

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

2005 Annual Report

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



Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture

# **IICA's CONTRIBUTION TO AGRICULTURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA 2005**

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2005 the Institute concentrated its efforts on modernising the agricultural sector in Antigua and Barbuda in view of the declining performance of the sector. The overall performance of the economy of Antigua and Barbuda had a projected real economic output of 5% with tourism and related industries, transport, banking and insurance being the major contributors to gross domestic product. Real economic output grew by 5.2%. However, the contribution of agriculture to GDP continued a downward trend, and its contribution to overall employment continued to shrink as labour moved towards other sectors. The crop sub-sector sector experienced a decline in output as the country continued to receive higher than usual rainfall. The rain hampered land cultivation practices, resulting in an increase in the incidence of pests and lowered production. The pineapple program made good progress despite set backs early in the program, projected targets were not realised but can be met in the near future. Cotton, the main export crop, continued to have a reduction in harvest and quantity ginned; the forecast for the 2005-2006 crop continues the downward trend. In the livestock sub-sector, there was a slight increase in meat production from mainly small livestock, such as sheep, goats and pigs. The fisheries sub-sector has reported an increase in local catch as well as exports of fish. More opportunities to diversify the fishing industry in Antigua and Barbuda will improve in a short while on the completion of a fish processing facility in St. John's city.

## **SUMMARY OF THE NATIONAL AGENDA**

IICA's actions in Antigua and Barbuda are guided by the country's National Technical Cooperation Agenda (NTCA), which identify the areas that IICA will partner with the Ministry of Agriculture and the other stakeholders in meeting the needs of the sector. The NTCA covers actions in each of the six Strategic Areas of the Institute which are: Sustainable Rural Development, Technology and Innovation, Trade and Agribusiness Development, Agricultural Health and Food Safety, Education and Training and Information and Communication. The NTCA is revised annually in consultation with IICA's partners, to better meet the changing needs of the sector. The current NTCA (2002-2006) ends in 2006 and the process of consultation has begun towards the development of the new NTCA. In accordance with the Institute's "bottom up" approach this new NTCA would contribute to its Medium Term Plan, 2006-2010. The Agro 2003-2015 Plan, Summit Mandates and the Jagdeo Initiative are guidance documents in the process, as well as the Regional Agenda.

## **FACILITATING COMPETITIVENESS AND GLOBAL TRADE**

In an effort to position selected crops in Antigua and Barbuda to realise their full production and market potential, IICA coordinated a meeting with key technical officers in the Ministry of Agriculture and the Intellectual Property and Commerce Office in the Ministry of Justice, with technical expertise from Mr. Malcolm Spence of the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery and Ms. Mary-Ann Richards of World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), on the steps to protect those crops under the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement.

IICA was represented on the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Committee which develops local standards for fruits and vegetable, mainly targeted towards the export. Two persons were assisted to attend a workshop on Agriculture and Tourism: Partners in Development during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture which was held in St. Kitts in October. The participants to this workshop will be able to make a greater contribution towards the linking of the two sectors for the benefit of the overall economy and in identifying new business opportunities for rural communities.

## **PROMOTING FOOD SAFETY AND AGRICULTURAL HEALTH**

In IICA's effort to modernize the agricultural health and food safety systems in Antigua and Barbuda, the Institute coordinated the visit of Mr. Tomas Mozer a bee consultant through the Florida Association of Volunteer Agency/Caribbean Action (FAVA/CA) to inspect bee hives and determine their health status with regards to pests of economic and quarantine importance. The honey industry has been under threat of the introduction of exotic pest and diseases. Assistance was also provided to the Beekeepers Cooperative to facilitate attendance of one of its member to the Fourth Caribbean Beekeeping Congress in Trinidad which focused on adding value to bee products as well as emerging issues in bee keeping. As a result of these interventions the bee keepers have improved their capability to properly manage emergencies and emerging issues and to add value to the bee products, and maximise market opportunities for the industry.

As part of an ongoing Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Initiative of the Americas, the Institute facilitated the attendance of three persons to the World Trade Organisation SPS committee meetings in Geneva. Due to participation key technical officers have developed increased knowledge and competence in dealing with issues related to SPS and to advise policy makers on these matters. IICA also provide technical assistance to the National Food Safety Committee in consultations on the draft Acts which will set up the necessary legal framework for improved agricultural health and food safety systems in Antigua.

Staff of the Central Marketing Corporation received training in Safe Pesticide Use and now has a greater capability to guide safe pesticide practices. In furthering the effort to modernise agricultural health and food safety systems in Antigua and Barbuda, the quarantine systems of plant, animal and public health were assessed to determine their present status and to plan how to move the system towards providing better service and meeting requirements to properly handle emergencies and emerging issues. This was further enhanced with a seminar aimed at improving the understanding of port officials to the requirements of international plant, animal and human port health and quarantine systems.

## **STRENGTHENING RURAL COMMUNITIES**

In order to achieve IICA's vision of strengthening rural communities, in July the Institute provided technical support for the launch of the Bethesda Rural Women Group, as a member of the Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers. The aim of the group is to empower unemployed women in the community. Additionally, the Antigua and Barbuda Agriculture Youth Forum received training in St. Lucia on the development and management of projects and strategic management in St. Lucia; as well as participated in the Youth Policy Development Workshop held during Caribbean Week of Agriculture in St. Kitts. The Institute also provided technical support to the forum in implementing a propagation nursery project. The youth forum has extended its presence to the sister island of Barbuda. As a result of these interventions local groups can now network and share experiences and in the case of the youth forum have improved their income earning capacities.

The Caribbean Agribusiness Association was given with technical assistance by the Institute in developing a strategy for dealing with praedial larceny. CABA has identified this as a major constraint to agricultural endeavours and intends to continue the work on this matter into the new year.

## **DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL**

The development of human capital, a necessary component of promoting rural prosperity, was achieved through a series of training for agro-processors and potential agro-processors. The training was conducted to improve the capability and capacity of the participants to manage viable enterprises as well as to develop new enterprises. Training focused on processing of animal products, costing and pricing, record keeping, and good manufacturing practices. Data for a study on value added products from small ruminants was gathered for development of a regional project on the same.

The Institute also facilitated a technical officer in the Ministry of Agriculture to attend a workshop on Dissemination of Software for Managing WTO Enquiry Points in Trinidad in August, and another officer to attend a Need Assessment and Identification in Biotechnology workshop in Trinidad in November.

## **ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT**

Environmental protection and sustainable development of agriculture, will lead to greater food security and prosperity of rural communities. IICA together with its partners coordinated a five-day sub-regional workshop in vermicomposting as a means for developing inputs for organic production. This was further enhanced by a seminar in July for persons interested in organic production. The seminar was conducted to assess requirements of the system and to determine how the Antiguan producers can realise their potential in this method of production.

IICA provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture and Pesticides Control Board during their Pesticide Awareness Week activities in September. The Institute was represented on the National Focal Group for Global Environment Facility which promotes the development of projects which focus on sustainable environment management practices.

## **FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION**

The Institute will continue to provide technical assistance to agro-processors, with the Gender Affairs Division as an additional partner. This represents an opportunity to reposition agriculture and improve the contribution of the sector to employment and food production in Antigua and Barbuda. The implementation of CABA's Multilateral Investment Fund project also presents some opportunities for advancing the sector and the Institute will support the local chapter of CABA in this regard. The activities of the local chapter of CANROP and the Antigua and Barbuda Agricultural Forum for Youth will continue to be supported by the Institute. The development of local projects under the Jagdeo Initiative for the sector is also another area opportunity.

## INTRODUCTION

In 2005 IICA continued its efforts towards the modernisation of the agriculture sector in Antigua and Barbuda. The two main areas of focus were the *Agricultural Health and Food Safety* with regards to strengthening the system. Also the *Development of Human Capital*, with a series of training sessions targeting agri-processors and agri-business persons in general. Continuation of the work with the constituents of the Alliance namely, CABA, CANROP and CAFY and the strengthening of the same was also part of the focus in this reporting period. In September IICA Caribbean Regional Meeting was held in Antigua for the first time and by all accounts it was a very good meeting.

In the overall economy, the contribution of agriculture to the GDP continued on the decline. The Budget Speech for 2005 reported <sup>1</sup>>>*that among the main sources of growth for 2005 is the continued expansion of the construction sector, expansion in banking and insurance sector, and increased economic activity in manufacturing*>>. Unfortunately Agriculture was not listed as a sector promoting growth. Efforts must be made to increase the contribution from Agriculture to the GDP.

## THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL LIFE IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA IN 2005

### Recent Performance in the Expanded Agricultural Sector

Agriculture in Antigua and Barbuda in 2005 experienced a general downward trend in the crop sub-sector with a slight improvement in performance for livestock and fisheries. The Veterinary and Livestock Division under the Sorghum Program to supplement animal feed, planted seven acres/2.8 ha of sorghum but further production was suspended due to unusually high rainfall and mechanical problems the machinery. It is expected that this program will recommence in 2006. Poultry egg production remained on the same level as for 2004, but it is expected to increase significantly in 2006 as a few major producers will add to their flock. The broiler sub-sector is still underdeveloped and only supplies about one percent (1%) of the local demand. The emerging threat of Avian Influenza H5N1 strain, spreading to Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean countries, has to be closely watched and a plan put in place to avert this pandemic.

The fisheries sub-sector had an increase in local catch, as well as an increase in the amount of lobster exported, (over ten thousand pounds/forty-five thousand kilos) as well as some fish.

In crop production there was a general decline in output for this year, due largely to the continued high rainfall. The heavy rains have been occurring for three consecutive cropping seasons. It has tremendously hampered the land preparation, and harvesting. This has resulted increased pest problems and in the reduction of crop quality. In respect to cotton production which is the main export crop only 6,000 pounds of lint was harvested. The 2005-2006 yield is predicted to be lower. The amount of

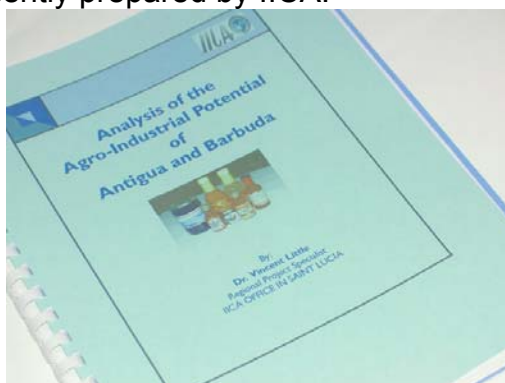
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<sup>1</sup> 2005 Budget Speech

cotton harvested has been on the decline since 2002.

In agro-processing, the level of production remained the same for some commodities but was slightly less for hot pepper products. The latter was due to unavailability of hot peppers locally and even regionally.

This sub-sector has much untapped potential. This is reported in the *Analysis of the Agro-Industrial Potential of Antigua and Barbuda* recently prepared by IICA.



Report of Analysis of Ago-Industrial Potential

The 2007 Cricket World Cup can be seen as an opportunity for the agriculture sector to begin to realise its market potential. However, it is necessary that much forward planning be done to realise that potential market.

### **Critical Issues in the International and National Context that Impact Agriculture and Rural life**

Antigua and Barbuda is presently preparing for the coming on stream of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy. Six countries (Jamaica, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Belize and Suriname) have commenced, and the OECS countries are expected to sign on mid-year of 2006. Movement of agricultural goods and services will be affected. There are standards for agricultural

commodities that will affect regional trade. If the regional standards are not met, then products will not be exportable, and therefore, produce will have lost that regional market. Some of the standards will come on stream in 2007 through 2008. The free movement of trained and certified workers could affect labour availability such as university graduates in the agricultural sector, resulting in a possible loss of trained persons from Antigua and Barbuda to other CARICOM countries etc. Antigua and Barbuda must be able to retain these professionals and at the same time attract persons from other countries to come to work here. Preparing the agricultural sector to position itself to make the best possible use of the opportunities that Antigua and Barbuda will accrue is critical to the survival of the sector. This is happening while negotiations are ongoing with the European Union Economic Partnership Agreements and the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

The Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Committee in Antigua is currently preparing standards for local produce that are on par with regional standards. This will avoid the potential loss of markets when regional standards come into effect in 2007 and 2008.<sup>2</sup>

### **The Status of Living Conditions in Rural Communities**

Many producers own their own homes and the land on which it resides. Most producers live away from their farms, in homes where they have access to pipe borne water, electricity and paved

<sup>2</sup> Source CSME Unit Ministry of Finance & Economy

roads. The few who do live on their farms also have access to these amenities. A number of livestock farmers own more animals than the land can accommodate and they can support. Therefore these animals are left to wander about in search of food. This situation creates many problems for the crop farmers as the roaming livestock are attracted to the crop farms and as a result these farmers suffer huge losses, This problem causes negative impacts on the production systems. There is over-grazing, land erosion, soil compaction, an increased incidence of internal parasites in livestock and numerous conflicts between crop and livestock owners. The Ministry of Agriculture has been seeking to rectify this problem.

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2006-2010. The Agro 2003-2015 Plan, Summit Mandates and the Jagdeo Initiative are guidance documents in the process, as well as the IICA Regional Agenda.

## **RESULTS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION FOR 2005**

### **Facilitating Competitiveness and Global Trade**

A number of crops have been identified by the Ministry of Agriculture to seek protection under the Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). IICA coordinated a meeting with the aim of examining all the steps necessary for achieving protection under TRIPS and to facilitate expansion of the production of these crops and their marketing potential. Key technical officers in the Ministry of Agriculture gained knowledge in TRIPS through dialogue with the Registrar of Intellectual Property in Antigua and Barbuda, Mrs. Laurie-Ann Freeland-Roberts; Technical Advisor Intellectual Property/Agriculture to the Caribbean Regional Negotiating Machinery, Mr. Malcolm Spence; Consultant and Regional Coordinator, Economic Development Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, Ms Mary-Ann Richards. Discussions are ongoing to move the process forward.



*Antigua Black Pineapple to receive IP protection*



Two participants from Antigua have increased their knowledge of the approaches and requirements for success in agro-tourism linkage programs in the Caribbean. A Ministry of Agriculture technician and a farmer from Antigua were sponsored to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Week of Agriculture held in St. Kitts October 3-8, 2005 during which was held a workshop *Agriculture and Tourism: Partners in Development*. The main objective of the workshop was to share and exchange successes, experiences and lessons learned in the creation of agro-tourism products and services, as well as, identify potential investment opportunities.

IICA was represented on the Fresh Fruits and Vegetable Committee, and during 2005 standards for two crops were developed with a view to improve the market potential of local crops, to meet local standards, as well as export standards and quality. The work on standards continues for other crops. By providing grading standards for local producers, it is expected that the quality of produce presented for sale will improve.

### **Promoting Food Safety and Agricultural Health**

Modernization of the agriculture health system in Antigua and Barbuda was achieved in part by the facilitation of a visit by a bee consultant, Mr. Tomas Mozer through the Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies for the Caribbean Area (FAVA/CA). The pest status of hives around the city was assessed and recommendations made for their management at a training session. The capability of local beekeepers to manage emergencies

and emerging issues, as well as expand their product base, were

enhanced even further by a member of the Bee keepers Co-operative being assisted to attend the 4<sup>th</sup> Caribbean Bee Keeping Congress held in Trinidad. The main objectives of the congress was assessing value added products, examine emerging issues, and the management of pests. Follow-up training of local Co-operative members is ongoing.



Tomas Mozer speak to Bee keepers

The capacity of technical officers in the agricultural health and food safety system in Antigua were improved to analyse their current status and to make necessary adjustments to bring the system in line with international standards. This was done through an assessment of Agricultural Health and Food Safety Systems in Antigua for animal health, plant health and food safety, conducted by the Specialist Plant Health in the St. Lucia Office, Mr. Everton Ambrose. Attending the session were sixteen representatives from the areas assessed.

The assessment covered four basic areas:

- technical capability
- human and financial capital,
- interaction with the private sector
- access to markets.

The results of these assessments will help to:

- a) Indicate the overall performance of each one of the four components.
- b) Rate the relative performance within each one of the variables.
- c) Compare the performance of the national veterinary service with others.
- d) Provide a basis for establishing a routine monitoring and follow-up mechanism on the level of performance of the service over time.

The results of this assessment will be evaluated in 2006.



*Port health seminar, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture second from left*

Increased dialogue between the port administrators and Quarantine Inspectors afforded greater understanding of the requirements for a proper working quarantine system as well as, allow the Quarantine Inspectors to understand the challenges faced by the port administrators. This was achieved through a seminar at which Mr. Everton Ambrose provided technical guidance to the discussion of the role and importance of agricultural health and food safety systems at the air and sea ports. The international standards for the ports were presented, as well as the requirements to bring the Antiguan system to where it can adequately meet international standards. Further dialogue on the matter has been ongoing with relevant

parties with a view to working towards improving the current system.

Three technical officers from the Ministry of Agriculture have increased their understanding and knowledge of the country's obligations to international agreements as beneficiaries of the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Initiative of the Americas. Under this initiative, technical officers attended the Thirty-first, Thirty-Second and Thirty-Third meeting of the World Trade Organisation SPS Committee in Geneva. Plans are being made to regularise the status of the National SPS Committee.

Technical assistance was given to the National Food Safety Committee which has been meeting and holding stakeholder consultations for draft ACTs on Plant Health, Animal Health, Food Safety and Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals. Technical assistance was also provided to the Veterinary and Livestock Division in a consultation to discuss the Livestock Control Act. Following from these interventions, agricultural technicians are better able to understand and advise policy makers on issues related to the subject matter.

Additionally, the retailers, importers and distributors of pesticides have increased their knowledge of the proposed new pesticide registration process as a result of a seminar hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Pesticides Control Board on the matter. IICA Technical Specialist made a presentation on the section related to pesticides spills and the disposal of obsolete pesticides.

The capacity building of the staff of Central Marketing Corporation (CMC) was achieved through the training in

*Safe Pesticide Use and Storage.* All levels of staff were trained in this subject matter and are now better able to guide their clients in safe pesticide use, as well as improve their pesticide handling practices in the outlet. The CMC is a major retailer and distributor of pesticides and agrochemicals in Antigua and Barbuda.

**Strengthening Rural Communities**

The Bethesda Rural Women Group which was launched in October 2004 became a member of CANROP in July 2005. The launch was attended by the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of State, the ECS Representative, the Director of Gender Affairs, Director of Agriculture, members of CABA and other public and private sector persons. Since the launch, the group has organised for training in dress-making and bread making through their own initiative. The members intend to train unemployed women in their community to develop skills to increase or enhance their income earning capacity in the coming year.



Launch of CANROP

Two members of the Antigua and Barbuda Agricultural Forum for Youth (ABAFY) have obtain the knowledge in the area of project development by their attendance at a workshop on *Priority Setting, Organisational Management and the Introduction to Project Development* which was held

in St. Lucia. Participants received training in strategic planning and project development and have improved their capacity and that of their group in these areas. This training was particularly useful for the ABAFY since in the reporting period they were the recipients of the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute/Pan American Health Organisation (CFNI/PAHO) Small Grants Program. The funds are for a project to construct a vegetable seedling nursery at the Jennings Secondary School. The construction of this nursery was set back due to unfavourable weather conditions.



ABAFY booth at Independence Food Fair

ABAFY extended its program to the sister island of Barbuda. The program on Barbuda had been started previously but had some set backs and so an attempt was made to resuscitate the program with a visit of the President of ABAFY and IICA Technical Specialist. In October a member of the ABAFY attended a workshop on *Leadership Development and Policy Integration for Youth in Agriculture* during the Caribbean Week of Agriculture in St. Kitts. The participants were exposed to case studies of youth programmes which were successful in a few countries and were charged with the responsibility to play a more active role in the promotion and development of

National Youth Policies in their home countries. The need for development of national youth policies to guide the development of youth programmes was brought out in a needs assessment presentation. ABAFY also took part in the national Independence Food Fair held in November in Antigua and manned a booth with fresh fruit and vegetable juices made by its members. Through the various activities, the group has developed networks with many agencies, organisation and ministries and has been invited to many local and regional events, including a Ministry of Social Improvement Youth Week and Commonwealth Youth Programme meeting respectively.

The local chapter of the Caribbean Agribusiness Association (CABA) has been meeting to develop a strategy for dealing with praedial larceny. In the e Jagdeo Initiative, this has been identified as one of the major constraints to the development of the agricultural sector in the region and Antigua and Barbuda is no exception to this. Members of the Executive met with the Minister of Agriculture, who pledged the support his Ministry's to the program. A number of other agencies, ministries and stakeholders of the sector, as well as affected producers are being approached for their cooperation, as partners in the programme, or to garner their support for the eradication of this problem. Hotels and restaurants, etc are also included in this venture. Work in this area will continue into the 2006.

### **HEMISPHERIC INTEGRATION**

The Minister of Agriculture Lands, Marine Resources and Agro-industries, Mr. Charlesworth Samuel attended the *Third Ministerial Meeting in the Context of the Summit of*

*Americas Process* in Guayaquil, Ecuador, as well as the *Thirteenth Regular Meeting of the Inter-American Board of Agriculture* (IABA). The Ministers and Secretaries of Agriculture of the Hemisphere attending the meeting signed the 2006-2007 Hemispheric Agenda for Agriculture and Rural Life. The Hemispheric Agenda is the second of six two year agendas by which the *AGRO 2015 Plan for Agriculture and Rural Life of the Americas* is implemented. At this meeting saw the re-election of Dr. Chelston Brathwaite as Director General of IICA. Dr. Brathwaite will serve in this capacity for the next four years (2006-2009).

### **DEVELOPING HUMAN CAPITAL**

The focus in this area was the agro-processors and potential agro-processors. Agro-processors have increased their capability to produce better quality products and manage their businesses more efficiently through a series of training workshops which were conducted:

- *Assessing Options for Processing Meats, Poultry and Milk Based Products;*
- *Costing and Pricing Techniques for Competitive Marketing;*
- *Record Keeping and Cash Flow Management; and*
- *Good Manufacturing Practises for Agro-processors.*

A total of sixty persons attended these training sessions. The first three activities were done in collaboration with the Chemistry and Food Technology Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Technical Adviser to the Caribbean Development Bank. The training in Good Manufacturing Practices was done in collaboration with Chemistry and Food Technology Division of the Ministry of Agriculture,

Central Board of Health and Food and Agriculture Organisation, Nutrition Officer for Sub-regional Office for the Caribbean.



The Regional Specialist for Project Development collected data in Antigua for the development of a project proposal for adding value to the small ruminant's products. Even in this preliminary stage it was apparent that there was tremendous untapped potential for the expansion of this sub-sector and that the regional project creates the avenue for its fulfilment.

A technical officer in the Ministry of Agriculture was sponsored to attend a workshop on Dissemination of Software for Managing WTO Enquiry Points, held in Trinidad in August. The training was designed to build the capacity of participants in properly managing enquiry points for SPS and enable the country to be better able to meet its requirements in international obligations. Another technical officer attended a Needs Assessment and Identification in Biotechnology Workshop also held in Trinidad. The findings of this workshop will assist in guiding the Institute's regional program in this area.

## ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



Field visit to Vermicomposting site

Agribusiness persons with an interest in or who are practicing organic production increased their competencies through training at a Sub-regional workshop on Organic Fertilizer Production and Vermicomposting, with the theme being "*Soil Regeneration for Sustainable Agriculture*". The workshop was held at the Cortsland Hotel, Antigua in March 2005. A total of twenty-two persons were trained. The workshop was a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, Caribbean Development Bank and IICA. The main facilitator for the course was Professor Sun Zhenjun from the China Agricultural University in Beijing. The training included lectures as well as, field trips and practical demonstrations. The lack of inputs was identified as one of the main constraints for organic production.

A meeting was later held in July for persons interested in organic production to ascertain the current situation in Antigua and the Caribbean region. The Regional Specialist in Sustainable Rural Development was the main facilitator for the meeting.

The Institute is represented on the National Focal Group (NFG) a national component of the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Small Grants Program. The aims and objectives of GEF in the OECS are to conserve and restore the natural environment, while enhancing people's livelihood. The NFG reviews and approves project proposals submitted by community groups and civil society organisations. A consultation to develop a country strategy for environmental protection is planned for early in 2006.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES



Dr. Graham bids farewell to Ministry of Agriculture

Dr. Lyle Barbara Graham who was the ECS Representative for nine years bade goodbye to the Institute in February. Ms. Una May Gordon took up the position of Representative of the ECS in April.



IICA Caribbean Regional Meeting

IICA Caribbean Regional Meeting was held in Antigua in September at the Grand Royal Antiguan Beach Resort. The goal of the meeting of developing the areas of work for national and regional agendas was met and consensus formed for the 2006 plan of work. The Director of Operations, Caribbean Area, Representatives, Regional Specialists and some local professionals, as well as, a representative from the Office of the Director General were present.

Dr. Chelston W.D. Brathwaite, IICA's Director General visited Antigua in July. The Director General met with the Head of State, His Excellency Sir James Carlisle, the Governor General, the Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs the Honourable Winston Baldwin Spencer, the Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable, Charlesworth Samuel, the Minister of State within Agriculture, the Honourable, Senator Joanne Massiah and the Director of Agriculture. Dr. Brathwaite was also taken on a tour to the one of the government agricultural stations – Cades Bay and to the Claremont Farm, which is privately owned and operated. The Director General also took time to meet and dialogue IICA's clients and partners



Dr. Brathwaite speaks with Minister of State the Honourable Joanne Massiah

## **INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION**

A Sub-regional workshop on Organic Fertilizer Production and Vermicomposting, with a theme Soil Regeneration for Sustainable Agriculture was held in Antigua. The workshop was a collaborative effort between the Ministry of Agriculture, the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the Caribbean Development Bank and IICA. The main facilitator for the training was Professor Sun Zhenjun from the China Agricultural University in Beijing.



*Photo of top, CDB representative, Ministry of Agriculture Official and IICA Technical Specialist Opening ceremony of Vermicomposting workshop Professor Sun Zhenjun (left)*

## **SUPPORT PROVIDED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL PLANS AND STRATEGIES**

The Office in Antigua and Barbuda supported the process of developing the National Agricultural Sector Plan by disseminating copies of the AGRO Plan 2003 to 2015 and the Jagdeo Initiative, to public and private sector persons. Meetings were held with the Ministry of Agriculture officials on the as well as, private sector persons. CABA is already implementing one of the Jagdeo Initiative's key binding constraints to the agricultural sector in its work with praedial larceny, which supported by the Ministry of

Agriculture. The process for developing the Agriculture Sector Plan will continue in 2006, at which time the new National Technical Cooperation Agenda for Antigua and Barbuda will be developed.

## **FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES FOR COOPERATION**

The Institute will continue to provide technical assistance to the agro-processors, in collaboration with the Gender Affairs Division who will come one in 2006 as an additional partner. This represents an opportunity to reposition agriculture and improve the contribution of the sector to employment and food production in Antigua and Barbuda. The implementation of CABA's Multilateral Investment Fund project also presents some opportunities for advancing the sector and the Institute will support the local chapter of CABA in this regard. The activities of the local chapter of CANROP and the Antigua and Barbuda Agricultural Forum for Youth will continue to be supported by the Institute. The development of local projects under the Jagdeo Initiative for the sector is also another area opportunity.

## **APPENDICES**

### **1. List of Publications**

Little, Vincent; 2005, St. Lucia:  
Analysis of the Agro- Industrial  
Potential of Antigua and Barbuda.  
61p.



**2 FIVE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS ORGANISED BY THE IICA OFFICE IN ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA IN 2005**

<b>Official Name of the Event</b>	<b>Date Held</b>	<b>Site of the Event</b>	<b>Number of Participants</b>	<b>Place and Date of Publication of the Report of the Event</b>
1. Caribbean Regional Meeting 2005	6-8 September 2005	Grand Royal Antiguan Hotel	30	IICA Office Antigua, Oct 2005
2. Meeting of the Director General with IICA Clients and Partners	12 July 2005	Grand Royal Antiguan Hotel	10	IICA Office Antigua, August 2005
3. Workshop on Good Manufacturing Practices	20-21 June 2005	Planning Division Conference Room, St. John's, Antigua	20	IICA Office Antigua, July 2005
4. Seminar for Senior Port Health Officials	29 November 2005	Ministry of Agriculture Conference Room, St. John's, Antigua	15	IICA Office Antigua, December 2005
5. AHFS Assessment for Antigua and Barbuda	28 November 2005	Ministry of Agriculture Conference Room, St. John's, Antigua	15	IICA Office Antigua, December 2005

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ABAYF	Antigua and Barbuda Agricultural Youth Forum
AHFS	Agriculture Health and Food Safety
CABA	Caribbean Agribusiness Association
CARDI	Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CFNI	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute
CMC	Central Marketing Corporation
CNRWP/CANROP	Caribbean Network of Rural Women Producers
CSME	CARICOM Single Market and Economy
CAYF	Caribbean Agricultural Youth Forum
ECCB	Eastern Caribbean Central Bank
EU-ACP	European Union – African Caribbean Pacific States
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FAVA/CA	Florida Association of Voluntary Agencies/Caribbean Area
FTAA	Free Trade Area of the Americas
GARDC	Gilberts Agricultural and Rural Development Centre
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
IABA	Inter-American Board of Agriculture
IICA	Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NFG	National Focal Group
NTCA	National Technical Cooperation Agenda
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
TRIPS	Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property
WTO	World Trade Organization