



# Barbados

## Technical Cooperation

IICA resources projects: 5

External resources projects: 4

## Main contributions during 2013

- Thirty-eight persons increased their knowledge of food safety and good manufacturing practices, including youth, small business operators and community-based organization members. IICA also completed a food processing and food safety manual to support knowledge sharing.
- Twenty-three young people achieved National Vocational Qualifications in Amenity Horticulture Level I through an eight-week youth farm program administered by IICA in collaboration with our strategic partners, the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Council, the Ministry of Education and Human Resource Development, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. IICA had developed this program with the goal of developing agribusiness skills among the youth and enhancing their capacity in several technical areas including good agricultural principles, organic agriculture, protected agriculture, livestock and sustainable farming as a means of strengthening national food security.
- Through training and field demonstrations, knowledge and awareness were increased for 20 farmers and 15 Ministry officials with respect to alternative forages and feeding practices for small ruminants. IICA also increased awareness of the Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Industry among over 1000 primary and secondary students who attended AgroFest, and increased public awareness through various media, including television, newspapers and interviews. Information-sharing was supported through multiple publications including: An assessment of the Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Breeding Stock; Report on Small Ruminant (Barbados Blackbelly Sheep) Market Study; Suitable Forages for Small Ruminant Production in Barbados; Information pamphlets and posters.
- Coordination between the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Tourism and Community Development was increased in support of the Grapefruit and Molasses Inc. community-based group in their agro tourism initiative, resulting in a successful community event and the publication of a technical manual and brochure on citrus pests and diseases.
- Awareness of best practices in protected agriculture systems was increased through the provision of technical support to two private sector operators, one with a large scale production plan, and one working with energy-efficient designs. Additionally, two Ministry extension officers have increased knowledge of large scale operations courtesy of a tour of protected agriculture operations in Jamaica. 10 Protected Agriculture operators who attended a PA workshop organized by IICA have begun to adopt best practices in their operations. In most cases, producers have replaced plastic and anti-viral netting with shade netting to improve air-flow through the systems. Some producers have introduced recommended IMP strategies such as encouraging spider webs in the PA systems to trap harmful insects.