided by the SFA:
 - Cocoa: IICA assisted the MALFF in the implementation of the Rehabilitation and Expansion Program for the Cocoa Industry. The program has rehabilitated cocoa plantations, provided high-yielding varieties to farmers, assisted farmers in establishing new fields or expanding existing plantations and provided training to cocoa farmers in production and harvesting, and pest and disease control. In addition, a cocoa microfermentary was constructed to expand processing capacity, officers of the MALFF were trained in cocoa flavoring and cocoa characterization, and a new cocoa germplasm bank was established to support the seedling production program of the MALFF. The value-added component also received attention, with semi-industrial equipment being provided to select cocoa agro-processors.
 - Pineapple: IICA provided support to the industry in the form of training, inputs, and technical assistance. A number of plots were established to demonstrate conventional and organic agricultural practices, for the purpose of training farmers in the correct crop husbandry and production technologies for pineapples. The group received official recognition as a

legally established cooperative and membership has doubled since then over the year.

- Cut Flowers: IICA provided training in post harvest technologies and technical support was provided to improve the existing infrastructure of a cut flowers cooperative, including 19 shade houses, inputs and pest and disease control equipment. These initiatives were all aimed at strengthening the cut flower industry to enable it to take advantage of the growing demand for fresh cut flowers in the tourism sector and in the regional markets.
 - Cassava: IICA provided support in the form of semi-industrial equipment to select agro-processors to increase their productivity and processing capacity.
 - Banana: In compliance with the Fair-trade and Global GAP standards, IICA develop a banana production scheduling and forecasting system for use by farmers and banana companies on the island. Equipment, agrochemicals storage cabinets, protective gear, and first aid kits were provided to the National Fair Trade Organizations. The establishment of the Black and Yellow Sigatoka management information system, referred to below, represents a critical component of the support to the banana industry.
- IICA assisted the MALFF by establishing a management system for black and yellow Sigatoka disease in Saint Lucia, which includes the draft regulatory framework, a monitoring system for the diseases and an operational manual for banana producers in St. Lucia. Disease control equipment, protective gear and pesticides were also provided to the MALFF to assist in combating these diseases.
 - In an effort to eliminate waste in the porcine industry, the knowledge and capacities of producers were enhanced in a biogas production workshop which IICA facilitated with support from *Armonia Natural* in Costa Rica. In addition, three biogas digesters were installed in three different regions of the island.
 - An IICA consultant who is a specialist in waste management trained pig farmers in various parts of the island in conservation and waste disposal practices with a view to developing a comprehensive program for intervention. As result, a number of recommendations were made to improve the waste disposal on farms, and Olds College will continue to work with IICA to establish effective waste management systems for Saint Lucia as well as to train a group of MALFF officers who are specialists in waste management technologies.
 - With a grant funding from the European Union Special Framework of Assistance 2005, IICA conducted a study aimed at identifying domestic and regional markets for cacao, pineapple, flowers, cassava and bananas. In addition, support was provided to enable a group of farmers and agro-processors to travel to Costa Rica and El Salvador to learn of successful experiences in their respective industries. Computer equipment was supplied to the various farmer cooperatives, which enabled them to provide better services to their membership.
 - The decision-making capacity of the MALFF was also strengthened through the assistance provided in conducting two key subsector assessments. The first

involved a review of the dairy industry on the island with a view to the reestablishment of a viable dairy production facility on the island, and the second examined the protected agriculture initiative in Saint Lucia with a view to determining its actual status and whether it was effectively responding to the demands of the vegetable market in Saint Lucia.

- The capacity of the members of the St. Lucia Network of Rural Women Producers (SLNRWP) was strengthened thanks to a number of IICA initiatives undertaken throughout the year. These included: IICA's hosting of the symposium "Equal Rights, Equal Opportunities- Empower Yourself" for members of the group; and a workshop facilitated by IICA and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in which twenty members of the network received training in food safety, which culminated in the participants taking an external examination prepared by the Society of Food Hygiene and Technology of the United Kingdom. Twenty-one members were successful in completing the exam and were fully certified by that body. In addition, thanks to its participation in a number of exhibitions both locally and regionally, the SLNRWP gained greater recognition. IICA was able to secure funding from the CFLI for the SLNRWP to acquire semi-industrial equipment.
- IICA continued to strengthen rural producer organizations to increase their income and/or adopt improved technologies to conserve biodiversity and reduce their carbon footprints. With funding from CFLI, a Solar Electric Hybrid System was procured for the Superior Broom Producers. The system will provide all the energy needs for the 10,000-capacity nursery unit and office facilities, which were constructed in 2009 under a project implemented by IICA and funded by the SFA.
- An assessment of the damages and losses caused by Hurricane Tomas was conducted by a team from ECLAC and IICA. As a result, a plan for the reconstruction of the sector was submitted to the MALFF.
- Under the "Helping Out Our Primary and Secondary Schools (HOOPSS)" project, which is an initiative of IICA and the St. Lucia Forum for Youth (SLAFY), primary and secondary school students acquired knowledge of agriculture, which has led to an increase in their participation in agricultural activities.
- Succession and leadership within the sector were enhanced with the implementation of the first IICA Forum for Young Leaders in Agriculture and Rural Development. Thirty young leaders in Saint Lucia participated in the forum.