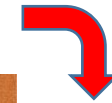


Agriculture Policy Programme Caribbean Action



Trinidad & Tobago



Country Update



APP/PMU
The Intra-ACP APP is funded under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF)



APP In-Country Actions – Trinidad and Tobago

The Update highlights contributions of the APP from actions under the Scale Down Work Plan, that were grounded in-country with direct benefits to local stakeholders.



5 local youth provided with opportunity to promote their enterprises and expand their business networks

- Brent Eversley – Green Farm Nation and Alpha Sennon and George Caesar - WhyFarm were fully funded under the APP to participate the Youth in Agriculture (YiA) Business Forum as part of the D4D in Grenada [18th – 22nd January 2016]. The Forum targeted youth who own and operate agribusinesses and/or manage and play a vital role in a family-owned agricultural enterprise. Through the YiA Forum, the Trinidad youth were exposed to other business youth from the rest of the Caribbean, and they are now part of a post-forum youth-driven vibrant ‘network’. Eversley and Sennon, in particular, have indicated interest in reaching out to youth (in and out of his industry). Coming from local authorities, these types of follow-up action would be well received by the EU, assure that the intervention had value, in addition to satisfying the visibility aspects.
 - The Grenada YiA Forum also provided opportunities to inform of and promote their business to their peers and agri-stakeholders in the Region and to be the start of a YiA database designed to ensure that they are targeted for subsequent opportunities for further training under the APP and other development initiatives. The young agripreneurs who participated in the YiA Business Forum have established a social network using the WhatsApp platform, through which they have maintained contact, continue to share valuable information and are pursuing options for commercial ventures. This networking platform has expanded as they have added other young agripreneurs to the group. Their open and genuine commitment to pass on the knowledge gained by providing training and mentoring to other youth at the national and regional level, the post-forum continuity achieved through the networking platform provides a good basis for continuity and sharing of the knowledge and benefits started in started in Grenada
- Mr. Eversley, Mr. Sennon and Nkosi Felix received yet another opportunity to engage with regional planners to propose solutions to hindrances experienced by agripreneurs at the Component 1 (CCS) 9th Regional Planners Forum (RPF) on Agriculture, held in Trinidad and Tobago from June 7 – 10, 2016. As part of the RPF, a hybrid programme of the Creativity for Employment and Business Opportunities (CEBO) tailored to youth agripreneurs, was introduced and tested. This effort is a follow up to the APP-supported YiA Business Forum held in January 2016, and provided participants with tools for improving business operation and competitiveness. It is anticipated that building institutional capacity and fostering policy dialogue with youth farmers will assist in the development and implementation of policies and other initiatives to support young farmers in Trinidad and Tobago. One of the three Facilitators of the CEBO training programme, and also a youth, Sherwin Bridgewater and also a national of Trinidad, got the opportunity, to meet, engage and network with planners, heads and senior professionals in agriculture programmes and agencies of IICA, CARDI and the CARICOM Secretariat and to expand the network of young entrepreneurs who have been exposed to the ‘CEBO way’.

Support provided under . .

- Component 1 – CCS: ‘Support Involvement of Women and Youth in Dialogue on the Region’s Agriculture Issues’
&
Component 2 – CARDI:
&
Component 3: ‘Strengthen and link existing fora for multi-stakeholder dialogue to widen regional exposure and networking opportunities for small producers/ entrepreneurs’

APP In-Country Actions – Trinidad and Tobago

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Agriculture Planners get more opportunities for regional and international policy networking

Neela Maharaj, Atherton St Hillaire, Joan Smith, Mishelley Phillips and Marlene Andrews of the Ministry of Agricultural Land and Fisheries, participated in the 9th Regional Planners Forum on agriculture in Trinidad [7th – 9th June 2016]. They had the opportunity to network and dialogue with planners from the rest of the Region as well as heads and senior professionals from the key regional and international agricultural development institutions on topics of direct significance to agricultural development in Trinidad and Tobago including;

- Capacity building for agriculture planners to effectively address national policy in a dynamic regional and global environment including Initial training on the application of project management principles and tools for planning, with special attention to enhancing implementation of national agriculture policy
- An Action Plan to incorporate youth-friendly policy in national agricultural policy
- Core common elements of commodity-based policy and strategy
- Exposure to innovations in agri-business risk management initiatives and IT in agriculture

Support provided under . .

- Component 1 – CCS: ‘Support for policy capacity building and networking through a Regional Planners Forum (RPF)’

Local stakeholders provided the opportunity to discuss issues related improving domestic fresh produce marketing

Trinidad and Tobago was among the countries which benefitted directly from an assessment of the adequacy of market infrastructure for fresh agricultural produce. This study which was grounded in five (5) countries (others included Grenada, Guyana St, Kitts and Nevis and Barbados), sought to determine whether existing ‘physical facility or tangible facilitating arrangements’ are adequate to permit the flow of agricultural products from farm-gate to consumer. ‘Adequacy’ was measured from the supplier (farmer, retailer and/or vendor) and the buyer (individual consumers, retailers/wholesalers) perspectives, as well as any intermediary, for example packing houses. Based on the findings of the country assessments, several recommendations were offered for improving market infrastructure that will simultaneously improve the outcomes for vendors, including small producers and experiences for consumers. Local stakeholders were also involved in a validation meeting to discuss the findings and recommendations.

The study concluded in October 2015 and recommendations proposed are being considered

Support provided under . . .

- Component 1, CCS : ‘Examine the adequacy of market infrastructure with focus on small producers’

APP In-Country Actions – Trinidad and Tobago

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Local Herbs & Spices producers get an opportunity to chart a future for the industry in the region

Denise Carew – Modern Equator and Farouk Shah – TTABA, participated in a technical meeting convened by the CARICOM Secretariat [9th – 10th May 2016] in Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting provided a forum to consult with and share information with other herbs and spices entrepreneurs and a consultant Dr. André Gordon, on the development needs for the sector as part of an initiative to develop a Regional policy and strategy for the sector and a mechanism to facilitate industry collaboration, commercial activities and their interface with the public sector on matters of policy. The process taken for the development of this industry will also inform the process for and be incorporated into the new policy framework for agriculture.

This activity commenced in November 2015, and will conclude in October 2016.

Support provided under . .

- Component 1 – CCS: ‘Develop a Regional policy framework for the Herbs and Spices Industry’

Root crop farmers’ access to and capacity to manage improved, climate-ready planting material enhanced

Component 2 in collaboration with the Sugarcane Feeds Centre (SFC) has continued research on cassava for adaptability to extreme weather conditions. Validation plots (established in 2015 under the APP during wet season) was harvested in January 2016. Varieties include MMex, Maracas Blue stick, Maracas Black stick, butter stick, and Pickney Muma (Tobago). A second trial plot using the same varieties was established in February 2016 to compare performance during the dry season as the basis for validating the preliminary research results. Maintenance of the second trial plot is ongoing to include agronomic and cultural practices (weeding, irrigating and pest and disease management) and collection of monthly data for the research. The results from the first trial will be used as a baseline for comparison with the second trial to validate these results. When all the data are available and analysis completed, these results will be discussed in a technical review meeting among CARDI technicians, SFC, MoA and selected regional cassava producers to determine regional-wide applicability of these results. The outcomes of this technical review will be offered as input into the continuing process to develop a regional industry framework for the cassava industry. These results have the potential to guide improvements to the field technological package for raising productivity levels of cassava production in the context of climate change. The outcomes of this meeting will be prepared as a technical brief for dissemination to a wider cross-section of stakeholders at a planned workshop in October (CWA).

- Field activities are ongoing and plots will continue to be maintained to the end of the APP in December 2016.

Support provided under . .

- Component 2, CARDI : ‘Establish crop/animal validation & evaluation trials for commercial & food value and adaptability to extreme weather conditions’ & Component 2, CARDI : ‘National and Regional Workshops; Farmer Field Visit for training in management of improved germplasm and animal breeds (agencies & producers)’

APP In-Country Actions – Trinidad and Tobago

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Optimizing Use of Protected Structures

Two technical cooperation agreements (TCAs) were concluded with the University of the West Indies (UWI) Faculty of Engineering, Engineering Institutes to support innovation to improve and optimize the use of protective (enclosed) structures for climate-resilient vegetable production. One will design and construct a ‘greenhouse’ on land provided in the Field Station of the UWI Faculty of Food and Agriculture (FFA) in Trinidad, using a mix of local and imported materials and install systems based on research and commercially available technologies which are capable of 24 hours operations, remote monitoring and substantially automated. This system will offer researchers, students and ‘greenhouse’ practitioners a dedicated site for experimental learning and for evaluating structural design, technologies and automation capable of achieving optimal plant growth in tropical Caribbean climate.

The other will focus on retro-fitting an existing ‘greenhouse’ structure, using an existing CARDI structure in Tobago and will undertake recommended refurbishment with passive and active ventilation systems for heat and temperature control to make existing designs operational and viable. This work is guided by an initial evaluation undertaken by the UWI-EI which provided the details on the nature and scope of refurbishment works required. The results of this work will be important in providing existing PA farmers with validated process for retrofitting existing structures to significantly improve performance and reduce costs associated with controlling internal temperatures and the consequent heat stress on crops.

Support provided under . .

Component 2, CARDI :
‘Strengthen capacities of small producer / entrepreneurs including women and youth) to utilize appropriate sustainable innovative production systems and technological packages for selected commodities’

SME’s receive training in value addition for small ruminant products

Eleven (11) goat and sheep farmers (including two women) participated in a training workshop on Improving the Processing and Presentation of Small Ruminant Meat in Tobago March 2 – 3, 2016. The activity was conducted in collaboration with the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) Division of Agriculture Marine Affairs Marketing and Environment (DAMME). Participants benefitted from both theoretical training and practical applications aimed at improving meat processing options, including food safety standards and processes, of goat and sheep that ensures maximum value to the producers and consumers.

Support provided under . .

Component 2, CARDI :
‘Regional and National Level Training Workshops in value-added processes and product development’

APP In-Country Actions – Trinidad and Tobago

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Government and Farmers have improved access to improved germplasm material for more productive farming operations

Component 2 has procured an autoclave for the MOA tissue culture lab that will increase the capacity to produce tissue culture plantlets and improve the supply of root and tubers planting material to farmers and other institutions. The Roots and Tubers Tissue Culture Lab in Tobago was also refurbished following signing of a Letter of Agreement between CARDI and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA). The facility was completed in May 2016.

Support provided under. . .

- Component 2, CARDI : ‘Develop the capacity of selected stakeholders to access, multiply and manage improved germplasm and animal breeds’

Technicians trained in the use of small machinery and equipment

CARDI will host a training of trainers’ workshop for CARDI Field Technicians in the use of walk-behind tractors on 28 July, 2016 in Tobago. The training will be conducted by the supplier (Massy) in collaboration with CARDI. The training will provided technicians with improved capacity in land preparation using small-scale machinery. The trainers will conduct similar national training in their respective countries with farmers, MOA personnel, other technical persons and stakeholders during the August – September period.

Support provided under. . .

Component 2, CARDI : ‘Procure and demonstrate use of small scale equipment, tools and machinery for training demonstrations ‘

Small farmers will exposed to the benefits of appropriate small-scale equipment and improved practices

Farmers of Trinidad and Tobago will be exposed to the benefits of appropriate small-scale equipment and improved practices for Sweet potato production. In June 2016 one (1) walk-behind tractor and implements will be made available through CARDI, to demonstrate to farmers the impact of cost-time efficiency of land preparation. The training will also be extended to include staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and other relevant private sectors stakeholders and will be done during the July – August 2016. The tractor will be managed by CARDI.

Use of Improve Practices (traditional and innovative introductions):

Hot pepper farmers of the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago (ASTT) benefited from a training workshop in April 2016. The workshop focussed on new and improved techniques for hot pepper production to include use of mulches, drip irrigation and plant nutrition schedules as a productivity enhancing practice and as a risk mitigation technique.



July 2016 ~ 5 ~ APP/PMU
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APP In-Country Actions – Trinidad and Tobago

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Small-scale food processor MSMEs exposed to enterprise building and product development training

Eleven local entrepreneurs (Selwyn Hosein, Sandra Greenidge, Torin Gilalta, Afeisha Durity, Richard Trotman, Lindsay Gay, Dilean Richards, Lindsay Gay, Gia Gaspard Taylor, Brent Eversley - Trinidad and Josanne Arnold – Tobago) attended a Regional training Workshop on Product Development, Marketing, Food Safety and GMP's for SME's [21st – 24th March 2016, Trinidad and Tobago]. Participants agreed that they required and benefited from the exposure and training in improved packaging and labelling design, use of appropriate semi-industrial equipment and infrastructure to improve good manufacturing practices in their enterprises. Hence continued and targeted interventions by development partners in this area will of great benefit to them in enhancing their operation.

Support provided under. .

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Component 3, IICA:
'Improve design of packaging and labelling for select agri-food processing MSMEs (producer groups)'



July 2016 ~ 6 ~ APP/PMU
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APP In-Country Actions – Trinidad and Tobago

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Producer groups and networks capacity for governance and value chain development supported

A local Business Development Officer (BDO) Mr. Lloyd Hendrickson Yearwood has been contracted by IICA/APP C3 to provide support to the roots and tubers industry. Mr. Yearwood has been assigned to the local CABA membership for a period of seven months, to support enterprises in areas related to group governance and access to finance. He will also contribute to the development and implementation of Enterprise Business Plans and Investment Profiles in support of financing and commercialization of composite baked products Mr. Yearwood has participated in initial consultations on the CABA Execution plan and C2, C3 training activity at the recently concluded APP Regional Producer Group/Enterprise Governance and Group Dynamics training workshop [April 25-27, 2016] in St. Vincent and the Grenadines). At that workshop BDOs received expert orientation on producer group governance, dynamics, financial assessment tools, and Good Agricultural Practices, and contributed to the development of subsequent training modules in Producer Group Organizational Development/ Dynamics - all to support their delivery of technical assistance to commodity-based producer groups and business enterprises.

- **The BDO will be in-place until October 2016.**

The CAFAN secretariat concluded a LoA with the APP (Component 2 and 3) which makes provision for the contracting of the services of one (1) National Value Chain Facilitator (NVCF), Mr. Nawaz Karim who has been assigned to provide direct assistance to the local CaFAN membership for a period of six months, to support sweet potato producer group enterprises in areas related to production, export marketing, group governance and development, and credit readiness and investment profiling. Mr. Karim has participated in initial consultations on the CAFAN Execution plan and C2, C3 training activity at the recently concluded APP Regional Producer Group/Enterprise Governance and Group Dynamics training workshop [April 25-27, 2016] in St. Vincent and the Grenadines). At that workshop NVCFs received expert orientation on producer group governance, dynamics, financial assessment tools, and Good Agricultural Practices, and contributed to the development of subsequent training modules in Producer Group Organizational Development/ Dynamics - all to support their delivery of technical assistance to commodity-based producer groups.

- **The NVCF will be in-place until September 2016 and will work directly with national groups, including local chapters of CaFAN.**

Support provided under . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Direct technical assistance to selected producer groups and commodity-based enterprises for value chain development through National Value Chain Facilitators'

APP In-Country Actions – Trinidad and Tobago

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MSMEs exposed and trained in producer group governance

Madonna Roudett - National Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago, Ravi Renie - Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society, Dhano Sookoo - Caribbean Farmers Network and Torin Gilalta and Vassel Stewart - Caribbean Agri-Business Association, including the NVCF and BDO, received expert training at a Regional training Workshop in Producer Group Governance hosted jointly by C2 and C3 in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, [April 25-27, 2016]. The local NVCF will continue to support groups with a focus on members of the Dasheen and Sweet Potato Producer clusters, within defined areas of activity covered by the CaFAN-IICA-CARDI LoA/CaFAN Execution Plan – including Producer Group Governance building activities and Buyer Networking.

- The regional-based training is completed.

Mr. Nawaz Karim (NVCF), Mr. Lloyd Yearwood (BDO), Ms. Dhano Sookoo (CaFAN) and Ms. Gia Gaspard-Taylor (NRWPTT) participated in the *Strengthening Producer-Buyer Relationships: Networking Platform Experiences and Strategy Meeting* held in St. Lucia during the period 27-28 June, 2016. It was designed to facilitate joint planning and sharing of information so as to improve the organizational capacity of producer, women and youth through their insertion into value chains. The aim of the dialogue platform is the removal of obstacles to the production, marketing and distribution of commodities and to build capacity and institutional frameworks and systems for value chain development. The meeting in St. Lucia benefited from the already established producer-buyer relationship which exists between Massy Stores Saint Lucia and several local producers and was the focus of discussions. Experiences of producer-buyer relationships in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana were also highlighted.

Support provided under. . .

Component 2, CARDI &

Component 3, IICA: 'Support National Producer-Buyer Networking and Group Governance Building activities'

MSME's supported with small scale equipment

- A commercial oven was procured and delivered to the National Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago under Component 3 of the APP. The oven will assist the enterprise in increasing its productivity and quality of locally made bakery products particularly composite bread products from roots and tubers (cassava and sweet potato). The Network will also receive a Planetary dough mixer for increased efficiency of bakery operations. The mixer will be delivered in July 2016.
- The Trinidad and Tobago Goat and Sheep Society (TTGSS) will receive five (5) Milking Machines from C3 of the APP. The equipment will be delivered to the TTGSS in July 2016. The machines are expected to increase efficiency and boost the productive capacity of members of the society.
- The Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) and the Trinidad and Tobago Agribusiness Association (TTABA) will also receive support with small scale equipment. A bottle labeler and a sauce filling machine will be made available during the period July – August 2016. Procurement for these pieces of equipment is ongoing.

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA: 'Purchase and distribute small-scale processing and packaging equipment to support improved product handling, presentation and quality for select agri-food processing MSMEs'

APP In-Country Actions – Trinidad and Tobago

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Directory of major enterprises in the cassava and small ruminant value chains published

Twenty one (21) organizations within the cassava value chain and fifteen (15) organizations within the small ruminant value chain were featured in an APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers. The Directory includes the contact information for key producer groups, supermarkets, restaurants, traders, exporters, agro-processors, and input suppliers involved in these commodity-specific chains. Seventy (70) copies have been made available for distribution to stakeholders in Trinidad and Tobago and the Directory will also be made available online on APP partner and Ministry of Agriculture websites.

Support provided under. . .

Component 3, IICA: ‘APP Directory of major CARIFORUM producer groups, buyers and service providers’

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Upgrade the Regional Agribusiness Platform (Carib-Agri Website www.agricarib.org) and support capacity of producers to use same for business and trade-related information	An upgraded website has been delivered to the CARICOM Secretariat. Website content uploads are being done, and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9 th Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad & Tobago Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the content for the website.
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Upgrade/expand the existing web-based Institutional Directory and Activity Integration Map developed under a previous IICA-CTA project	The consultancy is advanced and a presentation will be made to Planners in the 9 th Regional Planners Forum in June 2016, in Trinidad & Tobago. The Platform targets key agricultural development agencies which are part of the umbrella Agriculture Food and Nutrition Cluster (AFNC) and that provide development support to the sector. The information already gathered/provided by these agencies on their activities and initiatives will be coded and included in the database to enhance stakeholder knowledge on what’s happening and foster greater institutional coordination. Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute information on projects to enhance the database.

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Support AFNC (one F2F), virtual coordination meetings, logistics, communications</p>	<p>CARDI as Chair of the AFNC has been leading the process to manage monthly virtual meetings addressing a number of areas that are supported directly under the APP as well as complementary actions by other institutions. Since the start of 2014, a smaller core of agencies, comprising CARICOM Secretariat, IICA, FAO, CDB, UWI, OECS Secretariat, CRFM, CARPHA, CaFAN and CABA have been holding monthly coordination meetings, of which four have been face-2-face. With support from the APP, in its short life the AFNC has managed to establish itself as a credible mechanism to foster collaboration on agency work activities to minimize overlaps and accelerate consensus on solutions to tackle common issues. Given that these key institutions provide direct support to agriculture in the countries, these meetings facilitate open dialogue and information sharing which could impact on delivery of support in country or could be based on sharing of successful experiences in country that could be replicated. Under the AFNC, teams have been created to champion the development process of priority commodities. These priority commodities and the lead agency are (a) Small Ruminants (CARDI), (b) Roots & Tubers (FAO), (c) Herbs & Spices (CABA)</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input through the CARICOM Secretariat and their local IICA and/or CARDI office, or directly through any of the key AFNC members.</p>
<p>[C1 - CCS - ongoing]</p> <p>Strengthen Coordination meetings, logistics, communications of the 4 Thematic Groups (TGs)</p>	<p>The 4 TGs meet virtually and F2F on matters relating to their portfolio. As part of their functions, these TGs would need to liaise at the country level to determine the status of activities/initiatives being undertaken by Ministries of Agriculture, and other national, regional and international agencies, relating their specific portfolio. Countries have an important role in this information gathering process. The TGs and their lead agencies are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems (CCS) 2 Business Development (IICA) 3 Climate Change & Natural Resource Management (FAO) 4 Human Resource, Research & Development (CARDI) <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to make input directly to the lead agencies identified.</p>

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
[C1 - CCS - close to completion] Develop a Regional Policy framework for the Cassava-Based Industry	Initially, the ToR identified five (5) countries - Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname, to be 'case studied'. While these are generally representative of the difference in the agricultural sector in CARICOM, there is recognition by the Consultant that this would not provide a sufficient basis for making policy for the entire Region. The new proposal would allow for the capture of salient aspects of the industry development in a wider regional sample, by grouping the countries in Haiti, Mainland countries (Belize, Guyana, Suriname) and other CARICOM countries (including the OECS and Barbados). Hence the role of IICA and CARDI offices in facilitating the Consultant with the information and experiences gathering process will be an important factor in ensuring success of this activity. <i>The recommendations and approach to commodity-based industry development should be reviewed in the context of the recently initiated support to development of a national agriculture policy and plan.</i>
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Assess business facilitation mechanisms with a focus on trade limiting policy measures and transportation services systems	Given the longstanding priority placed on 'alleviating' these trade and logistical constraints, it is expected that the results of consultations will have direct application to countries' efforts at systematically strengthening business and trade facilitation mechanisms for intra-regional trade in agricultural products. <i>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in November. Local officials will be consulted during the process of country-visits and will have an opportunity to input into the recommendations.</i>
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Build capacity of policy planners to integrate Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and Climate Change (CC) Adaptation into national agricultural development policies & programs	While only a limited number of countries will receive direct support in this area, in the form of development of Drought Hazard Annex to existing National Disaster Risk Management Plans, the process, experiences and information generated from the support will be shared and transferred to other countries in the Region. This can be done through regional training activities, including the Agri-Planners Forum, as well as incorporated into the planned national level support for developing policy frameworks and plans at the national (country) and industry levels (cassava, herbs & spices). <i>This activity was launched in March 2016 and will conclude in October. Local officials will be afforded an opportunity to review the findings and recommendations, including the Drought Hazard Annexes to Disaster Risk Management Plans, being developed for Saint Lucia and Grenada.</i>
[C1 - CCS - ongoing] Support Policy Networking and Knowledge Transfer through a Regional Agricultural Planners Forum	More structured opportunities will be provided for planners in Ministries of Agriculture to network and dialogue on a continuous basis as the main tool to strengthen their capacity to undertake routine planning functions, foster consensus for decision making on critical issues on the regional agenda and as a vehicle for transferring knowledge on specific policy-related topics through virtual and F2F training activities <i>Activities continue in 2016.</i>

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
<p>[C2 – CARDI; close to completion]</p> <p>Study/validation meetings on harmonization of trade standards for movement of select crop & animal livestock germplasm in the region</p>	<p>Through two separate, but complementary studies under C2, both completed in July 2015, CARDI is contributing to efforts at modernizing existing rules and regulations concerning trade in plant and animal material for easier movement while, at the same time, maintaining the lowest level of risk with respect to the transfer of pests and diseases within CARIFORUM. A F2F technical review meeting on plant germplasm trade protocols (to be convened on 7 December 2015) will explore the pest status and the risk of transmission for six priority crops, and a range of suitable options were selected and presented through six crop-specific “Protocols for the Transport of Disease-Free Planting Material in CARIFORUM”. The outcomes of this meeting and action on an agreed way forward will have far reaching implications for countries which have expressed an interest in obtaining improved germplasm for roots and tubers from both countries within and outside the region. A similar technical review will be undertaken for animal germplasm and given the current concerns with the spread of AI disease in poultry, the findings and recommendations of the protocols for moving animal germplasm across the region become even more relevant.</p> <p>The recommendations and protocols should be reviewed as part of the current process for developing a national agriculture policy.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; ongoing]</p> <p>Prepare Financial & Investment profiles for selected commodity based Industries</p>	<p>IICA in collaboration with FAST, CaFAN and CABA will identify and select a strategic commodity sector to promote investment and produce an investment guide to be launched during the Regional agri-Value Chain Finance Forum.</p> <p>Local stakeholders are encouraged to contribute to the process through their in-country NVCF.</p>
<p>[C3 – IICA; close to completion]</p> <p>Experience capitalization on successful CARIFORUM-based financing schemes involving small producers/ entrepreneurs in value chains’</p>	<p>CARIFORUM countries will benefit from specific case studies and short videos of the successful value chain financing mechanisms. These experiences will be documented and used for knowledge transfer and promotion to other countries in the region. Among these are the financing mechanisms and experiences in the white potato and onion industry in Jamaica and the production input loan and marketing scheme spearheaded by MASSY STORES in Saint Lucia. The two consultancies are intended to contribute to the enhancing of understanding of innovative agri-value chain financing schemes for MSMEs, the pivotal role of supportive government policy and engagement and successful collaboration with financial institutions, in order to catalyse changes in practice, help others not to repeat errors and facilitate the design of new interventions that are evidence-based.</p>

Regional APP Actions with Benefits at Country Level

Action/Component	Brief Description
[C3 – IICA; planning in progress] ‘Regional Agri-Value Chain Financing Forum to strengthen stakeholders engagement on Value Chain financing in CARIFORUM countries’	The outcome of the Credit Readiness exercise will determine those MSMEs and Development Finance Institutions from Trinidad and Tobago that will attend the Regional Agri Value Chain Financing Forum to be held in Jamaica in September 2016. The forum will be hosted in collaboration with the CTA, and will include representatives from national and regional financial institutions, representatives of commodity producer, women and youth organizations and technical professionals from CARIFORUM countries. Enterprises selected to attend will include those that have undergone credit-readiness assessment and subsequently investment profiling (by BDOs using FAST Tools).
[C3 – IICA; plans ongoing for focus group meeting] Working Capital Fund study for selected commodity based Industries	A two-day regional workshop, involving representatives of selected producer groups and enterprises involved in Roots and Tuber production, transformation and marketing initiatives (spearheaded by APP Beneficiary organizations along with selected NVCFs, BDOs and IICA National Specialists who are supporting producer groups and value-adding enterprises) is earmarked for Barbados in August. This workshop is linked closely with the work on credit worthiness assessments being undertaken under the APP-FAST LoA. Enterprises being cleared as credit worthy’ is an essential step in being deemed eligible for the financing.