

BARBADOS

2005 Annual Report

The Contribution of IICA to
the Development of Agriculture
and Rural Communities



CaRC/BB – 06/001
ISSN 0534-5391

INTER-AMERICAN INSTITUTE
FOR COOPERATION ON AGRICULTURE (IICA)
Office in Barbados

IICA's CONTRIBUTION TO AGRICULTURE
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN BARBADOS

February 2006

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FOREWORD



IICA Office In Barbados Staff

The IICA Office in Barbados is proud of its achievements over the past four years, as we come to the end of the first term of the new Administration headed by Dr. the Hon. Chelston Brathwaite, Director General.

The new model of technical cooperation instituted over the period 2002-2006 has been guided by our corporate mission to promote wealth and prosperity in rural communities, and has resulted in *needs-based* and responsive National Agendas, developed through extensive

consultation with our partners and stakeholders, and executed through flexible response mechanisms.

The Annual Report on IICA's Contribution to Agriculture and the Development of Rural Communities, is a critical element of this new model for cooperation as it represents the Institute's commitment to transparency and accountability to its Member States. The Representative and staff of IICA-Barbados are therefore pleased to share with you our experiences and achievements over the past year in this report, "*IICA's Contribution to Agriculture and the Development of the Rural Communities of Barbados*".

We wish to take this opportunity to extend sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and to all of our partners in development, for their invaluable support and collaboration. Special thanks are extended also to the media for their support in the positive promotion of agriculture.

Ena. C. Harvey
IICA Representative

1. INTRODUCTION

During 2005, the IICA Office in Barbados deepened its collaboration with public and private-sector partners in the agri-food, tourism, and environment sectors, and also established new partnerships for collaboration with the Ministries of Health and Culture. Our work this year focused on several on-the ground technology applications, with the erection of a greenhouse in St. Lucy and the establishment of a vermicomposting project in St. Andrew. We renewed our efforts with youth, women and organic farmers, providing support for their institutional strengthening and training. We also made progress with respect to the manufacture of indigenous craft bearing the Barbados Blackbelly sheep logo.

The AgroTourism Linkages Centre recorded five significant achievements in 2005, the first being the approval by the OAS of a regional project in support of AgroTourism linkages in the amount of US\$444,000. The 3-year project is aimed at strengthening linkages between Agriculture and Tourism linkages in seven countries. The other four milestones were the co-ordination and co-hosting of an international workshop on AgroTourism with funding and support from two European Union (EU) partners during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA); the official signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between IICA and the Caribbean Hotel Association (CHA) at the CWA; the launch of a new Distance Learning Course on Agro-Eco Tourism, and partnership with the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association (BHTA) on the Culinary Alliance of Barbados.

We provided support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MAR) with respect to the training of MAR officers in Canada, and sponsorship of their participation in meetings of World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva as well as in meetings in the region dealing with agricultural health and food safety issues. We also supported the participation and training of women and youth farmers and agro-entrepreneurs in several national and regional meetings covering development and investment opportunities in the Botanicals Industry, Agro-Tourism and Organic Agriculture.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report highlights the contribution of the IICA and the development of rural communities in Barbados for the year 2005. The results of our programme of work are reported under the following seven areas: (1) Facilitating competitiveness and global trade; (2) Promoting food safety and agricultural health; (3) Strengthening rural communities; (4) Hemispheric integration; (5) Developing human capital; (6) Environmental management; and (7) Institutional modernization.

Summary of the National Agenda

The primary focus of the Technical Cooperation Agenda for Barbados in 2005 was on deepening relations with the various stakeholders at the national, regional, hemispheric and international levels through collaboration on interventions that would impact on rural livelihoods. The Office's Agro-Tourism Centre received a tremendous boost to the tune of US \$119,000 from the OAS to initiate projects in seven Caribbean countries. Collaboration among IICA, the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), and Ministries of Agriculture in the Region, resulted in some 105 persons being trained throughout the region in compost production using earthworms. Thirty-one (31) persons were trained in Barbados.

The Office remained committed to the Association of Women in Agriculture (AWIA), and the Barbados Agricultural Forum for Youth (BAFY) by supporting their participation at local and regional workshops, while donating computers to AWIA and the Organic Growers and Consumers Association (OGCA) to aid in their organizational management.

The major achievements of the Office in Barbados are summarized as follows:

Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade

The Office continued its support for the strategic development of three competitive products, namely Barbados Blackbelly sheep, hot peppers and herbals. In the area of Agro-Tourism Linkages, the Office conducted a series of roundtable policy meetings aimed at documenting the policy initiatives, identifying stakeholders, and quantifying the levels of linkage between the two sectors. The Agro-Tourism Committee hosted a booth at the National Agricultural Exhibition – "AgroFest", showcasing art, craft and souvenirs produced from Barbados Blackbelly sheep. The AgroTourism Committee also supported a workshop for artisans on the manufacture of craft and souvenirs based on the Barbados Blackbelly Sheep logo.

Approval for US\$119,000 was received from the OAS for a regional Agro-Tourism project involving seven (7) countries. The official signing of the project took place in Barbados and the programme was officially launched in 6 countries by the end of the year. In October, during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA), the Office coordinated an international Agro-Tourism workshop, funded by the Centre for the

Development of Enterprise (CDE) and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation (CTA), and supported by the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) and Government of St. Kitts & Nevis. Eighty five (85) participants were in attendance and a framework for a regional agrotourism strategy was developed.

Additional developments in Agro-Tourism included the inclusion of IICA on the newly established Culinary Alliance of Barbados and submission of proposals to the CHA for a pilot "Adopt-A-Farm" project for 5 Caribbean countries. As IICA's nominated representative to the Board of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) and the advocacy committee of the CHA, the Representative attended Board meetings, and also delivered presentations on the role of linkages in sustainable tourism development.

Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health

The Office facilitated a seminar at the request of the Barbados Private Sector Trade Team (BPSTT) to discuss the impact of the BioTerrorism Act on Barbadian businesses. Support was also provided for the participation of Ministry (MAR) officials in WTO meetings in Geneva and in two regional training workshops in Trinidad. The first workshop dealt with the WTO Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Notification/Enquiry Point Dissemination Software, and the second with Information Exchange on an International Phytosanitary Portal. With the cooperation of the IICA Office in Canada, two officers of the Government Analytical Laboratory of the MAR were provided with support for training in Pesticide Residue Analysis in Canada. IICA Barbados also completed the videos for the English version of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP): Train the Trainers Distance Learning Course, which will be launched in 2006. The Office also participated in the National Consultation on Giant African Snail, hosted by the MAR.

Strengthening Rural Communities

A 3,000 ft² greenhouse was erected as a workshop project and together with the ferro-cement water storage tank which was built in 2004, was formally handed over by the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to Mr. Russel Codrington, a farmer at Spring Hall Land Lease Project. The Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) Specialist provided technical assistance to at least 6 farms on accessing loan financing for establishing greenhouses. In collaboration with the FAO, the CDB and Ministries of Agriculture, the SRD Specialist and IICA Barbados organized a 6-week regional training programme in vermicomposting, with expert advice from a Chinese consultant.

The Office provided support to BAFY by sponsoring the attendance of two members at a workshop on "*Priority Setting, Organizational Development and an Introduction to Project Development and Management*" in St. Lucia. BAFY supported the Coleridge and Parry Secondary School's Clover 4H Club with their Organic Summer Camp, as well as World Food Day celebrations at the Gordon Greenidge Primary School.

A workshop on strategic planning was conducted with the AWIA, and collaboration was undertaken with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to undertake a needs assessment of women farmers in Barbados.

The office supported the participation of youth and women in the Caribbean Agriculture Forum for Youth (CAFY) Annual General meeting at the CWA as well as in the Agro-Tourism Workshop. An inaugural charity benefit concert was also held in collaboration with the Heart Foundation of Barbados, and proceeds of Bds\$5,000 will be used to establish a Trust Fund for Youth in Agriculture.

Hemispheric Integration

The IICA Office continued to partner with the Inter-American Agencies in Barbados during 2005. Activities included regular discussions and participation in meetings and workshops with the OAS, Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). The Office facilitated the visit of Prof. Trevor Hassell of the Inter-American Heart Foundation (IAHF) to the Inter-American Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture (RIMSA) in Mexico.

The Office supported visits of missions from the FAO, EU and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Several meetings were undertaken with FAO and CDB concerning greenhouse technology, the St. Kitts sugar industry, and the Jagdeo Initiative. Consultations were also undertaken with the Italy Cooperation Fund, the EU, Department for International Development (DFID), CTO, Caribbean Centre for Development Administration (CARICAD), OXFAM, and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). IICA's participation on the Board of Directors of the CTO and the CHA Advocacy Committee continued.

Developing Human Capital

IICA Barbados hosted the visit of Mme. Bonneton of the Université des Antilles et de la Guyane (UAG), and launched a new Distance Learning Course on Agro-Eco Tourism, which was developed as a collaborative effort between IICA, the UAG and other French agencies. The course was also shared with French Form 6 students at the Combermere School. The office also hosted a visit from IICA's Directorate of Education and Training (DECAP) and arrangements were put in place for upgrading of the existing Distance Learning courses which were produced by the Barbados Agricultural Management Company (BAMC), as well as for conducting training in HACCP for supervisory personnel in the sugar industry. For the fourth year in succession, the Representative lectured to Hospitality students on Agro-Tourism Linkages at the Pommarine Training Institute.

Internal training of IICA staff included a 10-week Spanish course as well as a two-day Emotional Intelligence session, aimed at promoting personal excellence and team work. The SRD Specialist also benefited from a Training of Trainers' course in Organic Agriculture in the Dominican Republic.

Environmental Management

IICA collaborated with the MAR, FAO and the CDB in a pilot project to manage farm waste in the Scotland District. Technical staff also participated in meetings and workshops on the National BioSafety Strategy and in UNDP/United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) Land Degradation Project. The Representative was re-elected to serve as Chairperson of the Sub-Regional Steering Committee (SRSC) of the UNDP Global Environment Fund Small Grants Project (GEF-SGP). Collaboration was also initiated with the EU-funded Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP), with a view to finding a nexus between the Programme and IICA's AgroTourism initiatives. Relations with the Ministry of the Environment were strengthened through the presentation by the Representative of the Feature Address at the Minister of Environment Awards, and her participation in a panel discussion on Arbor Day.

Institutional Modernization

The Office provided support with strengthening of the operations of AWIA and the OGCA through the provision of computers and training in organizational management and development.

Future opportunities for cooperation

In 2006, the Technical Cooperation Agenda of the IICA Office in Barbados will focus primarily on the implementation of funded Agro-Tourism projects, with linked activities in trade and agribusiness, rural development, agricultural health and food safety and education and training. The Agenda will also provide support for the strengthening of capacity within the MAR in AgroTourism, food safety, agro-processing and organic production. The Office will continue its outreach to primary and secondary schools. The National Agenda will remain flexible to the demands of the sector, within an agreed hemispheric, regional and national framework of priorities and key actions, aligned with the Jagdeo Initiative and the AgroPlan 2003-2015, Barbados' National Strategic Plan (2005 – 2025), the MAR's Medium Term Strategy for the Agricultural Sector, and the work programmes of partner agencies.

3. THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN BARBADOS IN 2005

3.1 Recent performance in the expanded agricultural sector

At the domestic level, Central Bank statistics report an increased output from the sugar industry for the first time since 2000, and at a level of 4.5% over 2004 production. On the other hand, real output of non-sugar agriculture and fishing declined by 3.6% during the first half of 2005. Fish catches contracted by an estimated 10.5% while milk production was reduced for the fourth consecutive period. Chicken production increased above 2004 production levels.

In terms of domestic agricultural production, several issues remain critical. These include food security, praedial larceny and the registration of livestock; the sustainable management of water for agriculture; allocation of scarce land resources; potential threats to agricultural health and food safety; the high cost of agricultural inputs and access to finance; upgrading and re-tooling of agricultural extension services; the production of value-added products through agro-processing; the restructuring of the sugar and Sea Island Cotton industries; and the sustainable management of the Barbados BlackBelly sheep industry.

3.2 Critical issues in the international and national context that impact agriculture and rural life

International and Regional levels

The existence of a hostile international environment where multilateral negotiations tend to favour the larger developed nations, perhaps poses the greatest threat to the sustainability of the agricultural sector in Barbados and other developing countries. The most significant trade impacts are expected to be caused by the potential fallout from the WTO Framework Agreement (FA) adopted in 2004, which calls for substantial reduction in tariffs, domestic support and export subsidies. In Barbados, the FA can have devastating negative impacts on current tariffs on poultry, pork, onions and tomatoes.

Within this challenging framework, the Government of Barbados has stated in its 2005-2025 Strategic Plan, that it is committed to the restructuring and modernization of the entire agricultural sector. Five major objectives, each with detailed strategies, are described for improved access to markets, enhanced competitiveness, sustainable agricultural development; food and nutrition security and strong rural commodities are identified.

The Caribbean Single Market (CSM) was ceremonially legalized with signatures from 12 member states on the 30 January 2006. The CSM has been legally functional in 6 countries in the region since January 1, 2006. The remaining six Caricom member countries, representing the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), signed a 'Declaration of Intent' to become operational no later than June 30, 2006. This

achievement represents the completion of the first phase of the much advocated common economic space, the CSME. The CSME will allow for the removal, for the first time in the region's history, of barriers to the trade within the Caribbean in goods and services, the movement of capital, technology and skilled persons, and the establishment of enterprises by Caribbean citizens.

The CSME will have significant implications, both positive and negative, for the agri-food sector in Barbados, particularly in terms of price competitiveness *vis-a-vis* imports of fresh produce and processed foods from Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Jamaica, the OECS, as well as implications for import of labour for agricultural production. Opportunities for the development of strategic alliances across the Region, particularly at the private sector level in production, processing and trade of agricultural produce and processed goods, are tremendous. The strengthening and networking of farmers' associations and agro-processors will be critical in the realization of such alliances.

National Level

At the level of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Medium-Term strategy for the Agricultural Sector 2004 – 2007 is based on a commodity-focused approach to position the sector on a more competitive and sustainable path. The ten (10) programmes cover institutional restructuring and reform; human resource development; youth in agriculture; natural resources development; rural development; competitiveness enhancement; commodity specific initiatives; Agricultural health and food safety; export agriculture and capitalizing on opportunities afforded through the hosting of the Cricket World Cup (CWC) 2007.

In terms of regional actions, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development is currently implementing several actions to address the ten key binding constraints to the repositioning of agriculture, as identified in the Jagdeo Initiative. Under the area of financing, for example, the MAR is undertaking the establishment of special funds for Competitiveness Enhancement, Development of the Scotland District, the Sea Island Cotton Industry, and a Model farm for Youth. Inefficiencies in land and water distribution and management systems are being addressed through a \$6million project to refurbish and expand the existing systems. In the area of Agricultural Health and Food Safety (AHFS), the MAR is in the process of developing a programme document and manpower plan for a National AHFS Agency, and has also established a benchmarking and competitiveness enhancement plan.

The role of agriculture and agriculture-related enterprises in rural life in Barbados has changed significantly over the past few decades. The continued reduction of lands allocated to sugar cane production, coupled with tourism developments and the increasing demand for residential lands, and the subsequent expansion of residential communities into the traditionally rural communities, have all led to shrinkage of the areas that were historically regarded as *agricultural*.

Changing lifestyles and the adoption of “developed” country cultures, have also led to decreasing dependence on agriculture as a source of income or basis for daily activities, or on locally grown food as a primary source of nutrition. These trends are having significant impacts on health, as evidenced by increasing levels of obesity and incidence of lifestyle-related diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and hypertension.

In response to these trends, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development has had discussions with the Ministry of Health. IICA has also initiated dialogue with the Heart Foundation of Barbados to promote the Healthy Farms Concept. At the level of the average farmer and consumer, there has been keen interest in the adoption of greenhouse technology in order to maximize the use of scarce land and water resources, while achieving production efficiencies.

3.3 The status of living conditions in rural communities

Unlike other islands in the Caribbean, there is no strict differentiation between what can be classified as urban or rural in Barbados. The topography and the evolution of infrastructural development in the island have resulted in significant development of rural communities with well-developed access to transportation, education, health, satellite communications and other services.

In terms of services to rural Barbados, the Government has established the Rural Development Commission. While the initial focus of the RDC has been on infrastructural improvements in rural areas, over the past year, there has been increasing emphasis on providing training in agro-processing, showcasing rural enterprises and cottage industries and encouraging the adoption of greenhouse production systems.

Apart from the RDC, there are several other Government Ministries as well as national Non-government Organisations (NGOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) which have important impacts on rural life in Barbados. These include the churches, service clubs, and youth support networks.

4. SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL AGENDA

The primary focus of the Technical Cooperation Agenda in Barbados in 2005 was on increasing the awareness and capability of entrepreneurs and Ministry officials alike, to identify and take advantage of potential agribusiness opportunities, including those in AgroTourism. The ten major highlights of our activities are:

1. Hosting of National Consultation – three focus group sessions were held, followed by a final meeting with a cross section of all stakeholders;
2. Collaboration with the MAR, Barbados Sheep Farmers Incorporated (BSFI) and the National Cultural Foundation (NCF) in hosting an Arts and Craft Workshop focusing on utilizing the byproducts and images of the Barbados Blackbelly Sheep;
3. Organisation of a national and three regional workshops on Vermicomposting, in conjunction with the MAR, FAO and CDB;
4. Collaboration with the RDC, MAR and SJPP in the construction of a 3,000 ft² greenhouse at Spring Hall Land Lease Project;
5. Facilitation of participation of MAR officers, as well as representatives of organizations of women and youth in agriculture, in regional meetings;
6. Provision of support to the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development with respect to participation in the Summits of the Americas Process, and implementation of its commitments for actualization of the AgroPlan 2003-2015 and the Jagdeo Initiative;
7. Approval of an OAS-sponsored 3-year regional project to strengthen agro-tourism linkages in Barbados and 6 other Caribbean countries;
8. Organisation and hosting of an international workshop on Agro-tourism at the CWA in St. Kitts, sponsorship of two participants from Barbados, and facilitation of a total of 11 participants from Barbados;
9. Membership of IICA on the Culinary Alliance of Barbados;
10. Launch of a new Distance Learning Course on Agro-Eco Tourism.

5. RESULTS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR 2005

5.1 Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade:

The IICA Office in Barbados continued its support for the strategic development of three competitive products in Barbados namely: the Barbados Blackbelly Sheep, Hot Peppers and Herbals. The Office also made great strides in enhancing its Agro-Tourism programme in 2005.

Barbados Blackbelly Sheep:

The Office, through its involvement in the Barbados Agro-Tourism Committee (BATC), continued its support for the strategic development of Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Industry in Barbados.

Within its programme of support, the BATC in collaboration with the MAR, the NCF and the BSFI hosted an Arts and Crafts Blackbelly Sheep workshop on Wednesday, May 25 2005 at the Greenland Agricultural Research Station, St. Andrew. The purpose of the workshop was to involve and expose constituents of the visual arts and crafts communities to the creative and commercial possibilities of producing art and craft based on the Barbados Blackbelly Sheep theme. This initiative was a follow up to a competition held in 2004 to design a national logo for the Barbados Blackbelly Sheep, and had been undertaken within the context of providing value-added, branded, “signature” gift and craft items using the logo. The workshop was attended by approximately 30 participants comprising mainly artisans but also sheep farmers and technical personnel.

Hot Peppers:

As a follow up to the IICA/CE/Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) meeting and launch of the Caribbean Hot Pepper Industry Association (CHPA) in Barbados in September 2004, and at the request of the national



Participants at the BBSheep Workshop – Greenland Agricultural Research Station



Caribbean Hot Pepper Industry Executive Committee

representative for the CHPA, IICA Barbados hosted a hot pepper industry meeting in February, to identify the critical limiting factors to sustainability and competitiveness of the local industry and to foster cooperation among industry players through the formation of a national chapter of the CHPA.

Some 15 participants, comprising a cross-section of the industry and including farmers, processors, a major equipment and input supplier, pack-house operator EME Ltd and fresh purchase buyers from the SuperCentre chain, attended. The MAR, Barbados Agricultural and Development Marketing Corporation (BADMC), Caribbean Export Development Agency (CEDA) and the Barbados Investment and Development Corporation (BIDC) were also represented. The general consensus of the meeting was that there is a definite need for the National Chapter, and commitment to its formation was unanimous.

One of the most critical constraints identified was the absence of an adequate system for payments to farmers for local purchases of hot peppers. It was agreed that unless this was addressed as a first order of priority, farmers could not be encouraged to get back into production, and processors would not be able to secure supplies of hot peppers. Earlier this year, there was a severe shortage of peppers for the supermarket, export and processing trades.

The meeting agreed to the preparation of a Position Paper on the local industry which would document and rationalize all the activities and roles of the different agencies, and provide workable solutions for sustainable development of the industry. IICA appointed a consultant to prepare the position paper.



Representative Ena Harvey, speaking with interested producers & suppliers at meeting of the National Chapter Of The Caribbean Pepper Industry Association (CHPA), held 23 February 2005 - IICA Conference Room .

Herbals:

IICA continued its support to the National Chapter of the Caribbean Herbal Business Association (CHBA). In 2005 the Office sponsored the participation of members to a joint meeting of the Caribbean Association of Researchers and Herbal Practitioners (CARAPA) and the CHBA in St. Lucia. The office also assisted with sponsorship of the Organic Earth Health Fair held in August at the Barbados Museum. Two members of the Chapter were sponsored to attend the Agro-Tourism Workshop in St. Kitts.

Apart from offering financial support to ensure active participation of the CHBA's membership at national and regional meetings and workshops, the Office also participated in a meeting involving members of the CHBA and the BIDC to discuss

strategies for the development of the botanicals industry. It is expected that a feasibility study on the industry's potential will be initiated in 2006.

Agro-Tourism Linkages:

In the area of Agro-Tourism Linkages, the most significant result for 2005 was the approval of US\$119,000 by the OAS for Year 1 of the regional Agro-Tourism Linkages project entitled “*Strengthening of the Tourism Sector through the Development of Linkages with the Agricultural Sector in the Caribbean*”. This project which is being coordinated by the IICA Barbados Office would see the realization of projects, in the first instance, in 7 countries in the region, including Barbados. The official launch for Barbados took place on November 25, 2005.



Right—left: Ena Harvey, IICA Representative, Wendell Goodin, Director OAS & Patrick McCaskie—Chief Economist, Research & Planning Unit, Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs

During the period July - December, 2005, IICA Barbados completed a series of roundtable policy meetings with the view to taking stock of the existing policies and practices which impact the development of linkages between agriculture and tourism. This study complements the agricultural demand study for hotels and restaurants which was completed in 2003. The Office, through the Agro-Tourism Linkages Committee, also participated in AgroFest 2005 by showcasing the possibilities for craft development using the Barbados Blackbelly sheep theme.



IICA & Ministry of Tourism Staff at the Agro-Tourism Booth

One of the major activities of the Agriculture Tourism Linkages Centre in 2005 was the hosting of a Workshop entitled “*AgroTourism – Partners in Development*”.



The Workshop was a joint initiative of IICA, the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA, Holland), and the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE, Brussels) and the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO). The Workshop formed an integral part of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) 2005 which had as its theme “*Exploring Opportunities for Enhancing the New Agriculture*”.

The major objectives of the workshop were to share and exchange Best Practices and success stories in Agro-tourism in the Caribbean, with a view to preparing a strategy and programme for the development and promotion of agro-tourism in the Region, which could be jointly supported by IICA, the CTA, CDE and CTO.

Also in 2005, IICA became a member of the Culinary Alliance of Barbados. Meetings were held with the BHTA to develop strategies for fostering partnerships between chefs and farmers, as well as to track the purchases of local produce by hotels. Additionally, IICA has submitted proposals to the CHA for a pilot Adopt-A-Farm project for 5 Caribbean countries.



Participants at the AgroTourism Workshop

5.2 Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health:

In October 2005, the IICA Office in Barbados was pleased to welcome the newly appointed Regional Specialist in Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Ms. Carol Thomas.

Through IICA’s Initiative of the Americas, support for the participation of MAR officials at the meetings of the SPS Committee in Geneva was continued in 2005. These meetings were held in March and June. The SPS Committee is one of several WTO Committees and it is at these meetings that market access issues relating to animal and plant health and food safety are aired and discussed. SPS decisions coming out of these meetings would therefore have implications for worldwide trade in agricultural commodities and it is therefore important for Barbados to be represented at these meetings. The Office also supported the involvement of MAR Officers at two workshops in Trinidad. The first was held on August 11-12, 2005 and focused WTO SPS Notification/Enquiry Point Dissemination Software while the second, held on November 14-18, 2005, covered training on the Information Exchange International Phytosanitary Portal for the Caribbean Region.

Through our IICA Office in Canada, financial support was provided for two officers of the Government Analytical Services Laboratory to be trained in Pesticide Residue Analysis in Canada. At the national level, the Office continued to be represented at the CODEX Technical Committee Meetings which seeks to set in place a legislative framework to ensure that Barbados is not compromised when it comes to the import/export of foods and beverages.

The Office also participated in the National Consultation on Giant African Snail which has been officially identified as a notifiable pest in Barbados.

5.3 Strengthening Rural Communities:

Within the objective of strengthening rural communities, the Office focused mainly on the areas of intensifying vegetable and fruit production through the use of greenhouses and supporting the organic movement through the production of organic compost. The Office also continued its support for constituent members of Alliance namely, AWIA and BAFY.

Greenhouse Technology:

Under the watch of our Regional Sustainable Rural Development Specialist, Mr. Joey Peltier, IICA was able to successfully collaborate with the MAR and the RDC in the construction of a 3,000 ft² greenhouse at the Spring Hall Land Lease Project. The completion of the greenhouse follows the construction of a ferro-cement water tank in 2004.

The greenhouse, which is being managed by Mr. Russel Codrington, was officially handed over on April 13 2005 by Senator the Hon. Erskine Griffith, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development. Given the growing interest in greenhouse technology, IICA has compiled a reference guide on greenhouse construction and management for other interested farmers. To date there are 13 farmers who have indicated an interest.



Sen. TheHon. Erskine Griffith, Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, IICA Representative Ena Harvey, Farmer Russel Codrington and Chairman of RDC, Tyrone Power planting the first lettuce seedlings in the new greenhouse.

Organic Input Production – Vermicomposting:

During the week of February 14-18 2005, Barbadian farmers, particularly those interested in organic agriculture participated in a workshop entitled “Soil Regeneration for Sustainable Agriculture”.

This workshop was made possible through the collaboration of IICA, FAO and CDB and was hosted by the MAR.



Dr. Sun Zhenjun, discussing Vermicomposting with the group.

The workshop placed emphasis on the technique of Vermicomposting (the production of organic fertilizer using earthworm technologies), and was conducted by Dr. Sun Zhenjun, an organic fertilizer expert from the China Agricultural University, who specializes in Vermiculture. The workshop comprised 3½ days of class room sessions led by Dr. Sun and one day of field visits.

A key recommendation of the workshop was the establishment of a Model China-Barbados Cooperative Farm, dedicated to the production of vermicompost where farmers, extension officers, and interested persons could learn the techniques of compost production.

Supporting Alliance Members:

The Office also provided support to BAFY by sponsoring two of its members at a workshop on “Priority Setting, Organizational Development and an Introduction to Project Development and Management” in St. Lucia. Support was also given for the participation for members of BAFY and AWIA at the CWA in St. Kitts. Youth delegates took part in the Annual General Meeting of CAFY as well as in the CTA-funded Policy Workshop for Youth. Three members of AWIA participated in the Agro-tourism Workshop.



Barbados Agricultural Youth Forum Secretary and IICA's National Programme Technical Officer, Mr. Damien Hinds, speaking to campers about the cultivation of the organic lily in his hand.

IICA also supported BAFY's work with an Organic Summer Camp at Coleridge and Parry Secondary school as well as World Food Day celebrations at the Gordon Greenidge Primary School.

At the request of members of AWIA, a strategic planning workshop was conducted for the benefit of its membership and this resulted in an open and fully participatory discussion on the areas of priority for the Association. It is expected that in 2006 a strategic plan for the AWIA would be developed. Following this workshop, IICA collaborated with UNIFEM to present the findings of a needs assessment for women in agriculture in Barbados, as well as to deliver short presentations on the potential avenues for entrepreneurial activity.

In an effort to further support the active participation of youth in agriculture, IICA hosted an inaugural charity benefit concert at the Frank Collymore Hall in collaboration with the Heart Foundation of Barbados with the objective of establishing a Trust Fund for Youth in Agriculture.

5.4 Hemispheric Integration:

The IICA Office continued to partner with the Inter-American Agencies in Barbados during 2005. Activities included regular discussions and participation in meetings and workshops with the OAS, PAHO, and the IDB to determine areas for further collaboration. The Office also partnered with the IAHF to explore synergies promoting the link between Agriculture and Health at the national and regional levels. Following a series of fruitful discussions between IICA and the IAHF, Prof. Trevor Hassell (President, IAHF) was invited by IICA's Director General Dr. Chelston Brathwaite to deliver a presentation at the biannual RIMSA meeting held in April in Mexico.



Professor Trevor Hassell being presented with his travel documents by the Representative Mrs. Ena Harvey.

IICA has also held a familiarization meeting with the CARICAD with the view to establishing joint collaboration in three specific areas namely: education, training and communication. Proposed activities under this collaboration include linking of websites, reciprocal participation in national and regional consultations and the coordination of initiatives in harnessing information and communication technology for development, particularly in the area of distance education.

Through the locally based Regional Specialist IICA Barbados participated in discussions with the FAO and CDB regarding greenhouse technology, the St. Kitts sugar industry, the Jagdeo Initiative and the Caribbean Forum for Development. Consultations were also undertaken with the Italy Cooperation Fund (Guatemala), EU, DFID, CTO, CARICAD, OXFAM, and CIDA. The Office also supported visits from missions representing the FAO, EU and USAID.

Additionally, the Representative's participation on the Board of Directors of the CTO and the CHA Advocacy Committee continued, while the Office was also responsible for the drafting and official signing of a MOU between IICA and the CHA, which took place in St. Kitts during the CWA.

5.5 Developing Human Capital:

Distance Learning:

Under the activities of our Education and Training Programme, IICA Barbados has been working for the past two (2) years with Mme. Athanasia Bonneton of the UAG, on the development of course materials for distance learning. A new course on Agro-Eco Tourism, complete with three case studies and information on how to write investment proposals, is now available in French. The course was formally launched during a visit of Mme. Bonneton to Barbados in February. The launch was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, as well as by private entrepreneurs interested in developing farm-based sites and attractions. The course was also presented to French students at the Combermere School. IICA Barbados is working with DECAP, Costa Rica to prepare the English version of the course, with case studies and references from the Caribbean region.

The office also hosted a visit from DECAP and arrangements were put in place for upgrading of Distance Learning courses by BAMC for the sugar industry, while the videos for the English version of the HACCP Distance Learning Course were completed.



Lectures on Agro-Tourism Linkages were presented to Hospitality Students at the Pommarine Training Institute for the fourth year in succession. The SRD Specialist also participated in a Training of Trainers' course in Organic Agriculture in the Dominican Republic.

IICA Barbados staff participated in a 10-week Spanish course (tutored by the Barbados Community College) as well as a two day Emotional Intelligence (EI), tutored by The Potter Centre.



Staff Members at Spanish Classes



& *The EI Training Workshop*

5.6 Environmental Management:

The IICA Office continued to work with the OGCA to promote the development of organic farming, and the certification of organic produce. Through Joseph Peltier, Regional Specialist, SRD, the Office provided support for the participation of Barbadian organic producers in two regional workshops on organics and herbals in Guyana and Trinidad & Tobago. The office also supported the work programme of a regional PROINVEST-funded project on organic production.

As a follow up to the vermicomposting workshop, a pilot vermicomposting bin was set up by IICA, FAO and the MAR, on a dairy farm at Morgan Lewis to manage the waste from the farm as well as to produce organic compost.



Vermicomposting Bin, Morgan Lewis, St Andrew

5.7 Institutional Modernization:

The Office provided support with strengthening of the operations of AWIA and the OGCA through the provision of computers and training in organizational management and development.



Mr. Julien Beckles—Administrative Technician, presenting the new DELL to the members of AWIA.

Organic farmers Michael Bradshaw & John Hunte receiving the computer equipment from Representative, Ena Harvey.



6. FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION

In 2006, the Technical Cooperation Agenda of the IICA Office in Barbados will focus primarily on the implementation of funded Agro-Tourism projects, with linked activities in trade and agribusiness, rural development, agricultural health and food safety and education and training.

The Agenda will also provide support for the strengthening of capacity within the MAR in AgroTourism, food safety, agro-processing and organic production. The Office will continue its outreach to primary and secondary schools. The National Agenda will remain flexible to the demands of the sector, within an agreed hemispheric, regional and national framework of priorities and key actions, aligned with the Jagdeo Initiative and the AgroPlan 2003-2015, Barbados' National Strategic Plan (2005 – 2025), the MAR's Medium Term Strategy for the Agricultural Sector, and the work programmes of partner agencies.

APPENDIX 1

List of Acronyms

AWIA	Association of Women in Agriculture
BADMC	Barbados Agricultural Development & Marketing Corporation
BAFY	Barbados Agricultural Forum for Youth
BAMC	Barbados Agricultural Management Company
BAS	Barbados Agricultural Society
BATC	Barbados AgroTourism Committee
BIDC	Barbados Investment and Development Corporation
BPSTT	Barbados Private Sector Trade Team
BSFI	Barbados Sheep Farmers Incorporated
CA	Culinary Alliance
CAFY	Caribbean Agricultural Forum for Youth
CARAPA	Caribbean Association of Researchers and Herbal Practitioners
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute
CARICAD	Caribbean Centre for Development Administration
CBO	Community Based Organisation
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CDE	Centre for the Development of Enterprise
CE	Caribbean Export
CHA	Caribbean Hotel Association
CHBA	Caribbean Herbal Business Association
CHPA	Caribbean Hot Pepper Industry Association
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency

COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
CREP	Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme
CSME	Caribbean Single Market and Economy
CTA	Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Co-operation
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organisation
CWA	Caribbean Week of Agriculture
DECAP	Directorate of Education and Training
DFID	Department for International Development
EI	Emotional Intelligence
EU	European Union
FA	Framework Agreement
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GEF-SGP	Global Environment Facility – Small Grants Programme
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
IAHF	Inter-American Heart Foundation
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
MAR	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NCF	National Cultural Foundation
NISE	National Initiative for Service Excellence
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OAS	Organisation of American States
OGCA	Organic Growers and Consumers Association
PAHO	Pan American Health Organisation

RDC	Rural Development Commission
RIMSA	Inter-American Ministerial Meeting on Health and Agriculture
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
SRD	Sustainable Rural Development
UAG	Université Des Antilles et de la Guyane
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies
WTO	World Trade Organisation

APPENDIX 2

IICA Barbados Office Activities - 2005

OFFICIAL NAME OF THE EVENT	DATE HELD	SITE OF THE EVENT	NO. OF PARTICIPANTS	PLACE AND DATE OF PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT OR PROCEEDINGS OF THE EVENT
Training of Farmers in Vermicomposting	Feb 14 - 19	MAR – B'dos	30	March 7, 2005 – IICA
Barbados Blackbelly Sheep Arts and Craft Workshop	May 25, 2005	MAR – Bdos	30	June 30 2005 - IICA
IICA National Consultations	May 17 – 19, and November 21	DFID – B'dos	60	June 10, 2005 – IICA December 15, 2005 - IICA
Agro-tourism policy Roundtable meetings	June – December	IICA/UN House	40	December 2005
Agriculture and Tourism: Partners in Development	October 3 – 5, 2005	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank – St Kitts	90	February 2006
Signing and Launch of the OAS project	August 16, 2005 Nov 1-8, 2005	Barbados, Guyana, Suriname, Dominica, Jamaica Trinidad & Tobago	35 35 45 45 60 45	