



Agriculture

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- A technical procedures manual and a national standards manual for the evaluation, registration and post registration of commercial bio-inputs was completed and presented to the National Research and Extension Institute (NAREI) and the Pesticide and Toxic Chemicals Control Board (PTCCP). IICA, with support from the Government of Guyana (GoG), provided funding to prepare the manuals and trained fifteen technicians in their use, which will support new legislation for commercialization and compliance of bio-input use in Guyana.
- Two hundred and ninety crop and livestock farmers and agro-processors in Regions 2, 3, 6, 9 and 10, directly benefited from a series of Cost of Production workshops, financed through IICA's collaboration with the New Guyana Marketing Cooperation (NGMC) and the Ministry of Indigenous People's Affairs (MoIPA). The beneficiaries are now equipped with skills to enable them to negotiate prices and budget their input cost so as to maximize profits and be competitive, thus ensuring the profitability of agricultural enterprises and income generation in rural communities.
- Twelve Perone Hives were introduced in selected apiaries in Region 4, for comparison of the production levels with the traditional Langstroth hives. The results demonstrated that the traditional Langstroth hives were 25 % more productive. Fifteen members of the Guyana Apiculture Society (GAS) directly benefited from this experiment, which has resulted in an increase of two hundred and fifty (250) new Langstroth hives being established to supply an ever increasing market. IICA, through the Family Agriculture Flagship project and the GAS, co-financed this experiment.
- Four Praedial Larceny workshops in four Member States - Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines - benefiting one hundred and thirty stakeholders, were financed under the CARICOM/IICA Technical Cooperation Agreement. The purpose of this initiative was to highlight ongoing efforts in combating Praedial larceny in the member states and to share best practices from Jamaica, which has had success in its programmes. Each Member State submitted a report for its respective workshop, and a regional report was prepared, which captured the commonalities in recommendations and intended actions going forward into 2018. Member States committed to establishing/strengthening National Praedial Larceny Units and updating legislation to increase compliance and enforcement.
- Giant King Grass was introduced as an alternative feed source and bio-energy input, utilizing the mined-out spoils from Linden, Region 10. Financed through IICA's flagship resilience project and the Government of Guyana (NAREI), the results from the experiment determined the optimal application rate of charcoal for improvement of the physical and chemical properties of degraded soils; the effects of charcoal application on growth and bio-mass production; and tested the residual effect of a single application of charcoal on crop performance over three cropping cycles. The farmer field school approach was utilized for capacity building (benefitting 45 farmers and 250 high school students), and the development of four technological packages highlighted field testing of charcoal as an amendment to degraded soils, and for the testing of bio-mass for livestock and a possible alternative energy source.

- The layout for two cassava factories (Moco Moco and Wowetta) in the Rupununi, Region 9, was improved, thus enabling sixty indigenous factory workers to obtain food handler's certification from the Food and Drugs Department. Technical and financial support provided by IICA to the factories' management facilitated the acquisition of production certification, which will result in increased production, market share and income generation in indigenous communities. IICA, in collaboration with the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples Affairs, NGMC and NAREI, provided technical support to two agro-processing facilities in the areas of food safety and process management at the Orealla Agro-processing Unit in Region 6. Likewise, institutional support/governance and market linkages were provided to the Tapakuma Agro-processing Unit in Region 2.
- The Guyana National *Codex* Committee was strengthened and fully operationalized through the technical leadership provided by IICA, and the interventions of the Chilean *Codex* Secretariat with financial support from the governments of Chile, the United States of America-USDA and Guyana. A procedural manual and a 4-year National Strategic Plan were developed, and are being implemented to serve as a guide for the operations of the re-energized Guyana National *Codex* Committee (GNCC). The GNCC was also strengthened to provide technical guidance for informed decision-making, thus increasing coordination and collaboration among stakeholders and ensuring that updated standards are in compliance.
- Level of water demand/usage was ascertained through the application of a survey in the Rupununi, Region 9, which was supported financially through IICA projects on inclusion and resilience. Water catchment, water use/management and conservation remains a priority in region 9, as was demonstrated through the consultancy conducted

by IICA entitled, "Assessing the impact of El Nino in Region 9". Four technological packages were produced to highlight the importance of water management and distributed to public and private stakeholders, including indigenous communities and schools, in collaboration with the National Drainage and Irrigation Authority (NDIA) of the Ministry of Agriculture.

- Sixty students and six teachers were trained by IICA in shadehouse cultivation and management under IICA's reliance project, co-financed in collaboration with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and Partners of the Americans. Six shadehouses were constructed at secondary schools across Guyana in an effort to promote interest in agriculture as a business and a means of livelihood that will enhance food security, nutrition and increase the income and prosperity of families in rural communities.
- Two priority studies were completed in the Caribbean Region under the 10th EDF Regional Intra-ACP Programme funded by the EU. These studies focused on trade facilitation, market access and transportation. Under the CARICOM/IICA Technical Cooperation Agreement, the operationalization of the recommendations emanating from these studies is being spearheaded by the Business Development Thematic Group, chaired by IICA. The priority studies for the Business Development Thematic Group are:
 - i. Assessment of the Adequacy of Agricultural Market Infrastructure and the Development of Recommendations for Improvement with Specific Focus on the Needs of Women and Small Farmers; and
 - ii. An Examination of and Proposals for Improving Transport and Logistics for Intra-Regional Agricultural Trade.



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