

IICA



Activities in Guyana

Year 1 No. 1, April, 1994

PARTICIPATORY ACTION PLANNING

Agreement was reached with MOA and NARI for IICA technical cooperation in the diagnosis and design of a project to modernize the production and marketing systems by improving institutional activities in research, extension and training. Operational funds are being sought for this multi-institutional effort.

STRENGTHENING RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Needs assessment and baseline data collection were conducted in 9 Amerindian communities in Region 2 as part of the IICA/FUTURES project. Some 26 Amerindians were trained in participatory research methods. Approximately 600 household surveys were carried out. More than 90 community leaders were interviewed.

Regional specialists on Women in Agriculture met at IICA's Office to evaluate research results from Jamaica, Barbados, Surinam and

Guyana. Two local consultants on this IDB/IICA project have completed a review of the literature on women in agriculture and are now analyzing the results of 150 case studies of women growers of rice, fruits, vegetables and cassava. Final reports will be available in June 1994.



Assistance was provided to GOIP in the preparation of a Project Agreement with IFAD. The Agreement was signed on April 28, giving GOIP US\$75,000 to identify and implement two development projects in the Rupununi.

The paper "Contributing Towards Sustainable Development" was presented at a National Conference of Amerindian Representatives, April 13.

Support was provided to an OAS study of ecotourism potential at Mainstay. The Office also facilitated the

attendance of Maurice Bennet Field Assistant, to a workshop on Land Mapping in Belize. Efforts will be made to apply the methodology to Amerindian lands in Region 2.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

Support was given to the St. Stanislaus Dairy Training Centre where 5 farmers received in-service training, 22 farmers were exposed to the dairy production system and 12 UG students were trained in livestock management.

Agreement was reached with CARDI, NDDP and GTV to produce a documentary video on "silage making" by July, 1994.

Assistance was provided to the Coordinating Committee for Cattle Development, chaired by NDDP, in the preparation of planning documents on beef and dairy cattle. Numerous project ideas were identified and profiles are being prepared as a joint effort with NDDP, CARDI, UG and MOA.

Continued

Analysis of soil and farm records on two farms identified nutritional deficiencies affecting pastures and dairy animals. Recommendations for improvements were made to farmers.

SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF TROPICAL FRUIT CROPS

M.S.A. Faroze was contracted to undertake a survey of fruit processing firms in Guyana as the first step in the design of project activities to strengthen the agro-processing sub-sector.

This new Project will be a joint effort between IICA, the French Government and CARIRI in Trinidad. The results of this study are expected in June, 1994.

Baseline information on the status and location of agriculture infrastructure was compiled. This data will be published in a review of the agricultural sub-sector.



A Document "Prospects of Fruit Production at Kimbia" was prepared as IICA's contribution to the OAS analysis of the economic feasibility of rehabilitating this area.

UG agriculture students received lectures and practical training on horticulture from IICA's Extension/Fruit Specialist, Chandrahat Baichoo.

STRENGTHENING AGRICULTURAL HEALTH SERVICES

A technical document, "The Cattle Tick: *Boophilus microplus*" was translated from French to English, edited, published and distributed.

Some 309 bovine serum samples were tested at EMVT laboratory in Cayenne for hemoparasites. Results were received and sent to the Chief Veterinary Officer, showing: 41% seropositive for Trypanosomes on ELISA test; 42% seropositive on Card Agglutination Test (CATT), and 3% positive on examination for live Trypanosomes.



A project "Hemoparasite Network of the Guyanas" was prepared and submitted to the French Government. This project will help to integrate hemoparasite research and training activities in the three Guianas.

A project document "Carambola Fruit Fly Surveillance and Eradication in Guyana" was prepared and submitted to the PS/MOA for consideration as an application to USAID/PL480.

IICA participated in a technical mission to Surinam to study the feasibility of a regional joint effort to eradicate the Carambola Fruit Fly from Suriname.

IICA Activities in Guyana is a monthly bulletin with information on actions considered important to the agriculture development process. Editor-in-Chief: Jerry La Gra; Editors: Aletha Isaacs & Atma Shivbarran. 18 Brickdam, Georgetown, Guyana.; Phone 592-2-68347/68835 Fax 592-2-58358

IICA is the specialized agency for agriculture of the Inter-American System. It was founded in 1942 with the objectives to encourage, promote and support cooperation among its 33 Member States, in pursuit of agricultural development and rural well-being.

The Office in Guyana was opened in March 1975. Five complementary projects are on-going: Participatory Action Planning; Strengthening Rural Development; Supporting Development of Livestock Systems; Supporting Development of Tropical Fruit Crops; Strengthening Agricultural Health Services. The Office presently includes two international and four national professionals and nine general services staff.