



## Important achievements in 2016

- Thirty-five beekeepers were trained by IICA in the production of Perone hives and Permaculture management. Through this action, the stakeholders' capacity in the local apiculture industry was strengthened to build and adapt low-cost beekeeping technology that can also support value-added differentiation of honey and pollen products. This action, which supports the strengthening of family farming associative processes for food security and the rural economy, has helped local beekeepers to improve their management practices, as well as their understanding of available options for product differentiation linked to both the product and production system.
- Operators of sixteen micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) from four Caribbean countries were trained in developing and implementing a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan. The activity better equipped small businesses to be compliant with food safety and standards requirements for better access and participation in both local and export markets. In Saint Lucia, the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Cooperatives and SUNFRESH Ltd partnered on facilitating the workshop. As a result of the support provided by the 10th EDF Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Project financed by the European Union (EU), Saint Lucia now has two internationally certified HACCP trainers to transfer knowledge and build capacity, as well as nine businesses that are realizing improvements in their product quality and market acceptance through their adoption of the principles learnt.
- Capacity-building in effective governance was carried out for fifteen representatives of six producer/enterprise groups. Implemented as a workshop under the 10th EDF Agriculture Policy Programme (APP) financed by the EU, the action supported the strengthening of operational procedures and processes for effective governance of producer groups, while facilitating the identification of critical challenges and possible solutions for increasing accountability and improving the operational effectiveness of producer groups.
- IICA supported the St Lucia Agricultural Forum for Youth (SLAFY) in implementing the "Hive-Minded Project" - a communal apiary for ten youth in the rural community of Laborie. The project recognized that many young people cannot access the physical resources needed to make their business projects a reality, and sought to introduce and show the merits of collaborative business models in helping youth start-ups overcome this common challenge. Through funding secured from the Australian Embassy's Direct Aid Programme (DAP), the project trained the ten participating youth in commercial apiary management and honey production, and supported their start-up of a communal apiary by providing tools, equipment and resources to construct and populate hives. The completed apiary has 20 growing hives and is being jointly managed by the rural youth and SLAFY.
- In collaboration with the Belle Vue Farmers' Cooperative, St. Lucia hosted a train-the-trainers workshop on facilitating associative internships for skills building on family agriculture that focused on supporting peer learning as an approach to building the capacity of producer groups, as well as improving the likelihood of adoption of the solutions recommended. The intervention was also important for building IICA's capacity to work in a meaningful way with its partner producer groups and associations in order to create good governance structures that are essential to making them more profitable and sustainable.

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